



Landscape Photo tips

1. The best light will usually be found in early mornings and late afternoons.
2. Look for interesting compositions.
3. Look for a point of interest to focus the eye within the composition.
4. Use a tripod and remote shutter control whenever possible.
5. If you don't have a remote shutter control use the camera's 2 second timer.
6. Try to have a foreground, middle distance and long-distance items within the image to create depth within the image.
7. Leading lines. These can help an image and should lead into the image and towards the points of interest. These usually work best from either bottom corner but can work from anywhere. Sometimes a symmetrical image looks great with leading lines from the bottom centre or both corners.
8. The rule of thirds usually works well to frame the composition and locate the point of interest. The horizon is usually located on the bottom third line or the top third line depending on whether the main interest is the foreground or the sky.
9. If you don't use the rule of thirds have a reason for not doing so as judges in competitions will often comment on this.
10. Vertical symmetry for reflections often works well, so this may be a time when you don't use the rule of thirds vertically.
11. For people, animals, vehicles, etc, in the image, allow space for them to "move" into.
12. Carry out "border patrol", which is to check for items sticking out of the edges of the frame. If you can't achieve this in camera then do it in post processing.
13. Look for the light on the foreground, middle distance and long-distance items and the point of interest to enhance the image. There usually needs to be some contrast between the layers to provide depth to the photo.
14. Wait for the light. Clouds moving across a scene can change the light dramatically over short periods of time.
15. Select an appropriate f stop for sharpness throughout the image (i.e. a good depth of field). Probably between f/8 – f/16 on full frame cameras (This can vary depending on the camera type you are using). Generally, don't go above f16 on a full frame camera as this is when diffraction starts to become a noticeable issue.
16. If you deliberately want to focus blur out parts of the image use a lower f stop such as f2.8 – f4. This will give a shallow depth of field. Experiment with various f stops to see the results.
17. Use as low an ISO as possible (usually around 100) and extend the exposure time to compensate to get the correct exposure. This is where the tripod is vital.
18. Some cameras require / suggest the image stabilisation to be off when using a support such as a tripod. Try it on and off to see how your camera performs best.
19. If it's windy and the tripod and camera is vibrating or moving, have the image stabilisation on. Check the results and if it's still not sharp which means you can't use a slow shutter speed / longer exposure, increase the shutter speed to say 1/250 or 1/320 second, which

depending on the light may mean a higher ISO, but its easier to remove noise than sharpen a blurry photo.

20. The other reason to increase the shutter speed is if something is moving in the shot and you don't want to show the movement blur. This could be leaves on the trees or grass in the foreground or a person walking across the image.
21. If it is windy you can either lower the tripod by closing the thinner legs or by hanging your camera bag below your tripod head (i.e. have it hanging down just lightly touching the ground so it doesn't swing about) with a bungy cord or similar. If it is very bad you can do both. Both points will help stabilise the tripod.
22. Use the histogram or zebras to check exposure and that nowhere in the image is too bright and detail has been lost. Its ok for the sun to be bright and also bright artificial lights such as streetlights.
23. Work out your focus point. One third into the image is a good rule of thumb. If there is a deep image and you want it to be sharp front to back you may want to take three photos focusing in turn on the foreground, middle distance and long-distance items and blend them together in post processing.
24. Add a graduated filter to "stop back" the sun / sky if too bright. Use a hard or soft filter to suit the light on the day. These can be replicated in post processing, but this can depend on the dynamic range of your camera. Be careful with hard graduated filters if they cut across parts of the image so these are best suited to a flat horizon such as a sea scape.
25. Neutral Density filters can be used to reduce the amount of light to just reduce the dynamic range or to slow down movement / blur clouds & waves. The darker the filter the slower the shutter speeds can be. To blur water, experiment with slow shutter speeds to get the desired results. Try a range of filters to achieve shutter speeds between 5 – 30 seconds.
26. If you want a longer shutter speed you normally need to use your cameras "Bulb" function and manually hold and release the shutter or use a timer if there is one on your cable release.
27. Use a Polariser to help the sky if it's too bright. Be careful not to overdo this if there is a lot of blue sky as it can make areas go very dark and patchy.
28. Use a Polariser to reduce glare and reflections particularly in water but also on shiny leaves and wet cobbles, etc.
29. Check your images by playing back images so you can retake if the composition looks wrong, the exposure is out, or the focus is off.