

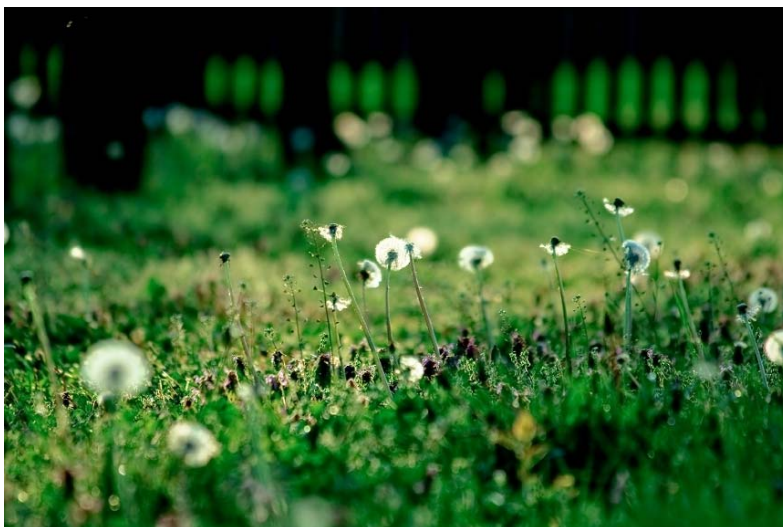


## Landscape Photography Tips

### [These Tips Can Help To Improve The Quality Of Your Outdoor Shots.](#)

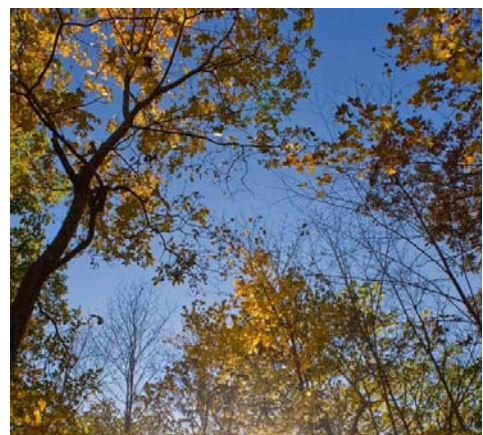
Most people assume that landscape photography is one of the easiest ways to start out in photography, mainly since you rarely work with a live subject, but that couldn't be farther from the truth. While you may not be working with a person, shooting outdoors involves the use of several techniques and tricks to create a great composition. While shooting outdoors can create some amazing shots, it is also easy to get discouraged when they don't turn out like you hope they will. Some of the reasons that outdoor photography is difficult include:

- Depth Of Field- the depth of field for your shots is larger outdoors than in any other setting. Your shot goes from where you are to the horizon, which is a very long distance on flat land.
- Lighting- the sun is your natural light source, and it changes every minute. Using it properly can mean the difference between a great shot and one that becomes a black or white blob.
- The Elements- all it takes is one quick turn of the wind or a couple of rain drops to make or break a shot.
- Making The Composition Interesting- this can be difficult at times, but this is what makes for a great shot. Using all of your lighting and focus tricks can make a photo good technically, but it takes an interesting shot or angle to make for a great photograph.



Knowing the issues with landscape photography is the first step. Now, these tricks will help you with your composition.

1. **Avoid The Boring.** In general, you need to think about your composition. Use the rule of thirds, find a definite focal point for your picture, or find another interesting way to create a good composition. Study the lines in your frame, keeping in mind the horizon, any definite focal points, and the sky. Almost every outdoors does move, although at a slower pace. Don't hesitate when taking your shot, because it may not be there in a few minutes. The clouds will move, the wind blows things, and the light will shift every second. This is the most important part of landscape photography, making it more than just a picture of a mountain or lake, but instead turning it into an interesting composition.
2. **Experiment With Focal Points And Depth.** One of the biggest parts of creating great outdoor photography is to play with your depth of field and your focal points. A lower aperture setting will give you a greater depth of field, but you will have to compensate for this with a longer shutter speed or a higher ISO. If you lengthen your shutter speed and increase your ISO, this will allow more light to hit your sensor, compensating for the smaller aperture. This increased depth can give you a larger area to focus on, allowing you to be more creative. Choosing a definite focal point can turn rather bland picture into a beautiful composition. Choose to focus on the foreground, middle ground, or background, whatever part you find the most interesting, or you can pick a specific object to be the focal point. This will turn one definite part of the image into the attention getter, and cause the rest of the image to blur away just slightly. For an example, you can take a picture of a field full of wildflowers, or you can take the composition and focus on just one of these flowers, creating the definite focal point, and blurring out a lot of the rest of the field.
3. **Stabilize Everything.** If you're not already using one, start using a tripod and camera remote. One slight shake with a longer shutter speed can ruin a photograph. The tripod will take most of the human error out of simply holding the camera, reducing the amount of shake you'll experience. The use of the remote will keep the camera from shaking when you push down the shutter release. There are two types of remotes you can use, a wired or wireless model. Both produce the same results, but the wireless can help prevent any unfortunate accidents that may involve tripping over a wire and having the very expensive piece of equipment you have sitting on a stand from falling over and hitting a rock and... I think you get the point. This will also allow you to experiment with movement. If the camera doesn't move, you can use even longer shutter speeds, capturing movement based off the objects in your composition that won't move. This works beautifully with water, wind blown grass, clouds, trees in the wind, or whatever else may show slight motion.
4. **Filter Can Be Your Friend.** One of the cheapest, and necessary, additions to any photographers bag is a good array of filters. Most photographers think you need 15 lenses, but that it not true. Filters can change a composition more than any variety of lenses. Filters are relatively cheap, take up no space, and can be easily switched out. Some of the essentials include density filters, which effect the amount of light entering the lens, polarizing filters, which eliminate the haze from direct sunlight and adds saturation to your composition, and color filters, which add a distinct hue to your photographs. Since they are relatively cheap, it never hurts to have a few in your camera bag.
5. **Use Your Eyes.** Changing your point of view can lead to a new angle on a potentially boring subject. Think of your composition and try a new angle on it. Try standing on a tall object and looking down, or sitting below the area. A little bit of exploration can lead to a a fresh angle on a subject others have repeatedly taken the same shot of over and over again. If you wind up not seeing something new, try closing your eyes and not thinking about the shot for a few minutes, then open them again a take a new look, forgetting about your older ideas.
6. **Know Your Equipment.** This is the most important thing for any new photographer. Knowing how your equipment works and how to quickly change the camera settings is essential to good landscape photography. The best way to get to know your equipment is to play with it and experiment. The manual will give



you the basic of where the ISO can be changed at, how to adjust the shutter speed, and how to switch your mode of shooting, but playing with these features is the only true way to learn how they all work. Onto another small point. Even though your camera has several settings for predetermined shooting scenarios, never use these. Make sure you can control everything manually, and learn how to properly set everything to make a great shot in the conditions you are in. This will make you more than just a person taking photographs, but instead make you a photographer. If you are using a digital camera, which most people do nowadays, only shoot in RAW format if your camera supports it. This is usually reserved for SLRs. RAW format takes the purest image possible, with the camera performing no formatting what-so-ever. This will give you the richest shots possible.

7. **Try Everything Once.** Great shots are made by deviating from the rules and making your own. Give any shot a chance at least once, since you never truly know what you're going to get. If it doesn't work out, play with the setting until you get the shot you imagined. If you take a bad shot, it's just one click of the delete button away from being a memory. Since experimentation leads to some of the best shots you'll take, along with developing your own style, don't get discouraged. Many photographers have gone out for an entire day and only returned with a few good shots, and sometimes with none at all. Develop your own style, and you'll start to take more landscape photography you can be proud of.



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**Date:** Thursday, Jan 07 2010

they're all SO good.

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**Date:** Friday, Jan 01 2010

Second one is the best.

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