

GABRIEL BIDERMAN • TIM COOPER • MATT HILL • LANCE KEIMIG • CHRIS NICHOLSON

Seize the Season

National Parks at Night 2023 Holiday Gift Guide





Seize the Season: Our 2023 Holiday Gift Guide

Autumn is ending, and as the trees shed their leaves—or, if they're far enough south, their iguanas—our seasonal thoughts once again turn to holidays and perfect gifts for the special photographer in your life.

And once again, we'd like to help. As we've been raking our leaves and lizards, we've also been compiling a list of gift ideas for night owls such as yourself. We've been writing about those gifts, and we've been putting those words into what you'll find below: our eighth annual Holiday Gift Guide.

In it you'll find ideas from camera companies, memory brands, scouting apps and more—all to help you and your shutterbug loved ones enjoy the happiest of holidays.

—Chris, Gabe, Lance, Matt & Tim



GABRIEL BIDERMAN

www.Ruinism.com

TIM COOPER

www.TimCooperPhotography.com

MATT HILL

www.MattHillArt.com

LANCE KEIMIG

www.TheNightSkye.com

CHRIS NICHOLSON

www.PhotographingNationalParks.com



www.NationalParksAtNight.com

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If you decide to purchase any of the gear mentioned in this guide, please consider using the links, as many of them help earn a small commission that supports the National Parks at Night workshop program.

ACRATECH
GXP-SS BALL HEAD

Our favorite ball head company, Acratech, recently revamped their GP line to the GXP series, making the heads even stronger, and with more detailing. The **GXP-SS** is our go-to ball head for traveler tripods with a smaller diameter baseplate. Other new features include supporting 35 pounds over the previous 25, and a lever release clamp that accommodates a larger range of quick release plates. The lever clamp version gives the ultimate in security, and the bubble level has shifted to a more prominent position for viewing.

Special offer: 10 percent off all Acratech GXP variants at B&H Photo (use link above) with promo code "BHGIFT23." Valid through December 19, 2023.





DarkSky
INTERNATIONAL



ADVOCACY GROUPS MEMBERSHIP

Night photography, national parks, dark skies. If you're reading this gift guide, you probably care about these things, and if you know a night photographer, they probably care about these too. The things we like to do, and the places we like to do them in, all face challenges. You and your friends can help. One way to get more involved is by joining an advocacy group. Here are some of our favorites:

Dark Sky International: “We empower the dark sky movement and provide leadership, tools and resources for individuals, policymakers and industry to reduce light pollution and promote responsible outdoor lighting that is beautiful, healthy and functional.”

National Park Foundation: “As the official nonprofit partner of the National Park Service, the National Park Foundation generates private support and builds strategic partnerships to protect and enhance America’s national parks for present and future generations.”

National Parks Conservation Association: “With more than 1.6 million members and supporters beside us, we are the voice of America’s national parks, working to protect and preserve our nation’s most iconic and inspirational places for present and future generations. We celebrate the parks—and work tirelessly to defend them—whether on the ground, in the courtroom or on Capitol Hill.”

National Park Trust: “National Park Trust’s mission is to preserve parks today and develop park stewards for tomorrow. Our programs advance public parks, lands, and waters as spaces that are welcoming and accessible to every person in every community.”

Sierra Club: “Sierra Club is the most historic grassroots environmental organization in the country. For more than 130 years, we’ve gathered millions of activists and volunteers to fight for the places, people and planet we all love.”

 **B&H PHOTO**
GIFT CARDS

Giving a gift is never stressful when you have a photographer in your life, because a **B&H Gift Card** is always the perfect present. Always. It's the gift of choice. Let your photographer (or videographer, musician or gamer) pick any camera, lens, computer or whatever new doodad, thingamabob or doohickey they may need. Of course B&H will have it—they are the world's biggest and best resource for all photo, video and image-making needs!





BAY PHOTO LAB
EPIC PRINTS

With epic images made at night (and perhaps during the day), why not show them off in the best way possible? Bay Photo's **Epic Prints** combine the maximum resolution and unrivaled clarity for image quality that will leap off the walls. Epic Prints are made on Fujiflex silver halide photographic paper with up to 610 dpi resolution—four times the resolution of a traditional photographic print. You can choose between a high gloss and satin finish, both of which are mounted onto metal.

Special offer: 20 percent off one order of select wall display prints from Bay Photo Lab (use link above) with promo code "NIGHT20." Valid until December 22, 2023.



BENQ **PHOTOVUE SW272U MONITOR**

BenQ's latest addition to their pixel-perfect display lineup for photographers is the **PhotoVue SW272U**. This gorgeous USB-C 27-inch monitor provides 4K resolution, 90-watt power to your laptop, a fine-coated reduced glare panel, 100 percent Adobe RGB color gamut and a sleek, thin bezel design, plus many more photographer- and filmmaker-friendly features. Hand-in-hand is their Palette Master Ultimate software for color profiling with compatible hardware, such as the Calibrite Display Plus HL Colorimeter.

Special offer: \$150 off the PhotoVue SW272U or SW321C at B&H Photo (use link above) with promo code "BHGIFT23." Valid through December 19, 2023.



TIM COOPER
SEDONA, ARIZONA

Tim created this image of clouds streaking over the iconic Courthouse Butte in Sedona, Arizona, right after wrapping up a National Parks at Night workshop earlier this year. Sedona is one of Tim's favorite places to bring other night photographers, due to the varied foregrounds and the amazing red-rock landscapes.

For this photo, Tim opened his shutter for 2 minutes to capture the movement of the clouds. To light the foreground with Low-Level Lightning, he employed a Luxli Fiddle.

*Nikon Z 6II with a Nikon 24-70 f/2.8 lens at 24mm
2 minutes, f/4, ISO 800*

BENRO
CYANBIRD TRIPOD WITH FS20PRO HEAD

The CyanBird is a work of art and won't weigh a photographer down—the latest 17.3-inch folded travel tripod from Benro is ready for adventure. Starting with the lightweight tripod legs with flip locks, setup is fast and smooth to a maximum height of 50.8 inches. The 2-in-1 pan head is an engineering marvel that's ideal for both video and photo, and that levels easily for making fast single-row panos. Includes hidden tools, folding pan handle and a two-section center column that splits for low camera angles.

Special offer: 10 percent off the CyanBird Tripod at B&H Photo (use link above) with promo code "BHGIFT23." Valid through December 19, 2023.





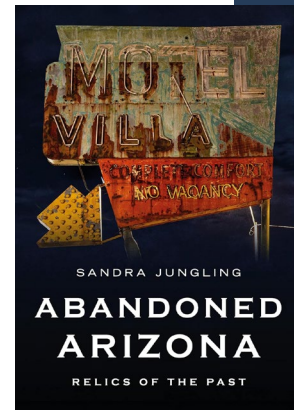
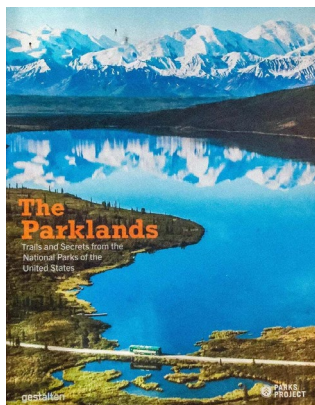
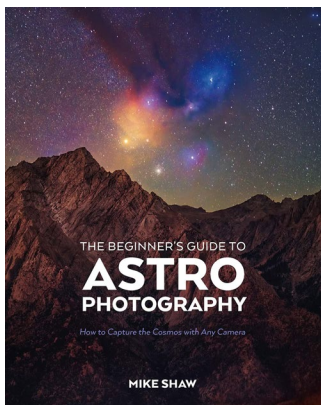
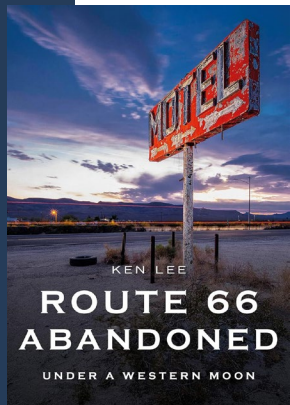
BICYCLE STARGAZER PLAYING CARDS

While waiting for sunset, twilight or even the coffee to be ready, why not bust out the cosmically appropriate Stargazer Playing Cards and spend some quality time with friends or family, or even playing some solitaire? These super-cool playing cards have the legendary Bicycle air cushion finish and are printed colorfully on high-quality stock. The backs are all inspired by black holes, so remember which pocket you put the deck in.

BIG AND LITTLE PARKS
FLAT HAT FAN CLUB STICKER

We love the creative art from our friends at Big Little Parks, much of which promotes the smaller, lesser-known parks. One thing that is common across all National Park Service units is the rangers who help guide and educate us about the history, nature and importance of their park. When someone officially becomes a ranger, they receive a unique hat that can easily identify them out in the field. If you are in the know, then you know that chapeau is called a “flat hat,” so well represented by the Flat Hat Fan Club Sticker for a car, computer or water bottle.





BOOKSHELF PHOTOGRAPHY & NIGHT BOOKS

Ah, books ... the elixir of the curious mind. The photography world is full of tomes, and we can't get enough of them, nor enough of sharing them. Here are a few we've loved in 2023, from monographs to instruction to parks to a coffee book of the cosmos.

Charles Bracken and Max Whitby

The Visible Universe

Sandra Jungling

Abandoned Arizona: Relics of the Past

Ken Lee

Route 66 Abandoned: Under a Western Moon

Parks Project

The Parklands: Trails and Secrets from the National Parks of the United States

Mike Shaw

The Beginner's Guide to Astrophotography: How to Capture the Cosmos with Any Camera



BRIGHT BETA ADVENTURE LOG

Bright Beta has taken the adventure log pages from their No Limits Planner and turned them into a durable, compact 4-by-6-inch booklet perfect for making notes of adventures, travels and photo shoots. Use the **Adventure Log** to record location notes, lighting or weather conditions, or even a scouting report to refer back to when visiting a park, city or shoot location. Its 48 pages have space for 22 adventures with room to sketch, journal or just notate important information, along with prompts to log trip details.



CALIBRITE DISPLAY PLUS HL COLORIMETER

Take control of color and focus on creativity. Every night photographer—every photographer in general—should calibrate and profile their displays, whether laptop, external monitor or projector. As modern displays get brighter and resolution increases, the demands for hardware that can help maintain consistency and accuracy over multiple devices increases too. The **Calibrite Display Plus HL** colorimeter is an excellent way to future-proof your color management workflow as displays get more and more capable. Compatible with HDR, OLED and miniLED (such as MacBook Pros, common among photographers).

Special offer: 10 percent off the Display Plus HL at B&H Photo (use link above) with promo code "BHGIFT23."

Valid through December 19, 2023.



CHRIS NICHOLSON
JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA

After a week of shooting in this national park, Chris was feeling done with boulders and Joshua trees, so on his last day he wandered off looking for something different. While scouting at the end of daylight he found this desert wildflower (a datura, specifically) tucked in a narrow valley, blooming peacefully along the trail. He knew he needed to shoot it under the night sky.

To get the composition he wanted, Chris needed to get the lens only about a foot from the bloom, which meant he wouldn't have enough depth of field for sharp stars. To solve this problem, he combined two techniques: He shot for both a starlight blend and a focus stack.

The raw materials involved three frames: separate focus points and exposures for the foreground, the middle ground and the background. Chris blended each in Photoshop to create the final image.

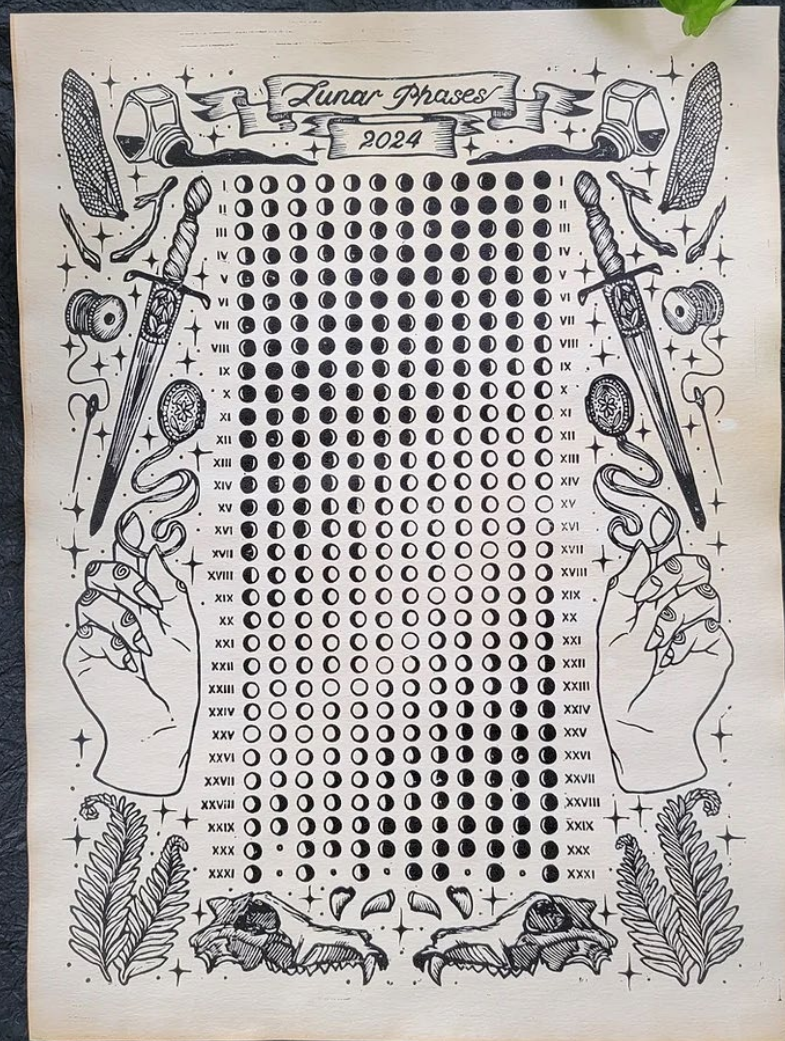
Nikon D5 with a Nikon 14-24mm f/2.8 lens

three focus-stacked, blended exposures shot at:

- *5 minutes, f/5.6, ISO 6400 (foreground)*
- *5 minutes, f/5.6, ISO 6400 (middle ground)*
- *15 seconds, f/2.8, ISO 6400 (background)*

CALLIE BARBAS
MOON CALENDAR BLOCK PRINTS

Callie Barbabas is an Atlanta-based printmaker and illustrator. Among her work is a handmade wood block **2024 Moon Calendar** recrafted as a 12x16-inch print. It's a gorgeous way to mind the moon phases for the entire year at a glance. Each print is lovingly hand-dyed in tea to provide an aged patina. This is a limited edition of 500, so hurry before they run out!





CANON, FUJIFILM, NIKON, SONY CAMERAS

We live in a golden age of digital night photography. Cameras with higher ISOs with high-megapixel full-frame sensors no longer lack image quality—though we might need more hard drive space for star stacking! Viable options abound. Here are some of our favorites:

The 45-megapixel Canon EOS R5 has taken the mantle of most popular in the 5D DSLR series.

The Nikon Z 8 incorporates some night-specific features, such as backlit buttons and Starlight view to make seeing in the dark possible.

Leading the full-frame sensor-size race is the 61-megapixel Sony a7RV, which is on the tripod of many of our night photography friends.

However, if you want the ultimate in resolution, the Fujifilm GFX100S packs in 100 megapixels in a larger-than-full-frame medium format sensor. Fujifilm is releasing faster glass, which makes balancing your exposures in darker sky environments even easier.





▲ **COAST PORTLAND
TX11R FLASHLIGHT**

The venerable HP7R flashlight has been updated and upgraded and reintroduced as the new **TX11R**. It has just three light modes: low, medium and a very bright full power, with no bothersome strobe mode! This flashlight has a refined focusing system that easily transitions from X-Range Spot beam to an even, Broad View Flood beam with no haloing. It's USB-C chargeable, machined of solid aluminum, is built to IP54 specifications for water and dust resistance, and is backed by the Coast lifetime warranty.

DEEP-SKY IMAGING VISIBLE UNIVERSE POSTER

Astronomers and authors Charles Bracken and Max Whitby teamed to create a complete visual record of the visible night sky as seen from Earth, and have published it in the form of a 38-by-21-inch Visible Universe Poster. Originally created for their book *The Visible Universe*, the poster bears the same name and is the result of their imaging from several locations in the United Kingdom, France, Australia, Chile and Spain over 3 years. This all-sky image includes H-alpha data and took several month to process.



DXO LABS NIK COLLECTION 6

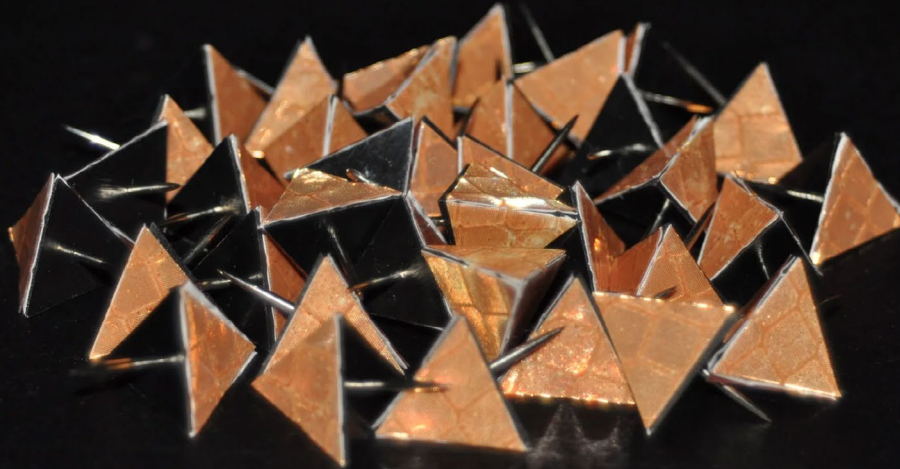
Night photography requires lots of post-processing to bring our vision of the scene to the screen. DxO is here to help. [Nik Collection 6](#) is a post-processing suite that fosters creativity and solves problems. It can be used as stand-alone software or as a plug-in for Lightroom and/or Photoshop. With their latest updates, Nik has improved its eight plug-ins to help the photographer de-noise, sharpen, improve color and translate images into stunning black-and-white photographs. (This is our go-to solution for black-and-white conversion.)





FIRETACKS REFLECTIVE TRAIL MARKERS

Have you ever been frustrated trying to find your way back after a long night making night photographs? Check out [FireTacks!](#) They're high-visibility trail markers with durable pins that you can press into the landscape around you during the hike out. Choose between 3D (pyramid) and 4D (cube) shapes, depending on the trail complexity. Shine a light at eye level and these will blaze back at you like a street lamp. Just remember to leave no trace and grab yours on the way back out.





MATT HILL
DENMARK

One thing Matt Hill discovered while touring Denmark is that Danish lighthouses come in all shapes, sizes and colors. So he specifically sought them out. Much to his delight, they were as different as people can be.

At Nakkehoved Fyr, Matt braved the rain to create an image that would have been impossible without it; all those drops falling through the atmosphere are precisely what created the beam effect. Timing is everything and it took a number of exposures to catch the optimal angle for the rotating lights. Meanwhile, the photographer and camera gear got soaked.

*Nikon Z 6II with a Laowa Dreamer 15mm f/2.8 lens
2 seconds, f/5.6, ISO 3200*



IRIX

21MM F/1.4 DRAGONFLY LENS

The Irix 21mm f/1.4 Dragonfly lens is perfect for astro-landscape photographers when there's not much foreground. The huge f/1.4 maximum aperture makes focusing and composing in the dark easier, and it's great to keep your exposures short and star points sharp. The lens is available in Nikon F, Canon EF and Pentax K mounts. The built-in shade also serves to protect the front element, and the focus locking ring helps you stay sharp.

Special offer: \$250 off the 21mm f/1.4 Dragonfly at B&H Photo (use link above). Valid through December 31, 2023.

JACKERY EXPLORER 290 PORTABLE POWER STATION

Sometimes a photographer needs lots of power when on the road—especially in the wilderness or backcountry, or in other remote areas without access to the power grid. Enter the **Explorer 290**, a lightweight portable battery. It has a 200-watt AC inverter with a 110-volt USA AC plug, two USB power ports and a 12-volt DC car-style outlet. You can charge your phone, a star tracker, camera batteries, a dew heater and more! Perfect to keep in the car for those moments when you just need some power.

Special offer: \$50 off the Explorer 290 at B&H Photo (use link above).

Valid through December 19, 2023.





JEFF MCCRUM
LANCELI GRID

The Lanceli grid, designed and manufactured by our friend Jeff, is a useful light modifier for the Luxli Fiddle, our top-recommended lighting tool. The Lanceli reduces the angle of the light beam from 102 degrees to about 20 degrees, making it especially useful for lighting foreground objects without spilling onto other parts of the scene. The light output is also reduced by two stops, which is useful for controlling illumination in very dark conditions. Comes with a Luxli Fiddle switch clip, which is designed to prevent the panel from accidentally turning on while in your bag or pocket.

Read more about the Lanceli grid in our recent blog post ["Guiding the Light: Our Friend Improves Luxli LED Panels."](#)

LEDLENSER
P4R WORK FLASHLIGHT

The **P4R Work** flashlight is a great addition to any night photographer's light painting kit. It has three brightness settings, with a helpful "last-used" setting memory. It also sports a CRI of 80 and color temperature of 4300 K, placing the light quality perfectly between old-school warm incandescents and most modern daylight-balanced LED lights. It's tough and waterproof, features a tail cap switch, and boasts an advanced focus system for smooth spot-to-flood focusing with no halo. Comes with a rechargeable, 3.7-volt lithium-ion battery.

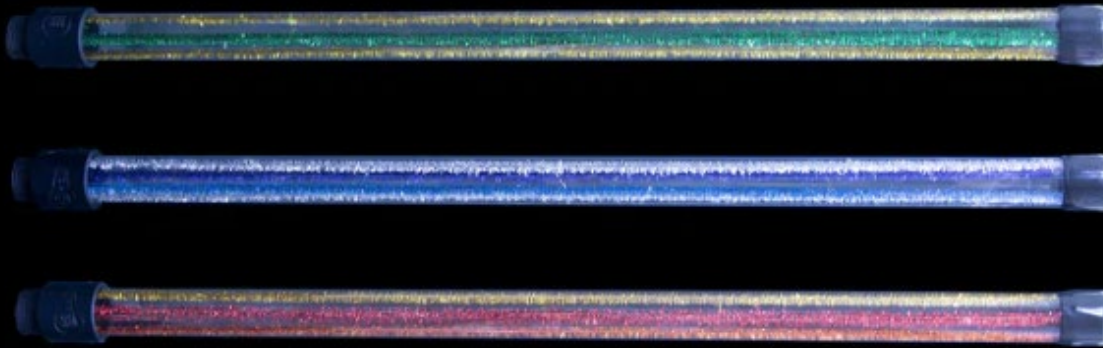




LIGHT PAINTING BRUSHES

EARTH, WIND AND FIRE GLITTER STICK SET

Light Painting Brushes has long supplied us with tools to be endlessly creative, and their new Earth, Wind and Fire Glitter Stick Set could be the most fun new tool in your belt. At 24 inches long, these sticks create a unique sparkling band of light. Earth provides a glittering green and gold effect, Wind creates a blue and silver glittering effect, and Fire creates a red and gold glittering effect. They're great for light writing in portraits, for abstract light painting work, and for creating classic light-painted orbs and other light sculptures.



LUXLI CASE FOR LUXLI FIDDLE LED LIGHT KITS

How many Luxli LED Fiddles do you own? If you are like us, the number is at least two! While these LED panels are compact, it can be tricky to keep them organized and all together with the correct chargers, grids, ball heads, etc.

Lucky for us, the company recently released a custom Case for Luxli Fiddles that perfectly fits three Fiddles and their accessories. The lightweight but rugged EVA shell protects the panels from the rigors and constant travels of a night photographer while keeping all the components neatly in one place for easy use and charging.

Special offer: 15 percent off the Luxli Fiddle Case at B&H Photo (use link above). Valid through December 19, 2023.





MOONGLOW MOON PHASE JEWELRY

Do you and a special photographer share a special date? The night you first photographed the Milky Way together, perhaps? Or maybe just a wedding anniversary, or a birthday? Visit the Moonglow website, enter a date to see its moon phase, then see a selection of [Moon Phase Jewelry](#) to match. Necklaces, bracelets, rings, earrings, ornaments and more.

MOVE-SHOOT-MOVE

LENS WARMER/DEW HEATER BAND

Dew can wreak havoc on a night shoot, as lens glass is one of the first things drops form on. The solution? Warmth. The Move-Shoot-Move [Lens Warmer/Dew Heater Band](#) is made from durable neoprene (wetsuit material), adapts to fit most any lens and has three power settings to prevent a lens from fogging up when the temperature reaches the dew point. It can be powered by most 5-volt power banks, weighs next to nothing, and rolls up or folds flat for easy storage in a camera bag.

Special offer: 10 percent off at moveshootmove.com (use link above) with code "NPAN."





NATIONAL PARKS AT NIGHT NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY AND POST-PROCESSING WORKSHOPS

Send the photographer in your life on the adventure of a lifetime, crafting images under the night skies of some amazing destinations. Tickets are available for several National Parks at Night adventures:

Ireland: County Mayo (April 15-23, 2024)

Lighthouses of Martha's Vineyard (April 28-May 4, 2024)

Faroe Islands (May 11-20, 2024)

Bannerman Island (June 15-16, 2024)

Denmark (July 7-18, 2024)

Iceland: Westfjords Camping (August 31-September 7, 2024)

Intro to Night Photography: Saguaro (October 18-23, 2024)

Gateway Arch & Northern Route 66 (October 18-23, 2024)

Post-Processing Intensive: Miami (November 11-16, 2024)

Easter Island (February 10-17, 2025)

Monhegan Island (August 30-September 4, 2025)

Morocco (November 10-24, 2025)

Or if none of those sound like the perfect gift, then how about Online Tutoring?

NATIONAL PARKS AT NIGHT 2023 WALL CALENDAR

National Parks at Night's sixth annual wall calendar, titled *Dark Hours*, will help the photographer stay inspired by and for night photography throughout 2024. The 12x12-inch calendar is printed on heavy-stock photographic paper, and is coil-bound for easy flipping from month to month.

In addition to 14 photos by the National Parks at Night instructors, the calendar includes dates for:

- National Park Service events and holidays
 - astronomy holidays (yes, they exist)
 - equinoxes and solstices
 - new and full moons
 - meteor showers
 - supermoons
 - eclipses

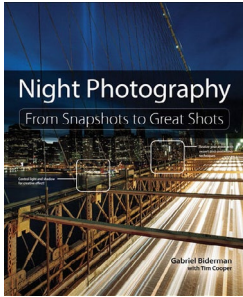


Gateway Arch National Park, Missouri / Lance Keimig

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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4	5	6	7	8	
11	12	13	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28
29	31				

NATIONAL PARKS AT NIGHT INSTRUCTOR BOOKS

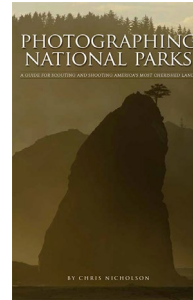
Looking for some national park and night photography inspiration and education that you can always have at your fingertips? Choose from one of the books written by members of the NPAN team!



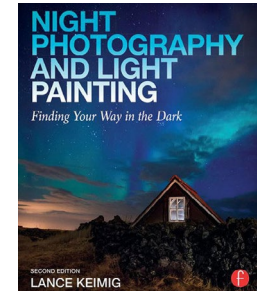
Have someone new to the night? Gabriel Biderman and Tim Cooper's e-book **Night Photography: From Snapshots to Great Shots** is an introduction to nocturnal photography, and it inspires you to get out there and seize the night!



Light painting is the most creative expression in night photography, and Tim Cooper's classic e-book **The Magic of Light Painting** is a detailed exploration of all the illuminating possibilities that can happen when we practice the craft.



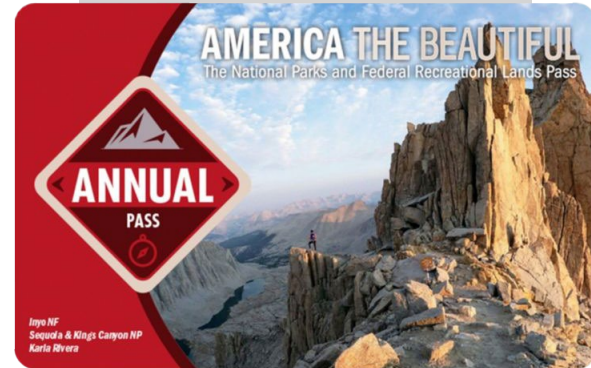
Photographing National Parks by Chris Nicholson is a portable and concise look at each of our national parks and how to best capture them. Includes best locations, times and great info on each park to help you plan your next adventure.



Want to dive even deeper into the night? Lance Keimig's book **Night Photography and Light Painting: Finding Your Way in the Dark** has long been the ultimate tome for those interested in immersing themselves in the genre. The latest edition has an amazing chapter on the history of light painting and does an excellent job of balancing theory, history and enthusiasm for taking your night visions to the next level.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASS

America's national parks preserve pretty much anything a night photographer needs to practice their craft: beautiful landscapes, historical structures and, of course, darkness. For only \$80 you can purchase the America the Beautiful annual park pass to begin or continue an exploration of America's greatest idea. The annual pass provides access to more than 2,000 recreation areas managed by five federal agencies, and the proceeds are used to improve and enhance visitor recreation services.





NOVOFLEX MULTI-TOOL WITH 8 FUNCTIONS

Get one for the camera bag. Another for the jacket pocket. And a third for home! The Novoflex **Multi-Tool** is a versatile, portable accessory with universal attachments for all tripods and other photography equipment. Whether the problem is a jiggly tripod leg or a loose camera screw, this handy 2.8-ounce item will keep gear stable and together in the field. Includes various sizes of hex keys, flat- and Philips-head screwdrivers, and Torx T25.

Special offer: 10 percent off the Multi-Tool at B&H Photo (use link above) with promo code "BHGIFT23." Valid through December 19, 2023.

OCOOPA
RECHARGEABLE HAND WARMER

Working with your camera's controls in the dark can be challenging, and even more so when your fingers are chilled to the bone. Chemical hand warmers can help, but they are expensive and add to our landfills. Ocoopa has a perfect solution: a **Rechargeable Hand Warmer!** Sleek, durable and well designed, Ocoopa has created hand warmers to keep our fingers warm and nimble for up to 15 hours. They have multiple temperature settings and a choice of ports to use for charging. They can also recharge your phone!





PARKS PROJECT

NATIONAL PARK WELCOME T-SHIRTS

We love National Park T-shirts. We are also huge fans of Parks Project, which not only creates cool products promoting our parks, but donates back to them as well. Our top pick from Parks Project this year is their **National Park Welcome Tee** that comes in a variety of colors, long- or short-sleeve, as well as an optional front pocket. For our friends in The Golden State, they also have a Welcome to California T-shirt which features all nine of its national parks.

Special offer: 25 percent off sitewide (use link above) with promo code "GIVEPARKS."



LANCE KEIMIG
VATNAJOKULL NATIONAL PARK, ICELAND

Lance created this image while shooting at Jokulsarlon Glacial Lagoon during the spring solar storm that rocked our night skies earlier this year.

There weren't many icebergs in the lagoon, as it was mostly frozen over, but this one lone hunk of ice was just begging for some attention, so Lance's Luxli Fiddle came to the rescue. He placed it on the ice behind the iceberg and set it to just 1 percent power, which provided all the light that was needed to make the ice glow from within.

*Nikon D780 with a Tamron VR 15-30mm f/2.8G lens at 15mm
13 seconds, f/4.5, ISO 5000*

▼ **PHOTOPILLS**
LIGHTMETER MUG

Every night photographer needs a hot beverage from time to time, and that beverage can be had in style! Sip a coffee, tea or hot cocoa in this sleek **Lightmeter Mug** from PhotoPills. Available in white and black, this vessel will not only keep you warm and caffeinated, it will also remind you of why you're out late in the first place.

*Special offer: 15 percent off and free shipping at PhotoPills (use link above).
Valid through December 3, 2023.*



PLUM DELUXE
NIGHT-THEME TEAS

A little caffeine can help the night last longer. So indulge in one of these night-theme tea blends from Oregon-based Plum Deluxe, which sources its tea leaves and other ingredients from farms and families the owner knows personally. Before a night adventure, enjoy Full Moon Chai or Stargazer Caramel Maté Chai, or while groggy in the morning wake up with the Fog Cutter blend.





SAWYER PRODUCTS

PICARIDIN INSECT REPELLENT LOTION



Being out at night in wild places means exposing your skin to wild critters—such as ticks and mosquitoes. To keep them off, **Picaridin** is the most effective and most comfortable topical solution we've found. Not sticky and smelly like most insect repellents, Picaridin lotion feels just like moisturizer, except that it also does an excellent job of warding off those little blood-suckers. The 4-ounce bottles are the perfect size to fit in a camera bag, for easy access on buggy nights in the field.

SHIMODA
ACTION X30 V2 BACKPACK STARTER KIT

If the pursuit of astro-landscape photography takes a photographer everywhere, then it's time to stow and carry gear in a Shimoda. It's the most versatile, rugged, accommodating and flexible bag system we have ever had the pleasure of carrying and abusing. The Action X30 V2 Backpack has three height options with approximately 2.7 inches of vertical adjustment, as well as the most comfortable swappable shoulder straps for men or women.

Special offer: 20 percent off the Action X30 V2 at B&H Photo (use link above) with promo code "BHGIFT23." Valid through December 19, 2023.





SLOW WATCHES 24-HOUR WRISTWATCH

As their promo video postulates, “Does it really matter if it’s 12:34 or 12:36?” Leave the minutia of a.m.’s and p.m.’s and minutes and seconds behind, and instead focus on the natural rhythm of the solar day. The stylish, Swiss-made 24-hour Slow Watch tracks only hours. Available in three style categories, each with multiple bands and face palettes.

STUDIOCULT
STILL FRAME SUNGLASSES

To be the coolest photographer on the strip, sunglasses are a necessity. And what says “hipster photographer” better than sporting nostalgic negatives across the eyes? Studiocult is the New York City-based jewelry designer behind these Still Frame Sunglasses, created in consultation with conceptual artist Gab Bois.

The lenses are made from composite nylon, framed with matte-finish stainless steel spring-hinge temples. Includes vintage film storage box and color checker cleaning cloth.





GABRIEL BIDERMAN
SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK, ARIZONA

Photographers usually target saguaros for sunset and sunrise, to capture the sun bursting through the arms of these desert sentinels. Gabe, however, planned this shoot to do the same thing with the full moon.

He arrived on location in time to scout and enjoy and the amazing backlit glow from the sunset, and then quickly set up for moonrise. He aligned the burst through the cactus arms, timing it just as the moon rose over the ridge. To fill in the shadows, he light painted the front of the cactus with a Luxli Fiddle LED panel.

*Fujifilm GFX 100 with a Fujifilm 20-35mm f/4 lens at 23mm
25 seconds, f/8, ISO 1600*

TETHER TOOLS STRAPMOORE

When on a night shoot, we all have ... stuff. Things that hang around with no obvious place to put them. An external battery. An eyeglass case. A phone. To help, the Tether Tools StrapMoore provides a way to secure such items right to a tripod, where they won't get in the way and won't get lost. Two adjustable straps wrap around a tripod leg, making the attachment versatile and secure, and the adjustable object strap can hold anything from one-quarter inch to 3 inches in diameter.





VENUS OPTICS

LAOWA 12MM F/2.8 ZERO-D LENS

When the night sky gets so big that you have to go superwide, pop on the Laowa [12mm f/2.8](#) lens and dream away. This sharp prime lens features a rectilinear optical design, a removable metal flower lens hood and buttery smooth manual focus. Comatic aberration is greatly reduced, making this a wonderful astro-landscape lens. Available in mounts for Canon EF and RF, Leica L, Nikon F and Z, and Sony A and FE, and Pentax K. (Fun note: Matt used this lens to shoot the cover photo of this gift guide.)

*Special offer: \$100 off the 12mm f/2.8 at B&H Photo (use link above).
Valid through December 31, 2023.*

WASOTO HEATED SOCKS

Avoid discomfort and frostbite on freezing nights with these wonderful electronically Heated Socks. Each sock has a USB-C rechargeable battery pack secured in a small pocket. Great elastic holds the socks on the calves. And once you are bundled up, you can control the socks' heat and settings via a smartphone app! Keep Jack Frost away from those little piggies.



BRAND PARTNERS

We're very fortunate to have the support of brands that believe in photography and creativity as much as we do. Every brand that partners with us is one whose gear or services we use regularly, if not exclusively. They enable creativity, which we appreciate as active artists and commercial photographers.

You can see the specific equipment we use on our [Gear](#) webpage. For some inspiration that reveals how we use some gear, visit the [NPAN blog](#).

Each partner brings value for the workshop attendees too! As a workshop participant, you will have access to benefits from our partners while on location in national parks and other amazing places around the world. From services and swag to cost-free on-site loans, our partners have you covered. Not signed up yet? [Check out our workshops](#).



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WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SEIZING THE NIGHT?

Join the National Parks at Night team as we take you to magical and majestic destinations for extraordinary night photography adventure workshops. Our five enthusiastic veteran instructors hand-craft each workshop to provide a unique, world-class educational experience where you receive friendly, individual attention and create awe-inspiring images in settings of unparalleled natural beauty.

National Parks at Night features a different itinerary of workshops and tours every year, so book now for a creative journey unlike any other. We also offer myriad other learning opportunities, such as conferences; presentations and photo walks at trade shows and for camera clubs; blog posts about night photography, dark skies and national parks; livestreams with industry experts; informative YouTube videos; and more.



www.NationalParksAtNight.com

Visit the website for:

- details on upcoming workshops
- info on night photography conferences
- blog posts with night photography tips, national parks news and more
- recommendations on great gear
- one-on-one tutoring

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