










Ken Duncan's Top 10 Photography Tips

<p>Tip 1</p> 	<p>Photography should be fun. If it all gets too technical, you will lose the magic of the moment. Keep it simple and remember, you're making memories! Also, don't forget that patience will be rewarded. When we learn to be still, blessings come our way.</p>
<p>Tip 2</p> 	<p>Always have your camera with you. If you don't and some incredible event happens, you will be really upset. Imagine seeing an alien space ship land in some remote location and not having a photo record for proof. Or, on a more down-to-earth level, talking about the big fish you caught is a lot more convincing with a photo to back up your story.</p>
<p>Tip 3</p> 	<p>The hardest part about photography is getting out of bed, but those who do will be rewarded with some great shots. Stop talking and start taking! Be sure to get up for sunrises even if it is an overcast day – because the sun can break through and give amazing light. Also, at sunrise most people are still in bed so it gives you locations without the crowds.</p>
<p>Tip 4</p> 	<p>When shooting sunrises and sunsets, start out early enough to be in position before dawn and stay well after sunset. You will be rewarded by the glorious moods and dramas that frequently occur during the magic of dawn and dusk, especially in inclement weather! A good tripod and cable release are essential for long exposures.</p>
<p>Tip 5</p> 	<p>Go out in any weather – but prepare yourself. Take an umbrella, appropriate clothing and sturdy footwear. Protect your equipment in watertight cases and carry a torch and a head lamp. Rainy or overcast weather is often the best time to shoot subjects such as forests and waterfalls.</p>
<p>Tip 6</p> 	<p>Carry a good big cleaning cloth for your camera. I believe the best thing to use is an old soft clean cotton tee-shirt. This will help if you get mist from a waterfall or sea mist from big swells on your lens.</p>
<p>Tip 7</p> 	<p>Be sure to give your camera time to climatize during rapid temperature changes, such as moving from a house into the cool morning air – as a sudden change in temperature may cause your lens to fog up. Try to avoid transferring your warmth to a cold camera, as this will accelerate the formation of condensation. Don't breathe on a cold lens.</p>
<p>Tip 8</p> 	<p>Look at locations under different lighting conditions, for different moods. Cloudy light or wild, moody light can test your patience, but when the breaks happen you can get great emotion in a shot.</p>
<p>Tip 9</p> 	<p>Photography is a two-dimensional medium, so we sometimes need to try and create a third dimension in our photographs – especially in landscapes – to give depth to the image. A simple way to do this is to use strong foreground interest. Another way is to use lines within the shot to draw the viewer in – a road, a fence, or a curve of the beach. Shooting from a higher vantage point can sometimes be a good way to get better depth in a shot. I often take shots from the top of my car, or standing on my camera case. When shooting wildlife it is often good to shoot from a low angle as it makes the animal look bigger. I found this out when photographing elephants in Africa. However, I must admit if you are shooting from the ground it gives you a much harder start if you have to run.</p>

Tip 10



Don't miss fleeting moments worrying about perfect exposure and other technical matters – click the shutter and grab the shot, no matter what. The bottom line is: there are no rules. If an image works, it works; if it doesn't, it doesn't.