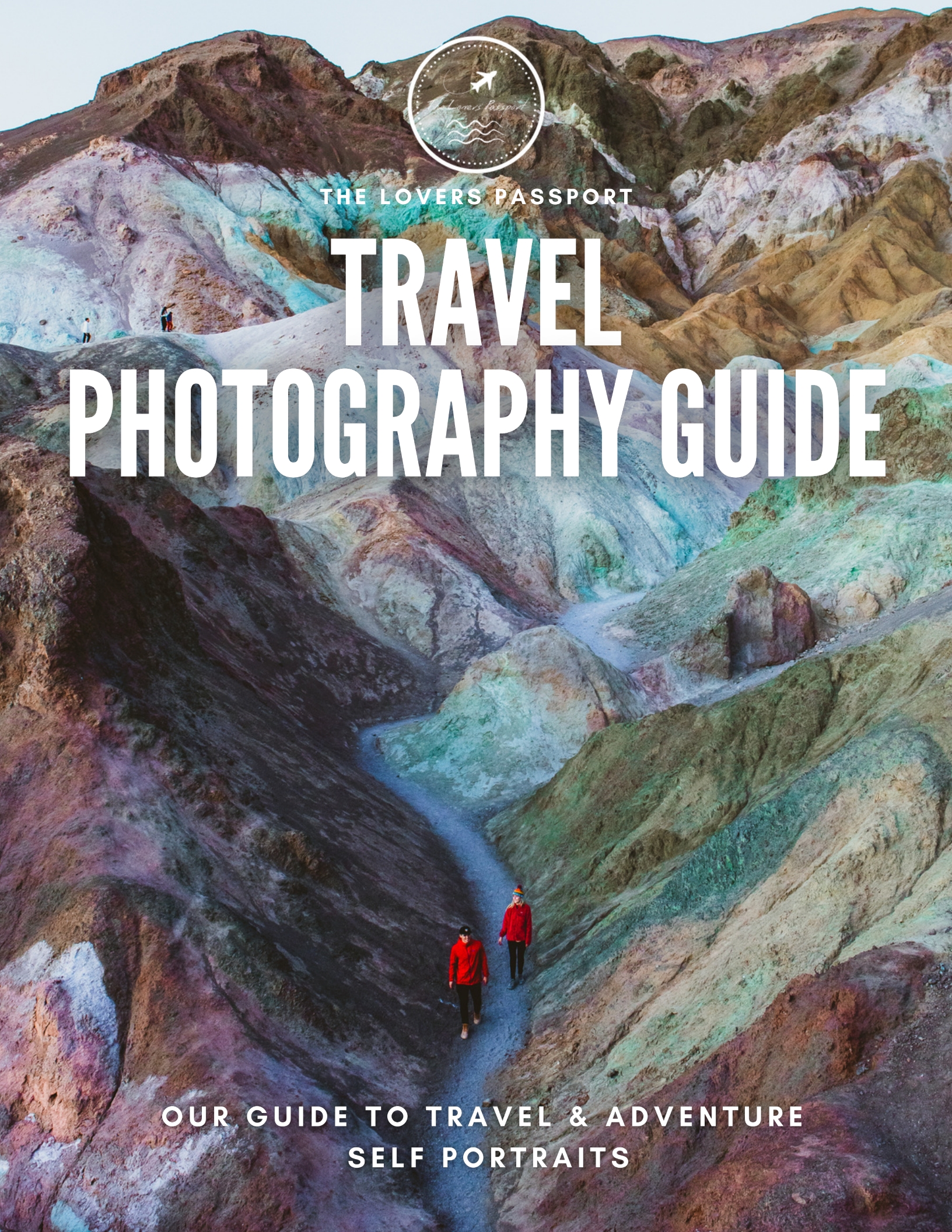

THE LOVERS PASSPORT

TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDE

OUR GUIDE TO TRAVEL & ADVENTURE SELF PORTRAITS

TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY 101

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e-Book Lessons

Introduction

1. **Photography Basics & Terminology**
   - Aperture, Shutter Speed, ISO
   - Setting Exposure
   - Aperture & Shutter Priority
   - Setting White Balance
   - JPEG vs. Raw | Saving Images
2. **Learning Your Camera**
   - Sun Flares
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3. **Gear & Equipment**
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   - Body & Lens Breakdown
   - Lens Maintenance
   - Camera Accessories
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10. **Practice Exercises & FAQs**

Final Thoughts

OUR PHOTOGRAPHY JOURNEY:

We are Giselle & Stephen, also known as The Lovers Passport. In March 2020, during our statewide lockdown for COVID-19, we decided to throw all of our free time into learning the art of photography. After knowing little to nothing about the topic, we dove in heads first to learn all the basics on Stephen's old camera. In April 2020, we bought our first DSLR Camera and started to take it on the hikes, backpacking trips, road trips, and adventures we were already doing beforehand, but swapping out the selfies for more creative and artistic self-portraits.

2 years later, we have started a successful professional photography business, grown our following to over 400k followers, and have never been happier to inspire others to get outdoors through our photography. We want to help you do the same!

This E-Book will teach you how to take your own photos if there's no one else around or so you can finally stop asking someone to take your pictures for you. We've taken everything we've learned and researched and wrote it all here! We hope this resource is the ultimate guide for you to be confident to get out there and capture amazing memories and landscapes to cherish for years to come.

If you are serious about diving into travel photography, it is all about making practicing a priority. You have to put in the work to really learn your camera, and make time to get outside and explore.

Whether you are aspiring to just take better photos, to level up your Instagram game, to improve your brand's photography, or more, the beauty of learning these camera and editing basics is that they are applicable in so many niches and jobs. We can't wait to see what you create!

See you on the next adventure!

-Giselle and Stephen

photography

TERMINOLOGY BASICS

LEARNING HOW TO SHOOT IN **MANUAL**! THAT'S RIGHT - NO MORE SHOOTING IN AUTO

APERTURE

Aperture is basically defined as the opening of a lens's diaphragm through which light passes directly, and it relates to **depth of field.** To achieve a nice **bokeh** effect, with blurred background filled with little circles of light, you will want to shoot at a lower aperture. The lower the f/stop number, the more light reaches your sensor, and the more your background is blurred. That's why many **portrait or product photographers will shoot at f/1.4 or f/2.8, so** they can achieve a **shallow depth of field**. A very popular aperture for **standard landscape photography featuring people is between f/8 and f/11.** The higher the f/stop number, the less light reaches your sensor, the greater the depth of focus, so more of your image will come out crisp. That's why many landscape photographers will shoot at **f/16 or f/22 for the full epic landscape to be in focus**.

SHUTTER SPEED

Shutter speed relates to how long your **camera shutter** is open allowing light into the **camera sensor**. This is basically how long your camera takes to take the photo. A slower shutter speed will allow more light into the sensor and a blurred effect if the object is in motion. On the opposite side of the spectrum, a fast shutter speed will stop an object in motion and freeze it in time, but does not allow you to shoot in low light situations. The 4 different shutter speeds we usually use are as follows.

Astrophotography - 30' seconds **Jumping** - 1/1000' of a second
Waterfall 1/3' of a second **Walking** - 1/200' of a second

ISO

ISO refers to your camera sensor's **sensitivity to light**. We use **ISO 100-800 for most landscapes**. We raise our ISO to **1000-2000 if we are shooting in darker conditions** where we need to keep a faster shutter speed. Astrophotography is the only time we will push past 2000 and go to a **maximum of ISO 8000**. Raising your ISO will also raise the amount of grain in your pictures, so you do not want to raise it too high depending on the camera

LESS BOKEH &
MORE DEPTH OF FIELD
BETTER FOR CRISP LANDSCAPES

MORE BOKEH &
LESS DEPTH OF FIELD
BETTER FOR PORTRAITS

Visualizing APERTURE

SMALL APERTURE

LARGE APERTURE

f/32 f/22 f/16 f/11 f/8 f/5.6 f/4 f/2.8 f/2 f/1.4

SHOT AT A F/22
NOTICE THE CLARITY & CRISP
DEPTH OF FIELD

SHOT AT A F/2.8
NOTICE THE BOKEH/SHALLOW
DEPTH OF FIELD

*APERTURE CAN BE CONFUSING BECAUSE OF THE INVERSE RELATIONSHIP OF THE NUMBERS! THE SMALLER THE F/STOP, THE LARGER THE ACTUAL APERTURE

Visualizing SHUTTER SPEED

CRISP MOVEMENT

MOTION BLUR

FAST SHUTTER SPEED

LOW SHUTTER SPEED

1/1000 sec 1/500 1/250 1/125 1/60 1/30 1/15 1/8 1/4 1/2 sec

SETTING UP YOUR CAMERA FOR CONTINUOUS SHOOTING:

The **DRIVE** mode decides how fast each photo is taken and how many photos are captured with each press of the shutter release button.

Rather than using single shooting mode for capturing motion, we recommend switching the DRIVE to **Continuous Shooting** so you don't miss any movements. When you press and hold the shutter button, photographs will be taken at a speed of 4.5 shots per second rather than one.

MOTION BLUR VS. CRISP ACTIONS

There are so many ways to capture motion in a photo. First you need to decide if you want your subject to be caught in motion or if you want a little blur to show motion. We like to stop our subject in motion, so we usually take pictures at 1/125 shutter speed or faster.

PRO TIP: To stop subject in motion use Shutter Speed 1/125 or faster and a wide aperture like f/4. To create a blur to show motion use Shutter Speed 1/40 and a smaller aperture like f/8-11

Visualizing ISO

LOW SENSITIVITY TO LIGHT

HIGH SENSITIVITY TO LIGHT

BETTER FOR DAYLIGHT

BETTER FOR LOW LIGHT
& ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY
-RISK OF HIGH NOISE

ISO 50 ISO 100 ISO 200 ISO 400 ISO 800 ISO 1600 ISO 3200 ISO 6400 ISO 12800 ISO 25600

AS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED, BE CAREFUL WHEN ADJUSTING ISO IN TERMS OF GRAIN AND NOISE. NOISE IS HARD TO EDIT AT HIGHER ISO LEVELS. ONCE YOU SET YOUR APERTURE AND SHUTTER SPEED TO HAVE ENOUGH LIGHT FOR A GOOD EXPOSURE, **THEN** SET YOUR ISO LEVEL TO THE LOWEST ONE POSSIBLE THAT WILL GIVE YOU THE A PROPER EXPOSURE.

SHOT AT ISO 100
GREAT FOR DAYLIGHT AND NO NOISE

SHOT AT ISO 3200
IF WE SHOT ANY HIGHER IN THIS SITUATION, THE STARS WOULD GET GRAINY.

PERSONAL PREFERENCE: OUT OF APERTURE, SHUTTER SPEED, AND ISO, WE ALMOST ALWAYS ADJUST OUR ISO LAST.

FINDING THE RIGHT EXPOSURE

CANON LIGHT METER

UNDEREXPOSED OVEREXPOSED

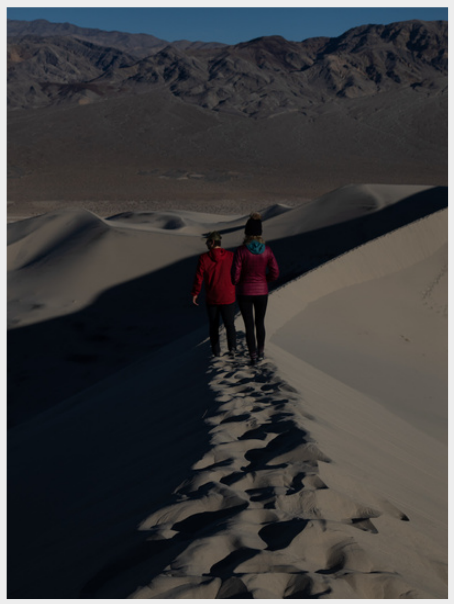
-3..2..1..▼..1..2..3+

NIKON LIGHT METER

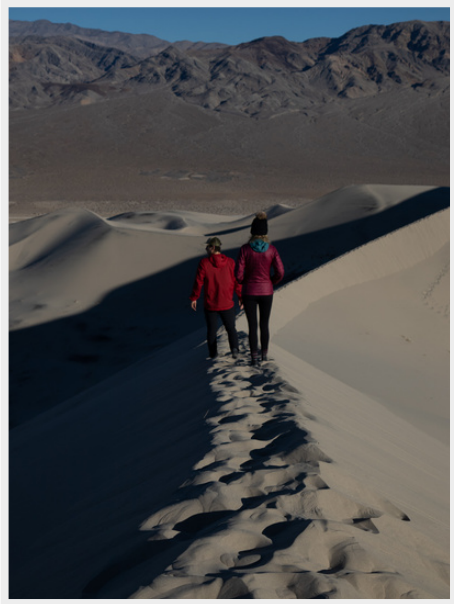
UNDEREXPOSED OVEREXPOSED

-I..I..I..0..I..I..I+

HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF 5 RAW IMAGES, ALL AT DIFFERENT EXPOSURE LEVELS.



SLIGHTLY UNDEREXPOSED



CORRECTLY EXPOSED

CORRECTLY EXPOSED

SLIGHTLY OVEREXPOSED

TOO OVEREXPOSED | NOT USABLE

FINAL EDITED IMAGE

When exposing your image, check out the **light meter**, which is the number line at the bottom of your viewfinder that looks something similar to: -2...-1...0...1...2 (for Canon). When properly aligned with 0, your photo will likely come out properly exposed. The general rule of thumb when shooting with natural lighting is that it's better to **slightly underexpose** than to overexpose your RAW images. Underexposing the image makes sure to maintain detail and color, whereas overexposing can often blow out skies, skin tones, and detail. Please note, these are personal preferences and your ability to underexpose and overexposure may vary depending on which camera you are using.

APERTURE & SHUTTER PRIORITY

APERTURE PRIORITY:

We like to call **Aperture Priority the gateway to Manual**. This is a great step towards shooting in manual because you can choose f/2.8 or f/4 for portraits, f/10 or f/14 for landscapes, or f/22 for movement in photos. This takes away the ISO and shutter speed adjustments and makes the camera do the work. We recommend trying out Aperture Priority if you are a little hesitant about making the jump to full manual.

SHUTTER PRIORITY:

This is the Tv or S on the dial of your camera. This is **great if you are taking pictures of yourself!** We use this if we want to be able to move freely and shoot at a very high shutter speed like 1/500, so we are not blurry in the image. You set the shutter speed and the camera will adjust the Aperture and ISO to take the picture at the specified shutter speed. We recommend playing with it to see if it works well with your style.

WHITE BALANCE (WB)

WHITE BALANCE SETTINGS:

WHITE BALANCE IS ESSENTIALLY HOW WARM OR COOL THE OVERALL COLORS IN YOUR PHOTOGRAPH LOOK. THESE COLORS CAN FLUCTUATE BASED ON THE LIGHTING YOU ARE PHOTOGRAPHING IN. FOR EXAMPLE, ALTHOUGH YOUR CAMERA'S AUTO WHITE BALANCE SETTING MAY WORK FOR NORMAL CONDITIONS, YOU MIGHT WANT TO ADJUST YOUR WHITE BALANCE WHEN IT'S DARK, WHEN IT'S CLOUDY, WHEN YOU'RE SHOOTING FIRE, ETC. TO PREVENT A COLOR CAST FROM APPEARING. COLOR CAST IS WHEN YOUR WHITES START TO TINT BLUE/ORANGE BASED ON THE LIGHTING CONDITIONS.

DISPLAY	MODE	COLOR TEMPERATURE (KELVIN)
AWB	Auto White Balance	3000-7000
	Daylight	5200
	Shade	7000
	Cloudy, Sunset, Twilight	6000
	Tungsten Light	3200
	White Fluorescent Light	4000
	Flash Use	6000

THESE ARE THE TYPICAL OPTIONS FOR SETTING WHITE BALANCE ON YOUR CAMERA. WE USUALLY LEAVE OURS IN AUTO WHITE BALANCE UNLESS ONE OF THESE PARTICULAR CONDITIONS IS CAUSING A COLOR CAST IN OUR TEST SHOTS; THEN WE SWITCH ACCORDINGLY BASED ON OUR LIGHTING CIRCUMSTANCES.

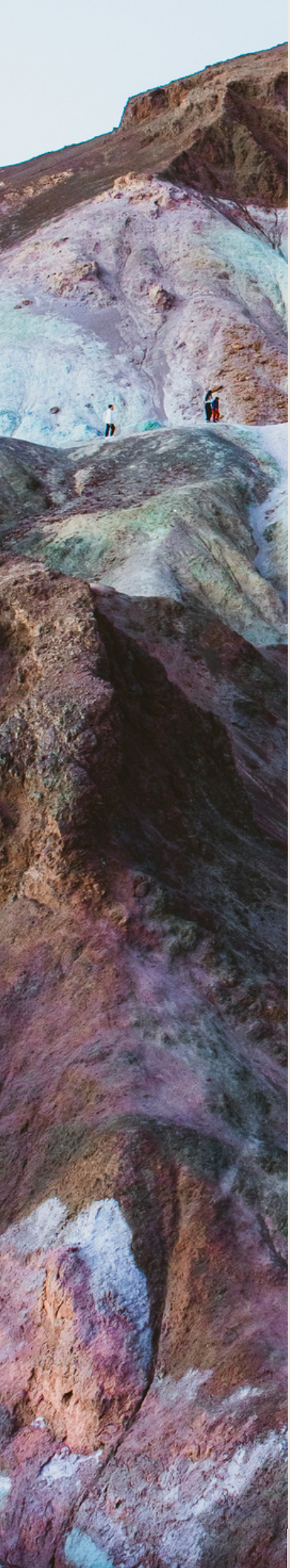
UNDERSTANDING KELVIN:

The Kelvin scale can be very useful when taking pictures so that your subject can be properly exposed. The 3 main Kelvin ratings that you need to remember are:

Tungsten: 3200 Daylight: 5200 Shade: 7000

We change our Kelvin using the presets that are already in the camera normally (see graph above). You can change this by tapping on the WB button on your camera, and selecting what you want based on the shooting environment. It is important to remember that any mistakes with White Balance can be adjusted in Post Editing. We will cover this later in the E-Book.

Pro Tip: Try using Live View (hit the start/stop button on Canon) to see in real time how the White Balance and Kelvin scale can affect the picture.



SAVING IMAGES

JPEG RAW EDITED

SHOOTING IN RAW VS. JPEG

JPEG: The original raw data is processed and compressed when you shoot in JPEG. JPEG has fewer color and sharpening capabilities as it does not maintain as much detail.

RAW: The image is not compressed and more true to tones and colors. RAW is also easier to manipulate shadows/lighting or save images that are improperly exposed. You will have to process these images via software like Photoshop or Lightroom.

We HIGHLY recommend changing your settings to shoot in RAW for more editing flexibility and options. However, RAW does take up much more storage per image, so make sure to have an external hard drive with your RAWS to not overload your computer's storage.

HOW TO CHANGE YOUR SETTINGS

CANON: In camera settings click on quality (Canon) and choose Raw. If you can't find it, grab your camera manual and look for Raw.
SONY: MENU → (Camera Settings) → [Quality] → desired RAW.
NIKON: Hit menu/I button and click on image quality and choose Raw.

SD CARDS

- SanDisk Extreme PRO SDXC UHS-I
- SanDisk Extreme PRO SD UHS-II
- Lexar Professional Class 10 UHS-II 2000X

You want to make sure the SD cards you are using write at a fast speed and can hold enough storage to save a ton of RAW files.

HOW TO ACHIEVE A SUN FLARE IN YOUR SHOT

Using an aperture somewhere between f/16 and f/22 will result in a nice and crisp "sun star" or "sun flare."

Be aware! The sun can move very quickly during sunrise or sunset. We usually set the corner of the flare to be more covered during sunrise, and more exposed during sunset, to allow the sun to move and still give it a nice sun star.

We like to shoot two different exposures during sun flare pictures. Furthermore, we try to overexpose 1 stop to give everything a more golden look (the picture in the cave) so we can have a nice bright edit.

We also underexpose everything by 1 stop for a second round of pictures to give it a moody vibe. Both are shot under or over exposed in RAW, and then edited in Lightroom to our liking.

Things to Remember

- Shoot in a low Aperture like f/18 or f/22
- Bring a lens hood to block other light that may create green spots
- Use Photo Pills to see exactly where sun will be
- Move Tripod every 5 minutes to adjust for sun
- Shoot in Aperture Priority mode
- Try hiding sun behind objects
- Use Horizon to capture sun flare
- Lower Aperture for smaller sun flare f/22 to f/14
- Try using a Polarizing Filter to adjust hues

Long Exposure Photography

Smooth Waterfalls, light trails behind a car, capturing movement, and photography in low light conditions are all reasons to shoot in long exposure. We love long exposures because it gives a dream like feel to the photo. When you shoot at a slow shutter speed such as 1/30' that means you are shooting at 1/30th of a second. That is how long the sensor is shown light which can have a beautiful effect on the photo if done right.

Things to Remember

1. Make sure you are shooting in Manual because you will want to adjust Shutter Speed, ISO, and Aperture
2. Use a Tripod. We Repeat. USE A STURDY TRIPOD!
3. Get a Remote Shutter Release for exposures longer than 30 seconds. This will take away camera shake from pressing shutter
4. Get a ND filter (Neutral Density Filter) to help control the amount of light in the shutter. Basically sunglasses for your camera
5. Use Photo Pills to figure out how long to expose in certain situations

Most Used Settings for Long Exposure

Waterfall - ISO 100 1/3' f/10

Astrophotography - ISO 4000 30' f/2.8

Blue Hour - ISO 100 5' f/11

Clouds - ISO 100 5' f/14

Landscape - ISO 100 10' f/22

Sunset - ISO 100 3' f/16

Our Process: When we shoot long exposure we have a checklist we go through. We first put it on the tripod and get what we want in frame. Next, we attach our ND Filter on the lens. Giselle goes and stands in frame so that we can get the focus correct. After that we lower ISO to 100, put aperture to around f/8-f/14, and adjust the shutter speed to the effect we want. We grab the remote, hold as still as possible, and BOOM!

SHOOTING ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY

THE BASICS

Astrophotography is one of the hardest types of photography. First off we think it is very important to start off by saying **BE PATIENT.** We did not capture the Milky Way and stars our first few times trying! Here is a step-by-step list of how to shoot astrophotography.

1. Start with **PhotoPills App**. We open the App and go to Night AR and point it up to the sky. This will show you exactly where the Milky Way is, and you can align your subject where you want it.
2. We set **Tripod and Camera up with our widest lens** and set ISO to 1000, Shutter to 30 seconds, and lowest aperture possible like f/2.8 or f/4. Adjust focus to manual focus and **set manual focus dial to infinity symbol.**
3. After that we take a picture, look at the result, adjust the framing that we want, and decide if we want more light or less light. After we determine that we will raise the ISO to 2000 and continue raising it until we reach the proper exposure.
4. After we have all settings adjusted, framing perfect, and light sources turned off; we attach the remote timer and take 10 pictures with various poses while trying to stay as still as possible.
5. Check pictures and redo process until happy with results. PRACTICE makes perfect!!

Pro Tip: Always adjust focus to manual and set to infinity, use the widest lens you have to capture sky, raise ISO no higher than 8000, take multiple pictures in case a shooting star or other light source interfere, and BE PATIENT! It will take time.

CAMERA GEAR

Things to Consider

DSLR VS. MIRRORLESS CAMERAS

DSLR CAMERAS: OUR PICK: CANON 5D MK IV
Optical viewfinder, older generation of cameras, more affordable, bigger, heavier, and more lenses available

MIRRORLESS CAMERAS: OUR PICK CANON R5
Lightweight, digital view finder, burns through batteries, fewer lenses available, and more compact. Modern photography moving towards mirrorless cameras

FULL FRAME VS. CROP SENSOR

FULL FRAME CAMERAS: OUR PICK CANON R5
More expensive, higher quality image, heavier, better low light capabilities, and professional grade camera.

CROP SENSOR CAMERAS: OUR PICK CANON 90D
Cheaper, lighter, very beginner-friendly, smaller sensor, less low light capabilities, and smaller depth of field.

BEGINNER VS. ADVANCED

BEGINNER CAMERAS: OUR PICK: Rebel T7
Before buying the most advanced camera out there, make sure to learn on a more budget camera. We started out on a Canon 80d from Amazon refurbished.

ADVANCED CAMERAS: OUR PICK CANON R6
They are MUCH more expensive, but you can also do a lot more as a professional photographer with the more expensive bodies.

DUAL MEMORY SLOT VS. SINGLE SLOT

DUAL MEMORY SLOT: OUR PICK CANON R5
Professional and more convenient when shooting large amounts of data. Great for shooting events like weddings & engagements.

SINGLE SLOT: OUR PICK CANON R6
Easier to use and more convenient, but slower read rate and higher chance of being corrupted.

REMINDER: YOU DON'T NECESSARILY NEED FANCY EQUIPMENT TO CREATE GREAT CONTENT

PHONE CAMERAS HAVE BECOME SO ADVANCED THESE DAYS THAT MANY PEOPLE JUST PREFER TO TAKE PHOTOS WITH A PHONE! HOWEVER, IF YOU WANT TO PURSUE CONTENT CREATION FOR BRANDS, WE'D HIGHLY RECOMMEND INVESTING IN A CAMERA!

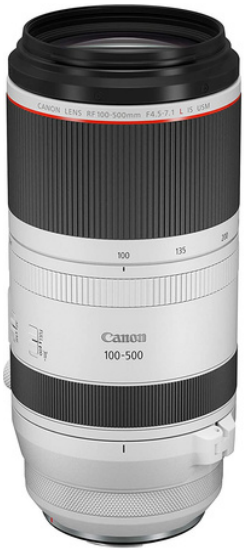
OUR GO TO
CAMERA GEAR

This is a comprehensive list of the gear we've used in the past year! By no means does that mean it's the best for what you are trying to accomplish, however, we have absolutely loved these pieces of gear for adventure travel photography. Make sure to do your research based on the kind of photos and qualities you want in a picture when choosing a specific camera or lens!

CANON EOS R5 CAMERA BODY

24-70MM F/2.8 LENS *(ZOOM LENS)*

15-35MM F/2.8 LENS *(ULTRA WIDE LENS)*



100-500MM F/4.5 LENS *(TELEPHOTO LENS)*

ALTERNATIVELY, YOU COULD USE A 70-200MM LENS.

For a full list of camera gear that we own, but aren't necessarily essentials for first starting out, check out our camera gear blog **linked here**!

WHICH LENS SHOULD I USE?

LENS BREAKDOWN

NOTE: SINCE WE SHOOT ON CANON, THE EXAMPLES BELOW ARE ALL CANON LENSES. HOWEVER, THERE ARE EQUIVALENTS OF THE SAME LENSES FROM OTHER BRANDS LIKE SONY/NIKON/FUJIFILM, ETC.

24-70MM F/2.8 LENS
(ZOOM LENS)

BEST FOR: VERSATILITY
THIS ZOOM LENS IS GREAT BOTH FOR WIDE ANGLE WORK SUCH AS A LANDSCAPE, OR ZOOMING IN TO TAKE A GREAT PORTRAIT.

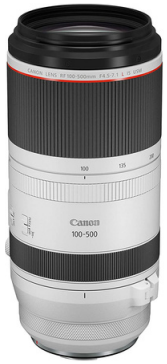
CONS: No Image Stabilization, Heavy, and expensive
CROP SENSOR EQUIVALENT:
Canon 17-55 mm f/2.8

16-35MM F/2.8 LENS
(ULTRA WIDE LENS)

BEST FOR: WIDE ANGLE

CONS: THIS LENS CAN HEAVILY DISTORT SUBJECTS THAT ARE TOO CLOSE TO THE CAMERA.

CROP SENSOR EQUIVALENT:
Canon 10-18mm f/4.5-5.6

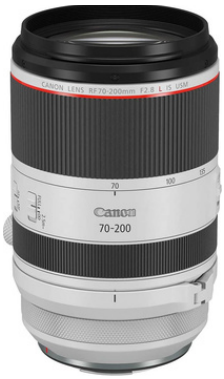


100-500MM F/4.5 LENS

BEST FOR: COMPRESSION

CONS: THIS LENS IS EXTREMELY HEAVY. UNFORTUNATELY, IF YOU WANT TO BRING IT BACKPACKING YOU'LL HAVE TO SACRIFICE THE WEIGHT CONVENIENCE THAT COMES WITH OTHER MORE LIGHTWEIGHT LENSES

CROP SENSOR EQUIVALENT:
Canon 70-300 f/4.5-5.6



70-200MM F/2.8 LENS

BEST FOR: COMPRESSION

CONS: THIS LENS IS EXTREMELY HEAVY. UNFORTUNATELY, IF YOU WANT TO BRING IT BACKPACKING YOU'LL HAVE TO SACRIFICE THE WEIGHT CONVENIENCE THAT COMES WITH OTHER MORE LIGHTWEIGHT LENSES

CROP SENSOR EQUIVALENT:
Canon 70-300 f/4.5-5.6

50MM F/1.4 LENS
(CHEAPER OPTION: 50MM F/1.8)

BEST FOR: PORTRAITS, PRODUCTS

CONS:
THIS LENS IS EXTREMELY HEAVY. UNFORTUNATELY, IF YOU WANT TO BRING IT BACKPACKING YOU'LL HAVE TO SACRIFICE THE WEIGHT CONVENIENCE THAT COMES WITH OTHER MORE LIGHTWEIGHT LENSES
CROP SENSOR EQUIVALENT:
Canon 35 mm F/1.4

35MM F/1.4 LENS

BEST FOR: PORTRAITS, PRODUCTS, WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY

CONS: THIS LENS IS EXTREMELY HEAVY. UNFORTUNATELY, IF YOU WANT TO BRING IT BACKPACKING YOU'LL HAVE TO SACRIFICE THE WEIGHT CONVENIENCE THAT COMES WITH OTHER MORE LIGHTWEIGHT LENSES

400MM F/2.8 LENS

BEST FOR: SPORTS/WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

CONS: EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

BEFORE INVESTING IN LENSES, make sure to figure out what you want to shoot! It could be sports, wildlife, birds, landscapes, architecture, portraits, or any number of other subjects. Lenses also have a different price range, so you will have to consider budget. Lenses that are capable of f/1.4 or 2.8 are usually more expensive than those that shoot at f/4. Here is a list of just SOME of the incredible options out there with a breakdown of what they're great for!

TAKING CARE OF YOUR EQUIPMENT

LENS MAINTENANCE

Lens Rocket Blower - This is a must-have in every camera bag. We use this to avoid touching our lens and camera with our fingers. Every time we switch lenses we point our camera towards the floor, blow in our camera 5-10 times, and blow into the lens before attaching. It helps get rid of dust and keep equipment clean!

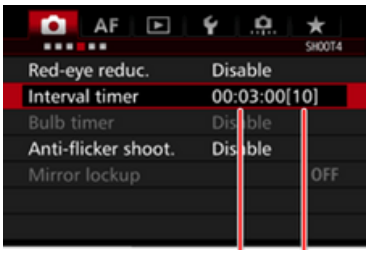
Lens Cloth - We have 4 microfiber clothes in our camera bag. **NEVER** try to wipe of your lens with a t-shirt or other towel because it will leave mini scratches on the lens. We highly recommend always having one in your pocket, a spare in the camera bag, and a few extras just in case you drop your microfiber (it's going to happen).

Peak Design Rain Fly - This is especially important if your camera is not weather sealed. We have it to help keep the camera dry in winter storms and always keep it in our bag just to be safe. It wraps up the camera and works perfectly with the peak design capture clip. If you plan on going out in all weather conditions it is a must!

UV Filter - These filters are very inexpensive and help keep your lens safe. The quality of the picture is just as high, and it helps keep dirt and other oils from our fingers off the expensive lenses. Check your lens size before buying because each one is specific to a 67,72,77, or 82 mm lens.

TAKING YOUR OWN PHOTOS

REMOTE VS. INTERVAL VS. SELF TIMER



Pros - Easy to use, range up to 300ft away. Only takes pictures when you want. Very easy to set up.

Cons - Takes extra batteries, chance that it does not work if too far. Sold separately from camera.

Pros - Included in most modern cameras. Ability to adjust how long in between shots. No extra add-ons to carry with you

Cons - Takes extra pictures before you get in position. Difficult to set up sometimes. Not all cameras have this feature

Pros - Every camera has this self-timer function. It is very easy to use

Cons - Only takes 1 picture. Only options are 2 seconds and 10-second self-timer

CAMERA ACCESSORIES

THE CAMERA GEAR WE USE FOR OUR OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

TRIPOD

Investing in a good tripod was one of the best decisions we could have made! Not only does it allow you to take your own pictures from a stable perspective, but it also allows you to experiment with astrophotography and long exposures (we'll get into these topics more later!). We started off with a cheaper tripod off of Amazon, but then decided to invest in the Peak Design Travel Tripod because of it's amazing capabilities and size for traveling, as well as its lifetime warranty.

REMOTE

Before we had a remote, we had to rely on our camera's intervelometer or self-timer and that just turned out to be impractical. We now have 2 different wireless Bluetooth remotes that we use to control the shutter release on our camera and that has been a game changer for us! We have used a few, but our two favorites so far are the Pixel Pro and the Aedolan Pebble, which we'd highly recommend for similar Canon DLSRs. Regardless of what remote you buy, just make sure to look at the tech specs of it on the product page to see how far away it can reach. Both our remotes work almost up to 300ft away! Don't forget to check as a lot of people limit themselves by purchasing a remote that only works up to around 20-30ft. That's how we are able to capture insane landscapes in our self-portraits.

CAPTURE CARD

The Peak Design Capture Card is the best way to hold your camera on a backpack. We love to climb rocks, use our hands for drinking water, or for hiking poles and do not want to have to hold a camera the whole time. This allows us to be hands free but always have the camera ready to go. We used to use a strap, but it would always irritate our necks. This is a game changing piece of gear!

VARIABLE ND FILTER

The Moment Neutral Density (ND) filters decrease the amount of light entering the camera. This gives you more control over shutter speed and aperture in full sun conditions. Variable neutral density filters allow the photographer to rotate the outer ring to allow different grades, or amounts, of darkening. They are also incredibly useful for long exposures! For long exposure shots like with water or blurred clouds, you will want a 6 stop or 10 stop ND filter as this will give you an exposure time of at least 30 seconds and up to 4 minutes. The higher stop filters will enable you to get those long exposures.

For a full list of camera gear that we own, check out our camera gear blog **linked here**!

I-PHONE PHOTOGRAPHY

SHOOTING "IPHONE BANGERS"

START OFF WITH YOUR PHONE:

If you are just starting out with photography, practice all the upcoming composition and lighting tips with your phone's camera! The quality of today's phone cameras is INSANE! Phone cameras may be less advanced than DSLR or mirrorless cameras, BUT the quality of a photo is not just about the equipment you're using. You can have the most expensive camera out there, but if you don't master the tools of creating a story and composition, you won't be an amazing photographer.

SETTINGS WE RECOMMEND TURNING ON:

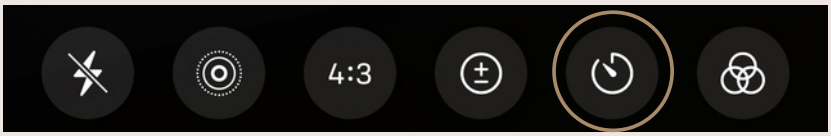
Scene Detection, Faster Shooting, Lens Correction, and Smart HDR

HOW TO TURN ON GRID LINES:

Grid lines are great if you are trying to abide by the Rule of Thirds for composition. Simply go to Settings > Apps > Camera > Grid (Turn the Slider on)

SELF TIMER MODE:

You can set up a self-timer for 3 seconds or 10 seconds.



SHOOTING IN BURST MODE:

If trying to shoot faster moving objects or GIFs on your iPhone camera, shooting in Burst Mode can be beneficial! Tap and hold down the shutter button for an extended period of time. Or, you can also hold down the volume up button on an iPhone.

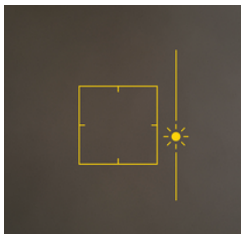
Once you are down shooting, make sure to tap the "Select" button to go through your shots and save the ones you like while deleting the rest so that your memory doesn't get taken up as fast.

USING PORTRAIT MODE:

This is a great feature for adding bokeh to your photos as it adds a shallow depth of field so that your subjects stand out. We find it best to shoot your subject from at least 2 feet away. When Portrait mode is ready, the name of the lighting effect, such as Natural Light, turns yellow.

i-Phone Photography

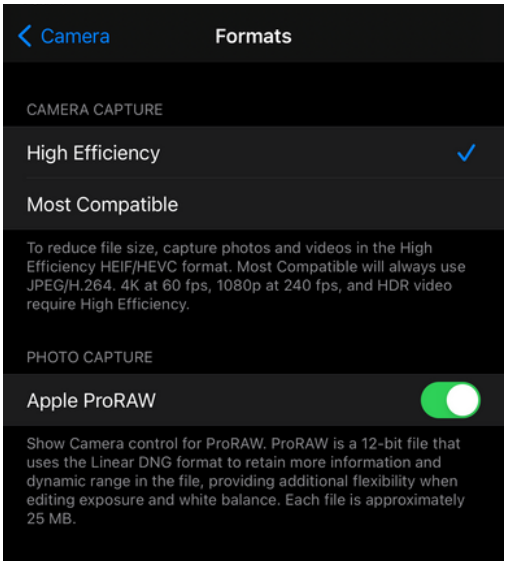
CHANGING YOUR IPHONE EXPOSURE:



Tap the subject of your photo on the screen and a box with a little yellow sun will appear. Adjust the slider as necessary to make your photo brighter or darker. Again, we usually underexpose our photos slightly. They can always be brightened in Lightroom after; however, if its overexposed, it's a lot harder to fix in post.

SHOOTING IN RAW ON IPHONE

The newest models of the iPhone actually allow you to shoot RAW images on your phone via the Apple ProRAW feature. To turn this on, go to Settings > Camera > Formats, then turn on Apple ProRAW. To take a ProRAW photo, tap RAW in the Camera app (top right corner), then take your shot. If you do not have the latest model, you can unlock shooting in RAW by downloading a third party app like VSCO. Just remember, RAW images take up a large chunk of memory to store.



SHOOTING LONG EXPOSURES:

Yes - it is still possible to capture long exposures without a camera! However, you will need an iPhone 6 or later with the iOS 11 update or later in order to access the features you will need. If you don't fall into this category, you can always download an external app that can enable you to take long exposures like Slow Shutter Cam. You should still use a tripod if possible.

Open your camera and turn on Live Photos. Once you take the photo, open up your shot in the Photos app and swipe up. You will now see four choices: the live video snippet, Loop, Bounce or Long Exposure. Select Long exposure.

REMINDERS

when setting up your shot

1. CLEAN YOUR LENS BEFORE USING IT

This goes for all camera lenses, including iPhones! You will want to make sure all the residue from your pockets, fingers or body oils are cleared. Glass on camera lenses is EXPENSIVE, so make sure to **take care of it with a camera cleaner and/or a microfiber cloth.**

2. MAKE SURE YOUR HORIZON IS STRAIGHT

Although this issue can usually be fixed in post-production with editing, it is much easier to capture a straight horizon out of the camera. Try using the grid lines on your camera to match with your horizon. Shooting on a tripod also helps with this issue as it's more stable. **We hit info 3 times on Canon, and it allows us to see if we are straight or not**.

3. MAKE SURE YOUR FOCUS IS CORRECT

There's nothing worse than thinking you've captured an epic shot only to realize that it was blurry! We as photographers use **autofocus** more often than **manual focus**. Autofocus allows the camera to set the point of focus in your image whereas manual focus works by letting you determine the point of focus.

The main reason we like autofocus is simply convenience since we have no one to make sure the shot is indeed in focus when we take our own photos. Manual focus, however, is especially helpful if you are shooting at night or in low light, or if you are shooting a subject that is backlit with little contrast. **If you are in doubt if your subject is in focus or not, hold down the shutter halfway to test where your camera's focus is set.**

*OPTIONAL:

If intending to post your photo on Instagram, remember that it will be cropped to a 4:5 ratio, so make sure to **leave room in your photos for the crop to avoid losing crucial pieces of your image**.

Step by Step Self Portrait Tutorial

STEP 1

TRIPOD & CAMERA SETUP

Set up your tripod and attach your camera to it. Make sure it's at the correct height and angle you want to be capturing. Adjust the settings on your camera to your liking. Start with the desired aperture, then set shutter speed, and raise ISO to let in the desired amount of light.

STEP 2

FOCUS ON SUBJECT

If shooting multiple people, have one person stand in frame and focus on them. Have them adjust their positioning to make room for where you will be standing/sitting. If you don't have another person, we recommend using an object like a backpack for test shots.

STEP 3

TEST THE REMOTE & GO!

If shooting multiple people, have the person in your frame test the remote to make sure it works. Or if, you're using a self-timer or an intervalometer, make sure the settings are working correctly. Then head into frame and start shooting! Make sure to check your shots to ensure you photographed what you desired!

SHOT PLANNING

RESEARCH & LOCATIONS

Behind every shot is a ton of planning and research that goes into the making of the photo! All the following factors come into play when trying to capture our photos:

- **LOCATION SCOUTING**
- **BEHIND THE SCENES PREP**
- **BLUE HOUR VS. GOLDEN HOUR**
- **SUNRISE VS. SUNSET SPOTS**
- **POSES**
- **SHOT COMPOSITION IDEAS**
- **USEFUL RESOURCES**

Being prepared and doing research ahead of time can save you time and energy when getting ready for a shoot on an adventure when time and lighting is precious!

LOCATION SCOUTING

How do we find amazing places to photograph? The simplest answer is LOTS of RESEARCH and Trial & Error! Here are our shot planning tools:

ALL TRAILS (FREE & PRO VERSIONS)

We find all of our local gems that we shoot via All Trails or The Outbound. People post photos of the hike and their ratings of the trails along with great trail data for the area itself.

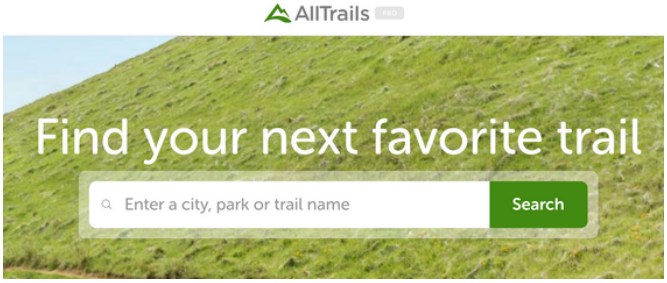


PHOTO PILS APP

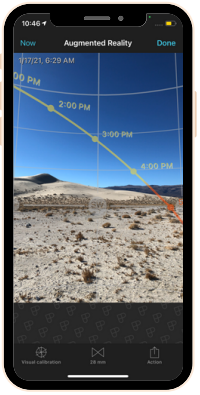
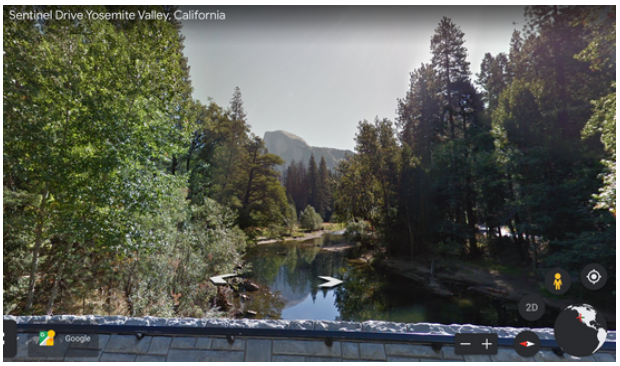


Photo Pills is an amazing resource that will tell you where the sun is setting and rising in the sky using your phone's camera! It also gives you great information on astrophotography and blue/golden hour times.

GOOGLE EARTH

Google Earth can let you see street and aerial views of spots you want to visit! This is a screenshot of the location we ended up shooting for the photo pictured on the left in Yosemite!



PINTEREST BLOGS

There are SO many resources and blogs out there on Pinterest that give much more detailed explanations on locations than Instagram ever would.

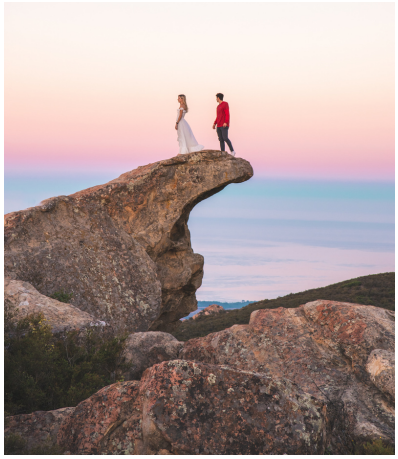
BEHIND THE SCENES PLANNING

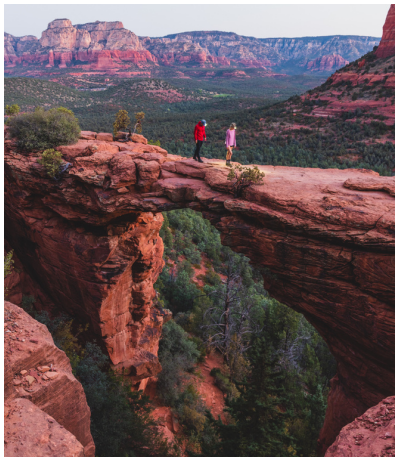
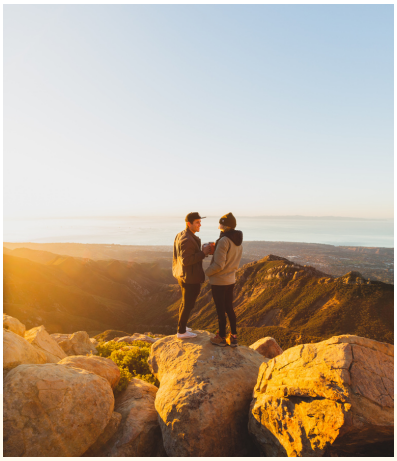
BE PREPARED

EXTRA THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE SHOOTING:

1. **OUTFIT PLANNING**: Do your outfits pop against the background you will be shooting against? Or are you blending in?
2. **WEATHER:** Is your camera gear weatherproof? Are you prepared for snow, rain, wind, etc.?
3. **CELL RECEPTION**: Do you know where you are going for the shoot? Or do you need to download map data ahead of time or reference a paper map to find the location?
4. **SUN POSITIONING:** Where is the sun? Do you want shadows/highlights on your subjects?
5. **BATTERIES:** Do you have extra camera batteries? If it's cold, make sure to keep your batteries in your pocket/sleeping bag to prevent them from dying early from the cold.

GOLDEN HOUR VS. BLUE HOUR



GOLDEN HOUR

Golden hour is:

- The hour after Sunrise
- The hour before Sunset

Effect: Glowing, Golden Tones

These two times of day are the BEST times to shoot outdoor photography, especially if you are just using Natural Lighting to shoot, like we do for adventure or travel photography. You want to avoid shooting professional looking photos in the middle of the day, unless you are just taking pictures for fun!

BLUE HOUR

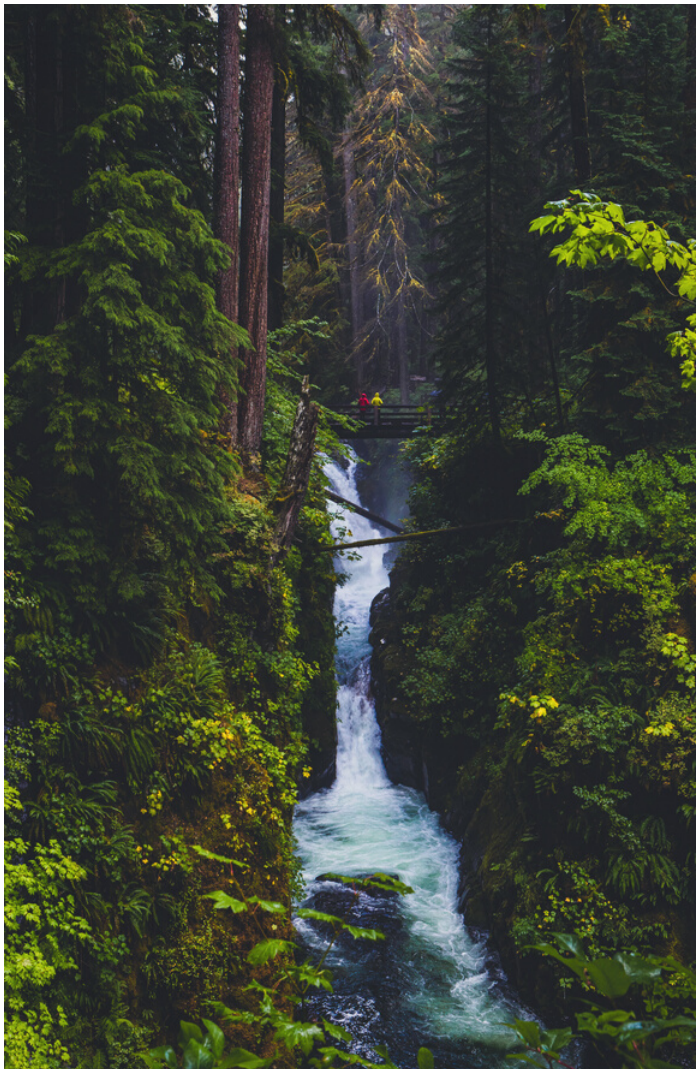
Blue Hour is:

- The hour right before Sunrise
- The hour right after sunset

Effect: Dreamy/Moody, Magenta/Blue/Purple Tones

These two times of day are fantastic for shooting areas that often get harsh shadows/highlights, are great for shooting moody photos with darker tones, or are ideal for shooting any headlamp, lantern, or twinkle lights in an image.

PRO TIP: If you are shooting during golden hour, the sun should ideally be shining into your subject's face! This usually means that the photographer will position the camera so that the sun is behind it. Avoid shooting directly into the sun because your subject will be underexposed or the background will be overexposed.

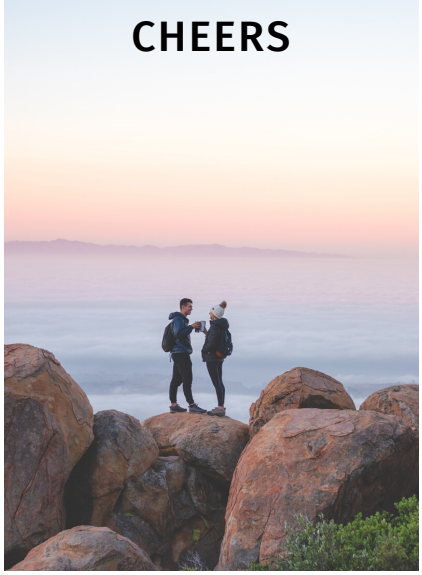


HOW TO TELL IF A LOCATION IS BETTER TO SHOOT AT SUNRISE OR SUNSET:

There have been a few times that we showed up to a location thinking we were going to see this insane sunset and realized that it was a sunrise location! There is not really a bad time to see a sunset or a sunrise, but most locations definitely are more beautiful at one time. We research every location that we go to take photos and try to find the best time to visit. Here are a few tips to help you plan out your adventure better.

1. **Google the location** and simply say "Is LOCATION a sunset or a sunrise photography spot?"
2. Look at Google Earth to see which **direction the location is facing.** We like to shoot a location when it is facing the sun so that it has beautiful golden lighting and is not too backlit.
3. Find inspiration on Blogs, Instagram, and Pinterest. We **make a short list** that has inspo to help us get a feel for what the sunrise or sunset is supposed to look like. Most people will say sunset or sunset in their description.
4. Use **PhotoPills Planner Feature** (Have we convinced you that this is the best app ever?) to look up a location and see which direction the sunlight will be hitting a location.
5. **Time of the year**. This is something that we always research now! The sun moves a lot through the different seasons. For instance, sunrise at Tunnel View in Yosemite National Park peaks perfectly around El Capitan making it a very scenic location for sunrise during Spring, but during the winter month the sun rises much further south, which makes the sunrise location much less desirable because of where the light will hit. Do your research and be thorough, so you know what to expect at different times of the year

COUPLES POSING



SOLO POSING

IN SOLO POSING WE ALWAYS LOOK TO MAKE TRIANGLES WITH OUR BODIES! IT'S AESTHETICALLY MORE PLEASING!

COMPOSITION

Composition of a photo is essentially what elements the photo consists of. Some of these elements include the Rule of thirds, leading lines, Framing, Patterns and Textures, Spacing, and more.

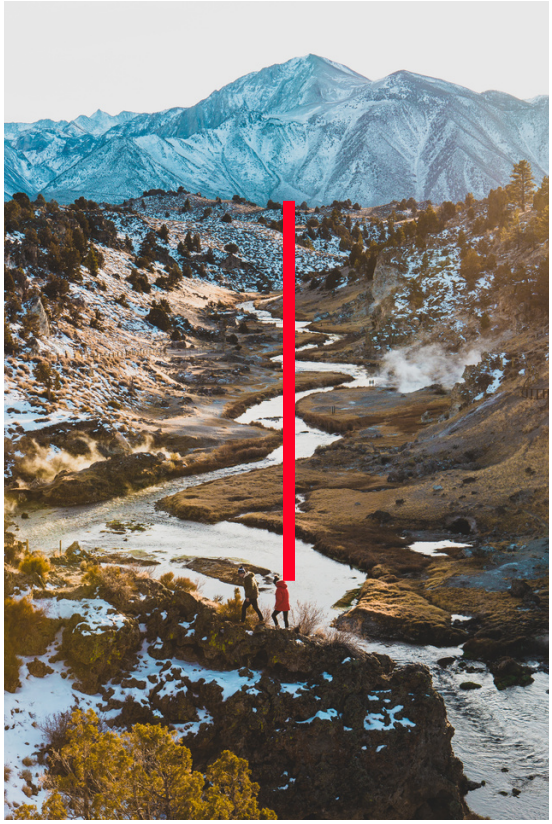
Reflections

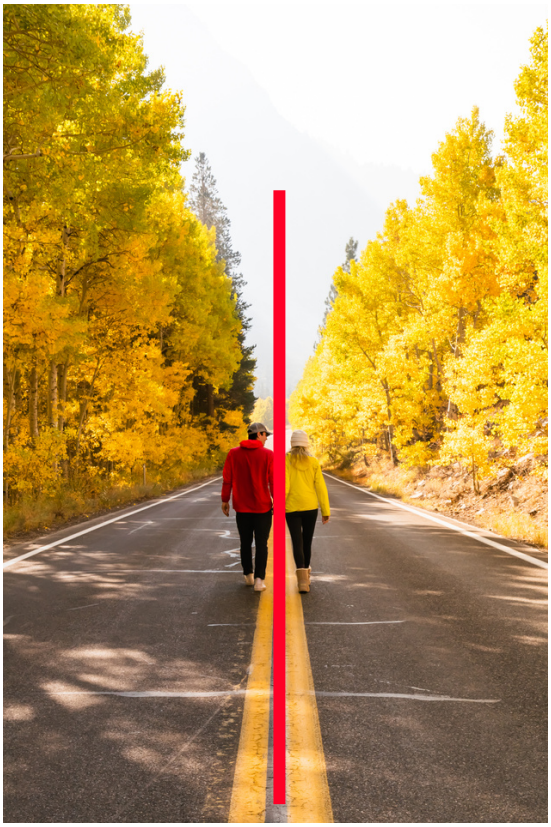
Reflections off calm water, sidewalks, tables, sunglasses, mirrors, etc. are incredible to capture and a great way to add balance to an image!

Composition:

Leading Lines

Leading lines are great for drawing the viewers eye to a certain part of your image by using natural lines in roads, rocks, rivers, architecture, buildings, etc.





Depth

The Depth of field is the distance between the closest and farthest objects in a photo that appears acceptably sharp. For instance, layers in the background or grand landscapes will give the appearance of great depth.

Foreground: the foreground is the portion of the frame that is closest to the camera. By adding objects to the foreground such as flowers or leaves, you can draw attention to a subject located farther back in the frame.

Background: the background is farthest from the viewer. Use an f/1.4 or f/2.8 aperture to make the background more 'blurry' with a bokeh effect so your foreground/subject pops OR shoot at a higher aperture to make sure the background is crisp.

Framing

Try using natural objects to create a unique frame around your subjects! We often use trees or plants, but this could also be buildings, props, etc.

Composition

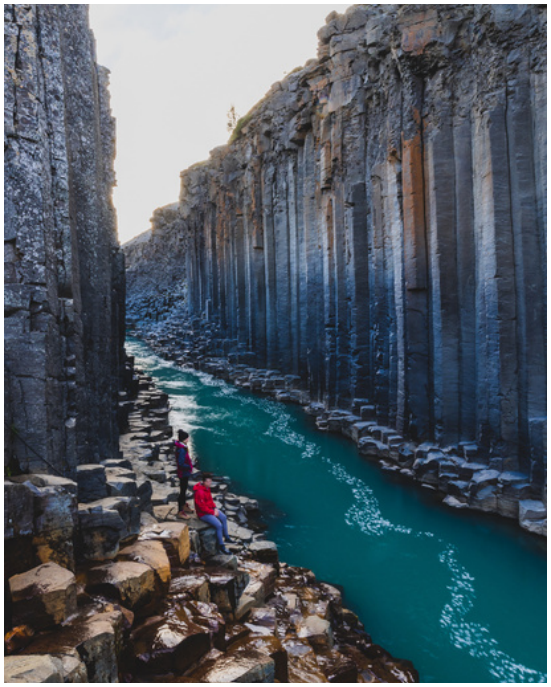
Rule of Thirds

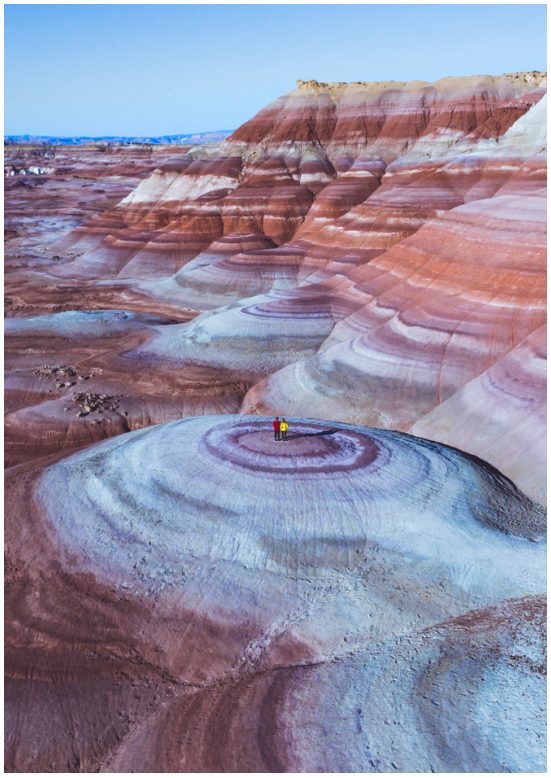
The rule of thirds slices your image up into 9 different sections. It suggests placing key elements of your photo at the points where any of the lines intersect. Think about what elements or subjects of the photo are most important, and try to position them at or near the lines. This is just a guideline to spice up your image, feel free to get creative and center your subjects when you please! Make sure to leave headroom and space on either side of your subject too!

Composition

Playing with Perspectives

The first thing we do whenever we arrive at a location is figure out which perspectives we should set up the shot at! We change angles, focal lengths, and distances to try to find a unique composition. It's always interesting how many perspectives you can find on the same landscape. We always recommend walking around to try and figure out unique ways to set up a shot, but always keep in mind your safety as no shot is worth you putting your life in danger.





Try spicing things up with an aerial/Birds Eye view perspective if you have a drone (where they are allowed!) Drones are **not allowed** in any wilderness or National Parks.

PERSPECTIVES CONTINUED...

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

DJI MAVIC 3
(PRO DRONE)

DJI MAVIC MINI 2
(BEGINNER DRONE)

Although fun to have occasionally, a drone is 100% not a necessity for beginning photographers! We only have one since we were gifted it! A great beginner drone is the DJI Mavic Mini 2. Any drone that is bigger will require a license to fly recreationally or commercially and must be registered with the FAA. We recommend using the Mavic 3 for professional Drone Photography because of the RAW image capabilities and then 1" image sensor, allowing for high quality images. Click here to read more about the rules & regulations.

PRO TIP: If your drone cannot shoot in a vertical format, combine 3 landscapes of slightly different vertical angles inside of Lightroom afterwards via a Panorama Photo Merge. Go to Photo > Photo Merge > Panorama Merge. This helps capture the immensity and scale of landscape photos without losing pixel quality!

Symmetry

Photos that contain symmetry can be incredibly pleasing to the eye by offering a sense of balance and harmony within the frame.

Color Symmetry

For example, Stephen is wearing all black and Giselle is wearing all white. This offers a sense of balance.

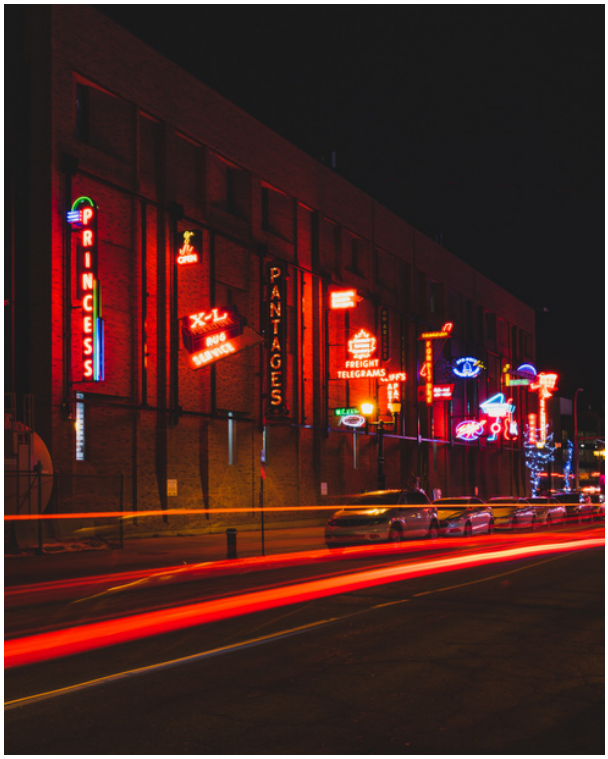
Geometric Symmetry

The background gives off a mirror-like effect in that when split down the middle of the frame, the photo is completely balanced.

COMPOSITION

Patterns and Textures

For texture photography three aspects are particularly important: curves, contrast and patterns. Shooting against textures and patterns that are unique like sand, layered rocks, salt flats, and canyons can also spice up your image's composition!



Composition

Playing with Props & Artificial Lighting

Adding something like a headlamp, lantern, and twinkle lights is an easy way to add some flare to your pictures. We love the challenge of shooting longer exposures, as well as the light gives is a wanderlust feel. We always have 2 head lamps in our backpack for those hikes in the dark, as well as have a lantern and twinkle lights in the car to add to the mood. Try taking the same picture with no lights and then adding lights to see how it affects the mood of the shot. We like adding light during blue hour and at night so that we can still take photos even with the sun and golden light gone.

Photo Editing 101

LIGHTROOM

GREAT FOR:

Lightroom is perfect for most basic photo editing, including:

- Cropping
- Color Correction & Grading
- White balance
- Exposure
- Tone curves
- Spot removal
- Red eye corrections
- Gradients
- Sharpening
- Noise reduction
- Lens profile corrections

LIGHTROOM VS. LIGHTROOM CLASSIC:

The biggest difference between Lightroom & Lightroom Classic is that Lightroom is Cloud based (Desktop, Mobile, & Web) whereas Classic is local storage based (Desktop only). Lightroom has automatic backups and Classic does not. However, Classic does have more comprehensive features and is recommended for experienced photo editors.

PHOTOSHOP

GREAT FOR:

Photoshop is perfect for things that you, simply put, can't fix in Lightroom. We tend to recommend it for the following purposes:

- Advanced Retouching
- Composites & Sky Replacements (When you want to take pieces of separate images and combine them into one new image).
- Panoramas (Stitching several photos together. Note: Lightroom does this as well, but with different effect.)
- Advanced Healing: The healing brush capabilities of Lightroom aren't as detailed as using Photoshop's tools.
- New Elements: inputting new elements like smoke, clouds, etc. that weren't already present in the original photo.

PRO TIP: If you are just starting out, we HIGHLY recommend learning Lightroom first as it is much more user-friendly & organized in terms of workflow. Then, once you are comfortable with the basics, transition into learning Photoshop!

PHOTO EDITING BASICS:
OUR MOST USED TOOLS

LIGHTROOM

EDIT (E)

This is where you'll change the lighting, color, effects, detail, and optics of your image. This is the tab we use the MOST!

CROP & ROTATE (C)

This is great to remove people from the background, to touch up fine details, marks, and blemishes when they aren't too invasive on your subject! Otherwise, we go to Photoshop as it's better for this task.

HEALING BRUSH (H)

This is great to remove people from the background, to touch up fine details, marks, and blemishes when they aren't too invasive on your subject! Otherwise, we go to Photoshop as it's better for this task.

ADJUSTMENT BRUSH (B)

The Adjustment Brush tool lets you selectively apply Exposure, Clarity, Brightness, and other adjustments to photos by "painting" them onto the photo. See the area you've painted by hitting the "O" or Overlay button.

LINEAR & RADIAL GRADIENTS

The Radial Gradient tool applies local adjustments inside or outside an oval shape/elliptical mask. Linear Gradients are great for adjusting different areas of landscape photos; for example, above the horizon and below the horizon. The Linear Gradient tool, will apply adjustments in a gradual way that creates soft transitions between multiple adjustments. You can draw a linear gradient in any direction that you want to adjust whether it be horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

3 DOTS

Click here to reset/copy edits, as well as to export the photo you are editing seamlessly into Photoshop without having to separately open the app.

PHOTOSHOP

SPOT HEALING BRUSH TOOL (J)

Our most used tool! This is great to **remove people from the background,** to touch up fine details, marks, and blemishes.

CLONE STAMP TOOL (S)

Clone another part of the image. We use this when the spot healing brush doesn't cover up what we need.

DODGE & BURN TOOL

Use the dodge tool to lighten parts of your image and the burn tool to darken parts of your image.

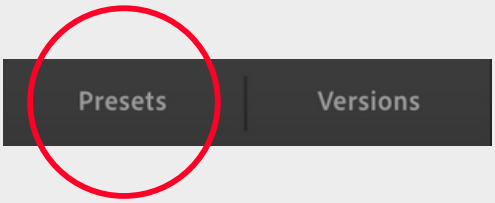
OBJECT SELECTION TOOLS

The Magic Wand, Object Selection, and Quick Selection tools are super handy for selecting parts of your image to isolate.

PRO TIP: Exporting your Photos once done editing for Instagram

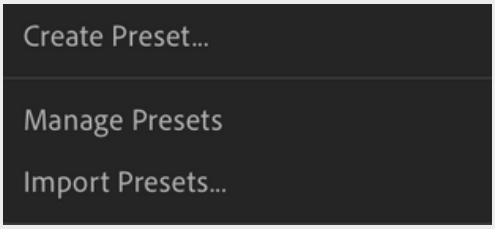
We always export in a 4 x 5 crop ratio at 1350 megapixels on the long side, so our images come out crisp on the Instagram platform.

HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN PRESET IN LIGHTROOM

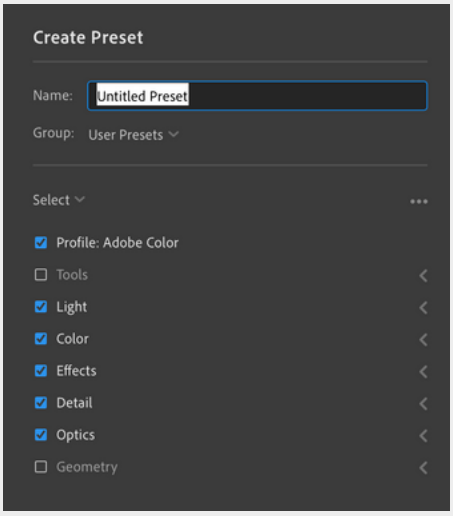


Edit your photo to your liking! Then head down to the "PRESETS" button at the bottom left of your editing toolbar.

Select the ... button



Select "Create Preset...."



Name your preset and select the settings you'd like your preset to include! Then simply hit SAVE! Now your preset will appear under "User Presets"

What is the Tone Curve?

THE TONE CURVE IN LIGHTROOM AFFECTS THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF YOUR IMAGE:

- SHADOWS
- DARKS
- LIGHTS
- HIGHLIGHTS

TO ADJUST THE TONE CURVE YOU CAN MOVE THE SLIDERS OR DIRECTLY DRAG THE LINE OF THE CURVE ITSELF UP OR DOWN TO GET THE DESIRED EFFECT BY CHANGING THE SHAPE OF THE CURVE.

ONE OF THE MOST COMMONLY USED TECHNIQUES FOR ADJUSTING IMAGES IS CALLED AN S-CURVE WHERE THE GRAPH ACTUALLY LOOKS LIKE THE LETTER S.

THE S-CURVE DEEPENS THE SHADOWS AND BRIGHTENS THE LIGHTER PORTIONS (ADDING CONTRAST), REALLY HELPING THE IMAGE POP.

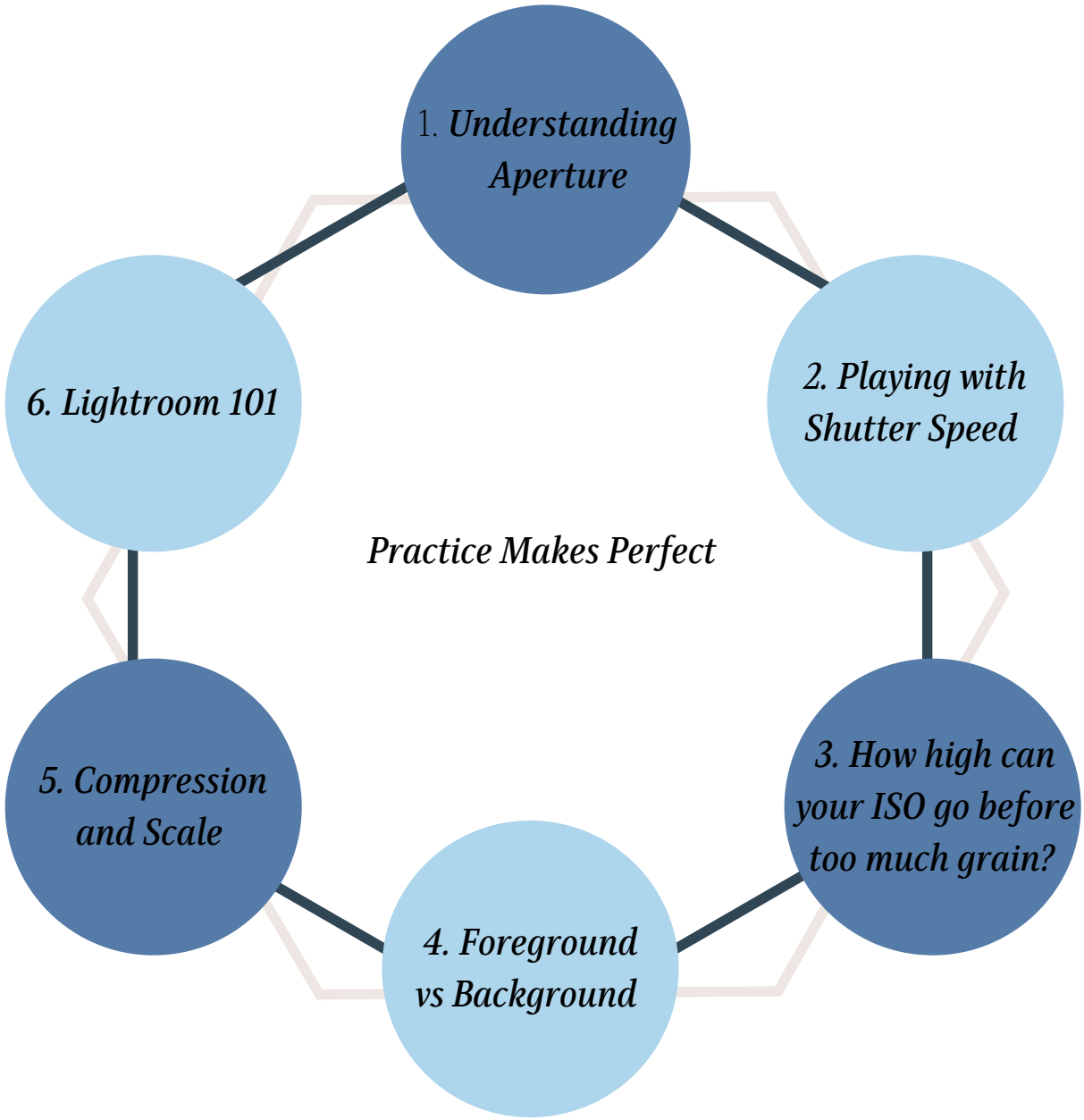
WE PERSONALLY LIKE LIFTING OUR SHADOWS OR HAVING A LINEAR LINE TO OUR TONES, BUT IT JUST TAKES SOME TIME TO FIGURE OUT YOUR UNIQUE EDITING STYLE!

CHANGING OBJECT COLORS

In Lightroom, you can mask your object you want to change colors of, so it doesn't affect the rest of the image via the **adjustment brush tool**. You can hit the "O" button to see where you brushed as it will then show your overlay. The most time-consuming part of this is definitely the masking. If the corners of your object aren't perfect, you can try turning down the defringe amount to see if the edges look more natural. Then, use the hue and color sliders to adjust to a new color. Drop the saturation of the original color on this area if needed. There are other ways to do this in Photoshop or other apps, but if you only have Lightroom this is a great way to go about it!

NOW TIME TO PRACTICE

Learning about photography and editing is fun, but the real fun begins when you start putting it into practice! We have come up with 6 different challenges to test what you have learned and put it into real life situations. Start from the top and work your way around clockwise. Try the same challenge at home and on a trip to fully understand.



PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE

*Here is a Step-by-Step Guide to each challenge. Questions? Look back at previous pages to review terms and look for the **Pro Tips** to see if those help! HAVE FUN and remember "You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start in order to be great."*

1. Understanding Aperture

- Try taking a picture at your lowest aperture f.2.8/4/5.6, take the same picture at f/11 and f/22. Do not change shutter speed or ISO
- Do the same drill but now ONLY adjust shutter speed at f/4/11 and f/22
- Focus on a subject in the center and take the same picture with 3 different apertures.
- Load into Lightroom to see how aperture effects a picture

2. Playing with Shutter Speed

- Set your aperture to the widest it will go such as f/2.8 or f/4
- Set your camera on Tripod or table and set shutter to 1/5, 1/125, and 1/500
- At each shutter speed walk across the frame and see how it affects movement.
- Adjust ISO as needed
- You should see that at 1/5 you are blurry, 1/125 you are mostly in focus, and 1/500 you are stopped in motion

3. How high can your ISO go?

- Set your ISO to 100 adjust aperture and shutter speed and take picture. Do the same process at ISO 1000, 5000, and MAX ISO.
- Export all and put in editing software to see how your camera handles ISO and what is the maximum before too much graininess
- Zoom into picture 50% and 100% to see the graininess

4. Foreground vs Background

- Find an object to set in front of camera and lens. Place the object 1-2 inches in front of the lens.
- Set focus on subject farther in distance
- Take pictures to see how it affects foreground
- Now place the same object 5-10 ft in front of you. Take the same picture but focus on the background.
- See how foreground can add a new element to the same picture

5. Compression and Scale

- Set camera on tripod and Set person in frame. Remember to mark location.
- Shoot picture at 5 different focal lengths 16mm, 35mm, 50mm, 70mm, 200mm
- If you do not have access to these lenses use what you have and start from widest
- Look at photos and see how background gets bigger as you zoom in
- Play with focal lengths to see how you can be creative with compression and scale

6. Lightroom 101

- Remove an unwanted object/blemish from photo using the healing brush
- Change the color of an object in your photo using the adjustment brush tool
- Create your own preset
- Use the Crop tool to adjust Photo to 4x5 for Instagram Crop

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What camera do you use?

We use the Canon EOS 5D mark III. We like this because it is a Full Frame Camera. Our first camera when we started out was the Canon 80D. We like both these cameras because Canon is a very reliable camera company. Check Facebook Marketplace to save $$$ when starting!

Are you scared of your camera getting stolen?

We are not scared of getting our camera stolen because usually there are not too many people around. We only leave the camera for around 2 minutes while we take the pictures. On top of that Stephen is a 5th Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo, so we feel safe if anything did happen.

What is the best beginner camera and tripod?

The best beginner camera is the one that you have. Use your phone to start off and learn the techniques. I would recommend the Canon Rebel series to anyone just started out with a 10-18mm for landscapes or a 50mm 1.8 for portraits. Our favorite budget tripod is the Joby Gorilla Pod because of how lightweight and cheap it is.

How much do you edit your photos?

We edit our photos to highlight the colors and adjust the lighting. In Addition, we do not use sky replacement or composites because we believe photography should be capturing the moment that we experienced there. We recently started using photoshop but use Lightroom for 99% of our photography on our Instagram.

How much time to you spend taking photos vs enjoying moment

We spend sunrise and sunset shooting pictures and spend the rest of the day enjoying the moments. When we first started we used to take pictures of everything because we wanted to make sure we got a shot. Now we know when we got a shot and will relax after we take photos. We think it is important to create memories not just with photos.

How do you take pictures so far away?

We take pictures using our Remote! We have tried other things, but we think that the remote is the easiest and most reliable when taking pictures. The max distance for any shot we have posted is 300ft.

When do you like taking pictures the most?

We like taking pictures at sunrise the most. Sunrise has a lot less people when visiting popular locations. We love the blue hour and golden hour lighting during the morning and recommend anyone looking to start photography to get up for sunrise and shoot.

Should I buy the best camera when first starting out?

Expensive cameras usually have features that are not necessary when first starting out. We recommend starting on your phone or investing in a good crop sensor camera to start. The camera is not going to help you take better pictures. Learning how to use your camera first and then upgrading to a full frame camera is always what we suggest to beginners.

How did you learn photography?

We learned photography through practice and research. To start, we watched lots of Peter McKinnon videos on YouTube and then reading blog posts on what makes a good picture. We have grown A LOT since our first pictures and that is because of practice. Do not get frustrated from how your pictures look. Learn from each picture and try again.

JOIN THE COMMUNITY

WE'VE CREATED AN EXCLUSIVE FACEBOOK GROUP FOR OUR TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY COMMUNITY!

We want everyone to have a safe space to share your work! Ask questions, post your progress, ask for feedback and more! Join the group The Lovers Passport Photography Fam here.