



Photograph: Faye Dunmall - "Right Here, Right Now" Quilter Cheviot 2018 photography competition.



**5 Loch Lomond, Scotland**

This beautiful Scottish environment will provide you with superb photographic opportunities. You can enjoy wonderful views over valleys and lochs, spectacular fauna and unique sights of the highlands and islands. You'll even find some gorgeous architectural highlights, such as The Three Bridges of Callandar. Explore the surrounding paths to take in locations like Sron a' Chlachain, Acharn Forest and Beinn Mhor.



**IAN SAVAGE, JESSOPS**

Ian has worked in the photographic industry for over 22 years. After studying photography at college it was his obsession with cameras that compelled him to work in a classic camera store attached to the Royal Photographic Society in Bath. This proved an invaluable experience, as there are not many cameras Ian hasn't seen or operated. Ian moved on to specialise in wedding and

studio photography, which he is still actively involved with today. Having worked in many different photographic retailers at all levels, Ian is experienced at teaching others how to get the best out of their cameras. He now leads a team of dedicated training specialists and heads the largest photography training school in Britain, all trainers are passionate about photography and sharing expertise. Ian's knowledge of training and photography ensures a fantastic experience on all of the Jessops Academy Courses.

**QUILTER CHEVIOT**

One Kingsway  
London  
WC2B 6AN

Please contact our Marketing Department on **+44 (0)20 7150 4000** or email: **marketing@quiltercheviot.com**

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# PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

By Ian Savage, JESSOPS



Photograph: Brian Joyce, Croagh Patrick, Ireland Quilter Cheviot 2018 photography competition.

*Love landscapes? Here's everything you need to know to capture stunning scenes on camera...*



**Landscapers are a very specific breed of photographer. Often content to spend hours waiting on hillsides for ideal light conditions, a fan of landscape can be known to plot holidays around iconic locations, and thinks nothing of trudging for**

**hours - often with a very understanding loved one in tow - over hill and dale to reach the perfect spot to take a single shot from. If this has you nodding in agreement, then congratulations: it looks as though you might be a landscaper lover.**

**1 Gear up!**

Landscapers need cameras with the highest resolution sensors they can carry in order to capture images with the rich detail and tones presented by nature. That's why so many choose to shoot on DSLRs and mirrorless cameras - so if you've not got one of these in your kitbag yet, it's best to start here.

Once you've chosen your camera, there are a few extras that'll make your life a little easier when on location. A wide-angle lens such as a 10-20mm or similar will allow you to capture

the entirety of sweeping landscapes in single shots: plus a mid-range zoom like a 24-70mm gives you flexibility for framing more tightly.

You'll also need a good sturdy tripod that'll keep your camera solid as a rock. Make sure you look for a light model as you'll be schlepping it back and forth from your car, but don't compromise on quality as it needs to be heavy enough to remain stable in breezes and gusts.

An excellent backpack is a landscaper's best friend: you'll need room for your new lenses, plus a tripod holder, snacks and all sorts of items that become essential when out on a hillside. You'll also need to make sure it's comfortable when worn for long periods of time and, as we live in the UK, a waterproof cover isn't a bad idea. Ready to go? Let's head out!

**2 Set your alarm clock**

If you want to be the best, you've got to get up early or stay out late - particularly if you're shooting in the summer months. The shorter days found during winter make beautiful morning light much more accessible, and help put stunning sunsets within the reach of a 9-5er: but in the warmer months you'll need to get up with the lark to get the good stuff. We didn't say this was going to be easy - but it'll be worth it.





Photograph: Scott Hughes, Photography Suffolk Quilter Cheviot 2018 photography competition.

**3 There's an app for that**

Modern technology is a wonderful thing - there's now an app designed to help with almost everything, including landscape photography. The factor that can make or break a landscape image is the direction and quality of the sunlight or moonlight being cast upon a scene, so knowing when and where to find that light is essential. Download the Photographer's Ephemeris app or take a look online to discover where and when you can expect sunrise and sunset to take place in a specific location - it's a fantastic tool that nearly every landscaper will have used at some point, and checking the direction of the light for that day will fast become an essential part of your pre-shoot routine.

**4 Study a scene**

Rather than travelling miles to a frequently-photographed location such as Buachaille Etive Mor or St Michael's Mount, why not pick a spot near you and use the above app to capture it at different times of the year and under different lighting or weather conditions? Photographer Kevin Day famously studied a dead tree in this manner, and created a fantastic gallery of images. There's a famous quote about true excellence taking 10,000 hours of practise: Kevin's gallery is evidence that if you're willing to put the hours in, you'll get what you deserve.

**5 Keep it on the level**

A small tip, but an obvious one, keep your horizons and leading lines level and your shots will instantly look better. You can correct these later when you're editing your work, but it's so much simpler to get it right in the camera. Many tripods have a spirit level bubble to show you when your camera is balanced: some cameras even offer the feature built-in as standard. If you aren't blessed with either, then one of our hotshoe spirit levels is a wonderful (and budget-friendly) addition to a kit bag. This cheery little gadget means you can check horizons at a glance and make adjustments to straighten up your shots - and it also makes a lovely present for a fellow landscape aficionado.

**6 Fun with filters**

If you've already visited one of the great iconic landscape locations found in the UK, then you've probably spotted another photographer with what looks like a grey rectangle mounted in front of their camera's lens. That is what's known as a filter - and it reduces the amount of light from certain areas of a shot.

There are many different kinds of filters, but the one you select depends on what you're trying to accomplish. Some half-grey filters or "grads" are designed to "dim" the brightness of a sky, allowing you to correctly expose the entire scene - these often come in kits with different levels of gradient so you can choose the one that best suits your scene. Some filters are coloured, to counteract the effect a sunrise or sunset has on warming a scene.

Other filters are uniformly dark, and will reduce the light so much that they allow you to work with wider apertures or slow shutter speeds in daylight, without over-exposing your photo. These filters are commonly known as 10-stop filters because they reduce light coming into your camera by 10 "stops". They also have the effect of transforming any moving sections of your shot - such as waves or rivers - into beautifully soft, blurry areas. You can even make traffic or pedestrians disappear: set your shutter speed long enough with a 10-stop filter on the front of your lens and any unwanted moving elements will vanish from your shot like magic. Clever, eh?

If you're now totally convinced that landscapes are your cup of tea, take a look at our three-day-long Landscape Experiences: we only run these at certain times of the year to ensure our photographers get the best possible chance to shoot stunning landscapes. After all - what could be better than spending a whole three days dedicated to your new favourite genre?



Photograph: Graham Kirkham, Corpach Scotland Quilter Cheviot 2018 photography competition.



*5 of the best countryside walks for photography*

**We're extremely fortunate in the UK to be surrounded by gorgeous vistas that look good no matter what the season. You might be lucky enough to capture a snowscape this year, but even the low winter sun provides opportunities for capturing striking golden light, making a crisp walk a joy to behold.**

**There are hundreds of different walks you could take, but we've chosen five of our favourites to give you some inspiration.**

**Feel free to share your best shooting locations with us, as well as your best shots!**

**1 Beachy Head, England**

This location is popular for its spectacular scenery and there are a variety of different walking routes around Beachy Head in the South Downs. If you're lucky, you'll also spot some great wildlife, plus some interesting architecture and locations. Frame up some stunning shots by visiting the cliffs at sunrise or sunset.



**2 Tintern Abbey and the Wye Valley, Wales**

The beautiful Tintern Abbey is a ruined monastery close to the English and Welsh border. Surrounded by the Wye Valley, a long walk around this area is guaranteed to result in some picturesque shots. A particular highlight is Devil's Pulpit, a limestone rock that sticks out from the cliffs to give a marvellous view of the Abbey. A sprinkling of snow in the depths of winter gives the view a very festive look.

**3 Yorkshire, England**

Follow one of the many paths of the Yorkshire Dales and you'll be handsomely rewarded with beautiful scenery, native wildlife and a wealth of waterfalls and architecture. In winter, lone trees against the sprawling Dales make for iconic shots. Be sure to include highlights such as Aysgarth Falls, Hardraw Force, Buckden Pike and the River Wharfe on your route.

**4 Lake District, England**

In the Lake District, there are hundreds of different hikes - it's one of the best areas in the UK to get classic landscape shots. This means a huge variety of different photo opportunities, encompassing sights like waterfalls, stately homes and the lakes themselves. Hike up a mountain with your tripod to capture some of England's finest views - the panoramas of Scafell Pike (England's tallest mountain), Buttermere, Greendale and Middle Fell are especially breathtaking.

