

“Landscape photography is about capturing an image that embodies the spirit of the outdoors”



Its not just a view

1. What is your subject?

What are you trying to do?

What are you trying to capture?

A moment in time?

Glorious colours?

Whatever, if it's a view, how are you going to make it "Pop"?

You need a point of interest.

DAM BORING!



**NOT
BORING!**

**Who is this
weirdo and what
is he saying about
the dam?**

Nice dog though!











Leave negative space or a contrasting area around your point of interest to make it stand out



Focus on a close subject perhaps?



Water can provide reflections



Get your trousers wet!



Interlude - History Lesson

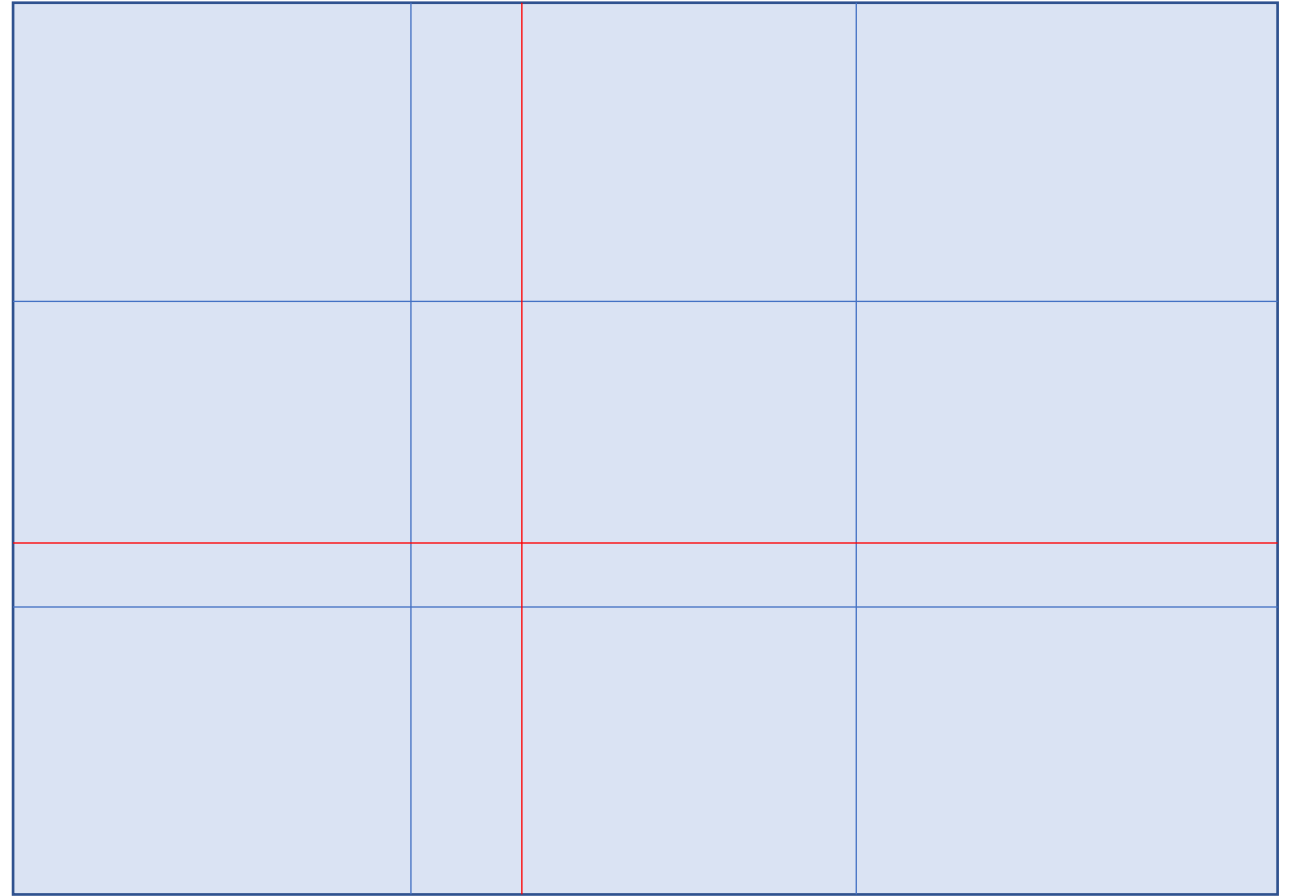
- In the beginning there were cave paintings of things. There was little or no background.
- The Ancient Greeks developed many new styles and techniques to achieve perfection of balance and proportion
- Aristotle realised that harmonious design had mathematical roots and documented the rule of thirds (33% and 66%)
- Ancient Greek mathematicians also first studied the golden ratio (approximately 40% and 60%) because of its frequent appearance in geometry
- Summed up, the Greeks realised that your subject looks better offset against the background than stuck in the middle. And so layout became critical in art and then photography.



So...Point 2

The rule of thirds divides the space into 9 identical rectangles which you can set up through your viewfinder or on the back screen of your camera. The points where the lines meet are the points to place your subject or compelling parts of the main subject.

Alternatively use the **Golden Section** of 40/60 to position a dominant subject against the background.



Ancient Greek landscape with musicians in foreground





Let's crop
this phone
snap to
please
Aristotle and
his pals



Point 3 - Add Depth

Have something in both the foreground and background of your shot. To bring more depth to your images, place something in the foreground of your frame. It allows your viewer's eye to travel back and forth between the foreground and background, giving the photo an illusion of depth.

TV artist Bob Ross worked from the background forwards to create "layers". He was the master of depth.

His picture of Alaska looks 10 miles deep but its as flat as a board...or a TV screen.



Depth via Layers



Depth by view of Horizon



Point 4. Use leading lines

This is a compositional tool that brings the viewer's eye across or into the frame, traveling along the lines as it moves across your photo. If the line leads to the most distant point it helps with the illusion of depth.

Allegedly:

- Horizontal lines. These tend to suggest calmness and tranquillity
- Vertical lines. These convey a sense of power and authority
- Diagonal lines. These provide a sense of movement or change
- Curved lines. Feels more natural than straight lines
- Converging lines
- Implied lines
- Intersecting lines





Point 5 - Level your Horizon

Even a tiny tilt will affect the viewer subconsciously.

If you have difficulty recognising level or don't have a steady hand, shoot on a tripod. Some cameras can display a horizon.

Or rotate and crop them during editing...







Point 6 - Create a frame within your frame.

Look for tree branches, architecture, or other elements that you can cleverly use to create natural frames within your photo.





Point 7 – The effect of light and sky

A great landscape photographer advised, “Set up your camera. Sit down...then wait for the light.”

Few of us have the time to do that these days but often you see unusual lighting conditions caused by oblique sunlight at dawn or dusk. Red skies also. Capture the moment.

Clouds can provide threatening skies, or emphasise strong sunlight.















