

Through The Lens

*A guide to digital photography for computer enthusiasts.
After the click of your camera, you're only half done!*

OPCUG



*Users helping users
for over 40 years*

How to improve your landscape photography

by Lynda Buske

The internet suggests that landscape photography is the art of capturing the natural world, outdoor spaces, and sometimes human-made, urban environments. Some definitions even include closeup photos but this article will focus on capturing larger scenes.

A good place to start with any scene is the rule of thirds which suggests including foreground, middle ground and background. Then you create a nine square grid and place objects of interest at the intersection points. Please refer to my travel photography article for a full description: <https://opcug.ca/Photography/TopTwoTipsForTravelPhotos.pdf>. However, in some landscape scenes, it simply doesn't apply. You may be photographing a mountain scene where there isn't a single object of interest (unless a grizzly walks in!). While most landscape photographers do rely heavily on foreground to create a 3-dimensional effect, it may be that your image is more on a single plane. (see fig 1)

Fig 1



I do, however, love foreground and fig 2&3 are examples of how it can add depth and context.

Fig 2



Fig 3



It can also create a leading line (fig 4) and even make it look inviting (fig 5) by showing chairs!

Fig 4



Fig 5



If you are shooting near water, you may wish to consider a longer exposure to create a silky effect (fig 6). This is possible even with many cell phones but with a traditional camera you have more control. However, a traditional camera will require placing the camera on something solid or using a tripod. Some phone cameras can take multiple images and merge them together into a single image and a tripod is not necessary.

Fig 6



Adding humans or wildlife (fig 7, 8) can add interest as well as provide size relativity. In fig 7 you know exactly how big the rocks are. However, be aware that our eye will be drawn to creatures so if you wish to emphasize something else in the image it may be wiser to leave them out.

Fig 7



Fig 8



Copyright © Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG) <https://opcug.ca/copyright-and-usage/>

See all OPCUG articles on digital photography at <https://opcug.ca/digital-photography/>.