



Wildlife

with Mark Carwardine

PHOTOGRAPHY MASTERCLASS

#1 In the Field with Sam Hobson: how to photograph urban foxes

Let Sam be your tutor

Sam offers inspiring photography workshops for groups of up to three. His philosophy is that being a good photographer is just as much about having ideas and thinking creatively about what you want to capture as it is about how to capture it. He advises on how to plan for the shot you want and offers tips on simple techniques.

Last year he converted a van into a mobile studio, complete with solar power, wifi and heating so that he could spend more time shooting on location and take his workshops to people keen to learn.

Click [here](#) to find out more.

ABOUT SAM HOBSON

Sam is a wildlife and conservation photographer, best known for his work with urban wildlife. His pictures have won many awards, and he has twice been a finalist in the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition. He specialises in storytelling imagery – shooting both hard-hitting photojournalistic conservation stories and crafting dynamic



stand-alone images that convey the relationship between the subject and its environment. To create his signature up close and personal wildlife portraits, he uses a combination of short lenses, fieldcraft, technical knowledge and creative lighting – often combined with remote triggers and camera traps to get that little bit closer without causing disturbance.



Plotting Sam's iconic Bristol fox shot.

PHOTOGRAPHING URBAN FOXES

You are most likely to see urban foxes at dawn or dusk, which is convenient as that's when the lighting is at its best for photography and, especially at dawn, there are fewer people about. Late April onwards is the best time, when inquisitive cubs begin to emerge above ground. Visit local parks or cemeteries or anywhere else that might have resident foxes, and quietly watch for them. Once you've found a fox or two, put out a little food and spend as much time as possible with them (requiring repeat visits over several weeks). They should get used to you surprisingly quickly. While it is fine to feed them, never be tempted to do so by hand or to tame them, and don't feed them too regularly as they might become less wary of humans. They like cooked or raw meat, tinned pet food, cheese, fruit and table scraps. Urban foxes have been forced to live in cities, where they can happily live alongside people (it is a misconception that they 'belong' in the countryside) so do try to show the urban surroundings in your images.



USING A CAMERA TRAP

Consider using a camera trap – [Camtraptions](#) is a great starting point, with excellent kit that is relatively simple to use. Mark will be covering camera trapping in much more detail in future programmes.

For inspirational e-books, workshops, tours, free fact sheets and more on wildlife photography, please go to www.markcarwardine.com