

# LONG EXPOSURE TIPS & HINTS FOR NOVEMBER TOPIC

(Be creative with the light in your photo)

## What equipment is needed to shoot Long Exposures?

A Tripod; Camera, and Cable Release (plus Warm clothes!!)

## What subjects are best for Long Exposure Photography?

Seascapes, landscapes, and cityscapes. The key to getting a successful long exposure image is to have something in your image that is perfectly still and something that is moving. Water, clouds, and trees blowing in the wind all work well if the rest of the scene is stationary.

The difference between the elements in the scene will create drama, and will add significant value to your image.

Water looks like a soft mist, trees look like a dull blue, and clouds become long and streaky.

## What camera settings should be used?

Long exposures (and/or light trails) are ideally shot in Manual mode. Semi-manual modes such as Aperture Priority or Shutter priority can be used.

- **Shutter speed** – depending on the light in your scene, your shutter time will need to be at least 10 to 15 seconds, or longer if necessary. If you are doing a seascape and the water is moving quickly, then a few seconds may be long enough to make the water look misty.
- **Aperture** – you will want to have your aperture set at anywhere between f/8 and f/16. This will be determined by how much light is in the scene and how long you want to expose for.
- **ISO** – keep your ISO settings as low as possible. ISO 100 is a good starting point to use for long exposures.

## When is the best time of day to shoot long exposures?

It's normally a good idea to shoot long exposures as the sun is setting, or just after sunset. Ideally you need to be on the scene an hour before sunset. That way you can test some shots, make sure your composition is good, and be sure all your settings are correct. Then wait.

Each time you decide to shoot long exposures will be a little different due to light changing etc or your moving subject will change.

## **Shooting Light Trails:**

Shooting light trails is similar to the above tips except for timing and location.

Subject ideal for light trails: A subject with lights moving through your scene. A car, bus or train and even an aircraft can work. **\*\* Keep safe\*\*** position yourself and beware of your surroundings.

## **Camera settings for Light Trails**

- **Shutter speed** – depending on the light in your scene, your shutter time will need to be at least 10 to 15 seconds, or longer if necessary. Make sure that your shutter speed is long enough to capture longish light trails. You don't want to cut them off too soon as you will have some short trails in your image that may look strange.
- **Aperture** – you will want to have your aperture set at anywhere between f/5 and f/11. This will be determined by how much light is in the scene and how long you want the exposure.
- **ISO** – keep your ISO settings as low as possible; ISO 100 is a good starting point for light trails. If your ISO is set to 500 or higher, your exposure will be shorter and you run the risk of overexposing the highlights, especially when shooting car headlights.

Best time for light trials is in the early evening, or after the sun has set. Try different times after sunset and see what works for you.

Have fun.