

Everyday nature photography tips and activities.

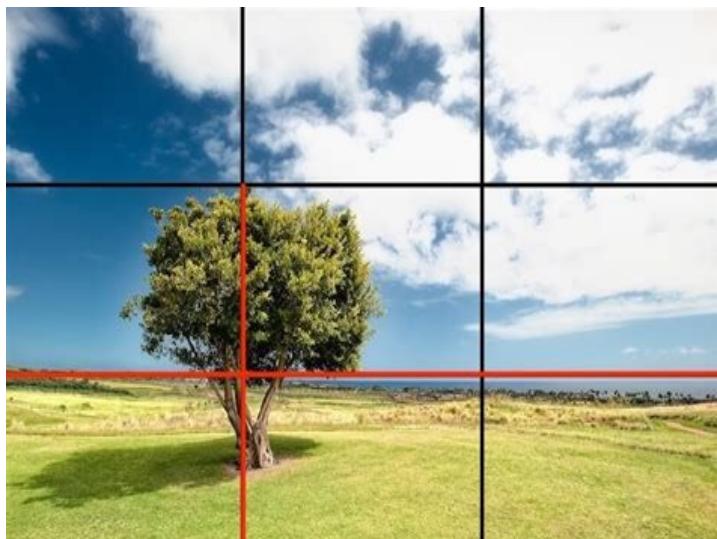
There are so many things to look for when you are out and about in nature. Everyday nature photography can be enjoyed all year round, as the seasons change we are able to capture all kinds of wonderful images whether it be a landscape, a bird, a tree, a flower, an insect, or meadow. There are so many ways to see the beauty and capture it, by looking closely to the world around us, stopping and becoming more mindful, we can do this with our cameras.

You can use any camera, whether it is a DSLR, Point and shoot, mobile or tablet camera. The idea is to help you to improve your photography in nature. Learn how to see creatively and encourage you to see the world with an artistic eye.

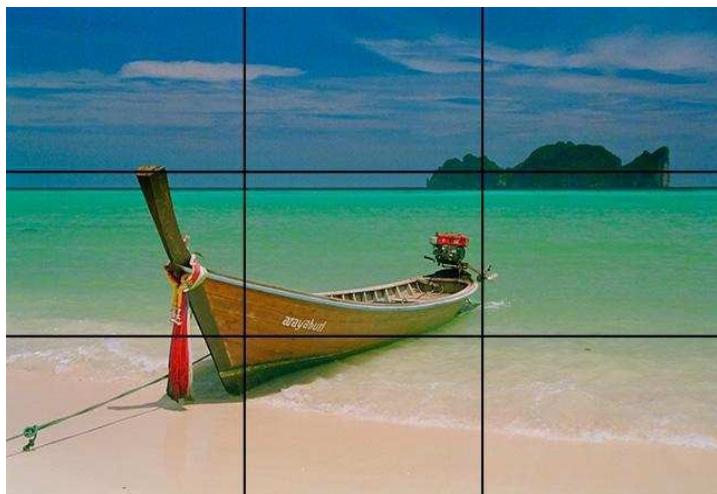


The following are a few top tips you can use when you are out and about:

Composition and the Rule of thirds



The rule of thirds, here we can see easily how we divide our image into thirds that the point of interest, the tree can then be easily placed on these lines. If we put our subject where the lines intersect then the image becomes more pleasing to the eye.



In this photograph we can see that the horizontal areas have been used in the rule of thirds. The sky, sea and beach all sit across the dividing lines. Also the boats bow is placed on the bottom left intersecting point.

Balancing Elements



Placing your main subject off-centre, as with the rule of thirds, creates a more interesting photo, but it can leave a void in the scene which can make it feel empty. Balance the "weight" of your subject by including another object of lesser importance to fill the space.

Fill the frame



You can rarely go wrong by filling the frame with the main subject. Many of the best pictures are the simplest ones. You don't have to add background for the sake of adding background.

Close up



The close up offers the ability to show the subject in an abstract way, capturing details that you wouldn't otherwise see. Allowing some blur in the foreground adds to this idea. Try getting in really close and playing with this technique.

Contrast



Contrast in lighting is another way to add dimension to an image. Lighting contrast is the difference between the lightest light and the darkest dark in a photograph. Using this element works wonders to extend the depth, the three-dimensional quality of a photograph

Viewpoint



Viewpoint is about looking at the photographic scene from a different angle, you can shift your viewpoint to create a different dynamic. Whether it's low the same positions as the flowers or perhaps high, we can look up at them too.



Overhead Viewpoint – In this photo we are able to look down on the flowers below, a perspective that gives these flowers a bouquet look.

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Decisive Moment



Animals and birds are often difficult to photograph, we have to wait for a “decisive moment”. Stop, think, pause, be patient to get the shot.

Look behind the subject to ensure there's no unwanted or distracting content going on in the background as this will help the subject stand out.

Leading lines



Leading lines are used to draw the viewer's eye through a photograph. In this case we are following the yellow road markings as they wind with the road. Leading lines are also used to draw your eye to a focal point in the shot that you would like to highlight.

Vanishing points



A vanishing point is a single point on the horizon line in an image where parallel lines converge to give the illusion of depth. These can be a great way to take the viewer on that journey.

The following activities can be enjoyed either solo or with friends:

Abstract

Abstract nature photos could be created from anything, whether it be blur, creative use of color, or other techniques used to give a unique perspective of natural subjects.

Fill the frame of the composition to the edges with close detail.
Choose an unusual angle to view from.
Look for abstract shapes and patterns



Alphabet photography

Looking for letters, Bare trees reveal Vs and Rs. Pavement cracks and twisted decorative metal gates and fences spell out Ss and Cs and fallen leaves can be swept into shape. Nature is full of interesting curves and letter shapes. On sunny days use shadows to make your letters.

1. Fill the frame with the letter
2. Make sure its sharp



Look for Patterns

To add an extra dynamic layer to your photography, try looking for textures and patterns. You can find them everywhere, in nature. Repetitive elements can turn even the most boring of subjects into an exciting image. To make the most of patterns and textures, get in close so that you can focus on the details. You could add some blur even with a phone camera of the foreground and background, to give your image some depth.



Colour

Have fun only finding things of a certain colour, look for a dominant colour to take the image of. This can be a lot of fun especially if you challenge yourself not to use green.

