

Total time:
3-5 hours



Difficulty Level:
Very challenging

Skill Points:

- Learning how Long Exposure Photography works
- Discovering what subjects work best
- Learning how to avoid the pitfalls

THE LOWDOWN ON LONG EXPOSURE

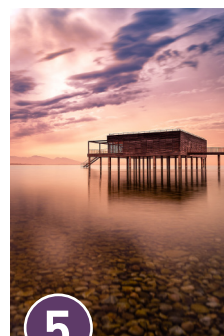
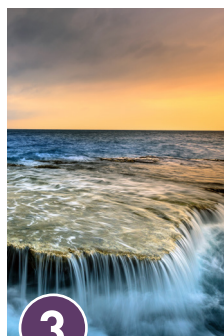


This type of Long Exposure Photography is created in bright ambient light, as opposed to shooting at night. Long Exposure Photography is unique because it mixes blurred motion, with sharp details, presented in bright ambient lighting.

KEY LESSON: For this genre of photography, you will need at least one ND filter; start with a 6-stop filter. The primary difficulty in LEP is unwanted camera movement: use a steady tripod. Experiment with exposures from 1/2 second to 30 seconds. Begin by shooting at dusk. Use a remote or cabled shutter release. Some object in the scene must be moving, and some object must be completely still. Don't shoot on bridge decks or the top of a building when starting out.

EQUIPMENT: Camera/Bulb capable | Wide-angle to normal lens | Remote release | Tripod | ND filter

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



- 1- This is a classic long exposure photo. The clouds and water are in motion, and the landscape is steady. The exposure has been slowed down significantly with the use of ND filters. The length of the shutter speed will change the effect.
- 2- Dusk is a perfect time of day to begin experimenting with Long Exposure. Mount your camera to a tripod. Shift to manual focus. Focus the lens. Determine exposure without the ND filter. Set-up the remote shutter release. Attach ND filter. Calculate the exposure adjustment with the ND filter. Set manual exposure including ISO, aperture, and then shutter speed. Fire shot. Review. Adjust.
- 3- Using a shutter speed closer to 1/2 sec will yield less motion blur depending on the speed of the movement.
- 4- The Long Exposure effect varies with the length of the shutter speed and the speed at which objects are moving. The movement of clouds may be imperceptible to the naked eye, but show sleek motion when captured at a 30 second exposure. If you're interested in Long Exposure Photography, check out Photzy's detailed Premium Guide titled, "The Complete Guide To Long Exposure Photography".
- 5- Using a shutter speed closer to 30 seconds maximizes blur, even on the slightest movement. This setting often creates a "creamy" appearance to water and clouds.
- 6- A photo killer to this technique is **unwanted** blur. Lock the camera down tight. If it's breezy outside, attach extra weight to the tripod, such as a 10 lb. sandbag. Avoid setting up in areas that move such as bridge decks.



ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Acquire at least one ND filter. You can start with an inexpensive one. You should be able to find one for \$25 - \$40 online.
- 2- Set up 2 shoots: one for midday and one for dusk. Find appropriate subjects: movement and steady.
- 3- You need to recalculate exposure after attaching the ND filter. Most filters come with an exposure adjustment chart, or you can get the smartphone app, "LE Calculator", which is super easy to use.
- 4- Create shots of at least 6 different subjects. Vary your lens focal length and exposure times.

HOW DID YOU DO?

- Do all of your attempts have something with sharp focus present in the shot? If not, you've been tanked by camera shake. Try again.

READY! SET! GO! **ACTION CARDS**
STRETCH GOALS: LONG EXPOSURE