

Thoughts For Taking Better Images

These are some ideas I want to share with you to help you take better images or at least enjoy it more.

1. Get Out More:

The more you get out and shoot the luckier, oops, better you will get. This also means the more you are out the better your chances of being in the right place at the right time. Oh, I forgot to say, be sure you have a camera with you. It really is a lot easier to take a picture with a camera with you than at the house.

2. Take It Seriously:

This is a trifecta of subject, equipment, and yourself. Have confidence that you can capture the shot. If it is worth the effort, then it is worth doing the best you can. Give it your best effort and don't just rush around and not see what you are there to see. In other words, don't be like me and get trigger finger and not open your eyes.

3. Do Some Research:

This might be one of the most important things you can do to insure success. We can know how to use a camera, expose the shot, etc., but if are not aware of where to go and when, your chance of getting the shot will diminish greatly. Mesa Arch in Arches National Park is a great example. You can literally walk by it and not see it or be there a little late and miss the reason to take such a stunning shot.

One of the things I do prior to going on a trip is to check when the photographic tours go to the area I am interested in. There must be a reason they are all going there at the same time. I also check for images of the area to get a mental picture of what I will see and maybe get some metadata on how a shot was taken. You might learn if you need a guide or a permit to go to an area and the cost, if any.

4. Camera Gear Only Takes You So Far:

The person behind the camera takes the picture, not the camera. Understand what your camera can and cannot do. Remember composition, exposure, light and subject make the shot. What we need to develop is the eye or techniques to capture the image the best we can.

5. This is a hard one, Don't Always Expect Great Images:

We all will work for it, but sometimes we are better off for going than if we had not gone at all. We cannot control the weather, leaves, water, or whatever.

Don't let not getting the great image ruin or make you bitter. Don't make getting a shot the way you judge a trip, make it part of an experience of shared friendships, sights and the photos will come. You will have shots that you would not have simply by being in a new area and seeing things you would never have seen, so enjoy the memories.

6. Don't Stop After The Shutter Clicks:

That is not the end, but the beginning. Remember post processing of the image will make it a winner or a snapshot. That does not mean not to get the very best image in camera you can, that will make the work easier.

To take your image to the next level, you will need to learn how to utilize the tools available for this. Spend time learning the tool you will use. Any image will be better with some processing, and the more you know about the process the better the image will turn out in the end.

Make your image look the best you can, it is going to be seen by others and they will be judging it and you. So, dress it up to the max.

Remember, this should be fun and enjoyable. So, get out and enjoy.

I am only stating some obvious things that most of you are well aware, but sometimes we forget the simple and get caught up in the moment.

Joe Browning