

Total time:
3 hours



Difficulty Level: Very easy

Skill Points:

- Basic composition with a limited camera POV
- Working with the environment
- Finding interesting light
- Creating sharp photos

CREATING INSPIRING WATERSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHS



This genre is similar to landscape photography, except for two very important points. Unless you have a boat, your camera point of view will be limited to the shoreline, and also, water is not a static subject.

KEY LESSON: Create your waterscape images within 1 hour of sunset (Shoot from before to after). Focus on these tools of composition: leading lines, layering, and a focal point. Try to include motion, reflections, and vibrant color to enhance your scene.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



A



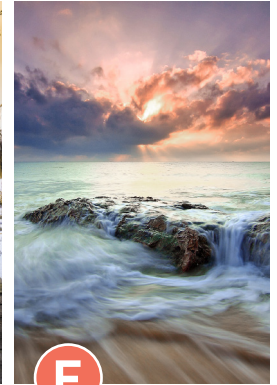
B



C



D



E

- EQUIPMENT**
- **Camera** Any camera including a smartphone
 - **Lens + Lens Hood** Any lens, but typically you want a wide-angle to a moderate telephoto
 - **Tripod + Shutter release** Optional (but highly suggested for slow shutter speed options)
 - **Filters:** Graduated ND filter and a polarizing filter (Optional)



ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Study the sample photographs:
 - A-** Sunset (or sunrise) provides dramatic light and color- enhance color saturation in post-production.
 - B-** The composition tool of layering can give your waterscape image the perception of depth.
 - C-** A slower shutter speed can create interest when the lighting is poor.
 - D-** Leading lines help provide depth perception – a graduated filter can bring some color and interest back to the sky.
 - E-** In waterscape photography, the time of day is of utmost importance.
- 2- Self-assign a waterscape location. Set your shoot time to begin 1.5 hours before sunset, and plan to shoot through 1.5 hours after sunset. Study your location for the recommended composition tips (come up with several camera POV options)
- 3- Setup your camera with these general tips:
 - Shooting Mode:** Manual or Shutter priority (water motion blurred or sharp?) / **Drive Mode:** Single shot / **ISO:** 200 (adjust to facilitate shutter speed) / **Aperture:** f/5.6 - f/16 depending on the desired depth of field / **Focus Points:** All / **Format:** RAW (preferable) / **Metering:** Matrix/Evaluative / **Shutter Speed:** depending on blurred / **White balance:** Auto / **Focus Mode:** Single shot. Focus on foreground objects, if none, focus on the horizon line.
- 5- In post-production pay special attention to the Clarity, Vibrance, & Color saturation settings

HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did you properly place the focus? Is your image sharp and free of camera shake?
- Did you compose using the tools in the Key Lesson? Did you experiment with the water movement?
- Does your image convey the location with beauty & story?

READY! SET! GO! **ACTION CARDS** - **GENRE: WATERSCAPES**