

Advice on Photographing Water

Water is a fantastic subject to photograph. You may think water is boring, but think again! Water is a very versatile subject. Below are tips and suggestions for photographing water.

1. Plan a trip to the ocean. Sunrise and sunsets are beautiful over the ocean. Capture the different colors reflecting in the water. When there is a full moon, you can also get its reflection.
2. If you want to photograph moving water, such as waterfalls or rivers, you can either use a fast or slow shutter speed depending on the effect you want. The faster the shutter speed, the less time light is exposed to the film. A slow shutter speed means that the film is being exposed to light for a longer amount of time. For a smooth, blurred effect, use a slow shutter speed, and a fast shutter speed to freeze the water in motion.
3. Find reflections. What does the world look like in a puddle? Use reflections to create abstract images. Make sure you use at least an F11 stop to get the most detail (in focus).
4. If you are feeling adventurous, try underwater photography! It's not likely you own an underwater camera, so just buy a disposable one. Your next vacation to the ocean will be a lot more fun if you can photograph the fish.
5. Remember not to leave out rainbows, clouds, mist, and snow! If you are photographing snow, overexpose by one stop. For example, if your image is perfectly exposed at F8, move it to F5.6.
6. Experiment with a polarizing filter. When photographing water, they actually eliminate the reflection, making it more transparent. Shooting from above (i.e. on a bridge) will eliminate the most reflection.

The options never end when photographing water. There are a number of amazing images online, so get inspired and then go out and experiment.

About the Author

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