

PCQC Video Presentation

Fundamentals of Travel Photography by Bob Krist—National Geographic

Lesson 14: Special Techniques for Creative Photos

Want to push the envelope and do something creative? This lesson will give you some techniques that are subtle and some that are more controversial

- **Black and White (BW) and Infrared**
 - BW is an old standby. There are a couple ways to accomplish BW:
 - Convert color images to BW. But you will not be able to preview the shot in BW
 - Set camera to RAW and JPEG. Then set the JPEG to BW. This will let you see the viewer image in BW
 - Sony recently developed a BW JPEG mode that combines 3 fast exposures: dark, normal, and light (called rich BW). It then combines them into a rich BW image
 - Infrared. You can use an infrared camera or have yours converted (but conversion is irreversible). Good for landscapes and monuments
- **Panoramic Format**
 - Panoramic format involves an elongated aspect ratio, where the width is at least 2 times the height. Most cameras have a 3:2 or 4:3 aspect ratio. To shoot a good panorama you will need a scene that has strong left to right movement. In most cases you will not be able to shoot big dramatic skies. Digital panoramas can be made in 2 ways:
 - Shoot a series of horizontal pictures with overlapping edges. Then, with post-processing software, stitch the photos together
 - In-camera solution if available. Shoot the scene while moving the camera horizontally across the field of view. The camera processes the image into a panoramic frame
- **High Dynamic Range Photography (HDR)**
 - Most camera cannot “see” the same range of tones from black to white as the human eye (12 f-stops vs 14 or 15 f-stops). HDR takes a series of the same shot at different exposures and combines them, dramatically augmenting the range. The result may be “painterly” or other-worldly. Some photographers like it, some hate it. Modern software is making headway towards a softer more realistic, natural composition
- **Exercises**
 - Try shooting a panoramic image with in-camera capabilities or by stitching two or more images together with post-processing software
 - Try some HDR photographs in high contrast situations