

Landscape Photography blueprint



Landscape photography captures scale, light, and atmosphere intentionally. A compelling image depends on selecting the right light, managing depth of field, and composing the scene for a clear viewer's path. Success relies more on patience, preparation, timing, and settings rather than expensive equipment.

MODE: MANUAL MODE

APERTURE



f/2.8 f/4 f/5.6 f/8 f/11 f/16 f/22

Wide Aperture (more light)

Narrow Aperture (less light)

Aperture: Start around f/8 to f/11 for broad sharpness. Use f/16 cautiously when you need extra depth, but avoid diffraction.

ISO

100 ··· 200 ··· 400 ··· 640 ··· 800 ··· 1600 ··· 3200

Lower

LIGHT SENSITIVITY

Higher

ISO: Keep ISO between 100 and 400 whenever possible for clean detail. Raise only when wind or fading light demands speed.

SHUTTER SPEED

30" 15" 10" 2" 1" 1/25" 1/30" 1/50" 1/100" 1/125" 1/250" 1/320" 1/500" 1/1000"

Blur Motion

Tripod Recommended

Handheld Ok

Freeze Motion

Shutter Speed: Let the scene decide. Use 1/125s or faster handheld, or slower tripod exposures for water, clouds, and low light.

1 Exposure

Check your histogram! Ideally, it should be bell-shaped and slightly right of center.



This simplifies post-production - reducing a slightly over-exposed image doesn't add noise, while increasing exposure on an under-exposed image does.

Capture as much information as possible by shooting raw files.

2 Gear Selection

You can capture great landscapes with minimal gear, but it's more challenging. The essentials include a wide-angle lens and a tripod.



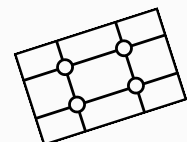
Using polarizing, ND, and ND Grad filters can be helpful.

Wind is your enemy so do whatever you can to stabilize your camera.

the essentials

3 Composition

The classic rules of composition tend to produce very powerful landscape images.



Think about rule of thirds as well as looking for elements such as roads, rivers and fences to act as leading lines.

Be aware of the visual weight of elements for a balanced composition.