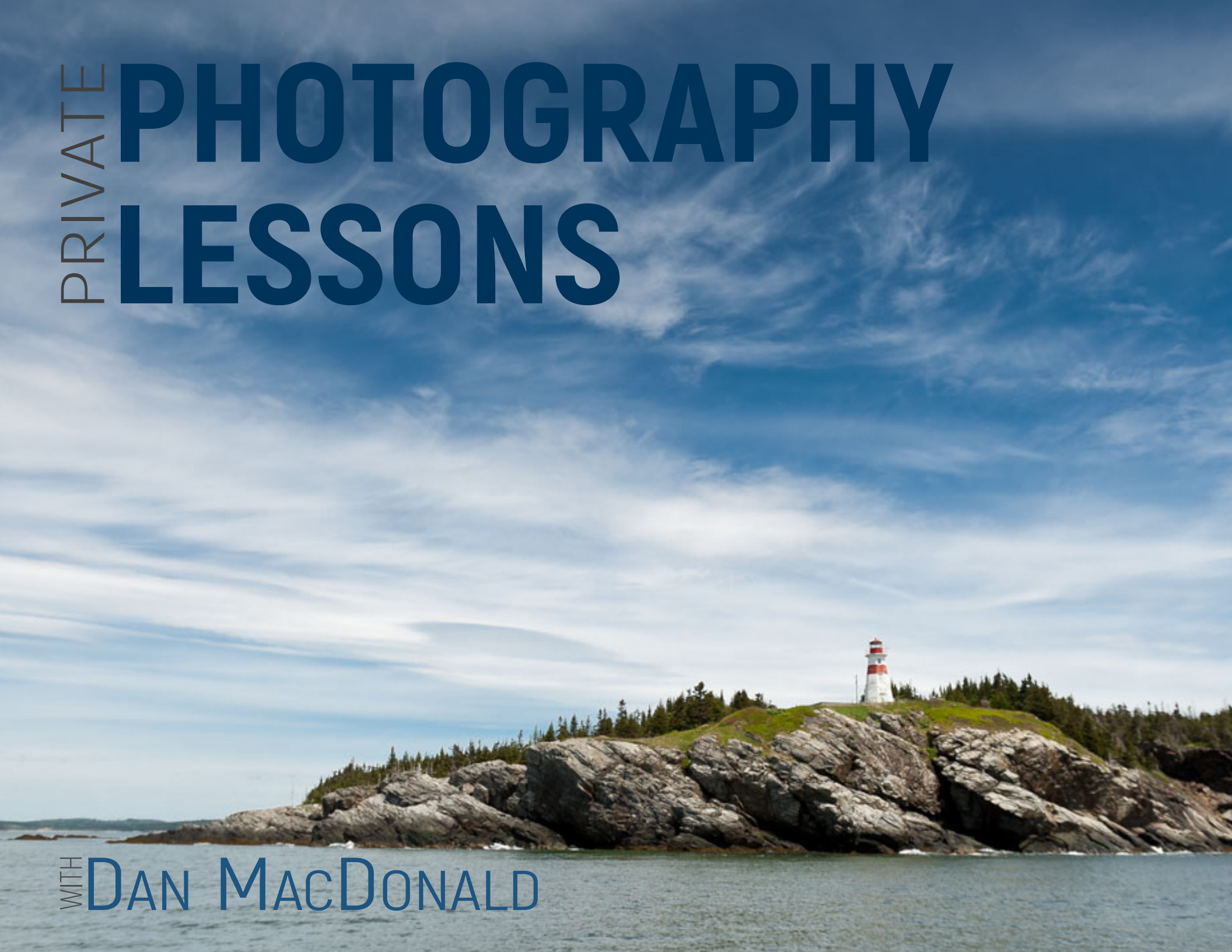

PRIVATE
PHOTOGRAPHY
LESSONS
WITH DAN MACDONALD

About
PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are designed for people who want to get a grasp of their camera and its settings, and learn about the fundamentals of photography, but are unable to find the time in their busy schedule to commit to weekly classes.

The one-on-one lessons allow students to schedule sessions when it's convenient for them. The instructor is available days, evenings, and weekends. Sessions can be daily, weekly, or even monthly as desired.

The lessons are held at the student's home to help reduce some of the rush and to provide a more comfortable learning environment. Sessions can also be held outdoors when the weather cooperates.

> *One-on-one lessons allow the student to learn at their own pace with sessions scheduled at their convenience.*

New Photographers

New photographers can learn some or all of the topics listed on the following page (subject to time constraints). This will provide them with a good foundation which they can build upon with additional sessions from me, lessons or workshops from other photographers, or self-directed learning.

Intermediate Photographers

Intermediate photographers can request any topics from the following page which they haven't already covered or they wish to expand upon. They may also request other topics that aren't listed in order to meet their own needs and interests (*some exceptions apply - please contact me for details*).

Lesson
TOPICS

The following topics may be covered subject to the available time:

- Camera care.
- Basic camera operation with an overview of the shooting modes.
- An introduction to composition.
- Exposure and metering.
- Focus modes and drives.
- White balance.
- Memory cards.
- Image file formats.
- File transfer and storage.
- Camera accessories.

The photography lessons are intended for beginners. Therefore, an emphasis is placed on the camera controls as well as the fundamentals of photography (Aperture, ISO, and Shutter Speed).

Intermediate photographers can request some or all of the above topics, either as a review or as a preview to more in-depth coverage. They can also request additional or specialized topics to meet their own interests and needs (some exceptions apply - see the FAQ section on Pages 5-6 or visit my website for more information).

The number of lessons required depends on the student, their interest, and their commitment. Some like to jump right in and sign up for the maximum time, knowing they'll stick with it, while others prefer to test the waters with a lesson or two to see whether or not they like it and how far they want to go. For beginners, the one and two-hour lessons are great for a quick introduction to some of the basics of photography as well as the camera and its controls. Longer blocks provide an opportunity to cover more topics or to discuss individual topics in greater detail.

Please note: Multiple sessions will be required to cover all of the topics.

WHAT TO BRING

Camera

Bring your camera. Make sure the battery is charged and the memory card has some space on it. You can also bring extra lenses and filters, if you have them.

Tip

We'll cover the main camera controls and some of the other camera functions / menu items during our sessions. I'm also happy to discuss any accessories you might have.

Camera Manual

Keep a copy of your manual handy in case you need to refer to it. It's the best resource you have on your camera and its features.

Tip

You can download digital copies of your manual in PDF format from the manufacturer's website. Save a copy to your phone and you'll always have it with you!

Note Pad

Have some paper and a pen or pencil close by to take notes. We'll cover a lot of material, so you might want to write some things down.

Tip

I do provide a few handouts but they're not very detailed. Taking notes also helps to reinforce what you've learned, making it easier to remember later on.

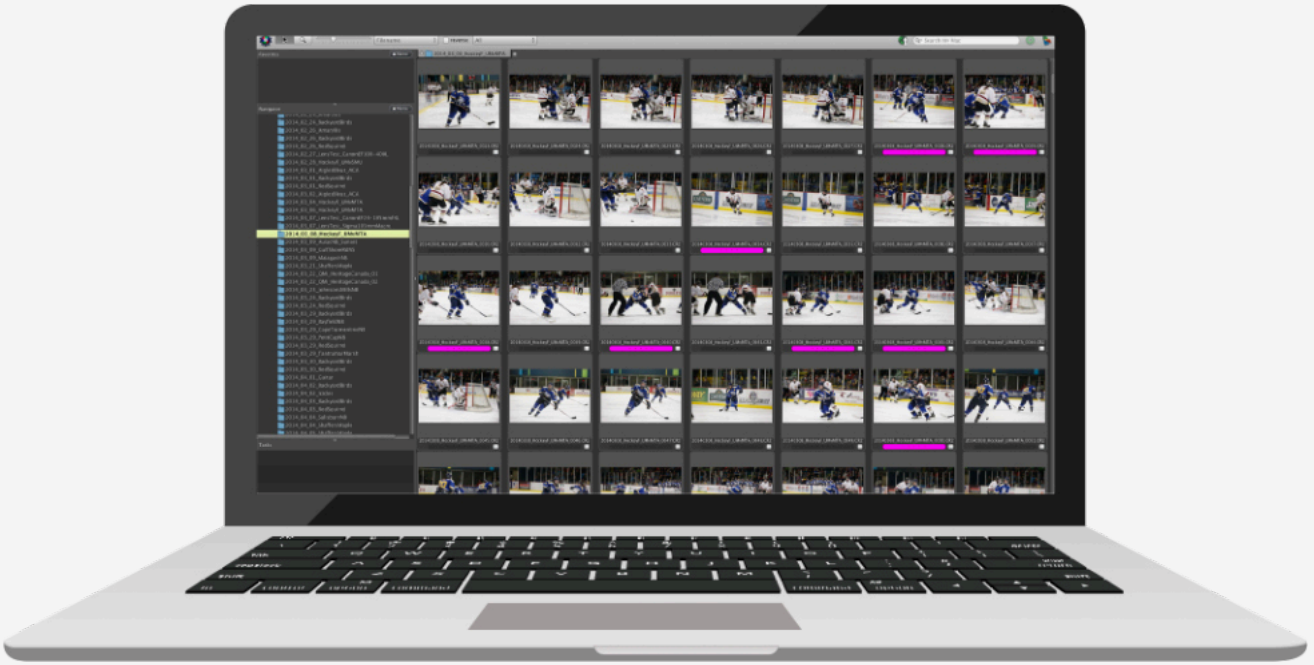
Questions

Don't be afraid to ask questions, whether it's something that's come up during the lessons or something that's bugged you for a while.

Tip

I always recommend leaving some time to practice between sessions. This not only gives you time to apply what you've learned but also gives you time to think about questions to ask at the next session.

PHOTO
EDITING



For those interested in incorporating a discussion of photo organization and editing into their lessons:

I use Photo Mechanic to download, organize, and add metadata to my images, and Adobe Photoshop for editing. I can offer lessons for both.

I have a working knowledge of Adobe Lightroom Classic, Affinity Photo, and Adobe Bridge.

I also have a working knowledge of the software supplied by Canon (Digital Photo Professional, EOS Utility) and Nikon (NX Studio, Nikon Transfer 2).

I don't do a lot of advanced editing for my own work: however, I can get students started with the basics.

Photo Lessons

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I live outside of Greater Moncton. Can I still get lessons?

Yes. However, there may be additional charges to cover my travel time and mileage.

Why are the lessons held at the student's home?

Most of my students prefer it for the convenience. There's no rush to get home, look after chores, and then rush out again for a class. I travel to them and arrive when they are ready to begin. Most people also find their home to be a more comfortable and relaxing environment for them to learn in.

Can lessons be held outdoors or at another location?

Yes. We can meet outdoors as long as the weather cooperates. I don't have an office or studio but we can always meet at a coffee shop, library, or other location that's convenient for us both.

Do you offer virtual lessons?

Yes, using Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and FaceTime. However in-person lessons are better.

Do I need to buy a camera before the start of the lessons?

No, but it's much, much easier if you have one.

What camera do you recommend?

I don't - there are so many options it's difficult to pick just one. However, we can discuss your needs and interests prior to purchase to help you narrow down the selection.

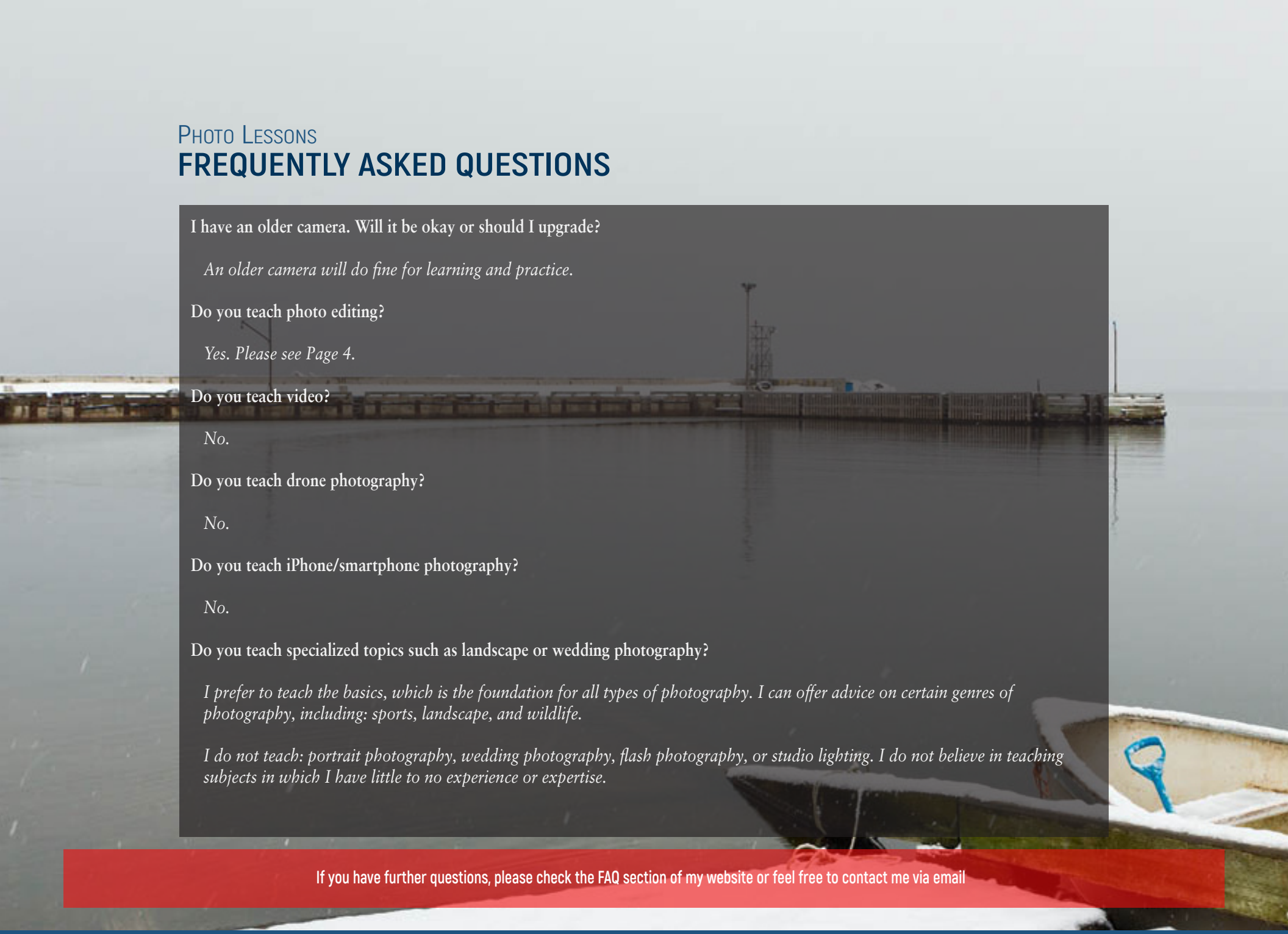


Photo Lessons
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I have an older camera. Will it be okay or should I upgrade?

An older camera will do fine for learning and practice.

Do you teach photo editing?

Yes. Please see Page 4.

Do you teach video?

No.

Do you teach drone photography?

No.

Do you teach iPhone/smartphone photography?

No.

Do you teach specialized topics such as landscape or wedding photography?

I prefer to teach the basics, which is the foundation for all types of photography. I can offer advice on certain genres of photography, including: sports, landscape, and wildlife.

I do not teach: portrait photography, wedding photography, flash photography, or studio lighting. I do not believe in teaching subjects in which I have little to no experience or expertise.

If you have further questions, please check the FAQ section of my website or feel free to contact me via email

LESSON

PRICING

1 Hour	2 Hours	4 Hours	6 Hours
$40	**$75**	**$140**	**$180**
Per Person	Per Person	Per Person	Per Person

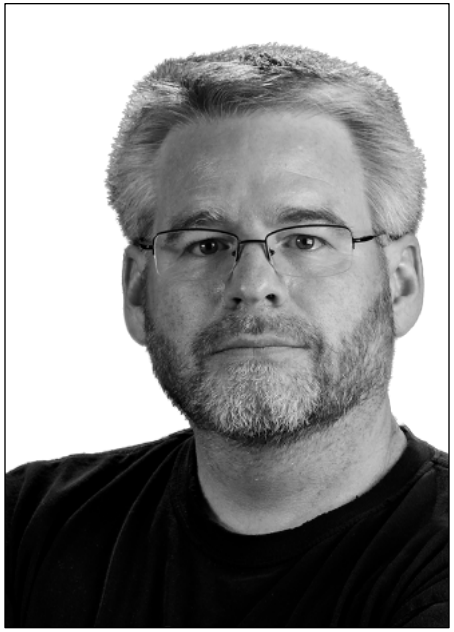
Pricing is current as of September 2024. Please check my website to confirm the latest prices.

Students purchasing lessons in 2-hour, 4-hour, and 6-hour blocks don't have to take all of the lessons at once. Lessons can be divided up into smaller sessions (minimum length of one hour) so you don't get overwhelmed and overloaded.

There is no need to book all of the sessions up-front. After the first session, additional times can be arranged at the student's convenience.

I recommend at least a few days to one week between sessions so students can absorb the material and, hopefully, practice a little, too.

Prices shown are for online and in-person students in the Greater Moncton area (Moncton, Riverview, and Dieppe). Additional fees may apply to in-person lessons outside of Greater Moncton.



About
DAN MACDONALD

I'm a landscape photographer from Moncton, New Brunswick.

My work includes sports, dance, and editorial photography for local and national organizations. A recipient of an artistic residency and an arts grant, my prints have been exhibited in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Québec.

My current work concentrates on rural and coastal scenery in the Maritime provinces.

- 30+ years as a photographer including 15 years as a professional.
- 14 years as an instructor with over 300 students taught in classroom settings and through private lessons.
- 2015 Port Bickerton Lighthouse Artist-in-Residence.
- Creation Grant from the New Brunswick Arts Board.

DAN MACDONALD
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