

A Night Out With Hairy Goat

Strange title but true. Hairy Goat Photography (<http://hairygoat.net/>) is run by an expat Aussie called Corinna. I opted for London by night as I wanted a guide to help with settings and to show me the best vantage points of this beautiful city by night. There are many tours to choose from and one day when I come back I will sample some more.

We met up at Waterloo Station in the city and started our photography checking out the lovely commissioned graffiti on the Queen Elizabeth Hall next to Southbank. Next we started along Embankment onto the bridge to shoot the London Eye and Westminster.



We then did shots from what the locals call the wobbly bridge because as soon as someone walks or a train goes by the bridge wobbles. This makes it difficult to get sharp shots even with a tripod.

Before I go further I should stress that I was loaded up like a packrat which by the end of the night was killing me. All I really need to take was one camera body, a wide angle lens, a tripod and a remote control. I could have left the spare body, 70-200, flash, extra batteries and cables and heavy bag at home. Lesson learned as I plan to venture out on my own next week and will leave all but the essentials at home.

The weather in London at the moment is quite humid so no jacket was required for our evening promenade. One thing I cannot get over is the sheer volume of people out and about at all times of the day and night. Being used to the solitude of living in the country this can be rather overwhelming for the first timers to the really big smoke. London has ½ the population of Australia all in one place.

Apart from one stropky and overly officious security guard we had no problems setting up tripods in the middle of bridges and pathways but we were mindful to always keep our gear in sight or right next to you after all this is a big city and you would be very disappointed if a tea leaf nicked your gear because you were careless.

This city by night is truly a great sight and you can try all sorts of styles – we did long exposure, bracketing and light trails. You had to be patient to get the right number of double decker buses in your photos crossing the bridges to give you that really layered light trail effect. You also have to make allowance for the tourists who will constantly wander into and spoil some of your set shots.





I had a great evening and with new found confidence will do at least one more night session in London before coming home. *This time I will concentrate on the Millenium Bridge & St Pauls Cathedral plus the Shard, the Cucumber & the Wedge – the last three are extremely distinctive landmark buildings in this city.*