

Total time:
2-4 hours



Difficulty Level:
Challenging

Skill Points:

- Composing in macro
- Using backlighting
- Working with shallow depth of field
- Environmental challenges

CREATING STUNNING FLOWER PHOTOGRAPHS

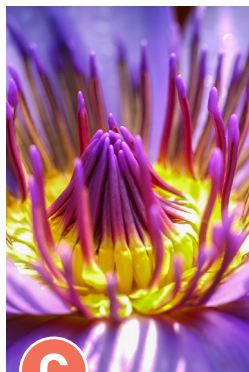
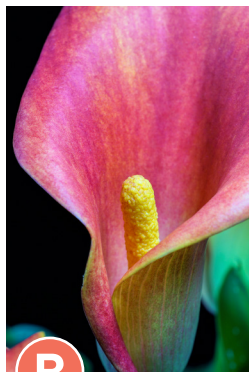


Flower photography requires a keen eye to details.

It also works best with some specialized gear. However, you can start with a set up as simple as your smartphone camera.

KEY LESSON: A primary concern to great flower photography is composition. These are the main composition tools in flower photography: camera position (POV), lines within the flower itself, a flower juxtaposed against other flowers or a background, depth of field, a focal point, and backlighting. Study the sample photographs.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



EQUIPMENT

- **Camera**
Any camera including a smartphone camera
- **Lens + lens hood**
Any close focusing or macro lens.
- **Filters**
Close focusing filters allow any lens to focus closer
- **Tripod + Field Support Clamp** <Internet research
Optional but highly suggested.
- **Flash**
Optional but comes in handy as a fill light
- **Bounce Cards**
Can be used in lieu of a flash and as a windbreak



ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Study the sample photographs: look for eye snags surrounding the flower (see red arrow in photo A). Study the flower (A) closely and determine the composition based upon the Key Lesson and the sample photographs.
- 2- The wind is your enemy. Shoot on a calm day or create a windbreak. Use the field support clamp. Shoot early or late in the day when the sun is low. There is usually less wind in the morning.
- 3- Setup your camera with these general tips: **Shooting Mode:** Manual or Aperture priority
Drive Mode: Single shot / **ISO:** 800 and adjust as needed to facilitate a proper shutter speed / **Shutter Speed:** 1/250th / **Focus Points:** Single center focus point for extreme close ups and all the focus points for wider group shots / **Metering:** Matrix/Evaluative / **Focus mode:** Single shot / **Aperture:** from f/5.6 to f/16 depending on the desired depth of field / **Format:** RAW (preferable) /
* If using backlight, use the electronic flash for fill-flash or front fill bounce cards
- 4- Choose your camera position – Consider: Composition, how close you can focus, backlight or front fill light use, wind , etc.

HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did you properly place the focus for the composition?
- Did you frame the shot tight enough?
- Is your image sharp and free of camera shake?
- Did you make use of the shape or color of the flower or surrounding flowers?
- Did you compose using the tools in the Key Lesson?