LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY

Some basic principles
What is landscape photography?

Landscape photography attempts to capture a moment in nature and reveal something special.
Landscape photography

- Most photographs are inspired by traditional landscape painting
- Many landscape photographs show little or no human activity
- The definition of a landscape photograph is broad, and now includes urban settings, industrial areas, and nature photography.
Landscape photography

- “You don’t take a photograph, you make it.” – Ansel Adams

- “Beauty can be seen in all things, seeing and composing the beauty is what separates the snapshot from the photograph.” – Matt Hardy
Landscape Photography
Guidelines to landscape photography

- Composition
- Light
- Equipment
- Exposure
Composition
Rule of thirds and the Golden Ratio

It's the gold standard of ratios! A golden ratio, also known as a golden section, golden mean, and divine proportion is related to Fibonacci's sequence of numbers.
Composition

- Rule of thirds
Rule of thirds
Rule of thirds
Rule of thirds
Rule of thirds
The Golden Rule states that the most important area of an image is located near the bottom right corner of the image, roughly one fourth of the image height up and one forth of the image width to the left.
Leading Lines
Leading Lines
Leading Lines – the S curve
Leading Lines – the S curve
Leading Lines

Mitch Jones
Foreground interest
Foreground interest
Foreground interest
Foreground interest

Robin Pitcher
Foreground interest

- Foreground clutter
Foreground interest

- Clutter removed
Figures in the landscape

Sue Josephson – Red Umbrella
Figures in the landscape

Figure is on a third
Figures in the landscape
Repetition and patterns
Repetition and patterns
Repetition and patterns
Repetition and patterns
Silhouettes

Mitch Jones
Silhouettes

Mitch Jones – Liquid Gold
Silhouettes

Mitch Jones
Silhouettes
Reflections
Framing

Sue Josephson
Framing

Mitch Jones
Breaking the rules
Breaking the rules
Breaking the rules

Robin Pitcher
Breaking the rules

Robin Pitcher
Breaking the rules

Robin Pitcher
Light

- Making the most out of natural light
- Being there at the right time
- The Golden Hour – the first and last hour of sunlight during the day

“Sometimes I do get to places just when God’s ready to have somebody click the shutter.”
Ansel Adams
Light

Photography is painting with light
Light
Light
Light
Light

Dull, foggy day

Bright sunny day
Light

Being there at the right time
Light

Being there at the wrong time
Light
Light
Monochrome – Drama, texture, shapes

Mandy Notley - Uluru
Monochrome

Robin Pitcher – Shades of Grey
Monochrome – if there is not much colour in your image try converting it to black and white or a monotone

Robin Pitcher – Grey poles
Monochrome - Sepia
Equipment

- Camera bag
- Big enough to fit your essential gear
- Light enough to carry
Equipment

- Tripod
  - Reduces camera shake
  - Allows the photographer to compose the shot and wait for the right moment or take a series of shots as the light changes
Equipment

- Remote shutter release
- Reduces camera shake
- Allows the photographer to wait for the right moment to take the shot.
Equipment

- Lens
- Wide angle
- Great depth of field
Equipment

Wide angle lens
Equipment

- Lens
- Standard zoom lens
Equipment

- Standard zoom lens

35 mm, 200 ISO, f/11
Equipment

- Lens
- Telephoto zoom lens
Equipment

- Telephoto zoom lens
Equipment

- Telephoto zoom lens
Equipment

- Filters
  - Circular polarising filter
  - Graduated neutral density filter
  - Neutral density filter
Filters

- Circular polarising filter
  - Deep blue skies
  - Saturated colours
  - Reduces reflections or can reveal reflections
  - Doesn’t always work well with wide angle lens
  - Reduces the light to the sensor by 1-2 stops
Filters

- Graduated neutral density filter

- Helps overcome big differences in the exposure requirement for different parts of an image.

- eg: Burnt out skies and darker foreground, sunsets and sunrises etc.
A neutral density filter reduces the incident light allowing for longer shutter speeds to produce flowing water effects.
Equipment

Neutral density filter

A neutral density filter reduces the incident light allowing for longer shutter speeds for flowing water effects.
Focus

- Only one focal plane in a photographic image is truly in focus.
- Objects 1/3 in front of and 2/3 behind the focal point will appear to be in focus.
- Focusing on a point 1/3 into the image will produce an image with good depth of field depending on the Aperture selected.
Focus

- **Hyperfocal Distance** – is the point you focus on when you want to maximise the amount of depth of field in the photograph.
Focus

- When you focus your lens there will be a zone that is in focus and areas that are out of focus. The area that is in focus is called the focal plane of acceptable sharpness.

- Set your camera on a tripod; set it to manual focus. Aim at a scene. Focus on a point about a third the distance between you and the subject. Now, preview the depth of field with a press of the button. See how this depth will vary as you change the lens aperture. Open the lens, say to f2.8 ... little depth of field. Stop down to f11 ... much more depth of field.
Considerations for Exposure Factors

- Depth of Field
- Shallow depth of field – f/4.0 - f/5.6
Considerations for Exposure Factors

- Depth of Field
- Great depth of field – f/14 or greater

Mitch Jones
Considerations for Exposure Factors

- Depth of Field
Considerations for Exposure Factors

- It may be necessary to adjust your white balance if shooting in JPEGs.

- Shooting in RAW is best – allows much more scope for adjusting the image in Lightroom or Photoshop.
Considerations for Exposure Factors

- Aperture
- Iso
- Shutter speed
- Are the objects in the landscape still? E.g. trees, clouds, waves, people
- Do you want to freeze the motion?
- Or create smooth flowing effects?
Considerations for Exposure Factors

Exposure Triangle:
- Shutter Speed
  - 1/4000 sec
  - 2 sec
- ISO
  - 6400
  - 100
- Aperture
  - more in focus
  - more noise

- Less motion blur
- More motion blur
Considerations for Exposure Factors

- So...it is a balancing act
In Conclusion

- Get out and take lots of shots
- Experiment with light and depth of field

- “A good photograph is knowing where to stand” - Ansel Adams
Landscape photography
Annette Blattman – Star gazing
Mandy Notley – Cathedral Rocks