

Landscape Eclipse Photography

Solar Eclipse Conference 2014

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Introduction

- “Do not waste your time during totality making pictures”
- BUT:
 - Do you like to capture this wonderful moment, show to others, ...
 - Do you have photography in your genes?
 - You have decided to photograph the eclipse

Introduction

- In addition:
- Do you want to see just the eclipse or travel around?
- What kind of equipment do you have already? Do you have already a (quality) telescope or want to invest?
- Are you traveling by air? Have you considered weight, extra security checks, possible damages, ...?
- Do you want to create something unique, of your own, do you want to stand out?

Introduction

- After running through the question list, the answer may be:

→ “**Eclipscape**” Photograph

- “Relative” light weight
- “Reasonable” investment
- “Hand Carry”
- “Unique” – Every location is different

Challenge remains: how to be outstanding?

Equipment

- Number one tool for the Landscape (and Eclipse) Photographer:

the Tripod

- Stable
- Robust
- No false economy
- Light → take carbon fibre

- Allows to go for longer shutter speeds, for greater DOF you will need f16
- Allows bracketing, merging several pictures

Equipment



Equipment

- Camera:
 - Nice:
 - Digital
 - Pixelcount - it's about detail, texture, ...
Several famous landscape photographers converted to the 36 MP machine
 - Size matters: FF preferable over APS-C or 2/3
 - Must:
 - AF off
 - Light measuring: manual
 - Large shutter speed bracketing range: e.g. 9 shots per series (OR control camera via laptop and fully programmed)
 - Support of Raw format
 - Camera cable or remote control

Equipment

- Lens:
 - Sharp, Quality Lens
 - Minimal internal reflections
 - Solar Screen: in front (part. Phase, focusing), easily removable.
 - Wide-angle (min. 28 mm, 20 mm is better)
Or Tele for some detail-landscape photography
 - VR or IS:
 - Normal circumstances, on a tripod on land: switch off
 - BUT, is useful in case of:
 - lots of wind, even on a tripod
 - From an airplane

Composition

- Is most crucial factor
- Several options:
 - wide angle or tele,
 - panorama
 - Strongly dependent on geographical features and altitude eclipsed sun
 - Features with the eclipsed sun:
 - Horizon
 - Mountains
 - (Special) Trees
 - Tower, Building, Flags
 - On a ship: bridge, mast, ...
 - From an Airplane: wing, winglet
- Decisive factor to select your location

Composition



26-Feb-1998, (St Cruz De) Los Taques (Venezuela)







4-Dec-2002, Messina, South Africa

















Composition



Composition



Composition - Australia 13 Nov 2012



Composition



Composition



Composition



13 Nov 2012, Maitland Downs

Composition



TSE 13 Nov 2012, Maitland Downs

Composition – with Tele



31-May-2003, Durness, Scotland

Composition – with Tele



Composition – with Tele



04-Jan-2011, Pécrot, Belgium

Composition – with Tele



20-May-2012, Winslow AZ

Composition



TSE 13 Nov 2012, Maitland Downs

Composition – with Tele



TSE 13 Nov 2012, Maitland Downs

Composition – Zooming in



TLE 8-Oct-2014 Joshua Tree National Park, F=23 mm

Composition – Zooming in



TLE 8-Oct-2014 Joshua Tree National Park F=32mm

Composition - Panorama



01-Aug-2008, Mongolia

Composition - Panorama



Total Solar Eclipse 2008

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01-Aug-2008, Mongolia (Altay Village)

Composition - Panorama



22-Jul-2009, (near) Iwo Jima

Composition - Panorama



11-Jul-2010, Tatakoto

Composition - Panorama



11-Jul-2010, Tatakoto

Composition – from an airplane

Ben Cooper / LaunchPhotography.com



Pic Ben Cooper, www.launchphotography.com

3-Nov, Bermuda Flight

Composition

- Summary:
 - Select location in function of your composition – trade off
 - Look for some special features
 - Breathing Space around sun and corona
 - Sun not in the centre, $2/3 - 1/3$
 - Position horizon:
 - avoid in the middle, rather low in your image $<1/3$
 - When sun is high in the sky, hold the camera in vertical position
 - Decide upfront: panorama, tele or wide-angle

Processing

- Importance of processing
- Work in RAW format (or TIFF)
- Possibly combine pictures (e.g. Dynamic Range)
- Panorama: stitching software (e.g. PTGUI)
- Cropping to enhance the framing, e.g. cut in the darker foreground
- Adjust light curve, black & whites
- Sharpen, use mask to keep grain under control
- Remove possible dust spots (from the sensor)
- Standard products: Light Room, CC (PS)
- Consider Color Efex (Pro NIK Software)

Conclusions

- Make a plan:
 - Choose a location in function of special landscape features, favor locations with sun at low altitude
 - Work out composition (e.g. tele,), use e.g. google, google map, street view, internet sources
- Make a survey a few days beforehand
- Rehearse e.g. time interval functions, bracketing, programmable software (test the script)
- Focus on 1 landscape photo (but take many shots)