



Lens Choice

- Wide angle lenses (24mm or wider) are generally favoured for landscape photography
- While wide is favoured, lenses which offer a narrower focal length can create a tighter composition and help bring background and foreground objects closer together. It's about perspective and follows the same principle as week 5 when you practiced with the coloured card behind your model's head. The further away you stand, the larger your background element is in relation to your foreground.
- The quality of the lens is often more important than the quality of the camera

Gear

- A sturdy tripod is an essential tool for landscape photography
- Filters can be used to alter a scene or correct an imbalance. Filters that you may use are:
 - Neutral Density (ND). These are available in different strengths and are used to darken a scene. The effect is that even when the light is strong, you can make the scene darker allowing a longer exposure which allows elements, such as water, to "move" or blur.
 - Graduated ND. These filters are darker towards the top and clearer towards the bottom. They are used to help balance the dynamic range of an image. If the sky is a lot brighter than the foreground, it can be darkened using a graduated filter allowing you a more balanced exposure (think photographing a sunset).
 - Circular Polariser. These filters help to cut through glare (think shooting through the surface of a river to see what's underneath or removing the shine from wet moss) to also helping to bring out the colours or punchiness in the sky.
- Filters can be purchased in two main forms. A single filter that screws onto the end of your lens, or a filter system which mounts to the end of your lens but allows you to slide and stack square, or rectangular filters.

Key Elements

Mood

- Conveying feelings about your landscape. Using colour and tone to emphasise atmosphere.
- Visualise your scene before setting up the camera. I look at my scene, I visualise my image, I photograph it.



- Learn to Engage, disengage and reengage. The first composition may not be the best. Use your feet!
- While landscape tends to lend itself to a horizontal photo, consider how your image would work as a vertical (portrait) image.
- Symmetry and Balance are key for wide landscapes

Lighting

- Morning and evening light are generally favoured for both their colour and the shadows cast by the direction of the light.
- Dramatic light can occur in situations such as sun peeking through heavy clouds creating "God Rays"
- Soft light, such as what you may find in a dense forest creates its own unique mood.
- Harsh light is created by the midday sun and generally offers little for the photographer. Time for lunch or a good opportunity to scout out locations for later when the light gets more dramatic
- Back lit subjects can create wonderful colours while allowing for interesting silhouettes from foreground objects.
- Side light. You can use the rising or setting sun to cast light onto a subject lighting it much like a portrait.
- Front light. This is where the light is coming in behind the photography casting an even light onto the landscape

Composition

Composition elements are key to any photograph but with landscape, it's often static in nature.

Leading lines, rule of thirds, C and S curves are all important in telling a story and giving the viewer an understanding of where to lead the viewer to the subject of your image or through your image.

Before shooting, consider what it is you are seeing and how best to frame and capture it.