



16 tips for winter photography

Winter photography is a popular subject, but it's hard to master. Here are a few tips and inspiration from experts that will help you expand your photographic portfolio.

Wintery cold places offer myriad opportunities for photography, from shooting beautiful snow covered landscapes to chasing the northern lights. If the light is right, you can get some truly fantastic winter photography shots. However, cold winter weather also offers unique challenges to photographers – and I'm not just talking about cold fingers!

When the snow falls, the whole landscape is magically transformed — icicles glisten on barren tree limbs, snow-covered yards sparkle under the low winter sun, and colourful holiday decorations shine brighter. Despite the chill in the air, athletes, families and photographers take to the great outdoors to experience winter. Grab your camera and your warmest winter wear and use the following suggestions to capture cool scenes and heartwarming memories.

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Doing any outdoor photo shoots this winter? Expert tips and tricks to improve your winter photography! Scroll down, bundle up, and take notes!

1. Increase exposure compensation

When you are shooting during sunny and bright winter conditions, or trying to capture the pure whiteness of the fresh snow, adjust your exposure compensation by +0.3 or +0.7. Cameras don't know that you are shooting snow (also, technically your camera doesn't see color as well), so you have to tell the camera that you are shooting something bright and adjust your exposure. Otherwise, your snow will end up looking gray instead of white.

2. Keep batteries warm

Batteries lose their power when exposed to low temperatures. You may be used to getting a few hundred shots in one charge, but in cold temperatures, the number of shots you take in one charge can drop considerably—less 50-70% than you are used to. You can easily cheat the cold by keeping your spare batteries warm. Just keep the extra batteries in your inner pocket, and close to your body heat.

3. Don't let your camera fog up

Shooting something in freezing temperatures is a challenge. When you are ready to warm up in any nearby indoor spot, be mindful of your camera. If you simply rush indoors with your camera, your lens will fog up immediately with all the built-up moisture. This will result in painful minutes of you waiting for the lens to defog (and possibly missing out on getting a great shot). To avoid this, place your camera in a photo bag with lens cover before you enter into any warm place.

4. Consider photo-friendly gloves

If you are shooting outside, you will most likely end up shooting in gloves. If you are like me and use regular gloves, you can find yourself frustrated by not being able to use all the dials and buttons because of the thickness of gloves. Most photo stores sell special photo gloves with thin thermal fabric around the fingertips, so that you can fully control your camera. These gloves also have a special fabric on the palms for a secure grip. Visit your local camera store, and give these gloves a try. They could save you from lots of hassle and frost bite.

5. Beware of the red noses

I enjoy shooting portraits during winter time, because cute hats and mittens really help make the shot. Having your model in the cold will most likely result in red cheeks (which is great) and a red nose (not so great). If your model ends up with a red nose in every single shot, don't panic. Simply adjust the saturation in your photo editing software

Move the Red Saturation slider slightly to the left (at about -10 or -15), and the Orange Saturation slightly left too (at -5 or -10). Decreasing the red and orange saturations will help to mute down the red noses. Try it out!

6. Capturing the snowfall

One of the most majestic things to photograph is snowfall. To get the best shot, consider getting a telephoto lens—anything with a focal length of 70mm and up. For best conditions, you should use a 200mm lens and up, and shoot at shallow aperture (consider f/4.5-6.3). Make sure to set up the fastest shutter speed that you can (1/400 of a second or faster). What you will want to capture with such a depth of field is an effect where the snowflakes right in front of the lens and behind the focus point would appear to be larger. Having snowflakes large and slightly blurred in front and behind your subject will create that magical feel.

7. Sunrise and sunset are the best times to photograph landscapes during winter time, the sunrise and sunset can be a lot more dramatic than usual, especially right before or after snowstorms. They are likely much easier to photograph. Why? Because during winter, the sun rises later in the day and sets much earlier, allowing landscape photographers to take a break and sleep in. (In the summer, photographers have to be up and ready on location as early as 4 a.m.!) During winter time, the sun rises as late as 7-8 a.m.

8. Keep your gear dry with a snow cover

If you are out a lot during snow storms, invest in a good snow or rain cover. It will keep your camera and lenses dry during the photo shoots, minimizing the chance of liquid residue getting close to the electronic brains of your camera. You can get a snow cover for as low as \$6, but quality covers will set you back \$60-100. Still, it's a great investment, and costs a fraction of a camera repair price.

9. Drying your camera

If your camera ever gets wet, bring it indoors, then wrap a dry towel around it. Let it sit for several hours. If you try to wipe the snow or water off, you may risk pushing it inside the seams where the electronic components are, which can pretty much kill your camera. Just let your camera sit in a towel for a bit, and let the towel absorb all the moisture.

And don't try this at home:

10. Keep yourself warm

last, but not least, keep yourself warm. Shooting outside can be challenging, and it's important to be prepared to face the wind and the cold. It's never a bad idea to overdress. In the worst case scenario, you can unzip your winter coat. Wear gore-tex boots, warm gloves, a hat, and get ready to have a fun day shooting outside!

1. Capture the snowfall

Falling snow enhances any winter photograph, but capturing it presents a challenge. Snowfall is often unpredictable and can change in an instant. The forecast may predict big fluffy flakes drifting on the wind, but you may encounter fast flurries blowing sideways instead. Capture a magical, dynamic winter scene by photographing in Shutter Priority (Tv) mode, which lets you control how snowfall appears in your photos. Depending on the snow conditions, using a slow shutter speed (1/15 sec.) can blur a blizzard or eliminate slow-falling snowflakes. Choosing a fast shutter speed (1/250 sec.) will freeze snowflakes in mid-air. For outdoor photo shoots in snowy conditions, use a moisture-resistant lens,

Switch to Movie shooting mode to take short videos of the snowfall in slow motion. To record snow accumulation at 1/5th of real time, shoot 120 fps.

2. Get the proper exposure

Fresh snow can often trick the camera sensor into underexposing a scene, which can easily be adjusted in photo editing software. But if you want to get the right exposure in-camera, experiment with exposure compensation settings by accessing P, Tv and Av modes. Adding +1 or +2 exposure compensation brings more light into your scene, preventing underexposure and keeping the snow white without washing out your photo.

Save some time out in the cold by shooting with Auto Exposure Bracketing (AEB), available on cameras. With AEB activated, you can take three consecutive shots in sequence of standard exposure, decreased exposure and increased exposure without manually adjusting the settings. Similar to AEB, the High Dynamic Range (HDR) setting captures three consecutive images in different exposures and automatically merges them into one JPG image.

3. Embrace the night

Nighttime snow scenes can be magical, especially in the city. Fresh snow on the ground reflects the ambient glow from streetlights, making it easier to take vibrant winter photos at night. With a full-frame DSLR or Mirrorless camera, you can take high-quality photos using available light during the night and low-light conditions without the use of flash. The camera's extended ISO range increases light sensitivity and reduces the appearance of camera shake blur, resulting in natural-looking photos. Winter nights are long, so you'll have lots of opportunities to capture evening activities such as outdoor ice skating, crackling bonfires, and dazzling light displays.

4. Freeze the action

While some people are snuggled up with hot chocolate next to a crackling fire, others are bundled up and frolicking in the snow. From snow tubing to snowball fights, there are plenty of photo-worthy wintertime activities to capture. Use Sports mode to freeze-frame athletes in action or snowballs splattering onto someone's parka. With an image stabilized telephoto lens you'll capture crisp shots of skiers swishing along fresh powder from yards away.

5. Protect your equipment

Winter scenery looks beautiful, but photographing outdoors in freezing temperatures for extended periods of time can affect your equipment. Camera batteries lose their power faster when exposed to low temperatures, significantly reducing the number of shots you can get. For long outdoor shooting sessions, keep a spare battery warm in an inner pocket of your winter coat. Your body heat will help preserve its charge.

A rain cover helps keep your camera and lens dry in snowy conditions. Even a weather-resistant camera should be guarded from condensation build-up when brought into a heated environment after being exposed to the cold. Before returning inside, place your camera in an airtight plastic freezer bag so it can warm up slowly.

6. Find the right white balance

Auto White Balance (AWB) automatically detects and adjusts the colour tint of a scene to capture the most accurate image possible. Sparkling white snow set against clear blue skies can often appear blue in photos. If your snowy scenes are looking blue, switching your White Balance setting from AWB to Shade or Cloudy will neutralize the bluish tint with warmer tones. A well-balanced, natural-looking image will have a slight blue cast with neutral highlights.

Some other helpful tools to help improve your winter photography include a circular polarizing filter. This filter screws onto the end of your lens and helps reduce glare and reflections. It's most effectively used at right angles to the light source. A simple turn of the filter will increase or decrease the effect. In most cases, this style of filter is used during daylight hours. Another great tool to have at the ready is an external flash, also known as a Speedlight. When photographing people in very sunny or high contrast scenes where the shadows are strong, simply turning on your flash will help fill in shadows on your subjects that are relatively close to the camera to improve the overall look of your photograph.

As snow falls and melts, winter scenes are always changing. You'll always find some activity, wildlife or natural landscape to capture and enjoy looking back on year-round.

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Bio

My name is David Wright.

I have many years experience writing procedures on how to test high tech electronic equipment. Re wrote technical manuals so that the average person could understand them.

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My documenting skills are excellent paying attention to details satisfying the toughest ISO auditors.

I have enhanced my writing skills by successfully completing a course in Writing for Children's literature.

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This has helped me write how to articles and Information Books that you will find on my website Discount E Books <http://www.discount-ebook-s.com/>

I have had a Camera in my Hand since 1965 Gone pro In 1999

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I am now at a point in life I would like to share my knowledge with the world and the best way I know how is by Print either electronically or Hard copy paper.

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