PHOTOGRAPHING SUNSETS

A great sunset photograph typically requires three things. 1) A great sunset, which usually means some cloud cover. 2) A proper exposure in your camera. 3) Some type of foreground interest.

View From My Lens

Perfect to print A5 size
14cm x 21cm / 5.83" x 8.27"

BASIC SETTINGS

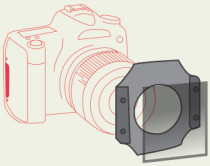
MANUAL MODE
Is the best option to have complete control over the shot. Set the ISO and aperture, and then adjust the shutter speed for a proper exposure. Slight underexposure often works best.

APERTURE
It is best to go with smaller aperture such as f/11 or f/16. This way the image will be sharp from close up- and off into the far distance.

SHUTTER SPEED
1/60 sec or faster is an ideal starting point. Take a test shot and then adjust the shutter speed once the aperture and ISO are set. If the shutter speed is slower than 1/30th - use a tripod.

ISO
Go low. ISO 100 will ensure clear images without any grain or noise. If shooting the afterglow, post sunset, use ISO 200, 400 or 640 as the light intensity drops.

GET THE GEAR - OPTIONAL





A graduated neutral density filter will help balance the exposure of the bright sunset, against a backlit subject in the foreground (a portrait, an object, etc). The filter will help you capture detail in the foreground subject.

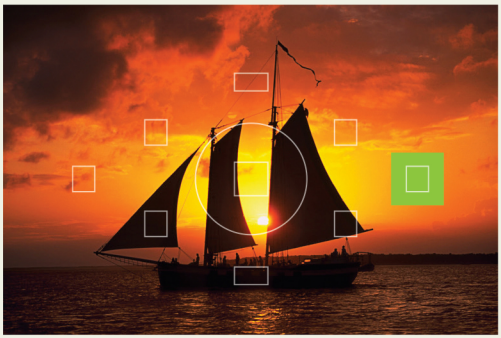
A tripod is helpful to slow the process down, get the horizon line straight, and help you check the corners of your frame for unwanted visual eye snags.

TAKING THE PICTURE

FOREGROUND OBJECT
Adding foreground interest, gives depth to the image, adds context and dimension, and even helps to tell a story that engages the viewer.

THE ART OF METERING
Set your Metering Mode to Spot. Pick a mid-tone area away from the sun to take your meter reading. See top example image **A - GREEN BOX**.

In example **B**, a dark area was the metering point. This made the camera overexpose the image. In example **C**, the sun was the metering point. This made the camera underexpose and darken the scene.



A



B



C

SPECIAL TECHNIQUES