

Shooting landscapes

1. **Evaluate the light** in which you are shooting. Keep in mind the “magic hour” which runs for 30 minutes immediately before and after sunrise and sunset. Sometimes instead of having back light turn around and photograph into the sun.



This image was captured early in the morning, as seen by the shadows, but the time was a little past the golden hour. (29-09-2012 Olympus SP-600UZ)

2. **Plan your photo trips** and check out each location. Look for different ways you may capture a particular scene. If you wish to return to a site you will know how to set up quickly to capture the best light. Previous visits will give you an idea of the settings you need.



I include this panoramic shot just for fun. (12-05-2015 Sony SLT-A656V)

3. **Be patient.** Keep going back to a particular place till you have the image you want with the light and atmosphere at maximum.



This is a bridge I go back too often especially now the creek is in flood. (02-19-2016 Sony SLT-A65V)

4. **Use a tripod.** A tripod is essential to ensure a stable camera especially when using a wide angle and big zoom and a slower shutter speed. Always take one with you even if you don't use it. You can use rocks, trees, posts, the ground or anything solid as an improvisation. Another device that is of great help is a cable release but many cameras don't have facility for remote.



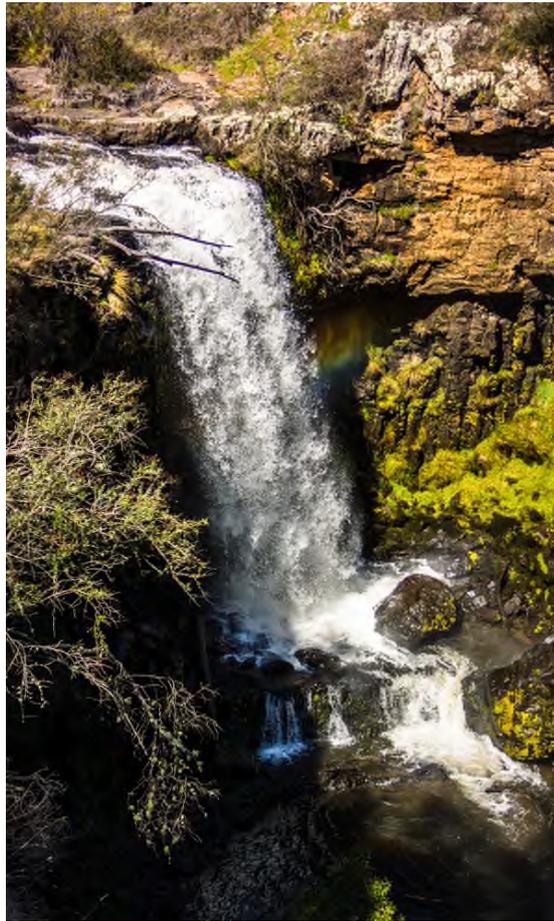
I used a fence post to stabilise the camera for this panoramic shot. (11-09-2009 Kodak EasyShare)

5. **Set your camera at maximum depth of field.** Changing DOF may not be available on your camera so set it at "P" or "SCN" (for landscapes). With maximum DOF all the image is in focus, foreground to background. In cameras with aperture control available, set aperture at about 16 (11 to 22).



I used aperture priority with setting of f18. The depth of field stretches from the foreground right to the background. This f stop works well here but each camera has its limitations and you may need to find the "sweet spot" on you camera. (17-09-2016 Sony SLT-A65V)

6. **Ensure correct composition.** Remember the rule of thirds. Think about the placement of your camera. Moving a little to left or right can make a big difference to the effectiveness of your image so look at different spots before shooting. Eye level may not be necessary for the best capture so check high and low positions.



The top and bottom of the waterfall here are at the intersections (sometimes called power points) of the golden rectangles in the rule of thirds. (24-09-2015 Sony SLT-A65V)

Bonus Tip: When you're out on a photo shoot be ready for anything. You cannot tell when a photo opportunity will present itself. (Have your camera turned on and the setting at **P**.)

Reference. [Photo Tip of the Week: Mark Gray's Top Six Tips for Shooting Landscapes](#)

Australian Photography website, 4 Oct 2013