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**1. Daydream.** Yes, that's right keep dreaming about your shot. Pre-Visualize in your mind what it will look like and walk through the steps you need to take to get it. This is a shot I thought about for several weeks before finally setting it up and taking it. With only one camera, I often feel like I'm constantly juggling lenses!



**2.** Use wide lens. Try to use wide lenses for landscape shots when you want to create an impact of size. You can use a wide range of lenses to shoot landscapes but the vistas are amazing if you shoot with the widest lens possible because they give you a bigger angle of view.



**3. Sharpen Your Subjects.** Keep your main subjects sharp. Sharp details in the image truly draw the viewers' eyes towards the subject. Use your tripod in low light conditions to make sharp pictures. Try to make use of the new sharpening effect in Adobe Camera RAW. It does a great job and has improved from previous versions.



**4. Keep it Clean.** A background makes or breaks your shot so be sure to think carefully about the how you place your subject. Keep the background clean, simple and clutter free. Think about where the viewer should be focused....

5. You Can't Have Too Many Clouds. Use fluffy white clouds on a blue sky to produce dramatic skies. Is it overcast with too many clouds to see the sky? The sky is now a giant soft box. This is the time to shoot portraits or waterfalls and streams with a motion blur effect.





6. Behind Every Great Shot is the Sun. Stand with the sun at your back and the light of the sun falling on your subject. Unless you are making artistic pictures always try to keep the sun behind you.



7. Light Trails. Enhance your dawn and night urban shots with light trails. Use vehicles or any other moving lights to add interest, mood, and drama. Light trails almost always makes the shot interesting (learn: how to shoot light trails).



8. Silhouettes. The key is an uncluttered, lit background. Simply place your subject in the foreground so that you have clean, sharp lines and go for it. Play with placement and angles to make awesome silhouettes (learn: how to shoot Silhouettes).



9. Top to Bottom. Look straight up. Look straight down. Now examine everything in between. There are great shots from every vantage point, including an unexpected angle. Sometimes we focus so much on the obvious shot that we miss something special just a heartbeat away.



#### 10. And finally. It's a Camera not a Machine Gun

Unless you are taking action shots or a time lapse series, try to reduce the number of shots. Don't just fire away hoping for something good to appear during editing. Think, move, and adjust your framing before you click the shutter. You'll develop better instincts and save hours of time editing those hundreds of extra images.

