



*Snowcap back*

Photo by Mio Winkle

More From  
Mio  
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## President's Comments—August 2025

By Keith O'Leary

Thanks to Mio Winkle for a most interesting video presentation of birds of Costa Rica last month. Your photos were amazing!

Well, at the time of this writing the flooding rains of July seem to have subsided and we have been under an extreme heat warning for several days with heat indices up to 115!

August 19th is World Photography Day. It's a global event where photographers of all levels are encouraged to share their work and celebrate the art, craft, science and history of photography. The date commemorates the day in 1839 when the French Academy of Sciences announced the Daguerreotype process which made it possible to create a highly detailed image on a sheet of copper. The sheet was coated with a thin coat of silver, and the process did not require the use of a negative. It became the first method for obtaining a permanent image with a camera. The French government called the invention of the Daguerreotype process a free gift to the world.

Over 40 years later in 1884, George Eastman from Rochester, NY refined the Daguerreotype process. He replaced the copper plate with a dry gel on paper, which he called film. This invention alleviated the need for photographers to carry around heavy copper plates and toxic chemicals. In 1888, Eastman developed the Kodak camera which allowed virtually anyone to take a photo.

The first World Photography Day was celebrated on August 19, 2010. On this date nearly 270 photographers shared their pictures in a global online gallery. People from over 100 countries visited the online gallery.

Join us on August 18th for the photo presentation and member voting results of our next PhotoShow where you get to pick the single theme for all of your submissions!

Stay cool and happy shooting!

Your President,  
Keith O'Leary

## **APC ACTIVITIES - August 2025**

- **Club Meeting**                      **August 18, 2025**  
   **PhotoShow - "The Same Subject"**

## APC Board with Contact Info



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***August, October & November PhotoShows – David Hall***

We have three remaining PhotoShows in August, October and November. The 2025 theme has been using more creativity in your photography. These three shows give you an increased opportunity to exhibit that creativity or getting out of our comfort zone(s). That creativity could either be behind the lens, in the editing/post processing --- OR both. If you prefer, neither --- it is all up to you.

The subject or theme for each PhotoShow is:

***August – The Same Subject***

- Any subject, but all submissions must be of that same subject
- Photos will be judged by the club members

***October – One Season***

- All photographs representative of one season
- Dean White will be our judge

***November – Color and Creativity***

- Pick a single color and shoot anything of that color and/or photos of a subject framed in some fashion by that color AND/OR
- Select a photo that has been edited in post and submit both the before and after versions
  - At the meeting each member will explain the edits or techniques used to create their final edited version
  - The object is not only to be a teaching moment but to spark some interest in editing or give members some new ideas to try

The subjects for this year are ones that may present opportunities throughout the year, not necessarily during any set time period. Of course, deciding on a season to photograph would be the obvious exception.

***Here is a preview of the 2025 Alamance Photography Club Programs—John Reich***

- September
  - Dan Walker: "Trip down Route 66"

## Mio Winkle - "Birding in Costa Rica through my lens"

Our July program was presented by Mio Winkle. It was about her birding photography from two recent trips to Costa Rica. Thought you should have another opportunity to appreciate her photography.

Thanks, Mio !





**More from Mio  
and  
Costa Rica**





## 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.

**Christie O'Leary—Webmaster**

## 2025 Summer Field Trip: Saxapahaw, NC

This field trip to Saxapahaw is a personal field trip which may be taken anytime between July 1 and September 30 on your own schedule.

**SAXAPAHAW** is a former mill-town set on the banks of the idyllic Haw River in the rural piedmont region of North Carolina. Originally settled by the Sissapahaw Native American tribe, Saxapahaw is now home to nearly 2,000 residents. Since the closure of the old mill at the end of the 20th century, Saxapahaw has enjoyed an economic and cultural rebirth, connecting its rich southern heritage with dynamic new initiatives in food, sustainable agriculture, art, entertainment, environmental stewardship and education. More information can be found online at: <https://www.saxapahawnc.com/be-here>

This will also be an opportunity to create photos for submission to the APC September exhibit *A Detailed Look at the World Around Us*, described elsewhere in this newsletter.

Instructions for submitting up to 5 field trip photos for sharing with APC members at the end of the summer will be emailed at a later date.

**Hugh Comfort – Outings/Field Trips**

## August 18th PhotoShow – “The Same Subject”

David Hall, PhotoShow Chair

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“The Same Subject” is the theme of our PhotoShow for this month. Choose any subject you want. Then all the photos you submit must be different shots of that same subject. This will be a PhotoShow that will be judged by the members.

Remember, since creativity is also a part of the 2025 theme, this is another opportunity to be creative in your post processing as well.

Everyone can submit up to 2 or 3 photos. You can start sending your photos now .....

### Submission Guidelines:

Number of Entries: Up to Three (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

Size: Between 1 and 25 MB

Email: Send all images to [apcphotoshow@gmail.com](mailto:apcphotoshow@gmail.com)

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

Example: Photos for August PhotoShow – John Doe

Submission Deadline: August 7, 2025

### 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](mailto:apcphotoshow@gmail.com) and we will be happy to assist. Also **let me know if your submitted photo is not acknowledged within a few days and/or by the deadline.***



# APC Trading Post

Submit brief descriptions of photography items you would like to sell, swap or purchase to Ray Munns ([raymunns@bellsouth.net](mailto:raymunns@bellsouth.net)) no later than the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please include your name, contact info (phone and/or email) and if each item is for sale or something you are looking to purchase. Also notify Ray when items should be removed from the newsletter.



## DJI Mavic Air 2 Drone

Includes drone, controller, 3 batteries, ND filters and charging cables. Price \$550.

Contact Sam Lynch 336-263-9134.

\*\*\*\*\*

The following two items are for sale:

- (1) Impact Heavy-Duty Air Cushioned Light Stand
- (2) Impact Telescopic Collapsible Reflector Holder

Never used, like new. Both items offered together for \$50 or best offer.

Contact George Siple at: [georgesiple4775@gmail.com](mailto:georgesiple4775@gmail.com)

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For sale:

Fuji 16mm f2.8 wide angle lens.

Contact Dick Schenck at: [rfsfstop31@icloud.com](mailto:rfsfstop31@icloud.com)



# 12 Tips for Gorgeous Pet Photography

By Antoine Khater



We all love to photograph our cute, furry, fuzzy, adorable animals, but while pet photography is oodles of fun, it's not always easy to capture amazing shots.

After all, pets, unlike humans, don't understand the purpose of photography. They won't just pose for the camera – and even when they do sit still, you still need to carefully choose a composition, adjust your settings, and more. (By the time you've managed to get everything looking good, your pet will likely have moved out of position!)

In this article, I share my best tips for top-notch pet images, including:

- How to pick the perfect lighting
- Easy techniques to level up your compositions
- Ideal pet photography settings
- Much more!

So if you're ready to start capturing some amazing shots of your furry friends, then let's dive right in, starting with:

## **12 Tips for Gorgeous Pet Photography . . . Continued**

### **1. Use natural light**

Some pet photographers rely chiefly on artificial lighting, such as on-camera flashes, speedlights, or strobes, but I'd really recommend using natural lighting instead.

For one, unless you can manage flash with real expertise, your images will likely turn out with a very deer-in-the-headlights look. (You also risk causing the red-eye effect.)



Second, the types of complex lighting setups that look great in portrait photography are tough to pull off with animals, simply because you can't get a dog or a cat to pose in the right place at the right time.

Third, flash bursts can scare animals.

That's why I encourage you to work with natural light – either by shooting outside or in a well-lit room. Soft, diffused light is generally best, so if you decide to head outside, try to do it on a cloudy day (or in the early morning or late afternoon, when the sun casts a golden glow over the landscape).

If the sun is visible, make sure you pay attention to its angle relative to your pet. Frontlight and sidelight are great for bringing out details, but backlight is perfect for dramatic silhouettes!

### **2. Bring the right gear**

Technically, you can do pet photography with any equipment, but if you're looking to create high-quality files that are perfect for sharing and printing, you'll want to deliberately select your gear.

I'd recommend picking a camera with a high-speed continuous shooting mode (so you can capture split-second moments as needed), as well as decent autofocus capabilities. You don't need to spend thousands of dollars on an action camera, but the more advanced the AF, the better. I'd also encourage you to grab a camera with a viewfinder (either optical or electronic is fine) to help you track your subject as they move about the scene.

### **12 Tips for Gorgeous Pet Photography . . . Continued**

As for lenses: A nice kit zoom (e.g., 18-55mm) will do a solid job, though you might also consider purchasing a telephoto lens – such as a 70-200mm f/4 or even f/2.8 – or a standard prime, such as an 85mm f/1.4 lens. Just make sure they all feature solid autofocus capabilities; otherwise, you'll end up very frustrated.

A lens that stretches to 18mm (or wider) on the short end will allow you to capture environmental-style images, while a telephoto lens will help you shoot close-ups from a distance (and also add lots of gorgeous bokeh). Both can work; at the end of the day, it's all about your budget and your interests.

#### **3. Choose the right camera mode**

If you're a veteran photographer, then you can always use your camera's Manual mode to set up your images. That way, you have complete control over the exposure and can directly adjust the aperture, the shutter speed, and the ISO.

However, if you're a beginner or you're used to always working on Auto, I'd urge you to test out Aperture Priority mode, which allows you to select an aperture and an ISO, while your camera selects a shutter speed (based purely on exposure considerations). Therefore, you don't get quite as much control as Manual mode, but it's a lot more convenient because you don't need to constantly monitor your settings.

Once you have your camera set to Aperture Priority, take a few test shots and see what you think. You can always use exposure compensation to boost or lower the exposure as needed, and that's completely okay!

#### **4. Keep the eyes sharp**

Sharp eyes are always important in portrait photography – and pet photography is no different!

They say that the eyes are the window to the soul, and in my experience, a pet's eyes can be very expressive. So make sure the eyes stay tack-sharp!

(If you're working with a shallow depth of field and can only get one eye in focus, make sure it's the one closer to the camera!)

These days, some cameras offer eye AF for animals. With eye AF activated, your camera will identify your pet's eyes – and nail focus consistently! So if your camera does offer this feature, I highly recommend you try it out.



## 12 Tips for Gorgeous Pet Photography . . . Continued



And if your camera doesn't offer eye AF, you can always use a single-point AF area mode; that way, you can keep the point of focus over the subject's eye at all times!

One tip: If you're struggling to keep the eyes in focus, try narrowing the lens aperture. This will increase the depth of field, giving you a greater margin for error, and ensuring that the eyes are crisp even if you miss focus slightly.

### **5. Use a fast shutter speed**

Certain pets are extraordinarily quick – and even the pets that are on the slow side can still move fast. If the shutter speed is too low, then you'll end up with unpleasant motion blur, which is why it pays to use a sufficiently fast shutter.

How fast should it be? That depends on your lens, the lens magnification, and your subject, but 1/200s or so is a good estimate for most slower scenarios. If your dog is jumping around and barking, however, you'll often need to boost the shutter to 1/1000s or higher.

### **6. Go to your pet**

Photography can be stressful for your pet, especially if they're on the shy side. Not only is this harmful to your pet's well-being, but it can also result in uncomfortable- or stiff-looking shots. Therefore, it's very important that your pet feels comfortable and at ease.

One way to do that? Instead of forcing your pet to come to you, make sure you go to them. Let them choose the location, whether it's in their favorite bed, on their favorite carpet spot, or outside by their favorite toy. Of course, you can encourage them and make adjustments to the space, but I'd really recommend – especially if your pet has never experienced a photoshoot before – working on their terms.

I'd also encourage you to get down on your pet's level. Sit on the floor or lie on your belly and remember to shoot from your pet's eye level or below. It'll help your furry friend feel more at ease – and while we all know how a dog looks when viewed from above, a low angle will show us how your pet sees the world!

## **12 Tips for Gorgeous Pet Photography . . . Continued**

### **7. Highlight your pet's character**

You know your pet better than anyone else, and a successful picture is one that conveys the character of its subject. So try to display your pet's character in your photos.

If you have a lazy cat, show them yawning. If your animal is of the playful type, show them in action performing their favorite trick.

Really, the opportunities are endless. Just ask yourself: What is special about my pet? And then try to communicate that in your next photoshoot!

Of course, it might require a dash of patience, but if you take the time, you're bound to capture some personality-filled images.

### **8. Go macro**

Macro pet photography is intimate and often stunning. You can use it to highlight plenty of little details, such as your pet's eyes, fur, and cute nose.

Macro photography isn't hard to do, either; all you need is a macro lens, a telephoto lens, or some type of close-focusing camera.

Then fill the frame with your pet's face and fur! Have fun testing out different compositions and focusing on different details. A good way to start is by photographing your pet's face, and you'll soon find that close-up shots make some of the best pet portraits.



## **12 Tips for Gorgeous Pet Photography . . . Continued**

### **9. Surprise your pet**

One of the most difficult aspects of pet photography is keeping your pet still, especially if they're pretty energetic.

So here's an easy trick:

First, let your pet play quietly. As they play, consider potential compositions and dial in your settings. Then, once you have your camera set up and ready, give a quick whistle.

The sound will surprise your pet. With luck, you'll have a few seconds to capture them in a nice, alert posture, so make the most of it.

### **10. Time your session carefully**

If you want to capture some formal-looking pet photography, then "schedule" your photoshoot when your animal is somewhat sleepy.

You might shoot after your pet has woken up from a nap. Or you might shoot late in the day when your pet is tired and lacks energy. (You might even do your photoshoot after playing a lengthy, tiring game of fetch.)

That way, it will be easier to capture a sharp shot. You won't be stuck waiting for your subject to stop moving, and you'll have a far more pleasant time

Of course, if you want a more dynamic series of images, then you'll need to grab your camera at a time when your pet is especially active!

### **11. Be patient**

Pet photography requires a lot of patience. Dogs, cats, and other pets can be pretty excitable – but if you wait long enough, your furry friend will end up relaxing. It might take a few seconds, a few minutes, or even an hour, but thanks to the power of patience, you'll be able to capture beautiful pet images.

In fact, you might consider starting your photoshoot with action images. Then, as your pet calms down, you can capture intimate close-ups, headshots, cute poses, and more.



## 12 Tips for Gorgeous Pet Photography . . . Continued

### 12. Experiment

Here's your final pet photography tip:

Experiment with your pet photos as much as possible. Because while the advice in this article will certainly get you some great shots, there's always room to try new things!

Test out different settings. Try different light sources and lighting scenarios. See if you can improve your compositions. Practice capturing action shots. And so much more!

So take your time and enjoy the session. Don't be afraid to test different approaches. Shoot a lot; you can worry about the results later!

### **Pet photography tips: final words**

Hopefully, you now feel well-equipped to capture some stunning pet photos!

By following the advice I shared, you can practically *guarantee* gorgeous results. Just remember to think about the lighting, the settings, and the right composition.



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# How to Create Powerful Photos through Balance

By Kent DuFault

In the physical world, it's pretty easy to understand the concept of balance.

In the photography world, the concept of balance is a bit more muddled.

*Photo by Aziz Acharki*



Balance within photography is an element of photographic composition. It relates to how you organize the various things you include within the frame of your picture and how they are positioned relative to each other.

There are balanced compositions and unbalanced compositions. Unbalanced arrangements can be visually exciting. However, they can also be very tricky, as you don't want to unbalance a composition away from your subject.

*Photo by Tingey Injury Law Firm*

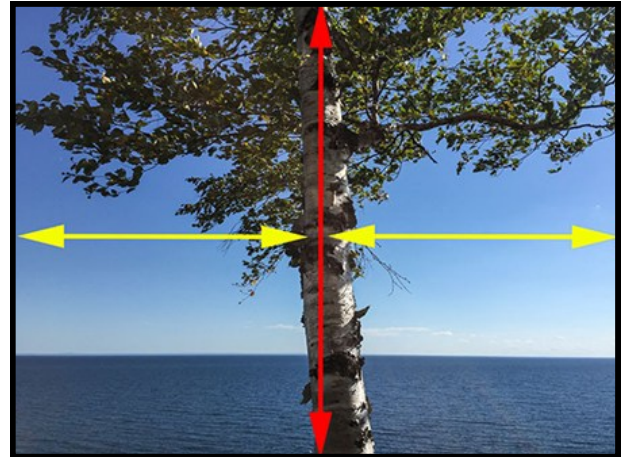


### *How to Create Powerful Photos through Balance . . . Continued*

Here's the first step toward **understanding the composition of balance in photography**:

Imagine that you place the subject of your photo on one side of a visual scale (metaphor illustrated previous page), and then you pile all the other elements of your photo onto the other side. A balanced image will be almost level but with a slight visual weight in favor of the subject. An unbalanced composition will tip heavily in one direction or the other.

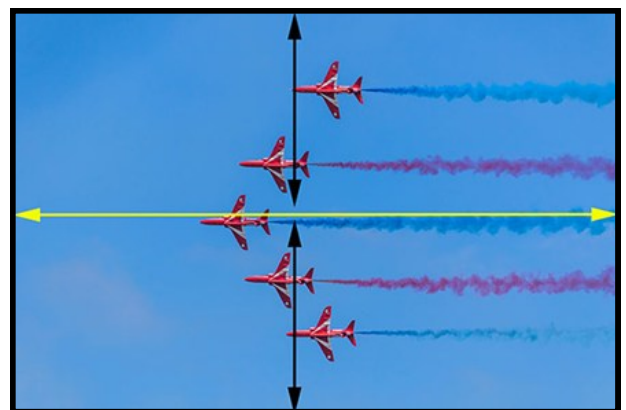
*Photo by Kent DuFault*



**Symmetry** is one of the more natural ways to learn how to balance a picture. When an image is symmetrical, one side of the photo mirrors the other.

The tree photograph above is an example of vertical symmetry. The left and right sides of the image mirror each other.

*Photo by Andre Mouton*



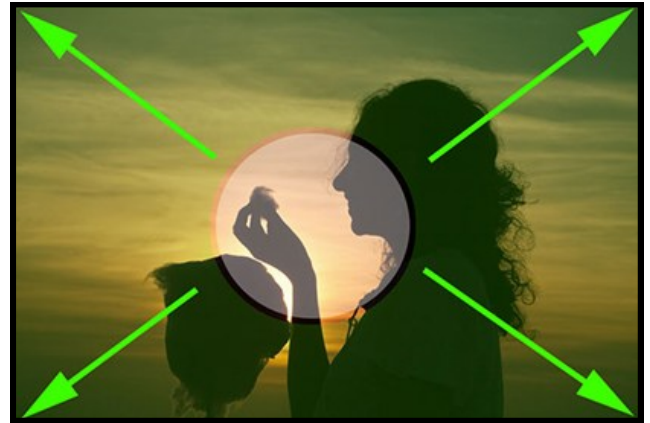
This airplane photograph is an example of horizontal symmetry. The upper half mirrors the lower half.

They balance each other out within the frame of the photo.

### **How to Create Powerful Photos through Balance . . . Continued**

The second form of symmetrical balance is **radial symmetry**. With radial symmetry, the visually heaviest portion of the photographic composition begins at a central point and then radiates outward.

*Photo by Kent DuFault*



**Quick Tip:** Symmetry and radial symmetry are the easiest forms of balance within photography composition to master. Symmetrical balance is sometimes referred to as **Formal Balance**.

**Asymmetrical balance** is more challenging to master. There are different forms of asymmetrical balance. This type of composition occurs when opposing objects, with varying visual weight, create a pleasing path through the picture. However, the subject must always carry slightly more visual weight. The visual weight can be distributed throughout the frame by color, placement, tone, line, or juxtaposition.

*Photo by Kent DuFault*



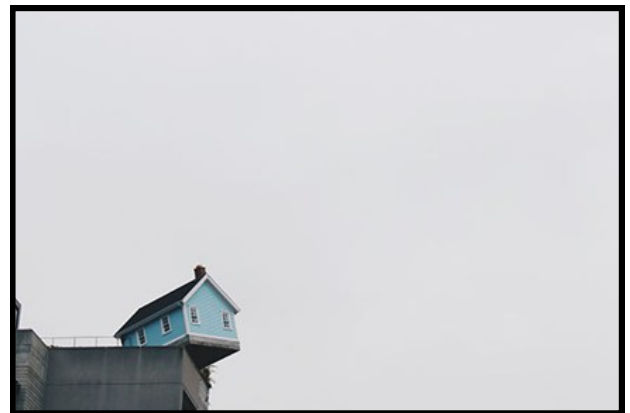
### How to Create Powerful Photos through Balance . . . Continued

*Photo by Kent DuFault*



**Quick Tip:** With asymmetrical balance, careful placement of each object within the frame is crucial. The included objects place visual weight and interest in various portions of the picture, but never overtake the subject as the final resting spot for the eyes. Asymmetrical balance is sometimes referred to as **Informal Balance**.

*Photo by Cindy Tang*



**Quick Tip: Negative space** can be an essential tool in establishing balance. This building's precarious position only works because a large amount of the frame has been given to negative space. The negative space balances out the dramatic visual weight of the building.



### *How to Create Powerful Photos through Balance . . . Continued*

*Photo by Kent DuFault*



**Quick Tip:** One way to tell if your photograph might be unbalanced is if you find yourself trying all different kinds of crops to make it feel right.

As your skills in composition improve, balance can become second nature and involve many different elements within a frame.

*Photo by Kent DuFault*



**Quick Tip:** You can combine different forms of balance within the same frame. The photograph of the food stand (above) combines radial symmetry with asymmetrical elements to create a complex composition.

# Exposure Compensation - When & How to Use It

By Richard Schneider

Exposure compensation is a feature on many cameras that allows the user to adjust the camera's suggested exposure settings. It is often used when the camera's meter doesn't accurately reflect the scene being photographed (such as snow), resulting in an image that is too light or too dark. By adjusting the exposure compensation, the user can tell the camera to adjust its suggested exposure settings to produce a better-exposed image.

*Photo captured by Math*



The amount of exposure compensation is usually measured in stops, with each stop representing a doubling or halving of the amount of light. For example, increasing the exposure by one stop will double the amount of light captured by the camera, while decreasing the exposure by one stop will halve the amount of light captured.

**When to use it:** Exposure compensation is useful in situations where the camera's light meter may not accurately capture the desired exposure. This can happen when the scene has a high contrast range (such as a bright sky and a dark foreground), when the scene is predominantly white or black, or when the subject is backlit.

**How to use it:** The process for adjusting exposure compensation varies depending on the camera, but it is usually accessed through a dedicated button or dial on the camera body. Some cameras also allow you to adjust exposure compensation through the menu or by using a touchscreen interface.

**Tips for using it:** When adjusting exposure compensation, it is important to pay attention to the histogram display on the camera's LCD screen. The histogram is a graphical representation of the tonal range of the image, with the left side representing the dark tones and the right side representing the light tones. If the histogram is heavily weighted to one side or the other, it may indicate that the image is either over- or underexposed.

### Exposure Compensation - When & How to Use It . . . Continued

**Keep in mind** that exposure compensation works in conjunction with your camera's metering modes (evaluative, center-weighted, or spot metering) and will have different effects depending on the mode. It's essential to practice and experiment to get a feel for how exposure compensation works with your specific camera and in various lighting conditions.



*Photo captured by Artem Sapegin*

Here's an exercise you can try to learn how to use exposure compensation:

1. Choose a subject with a bright background, such as a sunset or a snowy landscape.
2. Set your camera to aperture priority mode and select a wide aperture, such as f/2.8 or f/4.0.
3. Take a test shot of the subject without adjusting the exposure compensation.
4. Evaluate the image and note if the subject is under or overexposed.
5. Use the exposure compensation feature to adjust the exposure. Increase the exposure compensation if the subject is too dark or decrease the exposure compensation if the subject is too bright.
6. Take another shot with the adjusted exposure compensation.
7. Repeat steps 4-6 until you get the desired exposure.
8. Experiment with different exposure compensation values to see their effects.

By practicing this exercise, you'll become more familiar with how exposure compensation works and how to use it effectively to get the perfect exposure for your photos.

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*Rm*



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