



YOUR GUIDE TO **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Motorcaravanning holidays provide plenty of great memories, against a backdrop of the most spectacular landscapes - ideal for keen photographers! Here's how to snap stunning pictures, just like a pro, on your next tour



- Jargon buster Our glossary of key terms shows how to tell your macro from your megapixels!
- **Digital cameras** Making the most of your camera, and choosing the right kit and accessories
- **Automatic modes** Let your clever DSLR take control of the settings for brilliant images
- Composition Just follow these few basic rules and you'll soon be framing great shots
- **Shooting landscapes** Expert advice on composing and taking eye-catching photos of the surroundings
- **Inspirational destinations** A round-up of some of the finest scenery across the UK, with campsites nearby
- FREE downloads, and a chance to win a Practical Motorhome subscription! Enter our great photo competition; plus, get your two free digital bookazines!





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KNOWLEDGE CANTERA JARGON BUSTER

What does it all mean? We take a moment to talk about key phrases you're likely to come across in photography

Aperture

Aperture decides how much light is let into the camera, and is measured on a scale of f-numbers. This setting also dictates how much of the image is in or out of focus.

Contrast

Contrast is the vividness of the colours and tones in an image, and how much they stand out from subject to subject.

Exposure

SUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

Exposure describes the amount of light that has entered the camera to form an image. This is dependent on camera settings being correctly balanced, so that enough light is captured for the perfect exposure.

Filters

Filters can be applied over the lens for replicating certain styles or effects. Some include colour, grain and lighting effects. A lot of compacts add in-camera filters.

Focal lengths

Measured in millimetres, camera lenses have various focal lengths, used to zoom in or out on a subject. Focal lengths can be fixed, made to extend to huge distances, or to capture subjects close up.

Histogram

A histogram such as the one shown below right is used in photography to assess the lighting pattern through any given image. The histogram shows







which areas of the photograph are most inside the visible spectrum.

ISO

This is how sensitive the camera sensor is to light, starting as low as ISO 64 (not very sensitive) and going up to ISO 3200 or above (very sensitive). Sensitive ISO ratings produce the most distortion.

JPG is used in all digital cameras to capture images in a compressed but high-resolution format. The images are portable, but they cannot be enlarged.

Macro

Macro is the art of capturing subjects at extreme closeness, creating heavy blurring in the process. Subjects can be larger than they are in real life.

Megapixels

The number of pixels in an image is measured in megapixels (mp). The more megapixels, the larger the resolution and printable size of the photograph.

Metering

Metering is the way in which the camera analyses the lighting of a scene to make the exposure, for example, using just the central part, or an average.

Metering modes in the camera are altered according to the scene and also the subject.

Noise

Created by the lack of light in a scene, noise is the distortion of pixels mainly



seen in the shadow areas of an image. Noise occurs with sensitive ISO ratings.

RAW

RAW images are uncompressed and high quality. They have a level of detail that is second-to-none in post-shoot editing. This is a standard feature of DSLRs.

Saturation

The strength, or amount, of colour in an image is described as 'saturation'. A highly saturated image has unusually strong colour, and can look unnatural.

Shutter speed

Shutter speed is the length of time that the camera sensor is exposed to light. Measured in fractions of a second, fast speeds prevent blurring.

White balance

White balance is used to keep the colour of light in an image looking natural (as if it has been shot in daylight). Different types of white balance include tungsten, flash and fluorescent.



KNOWLEDGE

DIGITAL CAMERA GUIDE

Whether smartphone or DSLR, get to know your camera and you'll soon be taking your best ever photos!







Deciding which camera to buy can be rather tricky. There are different camera types, manufacturers, features and prices to consider, but we believe it's not just about the camera, it's about knowing how to use it.

Each type of camera has its own set of pros and cons, and which one you choose will be dependent on what you're using the camera for and your past experience in photography.

If you simply want to catch quick shots on tour or take videos of a grandchild, a compact or smartphone will probably suit you. But those looking for large printouts and more advanced shooting options will need to look towards DSLRs.

No matter what you choose, with this guide, you'll get to know the key aspects of your camera and soon be taking amazing shots.

Symbols explained



Delete - found on all cameras



Playback – use to review photos



Flash - switch it on or off via this



Night-time/ low-light scenes



Zoom in on your photos



Zoom out of your photos



Timer for self-portraits



Image stabilisation



Burst mode hutton



[•] Metering icon on pro cameras



Exposure compensation



Movie mode features



Macro - for close-ups



Sports - for fast action



Landscapes for wide angles



Portrait – perfect for people



Manual mode - for control

Glossary

Aperture Affects the amount of your image that is in focus – the 'depth of field'

Shutter speed Fast speeds freeze action, while longer ones blur motion

ISO Refers to how sensitive the camera's sensor is to light and makes low-light photos clearer

White balance Affected by ambient light around you, your camera can alter setting to ensure a natural colour result

Exposure A balanced exposure has detail in light and dark areas

Metering Refers to the way in which the camera reads the light in the scene

Focal lengths

Wide-angle Wider angle of view than normal, for example 28mm **Telephoto** Magnified view of distant subjects, for example 200mm

LCD The screen on the rear of the camera

Megapixels Number of pixels on sensor, in millions

Viewfinder

Optical Shows view through the camera lens and is good for accurate framing

Electronic Shows view on an LCD in the viewfinder

DSLR

Digital single lens reflex camera

Compact system camera



Accessories

1 Card reader

You can pick these up cheaply for one card, but you'll pay more for multiple slots

2 Memory card

Check which type your camera accepts before you buy

3 Connection

Check that you have all of the leads you will need to connect your camera

4 Editing software

Your camera usually comes with its own free editing program on a disc or as a digital download

5 Lens cloth

Keep your camera clean. You could try a glasses cloth

6 Support

A beanbag keeps shots steady while you decide on a tripod

7 Batteries

Spare batteries are a must-have

8 Bag

Protect your camera, card and accessories with a camera bag



Camera types

SMARTPHONES

Pros...

- ✔ Light and compact
- ✔ Cool app add-ons
- ✓ Instant sharing

Cons...

- Small lens and sensorFlattens perspective
- * Fewer features
- _





FIXED LENS

Pros...

- ✓ Easy to use
- ✔ Light and versatile
- ✓ Lots of features

Cons...

- **X** Fewer manual options
- **X** Can be slow
- **X** Less adaptable

Fixed-lens cameras are easy to use and fairly cheap



INTERCHANGEABLE LENS

Pros...

- ✔ Great image quality
- ✓ Fast shooting speed
- ✓ Manual and auto

Cons...

- **x** Can be expensive
- **x** Can be complex
- **X** Can be heavy

DSLRs and CSCs are expensive but have great image quality



Modes













1 Auto

Your camera makes all decisions for you in this mode

2 Scene

You select type of scene, the camera does the rest

3 Program

You have control over aspects like white balance, flash or ISO

4 Aperture priority

You control the aperture, camera controls all of the other settings

5 Shutter priority

You control shutter speed, camera controls the other settings

6 Manual

You decide on all camera settings

Make your memories last a lifetime

with a CEWE PHOTOBOOK

Summer is here, and it's not just the sun making everything feel that bit brighter! Where happy memories unfold, photos should be taken, and CEWE is dedicated to helping you relive memories for decades to come, with its premium photo printing service. CEWE is Europe's largest photo printing company, a company

with more than 50 years of experience in all things photo printing.

From photo books to prints, wall art to gifts, CEWE is here to help turn your favourite photos into something extra special. In fact, CEWE loves printing memories almost as much as you love making them!



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*all standard t's and c's apply



From printing photos of BBQs in the garden and long-awaited reunions, to producing wedding photo books and round-ups of your favourite touring holidays, CEWE makes items people treasure from the memories they love.

Gift ideas for campers



Enamel Mug

A must-have camping essential! Customise this vintage-style mug with a personal photo for an easy way to identify which one is yours.



Personalised Playing Cards

Give your campsite game night a unique charm with a personalised deck of playing cards.



Premium Photo Cushion

Decorate your caravan or motorhome with a personalised photo cushion – the perfect addition to your camping décor.

Visit us at cewe.co.uk



FIRST STEPS

AUTOMATIC **SHOOTING** MODES

Get started quickly by giving your DSLR control of the basic settings and letting it do the hard work for you

When you're ready to take a shot, you'll need to decide which shooting mode to use. There are multiple options - including fully automatic, semi-automatic, manual and scene modes - which can be accessed via the mode dial on your camera's top plate. Right now the options might seem bewildering, not least because they're represented only by icons and letters, but we'll make it easy for you.

Full Auto mode is a good starting point for beginners. By handing over control of key settings to the camera, you can concentrate on careful framing. However, you will soon uncover its limitations.

We'd recommend you shoot with it until you feel comfortable taking pictures, then switch over to one of the more advanced shooting modes as you gain experience.





The Full Auto mode on a camera usually appears on the mode dial as a green rectangular icon, or something similar. Turn the dial around to this point to activate it. Make sure you're standing in a sturdy position, with your finger hovering over the shutter release, and your left arm tucked tightly into your body.



2 Focus carefully

Make sure your lens is set to its autofocus (AF) mode. Now your lens will take care of focusing for you, as long as you half-press the shutter release, and you'll hear a beep when focus is achieved. In manual focus (MF), you are in complete control – simply turn the focus ring until your subject appears sharp.





3 Flash light
If light levels drop when shooting in Auto mode, or you're taking pictures indoors, the pop-up flash will automatically engage to throw extra light on your subject. Flash is also useful when shooting a subject with dark shadows against a bright background, often referred to as 'fill-in' flash, as used in the image above.



4 Take a different view

Now place your finger over the shutter button. Half-press the button to activate the autofocus and fully press the button down to take the shot. Try shooting a flower yourself, varying your angle of view, and zooming in and out, for more creative results. You could shoot just the centre of the flower, for example.



TECHNIQUE

COMPOSITION

Divide the scene laid out before you into sections, and you can create a more pleasing photographic composition

1 How to use the rule of thirds

The rule of thirds can be used in all genres of photography, but you'll find it especially useful for landscapes (p108).

By splitting the scene into virtual thirds, vertically and horizontally, you can balance the composition, carefully positioning your main point of interest (a tree in the example below) on a point where the lines intersect, to draw the viewer's eye into the scene.

You should also aim to split the sky and the ground in this way, including either one-third ground to two-thirds sky, or vice versa.

If you're shooting on a day when there are good colours in the sky, or interesting clouds above, for example, it would be best to include two-thirds of sky.



In this image, the tree is in the centre and the sky and the ground are evenly divided



Here, the eye is led through the space and the ratio of sky to land is more pleasing

How does the rule of thirds work?



Artists and photographers use the rule of thirds to enhance their compositions, because it really works. But how?

If you place your main subject in the middle of the frame, it will appear static – you create empty surrounding space that is rarely interesting. Using the rule of thirds, however, you use the space more effectively and draw the eye through the image.

Use the rule of thirds to divide the sky and ground, and you'll find the ratio of light (sky) and dark (ground) is more effective. Generally, this comes down to the fact that we don't like to view things in equal measures. But rules are made to be broken, so experiment with composition and see what works for you in any given scene.

2 Frame it up

When you arrive on location, have a good look around before you even think about taking your camera out of the

bag. Take your time and consider the space you're working with, moving around to decide the best vantage point to shoot from.

Use your fingers to mock up a frame so you can see what works - and what doesn't. Many photographers return to a particular location on multiple occasions, in different light, to get the results that they're after.

3 Don't forget your tripod

A tripod is a must-have accessory for all landscape photographers. When capturing scenic shots, you'll often be shooting in low light at the start or the end of the day, or using small aperture settings to capture as much of the scene as possible in focus, so you'll need to use a slow shutter speed.

This makes it impossible to obtain sharp shots when the camera is handheld.

Using a tripod helps get composition right, because it forces you to slow down and think about how your subject works in the frame.

The way to get better results is to shoot, review, tweak, then shoot again. This might take a few tries, so keep practising.

4 Use Live View to compose

Live View is an excellent feature that's guaranteed to help you when it comes to composition.

The Live View feature on most DSLRs comes with a grid overlay option, which you can use to apply the rule of thirds.

Simply line up the horizon in the top or bottom third and place your main subject at a point that is positioned one-third of the way in - this is a simple, yet very effective, set-up.



Include eye-catching foreground interest

Strengthen your landscape compositions by including some elements in the foreground of your images that will be of intrinsic interest



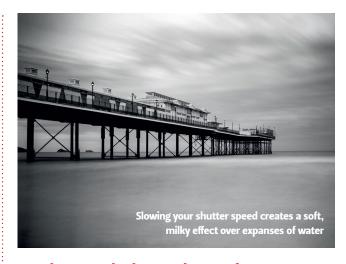
It's simple to make a rather static view appear much more dramatic



1 Now add some interest

It might seem obvious, but placing something of interest in the foreground of your image really does work, catching the viewer's eye and leading it on through the frame. Shots with no foreground interest are very boring.

By simply lowering the viewpoint and including something in the foreground, negative space can be filled, and the resulting photograph will be far more pleasing.



2 Make water look more interesting

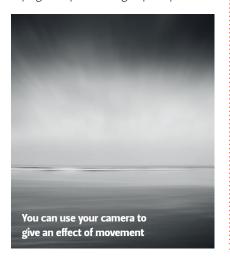
When shooting large areas of water, you can create the kind of soft, milky effect used by landscape pros, simply by slowing your shutter speed (creating a longer exposure).

This is a great way to illustrate movement in water – whether you're shooting the sea, waterfalls or fast-moving rivers – but also in dramatic overhead clouds on a windy day. It's this kind of technique that elevates images from simple to stunning.

3 Don't be afraid to use negative space

We've mentioned the term negative space, and despite this sounding like a bad thing – and in some cases it is – there are times when it can be used to create an effective, minimal result.

In this monochrome seascape, for example, we've created movement and atmosphere by dragging the camera across as we opened the shutter. This can work particularly well in a coastal location such as this, where you are trying to capture a large open space.



4 Landscape versus portrait

In landscape photography, it's easy to get into the habit of shooting everything in a landscape orientation – with your camera in its normal shooting position.

However, in some situations, you'll get better, stronger results simply by turning your camera to a portrait orientation, as shown here.

Now you can capture an entirely different view of a scene, emphasising vertical lines and features that lead the eye into the image.



Portrait orientation provides a more creative composition

STYLES SHOOTING LANDSCAPES

Learn how to compose eye-catching landscape images on your next tour!

Composition can make or break an image, so don't rush when framing your photo. A well-structured landscape should be balanced and eye-catching enough to draw you into the frame, which is why it's worth getting to grips with the traditional composition rules we've outlined below.

Familiarising yourself with what works will help guide you on your next shoot and ensure you get better landscape images as a result. That being said, don't be afraid to experiment with composition.

Originality is key to getting your work noticed, so break a few rules and try composing your next image from a unique viewpoint or perspective, especially if you're shooting at a popular landscape location.



Lack of structure

Lead-in lines should always draw you into the photo and up to the focal point, but in this image they lead you out, which means the subject is lost in the background

Top four rules to master

Discover the secrets behind a strong composition

Traditional composition rules have been followed by professional photographers for many years, which is why it's important for beginners to understand how they work and why you should use them.

We've outlined four of the best rules here, which can immediately help to set you on your way to becoming a better landscape photographer.



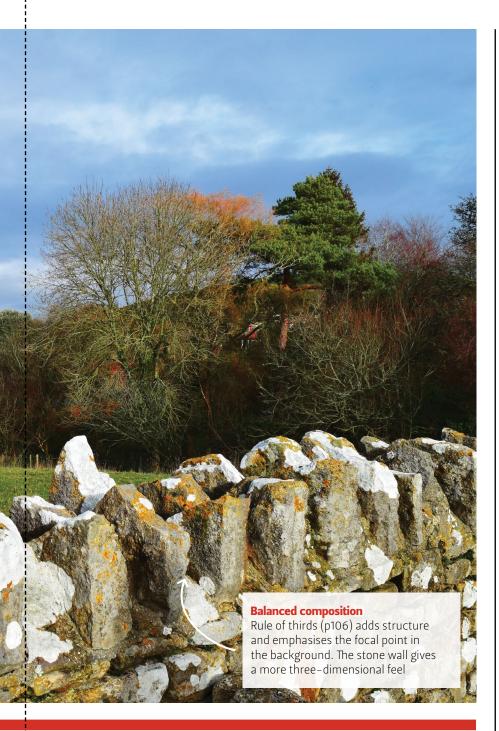
Rule of thirds

Use the camera's grid lines, which divide the scene into thirds, and position your focal point on one of the intersecting points with the horizon appearing straight along the top or bottom line



Lead-in lines

Lead-in lines are designed to draw your eye further into a photo. It's important to ensure that they are leading inwards towards a focal point or the centre of the frame, as opposed to away



Framing the view

Look for unique natural or constructed frames to photograph a landscape through. Always use wide aperture, though, and ensure you focus on the landscape within the background



Foreground interest

If there's a lot of detail in the background of your landscapes, balance the frame by also including a subject within the foreground, whether it's flowers, rocks or even a built structure

Photo hacks **for great vistas**Handy tricks to ensure

you get great shots



Filter the frame

A quick fix for achieving good exposure in bright conditions is to position your sunglasses in front of the lens. This works in a similar way to an ND filter



Find support

If you're caught short without a tripod on an impromptu landscape shoot and need to steady your camera, position it on a secure structure, such as a wall



Steady your tripod

Affordable tripods can be a bit lightweight, especially in windy weather. Keep things steady by attaching your camera bag to the central column, to weigh it down



Use self-timer mode

Use your camera's built-in self-timer to release the shutter when using slower shutter speeds. This will help you to eliminate all possibility of camera shake



INSPIRATION

PICTURE PERFECT

Looking to capture a jaw-dropping view or candid street scene on your next tour? Paul Critcher reveals some inspiring places to grab those top shots

Whitby, North Yorkshire

Positioned as it is on the North Yorkshire coast and with its literary connections to Bram Stoker's Dracula, Whitby (www.visitwhitby.com) has an alluring quality that presents a fun challenge for snappers seeking to capture its unique atmosphere. The Gothic architecture of its buildings makes a great starting point, and you're highly likely to discover a Goth or two wandering the streets, particularly during the Whitby Goth Weekend in October. However, for sheer drama, historic Whitby Abbey is hard to beat.

Where to stay Sandfield House Farm Holiday Park Web www.sandfieldhousefarm.co.uk





CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

Portmeirion, North Wales

Italophiles who've been missing their fix in the pandemic will delight in this Italianate-designed village (portmeirion. wales), built by architect Clough Williams-Ellis in the 20th century.

Colour-washed buildings surround a Mediterranean-style piazza and there's a 70-acre sub-tropical forest with 20 miles of paths. Fans of cult 60s TV series *The Prisoner* can also recreate scenes from the popular programme.

Where to stay Tyddyn Llwyn

Camping, Caravan & Touring Park **Web** www.tyddyn llwyn.com



St Michael's Mount, CornwallThis tidal island (www.stmichaelsmount.co.uk),

This tidal island (www.stmichaelsmount.co.uk), with its own castle and gardens, is achingly pretty and offers countless photo ops. The magical shot, of course, is the alluring causeway, which can be crossed at low tide. Alternatively, you could take a boat trip, which provides plenty of scenic views.

Aficionados might consider completing the set by taking some mirror images at St Michael's sister island, Mont-Saint-Michel, in Normandy, France.

Where to stay Mount's Bay Caravan Park **Web** www.mountsbay-caravanpark.co.uk



Rye, East Sussex

For something a bit less primeval, but no less charming, the Sussex town of Rye has much to offer the keen photographer. Subjects range from cute teashops and historic inns to cobbled streets and ancient churches.

The Mermaid Inn, in exquisitely cobbled Mermaid Street, is hugely popular, with its giant fireplace and cosy nooks and crannies.

You'll also find nearby Camber Sands a great spot for landscape shots of grassy dunes with the English Channel in the background.

Where to stay Rye Harbour Holiday Park Web www.parkholidays.com







The Dark Hedges, Northern Ireland

Most of the places featured here offer multiple subjects, but this one is all about the unusual, cinematic avenue of beech trees used to great effect in TV series Game of Thrones. The episode in question, 'The Kingsroad', features Arya Stark travelling by cart on the road.

The challenge here for photographers is capturing something unique at a site that has been pictured so often. Make use of the mist for really atmospheric shots.

Where to stay Drumaheglis Holiday Park and Marina **Web** causewaycoast andglens.gov.uk/seedo/caravan-parks/ drumaheglis-marina-

and-caravan-park

GIVEAWAY LEARNMORE!

Don't miss out on your two FREE photography digital bookazines





We hope you have enjoyed the photography special in this issue of *Practical Motorhome*. If you'd like to take your photography to the next level, don't miss the opportunity to download your two free photography bookazines!

Each of these 196-page digital bookazines is packed with brilliant hints, tips and advice on how to get the best photographs possible, whether you are out and about on tour with your camera, or simply enjoying the wonderful view in your own back garden. Here's what you'll get:

Teach yourself Photography

Teach yourself Photography explains all of the photography concepts beginners need, such as how to balance exposures, how to obtain sharp shots, and how to maximise image quality.

Once you've got to grips with these basics, you can move on to the more advanced skills section at the end of the book, featuring practical guides showing you how to shoot a range of core subjects. Take your photography to the next level and start learning today!

Teach yourself Outdoor Photography

Outdoor photography is one of the most rewarding areas in which a photographer can specialise, but battling with the elements and capturing movement also make this one of the most challenging genres to excel in.

Teach yourself Outdoor Photography tackles everything from landscapes and seascapes to wildlife and nature, as well as sports and action photography. Discover great tips and tricks to create images you'll be proud of.

To download your free bookazines now, simply visit www.practicalmotorhome.com/photobookazines





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