

Jürgen Lobert



LeyeTscapes.com



Night Photography



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Instructions, Workshops, Tours

Jürgen Lobert is a Massachusetts-based fine art photographer, born and raised in Germany. He received a Ph.D. in atmospheric chemistry from Gutenberg University in Mainz before moving to the US in 1991.

Jürgen is a self-taught photographer who specializes in several night photography disciplines and daytime long exposures as well as Urban Exploration and Infrared photography. He started taking photos in his early 20s using color negative or slide film. He adopted digital cameras in the late 1990s and mostly uses Nikon cameras.

Jürgen formally learned night photography at the New England School of Photography in 2011, which provided him the skills for advanced manual exposure. Jürgen embraced night photography quickly and started organizing night photo events for others through meetup groups in 2012, founding his own, the Greater Boston Night Photographers, in late 2013.

In addition to organizing about 40 photo shoots and workshops annually, he has also been lecturing at camera clubs, serving as a photo competition judge, organizing professional workshops and offering personalized coaching. Jürgen is an executive member of the Boston and Stony Brook Camera Clubs, a member of the Photographic Society of America and the Professional Photographers of America and he started teaching night photography at the New England School of Photography (NESOP) in late 2017. He maintains a blog about photography topics with how-to instructions and detailed insight into complex topics.

According to Jürgen, there is a profound serenity and peacefulness, but also otherworldly character in night and long exposure photos. Capturing the element of time is an important part. Night photos also capture the transformative and colorful nature of darkness and artificial lights to create hauntingly beautiful scenery.



<https://linktr.ee/jmlobert>

Available Programs

Introduction to Night Photography (instructional, technical)

This is a technical introduction to night photography by New England-based fine art photographer Jürgen Lobert. Night light transforms the familiar and creates serene views of our surrounding, revealing beauty in the mundane. Night images relay a profound peace through smoothness, deepened colors and captured time, where clouds and cars become streaks, water ripples smooth over and stars form trails in the sky.

The presentation teaches participants best practices to successfully create unique, very intriguing imagery at night. The lecture is filled with example images for each topic and contains in-depth reviews of the following topics:

- Why, when and how night photography is done best
- Equipment: required basics and useful gadgets
- Camera settings: exposure time, aperture, ISO and white balance; why to disable "auto"
- Correct exposure: balancing bright lights with deep shadows, the histogram and clipping
- Light sources and white balance
- The element of time: capturing motion
- Types of night photography
- Editing night photos
- Resources



Photography of the night sky (star points, trails, aurora etc.) as well as light painting techniques are only touched upon and not a significant part of this workshop. These are covered in more depth in other programs.

This program can be modified to fit into 60-120 minutes of time. If unspecified, the program is about 70-80 minutes long plus Q&A. It can also be offered as a workshop in three variants:

- a) Lecture only, 1-2 hours at choice of location
- b) Lecture plus a night photo field trip for up to 15 people and about 3 hours in a suitable location chosen by Jürgen, (participation requires prior lecture attendance or equivalent experience, so that Jürgen can focus on assisting in the photography, not the theory behind it)
- c) Lecture, field trip and onsite or online critique and review of images taken during the field trip (requires online submittal of electronic images)

This program can also be tailored to specific topics such as city, industrial, urban exploration, ethereal skies, motion etc. Please inquire about specific topics you have in mind.

The World at Night (Inspirational - S)

This is an inspirational narrative about night photography by New England-based fine art photographer Jürgen Lobert, suitable for keynotes or narrative programs without much instructional content.

In this program, Jürgen talks about the many aspects of night photography as a photo specialty, which is becoming more popular based on the enhanced capabilities of modern digital cameras. The presentation centers around creating nightscapes, hauntingly beautiful views of captured time and deepened colors.



Night photography transforms the familiar and creates serene views of our surrounding, revealing beauty in the mundane. Night images relay a profound peace from roaming the night and capturing time, where clouds and cars become streaks, water ripples smooth over and stars form trails in the sky.

Astro-landscape photography is a part of night photography, much of which only became possible with high sensitivity digital cameras to show the Milky Way, Zodiacal Light, the Aurora Borealis and other night sky features that many people are unfamiliar with due to increased light pollution inside our cities.

Light painting and light drawing explore the options of making night photos and truly creating art, instead of simply taking photos of the existing world. Urban exploration and decay as well as infrared imagery at night round out the program.

The presentation is between 30 and 90 minutes and based entirely on Jürgen's own photos and shows a wide variety of examples engulfing the viewer to the peaceful and otherworldly character of night photography.

Urban Night Photography (Instructional)

A variant of the *Introduction to Night Photography* program listed above, this particular presentation is focused on night photography in urban environments (as opposed to nature or astro-landscape or light painting photography). It is technical and instructional in nature, but also inspirational, as it is mostly based on visual exploration of urban night photography, the many facets of cities, where fine art photos can be created, with artificial and mixed light illuminating a variety of structures, with strong lines and curves and intriguing views.

This program can be modified to fit into 45-60 minute slots. If unspecified, the program is about 50 minutes plus Q&A. It can be modified to focus on other topics, such as urban exploration and decay, industrial, motion at night etc. It is also offered as a workshop in three variants:



- a) Lecture only, 45-60 minutes at choice of location
- b) Lecture plus a night photo field trip for up to 15 people and about 3 hours onsite in a suitable location chosen by Jürgen, (participation requires prior lecture attendance or equivalent experience, so that Jürgen can focus on assisting in the photography, not the theory behind it)
- c) Lecture, field trip and onsite or online critique and review of images taken during the field trip (requires online submittal of electronic images)

Astro-Landscape Photography (Instructional)

This is a technical and instructional introduction to astro-landscape photography by New England-based fine art photographer Jürgen Lobert. Astro-landscapes capture the night sky with an Earth-bound foreground to anchor the view. There are many celestial views that are often impossible to see in urban and suburban environments and modern digital camera technology enables us to capture unique and inspiring images in very dark places.



The following topics are covered:

- What is astro-landscape photography and where do the stars come from?
- Technical aspects
 - Required equipment, some differences in camera brands that are important
 - Camera settings & exposure, white balance
 - Focusing in complete darkness
- Types of astro-landscape photography
 - Star trails
 - Star points & Milky Way
 - Clouds
 - Moon
 - Meteors
 - Zodiacal Light
 - Aurora
- Image Processing
 - Star trails: stacking photos
 - Milky Way, Aurora and star points
- Resources



This program can be modified to fit into 45-90 minutes of time. If unspecified, the program is about 80 minutes long plus Q&A. It can also be offered as a workshop in three variants:

- a) Lecture only, 1-1.5 hours at choice of location
- b) Lecture plus a night photo field trip for up to 12 people and about 3 hours onsite in a suitable location chosen by Jürgen, (participation requires prior lecture attendance or equivalent experience, so that Jürgen can focus on assisting in the photography, not the theory behind it)
- c) Lecture, field trip and onsite or online critique and review of images taken during the field trip (requires online submittal of electronic images)

Light Painting and Drawing (Instructional)

This is an instructional and technical program to introduce photographers to light painting and light drawing, by New England-based fine art photographer Jürgen Lobert.

Adding artificial light to photos taken at night can be done through a number of techniques. Light painting adds additional light to existing surfaces, but light drawing is one of the few techniques where a photographer can actively create unique and intriguing content, rather than simply photographing existing objects. The following topics are covered:

- Introduction to night photography equipment & settings
 - Trigonometry for photographers: the exposure triangle
 - Capturing time so you can spend it on painting
- Adding light
 - Exposure considerations and the square root paradigm
 - Angles: how geometry creates intrigue
- Buy or do it yourself: the light painter's toolbox (demo)
- Light Painting: How to convert a flashlight into a paint brush
- Light Drawing: Unleash your artistic side
- The three secrets of how to master light painting and drawing.
- Post-processing considerations
- Resources



Throughout the presentation, Jürgen demonstrates a number of light painting tools and shows how to use them and how they look like in the many visual examples.

This program is typically 90 minutes long, but can be modified, if needed. It can also be offered as a workshop in three variants:

- d) Lecture only, about 90 minutes at choice of location
- e) Lecture plus a night photo field trip for up to 12 people and about 3 hours onsite in a suitable location chosen by Jürgen, (participation requires prior lecture attendance or equivalent experience, so that Jürgen can focus on assisting in the photography, not the theory behind it)
- f) Lecture, field trip and onsite or online critique and review of images taken during the field trip (requires a venue with projector and screen)

Workshop: Light Painting and Drawing

This workshop is provided as an addition and follow-up to the lecture of the same topic. The group of up to 10 attendees will meet in a suitable location and practice light painting (adding light to surfaces) and light drawing (creating light figures in front of the camera) with your own light painting tools, but Jürgen will provide a variety of tools that can be tried out during the workshop.

Jürgen will not be shooting but rather spends his entire time cycling between the attendees and assisting with camera settings, light tool handling and composition. Attendees can pair up or work alone.

Attending the lecture, or some experience with light painting and drawing, are prerequisites for attending the workshop, the theory will not be repeated. Please plan to bring at least one medium-strong flashlight (200-1000 lumens), more if available. A detailed email will be sent to the group with all information about the location, parking, what to bring, how to dress etc.

The workshop is 3 hours long, attendees can stay longer. Timing depends on season, but typically starts an hour after sunset.



Night Photography Locations in New England (Instructional, Inspirational - S, I)

This is a narrative overview of night photography locations in and around New England by Massachusetts- based fine art photographer Jürgen Lobert.

Jürgen has been teaching night photography, light painting and astro-landscape shooting since 2013 and has covered a lot of terrain, always searching for more interesting views and locations, scouting out and bookmarking away on Google satellite view. The result is a dense map of the most interesting locations to visit. This presentation will summarize the experience and suggest the most interesting places, categorized into



- The crowd pleasers
- Astro-landscape views
- Cityscapes
- Landscapes and full moon nature
- Urban exploration at night
- Light painting and drawing opportunities
- Other locations

Along with descriptions of the locations, Jürgen will also cover a few night photography basics, such as equipment besides photo gear, potential issues to deal with, which areas to avoid and others.

The presentation can be adjusted to 45-90 minutes of length.

Daytime Long Exposure Photography (Instructional)

This is an introduction to daytime long exposure (DLE) photography by New England-based fine art photographer Jürgen Lobert.

DLE photography records 1-15 minutes of time in a 2-dimensional photograph by using neutral density filters. This creates unique and intriguing images of the world that we usually freeze in momentary exposures. Letting time pass during exposure converts clouds into bands across the sky, smooths waters to a mirror finish and can make people and moving objects disappear. The resulting imagery is otherworldly and strangely beautiful.



The following topics are covered:

- Why, where and when to do DLE
- Equipment
 - Cameras, accessories
 - ND filters and holders
- Exposing for DLE, expose to the right, RGB histogram
- Tips & Tricks
 - Composing and focusing
 - High ISO preview
 - Avoiding light leaks
- Types of DLE
 - Single exposure
 - Stacking exposures
 - Creating ghosts
- Post-processing considerations
- Resources

This program can be modified to fit into 45-80 minutes of time. If unspecified, the program is about 50 minutes long plus Q&A. It can also be offered as a workshop in three variants:

- a) Lecture only, 45-80 minutes at choice of location
- b) Lecture plus a daytime photo field trip for up to 12 people and about 3 hours onsite in a suitable location chosen by Jürgen, (participation requires prior lecture attendance or equivalent experience, so that Jürgen can focus on assisting in the photography, not the theory behind it)
- c) Lecture, field trip and onsite or online critique and review of images taken during the field trip (requires online submittal of electronic images)

Infrared Photography (Instructional)

Infrared or IR photography is a fascinating niche and allows the photographer to record the unseen, the part of the light spectrum that humans can't see. Colors, textures, leaves and plants, human skin and other objects reflect IR light differently than visible light, appearing in unexpected ways. This creates surreal and otherworldly photos with high impact that draw the viewer in to study what they are looking at and why the view looks so strange. Jürgen's presentation covers these aspects:

- Why we do IR photography
- IR light spectrum
- Equipment and filter choices
- What makes a good IR photo
- The types of photography
- Post-processing, which is 80% of IR photos
- Beyond IR: UV and far IR
- Resources



This program can be modified to fit into 50-90 minutes of time. If unspecified, the program is about 90 minutes long plus Q&A. It can also be offered as a workshop in three variants:

- a) Lecture only, 50-90 minutes at choice of location (must provide screen and projector/TV)
- b) Lecture plus a daytime photo field trip for up to 12 people and about 3 hours onsite in a suitable location chosen by Jürgen, (participation requires prior lecture attendance or equivalent experience, so that Jürgen can focus on assisting in the photography, not the theory behind it)
- c) Lecture, field trip and onsite or online critique, review and editing of images taken during the field trip (requires online submittal of electronic images prior to the editing session)

Lightroom Workflow: Library & Develop Modules (Instructional)

This is an instructional program to provide an overview and hands-on, live demonstration of the Lightroom Library and Develop modules by New England-based fine art photographer Jürgen Lobert.

Lightroom is a powerful and very intuitive software for post-processing digital photos, but its feature set is large and allows for some non-standard and creative techniques to be applied, which are not well documented. This program is meant to provide a broad overview, but also specific demonstration of the software features.

The program can be given lecture style, but is best applied with images submitted by the audience prior to the program (see below).

The program can be tailored for 1-3 hour length. The following topics are covered:

- Overview of Lightroom
 - Main differences (and commonalities) to Photoshop
 - The interface
 - Very brief mentioning of Map, Book, Slideshow and Print modules
- Library module
 - Import, meta data and keywording,
 - Applying develop presets on import
 - Search and sort
 - Smart collections
- Develop module
 - Editing modules: From Basic to Special Effects and the Toolbars
 - Presets, shortcuts and preferences
 - History, Snapshots and Virtual Copies
 - Synchronizing edits: one to many
 - Black & white conversions, toning and infrared imagery
 - Exporting and watermarking presets
 - Transfer between computers: Export and import of libraries



Lightroom Editing and Critique Session post - photo shoot

This editing session is a logical and instructive follow-up to any photo workshop I conduct with groups. This is a hybrid session of feedback and constructive critique, editing suggestions and Lightroom *Development* module tips and tricks. The way these are conducted is that each of the attendees will submit four to five images prior to the workshop (instructions and upload site will be provided). The group will then get together for a three hour session where I will go through the images one by one, give the audience feedback on the photo, what I think was done and works well, and what could be improved. I will show through live editing how those improvements can be done and which tools in Lightroom can be used for that. During the demo, I contribute shortcuts that I use in editing, presets, tips on improved import to get the editing started automatically, and a run-down of the editing panels, as well as the editing history list, snapshots, virtual copies and smart collections. For DLE photos, the gradient tools and range masks will be extensively used and explained in detail.

The way to think of this session is as both a Lightroom editing tutorial, with portions both generic and tailored specifically towards the photo shoot topic, as well as a portfolio review of attendee submissions. Attendees can submit to Jürgen the best shots they got, something that they believe goes together thematically, or some photos that they didn't know how to handle and had specific questions about. I will review the images before the workshop and come prepared to get started right away.

Attendee limit is 12 with a minimum of 7 people submitting images (to allow for sufficient time to review and edit each). Passive attendees sitting in and listening / asking questions are also invited (no limit). The club would have to provide a room with projector and screen and an audience-facing table for me to work on.

Workshops & Tours

Most of the above described programs are available as stand-alone workshops for individuals, small or larger groups up to 15.

The general logistics involves some online preparation and discussion about timing and location, followed by onsite photography work with an assigned rain date as a backup option. Individual instructions can also be started or done indoors.

Duration of onsite photo shoots is around three to four hours where Jürgen (and perhaps an assistant) will spend their entire time assisting participants without taking photos themselves, a distinct difference to most other one-day workshops available in New England.

Professionally organized photo tours and workshops are also available to interesting, world-wide locations with emphasis on night and long exposure photography, but including varied other opportunities as well.

Please inquire about any options and pricing. One-day workshops can be arranged flexibly and on fairly short notice, professional tours will be planned at least six months in advance and announced on [Jürgen's website](#), or by [newsletter](#) and individual communication.

