

IAGI Installation Awards (I²A)



I² Awards Suggestions for Taking Good Photographs

1. Use a digital camera. This allows you to take many photos and experiment with different angles without having to worry about developing film.
2. Make sure you have space on a memory card and at least one spare battery when you plan to take photos.
3. Save at a 300 dpi (minimum) and size (usually at least 1 MG) and format (jpg for typical photos, tifs for high resolution such as magazine covers or posters). You can always lower the resolution but you cannot raise it afterward.
4. The best photographers take pictures early in the day or later in the afternoon. That is typically two and half hours after sunrise and two and half hours before sunset. The low-angle light at these times produces pleasing results. Mid-day sun is harsh (generally between 10 am and 4 pm) and will wash out your photograph making it look flat. A cloudy day is also good, because the light is diffused as it comes through the clouds.
5. It is best to position yourself to have the sun to one side of you when taking a photograph.
6. Change the orientation of your camera and try some vertical shots. Vertical shots are needed if you wish to submit the photos for magazine covers.
7. When you are lining up your photo, think of a tick tack toe frame overlaying your picture frame. Decide which is pictorially more important; land, water or sky. If land or water, place the horizon in the top third of the picture. If sky, place the horizon in the bottom third. Avoid putting the horizon in the middle of your photo as it is not pleasing to the eye.
8. Digital cameras are fantastic but if you auto focus, be aware that auto focus will fix on the closest object. If you are deliberately shooting with something between you and your subject the results won't be what you expected.
9. The best photographers take numerous photos of the same image. This will give you a variety of pictures to choose from when you download your images. Some images may be better focused than others or framed in a more favorable way.
10. If you are using a long telephoto lens a tripod or at least a monopod is necessary. Long telephoto lens can shake causing a blurred photo. By using a tripod you can keep your camera still.
11. Most digital cameras don't take the picture the split second you click the shutter. Hold the camera still for the extra second or two so you don't end up with blurred photos.