

The Essential Guide To Landscape Photography

Written by Nina Bailey

Especially for Canon EOS cameras



PREVIEW
EDITION

Written, designed and images by

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www.eos-magazine.com/ebooks/es/

Foreword by the author

Over the years I have written many different guides, scripts, technical publications and more presentations than I really care to remember, but this is my fourth ebook.

I love travelling, which is why my first ebook was the travel photography one. However I love travelling to the less visited parts of the world and photographing the very different landscapes that I encounter. This book looks at travel photography of all different types of landscapes ranging from the beautiful varied landscape that we have in the UK through to the desolate and barren landscapes of the deserts and polar regions through to the lush tropical regions. Each of these present the photographer with their own particular challenges.

I have been lucky enough to have been invited to lead a number of photographic trips and also shoot specifically for some of the travel companies that I have worked with, enabling me to travel to some of the remoter parts of the world such as the the polar regions and the tropics, in addition to my own travels around Europe, USA and Africa.

The book is richly illustrated with images from around the world of the landscapes that I have been lucky enough to visit.

My aim is to give you a good understanding of what you need to grasp to get some great landscape images and what settings are needed. I have also looked at the creative side of this type of photography looking at framing, lighting and seeing the best images to take.

Hopefully the images and explanations will inspire you to go out and get the very best images of the landscapes that you find yourself amongst, whether it be at home or abroad.

Nina



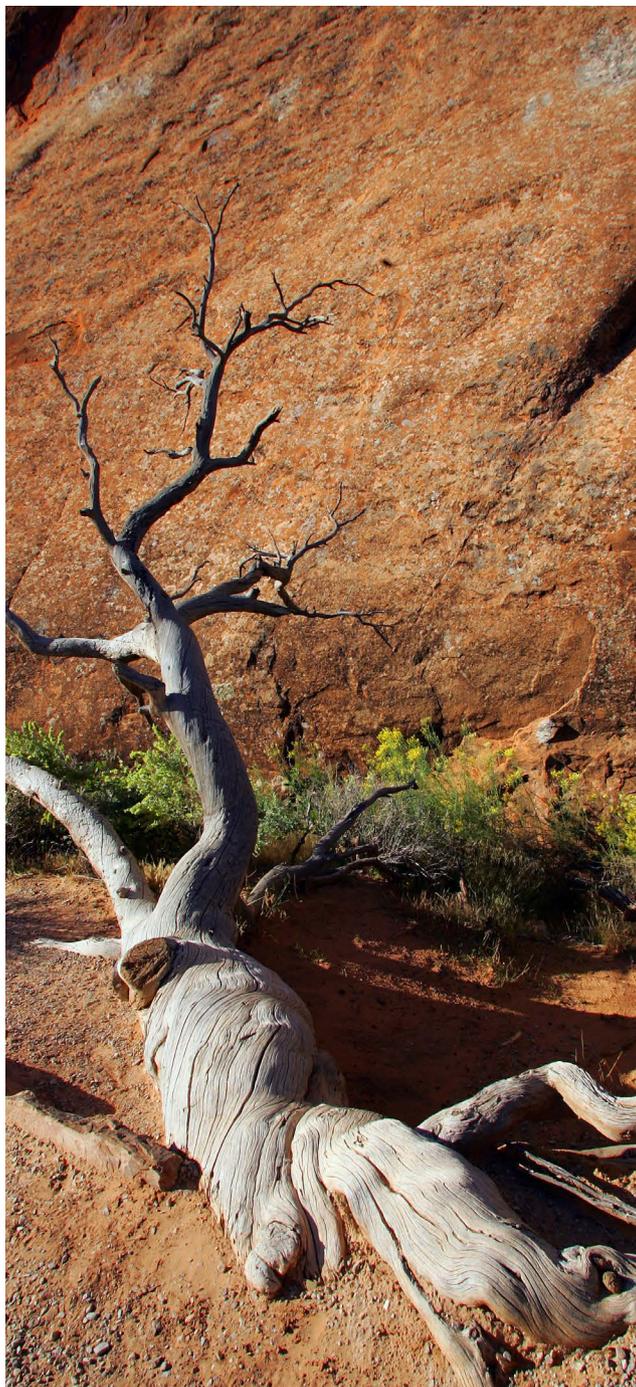
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Chapter 01

Introduction to landscapes

This image was taken in Antarctica with stunning lighting making it easy to get a striking image. The settings were 100 ISO 1/320th f9.5 on a 17mm lens.

Introduction

Landscapes provide some of the most enigmatic images that we see, they portray the scene as a unique glimpse of a moment in time.

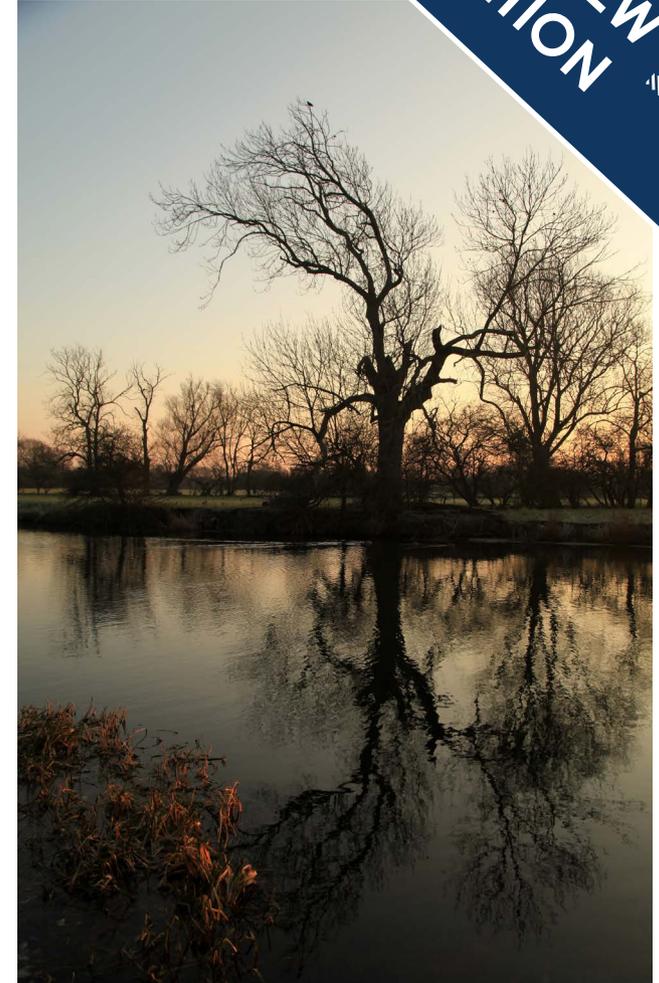
Landscapes change with the seasons, the weather and the lighting, so no matter how familiar it is, there are always different aspects of the same scene.

Landscape photography is a difficult topic to master. Firstly, you are at the mercy of the lighting, which can, simply make or break the shot.

However, landscapes have other difficulties. You need to create the image from what is there in front of you. In other areas of photography such as wildlife or macro the subject content is fairly obvious, making the framing and composition much easier.

Landscapes are less obvious, they are created from all the elements that go to make up images; line, shape, texture, form and of course colour. At least one or two of these will be making up the main interest in the image and the photographer needs a thorough understanding of how to portray these elements to capture images at their best.

Landscape photography requires many different disciplines to be thoroughly understood. As with many types of photography, an in depth understanding of all the features on your camera is essential.



This is the same scene taken summer and winter respectively. The time of year, the time of day and even the weather conditions will all change how the scene will look.

Introduction



Without polarising filter.

Lighting plays an important part in capturing successful landscape photographs. An understanding of the way the camera reads the colour of light and how to control the metering is necessary, if the effect you require is to be captured.

The ability to recognise and correctly frame the subject is important for this to be a successful image. To achieve this, an understanding of lenses and the effects they generate, is essential.

Some landscape photographs require the sympathetic use of filters to enhance the overall appearance of the scene. By far the most useful of these is the polarising filter, although graduated filters and neutral density filters can have their uses.



With polarising filter enhancing the sky and foliage colours.

Above all you need to develop the ability to visualise what the final image will look like when taking the shot, to allow you to see and capture some stunning landscape images.

This requires you to understand the differences in what our eyes see against what the camera is able to capture and utilise that to create stunning images. In order to do this you need to understand how to make the camera's metering system do what you want it to do.

However, once landscape photography is mastered it can be one of the most rewarding areas of photography.

Chapter 02

Approaches to landscapes



This is taken in Monument valley in Arizona in the USA. It's a very different landscape to the ones we are used to in the UK and requires a different approach to make the images work.

Approaches to landscape photography

This area of photography covers a very wide range of differing subjects. Some photographers interpret this as photographing the natural scenery.

However areas of habitation form part of that scenery and so we can include houses or buildings that are part of the landscape.

As we move into more urban areas, then the buildings can make up the landscapes and so we have an area of landscape photography called urban landscapes.

In this ebook we are going to concentrate more on the traditional scenery landscapes as we look more at the things that affect us when shooting in towns and cities in the Essential Guide To Travel Photography ebook.

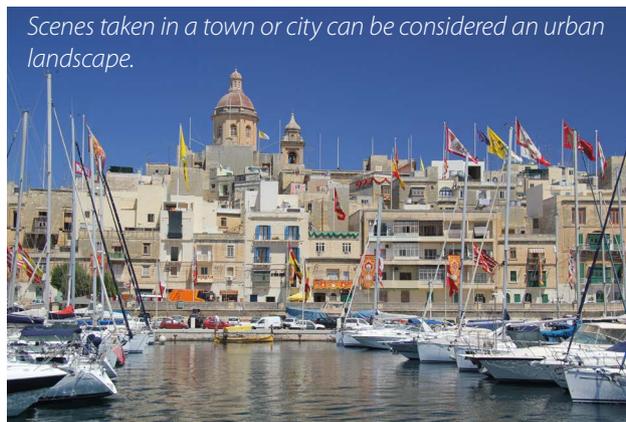
Landscape photography can also encompass details of the landscape area and even comprise of abstracts rather than a more recognisable images.

It's easy to think of landscape as photographing something that is always static, yet if we have water or other moving subjects within the image, it's also an area where we have the opportunity to convey movement in various ways.

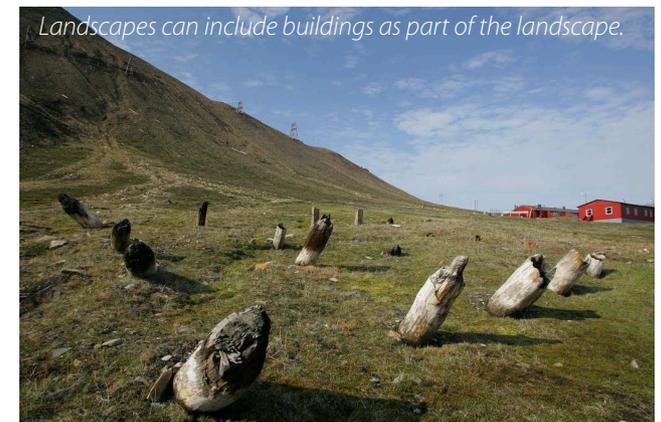
The techniques that we look at in this ebook are equally applicable to all aspects of landscape photography, whether it is purely natural or urban landscapes or even a combination.



Landscapes can be just scenery.



Scenes taken in a town or city can be considered an urban landscape.



Landscapes can include buildings as part of the landscape.

Planned shooting

Landscape photography can be approached in a number of different ways. Some photographers plan their shooting according to a specific location and choose the very best time to go and photograph it.

This is easier today than ever before with tools like the internet to view our location online, even in satellite view to think about the best times and places to go and shoot.

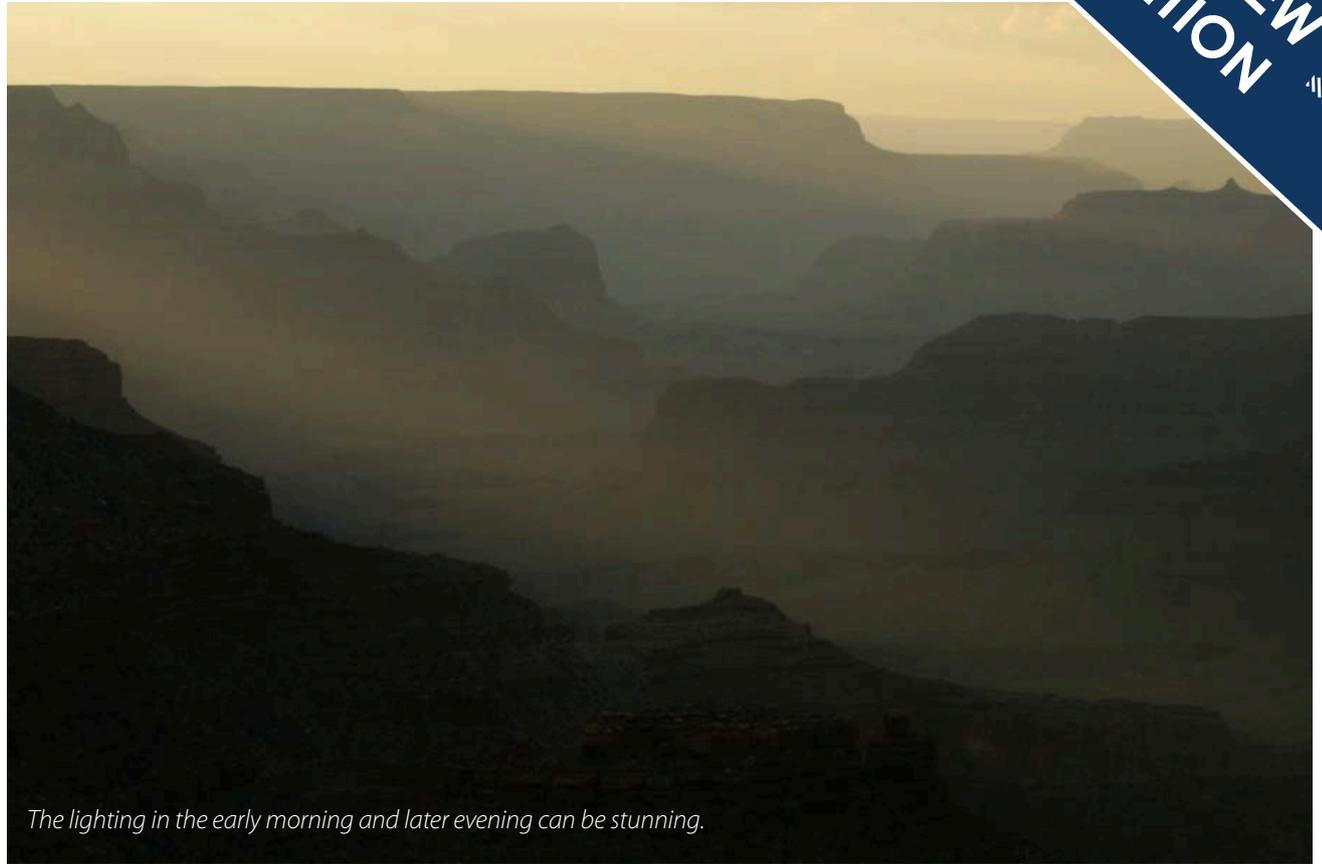
We can also easily look up information about the weather, cloud coverage and even tide times if shooting near to the coast.

Most landscape photographers that work this way will choose the early morning or late evening for their photography, as that is the time of the day when the lighting is going to be at its best. They may even choose a specific day, so the weather conditions are exactly what they are looking for.

They will also think carefully about the lens that is going to be right for the situation, to portray the image as they want and what the lens will be doing to the image.

Understanding the camera and some of its overrides, such as the use of AE Lock and how the metering works will be essential to get some of the images to work.

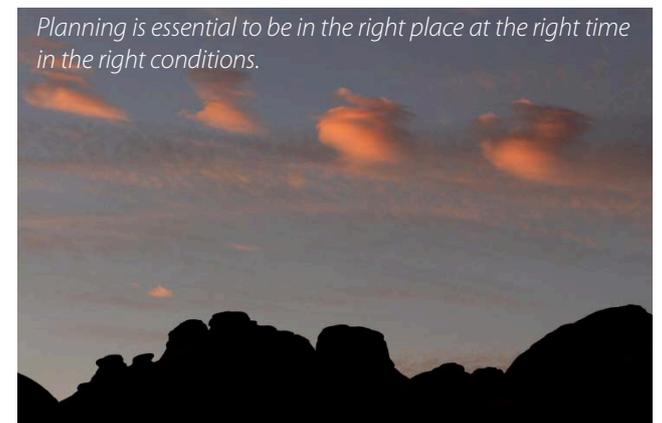
The advantage of this way of shooting, is that it makes you think more about the image that you are creating. You will consider all the things that are going to make the image successful.



The lighting in the early morning and later evening can be stunning.



Understanding the lighting and metering produces stunning images.



Planning is essential to be in the right place at the right time in the right conditions.

Opportunistic shooting

The other approach is to simply go out and take whatever you come across, during the course of a walk or visit to the countryside. This is actually how I take the majority of my images.

If going out to look for images, then it is worth thinking about the best time to go. The middle of the day does not always provide the best lighting or opportunities especially in the summer months, though it does depend on the time of year and the location that you are shooting in.

If just going out walking one of the things I will think about is which way I will walk the planned route. I try and walk with the sun behind or to the side of me as then the images will be in the direction that you are walking.

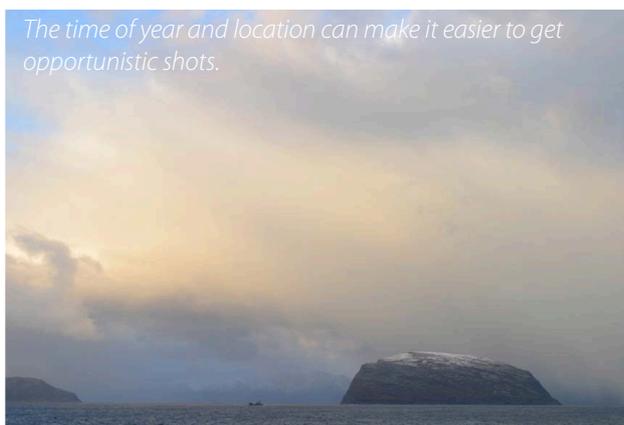
If walking towards the light, the only way to check for images is to stop and turnaround to see what there is behind you.

You also still need to think about the lighting that is present and how it will affect the images that you are taking. Additionally you need to think about the lens that is going to make the image work.

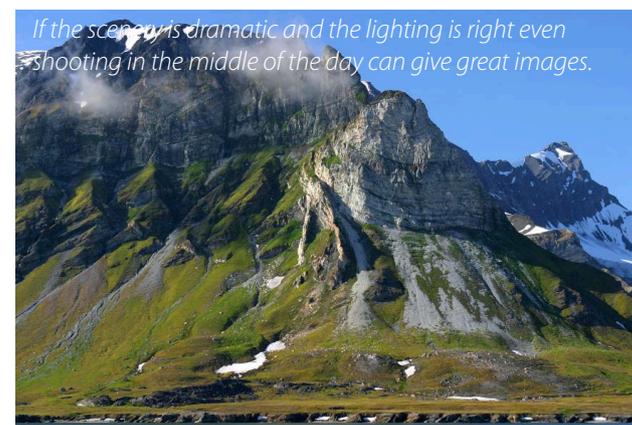
Whether planning the shoot or taking advantage of what occurs whilst you are out can produce stunning images, providing all the things that need to come together to produce a successful image, are actually there. We are going to look at the things that are important and how they combine over the next few chapters.



You simply cannot plan to go out and shoot rainbows - you have to be lucky.



The time of year and location can make it easier to get opportunistic shots.



If the scenery is dramatic and the lighting is right even shooting in the middle of the day can give great images.

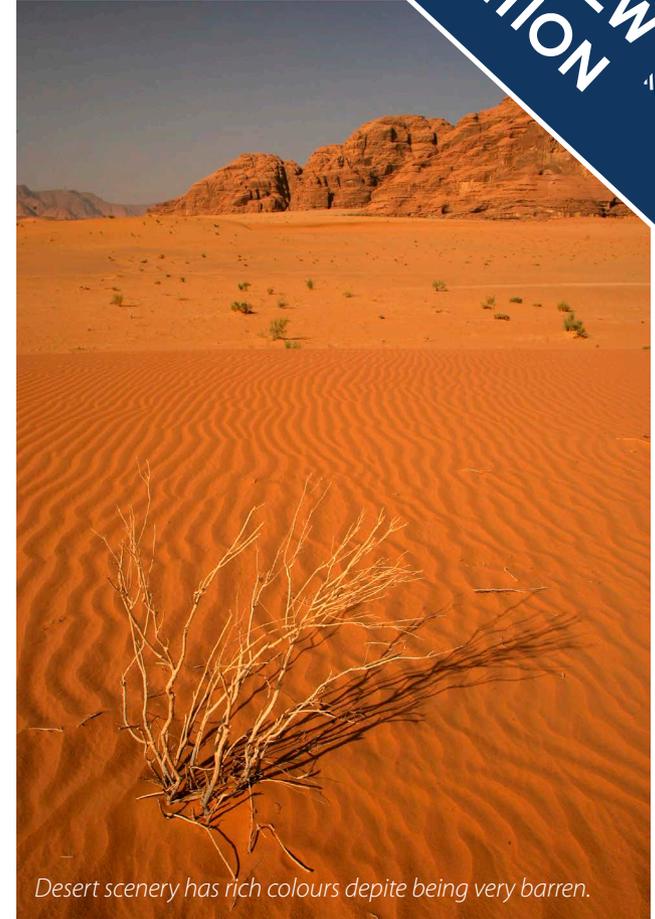
Location and its affect on landscapes



The UK has scenery that is predominantly green and blue.



Polar regions have much less colour.



Desert scenery has rich colours despite being very barren.

The location that you shoot in will also change the type of images that you are taking. Granted, there are images that can be taken in virtually all locations, but some locations are more photogenic than others.

The geographic position of where you are shooting will also affect a number of things. What there is to photograph, the colour within the image, the lighting that we have to shoot

with and the time of day when the scene will be at its best to photograph.

The type of landscape will also affect how well the exposure system on the camera will cope and what, if anything, that the photographer will need to do to get the image correct.

It is also going to change the equipment that you will need. Traditionally it is thought that

landscapes are always taken with wide angle lenses.

However, there are times that a telephoto lens may convey the scene better, or in the case of urban landscapes some of the more specialist optics such as tilt and shift and even fish eye lenses are useful for creating the effect that you require. We will look at this in more depth in later chapters.

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The location can make such a big difference to the images that you take. In Antarctica with spectacular lighting it can be difficult to take a bad image.

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If the weather is less than ideal you have to work a lot harder to get great images, but picking the right subjects and keeping the framing tight can still produce some good images.



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This was shot in Death Valley at sunrise using a telephoto lens, the actual focal length used was 155mm and this has allowed me to take advantage of the compression effect given by the longer lenses.

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This is the Osseau Valley in the french Pyrenees, which is absolutely beautiful but well off the normal tourist trail, requiring a 4x4 or a very long walk to get up there but it was one of the most beautiful places I have shot. Taken with a wide angle lens with a polarising filter fitted.



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This was taken during a visit to Krimml waterfalls in Austria, shooting with the light coming towards the camera has really showed up the power in the water.

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Chapter 03

Equipment options

This image was taken in Jordan in the desert approaching sunset. This was taken at 200 ISO on a 200mm lens, the aperture was f9 and the shutter speed 1/800th.

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