

COMPOSITION EXERCISES

1) Revisit 10 favourite shots and recompose (crop)

- a. Try rule of thirds
- b. Try to find leading lines
- c. Straighten horizons
- d. Think about the journey through the image
- e. Does the image tell a story?
- f. Show them to a friend and ask which they prefer and why

2) Visit a familiar location (beach, building, landscape etc.) and take 10 shots

- a. Exercise the rule of thirds
- b. Get down low
- c. Shoot from above
- d. Allow a foreground object to dominate
- e. Use leading lines
- f. Convey a mood or tell a story

Top 10 tips of Composition

1. **Show One Subject Clearly** – A photo with one dominant subject will be a stronger photo. A single subject may be a group of people or objects
 2. **Fill the Frame with the Subject** – A subject large enough to dominate the photo will hold the viewers attention. Look for unnecessary foreground.
 3. **Simplify the Background** – Cluttered backgrounds will weaken your photos. Change the camera angle to eliminate distractions.
 4. **Place the Subject off Centre** – Central subjects tend to be boring – use the Rule of Thirds. Central placement is appropriate for some subjects.
 5. **Look for unusual Viewpoints** – Don't take all photos standing at your full height with the camera at eye level.
 6. **Vary your Subjects** – Don't become stuck in a rut – try different subjects. When at a location capture all the possibilities that are there.
 7. **Take Charge** – When conditions permit change things to give you the best result. Don't be passive – become involved.
 8. **Take extra Pictures** – Take several shots of a scene that appeals. Try to make each one the best one of that subject.
 9. **Watch the Light** – The light on the subject controls how it will appear. Choose light conditions, which give you the best result.
 10. **Experiment – Don't be bound by rules!**
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