



### Today Topics:

- Light
- Composition
- Travel Subjects

### Light

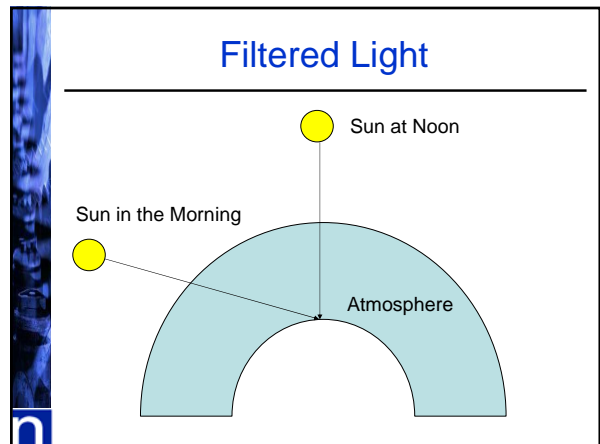
Two side-by-side photographs illustrating light. The left image shows light rays streaming through classical columns. The right image shows sunbeams breaking through a dark, stormy sky over a body of water.

### Light

- Daylight
  - Buildings
  - People
- Weather
  - Bad Conditions
  - Rain
- Night Shots

### Daylight

Two side-by-side photographs of daylight scenes. The left image shows St. Mark's Campanile in Venice. The right image shows traditional stone windmills.



## Filtered Light

- Best light within 2 hours of sunrise or sunset in southern U.S. during the summer
  - Around 30 degrees from horizon
  - 45 degrees with a polarizer
- In Europe, the best light may be within 4 to 2 hours of sunrise or sunset during the summer
- Use of a polarizer “extends” 2 hour window
- Winter light is already filtered to some extent

## Midday Polarizer Example



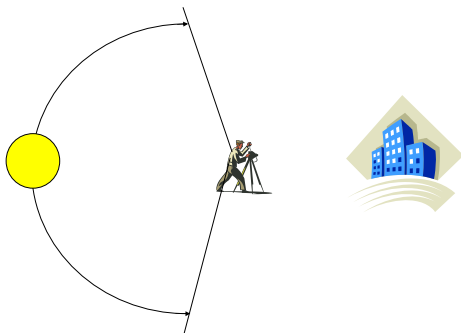
## Daylight - Buildings

- Bright sunny light with the light at your back or side
- Best time is after a cold front to produce crisp clear blue skies
- Use a Polarizer for rich blue skies
- On partially cloudy days, wait until the building is fully illuminated by the sun before taking the photograph

## Buildings (Remember Suggestion #4)

- Visit Eastward facing monuments and buildings in the morning
- Visit Westward facing monuments and buildings in the evening

## Buildings



## Building Examples



## Daylight - People

- Good light for Buildings is Bad for People
- To flatter the model, use soft overcast light.
- Avoid Direct Midday Sun
  - Raccoon Effect
- To avoid the Raccoon Effect:
  - Take Pictures in Shadows or Shade, or
  - Use a fill flash
- Do not use “vivid” for people

## People Examples



## Fill Flash Suggestions

- Adjust fill flash down -1 stop when shooting in direct sun
- Adjust fill flash down -2 stops when shooting in the shade

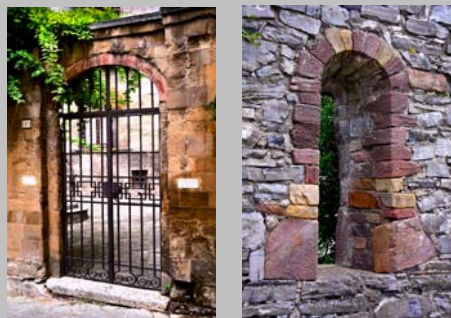
## People Examples

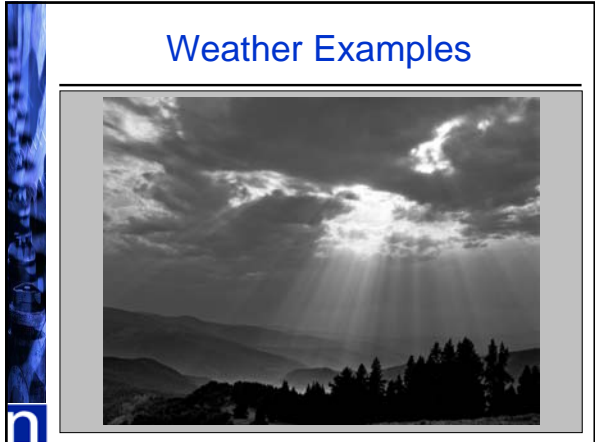
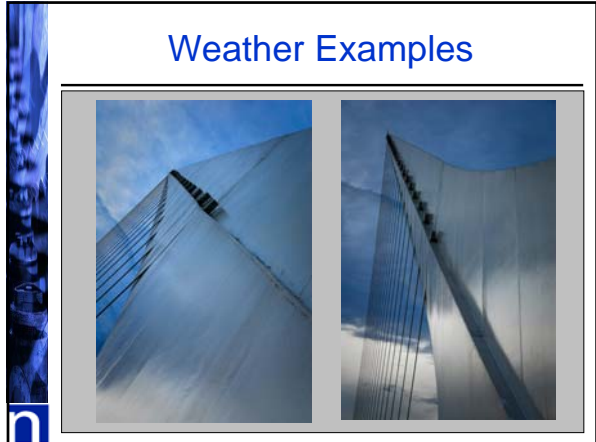


## Weather

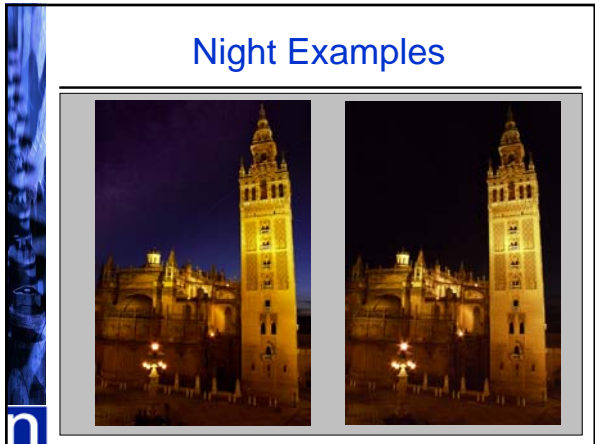
- Bad Conditions
  - Featureless Gray Bright Sky
  - Haze that filters out Blue Light
- In Rain
  - Consider B&W
  - Details
  - Flowers
  - Do not include sky unless there are distinct clouds
- In Smog
  - Consider B&W
  - Sunsets or Night Shots

## Weather Examples





- ### Night Shots
- Right after sunset or before sunrise  
– 20 minute maximum window
  - Use a tripod
  - Expect Long Exposures (1 to 5 seconds)
  - Do not forget about B&W

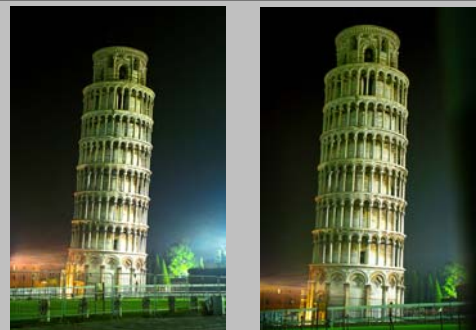




## Night Examples



## Night Examples



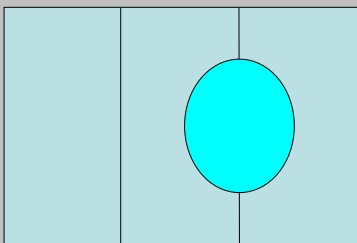
## Rules of Composition

- Use the Rule of thirds
- Use Leading Lines
- Use S Curves
- Leave "space" for your subject to enter
- Do not place the subject at the center\*
- Do not place the horizon at the center\*
- Frame your subject
- Crop as needed\*

## Rules of Composition

- Do not have the background competing with the subject
- Avoid intersections with the edge of the photograph
- Bracket your compositions
- Break all of the above rules

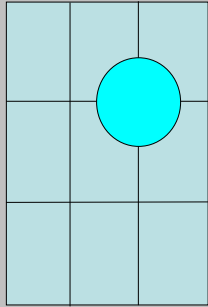
## Rule of Thirds - Example



## Rule of Thirds - Example



### Rule of Thirds - Example



### Rule of Thirds - Example



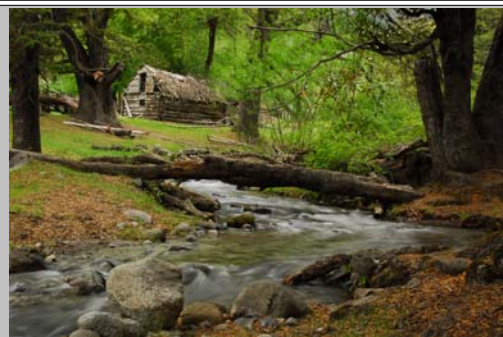
### Leading Lines - Example



### Leading Lines - Example



### S Curves - Example



### Space to Enter - Example



Space to Enter - Example



Space to Look - Example



Space to Look - Example



Frame your Subjects - Example



Non-Competing Backgrounds



No Edge Mergers





## No Edge Mergers



## Bracket Your Compositions



## Travel Subjects

- Buildings and Monuments (exterior)
- Churches (interior)
- Fountains
- People
- Landscapes
- Snow or White Buildings

## Travel Subjects – General Procedure

- Check the Subject
- Check the Light
- Check the Background

## Buildings and Monuments

- For Bright Sunny light:
  - Light at your back or side
  - Use “vivid” setting on your camera
  - Best time is after a cold front to produce crisp clear skies
  - Use a Polarizer for rich blue skies
  - Use a low ISO setting
- Be careful – it may be illegal to photograph some buildings (post 9/11 hysteria)

## Buildings and Monuments

- For Low light:
  - Light at your back or side
  - Use “vivid” setting on your camera
  - Remove the Polarizer for rich blue skies
  - Use a high ISO setting or tripod



## Monument Example



## Lighthouse Example



## Churches (inside)

- Do not use a flash
- Use a Tripod and low ISO if possible
  - Not possible in most Catholic Churches
- If Tripods are prohibited, use high ISO settings
- Use Timers for hand holding
- Try Multiple Shots for 1 good one
- Use Point and Shoot before pulling out a DSLR

## Churches (inside)

1. Use Point and Shoot
  - High ISO
  - Timer
  - Multiple Shots
2. Pull out DSLR
  - Use High ISO and Timer first
  - Reset ISO
  - Use small tripod in enclaves
  - Use small tripod with pews or side chairs
3. Pull out Tripod
  - Use in enclaves first
  - Use in main enclave before you are about to leave

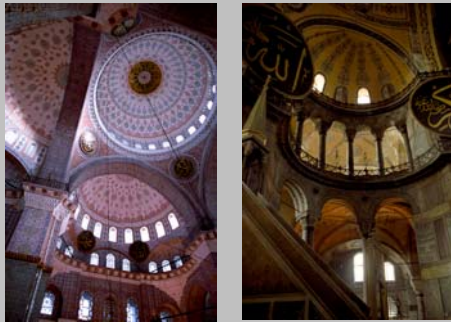
## Church Examples



## Church Examples



## Church Examples



## Fountains and Waterfalls

- Use a Tripod
- Use slow shutter speeds (1 sec or more)
- You may need a neutral density in bright light (use lowest ISO possible)
- Night shots are especially dramatic

## Water Examples



## People

- Do not use Vivid
- Avoid bright sunlight if you want to flatter them
- Take Portraits in Shade
  - Use Fill Flash (Dial down if required), or
  - Use Spot or focus point exposur for the face
- For portraits, use 75 to 100mm and a large aperture
- Focus on the eyes

## People

- There is a difference between tourist activities and working activities
- Ask when photographing working activities
- Expect to pay
- Depending on the culture, you may be insulting or harming them
- Do not take pictures of “real” police or servicemen

## People Examples



## People Examples



## Fill Flash Example



## Shade Example



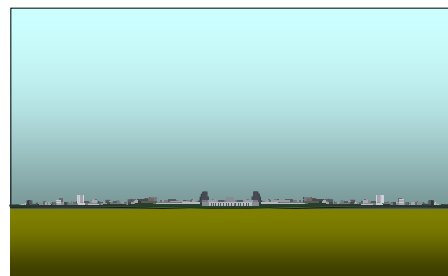
## Landscapes

- Use caution when taking landscapes from “lookout points”
- Include foreground when possible
- Use at least  $f/8$  and if possible  $f/16$
- Typically, light should be behind or to the side of you (except sunsets, etc.)

## Lookout Points



## Lookout Points - Results





## Landscape Examples



## Landscape Examples



## Landscape Examples



## Landscape Examples



## Forests

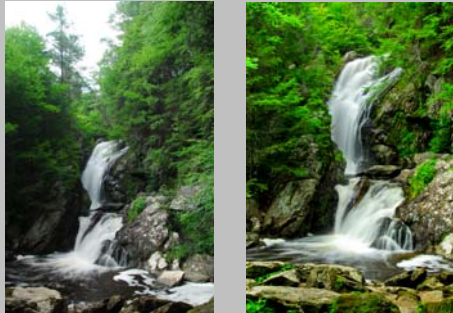


## Forests

- Do not include any sky when in heavy tree cover.
- Frame to avoid all sky if possible.
- If not possible, then use spot or area metering



## Forests



## Snow or White Objects

- Camera assumes proper exposure is 18 percent gray
- Meter from:
  - Green trees
  - Blue Sky at 45 degrees
- Bracket

## “White” Examples



## “White” Examples



## Snapping from Buses or Planes

- Set the camera to continuous focus
- Set the mode to continuous
- Hold the lens as close to the glass as possible
  - Use a lens hood
  - Use a rubber gasket
- Snap off as many as possible
- Hopefully, one will be a keeper

**Thank You**

Bill R. Naifeh  
www.naifehphoto.com

972-726-9500  
www.naifeh.com