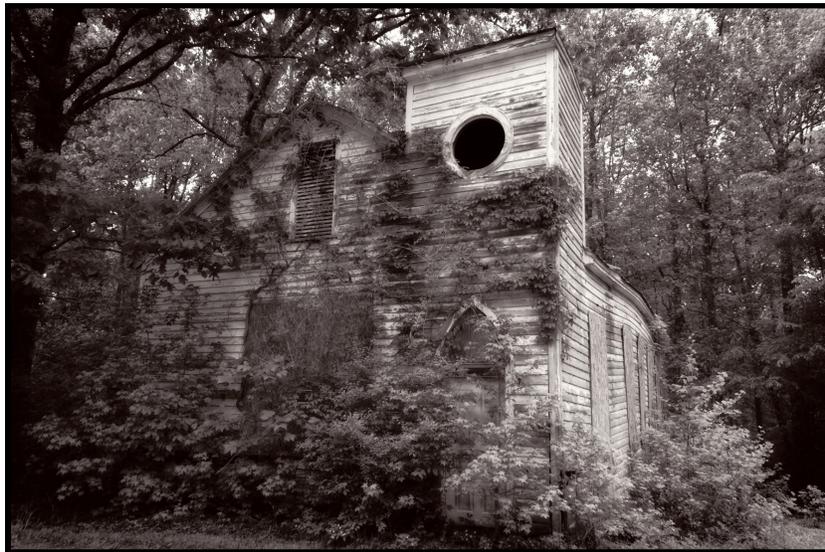


November PhotoShow Winners

"Abandoned Places"



1st Place – David Hall

**More Top
Pics
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APC ACTIVITIES

Next Meeting

Dec. 19, 2022

7:00pm First Baptist Church

Field Trips

Q1 2023

Duke Chapel (begins in December)

See more info on page 4

Programs

Dec. 19, 2022

Member Slideshow

2023 PhotoShows

See page 6 for Themes

Exhibits

TBA

President's Comments—December 2022

By Keith O'Leary

Hi. Where did 2022 go? It's hard to believe we are in December already! Thank you for re-electing me as your President for 2023. I appreciate your confidence in me and I am looking forward to great things ahead.

End of year tips for your equipment: Confirm time of day in camera settings per the recent time change and also a good time to check for any firmware updates.

Thanks to Dick and our PhotoShow judge, Barney Koszalka, for a good PhotoShow on Abandoned Places last month. I trust you enjoyed the show and learned some things too. We will be meeting back in the

Fellowship Hall this month and I am looking forward to our Christmas party on the 19th. As a reminder, spouses are welcome and we'll have food and a photo slideshow highlighting all who have submitted photos for this event. You will also have an opportunity to join us in expressing our gratitude to the church for allowing us to use their facilities this year by making a monetary donation.

Thanks for your participation in making this a great club.

Stay well and Happy Shooting!

APC BOARD

President	Keith O'Leary	Publicity	Carole Barnard
Vice President	Sam Lynch	Outings/Field Trips	Hugh Comfort
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PhotoShow Chair	Dick Schenck	Past President	Scott Duvall
Exhibit Chair	Angela Bostek	Editor	Ray Munns

November 21st PhotoShow – “Abandoned Places”



2nd Place – George Bohannon



3rd Place – Tom Jamison



HM 1 – Don Myles



HM 2 – Ray Munns



HM 3 – Sam Lynch

Barney Koszalka, thank you for your time and effort in assembling and critiquing our APC November PhotoShow! Your experience, comments, and suggestions were very helpful in developing our photography skills. Also, thanks to Dick Schenck and his team for collecting the photo entries and making the PhotoShow possible.

Membership Corner

Ken Sellers

Our annual membership drive is officially underway now through February 2023. There are several ways to join or renew. On-line membership and renewal is now available. It is simple and easy. Just go to our web site, www.alamancephoto.com, and follow the prompts. Of course, you can always renew or join at our monthly meetings. Either way, the annual fees are the same, \$40 for an individual, \$60 for families (2 or more from the same household), and \$15 for students (age 16-21). Don't forget, with Christmas right around the corner, a gift of APC Membership might be just the perfect gift!

Ken Sellers

Membership Chair

2023 Field Trips

- Q1 Duke Chapel (see information below)
- Q2 Burlington Arboretum/City Park
- Q3 Duke Homestead
- Q4 TBD

2023 Q1 Field Trip

The field trip this quarter has a new wrinkle – read on. The destination for this personal field trip is Duke Chapel (401 Chapel Dr, Durham, NC 27708) on the Duke University campus. The Chapel is open to the public daily from 10 AM to 8 PM. Visitors are welcome to take photos of the Chapel **for personal use only**, as long as it doesn't disturb others or interrupt an event. For more information, go to:

<https://chapel.duke.edu/visit-events/visit#tours>

Here is the wrinkle. The field trip dates are being extended *backwards* to include December 2022. December is usually left out of field trip opportunities because of the yearend Christmas Party. By including December in this trip, interior and exterior photos of the Chapel decorated for Christmas will be accessible for those who are interested in going in December. So, the time frame for this field trip will be December 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023.

Information on photo submission will be sent by email at a later date.



WEBMASTER NOTES

New to the website!

You are now able to renew your membership online via a bank card:

Go to www.alamancephoto.com

- ◆ Click on Join/Renew in the menu bar under the Membership Tab.
- ◆ Click on Renew button.
- ◆ Choose Membership Level.
- ◆ Follow the instructions to complete payment.
- ◆ You will receive a receipt in your inbox!

Christie O'Leary

Webmaster



Christmas Party

December 19, 2022

December is around the corner, meaning our party will soon be here! This year:

- **A food sign-up sheet will be sent out by email early this month** so watch for an email and choose from the provided menu what item(s) you would like to bring.
- **Your spouse or significant other is welcome to accompany you.** On the form you will be asked to list the number attending.
- **Paper products will be provided.**
- **On your calendar, write in December 19th, 7 pm (doors open @ 6:30 pm) @ First Baptist Church of Burlington**

We are excited to see you and your spouse (*significant other*) at our annual Christmas Party!

Looking forward,

Christie O'Leary

Chair of Christmas Party Committee

PhotoShow Themes for 2023

February - Monochrome

April - Photographer's Choice

June - Macro/'Up Close'

August - Action

October - People at Work



APC Lunch Bunch

I know this Holiday time of the year is busy, but please join your fellow photographers for lunch Thursday, December 1st, at Southbound Sandwich Works, Correct Time Plaza, 3328 S. Church St. in Burlington at 12:00 noon!

No agenda, no program, no music, just friendly conversation with fellow photographers. Spouses of members are always invited.

Questions, call Leonard, at 336-270-3194.

Hope to see you December 1st at 12:00 o'clock!

How to Take Pictures of Christmas Lights

Tips and Ideas

By Tata Rossi



Learning how to take pictures of Christmas lights is an essential skill to have for any photographer who wants to organize a photoshoot during the winter holidays. During this time of year, you can see lights everywhere: in the streets, stores, malls, and your home.

That said, a beginner might struggle to take beautiful shots of Christmas lights, and the frosty weather and flickering lighting make that task even more difficult. Thus, before you rush off to take photos of Christmas lights, check out the guide below to learn how to do so properly.

1. Choose a Camera with a Good Night Mode

DSLRs and mirrorless cameras alike are a nice choice for a Christmas Light photoshoot. Nikon D750, for instance, provides an array of manual settings as well as a state-of-the-art 91000-pixel RGB sensor and a 3D Color Matrix Metering System, which allows you to take beautiful photos with rich colors.

There are also some good cameras for night photography including Nikon D850, Sony A7S II, and Panasonic Lumix GH5S.



How to Take Pictures of Christmas Lights: Tips and Ideas . . . Continued

If you're interested in a smartphone that has a quality night mode, then you should consider getting the iPhone 12 Pro or Google Pixel 4.

Even though phone cameras don't provide the same amount of detail as professional DSLRs, you can download a dedicated app

that will significantly expand the functionality of the camera. When it comes to Android camera apps, you should consider becoming acquainted with Adobe Lightroom, A Better Camera, and Camera Zoom FX.

As for good camera apps for iPhone, the most noteworthy options are VSCO, Camera+ 2, and Halide.

2. Pick a Lens with a Bright Aperture

If you have a swappable lens camera, the optimal choice would be using a lens that has an aperture of about $f/1.8$. That said, most kit lenses should be sufficient for taking pictures of seasonal lights as well.



If you plan to take portrait photos while using the lights as a backdrop, the best lenses for night photography you can use are the 50mm $f/1.4$ or $f/1.8$ lens for APS-C cameras and the 85mm $f/1.4$ or $f/1.8$ for full-frame models. Such lenses offer instant focusing, receive more light, and allow you to use low ISO values to receive bright photos with beautiful bokeh.

Should you want to take macro shots that feature Christmas lights, you'll need to purchase an appropriate lens. Since most macro lenses

have apertures along the lines of $f/2.8$, they usually receive enough light to support working only with ambient light in the room.

How to Take Pictures of Christmas Lights: Tips and Ideas . . . Continued

3. Use a Tripod to Take Clear Photos

Lower shutter speeds help better convey the beauty of Christmas lights but they are more susceptible to motion blur. Any awkward movement, a fallen object, or a pet caught in the shot can lead to blur. To deal with that issue, avoid moving around the objects in the frame during exposure and consider purchasing a lightweight tripod to keep the camera steady.



Even though you can take some quality handheld photos, you'll receive far better, sharper, and less grainy shots if you provide steady support for your camera. That said, you shouldn't feel obliged to invest in one of the best tripods, since they can be quite expensive, as long as you ensure the chosen model can efficiently support the weight of the camera and won't fall over.

4. Take Photos Remotely

If you have a tripod and set a low shutter speed, employ the camera's timer to take photos remotely. The majority of modern cameras have WiFi or Bluetooth support that allows you to control them remotely by using an application on your phone. As a result, you can receive sharper images with zero camera shake.

Conversely, if you've set a higher shutter speed, like 1/60, there's no need for taking photos remotely since you'll get the same result by just releasing the shutter manually.

5. Protect Your Gear when Photographing in Cold Weather

If it's snowing outside, you'll need to use a weather-sealed camera, get a rain cover, or brush off all snow from the camera before it starts to melt. Touchscreen or fingerless gloves are also often used by photographers to ensure their hands stay warm while they freely adjust all the necessary camera settings.

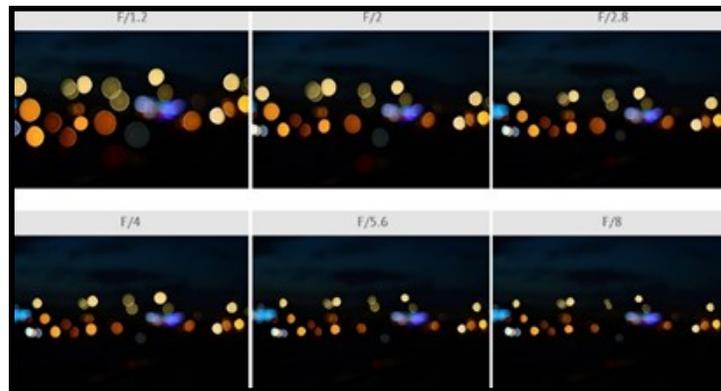


How to Take Pictures of Christmas Lights: Tips and Ideas . . . Continued

6. Brighten Up the Scene

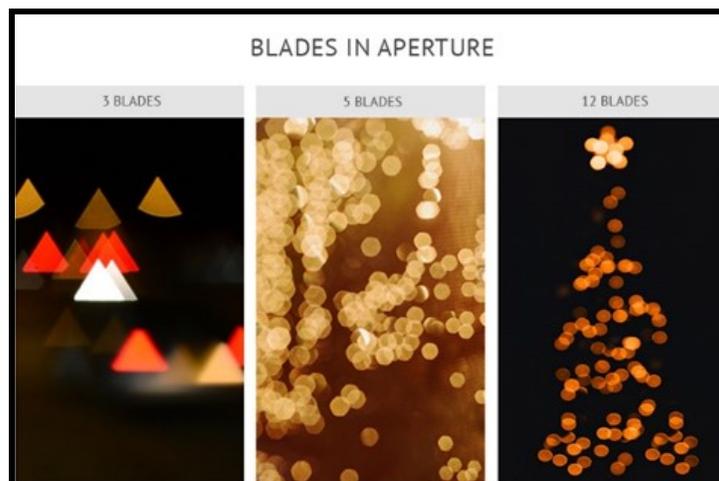
If you're learning how to take pictures of Christmas lights indoors, you're going to need additional lighting. Get a portable photography lighting kit or an alternative lighting source to get rid of harsh shadows and lower the contrast that can mess with the camera.

7. Adjust the Aperture to the Lighting



Employ the camera's A or AV mode to adjust the depth of field and determine the focus area. Go with a smaller aperture like f/8 or f/12 to increase the depth of field and have the entire shot in focus or go with a larger setting such as f/2.8 or f/1.8 to make the depth of field shallower, ensuring the Christmas lights in the background look like blurry, vibrant circles.

You can make the bokeh effect even more visible by making the distance between the subject and lights larger. Keep in mind that you can only get a good bokeh in your photo if you set the aperture at about f/4.

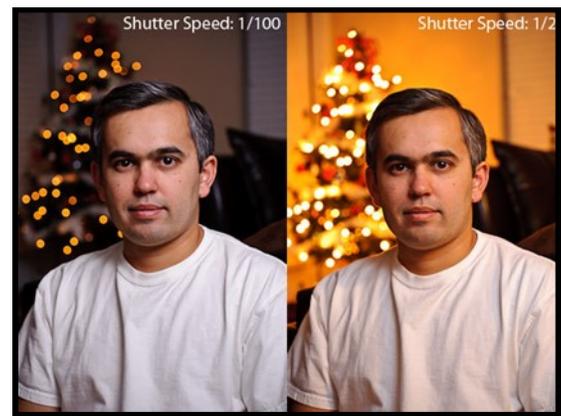


How to Take Pictures of Christmas Lights: Tips and Ideas . . . Continued

8. Set the Optimal Shutter Speed

Employ the camera's Shutter mode (S or Tv) if you need full control over the movement in the shot. The lower the shutter speed, the bigger the exposure duration and less grain in your images. The only downside of using a lower shutter speed when learning how to photograph Christmas lights is that you'll have to deal with the camera's hypersensitivity to motion so you can't get by without a tripod. Start by setting the shutter speed at about 1/8 or 2/5 of a second and go from there depending on how you like the results.

At lower shutter speeds, like 30 seconds, all motion will be blurred, which is perfect for Christmas light pictures that have people running around in the foreground or background, as they'll turn into artistic-looking streaks while the lights will remain clear and vibrant. On the other hand, if you want to capture the motion, you'll need to use a value of about 1/60 of a second to prevent blur.



9. Shoot with Low ISO to Avoid Grain



When taking photos in manual mode, you can adjust both the depth of field and blur. To do so, you have to set the correct ISO value to achieve optimal exposure. Higher ISO values cause more grain unless you're using an ISO invariant camera. It's generally recommended to use more artificial lighting for your scene to set the lowest ISO setting possible.

If you find yourself unable to adjust the ambient lighting, you sometimes have no choice but to use bigger ISO values. Begin at ISO 100 (or even lower if the camera allows it). Such a setting should be enough to deal with most dark environments and if that isn't sufficient, simply increase the exposure time until you're satisfied with the result. Increasing the ISO is a last-resort approach that should be avoided if possible.

How to Take Pictures of Christmas Lights: Tips and Ideas . . . Continued

10. Use Auto White Balance

Tungsten and incandescent white balance presets offer the best results for festive images. Since Christmas lights shine in different colors and the ambient lighting can be quite different too, it's recommended to go with the "Auto White Balance" mode when taking photos and ensure you're working in RAW format. This way, any color temperature fluctuations in your images can be fixed during the post processing stage.



11. Set the Correct Settings for Handheld Shooting

If you want to learn how to take pictures with Christmas lights in background without a tripod, you should set the largest available aperture setting and a shutter speed of over 1/ (2xfocal length) or 1/250 of a second to ensure the photos don't suffer from camera shake.

Based on the chosen aperture and shutter speed settings, you'll have to pick an appropriate ISO value. For handheld photography, apertures like f/1.2, f/1.4, f/1.8, f/2, or f/2.8 provide the best results and allow you to use moderate ISO settings to prevent noise from appearing in your photos.

How to Take Pictures of Christmas Lights: Tips and Ideas . . . Continued

12. Use Manual Focusing

If your Christmas lights produce a lot of light, they can throw your camera's autofocus system way off. If you notice the lens keeps going back and forth while trying to focus with no consistent results, you'll need to switch to manual focusing mode.

Most modern cameras come with a focus peaking function that highlights the focused parts of the shot in a specific color. Enable this function in the camera's menu to have an easier time figuring out whether the subject is in focus or not. If you're working with a DSLR, set it to Live View mode to take advantage of focus peaking.

Many new smartphones also come with a focus peaking feature, but its location in the settings menu depends on the specific application you're using for taking photos.

13. Devote Time and Effort to Editing

Editing is very important when working with Christmas light photos, as it allows you to make the colors livelier and minimize noise. Use your preferred photo editing software for beginners to boost the contrast, strengthen the highlights and whites and darken the shadows and blacks.

To make the colors even more eye-catching, subtly increase the vibrance parameter but be cautious not to overdo it. If you're unsure how to enhance a photo to make it look professional, consider ordering a retouching service.

If a photo was taken at a high ISO value so that you could have used a quicker shutter speed, employ the editor's denoise feature to deal with overabundant noise. It's important to find the optimal reduction level where you no longer see the noise but all details are still clear and preserved. If the resolution of the exported image is going to be relatively small (think Instagram), then you can use a larger amount of noise reduction without damaging the overall image quality.

On the other hand, if you need a high-resolution image for your website banner or printing, overusing the noise reduction feature can make the photo appear blurry.

How to Take Pictures of Christmas Lights: Tips and Ideas . . . Continued

14. Use Overlays to Add Christmas Lights

Overlays are fantastic tools for adding a bokeh effect to your photos or highlighting the brightness of the Christmas lights. They were developed by FixThePhoto retouchers to simplify the process of editing Christmas shots.

With their help, you'll no longer have to waste time on editing, as you can simply add the desired overlay to your photo in a couple of clicks while adjusting it to your liking. They're compatible with all currently supported versions of Photoshop.

15. Don't Use the Built-in Camera Flash

It's strongly recommended to avoid using flash for Christmas light photography as the resulting pictures can look washed out and unappealing. If you want to take a Christmas lights photo outdoors, you're likely going to be at some distance from the subject so the flash won't help with the exposure anyway. On the other hand, if you're taking pictures indoors, the flash will have too strong of an effect and overexpose the photo.



Flash takes over the ambient lighting and makes the photo look cold and artificial while also taking away the charm and coziness of Christmas lights because of the added blue tint. Instead of relying on flash as a crutch, improve the ambient lighting of the scene to maintain the authentic festive atmosphere that Christmas lights bring to the table.

How to Take Pictures of Christmas Lights: Tips and Ideas . . . Continued

16. Photograph at Twilight or Dusk

The average beginner photographer often makes the mistake of waiting till complete darkness before starting shooting at night. However, if you begin taking pictures of Christmas lights at night right after sunset, it will already be dark enough for the lights to be nicely visible while the rest of the scene will still be nicely detailed without drawing too much attention to itself.



About 10 minutes after sundown is another great timeframe for Christmas light photography. This time is referred to as Blue Hour when the entire sky has a nice blue hue to it as long as it's a clear day. Such an environment suits the colorful, vibrant nature of festive lights perfectly.

17. Look at the Photo after Taking It

After you've taken a photo, glance at the camera's display to see if there were any issues that you can fix to ensure you don't go through the entire photo shoot with suboptimal settings. Employ the zoom feature to check if the subject is in focus and make any adjustments if necessary. Also, be on the lookout for blur that can be caused by accidental tripod bumps or strong wind.

One of the biggest issues you'll have to deal with when working with Christmas lights or any kind of lights at all is flickering that isn't visible to the eye but is caught by the camera. If you notice that some lights in the picture look "unlit", use a shutter speed of 1/60 or lower to ensure the shutter won't capture the moment of flickering. Some camera models even provide an anti-flickering mode that can be enabled in the settings.

How to Take Pictures of Christmas Lights: Tips and Ideas . . . Continued

18. Create a Bokeh Effect

Occasionally, blurry or unfocused lights can create a bokeh (vibrant light circles) that make the image look more artistic and atmospheric. You can also achieve a similar effect by employing a macro lens and focusing on the subject while making the backdrop look blurry. Finally, you can have the entire scene unfocused and turn the photo into a bokeh wonderland.



It's hard to find something that conveys the magic of the winter holidays better than a photo of a Christmas tree with beautiful light balls that illuminate it from all sides. Other than the regular bokeh that can be created with your camera's lens, you can get a bokeh kit to make bokeh in various shapes like stars, snowflakes, and so on.

19. Take a Close-up Photo of Christmas Ornaments

Festive lights can be used as props when taking pictures of various Christmas ornaments. The nearer you'll be to the subject, the larger the aperture you'll have to set, allowing you to enhance the backdrop with beautiful bokeh.



How to Take Pictures of Christmas Lights: Tips and Ideas . . . Continued

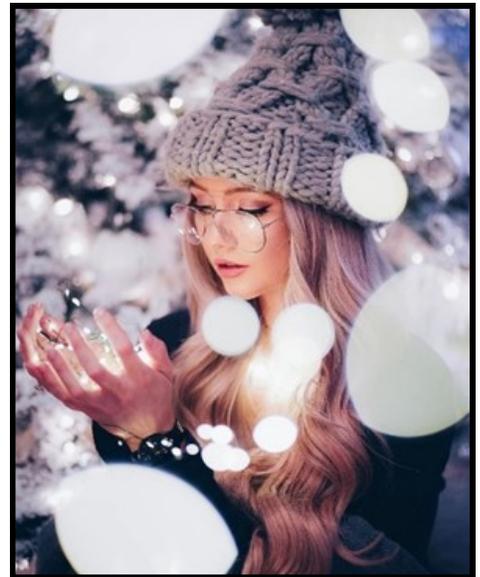
20. Take Portrait Photos with Christmas Lights



Consider taking some portrait photos that use Christmas lights as the main lighting source. To do so, employ spot metering and adjust the lighting according to the lights. As a result, the lights won't be blown out and you'll receive flattering low-key illumination on the subject's face.

21. Try Placing Lights in the Foreground

When learning how to take pictures of Christmas lights for portraits, a good Christmas photo idea might be to add some lights to the foreground for an unconventional foreground bokeh effect that also helps better highlight the model's face. The same technique is also suitable for Christmas-themed toy photography.



22. Try the Zoom Burst Effect

To create a zoom burst effect, you're going to need a tripod and a zoom lens. This technique requires you to place the camera on a tripod, switch it to manual mode, set a long exposure time, compose the shot, and rotate the zoom ring while holding down the shutter release.

7 Tips for Gorgeous Fog Photography

By Louis Raphael



Looking to capture incredible fog photos? I can help.

For most photographers, *nothing* compares to shooting in the fog. The mysterious shapes, the silky textures, the ethereal light – it's a uniquely magical experience, and it's a recipe for breathtaking photos.

But capturing stunning fog photography isn't always easy. Fog can be unpredictable, it can cause focusing and sharpness issues, and it generally appears during camera-shake-promoting low-light conditions. To create the best fog photos – the kind that you'll often find hanging on gallery walls – you need a well-planned approach. You should set out during the right conditions, use the optimal gear, choose the perfect settings, and more.

Fortunately, as a veteran fog photographer, I've developed plenty of strategies to ensure that you can capture consistently great shots in the fog. And in this article, I share my seven best tips – so if you're ready to start creating ethereal, mysterious images, then let's dive right in, starting with:

7 Tips for Gorgeous Fog Photography . . . Continued

1. Predict the fog before it happens

What's the most challenging part of fog photography? Finding the fog, of course! In many areas, fog is a rare occurrence – and you, as a photographer, have no control over the weather. So you need to learn to predict fog in advance; that way, you're in a position to capture beautiful compositions when the right conditions occur.

The simplest way to anticipate fog is to check the weather. Fog happens almost exclusively in the morning, so before you head to bed each night, take a quick look at your favorite weather app. Scroll through the hourly predictions for the next morning, and if you see the "fog" icon, choose a good location, set your alarm clock, and make sure you set off in the dark.

Another option is to wake up before the sun rises and look outside for foggy conditions (assuming, of course, that you plan to shoot near your house). The problem with this approach is that fog can burn off quickly, and by the time you've determined that fog is present, you may have missed the main event.

A third (and better) strategy is to learn to predict fog in advance. If you can understand the conditions that lead to fog, you can be prepared, no matter what the weather forecasters say. In particular, fog often occurs when:

- The ground is wet (due to the previous day's rain)
- The temperatures are low
- The wind is weak
- Skies are relatively clear

Make sure you pay special attention to the weather in late fall, winter, and early spring. While fog technically can occur at any time of the year, it happens far more regularly during the cooler seasons.

Pro tip: If you have a specific shot in mind and want to check the progress of the fog, see if you can monitor it using public webcams. That way, you can see exactly how the fog looks and whether it'll work for the image you want to capture.

7 Tips for Gorgeous Fog Photography . . . Continued

2. Bring a tripod and a remote release

Since fog often occurs at sunrise and because fog tends to heavily diffuse the ambient light, you should definitely expect darker conditions. The darker the scene, the lower you'll need to drop your shutter speed – so to prevent camera shake, make sure you carry both a tripod and a remote release.

The tripod will keep your camera steady at shutter speeds of 1/60s and below. (It also comes in handy if you plan to capture long-exposure fog shots, which I highly recommend; see the tips presented elsewhere in this article!) And the remote release will prevent camera shake when you press the shutter button. (It isn't a requirement – you can use your camera's two-second self-timer instead – but a remote release can make your shooting process faster and more precise.)

By the way, make sure you lock up the mirror before shooting (if you're using a DSLR). And regardless of your camera model, use the electronic front-curtain shutter mode to prevent shutter-induced vibrations.

3. Use manual focus and a narrow aperture

Getting sharp shots in the fog can be tough. That's why I encourage you to switch off your camera's autofocus and instead rely on manual focusing, especially if you're planning to do foggy landscape photography. Otherwise, your camera's AF system will struggle to focus in the low-contrast environment, and you may end up deeply frustrated.

Alternatively, you can use your camera's AF to lock on the highest-contrast portion of the scene, then twist your lens's focus ring to fine-tune the point of focus.



7 Tips for Gorgeous Fog Photography . . . Continued

I'd also encourage you to shoot with a narrow aperture. The narrower the aperture, the deeper the depth of field, which is essential if you want to maintain sharpness from the foreground to the (foggy) background.

Plus, a deeper depth of field offers more leeway in case you accidentally focus in front of or behind your subject. A good starting point is f/8, but you can always narrow the aperture farther if you're dealing with an especially deep scene and/or need more room for error.

Note that a narrower aperture will reduce the amount of light hitting the camera sensor, so you will need to lengthen the shutter speed – but as long as you're using a tripod (see the previous tip!) you should be just fine.

4. Get above the fog



If you want to capture breathtaking foggy landscape shots, instead of working from within the fog, see if you can rise above it. Search out various overlooks, make sure you're in position as the sun rises, then photograph the fog as it sweeps across trees and buildings.

If you're in the right place at the right time, you might even get to capture sunlight hitting the fog from above, which can look positively wondrous.

And if you're serious about high-angle fog photography, consider purchasing a drone. That way, you can capture gorgeous shots whether or not you have access to a good vantage point.

One more tip: If you do work from above the fog, you'll often run into high dynamic range scenes, which many cameras struggle to capture. Make sure you shoot a series of bracketed images; that way, if the dynamic range does prove to be too much, you can always blend several shots in post-processing for a well-exposed final result.

7 Tips for Gorgeous Fog Photography . . . Continued

5. Don't forget about the ordinary subjects



Fog has a way of turning ordinary scenes into something spectacular. So while you can capture more traditional subjects on foggy days – such as seascapes and skyscrapers – you can also take a second look at the everyday, the boring, and the cliché.

For instance, you can get great shots simply by heading to your local park and photographing trees, cattails, and fields. Or you can take a walk through your neighborhood streets and point your camera at fog-shrouded streetlights, houses, and cars.

On a related note, you can use fog to capture original images of frequently photographed locations. Everyone photographs the Golden Gate Bridge, but the Golden Gate Bridge plus some morning fog can lead to unique (and spectacular) shots.



7 Tips for Gorgeous Fog Photography . . . Continued

6. Use a neutral density filter

Neutral density filters are designed to block out light. Put a strong ND filter over your lens, and you can drop the shutter speed to 1/10s, 1s, and even several minutes without issue – even if you’re working in brighter conditions.

Why is this useful for fog photography? Well, if you can slow down your shutter speed, you can capture smooth, silky fog that looks incredible in landscape shots. Long-exposure fog appears like waves of water.



Note that ND filters come in many different strengths, and you’ll need to choose your filter based on the time of day and the lighting conditions. If you’re shooting before the sun has crested the horizon, you’ll probably need a relatively weak filter (or no filter at all). But if you’re working from above the fog and the sun is bright, you may want to bring out a 10-stop or even 15-stop filter.

Pro tip: When you’re working with an ND filter, make sure you set up your composition and focus carefully before slotting the filter onto your lens. Strong ND filters are extremely dark, so by taking such an approach, you can make sure the shot looks great while the scene is still visible in your camera viewfinder.

7 Tips for Gorgeous Fog Photography . . . Continued

7. Experiment with different shutter speeds

While I've spent time discussing the benefits of long-exposure techniques for fog photography, it's important to avoid keeping the shutter open for too long. Because while lengthy shutter speeds can certainly create stunning ethereal effects, they can also make the fog lose its shape and turn into a flat mess.

That's why I encourage you to experiment with different shutter speeds whenever possible. If you're confronted by a foggy scene and you have the time, test out a few different settings, and then view the results on your LCD. Sometimes, you might like the slower version – but other times, the faster version will look the best!



And don't shy away from relatively quick shutter speeds, either. A fast shutter speed – such as 1/60s or even 1/125s – will give the fog more texture, which can also look great.

Fog photography tips: final words

Well, there you have it:

Seven strategies for beautiful fog photos.

Hopefully, you found these tips helpful – and you're feeling inspired to get out there and experiment with fog photography.

Even if you struggle at first, don't give up. Refer back to this article, figure out what you need to do to improve your results, and keep shooting!



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Telephoto Lens Tip

Jim Goldstein

Try some telephoto macro photography

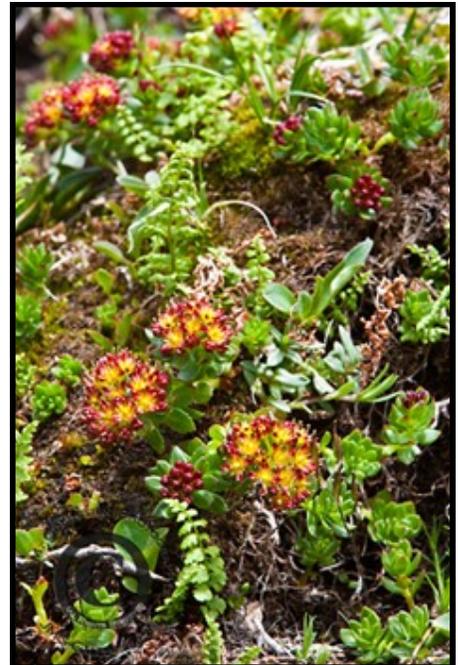
Did you know that telephoto lenses are amazing for macro photography, especially when combined with extension tubes?

You see, telephoto lenses offer great background bokeh as well as compression, which means that you can isolate macro subjects without needing to get down in the dirt. The biggest issue is that they can't always focus close enough, but that's why you should invest in a handful of extension tubes, which let you get closer to the subject without reducing optical quality.

These clusters of flowers are smaller than a US quarter, yet I was able to photograph them at 420mm.

Note that telephoto lenses and true macro lenses have their benefits and drawbacks, so don't feel like you should ditch your macro lens in favor of a telephoto lens or the other way around. Macro lenses let you get up close and personal with your subjects, and you can create interesting compositions by getting down on the ground with flowers, grasses, and the like.

But telephoto lenses offer flexibility, plus you get a nice background, so if you already own a telephoto lens, why not give it a shot?



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