

My Place Photography Competition

Taking Great Photographs

Use our handy guide to take perfect photos every time!

Whether you are an expert behind the camera or a photography newbie, this handy how-to guide can help you capture incredible photographs that show your understanding of **composition**, **lighting** and **editing**.

We have also provided instructions on using various types of equipment. Don't worry if you don't have access to fancy kit, you can take amazing photographs on a smartphone too!

Remember

- Your photographs must include an element of Scotland's **built environment**.
- Avoid taking pictures on private property, but if in doubt just **ask permission**.
- Most importantly, **have fun!** Take creative risks and use your imagination. After all, **you miss 100% of the shots you don't take!**

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Let's Get Snapping!

Follow our top five tips to become an expert behind the camera

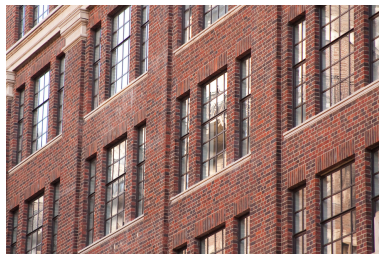
1

Lighting- To avoid lens flare or silhouetted buildings, **keep the sun behind you.**



2

Look for patterns- Try to spot **parallel lines** and **repeating shapes** when working out your composition.



3

Try a new perspective- Looking at the world from a **different angle** can change everything. Try getting **low to the ground** or **looking up!**



4

Eye for detail- Get up close and personal with your subject. Sometimes the **smallest details** can have the **greatest impact**.



5

Rule of thirds- Divide your photograph into **thirds** using **two horizontal lines** and **two vertical lines**. This creates **four intersectional points**. Position your **focal point** on these points to create a pleasing **composition**.



Following these handy tips will help get you started, but remember, it is important to take artistic **risks**, **experiment** and find your **own unique style**. Make your photographs stand out from the competition!

Why not look up some famous architectural photographers for **inspiration**? You might be the next **Berenice Abbott** or **Ezra Stoller**. Start snapping and find out!

What do you think makes a great photograph?

Using Your Equipment

Learn the basics of using your camera or smartphone

Smartphone

- Go to **settings** and enable the camera's **gridlines**. A grid will appear on your screen allowing you to use **rule of thirds**.
- **Focus** your camera lens by **tapping** on your screen where you want to **sharpen** the photograph.
- **Avoid zooming in** on your subject as the photograph may be **blurry**. Move in **closer** or **crop** the image later instead.
- **Clean your lens**. A little dust or fingerprint on your lens can make your photographs **blurry**.
- **Flip your phone** to the side to shoot in **landscape** mode.

DSLR Camera

- If you are a beginner, shoot in **auto** mode. Your camera will select the correct **aperture**, **exposure** and **shutter speed**.
- **Stabilise** your camera by holding it with two hands. This will help you avoid **blurry**, out of focus photographs.
- The **rule of thirds** can confuse your camera! You can use **focal lock** if autofocus fails. Move your subject into the **centre** of the frame and **push the shutter button down half way**. Your subject will come into **focus**. **Without releasing the shutter button** move your camera back into its **original position**. **Fully press down the shutter button**.