



Southern California Railway Museum

Night Photoshoot | April 24th, 2021

2201 South A Street, Perris CA 92570

Recommendations for a Safe and Successful Night Photoshoot Experience

In order to insure that your results at the night photo shoot are successful, we compiled a few suggestions and recommendations that will enhance your night photography experience at the Southern California Railway Museum.

1. You will need a camera with a manual setting control, and it is a good idea to be familiar with your manual setting BEFORE you arrive to the Night Photoshoot. There is no automatic setting that will produce the desired exposure, and our photography staff (while available to assist) are unable to provide tutorials on individual camera settings. Our photography staff can and will assist with suggestions on ISO and f-stop settings, but it is the responsibility of the photographer to apply these adjustments. So, please take some time to brush up on your camera's manual, paying special attention on how to make long exposures and how to operate in manual mode. This can make all the difference in taking some stunning night images!
2. You will need a good sturdy tripod. Exposures could last up to 20 seconds at a time. Holding your camera by hand during long exposures will not result in satisfactory images.
3. Dress warmly! Temperatures can drop at night, so be prepared with warm gloves, coat, hat and good socks, and close toed shoes. Layers are key!
4. Be mindful and respectful of others around you. Don't walk in front of other photographers in the middle of an exposure. We typically do over 100+ exposures in an evening so there will be time enough to find and shoot other views during the event.
5. You will need a flashlight! This will aid you with making camera settings adjustments and maneuvering around the set without tripping, falling or accidentally kicking another photographer's tripod.
6. A cable release or remote trigger is highly recommended! This will help eliminate most of the camera's movement when the shutter is opened and closed.
7. Turn off you built-in camera flashes!!! Leave your hot shoe mounted flashes in your camera bag!!! They are too weak to produce any usable light and could inadvertently trigger the studio strobes and damage them.
8. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES DO YOU HANDLE, TOUCH OR ADJUST THE STROBE LIGHTS!!! These are high voltage units and if not handled properly, have the potential to harm or kill you. Failing to adhere to this policy will end the photo shoot immediately. If you have a problem or suggestion regarding the lighting, please bring it to our staff's attention.
9. If you camera lens is equipped with "Image Stabilization", it is highly recommended that this function be turned OFF for the duration of the night photo shoot. Using Image Stabilization during long exposures can cause the lens to "search" and result in creating a blurry image.
10. Film shooters are welcome! Based on the ASA of your film, we would be happy to provide you with suggestions and recommendations for making exposures for your negative and positive films. If you will be shooting in large format, 4 x 5 and above, please let our staff know in advance by emailing events@socalrailway.org so that we can make special arrangements for you with multiple flash sequencing.