



TOP OUTDOOR



PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

KNOW YOUR SUBJECT

By learning about how animals behave, you will be better prepared to capture the moment they spring into action. Is the animal active during the daytime? When does it eat? Understanding an animal's behaviour is key to understanding when and where best to photograph it. Research is key.

PLAY WITH THE LIGHT

The golden light provided by early morning sun rises and late evening sun will provide you with the best possible light to shoot in. Shadows are long and colours are rich.

THINK CLOSE AND FAR

Wildlife photography often involves getting as close to your subject as possible but sometimes this is not always possible or sensible. Placing your subject in its natural habitat is a great way of a photograph telling a wider story. A close-up photograph of an urban fox is always lovely but why not try to capture it in its environment to provide a sense of where this fox lives and how it survives.

TAKE IN THE WHOLE PICTURE

It's easy to get caught up in an animal's antics and not notice what else will be captured in a photo. Branches jutting into the frame's edge or a very uneven horizon line can be distracting and can't always be cropped out. It's good to pause, and frame both the subject and the background in the shot whenever possible.



Arctic fox amongst refuse.

PERSPECTIVE

It's so much easier to simply stand and shoot your subject but you need to think about perspective as much as possible. Don't be scared to get on the ground, shoot from above or just do things differently! By getting down to your subject's level, you can see the world from its point of view and capture a better image.



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Wheat growing on the Dorset coast.

BE PATIENT

Above everything else, if you're shooting wildlife, you need to be patient, as animals don't do what you expect them to! So, be patient, enjoy your surroundings and wait for that special moment.

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Common starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) by a birdhouse.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

It's a simple but effective rule. The best photographers haven't just become brilliant overnight. They've put the hours in, learnt their trade and if they didn't succeed at first, they tried and tried again.

HAVE FUN!

Be it wildlife, people, landscape or whatever you're shooting, most of all, enjoy it! Photography shouldn't be a chore. It should be a process of learning, discovering and ultimately enjoying what you are producing. The more you enjoy, the better your photographs.



© Jim Lewis

Sea otter in the Kodiak Harbor of Alaska.