

10 Tips for Better COMPOSITION



Aim your camera at something that looks great! This may sound obvious, but thinking this way helps to avoid including distracting or ugly elements in your composition.



Use the rule of thirds, but don't be chained to it. While this composition is pleasing, sometimes scenes look better when the elements are placed off of the thirds grid. To unchain yourself from the rule of thirds, try using another compositional concept, like symmetry.



Remember to try different compositions. Move around, zoom in, and switch between vertical and horizontal. It is always best to shoot exhaustively in the field.



Pay attention to the light. Using the best light will always make for better photos. Shoot early and late, as these times often have the best light. Don't be afraid to go out during inclement weather, too. While blue skies are great for hiking, stormy skies are what produce more interesting photos.



Look for foregrounds, mid-grounds, and backgrounds that work together to form a visual path for the viewer's eye to move through the composition.



6

Use visual lines to draw the viewer into the shot. Lines are one of the best ways to direct the eye through a composition.



7

Sometimes the landscape is so big, it is hard to show the scale of it in an image. Use people or other commonly recognizable subjects in your composition to give a sense of scale.



8

Pay close attention to spacing. The key elements of your composition should fit together neatly without intersecting each other.



9

Always bring your full kit of lenses. You never know what compositions might present themselves, so be prepared with all your tools. I always carry a wide, medium, and telephoto lens with me.



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Practice, practice, practice. Seeing and fine-tuning compositions is a skill, and just like other skills, it needs to be practiced to improve. Get out and have fun shooting!



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