

LANDSCAPE PHOTO TIPS

1. **Straight horizons.** When you're taking a photo, avoid having a slanted horizon by ensuring that the horizon of the photo is aligned to be parallel with the top and bottom of your screen.
2. **Tripods are very useful.** They not only help you steady your photos, but they can help you take time to really compose a great shot.
3. **Try to include details (a focal point) in the foreground.** By details, we mean something in the photo that helps give the image depth and a sense of scale. A boat on the ocean, for example, can really help put the rest of the photo (the sky, the sea) into context. Otherwise, you might end up with a flat-looking landscape image.
4. **Landscapes can have people in them.** Particularly if they help establish depth or scale like we just mentioned. People tend to understand the scale of a landscape especially well when there's a person standing within it—it gives them something familiar to relate to as far as "size" goes. This technique works better when the person is a little further away.
5. **Find a good location.** This seems pretty obvious, but sometimes you really have to search around to find a landscape that is particularly special. Don't be afraid to explore new ideas and different ways of looking at the world around you.
6. **Avoid shooting in bright sunlight.** Early mornings and evenings sometimes have light that is a little more forgiving for landscape photos. Consider visiting a great spot at different times of day — a place that looks kind of average at 2pm might look stunning closer to 8am.
7. **Use the sky to your advantage.** Sometimes the sky looks amazing—with cool clouds and colors—and other times it looks just flat and gray. When the sky looks really interesting, you should consider including more of it in your photo. When it's less interesting, look for opportunities to minimize it, so viewers will focus less on it.
8. **Change your point of view.** Take a horizontal photo and a vertical one. You might see something different just by flipping your camera around. You can also try kneeling or even lying down, or finding a (safe) way to get a little higher up.
9. **Don't edit the photos or use filters.** We know it's tempting, but we need the original photo, uncropped and unmodified—and sometimes extra filters can lessen the quality of the image.
10. **Send high resolution photos. Don't shrink the images down!** If a photo is TOO small, we might not be able to use it. Bigger files (larger file sizes) are the best.
11. **Finally, if you're using a phone that can take HDR photos, do it!** Your phone will take two different exposures and blend them into a single image—this is a great way to make sure you get details in both dark and light areas of your photo.