

Different Styles of Landscape (Nature) Photography

Landscape photography brings the environment close to us. The natural scenery is the most important aspect of landscape photos. Urban landscapes focus more on manmade structures like buildings etc. As a rule of thumb, people and animals don't feature in landscape photos. Similarly, city skylines and oceans are generally not shown. To a purist these would be called **cityscape and seascape** respectively. **Landscape photographs are supposed to be just that; landscapes.**

There are three major techniques of landscape photography

1. Representational (also known as straight descriptive style)
2. Impressionistic
3. Abstract

Representational: Representational landscapes are the most natural and realistic out of all the styles of landscape photography. They approach landscape photography with a 'what you see is what you get' mentality. No props or artificial components are added. However special attention is paid to the framing, weather, lighting and composition of the image (photo: Ansel Adams)



Impressionistic: An impressionistic landscape carries with it a vague or elusive sense of reality. These photographs will make the landscape seem more unreal. The viewer is giving the impression of a landscape rather than the true representation of one. Snow and desert could be combined within an image for example. (photo by Jamie Paterson).



Abstract: Abstract landscape photographs use components of the scenery as graphic components. With abstract landscape photography design is more important than a realistic representation of what is seen. The photographer may place emphasis on something, which seems counterintuitive to place emphasis on. They may make use of silhouettes or other lighting techniques to highlight shape. They may focus in on an area within the landscape itself. Lots of rendering, resizing or retouching happens on these landscape photography (photo by Steven Friedman).



Landscape Photography Tips:

1. While taking landscape photography, avoid close-up shots of animals, animals can be in the landscape photo, only if they are relatively small in size.
2. Light plays a major role, so if you are not satisfied the first time, go back to the same spot when the weather and light is little better. This has always been followed by top landscape photographers.
3. Make sure you carry a tripod, because it allows capturing sharp images even in low light situations.
4. Landscape photography is more like panorama, so make sure you show maximum depth in your photos.
5. Choose one or more subjects as the foreground image, they will act as 3d images in your landscape photography and will give an interesting effect.
6. Have at least one focal point; else it will make your image look like an endless shot. These can be high raised buildings, boulders, rocks, cottages etc.
7. Don't forget to include the sky, sometimes clouds have interesting formations and you can polarize them post production. It gives more color and contrast and makes your clouds striking.
8. Add more lines to your pictures; it captures the viewer's attention. Lines can be the walls of a house, row of flowers etc.
9. Landscape photography doesn't have to be boring. You can capture the wind blowing on the trees, flowers falling from trees etc. These kinds of pictures talk a lot about the environment.
10. Some of the best landscape photography was taken during twilight and early mornings, that is when the environment comes fully alive. Spend a lot of time observing your spot and try different angles for your shot.

The Classics	Contemporary
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ansel Adams• Fay Goodwin• William Jackson• Anne Darling• Edward Weston	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charlie Waite• Zack Schnepf• Michael Busselle• Yann Arthus-Bertrand• Jim Brandenburg