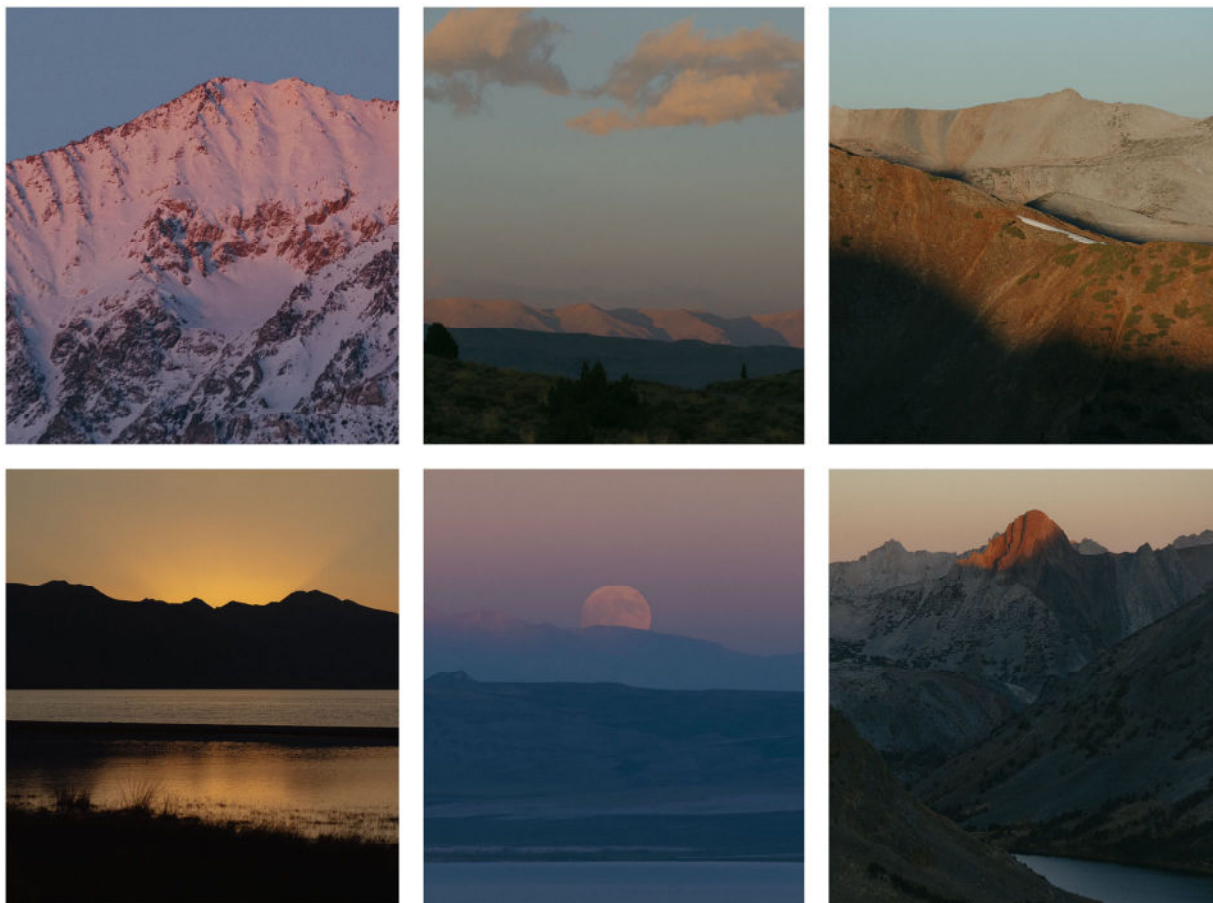


# Documenting the Range of Light



**May 9–11, 2025 • Sarah Attar**

\$380 per person/ \$360 for Mono Lake Committee members  
enrollment limited to 10 participants

“Take notice of what light does—to everything.” –Tess Guinery

In this spring seminar I invite you to refine your attention and deepen your connection to the Sierra Nevada—a mountain range that John Muir famously called the “Range of Light.” Spend any time in these mountains and you’ll understand the name’s poetic truth. Together, we’ll explore the art of observing and translating your vision through the lens of a camera.

Landscape photography provides a unique opportunity to capture and share your personal connection to a place, documenting a specific moment in time while reflecting who you are in that same moment. The word *photography* literally means “drawing with light,” a reminder that simplifies and beautifies the creative process. My goal is for you to leave this seminar with a deeper connection to the Eastern Sierra, fresh perspectives on observing and documenting the world around you, and a greater understanding of how to “draw with light.”

This seminar is about bringing yourself into your images—infusing them with your vision and creativity. We'll dive into how things like composition, color theory, camera settings, type of gear, and editing all help to bring that vision to life. I do believe the best camera is simply the one you have. Some of my favorite images were taken on my phone because it was what I had with me at the time. That said, this workshop will be based around DSLR photography, and I recommend bringing a DSLR camera that you're familiar with to make the most of the experience. Topics covered in this seminar will include noticing, light, little details, composition, color theory, vision, focal length, cropping, storytelling, gear, editing, seasons, time of day and more.

Sarah Attar has a background in fine art and first moved to Mammoth Lakes ten years ago to run professionally. She fell madly in love with the Eastern Sierra and has been documenting this area ever since. She is now a professional photographer with a focus on outdoor and adventure sports and landscapes. She enjoys getting out into the mountains through many different means, always with a camera in hand.

“You don't make a photograph just with a camera. You bring to the act of photography all the pictures you have seen, the books you have read, the music you have heard, the people you have loved.” –Ansel Adams

### **ITINERARY** *(subject to change based on weather and road conditions)*

**Friday May 9 at 2:00pm:** Meet at the Lee Vining Community Center (296 Mattly Avenue). We will go over introductions, conversations around vision, photography, tuning our attention, and gear prep. We will break for an early group dinner, then head into the field for sunset.

**Saturday May 10 at 5:00am:** Meet in front of the Lee Vining Community Center. We will head out in the field to capture the sunrise. We will have breakfast together afterwards around 7:30am, returning to the Community Center afterward to upload, process, share, and discuss photos. We will have a midday break and then meet up in the late afternoon to capture sunset in the field.

**Sunday May 11 at 5:00am:** Meet in front of the Lee Vining Community Center. We will head out in the field to capture the sunrise and have breakfast together afterwards around 7:30am, returning to the Community Center to upload, process, share, and discuss photos. The seminar will officially end around midday.

**Optional:** The upcoming full moon on May 12 makes the evening of May 11 and morning of the 12 great opportunities to capture the full moon rising and setting during sunset and sunrise. While this will not be an official part of the seminar, I will be planning to bring my camera out for it, and those who are interested can plan to seek that out, meet up with others, and/or we can talk about those options.

### **ACTIVITY LEVEL**

This seminar's activity level: *moderate*. We will be walking up to two miles at a leisurely pace, much of which will be over uneven terrain, off trail, and will include stepping up and over obstacles. This type of walking requires good balance, some agility, and stamina. We will be gaining altitude steadily throughout the day.

## WEATHER & ALTITUDE

Weather conditions can include everything from warm days to rainstorms to late spring snow showers. Relatively warm and sunny days are most likely, but prepare for cold, wet weather with layered clothing and a waterproof jacket. Average temperatures in May in Lee Vining are 67°F (max) and 39°F (min).

This seminar will take place at elevations ranging from about 6,000 to 10,000 feet above sea level. It is a good idea to acclimate at the elevation of Lee Vining for at least 24 hours prior to the start of the seminar. Those with a history of heart, ear, or respiratory problems should consult their doctors before attending. Anyone restricted to lower elevations should not enroll.

Remember to bring (and drink!) lots of water because your body loses more water at the higher altitudes of the Mono Basin. Begin drinking extra water as you drive to higher elevation in order to prevent dehydration and headaches. Also, the sun is intense at high elevations, capable of burning even on cool and cloudy days, so be sure to protect yourself thoroughly using sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat.

## FEES

The cost of the seminar covers tuition only. Participants are responsible for all other fees:

- **lodging accommodations:** visit [leevining.com](http://leevining.com) to make reservations
- **all meals:** breakfasts range in price from \$3–\$8, lunches \$4–\$10, dinners \$10–\$25
- **South Tufa fee:** the \$3-per-person entrance fee to South Tufa is good for a week; 80% of it stays at Mono Lake for improvements to interpretive/educational activities
- **Old Marina fee:** the \$3-per-car-per-day fee enables Mono Lake’s state park to stay open

## MEALS

Please bring a lunch already packed in the morning plus water and snacks to eat during both days.

## TO BRING

- \_\_\_ warm clothing (warm enough for snow!)
- \_\_\_ long pants (due to brush)
- \_\_\_ raincoat, just in case
- \_\_\_ hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses
- \_\_\_ daypack
- \_\_\_ plenty of water
- \_\_\_ boots or supportive shoes
- \_\_\_ cameras and lenses you normally use
- \_\_\_ memory cards/film
- \_\_\_ tripod
- \_\_\_ laptop with photo editing software
- \_\_\_ extra camera batteries to keep warm in your pocket
- \_\_\_ USB drive to share photos

## Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars

P.O. Box 29 • Lee Vining, CA 93541 • (760) 647-6595 • [monolake.org/seminars](http://monolake.org/seminars)