

## Tips: How to take a good photograph

1. Light is the most important ingredient to a good photograph, patience and planning will pay off. If possible, find out in advance which direction you wish to take a photograph from and aim to have the sun behind or to one side of you, whichever works best for lighting your subject. Taking a photo into the sun can be used for good effect but is harder to work with and leaves your subject in shadow.
2. Avoid placing the main subject in the very centre of the photograph if possible, try instead to place it to one side, above or below the centre of the photograph.
3. To add depth to a photograph, try to think in terms of foreground, middle ground and background. Good scenic photographs will incorporate interesting elements near to the camera as well as in the distance, leading the viewers gaze 'into' the picture. This is what gives good landscapes a three-dimensional feel.
4. Look for an interesting angle, get low down or higher up to see if a new perspective will add some originality to your picture.
5. Professional photographers will pay as much, if not more attention to the background of their photographs as well as the subject. Avoid cluttered backgrounds, distracting objects, poles emerging from the top of your subject etc. Moving further away and zooming in close to the subject with your lens can throw a distracting background out of focus.
6. The best times of day for adding mood and warmth to a photograph are at the start and the end of the day. Clear blue skies are nice for recording what a subject looks like but will rarely trigger an emotional response in a viewer like a stormy, colourful evening or morning sky can.
7. On dull, cloudy days, focus in on details or unusual angles to avoid bland white skies. You never know what you might be missing until you get up close and bad weather days are the perfect opportunity.
8. Research your chosen subject, knowing more about its history or important features will allow you to emphasise the significance of the subject and makes for more interesting, thought provoking photographs. It can also give a sense of purpose when venturing out to take the pictures instead of wandering around hoping for inspiration which can be a slow process if you are unfamiliar with the subject.

Courtesy of Ken Williams, [www.shadowsandstone.com](http://www.shadowsandstone.com)