

PHOTOGRAPHY AND CREATIVITY IN THE ITALIAN ALPS:

An artistic journey into the heart of the Dolomites

June 27th - July 4th, 2011

What is this about, you ask? ...A walk in the mountains? A photography workshop? A gourmet food sampling? A Photoshop class? A self-realization seminar?

Yes! Yes! Yes! *This adventure simply cannot fit into a typical tour category.* Indeed, this is a *combination* event -- part mountain trek, part hands-on photography workshop, part software skills lab, and part artistic self-discovery!

Adventure Overview:

Come indulge your senses while photographing one of the world's most scenic regions – the Dolomite Mountains – crown jewel of the Alps. Sights, sounds, and flavors of the Dolomites in northern Italy will awaken your artistic desires. We have assembled a team of world-class leaders who are sure to bring you to a heightened level of creative thinking and success with your digital photography!

Daily excursions will include walks through charming mountain villages and hikes on alpine trails to a few of the most spectacular vistas on Earth. No need to feel rushed, as you will be among other photographers who understand that a great image takes some time to capture. Create photographs – both grand and small -- of sweeping landscape panoramas, and of delicate wild mountain orchids. Relaxed evening classes will teach you current photo-finishing techniques using the latest software (Adobe Lightroom 3 primarily, and Photoshop CS5 for those of you who are more advanced) on your own laptop computer. All levels of photographers are welcome, yet basic operating knowledge of your digital SLR camera, and of your laptop computer is required. As a participant you must be prepared to hike on moderately difficult trails at altitude, while carrying your own camera gear and a few personal items.

This adventure has been created especially for those photographers who desire to make their images more artistic; for those who might want to sell their work in galleries, and for those trying to develop their own look and “style”.

Subjects we may touch upon include: panoramic capture, landscape design, gourmet food photography, high dynamic range imaging, travel and leisure photography, image composites, packaging your work for retail sales, digitally painting a photograph, determining the genre of your landscape image, painting with light in Photoshop....

You can expect to work hard, play hard, eat well, and sleep well – after all, this is Italy! This exciting adventure will include four and five star accommodations, expert instruction, transfers to and from Venice's Marco-Polo International airport, and many incredible meals. Space is limited to just 12 lucky photographers!

Our Group Objectives:

- *Discover the Majestic Dolomite mountain region of northern Italy, and explore her charming villages.*
- *Hike and travel with like-minded photographers. Unlike other tours, you will have plenty of time to compose and create your own marvelous images.*
- *Become absorbed by a unique mountain culture -- where the local language, cuisine, and*

architecture, reflects a delightful blend of Italian, Austrian and Ladin.

- *Spend quality time studying current photography techniques as you shoot side-by-side with established professional “camera artists”.*
- *Learn some of the latest digital photo processing methods on your computer, demonstrated by a true master educator. Your classroom settings will be intimate, relaxed, and fun.*
- *Unveil your creative inner being! Find out how to transform your favorite images from simply good, to a higher level of artistic excellence.*
- *Enjoy some personal time to browse local boutique shops; perhaps spoil yourself in the spa, or sit at the sidewalk café with your coffee or wine.*

ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTORS AND GUIDES:

Julianne Kost



Since joining Adobe in 1992, Julianne Kost has learned her craft through hands-on experience and now serves as the Senior Digital Imaging Evangelist for Lightroom and Photoshop. Her role includes customer education, product development, and market research for photography, digital imaging, and illustration.

Julianne is the founder of www.jkost.com, publisher of the Daily Photoshop Tip (blogs.adobe.com/jkost), author of “Window Seat – The Art of Digital Photography”, the host of “The Complete Picture”, a bimonthly instructional training program featuring Lightroom and Photoshop on Adobe TV. In addition, she is a frequent contributor to several publications, a speaker at numerous conferences and industry events, and a guest lecturer at distinguished photography workshops and fine art schools around the world.

In her work, Julianne combines a passion for photography, a mastery of digital imaging techniques, and a degree in psychology, in order to construct a world similar enough to appear familiar, yet obviously an interpretation of the physical reality that surrounds us. She has had several exhibits of her work as well as published numerous articles on Photoshop and Lightroom in books, magazines and online. She holds and AA in Fine Art Photography and a BS in Psychology.

Randy Jay Braun



Randy refers to himself as a professional “camera-artist”. After graduating from Occidental College, Randy landed a job as a corporate photographer, but soon he realized his desire for more creative expression. Over the past twenty years, Randy has achieved success with his own fine-art photography gallery on the Pacific island of Maui, Hawaii. His classic images of the native Hawaiian people are widely published, and recognized worldwide.

Recently, Randy has developed a passion for wilderness backpacking with his camera. In July 2010, Randy trekked through the Dolomite mountains. He fell in love with this photogenic region and vowed to return. During that excursion, his professional trail guide was Karin Pizzinini, also an avid photographer. During long discussions on the trail the two of them dreamed up the concept for *this exact event!*

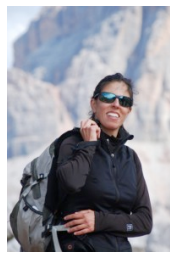
Though Randy was formerly an expert darkroom printer, he now embraces the leading edge of digital imaging technologies. He is a member of the Adobe Photoshop beta testing team, and serves as advisor to the Maui Photo Festival, where he is a regular class presenter. His own week-long “*creative photography boot camp*” series has become very popular in Hawaii.

Karin Pizzinini



Karin is a certified professional trail guide born and raised in a village named Colfosco, in the very heart of the Dolomites. This woman knows how to *live*! Karin is an accomplished parachuter, paraglider, and rock climber, and loves to explore the mountains in the winter on telemark skis. Karin produces television documentaries, teaches high-school science, has traveled the world, and loves to sing along with her guitar music! Her camera is ubiquitous. Recently, Karin started a small business teaching digital photography skills in her region. She speaks five languages, including Ladin, the historical native tongue in the Dolomites, and loves to share her personal insight with visiting guests. She says with her infectious smile, "I am happiest when I am touching the mountains"!

Agustina Lagos Marmol



Agustina grew up in Patagonia, and now lives in the Dolomites. She owns the host company [Dolomite Mountains](#), which specializes in ultimate activities in the Dolomites ranging from hiking and climbing to on-piste and backcountry skiing. She is a professional coordinator and outfitter for tour groups in this region of Italy. Agustina is a talented photographer in her own right, a devout hiker, climber, multi-linguist, and loves to fly fish. She is serving as our coordinator for accommodations and most activities during this adventure. Agustina will join us periodically during the week as cultural guide, and interpreter.

ITINERARY:

Trip itinerary may vary based on weather conditions, fitness levels and abilities of participants, and/or the recommendations of your guide.

Day 1 (Monday, June 27) ~ Welcome!

Morning 10:00 arrival meet-up at Venice Marco Polo airport, transfer to Corvara in Alta Badia situated in the heart of the Dolomites, and check into your hotel. There will be a couple hours to explore the Corvara Village. In the late afternoon, you will meet with your photographer guides for a trip briefing, followed by a welcome dinner with your group at a charming local restaurant, with your first taste of the incredible regional cuisine and wine!

D... Hotel Posta Zirm (4-Star)

Day 2 (Tuesday June 28) ~ Val Gardena and Alta Badia Vistas

Today we will ascend into the Dolomites, and enjoy marvelous views of the Sella Massif from different vantage points throughout the day. After a hearty breakfast, hike up to Colfosco and on to the Edelweiss hut, situated right beneath the Puez High Plateau. Continue to hike and enjoy the views of the Sella Massif and the other surrounding mountains like the Conturines and Santa Croce mountains. For lunch we will stop at the Jimmy Hut: an opportunity to photograph both the vistas as well as classic rifugio (mountain inn) architecture. After lunch, we descend to Colfosco by gondola and from there hike back to Corvara. Today will be an opportunity to capture spectacular vistas and begin to comprehend and capture the grandeur of the majestic Dolomite Mountains.

(4 hours hiking 9 km / 5.5 miles, 2,000' elevation gain with cable car plus 800' hiking descent.)

B,L,D... Hotel Posta Zirm (4-Star)

Day 3 (Wednesday June 29) ~ Ladin Cultural Experience

Today begins with a two-hour workshop at the hotel. Immediately following, you'll have plentiful opportunities to photograph the cooking, landscape, and animals of a traditional Ladino working farm.

We'll travel to Maso Alfarei, a dairy farm situated on the sunny slopes at the foot of the Santa Croce mountain, surrounded by meadows and woods above the village of San Leonardo in Alta Badia". During the summer the cows stay on the pastures within the boundaries of the Fanes - Sennes - Braies Natural Park and produce a very high quality of milk. The milk is used in the restaurant at the maso (farm), as well as in the production of cheeses and yoghurts.

We will explore the farm and its facilities, including the farmstead, the stable, and the hayloft, with the opportunity to learn first hand about the daily life at the farmstead and capture images of this way of living. We will see how different types of fences are made, all by hand. We will also take a look at the old farmhouse and the way it was furnished, the bread oven and the cellar, where the speck, the typical smoked ham, is produced.

Later on we will be able to watch (and photograph) the farmer's wife cooking the dinner we will be served in the evening.

Tonight we will delight in a typical Ladin dinner at Maso Alfarei. The farmhouse is famous for its typical Ladin cuisine that is offered in the restaurant, and, being situated right here on the farm, everything is of the utmost freshness. The restaurant is located inside an ancient house, a typical residence Ladin dating back to 1200, and is arranged as a typical Tyrolean stube – an all-wood room where the oven is located and meals are served. The food is prepared in a simple kitchen and is from traditional recipes handed down from generation to generation. You may have the opportunity to try the *ravioli di spinaci e ricotta con parmigiano e burro fuso* – spinach and ricotta ravioli with Parmesan cheese and butter, turtres (deep fried and filled with spinach and ricotta) with barley soup, as well as the *o canederli con gulasch* – your a tyrolean specialty of farm style dumplings that approach the size of tennis balls, served with gulasch, a stew in a rich tomato based broth, or one of many other traditional Ladin dishes.

B,L,D... Hotel Posta Zirm (4-Star)

Day 4 (Thursday June 30) ~ The Elves' Court Agriturismo

Today we have a 3hour hike from the village of Ornella to the agriturismo La Corte degli Elfi. An agriturismo, literally meaning the combination of agriculture and tourism in Italian, and La Corte degli Elfi – "The Elves' Court" – is an old farm house reconstructed by the owners with attention to detail and love for tradition. Inside you'll find lots of curiosities to explore and photograph – ranging from old skis to antique books. Outdoors you can experience this rustic setting which includes a number of animals on the property, complimented by little luxuries like a spa, solarium, and sauna. The best part? We will have the whole place to ourselves! This is a fascinating location to photograph so you can take your time exploring, composing shots, getting feedback, and shooting some more!

The kitchen is run by the wife of the owner who still cooks in a traditional way using a wood oven. In inclement weather, meals are served in a typical "Stube" dining room, but if the weather cooperates, we'll be seated on a scenic terrace with grill and wood oven enjoying our meals al fresco! Goat cheeses, speck, and sausages are all produced on the farm, and traditional and typical Ladin cuisine is served at meals.

This is a fantastic location to capture the sunset and sunrise, and practice long evening exposures on your tripod – you'll have marvellous views of the Pelmo Massif and plenty of interesting foreground to work with!

3 to 5 hours hiking

B,L,D... La Corte degli Elfi (Agriturismo)

Day 5 (Friday July 1) ~ Pralongia High Plateau

Hike through the Ladin villages of Livinallongo, Corte, and Contrin to reach the marvelous Pralongia High Plateau. From here you have impressive views of the surrounding mountains including the Marmolada with its famous glacier (the only glacier in all the Dolomites!), the Sella Massif, Santa Croce, and the Sassongher which dominates the Badia valley. We might encounter snow drifts left over from winter season, as well as fresh blooming wildflowers of spring.

We'll stop for lunch at the little mountain hut of the Hotel Rosa Alpina (a two-story chalet with rustic amenities at 2,000m / 6,562') where the staff of this 5-star hotel will prepare a special lunch for you. After lunch hike down or take the gondola which will bring to the village San Cassiano in Alta Badia where you will spend the remaining nights of your trip.

(5 hours hiking 12 km / 7.5 miles; 2,200' vertical climb with cable car descent.)

Today will also include a 1 ½ hour computer workshop with Julieanne Kost that will be either in the morning or afternoon depending on weather conditions.

The lesson will include image processing capabilities in the Lightroom 3 "develop module".

B,L,D... Relais & Chateaux Rosa Alpina (5-Star)

Day 6 (Saturday July 2) ~ Armentara Meadows

In the morning take the chairlift to Santa Croce Sanctuary and hike to the Armentara Meadows. These meadows are famous for the spring flowers in bloom which are simply spectacular. Hike through these colourful meadows to Ranch da Andre. This Maso is an old farmers hut converted into a little restaurant serving typical Ladin dishes like turtres, a sort of salty pancake filled with potatoes and spinach or other fillings and are often accompanied with barley soup. Enjoy lunch here with fantastic views of the spires of Puez-Odle mountain range and Sass de Putia. After lunch, descend to San Leonardo and transfer back to San Cassiano.

(3-4 hours hiking 9 km / 5.5 miles; 400' vertical climb, 2500' hiking descent.)

This afternoon will feature a 2-3 hour computer workshop with Julieanne Kost. Julieanne's lesson will bring us into Photoshop CS5, creative compositing, and mixer brush painting.

B,L,D... Relais & Chateaux Rosa Alpina (5-Star)

Day 7 (Sunday July 3) ~ Settsass Mountain

Early transfer to Passo Valparola (2,192m / 7,192') to see the sunrise. Superb panoramas of Dolomite Mountains, as far as the Austrian Alps, will be in view. Breakfast at rifugio Valparola from where we hike below the Piccolo Settsass (2,429m / 7,969') and continue to Pralongia (2,106m / 6,909'). The early start will give us the opportunity to capture the magical morning light in the Dolomites. Following a good jeep track we reach the Rifugio Biok (2,078m / 6,818') where we can stop for lunch. After lunch, descend to San Cassiano.(1,513m / 4,964').

(3 hours hiking 11 km / 7 miles, 1,000' vertical climb and descent.)

In the afternoon we'll attend a cooking demonstration by Norbert Niederkofler, the 2 Michelin Star chef of St. Hubertus (to be confirmed soon). This will be a superb opportunity to try your hand at food photography! Farewell dinner tonight at the St. Hubertus, and, after watching the cooking demonstration, you will get to savor their delicacies with a greater appreciation for what this level of cooking requires!
B,L,D... Relais & Chateaux Rosa Alpina (5-Star)

Day 8 (Monday, July 4) ~ Depart at 8 in the morning.

Breakfast and transfer to the Venice Airport for departure. Will arrive at airport at 12:00 noon.

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OPTIONAL ADVENTURE EXTENSION – PHOTOGRAPHY IN HISTORICAL VENICE:

Don't want the trip to end? We offer a Venice Extension on request!

Venice is an incredible destination with unbelievable photographic opportunities. Why not put all that new inspiration and education to use and continue your creative adventure in Italy!

3 Nights and 3.5 Days

WHAT TO BRING:

Camera Equipment:

You will need a digital SLR camera and at least two lenses. Lenses should include a wide angle and a telephoto. Today's zoom lenses are pretty good for covering a wide focal range. A macro lens will be nice if you hope to get in close to the wildflowers and food. You will need a tripod, cable release, a several media cards that hold at least 12 gigabytes of images. You will need your battery charger and an outlet adapter for European round two-prong outlets. We suggest you bring your camera manual too, if you have it.

Randy will carry a Nikon D700 camera. The Nikon lenses he carries include a 14-24mm, 24-70mm, 70-200mm. Perhaps a LensBaby. He also carries a Gitzo 2540EX tripod with RRS quick-release ball head system, and cable release. He will also have a couple of B+W UV filters to protect his lens glass. He carries circular polarizing filter, eight 4-gig CF (compact flash) cards, and extra batteries. His camera instruction manual is always in his case, and is still referred to occasionally. Note, that Randy will not hike with everything, but select appropriately, depending on the itinerary. Pack weight is always a consideration in the mountains.

Everybody will need a daypack with shoulder straps to pack camera gear, water, snacks, lotion, etc., for our hikes. There are some excellent photo daypacks made by [Lowpro](http://Lowpro.com). Additionally, there is a new website called OutdoorPhotoGear.com that had a good selection of Tenba camera packs. Randy carries a normal, large hiking daypack and wraps his lenses in neoprene socks to keep them from banging around!

Computer Equipment:

Bring a modern laptop with plenty of free hard drive space. Know how to operate it. Everybody will need Adobe Lightroom 3, (or the 30-day trial version, pre-loaded before arrival). If you are a Photoshop user, the class time on day #6 will involve tools in version CS5. Julieanne and Randy both are "Apple-centric". Be sure to bring your power cord, and a card reader to get your photos from your camera into your laptop. Bring a mouse, but a [Wacom pen tablet](http://Wacom.com) is even better! Both Julieanne and Randy will bring and use a *Wacom Intuos 4 tablet with Art Pen*. Bring a couple DVD's or portable external drive to back up your valuable new

photos! Our personal luggage will be securely transferred by coach between Inns, and so be prepared to pack your laptop safely inside your suitcase or duffel.

TRIP DETAILS:

Length:

8 days / 7 nights

Dates:

June 27 – July 4, 2011

Trip Extension to Venice, July 4-7, 2011

Start / Finish:

Marco Polo Airport, Venice, Italy

Activity Level:

For anyone interested in photography that is in good and active physical health. As a participant you must be prepared to hike on moderately difficult trails while carrying your own camera gear with limited personal gear.

Cost:

10-12 members: €3480

Cost is per person based on double classic room accommodations

Single supplement: €370 (only in Hotel Posta Zirm & Rosa Alpina)

Room upgrade: on request

Cost includes:

- Expert digital photography, and computer software instruction
- Private transfers to/from Marco Polo International Airport (Venice – Corvara; San Cassiano – Venice)
- Accommodations in luxury hotels in classic double rooms
- 1 night accommodations in agriturismo (Bed and breakfast style farm house) with shared rooms and bathrooms
- All meals (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Local English speaking guides (Karin Pizzinini & Ivan Irsara)
- Local ground transportation
- Lifts and cable cars in the area
- Luggage transfer from Corvara – Corte degli Elfi – San Cassiano
- Map of the area
- Local and medical evacuation insurance (Zurich Insurance plc)

Cost does not include:

International airfare, additional airport taxes, insurance other than local medical and evacuation, meals not mentioned in the itinerary, extra activities not mentioned in the program, items of personal nature (coffee, sodas, tips, etc.), anything not mentioned in “Cost Includes”.

REFERENCE and WEBSITES:

DOLOMITE MOUNTAINS S.R.L.

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WWW.DOLOMITEMOUNTAINS.COM



[Dolomite Mountains](#) – Adventure Tour Company

Posta Zirm Hotel – Corvara in Alta Badia Valley (3 nights - June 27, 28, 29)

Rosa Alpina Hotel & Spa – San Cassiano, in Badia Valley (3 nights - July 1, 2, 3)

La Corte Degli Elfi – Rural Alpine Eco Tourism B&B (1 night - June 30)

Marco Polo International Airport, Venice, Italy – Our meeting place on Day 1

[Julianne Kost](#) – Photoshop & Lightroom Evangelist, Adobe Systems Product Development, Artist & Author

[Randy Jay Braun](#) – Professional Camera Artist, Gallery Owner, Workshop Presenter

[Karin Pizzinini](#) – Certified Dolomite Mountains Trail Guide, Northern Italy Cultural Expert, Photographer, Television Producer, Multi-lingual teacher.

[Agustina Marmol](#) – Professional Group Tour Coordinator, Dolomite Mountains Activity Specialist, Founder Dolomite Mountains s.r.l. Multi-lingual Adventurist