

# UNDERSTANDING COMPOSITION

## Why does composition matter?

- A great view doesn't necessarily mean a great photo - converting from the 3D World to a 2D photo loses a lot of visual interest
- Improving composition is the quickest and easiest way of improving your photos
- Have a list of the main composition rules as a mental checklist and for each shot consider which might help make your photo more interesting
- They are guidelines, not rules and it doesn't matter if you break, or ignore them sometimes!

## Composition rules mental checklist

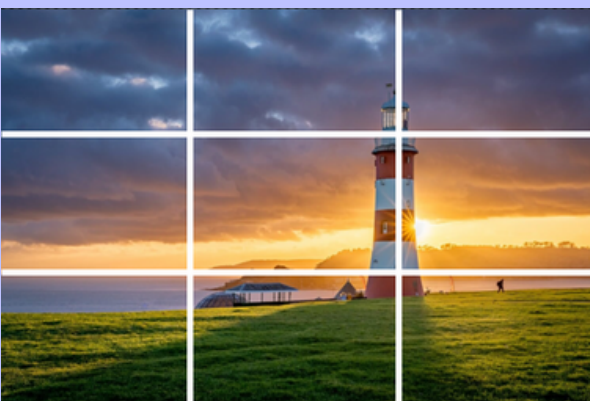
- Look for SIMPLICITY of composition
- Find a MAIN SUBJECT as a FOCAL POINT for the photo
- Place your focal point (main subject) using the RULE OF THIRDS
- Find LEAD-IN LINES to draw the viewers eye into the photo
- Use FOREGROUND INTEREST to help draw the viewer into the scene

### SIMPLICITY



- SIMPLICITY of composition makes for more engaging photos
- Avoid clutter, especially on the edge of the frame as this can be very distracting
- SIMPLICITY can be created using long shutter speeds to blur water, or shallow depth of field to blur the background of a photo

### RULE OF THIRDS



- Place your MAIN SUBJECT on one of the RULE OF THIRDS verticals
- If your scene is symmetrical, you can place your MAIN subject in the middle
- Place your horizon on either the top RULE OF THIRDS horizontal line (if the sky is not interesting) or the lower line if it is interesting

### LEAD-IN LINES



- Find LEAD-IN LINES to draw the viewers eye into the photo
- These can be man made (roads, paths, fences) or natural (ripples on a beach, lines in rocks)
- LEAD-IN lines are most powerful if they lead from the corners of the image.

### FOREGROUND INTEREST



- Identify FOREGROUND INTEREST to help draw the viewer into the scene
- Make sure the FOREGROUND INTEREST is properly into the frame, not just poking in from the edge which could be a distraction