

Here is what I recommend for our group shoot to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park for fall colors and waterfalls. I think peak fall color day in that neighborhood will be Monday, October 10, with bad-weather backup dates of Tuesday through Friday. Sunrise is 7:33am, Sunset is 6:53pm.

Meet at Walmart, M59&Mound, 7AM.

7-11am Drive from Walmart to Tinker's Creek Falls, this allows about 15 minutes of break, probably at a rest stop along the Ohio Turnpike, in addition to the extended drive time due to Detroit rush hour. Leaving at 6am doesn't really reduce the rush-hour addition, according to Google, but I'll do it if that's the consensus. Eat breakfast before departing, or bring a snack, or buy something during our 15-minute break. Aim the car to park at GPS 41.38538, -81.53414

11-11:50am Photograph Tinker's Creek (it's a ¼ mile (10 minute) walk from parking to the falls and 10 minutes more back, so that gives us 30 minutes to actually photograph. If you hike only to the overlook platform, you're shooting down toward the south to the waterfall. But if you can walk down a slope and onto the rocks in the creek (not really difficult), you can shoot at creek-water level and from different directions. There are a couple nice waterfalls here. See my photos [here](#) (the first 3). The first two were at 55mm (full frame), the last was probably too wide at 21mm. The fall colors were artificially made by shifting white balance toward yellow in these October 5<sup>th</sup> shots. We'll be closer to natural peak colors on October 17.

11:50am-12:50pm Drive from Tinker's Creek to Brandywine Falls parking lot at GPS 41.27645, -81.54003, 15 minute drive + 45 minute stop for lunch at [Dilly D's Sports Grill](#) (or, if not acceptable, Outback, Culver's, or Bob Evans, pending a check on whether they'll be open on a Monday).

12:50-2:05pm Hike and Photograph Brandywine Falls: See <https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/hike-the-brandywine-gorge-loop.htm>. Construction until September 30, 2022. This is the premiere waterfall in the park. 1.5 mile hike, 160-foot elevation change, along boardwalks with about 80 steps down to get to the lower viewing platform. So I'm figuring 45 minutes of hiking, 30 minutes at the falls. See 1st photo [here](#), where I used a 21mm lens full frame, so bring a wide lens. You'll be shooting southeast, so 1:30pm on a day when sunset is at 6:42pm ought to be acceptable.

2:05-2:20pm Drive to Blue Hen Falls roadside pull-off at GPS 41.25603, -81.57285

2:20-3:20pm 1000-foot (10 minute) hike to photograph (30 mins) Blue Hen Falls and hike out (20 mins, uphill): see <https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/hike-to-blue-hen-falls.htm>. See first 2 photos [here](#). I shifted white-balance to yellow on the 2nd shot to

simulate peak-like colors. The first is 55mm, the 2<sup>nd</sup> is 35mm. We'll be shooting from the east, so the sun toward the west by now should be a benefit.

3:20-4pm drive to Ledges Trailhead Parking at GPS 41.22246, -81.51069. Park at the south end of the lot and walk south toward the Ledges Overlook first. But along the way, before the parking lot, we'll be driving on Riverview Road (next to the Cuyahoga River). We'll pass under two scenic freeway bridges with rural fall colors in the distance, stopping on the shoulder of Riverview Road, first the I-271 bridge, then the Ohio Turnpike bridge, and we can stop 14 minutes under each bridge to photograph it while still keeping this time schedule. My photos of those 2 bridges are the first 2 photos [here](#), both 21mm shots. Of course there are plenty of other compositions available, with a bridge running diagonally at the upper-right edge of a frame, for example.

4-6pm Hike The Ledges Trail, 1.8 mile loop trail, 80 feet of elevation change, a few short stone stairways, lots of dramatic photos of mossy rocks, many of them huge, fall colors overlooks, no waterfalls, see <https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/hike-the-ledges-trail.htm>. See the first 4 photos [here](#) for my shots, at 21mm and 55mm. These would be woodland shots, with very late afternoon lighting, back to the car before 6:40pm sunset.

6-7pm Supper in nearby Peninsula, Ohio, at either [Winking Lizard Tavern](#) or [Fisher's Cafe & Pub](#)

7-10:10pm Drive back to Walmart Parking Lot, I've added no stopping time, so it might be a few minutes later.

If we are running late, or we just run out of gas, we can cut out The Ledges hike completely, or only walk the short distance from the south end of the parking lot to the Ledges Overlook and back to the car.

### **What to bring:**

- Comfortable walking shoes: I think tennis shoes and socks will be fine, but if you want sturdier hiking shoes, that's fine too. Sandals are probably not a good idea.
- Bring all of your lenses, you can decide at each site what you want to carry out of the car and use.
- Bring a tripod and ND filter for waterfalls if you'd like. The walks to waterfalls are pretty short.
- Bring a CPL to enhance fall colors if you'd like. It fits in your pocket, so why not just bring it.
- Bring some snacks and something to drink if you'd like. We have 2 long drives to live through.