

# EXPERIMENTING WITH PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION

## 5 Simple Techniques to Alter Perspective



A lot of the time, people miss a well composed shot simply because they didn't take the time to seek out a slightly better alternative. When you have found a scene worth shooting, don't forget to consider a few ways that you could improve the composition. It's easier than you might think.



Bare Island Bridge (Photo by Rob Wood). Notes: Walking down under the bridge allowed a classic 'leading lines' composition.

**Go for a Walk** - Often finding a better place to shoot a scene or object from will give you a better alternative for composing the shot. if possible, take a walk around and look at the scene from different areas. Consider which spot gives you the best chance to compose the shot

with good composition rules in mind and whether any of those rules are worth breaking.

**Tilt the Camera** - Simply moving the angle of the camera up and down then left and right will show you what you could get. Does the foreground add or detract from the scene? Can you omit distracting elements like tree branches from the edge of the composition?



Daisy (Photo by Rob Wood). Notes: Getting very close in a bed of daisies (with a macro lens) allowed a classic 'rule of thirds' placement of the centre of interest.



**Horizontal or Vertical** - Will your shot be better served by holding the camera vertically or horizontally? Don't forget that you can also consider how you might crop the shot while you are shooting it.

**View Point** - This fits in with the walk around tip, but look for places that could offer a different view point of the subject you are shooting. Can you shoot from a higher position? A lower one? This can often get you a more dramatic shot and it is the reason you often see photographers contorting themselves into some very uncomfortable positions.



Monkey (Photo by Rob Wood). Notes: Moving to the side of where the monkey was sitting allows him to have space in the image to look into.

**Fill the Frame** – You can either do this by walking closer to the object you are photographing or, if that is not possible, using a zoom. Filling the frame of your shot usually results in better composition and more emotive images.

A lot of this just comes down to surveying your shooting environment and considering the angle before putting the viewfinder to your eye. Be aware. Think about the subject you are shooting. And remember that there are always alternative ways to compose a photograph.

### **What's Next?**

Wondering about your compositions? Why not come over to the Shark Tank and post one of your own photographs for some feedback? It's the best place on the Internet to get REAL feedback on your photographs so you can improve!

**[Join the Shark Tank](#)**