



# Lives of New York

## Country

United States

## Region

New York City

## Instructor

Nina Berman

## Dates

18 Jun > 24 Jun 08

## Price

£950.00

## Overview

The New York Masterclass is a chance to work with Nina Berman, an acclaimed photographer with the Redux photo agency, and resident of New York City. The Masterclass will last five days and each day will have its own unique and exciting theme ranging from Grand Central Station, Wall Street, the Coney Island Mermaid Parade, Central Park, and Subway life - this Masterclass will be a chance to push your creative style within a street photography remit, and learn important skills such as story-telling with images. If you are comfortable operating your camera and want to learn street photography in the perfect location, then this is the course for you. Critique and discussion sessions will be conducted each day, providing a great opportunity to push your photographic boundaries, whilst experiencing this great city under the guidance of a photographer who grew there. Nina's intimate knowledge of New York and her experience as a photographer mean this will be a chance to progress your style, vision and how you construct your imagery. Using the streets, people and activity of the city as our stage, we'll weave amongst the people, and different neighborhoods, in search of great images, ideas and moments of inspiration.

## Itinerary

### What is Included

- Five full days of tuition
- All critique sessions
- Welcome dinner on first night
- Farewell dinner on last night
- Transportation around New York during Masterclass
- Entrance to any monuments visited during Masterclass

### What is Not Included

- Accommodation (see section below)
- International air travel into New York City or USA
- Transfers to and from airports to hotel
- Meals except first and last night dinners
- Photographic materials & processing

## Calendar

Wednesday 18 June 2008 - ARRIVAL DAY



Introductory talk & slideshow by your instructor Nina Berman (5:30pm)

Dinner together on penthouse floor overlooking Manhattan

Thursday 19 June 2008 - MASTERCLASS DAY 1

In the morning we'll have a chance to do some 'Ironing out the creases' - street shooting around 5th Avenue & chance to find feet

We will travel together to the colourful neighbourhood of Lower East side where Nina will give you an assignment

Lunch at Katz Deli

Back at the hotel

Early evening shoot at the Lincoln Centre for the Midsummer Night Swing - a catchy dance event where nobody's feet can stay still

Dinner

Friday 20 June 2008 - MASTERCLASS DAY 2

We will climb the Empire State Building at sunrise to photograph the Big Apple as it lays still dormant.

Breakfast

We will walk to Grand Central Station and have a chance to capture the rush of the morning workers bathed in the beautiful light falling from the immense windows of the station

Lunch

Image review session in our conference room

In the late afternoon we will walk across Brooklyn bridge as far as Brooklyn Park where we'll wait for the New York skyline to appear glittering against the dark sky.

We will have dinner together in this hip neighbourhood

Saturday 21 June 2008 - MASTERCLASS DAY 3

Today we will go to Coney Island where amongst sand and sea the biggest event of the summer takes place. The Mermaid Parade at its 26th edition is an eye-opening event, amongst a wonderfully friendly atmosphere, and alive with characters, celebration and expression.

You can stay as long as you wish in Coney Island as the mermaids and lobster red costumes become gentler with the golden light of the sunset. For this reason tonight dinner will be at your own time

Sunday 22 June 2008 - MASTERCLASS DAY 4

Image review session in our conference room

Lunch

Choice of assignment - Today the streets of New York will be peacefully invaded by colour and music. The Pride Parade will give you a great chance to photograph happy posers and the crowd alike OR for those who wish to have a different setting will be shown where the Sunday roller-skaters meet in Central Park for their weekly get together.

Dinner together

Monday 23 June 2008 - MASTERCLASS DAY 5

This morning our photography will change mood as we walk amongst the early morning crowds of Wall Street where the dark suits of the people contrast against the white columns of the Stock Exchange

We will walk together to Chinatown and spend some time shooting in the neighbourhood. We will have a Dim Sum lunch all together in the biggest dim sum restaurant in the States.

Final image review session in the conference room of the Blakely Hotel

Farewell dinner together

Tuesday 24 June 2008 - DEPARTURE DAY

No activities planned - recommended check-out day from your hotel

## Accommodation

Our Masterclasses are purely about photography. We want them to be widely available to both hobbyists and professionals, and in order to keep prices competitive, we sometimes leave the choice of hotel to the customer. Comfort and luxury can be quite subjective across a group of people, and so our solution is to let you decide from a selection of hotels in different budgets.



The daily meeting place and location of daily image review sessions will be the 'Blakely Hotel, 136 West 55th Street New York . Click on the tab above called 'Map' to see exactly where it is in New York City, We recommend you stay in one of the hotels we have listed below as they are all within a short distance of The Blakely Hotel. The ideal solution is of course to find a room in the Blakely Hotel (web link below)

#### Manhattan 3 Star Hotels

Blakely Hotel. (<http://www.blakelynewyork.com/>)

#### 136 West 55th Street

Applecore Hotels. (<http://www.applecorehotels.com/>)

#### 5 Manhattan Hotels

Ameritania Hotel. (<http://www.ameritaniahotelnewyork.com/>)

#### 54th Street West and Broadway

Amsterdam Court Hotel. (<http://www.amsterdamcourthotelnewyork.com/>)

#### 226 West and 50th Street

Edison Hotel. (<http://www.edisonhotelnyc.com/>)

#### 228 West and 47th Street

Flatotel Hotel. (<http://www.flatotel.com/>)

#### 135 West and 52nd Street

Hotel Mela. (<http://www.hotelmela.com/>)

#### 120 West and 44th Street

Shorehem Hotel. (<http://www.shorehemhotel.com/>)

#### 33 West and 55th Street

Hotel Time New York. (<http://www.hoteltimenewyork.com/>)

#### 224 West and 49th Street

Washington Jefferson Hotel. (<http://www.wjhotel.com/>)

#### 59 West and 46th Street

## Travel

For this workshop you will need to fly into New York City, and make your own way into the city to the Hotel. We recommend taking a taxi.

Your should arrive on or before the 18th June 2007, and your day of departure should be 24th June 2008 or later.

## Companions



Photography is a passion that touches millions of people, but that doesn't always mean that it is shared throughout your family! A great many of our participants choose to travel with their husbands, wives or partners, and we make every effort to make them just as welcome as everybody else. Should you wish to attend with your partner we would welcome them to join us in the evenings during our organised dinners. Alternatively you are both free to spend your evenings away from the group if you wish to make your own plans.

## The Photography

### Photography

New York, perhaps more than any other city in the world, has been drawn, painted, photographed, filmed, written about, loved, hated, confused and cherished the world over. It presents a very real challenge to today's photographers, and one that we find ourselves facing throughout the modern world. How do we start to photograph such a place? Where does one start to find a unique interpretation? To arrive, and indeed spend several days in this city certainly presents hundreds, if not thousands of visually interesting scenes - but how can we make sense of all of this, as we try to take in so many new sights, sounds and sensations? How does one begin to portray something new, or to show a different side of New York?

Not only must the photographer try to deal with the millions of startling visual stimuli that confront them every minute, but you must also consider your technical craft too. Together, your conceptual ideas must combine with your technical know-how, to give you a sense of purpose and focus.

We recognize these challenges which is why we have organized this Masterclass around a series of assignments or projects. Each assignment will be based around a place or event, which will allow you both to focus your creative eyes, but also to learn by seeing how your fellow participants have chosen to interpret the scene. Often we will travel to the assignment location together, from where we will agree upon a meeting place, where your instructor will be at decided intervals. This allows you to confer, gather your thoughts, ask any questions whilst out in the field. Another very important part of our teaching process is the image review session.

Being in a city like New York is a big step towards putting yourself in front of something very interesting. Our assignments bring you even closer, with camera in hand - but the rest is up to you. Any time you feel 'uncomfortable' shooting, chances are you're close to a great shot.

### Teaching

Each day on your Masterclass is organized around specific locations or events within the city. We call them 'assignments' as this is exactly the frame of mind we'd like you to be when you tackle them. We tend to travel as a group to each location, agreeing upon a meeting time and place that we will convene at after several hours. We will also set a place at which your instructor will make herself available at decided intervals - at which point you can check in, ask any questions, and seek help advice whenever you feel the need.

Whilst on location, you will generally find yourself working a relatively large area, and so for the purpose of working effectively and not creating the impression of a pack of hunting dogs after the last lamb chop in town, we suggest that you seek your own space, search out your own little gems, and we think you'll find that this will really pay off when it comes to being less conspicuous.

Not every assignment requires that you tackle face-on the the unsuspecting citizen! There's no rule to say that you need to be shooting up close to people, nor do you need to be shooting people necessarily. This idea is to interpret the places we visit, the people we see, in your own unique way. We will make every effort to bring you closer to interesting people and events, and we do think it would be a great opportunity for some fascinating people photography, but remember that the remit is open. We will try to guide you, to inspire you, to point you in the right direction, and veer you aware when we feel perhaps you have come a little unstuck.

### Is this for me?



This is what we call a Masterclass. This means that it is designed for people who are relatively comfortable with the operation of their cameras.

In order for you to get the most out of this Masterclass, we suggest that all participants have the following:

Use an SLR camera with interchangeable lenses

Comfortable with operating a camera's exposure manually

Our passion is photography, and we welcome all of you that share this love. One of the great benefits of learning in a group, is the knowledge you also gain from those around you. New ideas, shared critiques and a good sense of camaraderie are ingredients we actively try to encourage in all of our trips.

## Inspiration

### Introduction

Below you will find a collection of photographers, writers and films chosen to awaken your senses. They may inspire you about the location or they may just intrigue you. Either way please use this as an insight into the experiences and impressions of others. International travel is so easy these days. The pace at which one travels and 'sees' the world gets faster and faster. If you feel like it, take a moment to slow the process down.

### Photographers

Bruce Davidson

Elliot Erwit

Bruce Gilden

Larry Fink

Trent Park

### Books

Photography Books

"New Yorkers - as seen by magnum Photographers"

"Coney Island" Bruce Gilden (Magnum)

"New York" Inge Morath (Magnum)

"Brooklyn gang" Bruce Davidson (Magnum)

"Central Park" Bruce Davidson (Magnum)

"Facing New York" Bruce Gilden (Magnum)

"Subway" Bruce Davidson (Magnum)

"New York September 11" by Magnum Photographers and David Halberstam

"Larry Fink: Somewhere There's Music" by Larry Fink

"The Mythic City: Photographs of New York" by Samuel H. Gottscho by Donald Albrecht

"New York: Capital of Photography" by Max Kozloff

"New York City: A Photographic Celebration" by Courage Books

"Berenice Abbott: Changing New York" by Bonnie Yochelson and Berenice Abbott

"Louis Faurer" by Anne Wilkes Tucker

"Leon Levinstein: The Moment of Exposure" by Robert Shamis

"Leon Levinstein: That's Where The Life Is"

"Social Graces: Photographs by Larry Fink" by Larry Fink and Max Kozloff

"Bruce Davidson: East 100th Street" by Mildred Feliciano, Barney Simon, and Bruce Davidson

### Movies



"Coney Island" Short movie by Ramen Cromwell (2007)  
"Once upon a time in America"  
"The Warriors" directed by Walter Hill (1979)  
"Manhattan" directed by Woody Allen (1979)  
"Barefoot in the park" directed by Gene Saks with Robert Redford and Jane Fonda (1967)  
"Wall Street" directed by Oliver Stone (1987) with Michael Douglas, Charlie Sheen  
"Devil's Advocate" directed by Taylor Hackford with Al Pacino, Keanu Reeves, Charlize Theron (1997)  
"When Harry met Sally" directed by Rob Reiner with Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan (1989)  
"Taxi driver" directed by Martin Scorsese with Robert De Niro and Jodie Foster (1976)  
"Seinfeld" by Larry David and Jerry Seinfeld (1990)  
"Donnie Brasco" directed by Mike Newell with Johnny Depp and Al Pacino (1997)

## Forums

We have our own online forum that over the years has proven to be a very popular and useful way of not just keeping in touch after a workshop, but also before. It can be a fascinating source of information for those considering their first workshop with VSP. You will need to register to join the forum, and we recommend the following two sections

Ask a past VSP Workshops participant (<http://www.vspworkshops.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?board=feedback/>)

Discussion board for all participants booked on Lives of New York Masterclass (<http://www.vspworkshops.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1191519688>)

## Testimonials

"Your Workshop was fantastic - beneficial to the novice as the seasoned veteran. A wide variety of shooting opportunities and activities. Daily critique sessions were incredibly helpful, seeing what other photographers, hearing what everyone thought of other's photos. I would recommend the VSP Workshop to anyone who wants "total immersion" experience in photography"  
Nancy, USA, 2007

"Well, "the experience of a life-time" doesn't even come close to describing this workshop. The planning that went into it must have been immense and intense; the result was simply "The Best".  
Richard, UK, 2006

"I came away with much more than you can imagine. You literally opened my eyes to a new world. I will never look through a camera viewfinder again in the same way as before. You set your students at ease, clearly state your objectives and fairly assess the outcome"  
James, USA, 2004

"Not only did I go home with by far more excellent shots than expected, I even met a lot of friends and it was a pleasure being able to share my time with all of them. Hope I'll be able to attend one of VSP's workshops in the future.."  
Josef, Germany, 2005



**VSP**Workshops

"I run my own company and I know how demanding it is to offer good customer service and how important it is to provide it. Every VSP Workshops I so far attended has always been better than I expected. I could learn a lot about customer service from VSP as it always exceed its participants expectations.  
Witek, Spain, 2006

"Excellent value! Learned a lot - enjoyed the relaxed environment. Very much appreciated the personal attention. Great organization. Looking forward to more workshops. VSP works for me! Thank you."  
Dan, USA, 2007