# 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?

 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



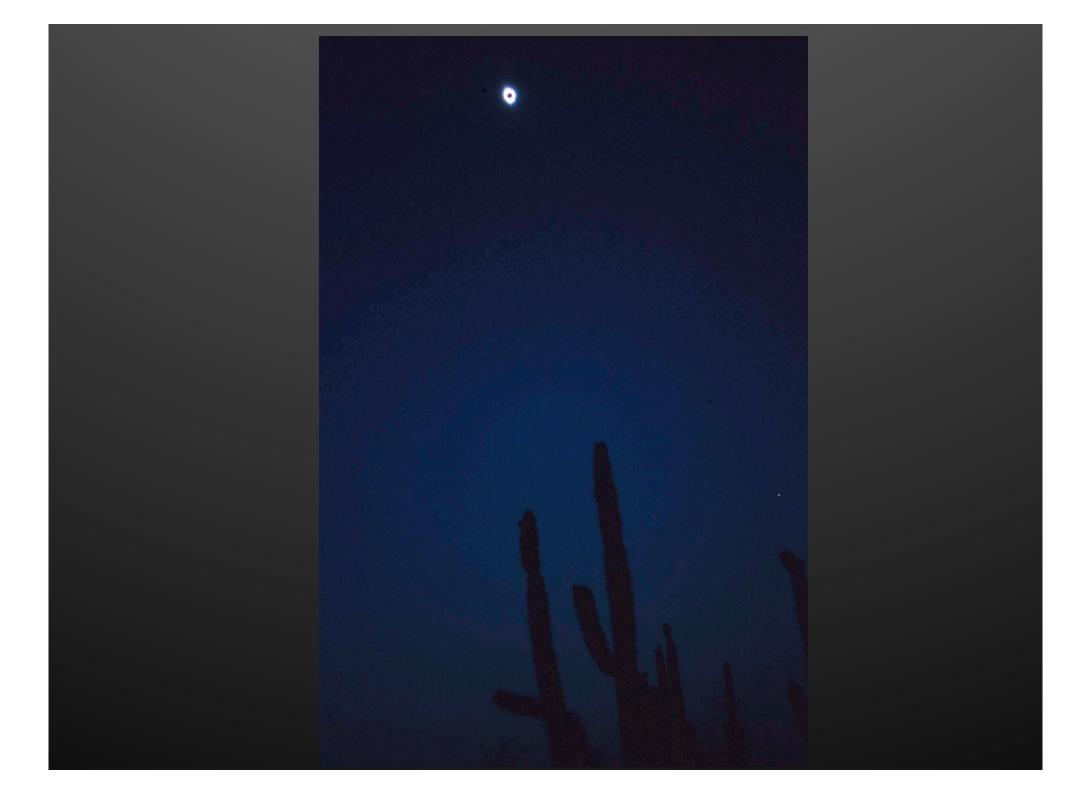
- Camera:
  - Nice:
    - Digital
    - Pixelcount it's about detail, texture, ...
       Several famous landscape photographers converted to the 36 MP machine
    - Size matters: FF preferable over APS-C or 2/3
  - Must:
    - AF off
    - Light measuring: manual
    - Large shutterspeed bracketing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

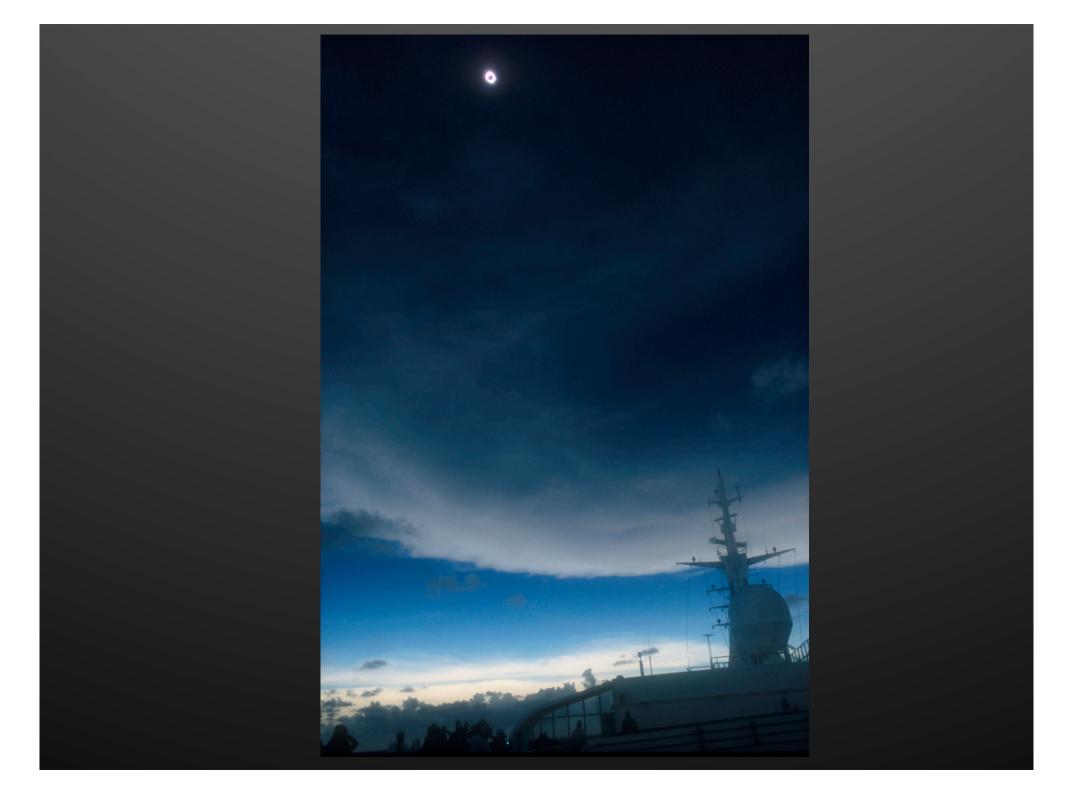
- Lens:
  - Sharp, Quality Lens
  - Minimal internal reflections
  - Solar Screen: in front (part. Phase, focusing), easily removable.
  - Wide-angle (min. 28 mm, 20 mm is better)
     Or Tele for some detail-landscape photography
  - VR or IS:
    - Normal circumstances, on a tripod on land: switch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

- 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



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

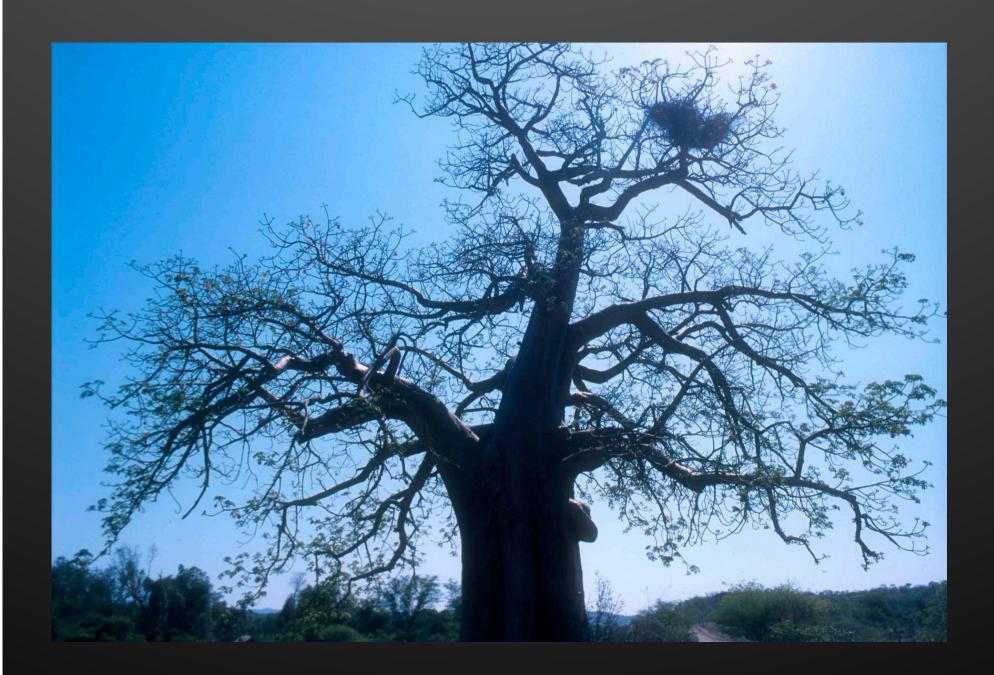


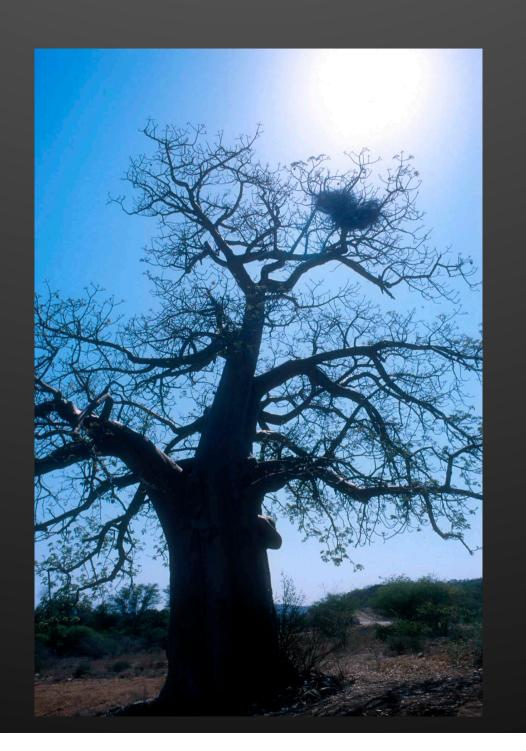




4-Dec-2002, Messina, South Africa

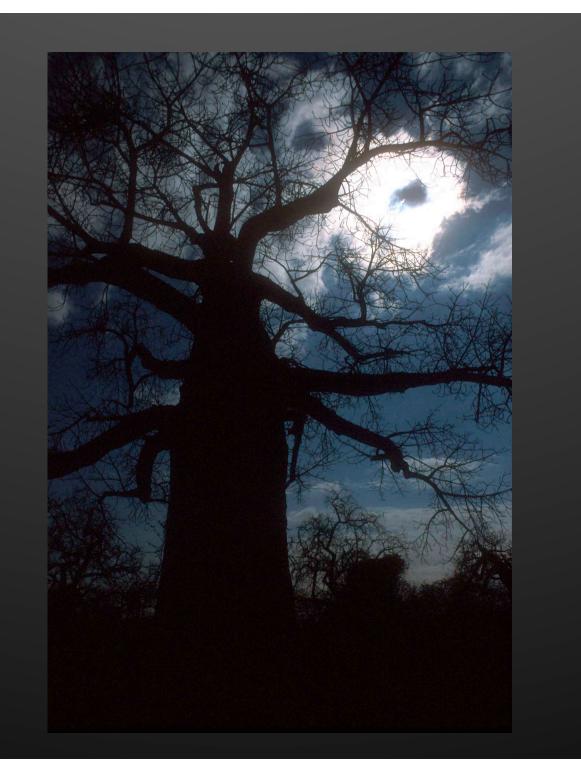


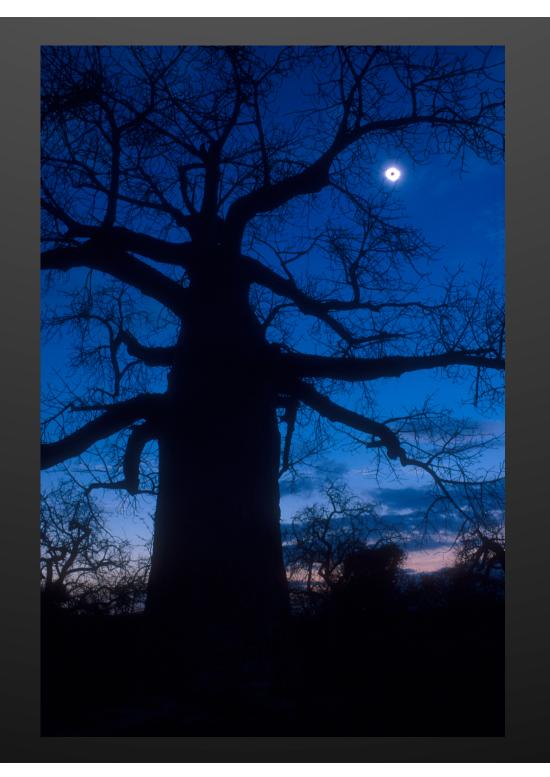


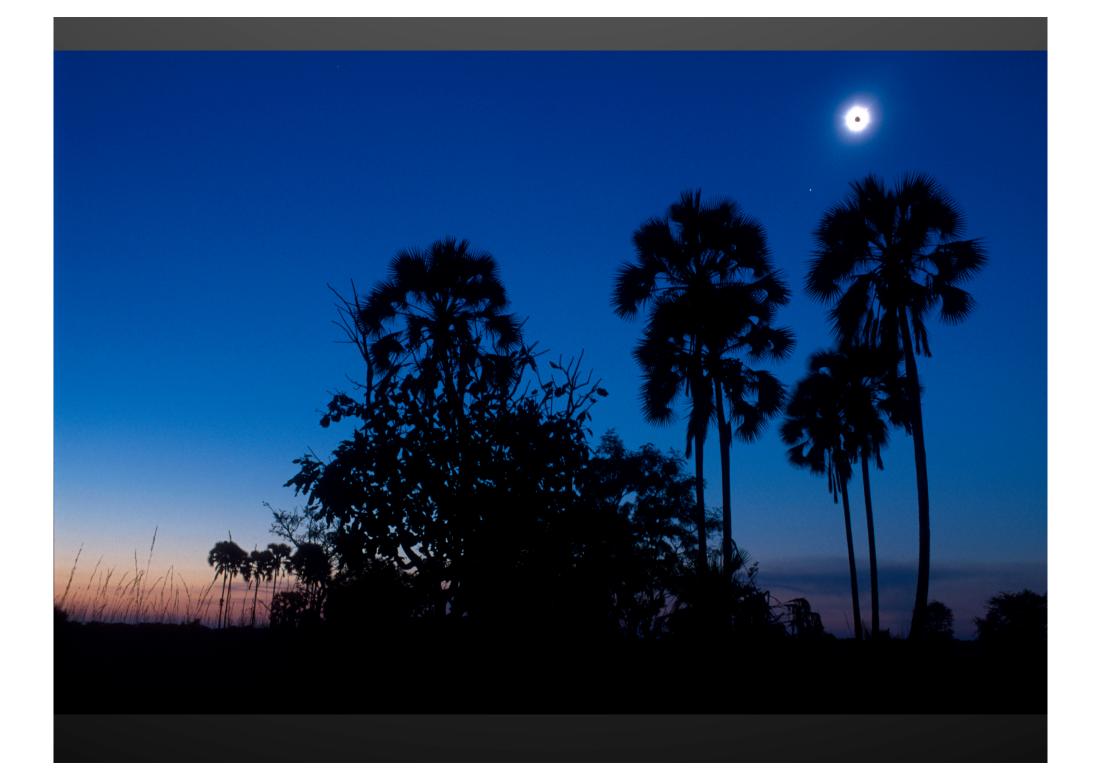


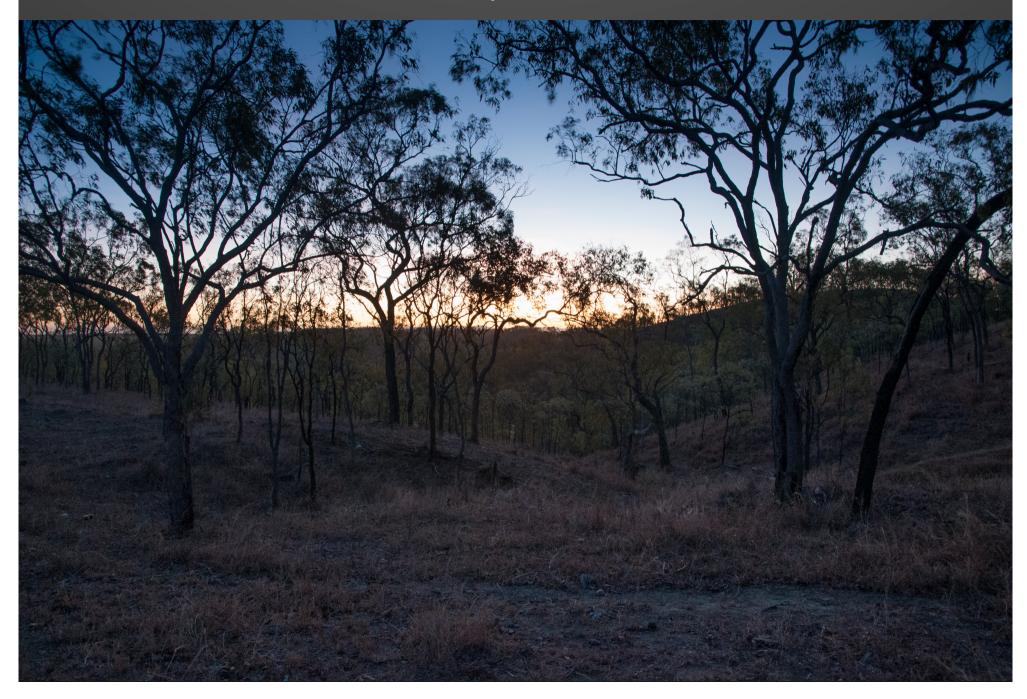






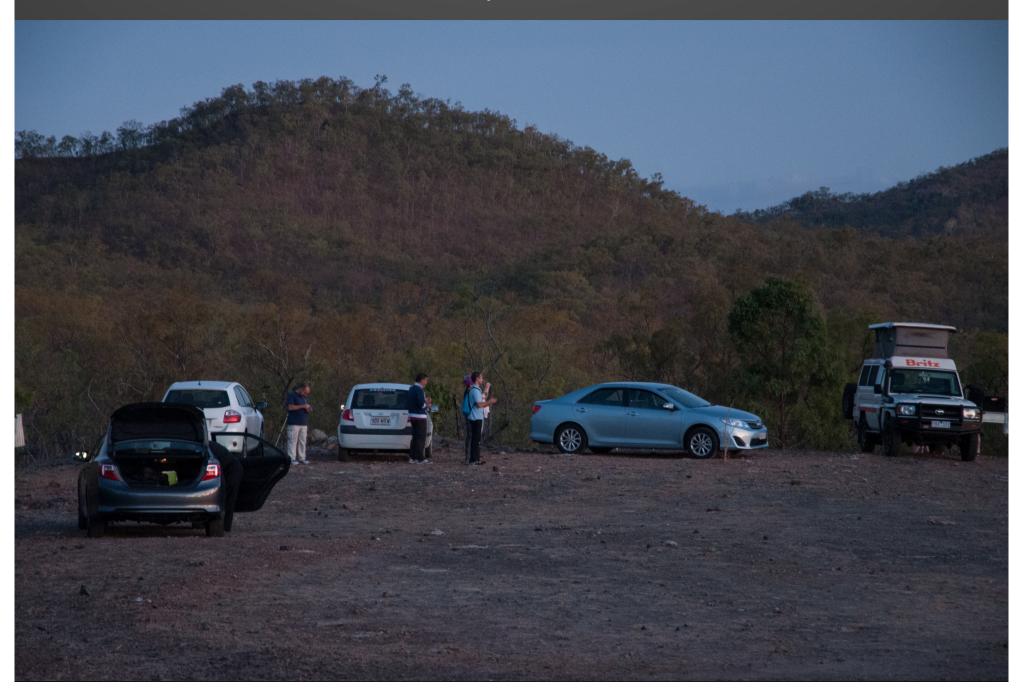


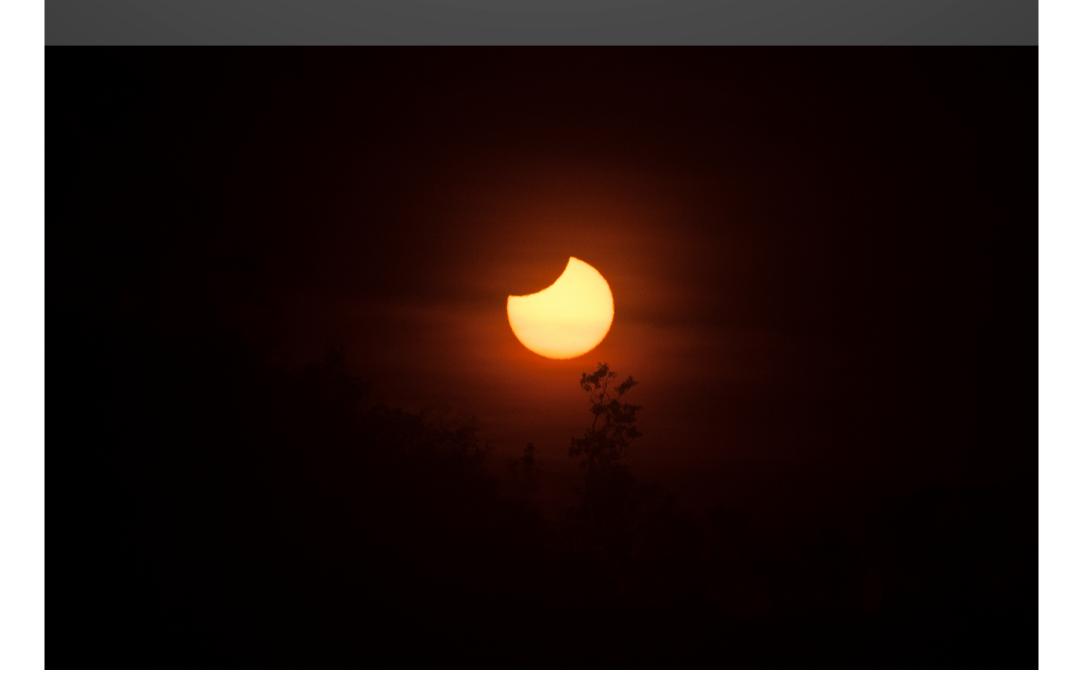




#### Composition - Australia 13 Nov 2012











TSE 13 Nov 2012, Maitland Downs







04-Jan-2011, Pécrot, Belgium



20-May-2012, Winslow AZ



TSE 13 Nov 2012, Maitland Downs



TSE 13 Nov 2012, Maitland Downs

#### Composition – Zooming in



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

#### Composition – Zooming in



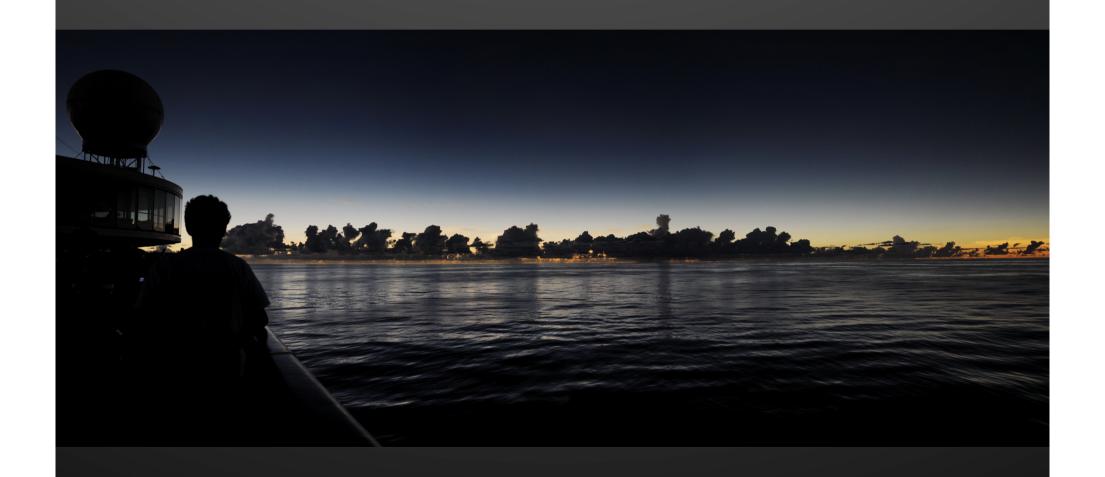
TLE 8-Oct-2014 Joshua Tree National Park F=32mm





Total Solar Eclipse 2008

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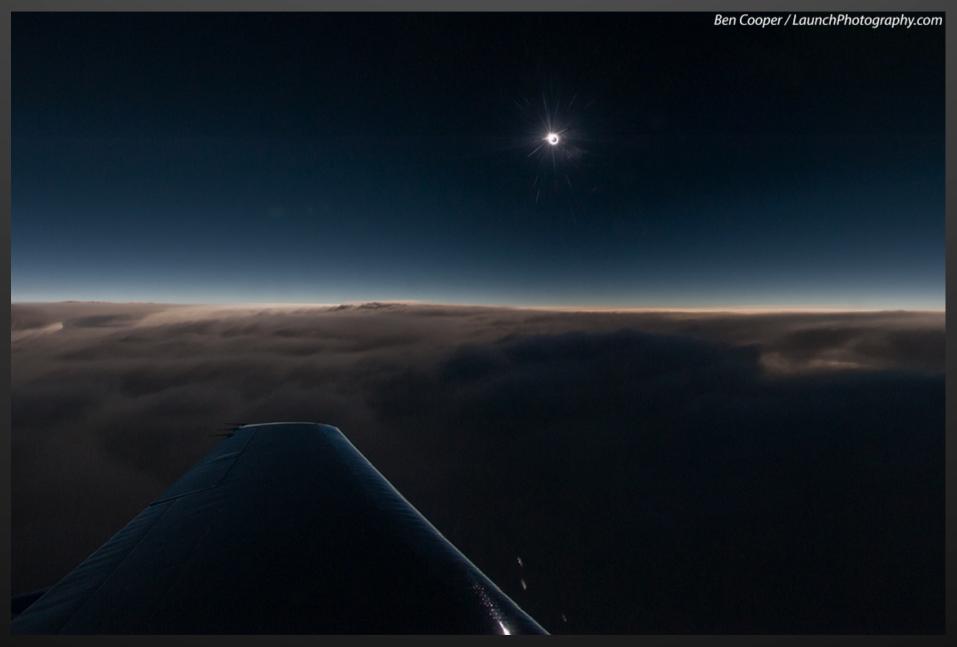
22-Jul-2009, (near) Iwo Jima



11-Jul-2010, Tatakoto



#### Composition – from an airplane



Pic Ben Cooper, www.launchphotograpy.com

3-Nov, Bermuda Flight

#### • 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)