

LIGHTNING PHOTOGRAPHY

BLUEPRINT



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)

Because you're after crisp and clean shots, start at f/8 or f/11 and see how the image comes out.

ISO

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

Lower

LIGHT SENSITIVITY

Higher

Set your camera ISO to "base" ISO (lowest value).

SHUTTER SPEED



Blur Motion

Tripod Recommended

Handheld Ok

Freeze Motion

The optimal shutter speed setting is usually between 4 and 6 seconds.

1 SAFE LOCATION

When selecting a proper location for shooting lightning, you should always consider safety as well as having a great view of the sky. For instance, local lakes are a great choice for lightning photography, unless they happen to be surrounded by many trees.



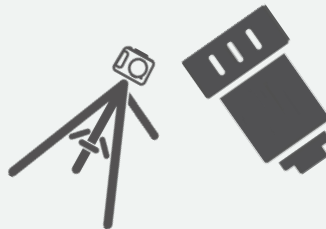
Once you have chosen a shooting location, safety should be the next concern. You should never stand outside when photographing lightning. The chances of being struck by lightning are simply too great to warrant the risk.

TIP:

Rest assured that if your car is struck by lightning while you are inside, you will be perfectly safe. The car's metal exterior will absorb the electricity.

2 PROPER GEAR

Having the right equipment matters a lot when capturing lightnings! Using a standard angle zoom lens, such as a 30mm prime for APS-C sensor cameras, or a 50mm prime for full-frame cameras, will assist in capturing images of lightning that fill the frame.



A wide angle to standard angle zoom lens, such as a 16-35mm or 24-70mm, could be used, but a prime lens will normally capture a much sharper image.

TIP:

Instead of a tripod, you can use a bean bag to support the camera, as the photography will take place inside a car.

3 THE ESSENTIALS

3 POST PROCESSING

When it comes to editing of lightning photos, your choice of white balance is quite important.



Many photographers prefer their lightning photos to be much cooler than normal ones, because this can give them an interesting electrical feel.

TIP:

You can also darken those already black areas in your photo in order to bring even more focus to the lightning itself.