

Owens Valley / Lone Pine / Alabama Hills

Landscape Class Field Trip Itinerary

Weather can always interrupt and alter the most carefully laid plans but, weather permitting (but typically the forecast will be for it to be sunny with low 70s during the day and low 40s at night) this will be our general itinerary for the trip.

I will be staying in the old hotel portion of the Dow Villa. (I just like old funky places) They also have a regular Motel section and will give students in my class a discount rate on the room. You may make reservations in any of the local motels or even camp if you are prepared for some cold windy evenings. However I've always received good service and facilities at Dow Villa.

Friday

Morning. Leave San Diego to drive to Lone Pine, CA. Each student is responsible for their own transportation although ride sharing will certainly help with fuel costs.

2:30 PM). Meet in the parking lot of the Dow Villa Motel in Lone Pine. From here we will take a tour of the Alabama Hills so I can point out various sites and locations.

After the tour, you will be free to do some late afternoon/early evening shooting on your own or check in to your lodging or campground. Sun will set around 6 pm.

7:00 pm. I'm going to have a nice dinner at Maggie's Merry-Go-Round Restaurant in Lone Pine. This is a tiny and not cheap but very good restaurant about a block north of the Dow Villa on the same side of the street (east). If you would like to plan on joining me we will need reservations or there will not be room. Let me know ASAP

Saturday

Dawn. Weather permitting I'll be heading out of the Dow Villa Parking lot about 5:30 to catch the dawn light on the Sierras. (Expected sunrise 6:00 to 6:15) Unless it is completely overcast to the east, the dawn light on the Sierras can be amazing.

8:30 am. I'll have breakfast in the coffee shop on the south end of the Dow Villa motel property.

9:00 – 9:30 am. More shooting in the Alabama Hills. You can shoot on your own if you have seen some good spots or you can hang with me. I may likely try to scout out some of the arches but the truth is, everywhere you look is a shot.

11:00 am. Rendezvous at the intersection of Whitney Portal Road and the entrance to the Lone Pine Camp Grounds to go up toward Whitney Portal. If the Whitney Portal road is

not blocked by snow we can expect an hour or more of shooting at the end of the road where there is a great waterfall, stream, and even a pond. Even if the road is open, it will most likely be cold with snow on the ground, so dress accordingly. It is possible that it could also be snowing up at that higher elevation so be prepared to protect your camera from the moisture. Bring lunch.

If the road is blocked then we might have ½ hour of shooting at the snow line and could easily return for more shooting in the valley or lunch in town.

1 pm Free time. You may stay in this area and explore the rocks, arches, Movie Road or drive north to see Manzanar, or the town of Independence. You could also go further north to the town of Big Pine where several roads lead back west into the Sierras for more alpine shooting.

6:30-7:00pm I'll do dinner at the restaurant across the street whose name I cannot recall at the moment. But THINK is the Mt. Whitney Café.

Sunday

Dawn. Weather permitting I'll be up for more dawn light shots.

8:30-9:00 AM. Another Breakfast at the Restaurant south of the Dow Villa.

10:00 AM Start slowly drifting south. I will be stopping at anything that catches my attention but most certainly will stop at Fossil Falls (about 40 miles south of Lone Pine) on the way back. That will take up about an hour or more depending on weather and light. Look for the signs and turn on "Cinder Road" then follow the sign to the parking lot. The trail is a few hundred yards to the falls.

Other interesting stops are all along the way if the weather is good. Then you can drift on south to San Diego and home at your own leisure.