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# TIPS FOR TAKING BETTER LANDSCAPE PHOTOS



**Canon**

Landscape photography may seem simple when you're outdoors, surrounded by nature's bounty. But actually capturing the magic that you see in front of your eyes takes a bit of planning and know-how before you press that shutter button. So, if you're ready to learn how to take photos that are print-worthy — and maybe even good enough to hang on your living room wall — read on!



### 1. Be Patient

As they say, patience is a virtue and that phrase couldn't be any truer than when photographing landscapes. Be aware of your entire frame and wait for that perfect moment when the clouds just cover the sun or the birds all take off at once.

### 2. Visualize the Final Picture

Before you take the photo, visualize in your mind what you want the picture to look like. This way, you can set your camera up appropriately with the correct shutter speed, aperture, ISO and histogram, so that you have a great base RAW file to achieve the look you want in post-production.



### 3. Create Depth with Layers

When setting up your shot, be sure to keep interesting elements in the foreground, middle ground and background. Also, keep a range of dark and light tones — this keeps your image interesting and more three-dimensional, and will draw your viewer's eyes across the photo.



#### 4. Use the Histogram on Your Back LCD

Make sure the subject you are photographing looks accurate in your histogram as well, giving even tones throughout your image. If you are purposefully under-exposing (shadows to your left) or over-exposing (highlights to the right), ensure that the histogram peak doesn't land on either side or it will lack detail when it comes to printing.

#### 5. Make the Aperture Work For You

A great aperture to start off with is a medium aperture of f/10, but if you want your entire image to be acceptably sharp from front to back, try using a technique called hyperfocal distance. This technique achieves maximum depth-of-field by focusing your lens at a certain point between your foreground and your background.



#### 6. Magnify In & Manually Focus

When photographing landscapes, choose your point of focus and press the magnify button once for 5x, then twice for 10x magnification. You will then be able to precisely focus your lens manually so that your point of focus is sharp. This comes in handy when photographing landscapes that include stars. Choose a star and manually focus at a 10x magnification, until the star you are focusing on is a single point of light.

#### 7. Use People to Show Scale

To illustrate how large something is in your image, simply include people in the frame. This also has the added benefit of making the image more visually interesting.





## 8. Use the Built-In Level

If your camera has a built-in level on the back LCD, take advantage of it by using this feature when shooting landscapes. With many recent Canon DSLR and mirrorless cameras, pressing the INFO button several times will cycle the built-in level. This is handy for ensuring that your horizon lines are perfectly straight.

## 9. Don't Forget Composition

Just like when you're photographing other genres of photography, always keep in mind the basic compositional rules, such as the Rule of Thirds and Leading Lines. Applying these rules can make your images pop even more, as your viewer's eye naturally has a path. Most recent Canon DSLR and mirrorless cameras have the ability to overlay grid lines to make this easier for you.



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