LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY

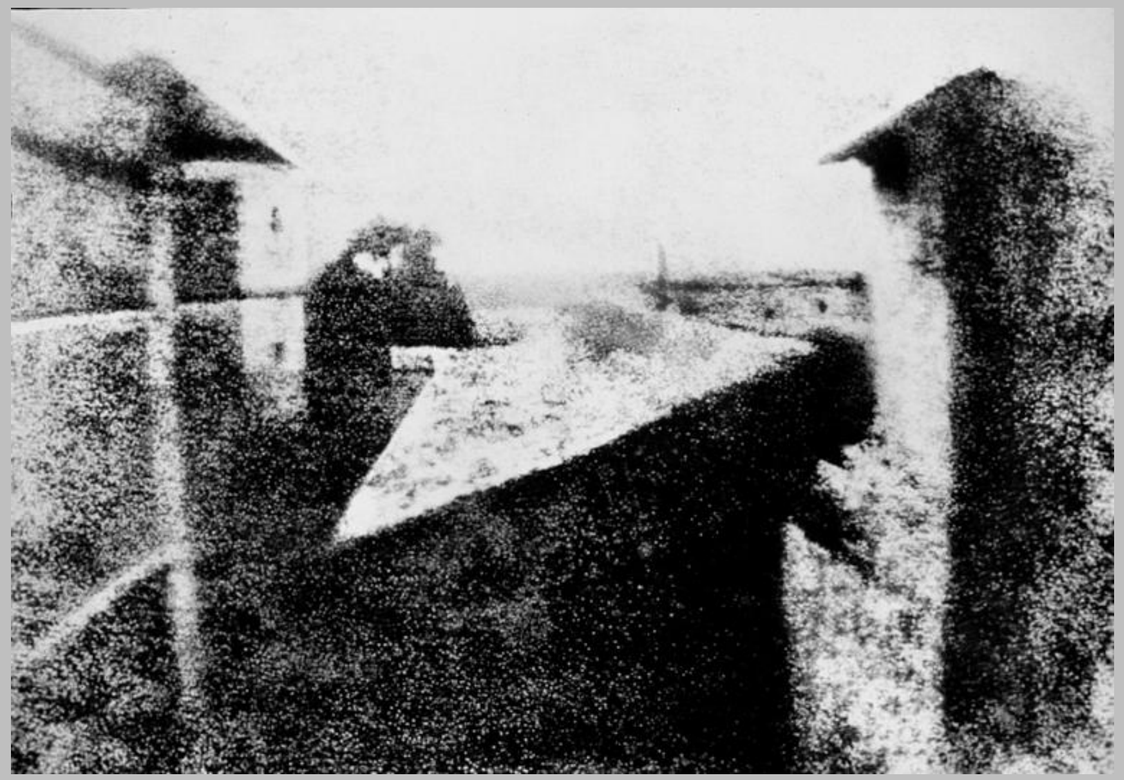


POLK PHOTO CLUB

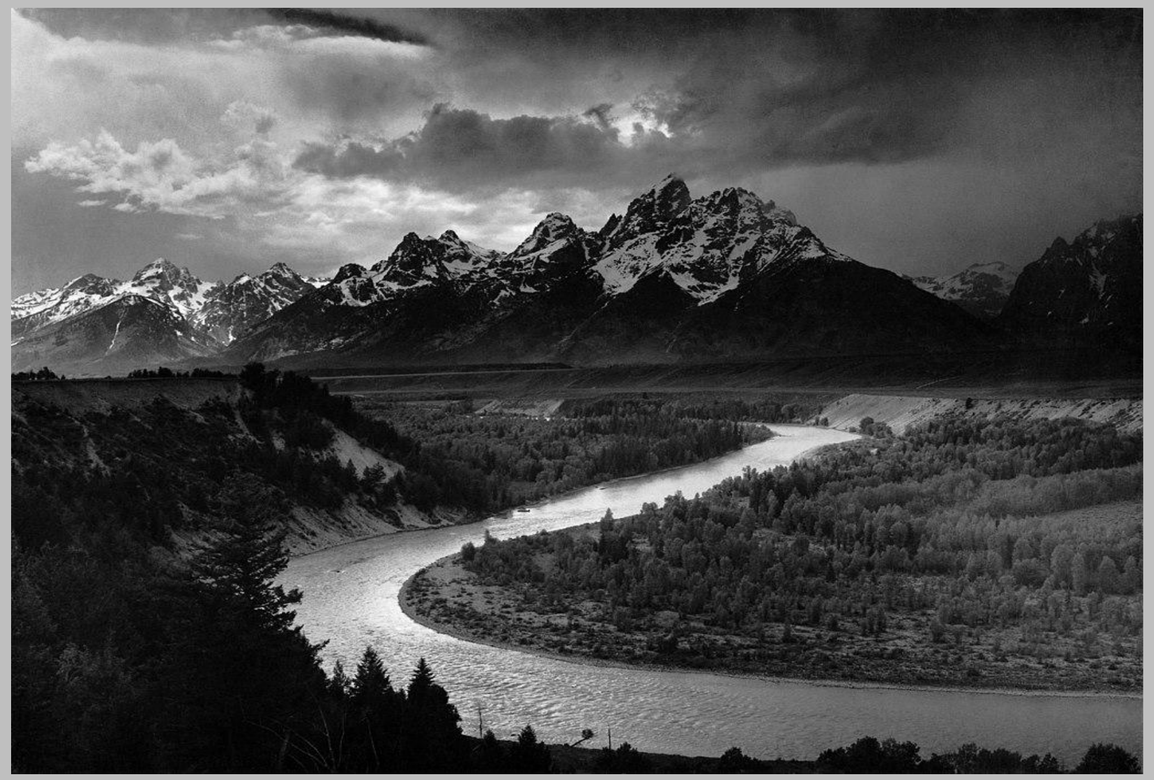
What is considered landscape photography?

Landscape photography encompasses a wide range of images capturing outdoor scenes and natural environments.

Scenic Views · Seascapes · Cityscapes · Countryside and Rural Scenes · Weather, Atmosphere, Sunrises & Sunsets · Seasonal Changes · Astrophotography



Joseph Nicéphore Niépce (1826-1827)



William Henry Jackson (1843)
Ansel Adams (1902)

Basic gear for landscape photography



DSLR or Mirrorless



Wide Angle Lens

10-20mm
14mm
24mm
28mm



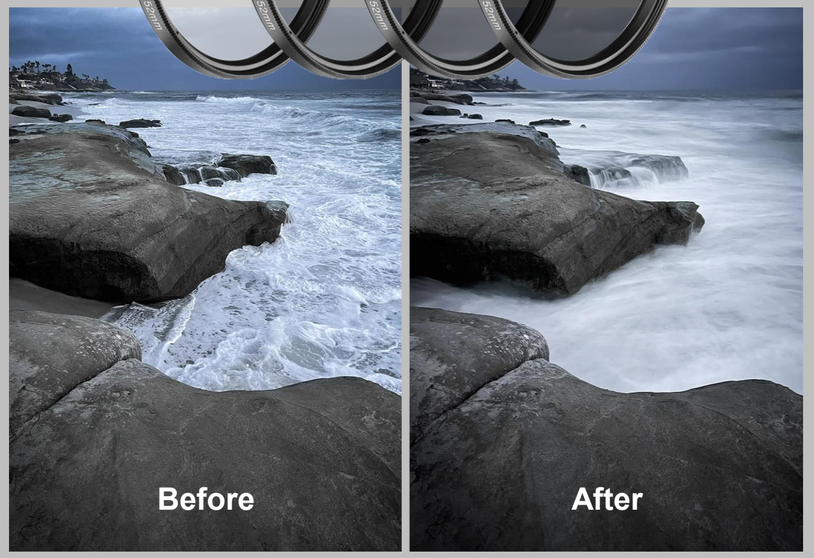
Intervalometer/remote



Tripod



Graduated Neutral Density Filters





Circular Polarizer

Eagle Lake, Acadia National Park

Optional gear for landscape photography



- Smartphone
- Phone Apps
- Drone
- Boat









A canoe or kaya makes a great platform for photographing water scenes.

Silver Spring, Florida

Lake Blue Cypress, Florida



Today, aerial landscape photography is possible by using a drone. Many can shoot in RAW, create stitched panoramas and bracket exposure.

Salybia Beach, Trinidad

Basic rules for successful landscapes photos

- Research the location
- Consider the season, weather and time of the day
- Maximize DOF (Photo Stack)
- Use a tripod
- Include foreground elements
- Capture motion (water or clouds)
- Follow composition rules
- Keep the horizon leveled



Virgin River, Zion NP

Site Scouting

In advance

- Research online for images taken of the area to be photographed
- Use Google Earth to find the best locations to shoot from
- Use app to find out sunrise and sunset points.

On site

- Arrive early
- Check for interesting features to enhance your landscape shot
- Predict the light effect and wait for the right time



Gozalandia, Puerto Rico

Exposure and Techniques

Exposure

- Pay attention to highlights such as clouds or running water
- Bracket whenever needed

Depth of Field

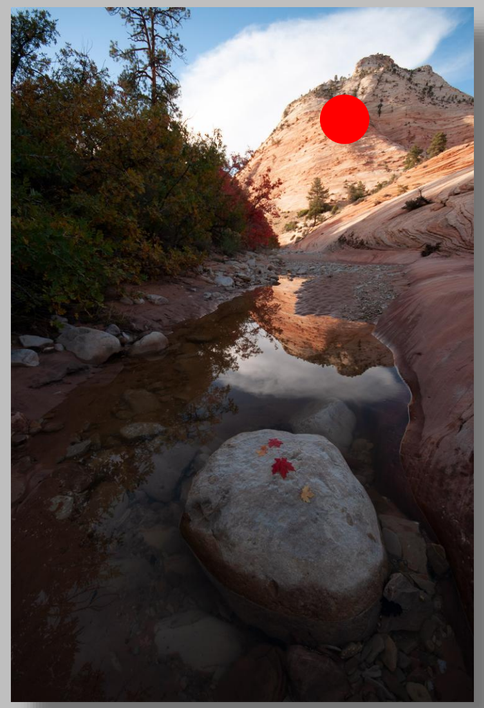
- Keep and eye on depth-of-field and focusing minimum distances.
- Use the best aperture to maximize DOF without causing edge/background distortion.
- Use focus bracketing

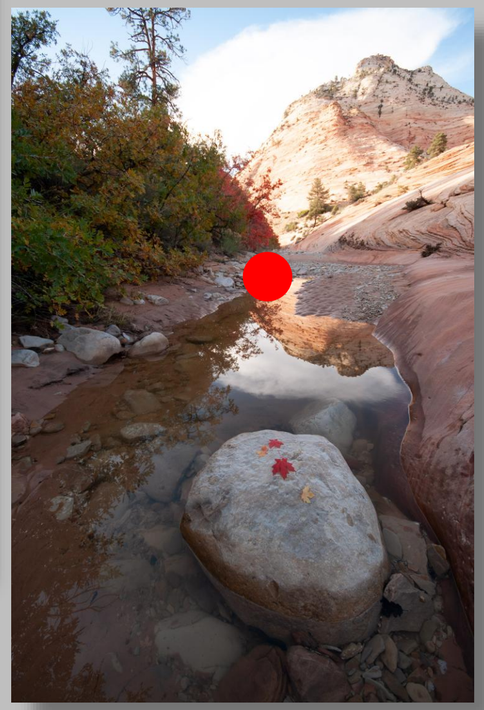


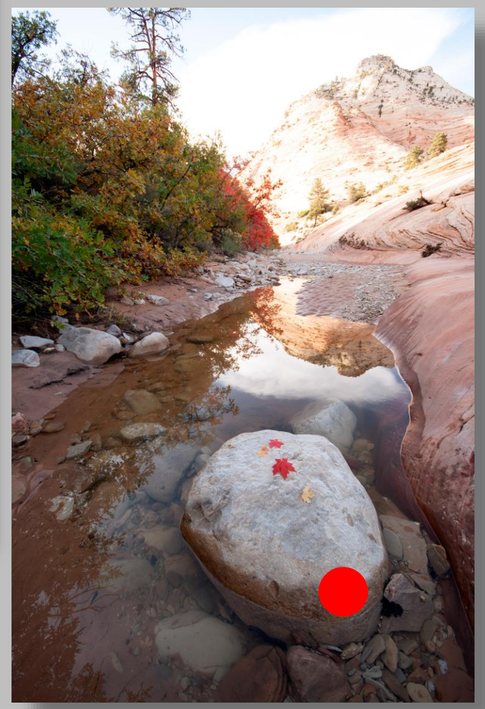
Virgin River, Zion National Park

HDR (High Dynamic Range) & Focus Bracketing

- Highlights – Middletones – Shadows
- Front – Middle – Back









Multiple exposures for blurred water

Take several images in a sequence using same exposure, then use Photoshop to blend them together using Smart Object/ Stack Mode/ Mean.



What appears to be an extremely long exposure was made using 12 images blended into 1. The shutter speed for each image was 1/320sec., handheld at 5 frames per second. Images were aligned with Auto Align Layers in Photoshop before merging using stack mode.

Survival Beach, Puerto Rico

Stitched Panoramas

- Shoot vertical when making horizontal panoramas, and horizontal when shooting vertical
- Allow at least 15-30% overlap between frames
- Keep same exposure throughout the sequence









Lake Powell, Arizona

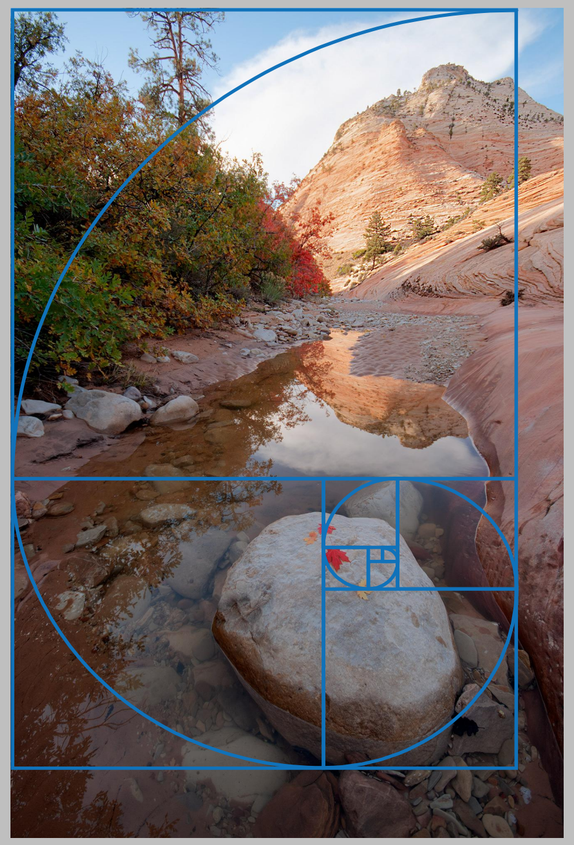
Stitched Panoramas

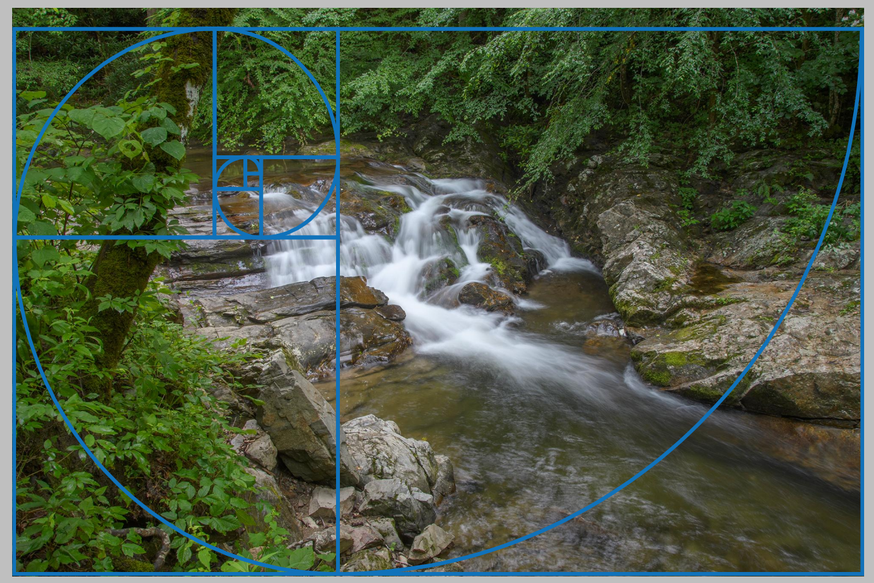




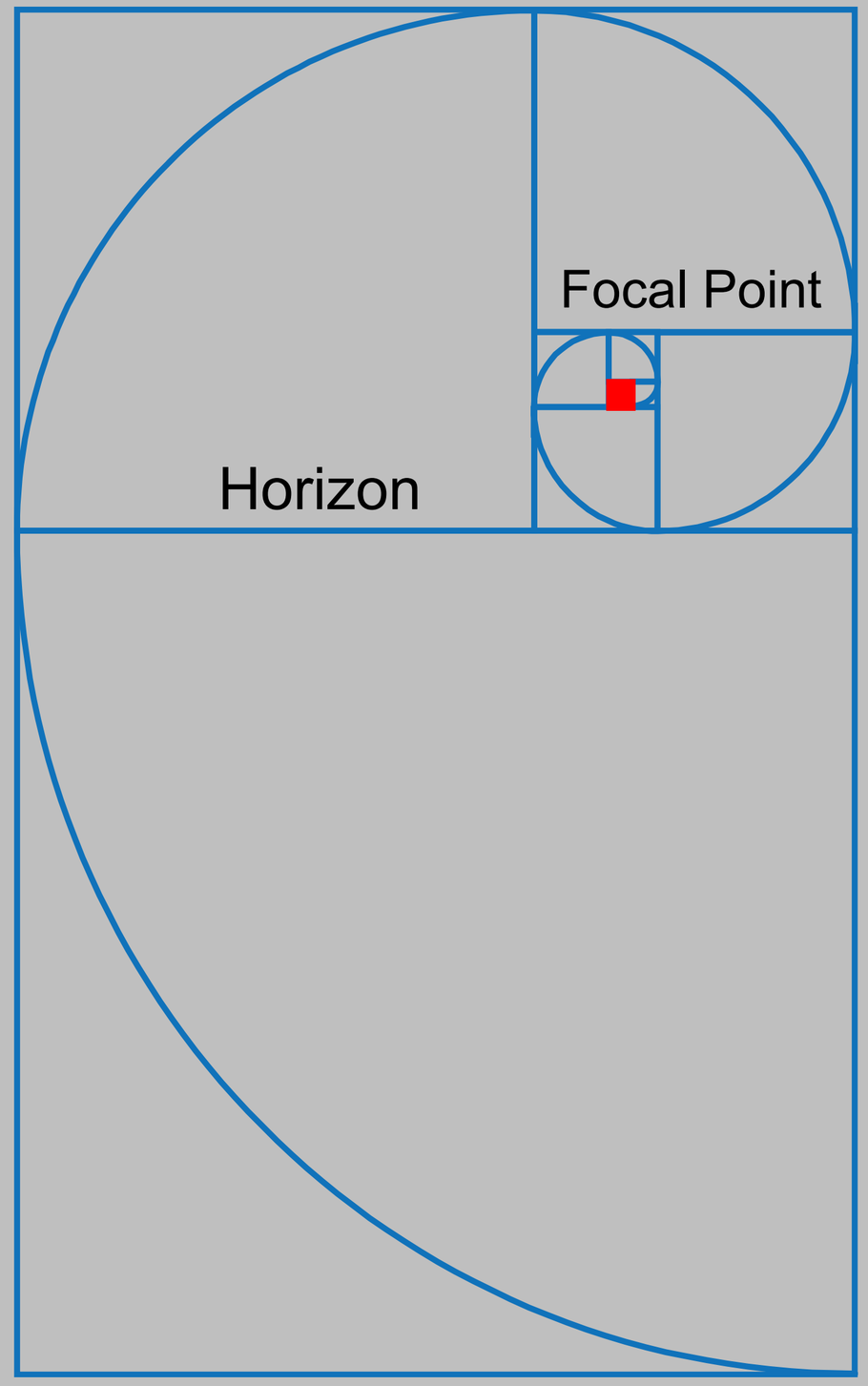
Composition

- **Use the Rule of Thirds**
- **Fibonacci’s Golden Spiral**
- **Guiding Lines**





Note that Fibonacci's Golden Spiral is a logarithmic spiral that exemplifies the rule of thirds and where the position the focal point for aesthetically pleasing compositions.



Apps for the landscape photographer

Scouting

- PhotoPills
- TPE (The Photographers Ephemeris)



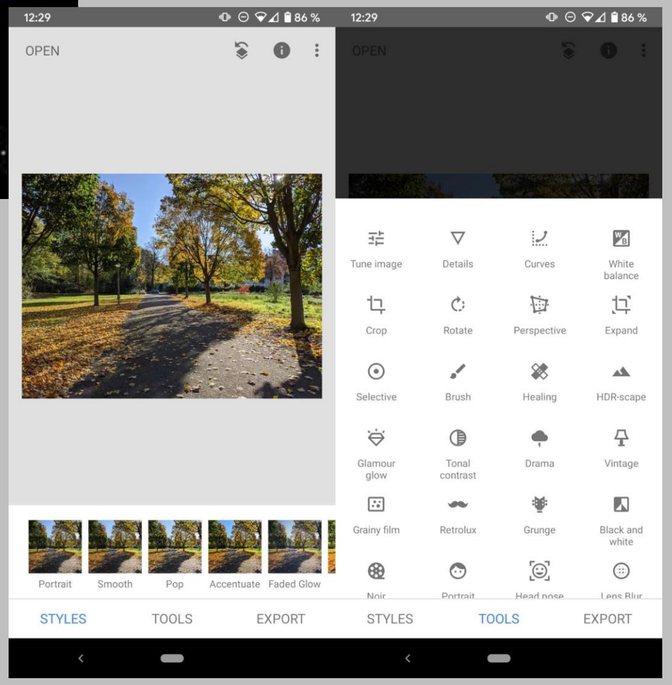
Cameras

- Camera FV-5
- DSLR Camera Pro
- ProShot

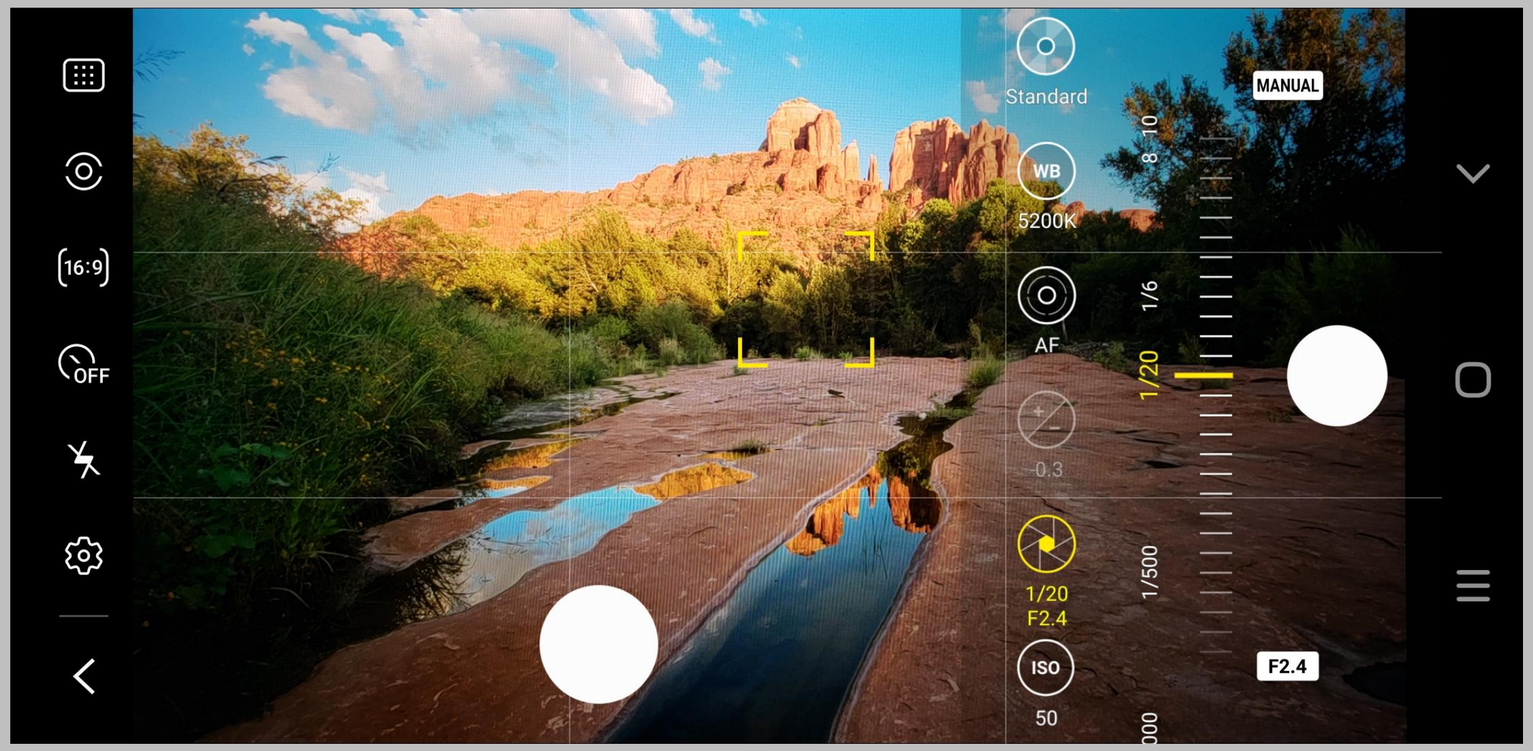


Editing

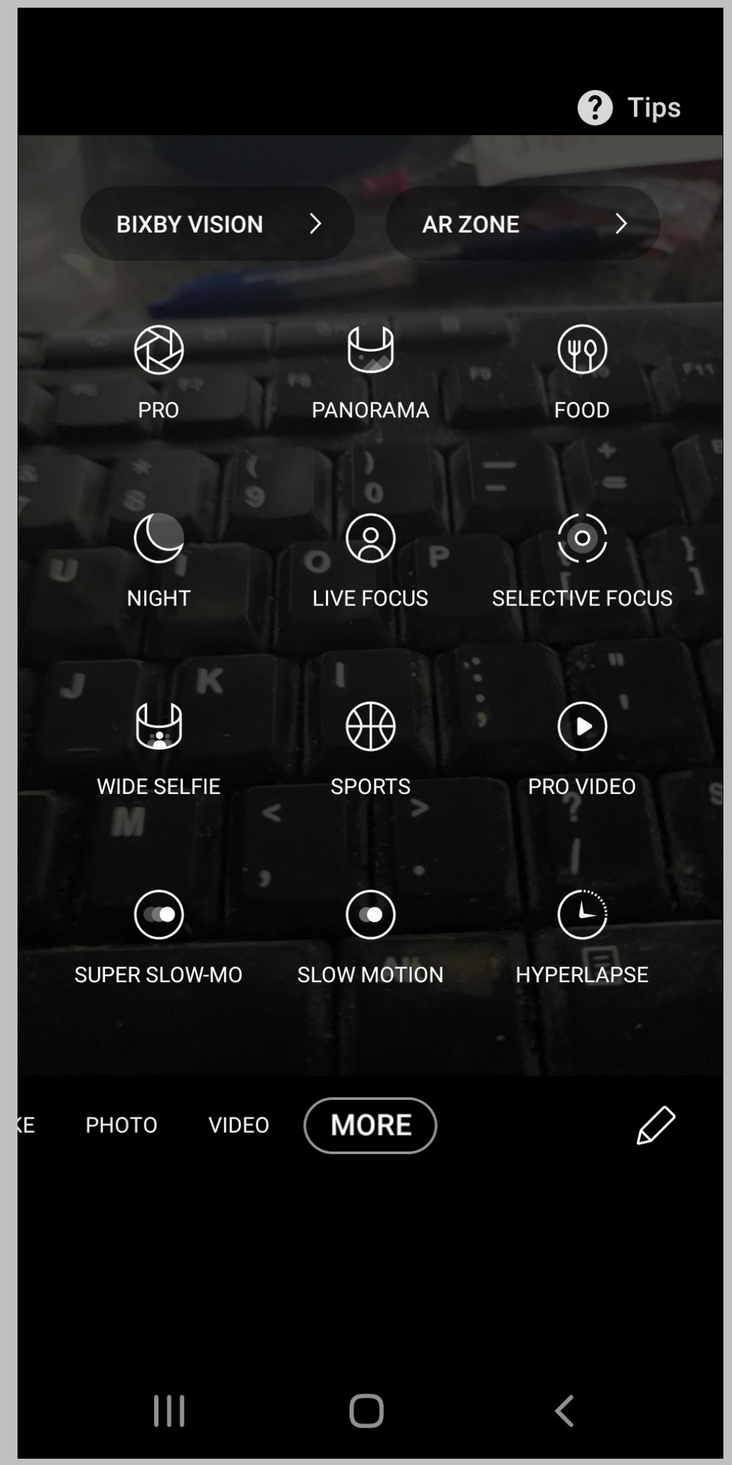
- Snapseed
- Adobe Lightroom



Shooting with a Smart Phone

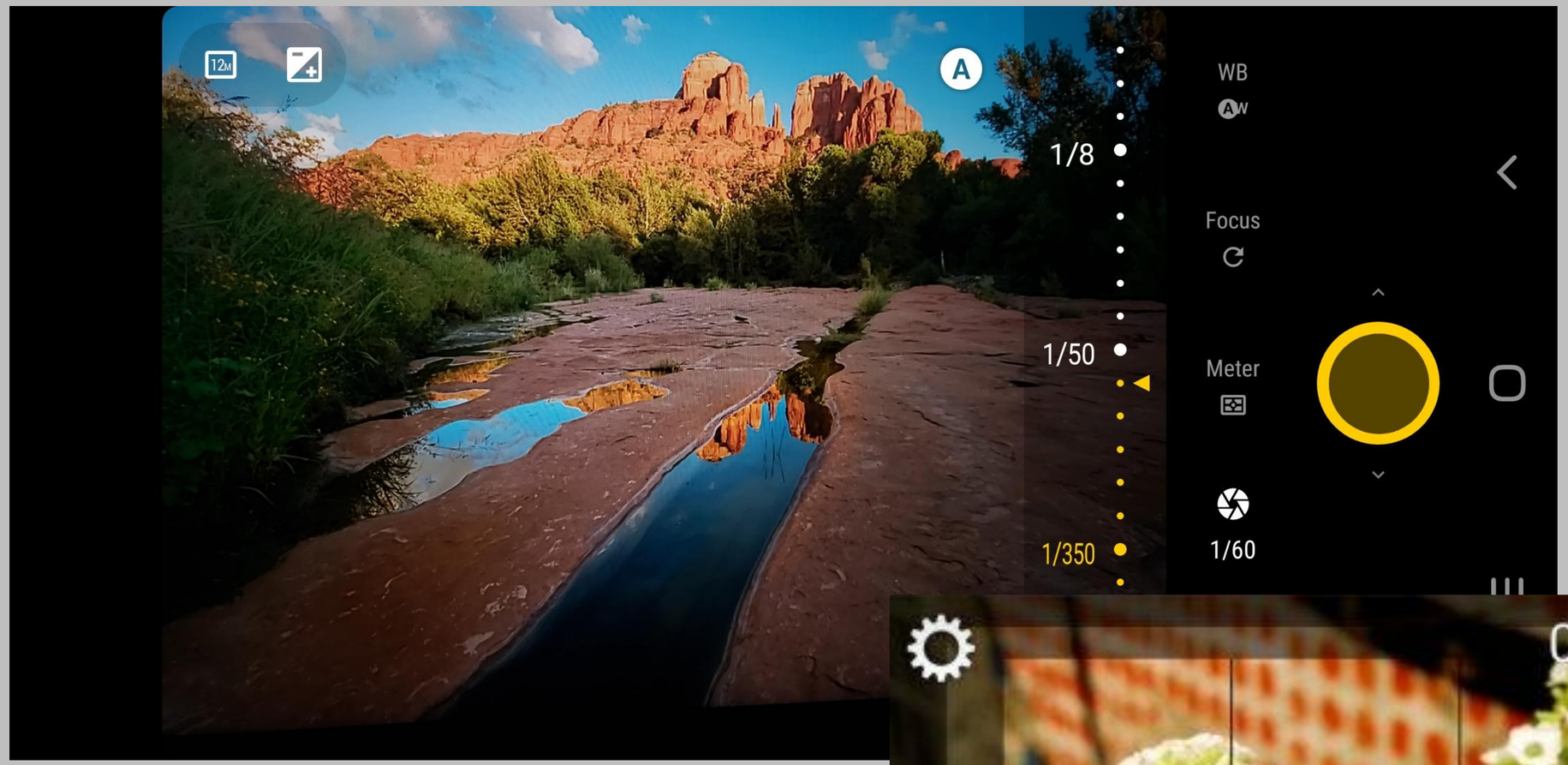


The default Android camera app offers a lot of features found on DSLRs.



Program modes include, panorama, live focus, hyperlapse and food among others.

FV-5 App





FV-5 offers some additional features including live histograms, selective focus, exposure bracketing, focus modes and intervalometer. Additionally it records raw in DNG format.





Utilize the existing elements to direct the viewer's attention toward your desired focal point. In this instance, the water serves as a guiding element, leading the viewer's gaze to Cathedral Rock and providing a captivating reflection that offers a glimpse of its beauty.

Cathedral Rock, Arizona

While the waterfall seems almost dead-centered in the frame, the surrounding walls forces the viewer to look straight into the bottom of the waterfall. This 270 feet waterfall stands inside and extinct volcano.

Cataratas del Toro, Costa Rica

Atmospheric perspective pertains to the gradual reduction of colors or tones in distant objects within a landscape photograph. This phenomenon creates visually striking, graphic-like images that effectively convey the expansiveness of the scenery.

Grand Canyon, Arizona

Blurring water is about the aesthetic of the effect and the challenge of creating the most pleasing blur. If all photos were clinical reproductions of the reality, photography would be a very boring hobby.

Great Smoky Mountains, Tennessee



Slow shutter speed or multiple exposures to create water blur.

Puerto Nuevo, Costa Rica

Landscape photography extends beyond capturing the terrain directly in front of you; it also involves exploring the dynamic interplay between the land and the sky. Shooting a few seconds after the sun sets can unveil vividly saturated skies and captivating reflections.

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Florida

Light is everything in photography. Capturing how it plays with the landscape elements is what makes this type of photography so rewarding.

Horseshoe Bend, Arizona

The foreground element on this composition serve to add depth to the image. Keeping them both in sharp focus is as easy as stopping down the lens or shoot separate shots for the foreground and the background and merging them in Photoshop.

Bell Rock, Arizona



Sometimes the smaller elements of the landscape become the focal point.

Green Swamp, Florida

You can find inspiring landscapes almost anywhere. When combined with the weather, clouds, wind or water, you can produce very attractive images.

Circle B Bar Reserve, Florida

Incorporating wildlife into your landscape photography introduces an additional element that contributes to the overall success of the image.

Blue Springs, Florida