

My Journey of creating an Image

From Research → Fieldwork → Editing → Final Image

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Journey Into Photography

Inspiration from Travel

Traveling to iconic destinations sparked a lasting passion for photography, fueled by breathtaking landscapes and wildlife encounters.

First Photography Experiences

Using a Kodak Instamatic camera, I captured my earliest images in Yellowstone, immortalizing natural beauty and wildlife.

Lessons Learned Through Photography

Early photography experiences taught patience, careful observation, and deepened my understanding of wildlife behavior.

The Allure of Landscape and Wildlife Photography

(Nature Photography)



Connection to Nature Photography

Through nature photography, I form a deep connection with the land and wildlife, discovering a quiet appreciation for the beauty that surrounds us.

Adventure and Exploration

Driven by excitement and curiosity, this journey leads me into diverse and often untouched landscapes. It aligns with my love of travel and new experiences, where each destination reveals a sense of wonder and possibility.

Preserving Memories and Stories

My images are not only about what appears before the lens, but about expressing what I feel within—curiosity, wonder, solitude, and connection. Through line, color, and texture, I aim to convey the timeless artistry of nature and the emotions it evokes.

The Capture Process



Finding Inspiration

Travel books, social media, photographers who offer photography workshops by reviewing their itineraries, location and when they offer their workshops

Research

Location scouting: maps, apps (Google Earth, All Trails)

Weather patterns and season conditions (Windy, Lightning Pro, Clear Outside and Weather Radar)

Understanding wildlife behavior

Understand the environment – sun direction, moon phases, Milky Way visibility (PhotoPills)

Access restrictions: permits, opening hours

Pre-visualization

What story or emotion do you want?

Considering composition before arriving

Style considerations: color vs. black & white, mood, subject emphasis



Preparation

Gear Check

- Lenses, batteries, memory cards, filters, tripod, firmware updates
- Specialized gear (remote shutter, star tracker, long lens, weather protection).
- I shoot with a Canon R5. My lenses range from 15-35mm f/2.8, 70-200mm f/2.8, 100-500mm f/5.6-7.1

Shot List or Goal List

- Must-have shots
- Conditions you're hoping for (fog, storm clouds, backlight).
- *Flexibility for unexpected moments.*

On Location

Arriving Early / Working the Scene

- Scouting compositions.
- Moving around the subject for variations.
- Using foreground, mid-ground, background layers.

Technical Considerations

- Exposure triangle, (aperture, iso and shutter speed)
- Histogram usage.
- Focus modes: single, continuous, manual.
- Back-button focus.
- Mapping buttons for ease of access to functions (eye detection)

Creative Choices

- Perspective and angles.
- Leading lines, symmetry, negative space.
- Slow shutter for movement; fast shutter for action.
- Using filters (ND, CPL, grad).

Field Notes

- What was working or not.
- Settings you might adjust next time.
- Recording inspirations for editing later



The Editing Journey

Reviewing & Selecting Images



Setting Up for Editing

- Organizing folders, applying keywords, using catalogs

Culling Process

- First pass: eliminate out-of-focus or unusable shots.
- Second pass: group by composition or moment.
- Final selection: choose the images with strongest impact, story, light.

Creative Choices

Favorite Editing Software

- Photoshop
- Lightroom Classic
- Native software to camera model

Global Adjustments

- Exposure, contrast, white balance.
- Basic color grading.
- Crop and straighten.
- Lens corrections

• Local Adjustments

- Dodging and burning.
- Enhancing specific details (eyes in wildlife, texture in landscapes).
- Luminosity Masking (TK9 by Tony Kuyper – Photoshop)





Creative Finishing

Style & Creative Approach

- Creating mood
- Using masks to control depth and mood.
- Removing distractions.

Final Touches

- Sharpening for output
- Preparing for print vs. social media
- Posting to my personal website natureslace.com

Black and White Conversions

When converting images to **black and white**, the goal is to emphasize **form, light, and emotion** without relying on color. Here are a few key **elements to look for**—especially useful for landscapes and wildlife photography



- ❖ **Light & Shadow**
 - Will image still work if color disappears
- ❖ **Tonal Range**
 - Use your camera's B&W preview to visualize tones in the field
- ❖ **Texture**
 - Side lighting enhances texture dramatically
- ❖ **Shape & Form**
- ❖ **Lines & Patterns**
- ❖ **Mood & Emotion**





Preparing for Output

Printing Options

- Self-printing (consider paper types, Red River, Canson, Canon, Epson)
- Printing Labs (Cashman Photo Lab, BayPhoto, White House Custom Colour)

Social Platforms

- Facebook
- Instagram

Competitions

- Camera Clubs
- Local Magazine (Nevada Magazine & Visitor Guide)

Online portfolios

- Personal websites (SmugMug, SquareSpace, Flickr)
- My website: www.natureslace.com

More Images



Exif Data

Date: 12/26/23 Camera Model: Canon EOS R5 Settings: 1/50s, f/13, ISO 50 Lens: RF 15-35mm, f/2.8 8 stop ND filter (Kase)

“Twisted tale”



“Lion’s Gaze”

Exif Data

Date: 10/11/14

Camera Model: Canon EOS 70D

Lens: EF 100-400mm, f/4.5-5.6

Settings: 1/320s, f/5.0, ISO 1600

Focal Length: 220mm



Exif Data

Date: 02/08/24 Camera Model: Canon EOS R5 Settings: 1/400s, f/14, ISO 100 Lens: RF 100 f/2.8 CPL Filter

“Desert Winter wonderland”



Exif Data

Date: 02/15/25 Camera Model: Canon EOS R5 Settings: 1/3200s, f/8, ISO 1600 Lens: RF 100-500 f/4.5-7.1 Focal Length: 500mm

“Clash of the Kings”



Exif Data

Date: 03/16/24 Camera Model: Canon EOS R5 Settings: 1/15s, f/5.6, ISO 800 Lens: RF 24-105mm f/4

“A Classic Night”

“Shadow of the Past”



Exif Data

Date: 10/27/18

Camera Model: Canon EOS 5D Mark III

Settings: 3s, f/2.8, ISO 100

Lens: EF 35 f/1.4L



“Frozen Fractals”

Exif Data

Date: 1/4/19 Temp: 20°

Camera Model: Canon 1DX Mark II

1/320s, f/9.0, ISO 100

EF 70-200, f/2.8

Final Thoughts

- Be curious
- Practice intentionally
- Keep refining your process
- "Shoot for you"

"I photograph not to show the world as it is,
but what my heart feels"

