

Total time:
2 hours



Difficulty Level: Challenging

Skill Points:

- Photographing celestial bodies
- Creating visual interest in a night shot
- Working with slow shutter speeds
- Focusing on a distant object

CREATING MOONSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHS



KEY LESSON: Photographing the Moon is tricky. It's much brighter than one would realize. It's also moving at a rapid pace. Finally, it can be buried in a massive sea of black sky if you don't plan your shot correctly. Your camera must be on a tripod. A shutter release is optional, but highly recommended.

EQUIPMENT

- Camera

Any DSLR or mirrorless, and some compact cameras

- Lens + Lens hood

Depending on desired effect from 50mm to 400mm

- Tripod

Sturdy with a good solid head

- App software: Photo Pills

- Shutter release: Wired or wireless



TIPS!

These settings can vary widely. This is a starting point.

Shooting Mode	Manual
ISO	400
Aperture	f/8
Shutter Speed	1/30th
Drive Mode	Single shot
White balance	AWB AUTO
Format	RAW

Use Live View if possible, and the Magnify function – focusing on the Moon is quite tricky. (You cannot just set the lens focus ring to 'infinity')

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



A



B



C



D



E



ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

1- Study the sample photographs:

A- Detailed Moon photography can only be made with longer telephoto lenses (300mm – 600mm), note: it is difficult to eliminate camera shake at these magnifications.

B- Get a shot like this with a 100mm-200mm lens. Great for including foreground interest

C- It is possible, yet difficult, to include foreground in a super telephoto (300mm-600mm) shot.

D- When working with normal focal length lenses include some foreground interest, and then use the Moon as a focal point.

E- Be ready when the Moon presents itself, such as this shot taken from an airplane.

2- Set up your photography shoot for the next full moon phase. Set your shoot time to begin at dusk. It works best if the sky hasn't completely darkened.

3- Include foreground interest if needed. Shoot in the camera raw file format.

TIPS: Shoot a test picture. Review it. Adjust exposure as necessary. Do not lower the shutter speed below 1/30th and do not close the aperture further than f/16. In post-production use the Clarity function to add contrast to the Moon. You can photograph other phases of the Moon cycle- but start with a full Moon.

HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did you properly focus the Moon or foreground object?
- Did you capture some light in the sky? (not complete black unless using a super telephoto for a close up)
- Is your image sharp and free of camera shake?

READY! SET! GO! **ACTION CARDS** - **GENRE: MOON PHOTOGRAPHY**