

Total time:
2-4 hours



Difficulty Level: Challenging

Skill Points:

- Composition with limited point of view
- Spotting problems: crooked horizon, trash cans, etc.
- Balancing exposure between the sky and foreground

CREATING ROMANTIC LIGHTHOUSE PHOTOGRAPHS



PHOTZY.COM

KEY LESSON: Shoot as close to sunrise or sunset as you can. Your best angle of view will likely be some distance away. Bring a flashlight. Find a vantage point where the lighthouse is juxtaposed against the landscape, the water, or both. Time your shot to the moments when the exposure for the sky is close to the exposure for the lighthouse.

EQUIPMENT

- **Camera:** Any camera including a smartphone
- **Lens + Lens Hood:** Any lens, but typically you want a wide-angle to a moderate telephoto
- **Filters** (Optional): Graduated ND and/or a polarizing filter
- **Tripod:** with a sturdy head and a wired or wireless shutter release for long exposures
- **App software Photo Pills**
- **Notepad** Take notes and be sure to record location Metadata on the camera



TIPS!

Shooting Mode **M** or **A / Av**

Shutter Speed **1/60th+** wide-angle to normal lenses
1/200th+ moderate telephoto lenses

Aperture **f/2.8 - f/11** depending on desired depth of field

ISO **200** and adjust to facilitate shutter speed

Metering **Matrix / Evaluative**

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



A



B



C



D



E



ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Study the sample photographs:
 - A- Shoot early or late in the day. Include foreground objects to show depth perception and to add interest.
 - B- Using a silhouette of the structure can be quite dramatic once the light levels get very low.
 - C- If the natural lighting does not introduce color, you can create it in post-production. Experiment with motion blur of the water.
 - D- Strive to be shooting when the light levels of the sky match the light levels on the lighthouse for a balanced exposure.
 - E- Use foreground objects to create composition and then add interest with the lighthouse in the distance.
 - 2- Self-assign a lighthouse location (if possible- pick one that you can return to often).
 - 3- Set your shoot time for 1 hour before sunset, and plan on shooting up to 1.5 hours after sunset.
 - 4- Study your location for the recommended composition tips and camera POV and setup your camera.
 - 5- Visit your location more than once if possible. Use the Photo Pills app to help you predict where the sunset will occur in relation to the lighthouse and your potential camera position.
- * **Tip:** Experiment with blurred motion and watch out for camera blur due to the wind.

HOW DID YOU DO?

- Is the lighthouse sharp and free of camera shake?
- Did you compose using the sample pictures for ideas?
- Is the color pleasing? (Doesn't need to be accurate)
- Did you experiment with motion blur in the water while keeping the lighthouse sharp?
- Did you frame the shot tight enough or wide enough?

READY! SET! GO! ACTION CARDS - GENRE: LIGHTHOUSES