



10 TIPS FOR GREAT PHOTOS





1

TAKE PHOTOS DURING THE GOLDEN HOUR.

The golden hour is the one hour time period when the sun rises and the time when it sets. This creates many beautiful and unique lighting hues for your subjects. Many of your favorite photos will be taken during these times.





2

FIND A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE.

You can stand out from others by looking at the world a little differently. Try and shoot from a spot others haven't seen before.

Walk around your subject and decide where it's best to photograph from. Most people are lazy, they pull out their camera and shoot and move on. When you take out your camera take the time to determine where is the best spot to shoot your subject.





3

SHOOT AT YOUR SUBJECTS LEVEL.

Many times people just shoot from their eye level. Get a little uncomfortable and shoot at your subjects level.

Are you shooting a baby crawling around on the ground? Well get down at the babies level and your photos will turn out much better. It takes a little more effort, but the results are worth it.



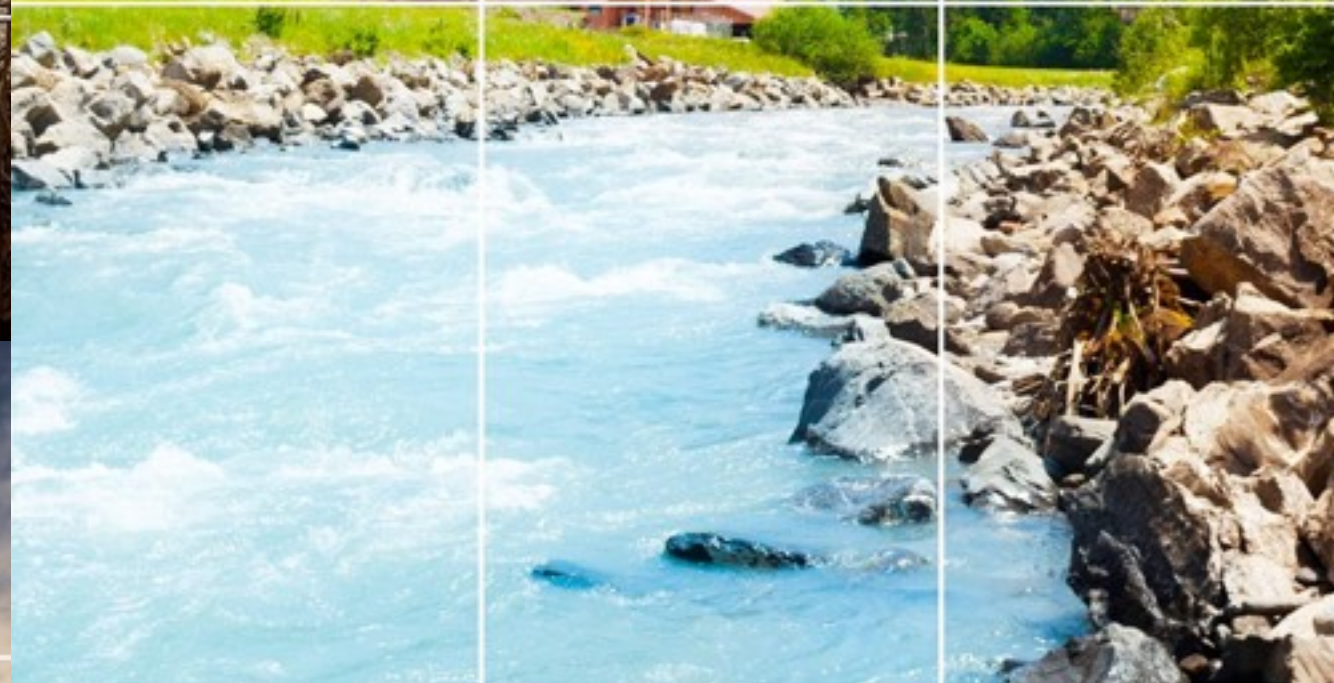
RULE OF THIRDS AND THE GOLDEN RATIO.

Beginning photographers typically line up everything in the middle. The quickest way to improve your photos is to offset your subject in your photos. There are two great photographic rules to help with this.

One is the rule of thirds. You can then make your photo more interesting by putting subjects at the intersections of these points in the photo. You don't have to worry at the time you take the photo if you are following these rules. You can also crop a photo and apply this same technique when you edit them. Trey Ratcliff, a famous photographer has his own rule of thirds and says there should be something interesting in every third part of the image.

Another rule is called the golden ratio. This is a ratio that appears in many objects in nature. It can be used to make the composition more interesting. It's a little lesser known than the rule of thirds but can lead to very interesting compositions at times.







5

SIMPLIFY

When taking photos try and simplify. Figure out what your subject is and focus on that. Do this by getting closer to your subject or eliminating distracting backgrounds. You make a photo with five interesting things in it. Try taking one photo of each thing you found interesting.





6

SHOOT THE DETAILS

Many times we do a great job at getting the main elements but we forget to shoot the details. When on vacation don't forget to shoot the interesting sign or capture some interesting wood accent on a piece of furniture or a basket of fruit at a market. Shooting these details helps you tell the whole story of your trip.



LANDSCAPES

When shooting landscapes, place the horizon line below or above the center of the photo. If you have an amazing sky make 2/3 of the photo the sky. If the foreground is more interesting then make that take up the majority.

Include people in your photos for scale. People can give a sense of scale to a photo. If you take a picture of redwood tree by itself it looks big. If you put a person next to it, it looks gigantic! You can also include repeating elements to show scale (like a fence or lamp posts).

Draw your viewer's eye into the scene. When shooting a landscape make sure you have something interesting in the foreground, the middle and the background of the photo. This provides interest and draws the viewer's eye into the photo. You can also use objects like bridges, roads or paths to draw a user into a scene.







8

GROUP PHOTOS

Getting people in interesting groupings is one key to a group photo. Also try and maximize faces while minimizing bodies. Add an interesting perspective for that great group shot. Don't forget to take several shots. Someone will always be blinking in one. One trick to prevent blinking in staged shots, is to tell everyone to keep their eyes closed until you tell them to open them. Then snap the photo when everyone opens their eyes.



PORTRAIT

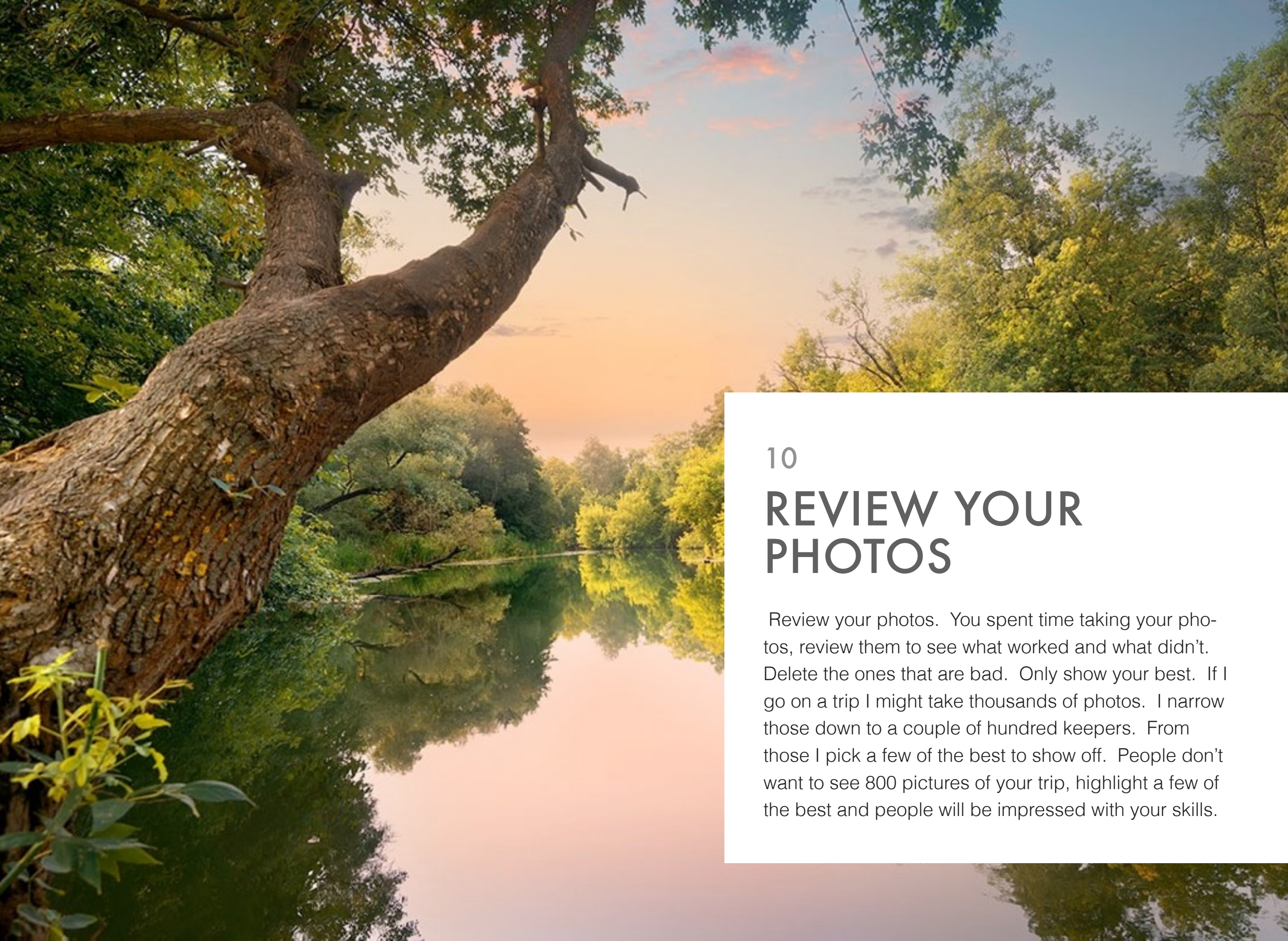
There are so many techniques for taking great portraits we could create an e-book on just that. However here are a few quick tips.

Get in close. You don't need to have someone's entire head in a photo. Get close and only shoot their face.

You don't have to capture all smiles. Smiles are great, but be sure to take photos when your kids are frowning, angry or being goofy. In any posed photo, I always say at the end go ahead and give me a crazy face. Many times those are the best! Be quick with your camera and you can also get the spontaneous smiles that erupt after you do this.





A large, gnarled tree trunk leans over a calm river. The river's surface is like a mirror, reflecting the tree and the sky. The sky is a mix of soft orange, pink, and blue, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The background is filled with lush green trees.

10

REVIEW YOUR PHOTOS

Review your photos. You spent time taking your photos, review them to see what worked and what didn't. Delete the ones that are bad. Only show your best. If I go on a trip I might take thousands of photos. I narrow those down to a couple of hundred keepers. From those I pick a few of the best to show off. People don't want to see 800 pictures of your trip, highlight a few of the best and people will be impressed with your skills.

BONUS TIP

EDIT YOUR PHOTOS

Taking photos is really only half of the process. The other half is you **MUST** edit your photos. This is probably the most important tip of all. It's the second part of the entire photographic process.

Some people may think its cheating to edit your photos. Your camera captures only a portion of the light at the time when the photo was taken. Photography is about making a scene look beautiful. You shouldn't rely on what the camera sensor captured. Ansel Adams, probably the most famous landscape photographer relied extensively on editing his photos after they were taken. When editing you don't have to try and exactly replicate what you originally saw, that's called photo journalism and you aren't a reporter. Just edit what feels right at the moment to you. You can edit any photo 1000's of different ways. Let your creativity shine and create something that is beautiful to you.

Now for a plug... We created an app called Pic Ninja which is a fantastic way to edit your photos. Could you take 30 seconds and check out our website: picninja.net?

Happy shooting! (and editing;-)



Pic Ninja

The pro photo editor
for your iPhone & iPad.

picninja.net