BREAK THE RULES WITH CENTRAL COMPOSITIONS
USE A TELEPHOTO LENS TO ZOOM IN ON DETAILS
SHOOT AFTER DARK FOR STUNNING ASTRO PHOTOGRAPHY
FIND A NEW PERSPECTIVE FOR INCREDIBLE AERIAL VISTAS

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How to use a telephoto lens to zoom in on details

- **TRY A TELEPHOTO ZOOM** Working with a telephoto lens means that no matter how much you physically move yourself, you won’t have much of an impact on how close you are to your shot. Being able to zoom in and out of your chosen vista means that you have the flexibility to decide what you want your shot to be.

- **USE A TRIPOD** Unfortunately the nature of telephoto lenses is that they’re long and heavy. This means that when you’re working in a windy location (which is likely if you’re in the mountains), then you’ll need to set up a sturdy tripod close to the ground in order to reduce the risk of camera shake.

- **SHOOT A HILLY REGION** Telephoto landscapes are interesting, because rather than making the scene seem even more vast, they compress the perspective instead. For this reason flat landscapes don’t work well with this technique, so shoot rolling hills or dramatic mountains for the best results.

- **FIND SMALL DETAILS** The best way to create a dynamic telephoto landscape is by finding the smaller details that you would never be able to highlight with a wide-angle lens. Why not wait for dusk to shoot an unnaturally large sun setting behind an imposing mountain range or a striking forest scene?

- **GEAR ESSENTIALS** A 70-200mm f/2.8 lens is a great fit for wildlife, but it’s also fantastic for telephoto landscapes. Zoom in on the details of any vista with this incredibly useful piece of kit.

How to break the rules with central compositions

- **USE A WIDE-ANGLE LENS** Landscape photography and wide-angle lenses are almost synonymous with each other, and for good reason. Draw your viewers’ eyes into the frame by using a wide-angle lens to capture the landscape in all of its vast glory. Invest in a Sigma 20mm f/1.4 for consistently sharp shots.

- **COMPOSE CENTRALLY** Placing your focal point in the centre of the image breaks away from the standard rule-of-thirds that most landscape images usually adhere to. However, by experimenting with a central composition you can create amazing landscapes that capture your viewers’ attention.

- **FIND A FOCAL POINT** An eye-catching focal point is essential for any landscape image, but it’s especially important if you’re composing centrally. Find an interesting structure, like a tree, mountain or interesting building to place in the centre of your frame for stunning results.

- **GEAR ESSENTIALS** Invest in a pin-sharp wide-angle lens, such as the Sigma 20mm f/1.4, to produce epic landscape images. This lens costs £699 and comes in either Canon or Nikon fits.

How to find a new perspective for incredible aerial vistas

- **CAPTURE AERIAL SHOTS** If you want to explore unfamiliar views of the earth, then aerial photography is the perfect option for you. It provides a fantastic opportunity to explore locations that may not be the most impressive from the ground, but suddenly come into their own when viewed from the sky.

- **BUY A DRONE** If you have some spare cash and you want to invest in your landscape photography, you may think that a spare lens or a new tripod might be the best use of your cash. However, buying a drone can open up brand new opportunities and reward you with epic shots.

- **GET A DRONE LICENCE** Selling drone footage and stills is a great way to make some extra money, as drone photography is still a niche genre. However, while you can freely use a drone for personal work, you will need to invest in a drone licence for professional undertakings, which can cost you upwards of £1000.

- **RIDE IN A HELICOPTER** If you’re interested in aerial photography, but don’t want to commit to a drone just yet, why not consider taking a helicopter tour? You can go around London for as little as £100, which not only lets you experiment with the genre, but also allows you to take photos high above the city.

- **GEAR ESSENTIALS** Drones are less expensive than you might think. A kit with everything you need to get started (save for a smartphone & memory card) will only set you back about £400.

How to shoot after dark for stunning astrophotography

- **SET UP YOUR KIT** Any kind of long exposure will require that your camera remains absolutely still. While a tripod is a must, if you want to ensure that there’s zero chance of camera shake invest in a shutter release cable. This will allow you to trigger your camera without having to physically touch it.

- **SET WHITE BALANCE** Selecting the correct white balance for astrophotography is crucial. Before you choose any other settings you need to go into your camera’s menu and select Incandescent (or Tungsten if you’re using a Canon) in the white balance menu. This will give your shots a cool blue hue.

- **SHOOT IN RAW** When it comes to shooting in low light conditions, high quality files are absolutely essential. RAW files are generally around 5x larger than JPEGs, so they’re able to carry much more information. This means that when it comes to editing your shot you have a lot more to work with.

- **WAIT FOR A FULL MOON** The general rule for shooting astrophotography is to shoot on a new moon (when it is not visible), otherwise the stars get washed out. But if you’re not bothered about stars then the moon is a brilliant source of light that will illuminate the curves of your landscape with a mysterious glow.

- **GEAR ESSENTIALS** A reliable tripod really is worth its weight in gold, especially for night photography. Manfrotto’s 190 Go! carbon fibre tripod (£235) is light, sturdy and well-built.