LANDSCAPE CHECKLIST

Landscape photography is a fantastic way to begin your photographic journey, as it tends to be slow and methodical. This allows you time to carefully consider each step in the process.





SET ISO 100 / ISO 200

The lower the ISO, the less noise you'll get. This will make the image appear sharper.



SHOOT AT f/8 - f/16

In landscape photography, it is best to increase the depth of field by using a smaller aperture.



A / Av MODE or MANUAL MODE

Using Aperture Priority Mode or Manual Mode.



USE A TRIPOD

If you are using a lens with a focal length of 100mm or longer, or if your shutter speed drops to 1/125th or slower, and you do not wish to raise the ISO.



ACTIVATE MIRROR LOCK-UP

This will reduce vibration-induced motion blur that can occur during longer exposures. Use for shutter speeds between 1/8th and 4 seconds. (For >4 seconds, it's not necessary.)



USE A REMOTE SHUTTER RELEASE

This helps to avoid motion blur that can occur when pressing the shutter release button, especially at slower shutter speeds (1/30th or slower).



COMPOSE THE SUBJECT OFF-CENTER

Create an interesting composition. Follow composition rules. Composition rules that are often used in Landscape photography are The Rule of Thirds, Leading Lines, and The Golden Ratio.



BE CAREFUL WITH LEADING LINES

Make sure that the leading lines drive the viewer's eyes toward the focal point of your landscape composition and not away from it.



ADD FOREGROUND INTEREST

Place a prominent object into the foreground. Especially if it is an object of a known size, this can add depth and drama to a landscape photograph.



FOCUS A THIRD INTO THE FRAME

Pick an object that is approximately 1/3 of the way into your scene and place your critical focus at this point. Doing so provides the maximum depth of field for the entire scene.



USE EXPOSURE COMPENSATION IF NEEDED

Shoot a test photo. If the histogram is "clipped" at either end, adjust the exposure with Exposure Compensation when using an auto mode or by changing the shutter speed in Manual mode.

CHECK THE HISTOGRAM

Make sure that the curves for light tones and shadows are balanced with no clipping.

SPECIAL TECHNIQUES