

Outdoor Lighting Guide



If you are enthusiastic about capturing those perfect outdoor shots consider the following guidelines. Lighting plays an important role in your results in terms of contrast, color and texture. Plan your outdoor photography to produce dramatic lighting effects. Selecting the appropriate time of day for your outdoor photography will produce spectacular results; you know those photos that are the “keepers”.

| Time of Day | Color | Comments |
|------------------|--|--|
| Just Before Dawn | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misty landscapes • Pinks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a tripod • Prepare in advance of the moment |
| Dawn – 8:30AM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden light | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoot toward the west • Great backlight facing east |
| 8:30AM – 10:00AM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bright natural light | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City happenings • Buildings • Sun behind you |
| 10:00AM – 2:00PM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midday sun • Bright natural light | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in the park • Monuments, buildings • Candid shots of life • Not the best time of day |
| 2:00PM – 4:00PM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep blue skies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes • Try your polarizer |
| 4:00PM – 6:30PM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm light • Golden tones | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoot towards the east • Nice backlight to the west |
| 6:30PM – 8:00PM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm reds & yellows | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a tripod • Great landscapes • West facing lake or ocean |
| 8:00PM – 8:30PM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep reds & yellows | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use your tripod • Prepare in advance of the sunset • Time exposures skylines |
| Night | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark blues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use your tripod • Country stars • City skylines |