

PCQC Video Presentation

Fundamentals of Travel Photography by Bob Krist—National Geographic

Lesson 13: Capturing the Spirit of Landscapes

Good landscape shots are vital to a story about a place you are visiting. A good shot will show what a place looks like and what it feels like. Unless you have a reason not to, make sure the horizon is level

- **The Horizon**

- Decide where to place the horizon. Let the most interesting part of the landscape help you decide
 - If the main subject is in the foreground, then move the horizon up to near the top
 - If the main subject is the sky, move the horizon down

- **Elements of Scale**

- Landscapes may be improved by placing something of known size in the shot. This provides a sense of scale.
 - The example of Seljalandsfoss falls shows that including the hiker on a trail gives the viewer a sense of the magnificent size of the falls
 - In the shot of the huge dunes in Dunhuang in China, the parasail glider gives the sense of scale

- **Weather**

- Storms
 - Approaching or receding storms can add very dramatic visuals to your photo. If you want to shoot rainbows the following tips may help
 - Place the sun behind you and no more than 42° above the horizon. This means early morning or late afternoon
 - The rain is in front of you and the sky is filled with droplets or mist (you have seen this effect on a sunny day with your garden hose set on spray)
 - The clouds do not obscure the rainbow
- Fog
 - The most common type of fog is radiation fog. It will be explained in the video
 - Fog can provide some very interesting effects in landscape photos

- **Exercises**

- Shoot the same landscape with the horizon in three different positions, near the top, in the middle, and at the bottom of the frame
- Shoot the same landscape with and without a polarizing filter. When does it work and when is it ineffective?