

# All in a Day's Work

## Terry Farnell - Landscape & Environmental Photographer

### PROFILE

Terry Farnell has a degree in Geography and Landscape Studies and has worked in forestry and international haulage. In 1993, he came to the Sherkin Island Marine Station and has lived in Ireland ever since. Currently, he lives on Sherkin and works as a photographer ([www.sherkinphoto.com](http://www.sherkinphoto.com)).



### A Day in the Life of Terry Farnell

#### Where do you work?

I live on Sherkin island, so most of my work is on the island itself. I have to split my time between being out and about taking photographs and sitting in front of the computer in the office at home.

#### Have you always been interested in what you do?

Yes, I still remember getting my first camera when I was 8 years old and that's a long time ago - I've been taking photographs ever since.

#### What training did you do to get where you are today?

I've no formal training in photography, but I did go to college to study geography, which is probably why I'm so interested in photographing the landscape.

#### What is a day in your life like?

Really, there's no typical pattern to a day in my life, which is one of the things that makes it so enjoyable. I may well be up before dawn and out to a location where I'm hoping for a beautiful sunrise, or I may be going out of the door at midnight, to take photographs of moonlit landscapes. Then all the photographs have to be processed on the computer at some stage and I'm often so engrossed in what I'm doing that I'll sit up late until I'm finished.

#### What is your main aim?

To enjoy life and to be happy. Oh, and to make a bit of money too! I think I've achieved two out of these three aims...

#### Where does your work take you?

To the top of the highest hill and to the bottom of the deepest hole - anywhere that I think I can find an interesting photograph.

#### What is the best thing about your job?

The variety and never knowing what's around the next corner. I love walking around the island with my camera gear, looking for the right light in the right place, and having grown up with films and darkrooms, I'm fascinated by what can be done with photographs in the computer.

#### What is the worst thing about your job?

Marketing and accounts! It's no good running a small business based on photography if you never sell any photographs! Some people enjoy this side of business, but I find it a chore.

#### Do you enjoy your work?

I'm glad you didn't ask me this a week ago, when I spent two hours on top of Mount Gabriel, near Schull, West Cork, in pouring rain and with a north wind whistling around my ears - you might have got a short answer! But the long answer is - yes, I love it and I wake up every morning looking forward to the day.

#### What equipment do you use?

Too much! I went digital three years ago and have been amazed by the flexibility of the system and the quality of the photographs. Having said that, there are still some situations where film is best and I'm currently unearthing all my darkroom chemicals.

#### What advice would you give someone wanting to do your job?

It's unlikely that you'll step out of school and into a job as a landscape photographer, so think about suitable college courses, or maybe think about getting work in an associated industry, such as picture editing or magazine or newspaper journalism. And all the time, take photographs, read, eat and sleep photography and get your photographs out where people can see them, on the internet, in magazines, in competitions. But if you want a normal life, don't do this job!

#### What would you do if you weren't doing what you do?

Whatever it was, I'd spend all day dreaming of doing what I'm doing now!



Sherkin puppies.

#### What is the best piece of advice you have ever had?

Follow your own star. Find a career that makes you happy and everything else in life will just slot into place.



Clearing Storm and Rainbow.