

Scenic Photography: Camera Characteristics

- Lots of megapixels allowing large prints
- Long exposures at high ISO w/o noise artifacts
- True wide-angle to decent telephoto. Wide angle is the hardest to find.

Composing Landscape Photos

- Simplicity – eliminate communication distractions
- Center of attention – something interesting the eye can settle on. Does not have to be in the center. Does not have to be fabulous. Better if you can find a sightline to point at it.
- Rule of thirds – elements off-center tend to imply movement.

Composing Landscape Photos

- Move horizons to one of the thirds lines. Sky important? horizon at lower line.
- Keep your horizons level.
- Lines – look for natural lines. They add zip to photos, guide the eye, provide patterns, work to balance
- Balance – A mobile, dark is heavy. Involves color, shapes, forms (masses) dark/brightness.

Composing Landscape Photos

- Framing – adds balance, interest, connotations. Foreground items add three-dimensional look.
- Mergers – Unnatural visual bonding of elements.
- Color and texture – Sometimes the whole reason for the picture. Look at examples!
- Compose portrait for vertical themes, and landscape for horizontal themes.

Composing Landscape Photos

- Direction of light –
Be prepared to wait or come back later
- Include the sky -
- Eliminating gray areas from the image -
- Using a Polaroid filter –
- What do you need for depth of field? With tripod this should be easy.

Sunset Photos

- Stop down. Use a tripod for later images.
- Don't let the camera use "sunset" white balance.
- Take a lot of images. Colors change fast.
- Don't quit early. Best may be yet to come.
- Try silhouettes. Try fill-in flash too.
- Keep the horizon from the center of the image.
- Compose portrait also!
- Plan and work fast.
- Locking focus at infinity is a good thing. Camera may have trouble focusing.

Panoramas

- They are desired for web/mm tour tools, but otherwise not as interesting to anyone else but you.
- Use a tripod for stitched images.
- Pay attention to the exposure of the first frame. Camera will use first image for all others.
 - Generally you can rearrange the images later so perhaps take the middle section first. You wouldn't want it any other way. Otherwise the edges would be different brightness and would not match!