



NOTINDOOR

LANDSCAPE AND FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY MAGAZINE



- + NIDPOTY 2016 Winner Announcements
- + Exclusive Interview with The G2 Gallery
- + Images that Show the Impact of Climate Change
- + Know Your DSLR - Part 1
- + Lisa Garness Mallory - How Art Saved Her Life
- + Photographer Portfolio - Isabella Tabacchi
- + Astro Photography Techniques, Tips and other Suggestions
- + Dolica Tripod Review

and much more!

NOTINDOOR | Issue #13 | 1.1.2017 | Los Angeles, CA

Copyright © 2017 NOTINDOOR. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited.

Astro Photography In the Swiss Alps

by Gianni Krattli

Everything You Need for a Nightly Adventure

Three years ago, when I started astro photography the only thing I was thinking about was a clear sky. Completely forgetting about important factors leading to freezing very bad during some trips and really long nights. Since then I learned a lot about the weather, nature and what counts when spending the nights outside.

Today there are four key aspects for me which make great nightly adventures.

#1 - Plan where you go.

The best place for photography in the dark is one that you've already seen in daylight. Of course it is not always possible to scout a place in advance. Therefore, there are some things to keep in mind. What I usually do in the first place is consulting the light pollution map, that gives you a good overview what galactic pictures you can expect. My next step is checking the terrain on satellite images. Some places are just unreach-



+ Glarus into the Galaxy by Gianni Krattli

able! Is a suitable location found you have to ask yourself: How much gear I'm able to carry there? For example, if I have to hike for more than 500m in height in the Swiss mountains my backpack never exceeds 20kg. Longer hikes bring up the question shall I take another lens or one more bottle of water with me? I would definitely go with the water.

Another thing to consider is how to get to the starting point of the hike. Public transportation or by car? Public transportation you might ask? Here in Switzerland the public transportation is good and you come very far, but of course not everywhere. Lonely astro adventures without sleep I start whenever possible by bus and train. Getting to the location takes longer but not falling asleep when driving home is worth a lot. Recently I tried Deep Sky photography. The gear is heavier and not fun to carry. Due to the weight Deep Sky locations are normally reachable by car, that's always fun and still a bit strange for me. Bringing as much stuff as you want opens new possibilities. Heavy gear, enough food and even dry wood for spending the night at the camp fire.



+ Stgallen Toggenburg Voralpsee Mystical Milky Way by Gianni Krattli

#2 - Bring your tripod.

You can bring the most expensive lens mounted on the latest camera system, but without a tripod the nightscape shot is

lost. Even a cheap camera with a kit lens can capture great detail of our universe. For those who want to take it a step further I recommend a star tracker. Longer exposures and lower ISO can make your shot unique. Oh and don't forget a couple of spare batteries. Long exposures and cold temperatures drain your battery faster than you might think.

#3 - Keep you warm.

Astro photography adventures are most of the times taking place on remote places. In my case these places are located in the mountains. Even in summer the temperatures are chilly at night. That's why you should know where you going and bring dry and warm clothes. There's nothing more frustrating than sitting on a perfect spot, waiting for the unique moment when you're freezing.

In the beginning I never thought about the moment when the best light was gone and I had to wait. I had the feeling the Milky Way kept me warm. The hard time always came when



+ Stgallen Toggenburg Churfirsten Dreamscape Toggenburg by Gianni Krattli



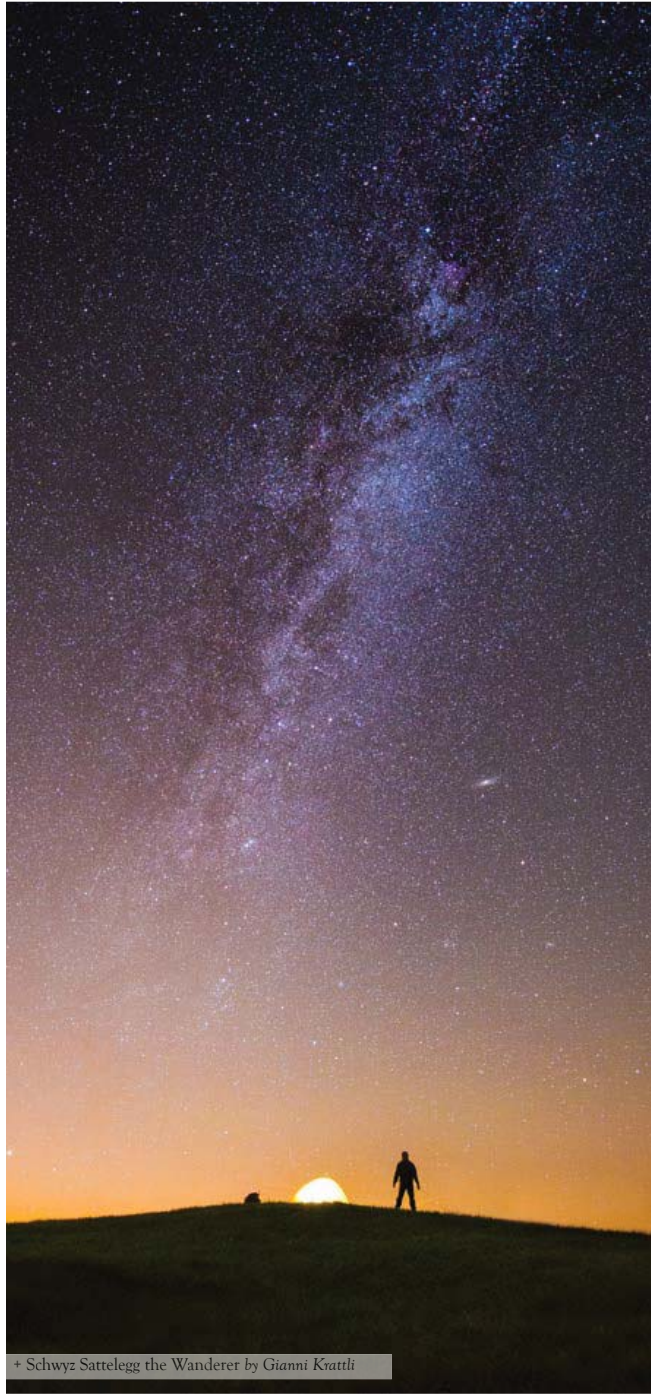
+ Lucerne Pilatus Lake Lucerne Startrails by Gianni Krattli

can make the difference. And by the way an illuminated tent makes a great picture as well.

#4 - Company is worth its weight in gold.

I remember a night I spent in November at 2200m above sea level in the Swiss Alps. The ascent was steep and descending at night wasn't an option. During 12 dark hours my camera captured hundreds of images creating star trails. That night got longer and longer. In total silence every shutter got louder and with my old jacket I felt the drop of temperature even more.

the galactic core had set. Waiting for the sunrise was accompanied with cold feet. Meanwhile I carry a sleeping bag, an air mattress and a tent. Shelter even from the slightest wind



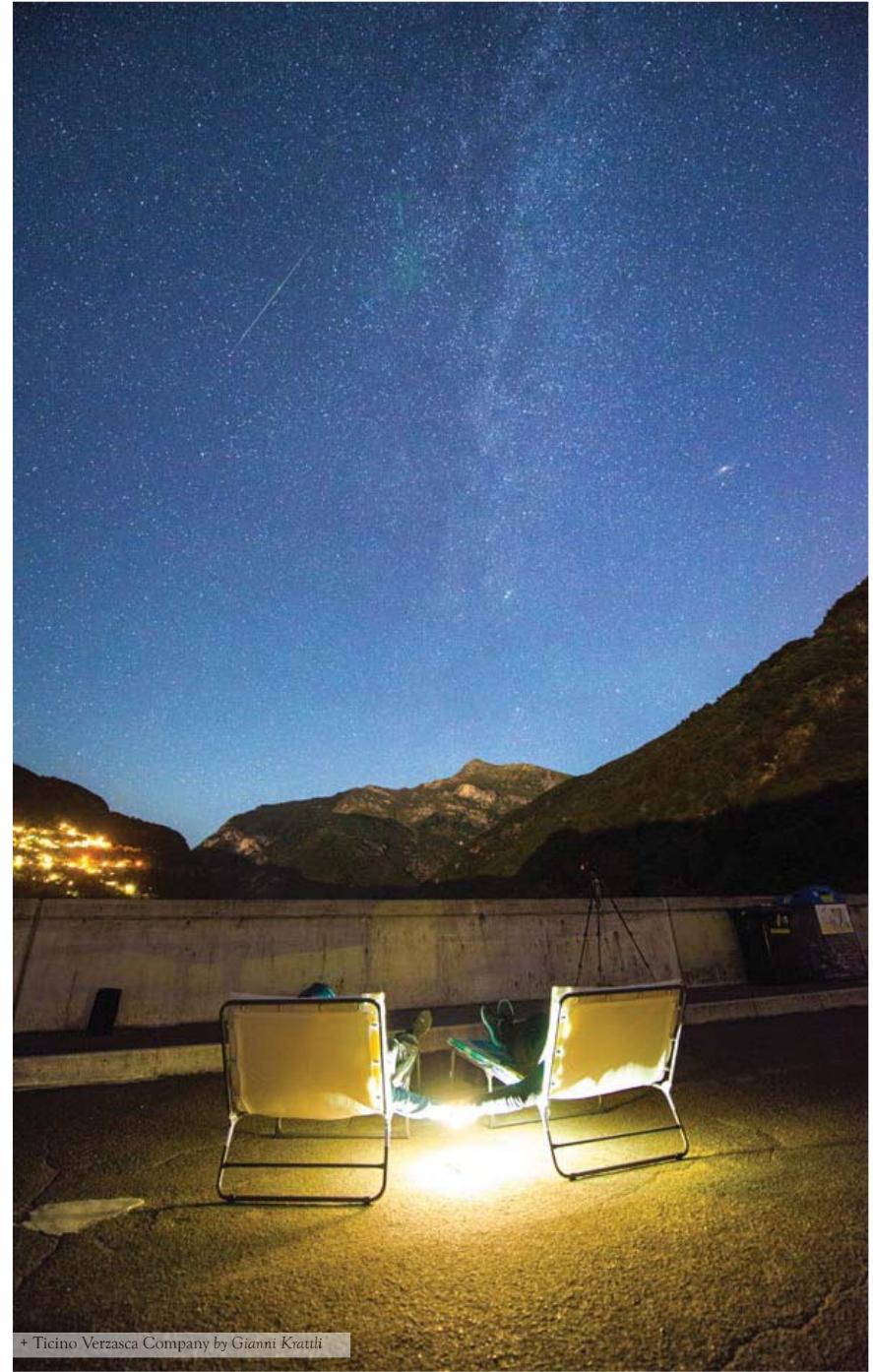
+ Schwyz Sattellegg the Wanderer by Gianni Krattli

Not long after that night my astro enthusiast girlfriend stepped into my life. Now every adventure is one to remember. Especially one night when we drove through half of Switzerland to witness the Perseus Meteor Shower. On our beach chairs we counted hundreds of shooting stars. Nothing makes more worth the night than good company under a clear sky.

My final thoughts about a great nightly adventure, security. In Switzerland there's no threat of wild animals but if you have a hiking accident help is beneficial. Remote places in the Alps often have bad cell phone reception. And if you're about to adventure alone it's always a good idea to let somebody know where you're going.



+ Glarus Vertical Milky Way by Gianni Krattli



+ Ticino Verzasca Company by Gianni Krattli