

What Is Landscape Photography?

Landscape photography is photography that occurs in the great outdoors. It is separate from what we know as nature photography. Usually, landscape photography captures an impressive natural scene—an imposing mountain range, a serene, sprawling field, a river roaring by—untouched by human presence (besides the photographer's, of course).

For all beginner landscape photographers seeking to explore the earth while capturing their own magnificent images, here is a complete guide to get started.

What Are the Best Settings for Landscape Photography?

A competent landscape photographer possesses the fundamentals of good photography: knowing how and when to adjust exposure, aperture, shutter speed, and ISO. It is particularly important to have a good grip on these elements since most landscape photography occurs in the great outdoors, where weather and light can change dramatically—and quickly.

- **Aperture** is the size of the lens opening, which lets in light.
- **Shutter speed** is the duration of time the lens is open; low-light or long exposures depend on lower shutter speed to bring in as much light as possible.

What's the Best Camera for Landscape Photography?

While it is possible to take photographs with any camera, consider investing in a mirrorless digital camera or DSLR for your landscape photography needs.

- Mirrorless and DSLR cameras provide maximum control over camera settings, which means not only is the baseline quality of the image automatically superior, the possibilities of creating professional-looking pictures are endless.
- Mirrorless and DSLR cameras also allow the photographer to swap lenses.
- For sweeping landscape images, like canyons and caverns, go with a wide-angle lens such as Nikon's 14-24mm.
- For more detailed and close-up images, don't be afraid to use a zoom lens or telephoto lens, like Canon's 70-200mm.
- Experiment with different focal lengths (the distance in millimeters between the lens and the camera's sensor) to see how the same vista can render in different ways.

Landscape Photography?

A sturdy tripod is a landscape photographer's best tool. Manfrotto manufactures a professional-grade line at an affordable price point. The basic function of a tripod is to act as an extension of the photographer. The tripod stabilizes the camera so you can take the exact shot you want.

A tripod is ideal in low-light situations or during night photography, as the steadiness allows you to lower the shutter speed without sacrificing ISO, or grain. A tripod is also useful for

experimenting with angles and perspective; depending on the landscape, you may choose to photograph shooting up, across, or down to produce the desired effect.

How to Focus on the Subject in Landscape Photography

Most landscape photography relies on wide-angle lenses and a large depth of field to adequately capture the subject. A high aperture, adjusted with the f-stop, allows most of the subject to come into sharp focus.

- Use the gridlines in your viewfinder or screen to find focus.
- Begin at either the top or bottom third of the frame, but don't be afraid to experiment.
- While there are some examples of landscape photography that prioritize the foreground, resulting in a blurred background (known as a shallow depth of field, or portrait effect), most landscape photography captures the entire scene at once.
- If you have trouble getting clear focus across the entire frame, it is always possible to take a few shots with different areas of focus then layer them together in Photoshop during the editing process.