

Landscape Photography

If you look online for lessons in landscape photography you will find videos three hours long and tutorials with 25 parts. So, what can we learn in just a few minutes? This lesson includes 10 tips about some favorite techniques. Many landscape photos will use more than one of these methods.

1. It may seem obvious, but location means nearly everything. Start with a beautiful place then see which of these tips would work there.

2. Photographers hear about “sweet light”. Landscape photography early and late in the day does produce wonderful photos with golden light and deeper shadows. I have heard excellent photographers say, “put away your camera at any other time of day”. However, you can use some of these other techniques to produce good photos all day long.

3. Choose a lens and focal length that will create the effect you want. A wide angle lens creates an impression of great distance and space. A telephoto lens concentrates on distant features and narrows the field of view. A middle focal length looks more like what is seen by our own eyes.



BEAR LAKE – ABOUT 2 PM

4. Control depth of field. Decide if you want a lot in focus or if you want to blur the foreground or background, then choose the appropriate f-stop. (refer to the Aperture and Aperture Priority Mode lessons on the club website).

5. Play with perspective. Look for objects that lead into the landscape and recede into the distance or frame the scene between foreground objects.

6. Increase depth by including objects in the foreground, middle, and distance.

7. Look for layers. They could be ridges, streaks of light, waves, trees, or other natural elements.

8. Experiment with the light from different directions. Side light creates interesting shadows and contours. Light from behind the photographer can create stronger contrast. Light facing the camera can create difficult exposures with silhouettes and lens flare, but can be dramatic.



FOREGROUND, MIDDLE, DISTANCE

9. Look for areas of deep shadow contrasting with bright light.

10. Use editing software. Adjust the dark and light areas of your images and perk up brightness and contrast. For example, the Levels sliders in Photoshop are a simple tool that can make a world of difference. Crop out unwanted stuff to adjust your composition. Remove flaws like sensor spots and beer cans.