

Scenic Photography: Useful Filters

- Polarizing Filter
 - 1) Reduces glare
 - 2) Increases deep blue sky
 - 3) Reduces haze (increase contrast)
 - 4) Enriches colors
 - 5) Allows you to “tune in” details

UV Filter

- Reduces the ultraviolet content of light, short wavelength above the blue range. A must for film cameras, helps some CCDs also but to a lesser extent. Should not affect exposure settings.

Haze Filter

- Like a UV but cuts a little into the visible blue range. May require increasing exposure settings a bit.
- Post-Processing Haze
Select area and apply unsharp mask repeatedly to all channels or to *the blue channel alone* with *very large radius* and *very low intensity* (amount)
 - Can be surprisingly effective.

Framing

- A framing object should be something with aesthetic value of its own. Related, colorful, or interesting.
- Keep the framing item in sharp focus or perhaps blur it a lot.
- Watch out for blurring with close up foliage (smaller aperture)
- Bottom frame
 - Row of flowers, fence, food on table
 - Use it to hide a boring lawn or road in the foreground.

Natural Light

- Overcast?
- Bad for contrast, form, drama
- Good for even lighting from all angles
- Good for subtle tones and rich hues (except for dark day)
- Good for detail all across the frame
 - Shadows and highlights have range.
- Light tends to be graying
 - May have to add saturation

Haze or fog?

- Dreamy and atmospheric
- Great at showing distance
- Reduced detail and contrast
- Muted colors

Top Lighting (Noon)

- Little contrast, flat
- Little apparent depth
- Small intense shadows
- Especially avoid for people

The Color of Light

- Sunsets produce yellow-orange light
 - blue light is scattered by dust and water vapor in the air. At dawn and dusk the light must pass through more atmosphere! Therefore more orange is left.
- Tungsten bulbs are even more yellow orange