

5 Ways to Capture Wonderful Sunset Photographs

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Whatever secluded corner of the earth you're visiting this summer, you can be sure that you'll find no shortage of sunlit landscapes. All around the globe, sunsets have a habit of making the sky fiercely ablaze or gorgeously kaleidoscopic, but freezing them in the moment just as they are can be a bit tricky. If longing to make that perfect sunset photo to remind you of the life's simplest beauties, we've got a couple of tips arranged for you.

1. Observe and Reflect

Even if you do live for the moment, flawless photography still has a number of rules, and planning ahead is definitely one of the most important ones. If you want your sunset portrait to capture the exact likeness of nature's wonders, it's crucial to get familiar with the location and weather changes that may occur on the day of the shooting.

When observed beforehand, in broad daylight, the location will give away all of its tiny secrets and details you might want to catch once the setting sun paints them bronze. Make sure your view of the horizon is perfectly clear, and in order not to wait too long for the spectacle, consult one of the mobile apps that can tell you precisely when the sun will set.

That being said, don't be frightened by a storm or a bundle of clouds coming your way – when illuminated by the setting sun, they can make a photograph endlessly more dramatic.

2. See It through a Swaying Palm

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Depending on your personal preference, you can opt for a photo of just a dazzling sunset, or you can choose to explore its play of light and shadows as it appears on the surface of water and stone, as it breaches through swaying palms, or even the way it illuminates people. Instead of entirely focusing on the sunset, observe the way in which the natural surroundings reflect its beauty and make the silhouettes the main feature of your shoot.

By doing so, your photograph will not only capture the stunning palette of orange and red, but the breathing life affected by them as well. Both the context and the overall mood of the environment will add more layer to your snap and tell a captivating story of an unrepeatable moment.

3. Keep Steady and Zoom In

To capture the pure beauty of a landscape, [stick to wide angle lenses](#), but if you want the sun to fully shine in the leading role, you might need to consider zooming it up a bit. Using nothing but wide lenses will result in a wide, sweeping scenery in which the sun is only one of the features, while those that can capture a length of 25mm and below make a perfect tool for achieving stunning sunset portraits. Increased zoom will, however, require more steadiness for the camera, which is why bringing a tripod along is a definitive must.

4. Warm It Up Manually

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An occurrence as delicate and fleeting as this is quite impossible to capture with a camera auto setting. The balance of colors and whites is by default intended for shooting with less warmth, and if not set manually, they are usually not so convenient for subtle shades of golden that sunsets are tinted with. Settings for shades or cloudy weather will, contrary to the auto mode white balance, additionally warm up those shades and make them as vibrant as nature has already made them.

5. Experiment with Exposures

The same applies to exposure settings – being aglow, the sky will remain poorly lit and underexposed on your photo, while the entire portrait will look a bit flat. Instead of settling for the vague look, switch your camera into shutter priority mode or aperture and play with various exposures.

Bracketing is yet another clever trick that may significantly improve the result, but if you're still not dexterous enough with this feature, you can use an auto exposure lock instead. Either option will bring a bit of overexposure to the photo, thus making it quite lifelike and bright.

However irresistible the scene, always remember to spin around and observe the surroundings. Instead of a sunset portrait, you might end up with a series of both landscape and macro shots, but macro shots as well – when kindled by the setting sun, every living creature and object around us is endlessly more beautiful.