

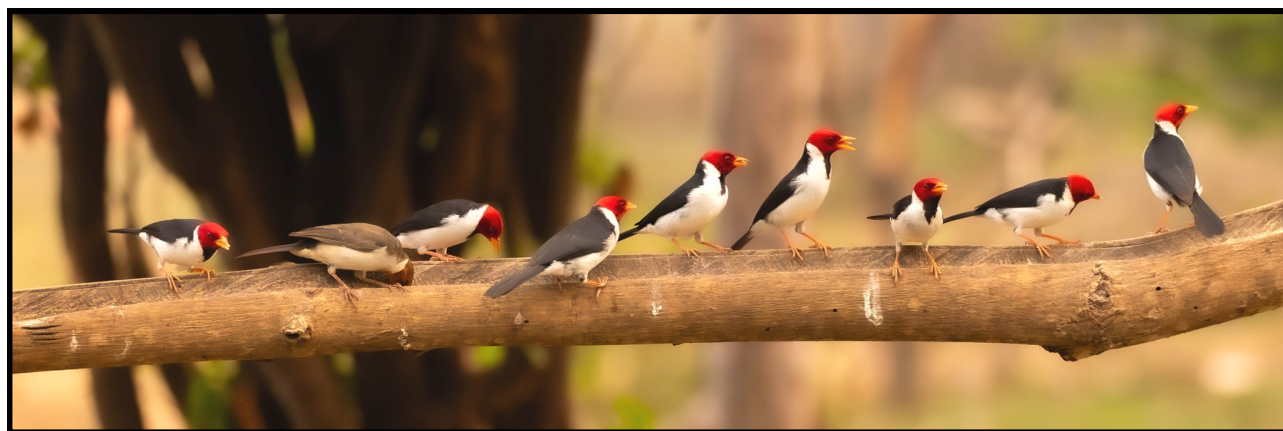


Photo by Sean Leahy

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President's Comments—October 2026

By Keith O'Leary

Seasons. September 22nd was the first day of Fall and I am so glad to see cooler temps coming our way.

Have you ever stopped to think about how many seasons we go through in life? Not just the four weather seasons each year, but the various seasons we experience on our life's journey? From birth to toddler, adolescent to young adult; getting your first job, going to college, graduating, starting your career; developing hobbies, like when you first knew you had an interest in photography; dating, getting married, raising children; changing jobs/careers, retirement, the golden years...

Over the years, Alamance Photography Club has gone through various seasons and I am thankful to all of you who have been with us along the way to get us to where we are today. We have seen various advancements and many members have come and gone over the years. As seasons change in our individual lives, we understandably see changes in our club's membership and leadership too. Entering new seasons sometimes results in

decisions to step down...or step up...from/to current roles. My hope is that our photography club is fun, educational and rewarding for all and that everyone is participating in the fullest capacity for the season of life you are in. I believe there is undeniable synergy when all roles are filled with individuals who are passionate about their contributions. As advertised in our last meeting, our secretary and membership chair have decided to step down after this year. This provides two new volunteer opportunities for you to consider as we carry the club into 2027. **This is your club and in order to keep it alive, we need you!** We can't afford to burn out those already in leadership who may feel obligated to take on these positions in addition to what they currently do. Please give this special attention and consideration.

Thank you!

Your President,
Keith O'Leary

APC ACTIVITIES - October 2026

- **Club Meeting** **October 19, 2026**

APC Board with Contact Info



President

Keith O'Leary

alamancephoto@gmail.com

VP/Programs

John Reich

johnreich017@gmail.com

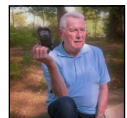
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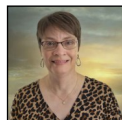
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Mio Winkle

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Newsletter

Ray Munns

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Programs for 2026

By John Reich

- ✓ January - Sterling Stevens of Sterling Stevens Design
Subject - Architectural and Fine Art Photography
- ✓ March - Mio Winkle
Subject - Mio's Underwater Photography
- ✓ May - Joe McDonald of McDonald Wildlife
Subject - The Best Techniques and Settings for Wildlife Photography
- ✓ July - Keith O'Leary
Subject - Photo Editing with InPixio Photo Studio
- ✓ September - Steve Dingeldein
Subject - Astrophotography
- November - Ann Parks of Ann Marson Annstracts
Subject - Abstract Photography

What other program topics are you interested in? Let me know of any suggestions you may have. Thanks! - John

Positions Opening Soon:

Membership
Chair

Secretary

WE
NEED
YOU

Contact Uncle Keith @ 336.693.8268/alamancephoto@gmail.com



In Case You Forgot: October PhotoShow Submission Guidelines – “Your Favorite Vacation Location(s)”

Our October Photoshow theme is “Your Favorite Vacation Location(s)”. This is a perfect subject to share photos from a place that holds a special meaning—your favorite vacation location or place you love to visit.

When you send me your photos, please include in the email where each photo was taken. As a reminder below are the Submission Guidelines.

Submission Guidelines:

Number of Entries: Up to Two or Three (2 or 3) entries per member.

Format: .jpg

File Naming: Please name your photos using the following format:

Firstname.lastname_01, _02, _03

Examples: john.doe_01.jpg john.doe_02.jpg john.doe_03.jpg

Size: Between 1 and 25 MB

Email: Send all images to apcphotoshow@gmail.com

Email Subject Line: include the month of the PhotoShow and your name

Example: Photos for (Month) PhotoShow – John Doe

Entry Deadline: Thursday, October 15, 2026

Please Note:

Submissions that do not adhere to the guidelines above may be returned.

If you have any issues with formatting or submitting, please let us know at apcphotoshow@gmail.com and we will be happy to assist. Also let us know if your submitted photo is not acknowledged within a few days and/or by the deadline.

Photo editing software with AI features (e.g., Affinity Photo, ON1, and Lightroom) is allowed. Total AI creation of photos (e.g., ChatGPT and CoPilot) is not allowed.



WEBMASTER NOTES

Our website: <https://www.alamancephoto.com/> is a great way:

- To introduce potential members to the club.
- To stay up to date on the club events.

Thanks,

Christie O'Leary—Webmaster

APC Membership Corner

October, 2026

Happy Fall Y'all

Alamance Photo Club (APC) welcomes photographers of all skill levels, we offer a variety of opportunities tailored to different photography styles.

All guests are welcome, so please feel free to invite family, friends, and community members to our meetings. Potential members can attend up to two monthly meetings before deciding to join.

Now is a great time to join: paying for next year's full membership now covers the rest of this year for free (October through December). Membership rates are as follows:

- Individual: \$42
- Family: \$62
- Student: \$15

You can join online, pay via cash, check, or at our next monthly meeting.

Resi Forrest – Membership Chair

apcmembers2@gmail.com



Dear Artist,

Alamance Arts would like to invite you to participate in our 39th Annual Experience Christmas Exhibition. This showcase has become a treasured tradition in Graham and provides a wonderful opportunity for our community to shop small and support North Carolina artists. The historic Captain White House, home of Alamance Arts, is transformed into a winter wonderland of sparkling garlands and Christmas trees, providing the perfect backdrop for a wide variety of handcrafted artisan works. We hope that you will be a part of that tradition this year.

Here's what you need to know:

- Alamance Arts staff handles the displaying and sales of all artwork. Artists set their own prices, and Alamance Arts will retain a commission of 30 percent.
- Number of pieces accepted will depend on how many artists participate and the size of the art. Specifics will be worked out with each artist individually.
- There is no submission fee for this exhibition.
- Art should be delivered to Alamance Arts during operating hours starting October 1st through October 24th. If this time line will not work for you please let me know and we will work out an alternative.
- Artists will need to sign an exhibition contract and fill out an inventory sheet. These documents can be emailed to you, or you may fill them out on site.
- This exhibition will open on the evening of Friday, November 20th with a ticketed reception. We will then be open to the public November 21st through December 24th. We will have an After Christmas Sale event January 5th-9th. Discounts applied to sales will not affect artist's 70% commission.
- Unsold art can be picked up starting Monday, January 25, 2027. Further details about art pick-up will be sent out closer to the end of the year.
- Artists intending to participate should contact me, Artist Services Director, Kat Harris, by email at artservices@alamancearts.org or by phone at 336-226-4495. Indication of intended participation would be appreciated by September 18th.

Thank you for helping to make Alamance Arts a community hub for creativity. We could not exist without the participation of our dedicated artists. I look forward to seeing all the amazing pieces you each have to offer this year.

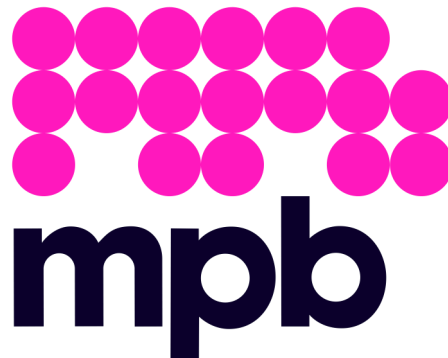
Sincerely,

Kat Harris
Artist Services Director
Alamance Arts

MPB helps you buy, sell or trade used camera gear at the perfect price.

By recirculating over half a million items annually, MPB promotes a brighter photographic future for visual storytellers of all experience levels.

Don't wait to change gear with MPB. The planet (and your pocket) will thank you. Click logo below for more info:



Fall Photography Starts before the Leaves Change

By R Schneider

When photographers think about fall, the first thing that usually comes to mind is colorful foliage.

Bright reds. Deep oranges. Golden leaves covering the landscape.

But some of the best fall photography actually happens **before peak color arrives**.

The transition into autumn changes much more than the trees. Light, weather, wildlife, and even familiar landscapes begin to look different—and those changes create opportunities that are easy to overlook.



Photo captured by Pascal Debrunner

1. Watch the Changing Light

One of the first signs of fall isn't in the trees. It's in the sky.

As the sun begins traveling lower across the sky, its angle changes. Shadows become longer, side lighting becomes more pronounced, and that warm, directional light can last longer than it did during midsummer.

Try revisiting a familiar location around sunrise or sunset.

A scene you've photographed dozens of times may suddenly have completely different light.

Fall Photography Starts before the Leaves Change . . . Continued

2. Look for Morning Fog

Cooler nights combined with lingering daytime warmth can create excellent conditions for morning fog.

Fog is especially useful photographically because it simplifies a scene.

Busy backgrounds disappear. Trees become layered silhouettes. Ordinary roads and fields suddenly gain depth and atmosphere.

If the forecast calls for a cool, calm morning, consider getting out shortly before sunrise.

3. Get Low for Dew

Early fall mornings can also bring heavy dew.

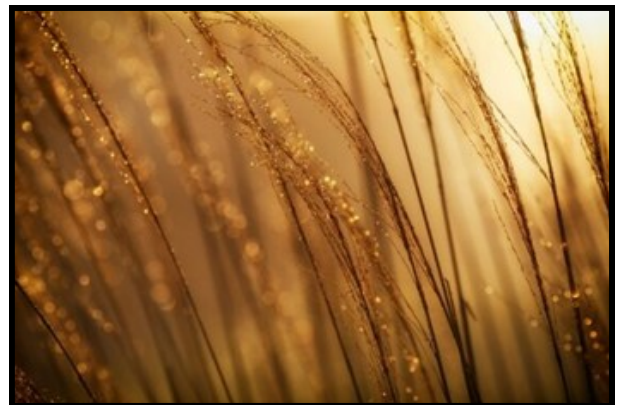
Instead of immediately looking toward the horizon, look down.

Grass, leaves, spider webs, flowers, and other small subjects can become covered in tiny droplets that catch the morning light.

A macro lens is great here, but it isn't necessary. A telephoto lens or even a phone camera can produce surprisingly interesting close-ups.

Tip: Try positioning yourself so the rising sun is behind the dew. Those tiny droplets can turn into bright points of light.

Photo captured by Johnny McClung



4. Pay Attention to Wildlife

Fall is also a season of movement.

Bird migrations begin or intensify, animals become more active at certain times of day, and changing food sources can alter where wildlife appears.

Even if you aren't normally a wildlife photographer, keep a longer lens nearby.

You may find photographic opportunities that simply weren't there a few weeks earlier.

Fall Photography Starts before the Leaves Change . . . Continued

5. Photograph the Harvest

Autumn isn't only about forests.

Pumpkin patches, orchards, vineyards, farms, hay bales, roadside stands, and harvest festivals all provide unmistakably seasonal subjects—even when the surrounding trees are still green.

These scenes also give you something foliage alone sometimes lacks: a **story**.

Instead of simply photographing “fall color,” you’re photographing what this time of year actually feels like.

6. Document the Transition

There's another reason not to wait for peak foliage.

The transition itself can be beautiful.

One red tree surrounded by green ones can stand out more dramatically than an entire hillside of red trees.



Photo captured by Zooey Li

A single yellow leaf among green leaves can become a simple composition.

Changing landscapes give you contrast—and contrast naturally attracts the eye.

Fall photography begins long before the landscape turns orange.

Sometimes the transition is the most interesting part to photograph.

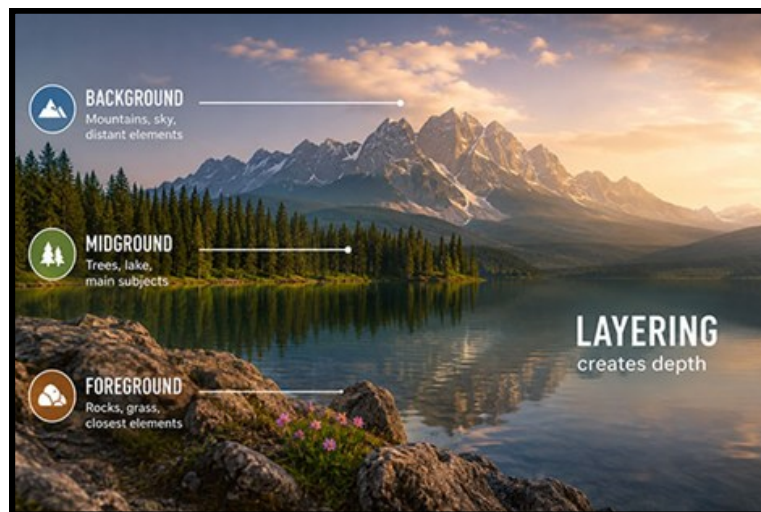
The Subtle Composition Trick to Make Landscapes Look Deeper

By R Schneider

Have you ever photographed an incredible landscape, only to look at the image later and wonder why it feels strangely **flat**?

The mountains were dramatic. The view seemed enormous. Yet somehow the photograph doesn't capture the same sense of space you experienced in person.

One of the easiest ways to fix this is a composition technique called **layering**.



Think in Three Layers

Instead of composing a landscape as one big scene, try dividing it mentally into three areas: **Foreground → Midground → Background**

For example:

- Foreground: rocks, flowers, grass, a shoreline, or a fallen log
- Midground: trees, a river, a cabin, rolling hills, or a lake
- Background: mountains, distant cliffs, clouds, or the horizon

When these layers are visually distinct, your photograph gains something a two-dimensional image normally struggles to communicate: **Depth**. The viewer's eye naturally travels from the closest element through the scene toward the distance.

The Subtle Composition Trick to Make Landscapes Look Deeper . . . Continued

Why Foreground Matters So Much

The foreground is often the missing ingredient.

Imagine photographing a mountain range from the edge of a lake. You could point your camera directly toward the mountains and create a perfectly pleasant photograph.

But now move closer to the shoreline and include a large rock in the bottom corner of the frame.

Suddenly you have: **Rock → Lake → Mountains**

That simple foreground element gives the viewer a reference point for distance. The mountains *feel* farther away because there is something obviously close to the camera.

This effect becomes especially powerful with a wide-angle lens.

Overlap Creates Depth Too

There's another subtle trick hidden inside layering: overlap.

When one object partially covers another, our brains immediately understand which object is closer. The tree overlapping a distant mountain feels closer.



Photo captured by Robert Koorennny

A ridge overlapping another ridge creates separation.

Rocks overlapping the shoreline create another visual step into the scene.

You don't need dramatic differences. Even small overlaps can prevent the different parts of a landscape from visually merging together.

The Subtle Composition Trick to Make Landscapes Look Deeper . . . Continued

Use Atmospheric Perspective

Nature often creates another layer of depth for you.

Distant objects usually appear:

- lighter
- less contrasty
- slightly cooler
- less detailed

This is known as **atmospheric perspective**.

It's especially noticeable when photographing mountain ranges. The nearest ridge may appear dark and detailed, while each ridge behind it becomes progressively lighter.

Instead of trying to eliminate that haze, consider using it.

Those tonal differences can create beautiful natural layers that make the landscape appear enormous.



Photo captured by David Becker

Don't Force a Foreground

There is one important warning.

Once photographers discover foreground interest, they sometimes start putting a giant rock in **every landscape photograph**.

The foreground should contribute to the composition—not simply prove that you know the technique.

The Subtle Composition Trick to Make Landscapes Look Deeper . . . Continued

Ask yourself:

Does this foreground element lead the viewer into the scene, or is it competing with the scene?

Sometimes a tiny patch of grass is enough. Sometimes you don't need a foreground object at all because layers of hills, trees, fog, or light already create depth.

Try This in the Field

The next time you're photographing a landscape, don't immediately take the obvious shot.

Look at the scene and identify:

What's close? What's in the middle? What's far away?

Then move your camera until those elements form distinct visual layers.

You may only need to walk a few feet, lower your tripod, or shift slightly to one side.

That tiny change can completely transform the photograph.

Because one of the secrets to making a landscape feel three-dimensional isn't finding a bigger mountain or a more spectacular sunset.

It's simply giving the viewer a path from here to **there**.

A Simple Guide to Minimalist Landscape Photography

By Simon Bond

Do you ever wish that your landscape photos were more striking – the kind of images that cause people to stop and stare? You might think the answer is to travel to breathtaking locations, but I have another, much simpler suggestion: Try going minimalist.

You see, in landscape photography (and any type of photography, really!), the simplest images are often the most striking. And minimalism is all about keeping it simple.

With minimalism, the basic goal is to pare down your landscape images until they're reduced to a few simple elements. It's not difficult to do, though creating this type of image does require thoughtful use of your lens, careful composition, and consideration of your location. In this article, I explain how you can capture amazing minimalist landscape photos of your own!

1. Choose the right location

In this photo, the main subject is the mountain in the distance. The remainder of the frame is kept simple.



You can do minimalist landscape photography in a lot of locations. You don't need classic landscape photography features, such as picturesque waterfalls or stunning coastal rivers, to get good minimalist shots.

But that doesn't mean that you can capture amazing minimalist shots anywhere. Yes, you have a lot more options,

but you'll want to choose your location carefully. In my experience, where you take your photo will go a long way toward ensuring success.

A Simple Guide to Minimalist Landscape Photography . . . Continued

So where can you capture the best minimalist shots?

In general, you'll have the most success in relatively remote locations. Minimalism is all about simplicity, and remote locations tend to be visually simple. Once you add in too many people and human-made structures, the world starts to get more complex, and achieving a simple shot becomes a lot harder.

When photographing in a busier environment, you'll need to use the correct lens and camera angle to maintain minimalism with your photo. More remote locations naturally have a minimalist feel, but the challenge in those locations is locating a strong main subject.

The following are locations you could use for a minimalist landscape image:

- **Coasts:** Beaches, oceans, and sand dunes are great locations for minimalist photography. The great expanse of the sea invites minimalism. You can further build on this by flattening the sea through a long exposure. Interesting rock formations or a lighthouse can make great main subjects.
- **Deserts:** Whether you're photographing on the sand or on the ice, deserts are the land equivalent of the sea when it comes to minimalism. Vast, uniform in their features, and without the clutter of human development, deserts offer plenty of minimalist possibilities!
- **Mountains:** These breathtaking formations do offer opportunities to create minimalist landscape photos. If you photograph too many mountains in one scene, the result can feel cluttered, so choose your compositions with care. For instance, a lone hut surrounded by the green foothills of a mountain range would make for a good minimalist shot!

Thanks to their relative simplicity, deserts make excellent minimalist landscape photography .



A Simple Guide to Minimalist Landscape Photography . . . Continued

2. Pick your lens carefully

The lens you choose is just as important as the location for a minimalist landscape. There is no absolute rule for which lens to use; it depends on the location you find yourself in.

If you have chosen a location in the wilderness, the chances are you can use either a wide-angle lens or a long telephoto lens. However, if you're photographing in an area with lots of human-made structures, your lens choice becomes even more important.

- **Wide-angle lenses:** These lenses work well for minimalism, as you can use that wide angle to create the nice negative space required for a minimalist landscape while capturing the main subject – such as a distant mountain on the horizon – small in the frame. In a more cluttered environment, you need to be careful, however. The wide field of view could easily cause unwanted elements to appear in the frame and make your composition appear far too busy. If that happens, you'll either need to adjust your perspective to exclude those elements from the frame, or you'll need to use a longer lens instead.
- **Telephoto lenses:** These lenses allow you to zoom in on a particular portion of your scene. Here, the challenge is to avoid compressing too many things into the same photo. Choose an area on the horizon that's interesting but devoid of too many extra elements. This focal length can be a big advantage in a busier setting that's generally too chaotic for minimalism, yet has portions of the skyline that can be zoomed in on to create a minimal image.

I used a wide-angle lens to capture this minimalist landscape. Note how the wide field of view let me highlight the repeating patterns in the sand juxtaposed against the flat blue sky.



A Simple Guide to Minimalist Landscape Photography . . . Continued

3. Adjust your perspective

Photos that are taken at eye level work well for many situations. However, when you're trying to capture a minimalist landscape image, changing to a new perspective can simplify the composition very effectively!

When simplifying a landscape scene, here are some perspectives and compositional approaches to keep in mind:

- **Bird's-eye view:** Things look very different when you're looking down from high above the landscape. The higher you get, the more dramatic this becomes, and the more the landscape becomes more abstract and simple. There are many amazing minimalist landscape shots taken with drones, and this is why!
- **Worm's-eye view:** At the other extreme is the worm's-eye view; that is, photos taken from low down so the camera is pointed upward. These photos can include a small amount of the horizon line and make the remainder of the photo about the sky, giving you a landscape shot with a very minimalist feel.
- **Frames:** The use of a frame-within-a-frame technique – where you frame the landscape with some sort of human-made or natural frame, like a window or a stand of trees – can result in a wonderfully simple image. The landscape itself need not be fully minimalist, so long as the surrounding frame excludes chaotic areas of the scene and emphasizes enough negative space to tick the minimalist box.
- **The lensball:** A lensball basically frames a landscape inside a spherical object. That allows you to frame a minimalist landscape and keep the area surrounding the ball simple. It's an unconventional way to get a minimalist shot, but it works, and the result can be ultra-creative!

With a lensball, you can take a scene that is normally fairly complex and capture it in a minimalist way.



A Simple Guide to Minimalist Landscape Photography . . . Continued

4. Find a good main subject

Almost every type of photo is strengthened by having a main subject. In some cases, the inclusion of that main subject can be more of a challenge. Portrait photos, for instance, have an obvious main subject: the person you're photographing. Landscape photos, on the other hand, may not always have an obvious main subject – in some cases, it's not needed – but for most landscape shots, having this additional focal point will boost the image.

Now, for minimalist landscape photography, the main subject won't just act as a standard focal point. Instead, thanks to the negative space everywhere else in the frame, it'll leap out of the photo.

So what type of object could you use for this main subject?

- **A lone tree:** This is a minimalist landscape classic! There's a good reason that lone trees work so great for this type of photography: It's a clear focal point, it looks beautiful, and it can be incorporated into various compositional approaches (symmetry, rule of thirds, etc.). It's also relatively easy to isolate a lone tree.
- **A single person:** A lone person silhouetted against the horizon. Someone riding their bike up the ridge of a hill. A hiker standing at the base of a mountain. If you include a single person in your minimalist landscapes, the photos will have more narrative – though it's up to you whether you want to wait for a person to walk through your frame or whether you want to stage the scene.
- **A building:** Most landscape photographers like to avoid including too many buildings in the frame, but a single building surrounded by negative space can look fantastic. In rural settings, look for red-walled barns against green hills; in coastal settings, see if you can incorporate a lighthouse into your shots.

The single yurt acts as the main subject in this photo. Notice how it stands out thanks to all the negative space around it!



A Simple Guide to Minimalist Landscape Photography . . . Continued

5. Try other techniques

Minimalist landscapes naturally dovetail with several other well-known photography techniques. You can apply one or more of these to your photo as you see fit:

- **Silhouettes:** To photograph a silhouette, you'll need to point your camera toward the light – often toward a sunset sky. This means landscape features in your photo will likely be black, while the sky will (hopefully!) be filled with color. This will give you a good chance of creating a minimalist image.
- **Long exposure:** Blurred clouds moving across the sky and flat water skimming across the ocean's surface are both the result of long-exposure photography. Use a tripod and expose for more than five seconds to flatten the sea. To see cloud movement, you'll generally need an exposure longer than 30 seconds.
- **Color harmony:** This is all about maintaining a nice color palette throughout the photo. Working with cold colors or warm colors is a good starting point – but for an even more minimalistic effect, try keeping the same color but in different shades. There is a lot of potential for this in landscape photography, especially when the photo is taken from a bird's-eye point of view.
- **Black-and-white conversions:** Black-and-white landscape photography is powerful, at least in part, because it's inherently minimalistic. A B&W conversion strips away color information, simplifying the shot. And if you use a high-contrast approach when editing, you can get even more minimalistic results. If you're struggling to simplify the landscape, try a black-and-white conversion and see what you think.



This photo has a relatively complex set of elements, but my black-and-white conversion helped simplify the shot.

Don't be afraid to go minimalist!

Landscape photography and minimalist photography are both extremely popular, especially on social-media platforms. That's why I think it's such a great idea to combine them!

So head out with your camera and see if you can take some beautiful minimalist landscape photos. Remember that minimalism doesn't require classically breathtaking scenes; instead, seek out relatively remote locations, then use various compositional approaches to simplify the shot. Pretty soon, you'll have a portfolio of breathtaking landscapes!



Digital
Photography
School

How to Photograph Sunsets on Your Phone without Blowing the Sky

By Richard Schneider

Sunsets are one of the most popular things to photograph, but they're also one of the easiest scenes to get wrong. If you've ever taken a sunset photo only to find the sky looks washed out and colorless, your phone likely exposed for the darker foreground instead of the bright sky.

Fortunately, a few simple techniques can make a huge difference.



1. Tap on the Sky

Before taking the photo, tap on the brightest part of the sunset. This tells your phone to expose for the sky rather than the landscape, helping preserve the rich colors and cloud detail.

2. Lower the Exposure

After tapping the screen, most phones let you adjust the exposure using a brightness slider. Drag it down slightly until the sky looks vibrant and the highlights aren't blown out. A small adjustment is often all you need.

3. Let the Foreground Become a Silhouette

Don't worry if the foreground gets dark. Silhouettes of trees, people, mountains, or buildings often make sunset photos more dramatic and keep the viewer's attention on the colorful sky.

How to Photograph Sunsets on Your Phone without Blowing the Sky . . . Continued

4. Keep Your Lens Clean

Even a small fingerprint can reduce contrast and make the entire scene look hazy. A quick wipe with a microfiber cloth before shooting can noticeably improve your photos.

5. Stay After the Sun Goes Down

Some of the best colors appear 10 - 30 minutes after the sun dips below the horizon. Don't pack up too early—you may capture even more dramatic oranges, pinks, and deep blues during this time.

Final Thoughts

The secret to better sunset photos isn't a more expensive phone—it's controlling the exposure. By exposing for the sky, lowering the brightness slightly, and embracing silhouettes, you'll preserve the beautiful colors that make sunsets so memorable.

PICTURECORRECT.com

RM



ALAMANCE ARTS

WHERE ART LIVES

Alamance Photography Club
is an affiliate of Alamance Arts