photography
explained

Landscape Mastery
2026 curriculum

Week 1: Build Your Local Photography Plan (Locations, Conditions & When to Shoot)

Learn how professionals choose *where* to shoot and *when* to show up, so every outing has real potential.

What You'll Learn:

- Finding great locations close to home
- Matching locations to ideal light, season, and weather
- Using apps (PhotoPills, Windy, OS maps, tides, cloud cover tools)
- Planning the foreground, angle, and shot before you arrive
- Creating a personal "Location Logbook" for repeatable results

Outcome:

By the end of week one, you'll have:

- A list of 3–10 great landscape locations close to home
- A clear understanding of what conditions make them look their best
- A personal logbook that tells you exactly when to visit each spot
- The confidence that your next outing will actually produce a great photo and not a wasted trip

Week 2: The Capture Framework (Settings, Exposure & Sharpness)

Learn the complete technical system professionals use to get consistently sharp, clean, perfectly exposed landscape photos without guessing.

What You'll Learn:

Modern Camera Fundamentals

- The 5 variables that dictate every landscape image
- The simple decision-tree for aperture, shutter, ISO

- Why ISO 100 isn't always best (and when to raise ISO confidently)
- Shooting confidently in manual mode

Sharpness Blueprint

- What "sharp" actually means (micro contrast + precise focus)
- Hyperfocal distance simplified
- Front-to-back sharpness without focus stacking
- Tripod, wind, vibration, and stability strategies
- Tack-sharp images in any condition

Exposure Confidence

- How to expose for maximum dynamic range
- Protecting highlights, keeping shadow detail
- Histogram mastery (simple, not geeky)
- When to bracket (& when it's unnecessary)
- ETTR explained without technical jargon

Outcome:

By the end of week two, you'll:

- Know exactly how to set your aperture, shutter speed, and ISO with certainty no matter what the conditions
- Understand how to expose correctly every time using the histogram
- Capture images that are consistently sharp front-to-back
- Stop worrying about whether you "got the shot" so you can focus on composition and timing

Week 3: What Makes a Landscape Photo Look *Professional*

Learn the difference between a "nice photo" and a **professional landscape image** — so you can create work that *looks* expensive, intentional, and portfolio-worthy.

What You'll Learn:

The 7 Elements of a Professional Landscape Photo

1. Subject clarity — what the photo is *about*
2. Strong composition structure — lines, balance, spacing
3. Light quality — direction, softness, colour, drama
4. Depth & dimension — how pros create a 3D look
5. Colour harmony — natural tones that feel clean and cohesive
6. Technical cleanliness — sharpness, lack of noise, no distractions
7. Simplicity & intention — removing visual clutter

Before/After Professional Analysis

- Why most amateur photos *don't* look professional
- How small changes (angle, height, focal length) change everything
- Real examples with breakdowns of what works & why

By the end of week three, you'll:

- Recognise why some images look professional and others don't
- Know how to add depth, structure, and clarity to your compositions
- Start removing distractions and simplifying scenes like a pro
- Understand light, colour, and visual weight
- Begin seeing opportunities in settings you used to overlook

Week 4: Crafting Your Composition (Framing, Layering & Guiding the Viewer's Eye)

Learn the practical, repeatable composition frameworks you can use every time.

What You'll Learn:

- Five reliable composition frameworks used by pros
- Foreground → mid-ground → background layering
- Using lines, shapes, curves, diagonals, and negative space
- How to take control of chaotic scenes
- High/low angle strategies
- The "30-second composition scan" to quickly improve any shot

Outcome:

By the end of week four, you'll:

- Use simple, repeatable frameworks to find a composition no matter what the location
- Create images with depth, balance, and intention
- Feel confident even in messy, complicated environments like woodlands
- Be able to quickly fix weak compositions on the spot
- Start producing professional looking images that feel deliberate, not lucky

Week 5: The Editing Workflow to Turn a Good RAW Into a Professional Landscape Photograph

Learn a simple Lightroom workflow that transforms a flat RAW file into a polished, professional final photo. Plus bonus content on when and how to use photoshop in the image processing system.

What You'll Learn:

- The full step-by-step Lightroom editing process
- Global adjustments vs local adjustments
- Colour correction → colour grading → contrast shaping
- Avoiding over-editing or HDR "crunch"
- Creating depth and dimension through editing

- Preparing files for print or web

Outcome:

By the end of week five, you'll:

- Follow a clean, simple editing workflow that works for any image
- Correct and enhance your RAW files without over-editing
- Add depth, dimension, and mood that elevate your photos
- Master the tools that matter (and ignore the ones that don't)
- Produce finished images that you're genuinely proud of

Week 6: The Advanced Editing Workflow (Creating Art From Nothing)

Learn the advanced Adobe Photoshop and Luminar Neo skills and processes that high-level pros use to create dramatic, dreamy, "fine art" landscape images—without making them look fake.

What You'll Learn:

- When a photo *needs* advanced work (and when it doesn't)
- The pro "layer stack" mindset: build the image in stages, not sliders
- Dodging & burning for depth, direction, and visual hierarchy
- Local contrast and glow techniques that feel natural (not crunchy)
- Color shaping with luminosity masks / targeted selections
- Replacing and controlling problem areas (bright patches, distractions, messy edges)
- Creative effects that still look believable (atmosphere, softness, drama)
- A repeatable advanced workflow you can apply to any strong RAW

Outcome:

By the end of week six, you'll:

- Know exactly *how* to take a good RAW and turn it into an "art piece"
- Have a repeatable advanced workflow for dramatic, dreamy edits
- Confidently use Photoshop/Luminar only when it's truly needed
- Create images that look intentional, premium, and gallery-worthy

Week 7: Building Your Portfolio (Reviewing, Printing & Sharing With the World)

Turn your best images into real printed artwork and walk away from the course with a curated portfolio that you can continue to improve and build over time.

What You'll Learn:

- Evaluating your work like a curator
- Selecting 8–12 images for your first portfolio
- One click websites to share your images with the world
- Preparing files for accurate prints

- Choosing paper, labs, print sizes, and finishes
- How to keep shooting after the program
- How to build a personal style intentionally

Outcome:

By the end of week seven, you'll:

- Have 8–12 finished images that represent your best work
- Understand how to prepare files to create beautiful prints
- See your progress clearly — from week 1 to now
- Feel confident calling yourself a landscape photographer

Week 8: Extended Question and Answer Session

Now we're at the end of the training, you'll no doubt have some questions. We finish with an extended Q/A session to make sure your photography bottlenecks have been resolved—and you leave with a clear plan for what to do next.

What We'll Cover:

- Personalized troubleshooting on your biggest sticking points
- Editing feedback on your images (what to change, in what order, and why)
- Composition fixes for "nearly there" shots
- Capture questions (settings, focus, sharpness, exposure decisions)
- Next steps: what to practice over the next 30–90 days for the fastest improvement
- Building your own repeatable process so you keep improving after the course

Outcome:

By the end of week eight, you'll:

- Have answers to the exact things holding you back right now
- Leave with a simple action plan tailored to *your* photography
- Know what to practice next to keep producing professional-level results
- Feel confident that you're no longer guessing—you're executing a system