

White Sands Photography
Workshop Instructor: Efraín M. Padró
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Pre-Workshop Information Sheet

I will be staying at the **Days Inn Motel** in Alamogordo, 907 S. White Sands Blvd. (the town's main drag), tel. (505) 434-4205. My cell phone is **(505) 310-0722**.
For other lodging options, visit <http://www.alamogordo.net/lodging/>

Friday, September 17: We'll meet at the motel from 2:30 to 3:00 p.m. for a head count, to discuss the evening shoot and to answer questions. We'll reconvene at the Visitors Center parking lot in White Sands at 4:30pm. The park's entrance is about 12 miles from town. For those of you visiting White Sands for the first time, consider going to the Visitors Center earlier to view the short movie. We'll photograph until sundown. Since we will be shooting right around dinner time, make sure you eat beforehand or bring water and snacks.

Before the photo session I will do a demo on tripod use and answer questions. I will also do a short walk making suggestions regarding what and how to photograph different subjects.

Saturday, September 18: For the morning shoot we'll carpool to White Sands. We'll leave the motel at 5:15 a.m. The park's gates will open at 6:00 a.m. This will be a very early day, so make sure you get a good night's rest beforehand. We will photograph the landscape at first light, then the balloons as they take to the air. The morning shoot will officially end at 9:00a.m.

Lunch: I'd like to eat lunch together Saturday afternoon. Attendance is not required and each of us will pay for our own lunch. During lunch we'll discuss the previous shoots, I'll answer questions, etc. Please let me know on Friday if you are going to attend so I can make reservations. Lunch time will be around noon. Precise time and location (probably the Chili's) TBD.

Individual reviews: These will take place at the Days Inn lobby starting at 2:00 pm at 15 minutes intervals. Please be prepared with your images, questions, comments, etc. I will email you an Assignment and Review Session Instructions sheet 10 days before the workshop with more details.

For the afternoon shoot we'll return to White Sands. We'll again meet at the Visitors Center, this time at 4:00 pm and drive to the evening's location. The shoot will be around 3 hours. Eat dinner beforehand or bring snacks.

Sunday, September 19: Today we'll follow the same routine as Saturday morning.

We'll adjourn after our morning shoot at White Sands. I will do a head count before departure to make sure everyone is accounted for, but feel free to stay longer if you wish.

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Important Information

1. MEETING TIMES AND PLACES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
2. We'll be working early and late to catch the most flattering light possible. This means long days, so you might want to consider taking a short nap Saturday afternoon. The important thing is to pace yourself and enjoy the workshop.
3. I'll expect all participants to explore White Sands and look for their own interpretation of this beautiful place. I will of course help with suggestions on technique and composition, and will be happy to answer questions on and off the field.
4. Bring comfortable clothes, broken-in walking shoes or boots, and a hat. It is also important to bring water and snacks. Water, soft drinks and snacks are available at the Visitors Center.
5. We will be parking right next to our photo subjects (sand dunes and balloons), so we will not be walking long distances. However, be prepared to walk up and down some of the dunes to reach higher vantage points. A reasonably healthy person should have no problem participating in this workshop. I encourage participants to visit the White Sands web site (<http://www.nps.gov/whsa/index.htm>) to become better acquainted with the terrain we will be working in.
6. Equipment wise, I recommend bringing a tripod for your landscape shots; lens or lenses ranging from wide angle zoom (mine is an 18-35mm) for landscapes to medium zooms (24-105mm, for example) for somewhat tighter shots; and polarizing filters for landscapes. Longer lenses (200mm-plus, for example), could also be used to get very tight, semi-abstract images of the dunes' shapes. None of this equipment is required; these are only suggestions.
7. Keep in mind that distances on the sand are deceiving (things are farther than they appear).
8. Pay attention to your equipment as well. Sand and photo equipment do not mix. Be especially careful when changing lenses to avoid any sand getting into your camera.
9. The sun is very punctual (ha!), so please be on time for each of the shoots.
10. Because we'll be concentrating on shooting during the field trips, **make sure you familiarize yourself with your camera controls beforehand**. You might also want to bring your manual along as a reference. I'll also be on hand to answer any of your questions.
11. If you are unfamiliar with how your camera works and do not have time to go through the manual before the workshop, please learn the following four things: how to review/pull up your camera's **histogram**; where your camera's **exposure compensation** buttons are; how to change your **ISO**; and how to change your **white balance**. Do not worry for now about knowing what those things are, just which buttons change them. I will go over why these things are important and how they affect your images during the workshop.
12. As usual please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. My contact information is at the top of this sheet.