



### 1. Maximise depth of field

- The normal approach to ensure as much of the scene is in focus as possible.
- Use small aperture – f8 minimum, f11 and f16 better.
- Means less light on sensor so slow speed or high ISO may be needed, especially in poor weather.
- May need camera support
- Remember hand hold should be no slower than 1/focal length being used.



**An exception to having the whole scene in focus**

### 2. Look for a focal point

- All photographs need a focal point – too easy to forget that with landscape.
- No focal point = nowhere for eyes to rest = uncomfortable and boring.
- The what: could be a building, striking tree, a large rock or a mountain.
- The where: start with 'rule of thirds' to place the focal point in the composition.
- If you break the 'rule' do so with thought





### 3. Think foregrounds

- A good foreground adds depth to the image.
- It can add context, perspective and interest.
- Look for one, they rarely just happen!
- You may need to get down low.
- Look for lines and shapes to lead the eye in.
- Particularly important when using a wide angle lens setting.





#### 4. Consider the sky

- If the sky is bland and boring don't let it dominate the image.
- But it will help to have strong interest in the foreground.
- If the sky is strong use it as a main feature and think about keeping the horizon low.
- Consider enhancing skies with a polarising filter or in post production.



## 5. Composition – lines

- Lines are compositional elements that help to direct the eye to the focal point or to stop the eye wandering out of the image – containment.
- Can provide the image with depth and scale.
- Can be a point of interest themselves and create patterns.



## 6. Capture movement

- Landscape often conveys serenity, calmness and passivity.
- But there can be drama, mood and movement.
- Trees blowing, waves, waterfalls, moving clouds
- Often a slow shutter speed is required so some sort of support may be necessary.
- Fence posts can be very useful!



## 7. Work with the weather

- Landscape changes character in different light and weather.
- Choosing the right time is important and you may need to wait or to return later
- Angle of the sun may be critical.
- A clear blue sky is not the best time for landscape photography.
- Look for storms, wind, mist, dramatic clouds, sun shining through dark clouds, sunrises and sunsets.





## 8. Work the golden hours

- A couple of hours around dusk and dawn.
- The light has a glow which impacts on the landscape.
- The sun is low and so casts shadows which pick out detail in the landscape.
- The landscape comes alive and there are interesting patterns, dimensions and textures.
- Light levels are not high so slower shutter speeds may be needed.







## **9. Think about horizons**

- When composing the image in the viewfinder think:
- Is the horizon straight?
- Where is it in terms of the composition?
- Wonky horizons can be corrected in post processing but you lose some of the image.
- Place the horizon according to the rule of thirds, not in the middle.
- Very high or very low horizon can work too.

## **10. Change your point of view**

- The 'wow' shot will not be the one you take when you first get out of the car!
- Move around, look for the best view, get a sense of the place.
- Experiment with different foregrounds, different angles, a high viewpoint, or get down low.
- Above all think and take your time – ask yourself, 'what I am trying to convey?'.

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