

Black & White Landscape Photography Quick Reference Guide

Basic Camera Settings

1. RAW colour (NOT jpeg).
2. Aperture Priority.
3. ISO 200. Increase this to 800 or 1600 if not using a tripod and shutter speed falls much below 1/100 second. With vibration reduction turned on, if available, you may be able to hand hold down to 1/20 second. The higher the ISO setting the more noise (= lost quality) you will see in your images.
4. Monochrome view on LCD, if available.
5. Matrix or Evaluative metering usually best.
6. Exposure is a combination of Aperture (f4, f5.6, f8, f11, f16, f22, etc), Shutter Speed and the ISO setting. You can adjust them all to suit your image.

Composition and Further Settings

7. Pick out the scene for your picture, select lens, use zoom.
8. Find foreground interest (rock, tree, grasses, etc) and use f22 if anything close to lens or use f8 if nothing close to lens.
9. Make sure all parts of image are in focus from foreground to background (or decide which parts you want out of focus and compose and expose accordingly).
10. For water, $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ second will give 'streaky' water, 1/125 or more will freeze water droplets in mid-air. 1/30 or 1/60 will give a combination of the two.
11. Look for lead-in lines from lower part of the picture.
12. Rule of thirds; noughts and crosses grid superimposed on image (most cameras do this), put important parts of image on lines or where lines cross.
13. Keep images simple. Black and white works best with less in the image, 'busy' images seldom work well. Use your zoom lens.
14. Before pressing shutter button check the edges of the viewfinder or LCD for distractions and change position, zoom, height, etc to remove.

Review Image on Camera LCD

15. View histogram. Right side is white (bright areas), left side is black (shadows)
16. If spikes on histogram touch right hand axis use exposure compensation (try -1 to start with, for example) or bracketing (take 3 exposures every time you press the shutter button) to move histogram away from right hand side axis. If bracketing set use Continuous mode to take full set of images with one press of shutter button.
17. If spikes on histogram long way from right side or squashed up on the left side then use exposure compensation to move to right (try +1 or +2). This will help put detail in both your light and dark areas in an image.
18. Turn on Highlight mode as extra check on overexposure (white areas with no detail flash black). Adjust exposure (e.g. change from 1/50 to 1/100)

Simple Image Editing in Adobe Photoshop CS3 or Elements 8

1. Convert RAW to Tiff when transferred to PC or MAC. Save both the original unedited RAW file and the newly created Tiff file.
2. Rotate
 - To correct image orientation (Image – Rotate)
 - To correct sloping horizons and water in lakes (Image – Rotate)
3. Convert to black and white
 - Image – Adjustments – Black and White (CS3)
 - Enhance – Convert to Black and White (E8)
 - Click presets (E8) or drag sliders to adjust brightness and contrast
4. Crop Image to final composition (Crop tool).
5. Add File Info
 - Fill in image and contact details and copyright statement
6. Change to 300 dpi printing resolution (if not done by RAW to Tiff conversion)
 - CS3 Image – Image Size; E8 Image - Resize – Image Size (ctrl-alt-I)
7. Remove blemishes (dust and hairs) - Healing Brush or Clone Stamp tools.
 - Right click on Background, select Duplicate Layer
 - Enlarge image, then spot dust, up, down, across, etc.
8. Final changes to the brightness and contrast of the whole image.
 - Create Adjustment Layer with Levels or Brightness/Contrast or Curves (CS3 - powerful but more difficult tool to master).
9. Further selective adjustments:
Use Quick Selection (or Lasso Tool) to darken sky, for example.
 - Brush 30-odd, hardness 100% as starting point, adjust as needed.
 - Use Brush + or Brush – to adjust selection to area needed.
 - Refine Edge (select Red mask from bottom of pop-up)
 - Make sure Preview box is ticked.
 - Layer – New Adjustment Layer – Levels (or other adjustment)
10. Adjust image with Dodge and Burn tools (must select Background or other pixel layer; doesn't work on adjustment layers), if needed. Use sparingly.
11. Save file. This the Master Edited file.
12. Convert to small web resolution jpeg file, if needed.
 - Image – Mode – 8 bits / channel (or cannot save as jpeg).
 - Image – Image Size – Resolution 72 dpi – 550 pixels max dimension
 - Save file; use jpeg quality 4 for web use.
13. Close file – DO NOT SAVE – this would over-write your tiff file!
14. Print Tiff file – Ctrl - P
 - Tick Scale to fit media
 - EITHER Photoshop Manages Colours – Page Setup – Premium Glossy Photo Paper – Best Photo – ICM – tick Show all profiles – Select profile for printer and paper you are using, if available.
 - OR Printer Manages Colours – Page Setup – Premium Glossy Photo Paper – Best Photo – Advanced B&W Photo – Settings – adjust brightness and contrast after making first print (Epson R2400).