



Table of contents Capture Great Snow Photos	Pg
Capture Great Snow Photos	3
The Wonders of Winter.	7
How to Create Magical winter landscape photos	9
What Makes a Good Winter Landscape Photo?	9
Challenges of shooting in the Winter	10
Winter Photography	12
Editing your image	14
10 Winter Photography Tips	15
Preparation is Key	18
Discover the magical world of photographing snowflakes	19
What else should you know about snow?	20
Preparation	21
Staying comfortable and warm	23
Definition of “focal plane”: The focal plane,	24
Winter Photography Tips and Ideas	25
Tips for Using and Protecting Your Gear	31
The Winter Wonderland	33
Six ways to Improve Winter Photography	34
Winter Sports	37
Winters Cold	39
LEGAL NOTICE	40
Bio	41

Capture Great Snow Photos

How often have spent an afternoon taking photos of children playing in the snow. With over 100 photos eager to look at them and share them with family and friends.

The snow, looked bright and white to the eye, and grey in the photographs.

What is wrong? When shooting in automatic mode. Our smart digital cameras are fooled by the white snow you need reset your auto white balance to 18% gray or Tungsten

Shooting in the snow presents a new set challenges. But once you master the challenges you can enjoy creating some very exciting images.

Snow provides opportunities to create contrast (in textures and tone) and change the world around you in new and interesting ways.

This book will show you:

- How to make the most of your camera settings, such as metering and white balance, to get great snow shots;
- How to look for scenes that 'pop' in the snow by utilizing texture, tone, and contrast;
- and • some different ways of catching snow in action.

Metering

Snow is tricky subject. That will Cause your camera to make adjustments that, will ruin a good shot.

Cameras are designed to meter for middle gray. if you have a shot that is mostly snow, and mostly white, your camera is going to turn that white to gray. So, most shots with a predominantly white scene are underexposed.

There are a few ways around this problem, but you must be aware of what your camera is doing and how you can compensate for it.

The quickest and easiest way to fix the "gray snow"

When shooting in modes other than manual or automatic is to use exposure compensation (EC increase your EC a stop or two and resume shooting, with whiter results.

Note: When shooting in automatic, the camera makes all the adjustments for Exposure for you. If there is an abundance of white in the scene, the camera will Expose those whites as middle gray. Try to shoot in manual mode and make your own adjustments to get the correct exposure.

If your camera is set to aperture priority or shutter priority mode use your exposure compensation to adjust the exposure up one or two stops to get snow that looks white instead of gray.

Another way to avoid dirty-looking snow is to use spot metering.

Use spot metering, if shooting an object in the snow the camera makes a metering calculation from a small area that you are focusing on. Aim your camera at the middle-toned subject in your scene (alternatively, you can use a gray card if you have one), press the shutter part way to lock the exposure, check your histogram then recompose your shot and shoot.

If you are shooting in manual mode, adjust your shutter speed a bit. If you are getting gray snow at 1/800th sec., try setting your speed to 1/400th sec. or slower. This allows more light into your camera and makes the snow appear whiter.

If by adjusting the shutter speed affects your photo negatively (if shooting sports and you want to freeze the action), then adjust the ISO or aperture

The main thing is to be aware of how much white is in your photo as it can influence the metering system keep an eye on your histogram and watch for spots that are overexposed

Use your histogram to check your exposure regularly when shooting in the snow. Leaving your review screen on "Highlights" will allow you to quickly see if there are any areas that are "blown out" or overexposed.

White balance

Always take the time to adjust your white balance setting before shooting in snow. You want the whites to appear white, not grey or blue

Snow tends to come out looking a little blue in most photographs. At other times, the snow having a slight greyish hue would look correct, especially if photographing in the golden hours

Shooting in RAW will help when you have multiple light sources. You can easily change the white balance settings on a RAW photo during the editing step in whatever program you like to use.

Another option, when shooting in the snow, is to use black and white. This is a great way to pay attention to tone, or the range of light to dark, in a scene.

Contrast

An unknown secret snow is clear, not white. When we look at a field of snow, we see white. But all those tiny snowflakes are clear ice crystals. They appear white due to the fact of the way they reflect and refract the light.

What does that mean to you as a photographer? a sea of white all by itself looks very much like a blank piece of paper. Not too exciting

Snow provides something that every photographer seeks. When you add the right 'contrast.'

Strong contrast between your subject and items around it can make it stand out. Weak contrast allows the subject to blend in.

When photographing in the snow, look for contrasting tones, colours, and textures. If you are shooting a landscape with snow, you want to ensure that you have some rocks or trees, to make it all stand out

Texture

Snow comes in a variety of textures, from soft and smooth to icy and rough. Viewed up close, it can be made up of needle-like clusters, flattened disks, and frosted chunks.

If you are intent on shooting snow as a main subject, it is recommended to use a macro lens.

Like most subjects shot straight on in very bright light, snow will look featureless. But with the right angle, you can really highlight the appearance of snow in your photographs. Walk around and get down low to see how the surface of the snow looks from different angles.

Snow different!

After a good snowfall you will notice how different the world around you looks. Snow softens harsh angles and gives character to everyday objects.

Get out for a photo walk after a good snowfall and see what new shapes exist in your neighborhood. The way the snow collects on a fire hydrant, creating a mushroom-shaped subject, or snow snaking across a tree branch, can make for some very interesting shots.

Snow collecting in unusual spots, on the playground equipment in a playground It can turn an ordinarily bland or boring area into an interesting landscape.

Take advantage of how a snowfall can change your environment in interesting ways. Get out after a snowfall and go on a photo walk and see how the landscape has changed.

In action (snowing)

If your goal is to capture snow while it is falling, there are a couple of techniques that get very different but interesting results.

- By using a flash
- adjusting your depth of field
- opening the aperture,

You will obtain great snow images

The shallow depth of field turns most of the flakes into blurry blobs while the flash bounces light off them in a very attractive way.

You also want to make sure that your shutter speed is quick enough to “freeze” the flakes, so you don’t get streaks of snow. The speed depends on how quickly the snow is falling, start at 1/100th of a second and decrease the speed if necessary.

If the snowfall is coming down hard, it may be tricky to get the other subjects in focus

Another approach to capturing snow in action is by lowering your shutter speed. Use a tripod when you use this approach, as hand-held shots at slower shutter speeds create blur you don’t want.

The blur you DO want are the streaks of the falling snow. Other objects in your photo will appear soft and hazy, much the same way look if you were shooting in the fog. The best approach is to manually adjust the focus to get other subjects in the photo in proper focus.

The Wonders of Winter.

You may travel the world in search of the most glamorous locations, but sometimes there's no place like home.

Its winter time again, and while some people want to reside indoors, its time for all landscape photographers to gather their winter gear and start the quest for some great seasonal images.

The greatest joy in photography is to travel to far-away lands, seeking idyllic locations, that we can only dream about, and then do our very best to capture them. You don't need to travel to capture perfect sights. All around us are places of beauty waiting to be captured and we pass them every day.

You have one of the world's best locations on your doorstep: the Great Lakes of Canada

The cold wet weather may keep you indoors for weeks on end, the winter months bring harsh, but inspiring light, where a rugged shoreline Landscape thrives.

A scenic provincial Park, just a few Kilometers outside Mississauga, , filled with towering hills and romantic lakes, still remain as one of Canada's most unspoiled treasures.

Each season brings its own element, and winter is no exception. Using your photography skills and the correct time of day can vastly improve your pictures. If you are serious about photography, dawn is the time to be up and about. At this hour, the colours of the sky cast a brilliant orange-red hue that will add mood and character to any setting.

There are also other elements which make winter special. An early morning walk through the woods can be a perfect way start to any day. Our forests are full of great photo opportunities, and an early stroll around deserted woodland can be a remarkable experience.

Rivers and valleys are also prime locations for early morning shots. If a damp day is followed by a cold night there may be some low-lying mist hanging around. Mist or no mist, an early start works best.

Last light of the day is also an excellent time to be out and about. The evening sun can explode a variety of colours across the sky as it sets for the day. If the sun shines at the beginning or the end of the day, the colour of the light will be much warmer, and will lead to a much more dramatic scene.

As winter looms, gather your belongings and head out to capture the mood of the harsh Canadian winter, and start the quest for new seasonal images. It certainly isn't time to put away the camera. Winter brings plenty of great photo opportunities, tougher conditions to work in, but just as satisfactory as any other season.

Each homeland can be a paradise in its own special way: Canada is, but possibility winter brings special elements to your homeland too.

How to Create Magical winter landscape photos

We've all seen some wonderful winter landscape photos

The clouds and snow are just right and the subtle blueish tones send a chill down your spine.

Or maybe a cabin at the end of a row of pine trees with bows covered by an impossible amount of fluffy snow.

Whatever your favorite winter scene, this chapter will walk you through the basics of creating and editing a winter landscape.

- What makes a good winter landscape photo?
- The challenges of shooting in the winter
- Compositional considerations when framing your photo
- Exposing for snow and working with cool tones
- Editing your photo
- Saving your settings as a pre-set

What Makes a Good Winter Landscape Photo?

Good winter photograph is determined by the viewer, but as a photographer here some common themes:

- The image tonality evokes the feeling of being cold
- The photo utilizes snow to simplify complex landscapes
- Texture and shapes are added where none normally exist

Shoot during the golden and blue hours of the day. During these times, the sky will provide good colour in a white landscape. If the skies are clear you could create wonderful images, the harsh light will produce hard shadows, but a partly cloudy sky will add some drama.

Challenges of shooting in the winter

Photographing winter landscape photos provides for an opportunity with the proper know-how. Winter also presents its own set of challenges:

- extreme cold is difficult to work in,
- Landscape features are constantly changing.

A waterfall that not completely frozen, makes a wonderful photograph. You will have to act quickly as the temperatures steadily drop, and eventually the falls would freeze solid.

Winter landscape photos can change literally overnight. Be prepared for the weather and the need to act quickly to take advantage of conditions.

Compositional considerations

When you have arrived at your location, look for compositional elements to keep in the frame and elements to exclude.

The complexity of your subject will determine the aperture you use if you are photographing a tree with frost or snow-covered limbs use an aperture of f2.8,

If your subject is more like pancake ice on a partially frozen lake use a more closed aperture f/4 to f/5.8o adding more depth to the image.

Exposing for snow

In order to reduce the editing process, set the shutter speed properly or , set the camera to Manual mode.

White Balance

Setting white balance can get tricky if you are shooting at sunrise or sunset due to the fact of the additional colour in the sky. If that is the case use white balance you normally use for that time, If you are shooting in normal daylight setting a custom white balance of tungsten to cool tones in the image.

Aperture

The aperture should be set on the wider end. Anything wider than f/5 should provide the desired outcome. A wider aperture will keep the image on the softer side, while keeping your subject sharp.

Frame your shot and set a shutter speed so that your camera meters to zero,

Now that that the exposure is set properly adjust the shutter speed again to slightly overexpose the image by a stop to a stop-and-a-half. Using the shutter speed dial, Review your histogram to make sure you are not clipping highlights

Now that the proper settings are set, create a few images, change your composition, and try a few more. After each shot, review your image and make sure your subject is sharp and your images appear close to the look you are intending to create. Adjust the above settings as necessary.

Manually setting up your camera will give you better image results and require less post-processing.

Winter Photography

To capture some great winter shots you need to do some pre planning.

Dress and pack appropriately –you need to dress warm it doesn't matter whether you are standing still waiting for the right light conditions or standing at a sports venue waiting for the next athletic to come into your frame. You can freeze up very quickly.

Use specialized Mitten figure gloves (This is a glove with the fingers cut back and a mitten cover over the ends) thus allowing you to access the shutter release with your finger –You could also use a tripod and a remote trigger from inside your coat pocket. You will need warm boots a warm hat an emergency blanket and a garbage bag to protect your equipment from the elements.

When shooting in snow water can easily get on the lens always carry extra microfiber clothes and dry towels to keep your equipment clean and dry.

Climatize your Gear

How often have you arrived at the shooting destination and found your equipment has fogged up? To avoid this place your equipment in the camera bag and leave it outside before you want to shoot. This allows your equipment to gradually get accustomed to the cold.

Make sure your batteries are fully charged and bring extra batteries. The cold weather causes the batteries to lose their charge more quickly

Shoot Landscapes early

Get out shortly after a snow storm or an extended overnight frost thus allowing you to get the landscape without foot prints and to capture the ice fog over the water, frost on the trees and the perfect snowflake.

Be careful of where you walk as you don't want to leave foot prints and spoil your shot.

Winter light is lower than summer light and Provides for excellent shots especially in the early morning or evening.

The colour contrast of low warm light and cool blue wintery skies produces a dramatic image.

Maximum exposure

Always expose for the highlight of your shot Increase your contrast and saturation settings.

To reduce the reflection caused by the ice and snow use a polarizing filter

Freeze the action

- For objects that are not moving use a wide angle lens and a small aperture and long exposure
- For lower ISO settings and a sharper image use a tripod and a remote shutter release to reduce vibrations.
- To freeze an action shot you need a shutter speed of 1/500 to 1/ 1000 and a long lens.
- Use your light meter as a Guide then adjust your camera setting accordingly.
- In sports it is best to pre-focus on an area and let the athletic come to you then follow the action if possible try to focus on the athletics eyes.

Enhancing the colour

Shooting in the winter light will produce a dull image adjust your camera settings by resetting the saturation, sharpness and contrast, manually adjust your white balance.

Editing your image

White Balance

This is the hardest setting to get right. If you were able to set your white balance to the recommended setting of tungsten, then you should be in the ballpark. Slide the White Balance setting to the left until the image starts to turn blue. Slide it back to the right to dial in the tone you like.

Exposure, Highlights, and whites

It's easy to go too far with the exposure of snow, blowing it out to the point of no detail. As you process your image, it is imperative if you intend to print your image, to check if you have any pure white areas that need adjustment. The quickest way to do this is to check for clipping on the right side of the histogram.

Set your desired exposure and highlight adjustments. It is suggest you check the White's adjustment as you move the Whites slider. In this mode, you will be shown the areas of the image that are, or are approaching, pure white. Adjust the exposure as high as you can without any pure white areas.

Softening the image

You're trying to keep the setting real, you need to soften them. To do this, add some negative adjustment. There are multiple elements you can change to soften your image. By adjusting the three main ones: Contrast, Clarity, and dehaze.

Contrast

A good starting point for softening images is setting the contrast adjustment to -20. This adjustment reduces colour and tonal contrast in the overall image. This is the lowest setting recommended you go for negative contrast. Adjustments lower than this will muddy the image.

Clarity

Set the clarity slider to -10. This adjustment softens hard edges from objects in your photograph. Adjust sparingly. For subjects with hard edges, like sheets of ice or icicles, slide clarity down only to -5. This will still give you some softness without a total loss of clarity.

deHaze

Add some haze by setting the Dehaze adjustment to -10. This has the same impact of having a Pro Mist filter on your lens. Combined with the above two settings, small amount of added haze works to blend the image together.

As you process your image, you'll find that you need to increase and decrease some adjustments to fine-tune your final product.

10 Winter Photography Tips

From the snowy to the spontaneous, winter brings with it a unique beauty worth taking out the camera. But the season also presents a unique set of challenges to navigate:

- monochromatic tones,
- finicky lighting, and, of course
- tricks from Mother Nature

Simply follow these 10 winter photography tips to yield a season of meaningful shots

TIP 01

Start With the Forecast

Before setting off for any winter photography adventure — whether a trek into the wilderness or some casual shots from the car — check your forecast to make sure conditions are just right. Snow days are wonderful for creative moments, but even light snow can be fun to play around in.

Winter weather can always turn on a dime. So bring extra layers, some food, and emergency kit, etc. in case the weather turns for the worst. Don't panic about a snow storm before setting out. Just be safe and make smart decisions!

TIP 02

Use Colour to Add Contrast

More than any other time of the year, the monochromatic nature of winter scenes means any little bit of colour can stand out and make a photo remarkable. Consider wearing a colourful jacket or umbrella during a snow storm to add contrast to an otherwise overcast photo. Or with winter portrait photography, consider framing with trees or rocks outdoors to the ever-present snow.

TIP 03

Add People for Scale and Interest

Winter moves people indoors to stay warm, but bringing them out and into the photo will add a sense of , scale, and interest.

TIP 04

Use Negative Space to Your Advantage

With an abundance of dreary, monochrome weather in wintertime, using empty space can often be intriguing if done effectively. Use white space to your advantage! When composing winter landscape photography, add a subject in the foreground that adds depth to the photo. Empty space can be very powerful.

TIP 05

Chase the Blue hour

You've heard about the golden hour, but in winter, it's time to look to the blue hour. In moments just before the sun rises or sets, the atmosphere offers this soft, blue light that makes winter landscapes magical. But the light changes rapidly, lasting only 20-30 minutes — so make sure you have your settings right!

This is a great time to capture photos of the mountains and Moon, as they can be overly bright when the sun isn't below the horizon. Using a neutral density filter during the Blue hour can make ice look spectacular and balance your exposure.

TIP 06

Put Yourself in the Action

One benefit of shooting in the bright conditions of snow and sun: Shooting action photos with a fast shutter speed is easy! A skier moving down a mountain or a snowball fight can yield some interesting shots,. Take advantage of available light and shoot all the action photos you want.

TIP 07

Navigate Tricky Meters

Photo of ski hill at sunset

The most challenging aspects of winter photography is getting your settings just right. Playing around with your camera's exposure in the wintertime can be a fun exercise in understanding the manual settings.

Exposure is something to practice. Relying on your camera set to auto-exposure can produce disappointing, tonally grey or dull shots. So to avoid underexposure, just add positive compensation. By adding +1 stops to exposure value.

Do not add flash to a winter shot. As it will overexpose the shot.

TIP 08

Find The Flurries

Snow can create memorable photographs. Some of the simplest snow photography shots are to capture snow in the foreground with a subject focused in the background

Create a blurred effect

- by framing the subject.
- Shoot with shutter speed at 1/125th or faster to freeze the flurries in place.
- Snow seems to be much less intimidating than rain, which tends to soak your gear. But as it melts it will seep e into o your gear

TIP 09

Shoot Fresh and Act Fast

Snow comes and goes. it can blow in fast and melt just as quickly.

Trees with thick snow can become bare in an instant. act fast when snow is fresh, so you can get the shots you deserve for being out there.

be patient with the sun. Sometimes the sun can go behind a cloud, changing your light metering drastically. Wait and experiment with natural lighting once the sun comes back out.

TIP 10

Play With Perspective

When out in falling snow, you'll encounter a number of natural elements that could be shot in a variety of ways. You will have plenty of opportunities to explore perspective. Try a macro lens for close-up frost and snowflake shots. Shoot from the ground.

Preparation is Key

- Emergency Kit When traveling in wintertime, shovel, fully-charged phone, a bottle of wine, and other small snacks etc.).
- Always keep extra batteries on hand. The cold temperatures makes them drain faster than usual.
- Keep a spare set in your pocket to prevent drain
- Staying Dry use friendly snow shells, waterproof pants, and other insulated layers.
- keep the camera dry
- Camera with a few different lenses (24mm f/1.4, 24-70mm f.4, and 50mmf.1.8)
- Climbatiser your camera by transitioning indoors to outdoors slowly. Moving a camera quickly from warm to cold conditions can get condensation inside your camera body, making for a foggy lens or filter. Or worse, moisture can cause the LCD to malfunction or mold buildup over time.
- Allow your camera's internal temperatures to adjust slowly by going into a warm garage, keeping your gear in a plastic bag or cover. Then move the camera close to your body as you move outdoors into the cold. Reverse the process on your way back inside.
- Consider glove liners that are touch-screen compatible under a warm mitten.
- If you're waiting for that perfect moment, or a camera timer for that long-exposure shot, consider sticking hand warmers in your gloves.
- Stability Invest in a stable tripod for the snow and make sure to place it on stable ground.

Discover the magical world of photographing snowflakes

Photographing snowflakes is an exercise in patience, preparation, and more patience. Snow days don't come along every day, and even when they do, they might not have the right kind of snow for great photographs.

As you wait, get to know your subject, have your equipment ready, and have a plan in mind to make the most of your time.

By reading this quick chapter you will: · Have a better understanding of snowflakes and their properties · the type of equipment you will need for taking snowflake macro photos and how to prep them for the photo session

- Know how to prepare yourself to stay comfortable, and warm, while taking photos outdoors in the winter ·
- Know how to make the most of your camera settings in order you get great macro photos of snowflakes

Know your subject

Getting to know your subject is important when taking any kind of photograph.

In most parts of Canada we get winter from November to March (and it sometimes spills over a bit into April. the days when you can catch a snowflake on your mitten and get A perfect flake” are not that common.

A perfect winter day for photographing snowflakes is rare. Being prepared in advance is a key element to your success.

Snowflakes take many different forms: from long, thin needles to small, thin plates. As a snowflake grows, it is influenced by temperature changes and humidity. Many small changes in these factors can influence the fluctuations in the growth, and eventually the structure, of a snowflake.

The “perfect snowflakes” are one of a kind

Depending on who you talk to, there are anywhere between 35 and 1000+ different types of snowflakes, from long, thin “needles” to flat plates, with most of them far from resembling our paper cut-out varieties that we made in grade school.

Don't let the numbers discourage you. Instead, resolve to prepare and lie in wait for that perfect snow day to come. It is worth it!

What else should you know about snow?

Most people think snow is white, but that isn't true. It is ice.

Ice is clear, and if you look closely at a snowflake photo you can see that this is true

It is the reflective surface of snowflakes that leads to the mistaken impression that snow is white.

It reflects light as it falls, producing reflection and refraction making the snow look white.

This is an important fact to a photographer.

You will want to consider what aspect of the snowflake you want to show off in your photos. You'll also need to decide if you want to use an artificial source of light and how you will use it.

Another important thing to understand about snowflakes is that they are never perfect.

the changes in temperature and humidity can also influence the growth of the snowflake in odd ways, including some arms or branches being longer than others, partially formed flakes, and snowflakes that have fused together.

Don't become overly consumed trying to find the perfectly symmetrical flake. they are very rare. Most viewers won't notice the tiny imperfections, so snap away at the good, the bad, and the interesting bits!

There are a couple more important points about snow that you should consider.

It melts. Prepare your surfaces for catching the snowflakes.

Snowflakes are light. The slightest breeze can cause movement. this has implications for preparing and protecting the surfaces that you will be photographing them on.

Use dark colours and fibrous materials to showcase a snowflake nicely.

PREPARATION

What equipment do you need to capture the pretty little ice crystals?

- darker materials showcase the flakes the best
- materials that are fibrous are good, as the tiny arms of the flake get caught on the fibers, helping it to stand up. And also prevent the flakes from moving around, thus avoiding blurry photos.

The only drawback with using a fibrous material as a background is that the fibers may get in the way of a good shot., you may have to do work in post-processing to remove those pesky strands.

Working with a dark, fibrous material can be extremely helpful by keeping the snowflake upright and also allowing it to stand out from the background.

Another technique, for shooting snowflake macro photos, involves collecting the snowflakes on a glass surface.

You will want to set up the glass surface so that it is open underneath. Use an old glass sheet from a photo frame placed upon the legs of a stool, flipped upside down.

- Put a colourful background below the glass (a nice scarf works well).
- Set up your tripod so that the camera is directly over the glass, and get the lens nice and close.
- Shooting the flakes through the glass gives you a nice outline of the flake, with details, and a nice, softly coloured background.

Change the background to create different coloured reflections on the flake.

Working with a sheet of glass, and different coloured backgrounds, can provide you with quick, fun, and surprising creative options.

One downside to this approach is that you will catch lots of debris in the form of snowflake bits in the photo.

Another drawback to this technique is the potential for movement in the flakes. A calm, windless day is necessary if you want to use the glass approach.

On the plus side, you can move the flakes around on the glass and have control over their positioning to get a better shot. A toothpick works well to gently push the snowflakes around, and it also helps to separate overlapping flakes.

A toothpick makes an excellent tool for positioning your snowflakes on a sheet of glass.

Since snowflakes melt, it is best to get your background materials cooled off before you begin photographing. Do this by laying them out in an area where the snowflakes are falling. put the materials inside a bag and then place them outside.

If using a glass surface, keep it wrapped inside a bag when you first bring it outside; it decreases 'fog' on the glass and keeps it clean.

Once cooled off, you can spread out your background materials and begin to catch those beautiful chunks of ice crystals.

You need to bring your background materials to the ambient temperature outside so that the snowflakes won't melt when they land. While letting the background materials cool down, you need to keep them clean. place them inside something or under the cover of a roof.

use your tripod.

make sure that anything that can be made stable, is made as stable as possible. . It is best to just increase your chances of success by using a tripod.

When putting your "set" together for snowflake photography, set it up at a comfortable height. Don't strain your back. A tripod will help you succeed; use one if you can.

You will want to make sure that you have all of your camera gear ready to go. You will need a camera and a macro lens.

Leave the lens cap on when exiting and entering from the indoors during cold weather photography. This can help reduce fogging on your lens.

Other equipment that can come in handy includes a remote shutter release or use your self-timer set at 2 seconds. This will allow you to get your hands clear of the camera and avoid camera shake.

Put a new (fully charged) battery into your camera and electronic flash before heading outside.

Cold weather wreaks havoc on batteries.

Staying comfortable and warm

Anyone who has taken photos outdoors in the winter knows that the cold weather presents special challenges. Not only to the equipment but also to our bodies.

Consider your hands. We need our hands for taking photographs. All of those minute adjustments feel a little trickier at $-15\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}/5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$ (or colder!). Get a pair of good gloves. Layering with fingerless gloves, with mittens over the top. Or, acquire the great mittens that fold back to reveal your fingers. Try to avoid anything that is excessively fuzzy.

Fibrous materials used to collect your snowflakes are a good thing, but there is nothing worse than a ball of red fluff in the foreground of your image that was caused by your mitten. Choose gloves, or mittens, that are of the non-shedding variety.

Dress the rest of your body in warm clothes that allow for movement.

Wear warm socks, boots, and your warmest winter jacket. cold: heat packs. that you can place inside your gloves or boots.. They stay warm for several hours.

Camera setup

work in manual mode and shoot in the RAW file format when taking snowflake macro photos.

1. Set the ISO to 200 you may have to increase it if the level of light is poor).
2. Set your white balance (most likely a cloudy day).
3. Decrease the aperture to get maximum DOF between f/20 and f/40
4. Move in as close as you can to the snowflake that you are photographing.
5. Adjust your shutter speed to compensate for decreased aperture. If it is too slow, you to increase your ISO, or use your flash.
6. Adjust your settings for a two-second timer delay or use a shutter release
7. Take a shot and check your histogram and “highlights” to see that your snowflake isn’t under or overexposed.
8. Adjust the shutter speed/ISO if necessary (alternatively, you can use your exposure compensation button if you’re using an auto exposure shooting mode).

If Using a flash, it is very easy o overexpose the snowflake when doing so. the “reflective” quality of ice take care that you don’t over-power the snowflake with your artificial light sources.

The histogram isn’t particularly useful when shooting a tiny white object against a very dark background but use the “highlights” menu to check that the snowflake isn’t overexposed. If it is, I make a quick adjustment to the shutter speed and continue shooting.

Definition of “focal plane”: The focal plane,

in a camera, is the flat surface onto which the light is focused after it has passed through the photographic lens. In digital cameras, the focal plane is the same as the flat surface of the digital camera sensor, hence an alternative name that is often used is called the sensor plane.

If you are shooting the snowflake straight on, then it will be easy to achieve a crisp, clear focus across the entire flake.

if you are trying to get a shot of the flake, and it is at an angle to your focal plane, you may have parts of the flake that are in focus and other parts that are not.

This can actually look quite interesting, and it can be used for special effect.

if you are trying to get the entire flake in focus, you may want to move your camera back a bit (this increases your DOF), or change your camera position, so that the focal plane is square to the flake (think of parallel lines).

Once you have a setup that works, try different background materials. Play around with it! It is the best way to learn.

Winter Photography Tips and Ideas

Winter seems like the worst time of year to take exciting photos. But actually, it's the best season for creating fantastic and dreamy images.

How to Prepare for Winter Photography

You have to prepare for cold weather if you are interested in winter photography. Dressing properly often means wearing the warmest clothing you have. Taking a hot beverage in a thermos especially if you're shooting from one spot.

1. Use Your Camera Settings for Enhancing Soft Lights
2. Have a Winter-Themed Portrait Photo Shoot
3. Take Photos of Couples to Bring Warmth Into Your Winter Photoshoots
4. Use Winter Fog to Take Moody Photos of People
5. Take Your Wildlife Photos During Winter
6. Use Food Photography to Capture the Winter Mood
7. Take Macro Photos to Capture the Beauty of Winter Freeze
8. Soap Bubbles for Incredible Results
9. Create a Contrast With Autumn and Spring to Enhance The Power of Winter
10. Focus on the Connection Between Buildings and Snow
11. Take Landscape Images to Show The Magic of Winter
12. Get Up Early for Magical Light
13. Capture Sunsets to Create Dramatic Contrast
14. Take Creative Photos of Snow Falling to Make Playful Images
15. Take Adorable Photos of Your Pet in Winter Clothes
16. Don't Forget to Take a Wintery Self-Portrait!
17. Top Tips for Using and Protecting Your Gear
18. Bring Extra Batteries
19. Mind Your Breath
20. Use Your Lens Cap
21. . Go Back Inside Safely

1. Use Your Camera Settings for Enhancing Soft Lights

Shooting in snow is challenging due to the fact a great portion of your image is going to be bright white.

One solution is to overexpose your photos in wintertime.. Open the aperture wider or use a slow shutter speed.

This way you can achieve a soft effect. The gentle ambient light works well for overexposed pictures. And it looks good in a landscape, especially when everything is covered in snow.

A fast shutter speed or a small aperture can result in dark images.

Experiment with the white balance settings of your camera. Snowy scenes can turn out magical by modifying the colour temperature a little bit.

2. Have a Winter-Themed Portrait Photoshoot

Winter photography goes hand in hand with warm outfits.

Asking your model to stand in the snow might not seem like a good idea. But by using the right outfit and props, everyone will be fine. Snow makes your images more fabulous

Scarves, hats, hooded coats, gloves, boots are stylish elements of your images.

Create a contrast between the snow and the clothes by asking them to dress in vivid colours. or make them a part of the background by using cold colours, such as blue and grey.

3. Take Photos of Couples to Bring Warmth Ito Your winter Photo Shoots

Winter photography is becoming more popular for engagement photos or couple photos due to the fact snow adds a lot to the atmosphere of the image. Some countries, snowy days are less than than warm sunny ones. Making winter photos in snow-covered environments look even more special.

Use the cold weather to bring the couple closer teach other. Hugs, shared coats, and holding hands in gloves all add warmth to winter photo shoots.

4. Use Winter Fog to Take Moody Photos of People

Winter photography tips aren't just about sparkly snow and cozy evenings. When it seems like the sun is hiding, you can take moody photos.

- use winter fog as an eerie background. It brings out the lonely and cold side of winter
- Cold days can be gloomy and a bit depressing with their long nights.
- To capture your model have them stare off into the distance with their back to your camera.
- The brightness of the snow will give you enough light to create images

5. Take Wildlife Photos during winter

Winter might not be the most ideal time for sitting outside for hours while waiting for a wild animal to pass by. But snow-covered environments can give a great backdrop to the animals you spot.

If you don't want to wander in the cold winter weather, you can attract animals to your garden or window. Place food for birds in a feeder and they will come to you.

Start feeding them with the first frost. Then continue it until spring. If they get used to a place where they can find food, they are going to keep coming back.

Since winter photography consists of dull colours, subjects can blend together in an unflattering way.. To blur out background distractions, use a large aperture like f/1.4.

6. Use Food Photography to Capture the Winter Mood

Winter is the perfect time to stay in and cook something delicious. Slow down and take time for food photography.

A photography ideas for winter that you don't have to leave the house.

If done right Christmas foods and winter beverages. Will allow you almost smell them just by looking at their images.

capture the Christmas dishes before your family eats everything.

7 Take Macro Photos to Capture the Beauty of Winter

Winter isn't always fun. This can make it difficult to be excited about photography during this time of year. But winter isn't all about gloominess and cold temperatures.

To inspire yourself, start a project that focuses on the beauty of winter. One of the best ways to do that is to photograph snowflakes and frost.

Frost can be found anywhere and always looks stunning. Combining frost and natural sunlight can result in breathtaking photographs.

8. Freeze Soap Bubbles for Incredible Results

When it's very cold outside, blow bubbles and create magic! All you need is soap bubbles, a macro lens, and good lighting.

Soap bubbles can be difficult to work with, especially if it's windy outside. It's best to take bubble photos when the weather is calm.

Blow the bubbles in a location where they can land gently. Branches, flowers, and bushes are perfect for this. For the best lighting results, shoot when the sun is high in the sky.

If you're lucky, your bubbles will end up getting covered in frost. This will make it seem like you captured snowflakes in a drop of water.

9. Create a Contrast with autumn and spring to enhance the Power of Winter

You can find frozen leaves in winter displaying the remains of autumn. They are not only beautiful but they make a nice contrast with the previous season.

The first signs of spring, such as little flowers growing from the snow-covered land can also enhance the contrast between the two seasons.

These unique contrasts remind the viewer of the power of winter. It can freeze the world in a beautiful way, but it doesn't only mean death. Beautiful things can grow after.

Look for these small signs and tell stories of nature and the circle of life by capturing them.

10. Focus on the Connection between Buildings and Snow

The bitterness of winter cold puts a spotlight on subjects that we often overlook at other times of the year.

Architecture, make your subjects stand out even more with the help of snow. Use the negative space to lead a viewer's eyes to a building, emphasize shapes that aren't that noticeable when they're surrounded by trees, a blue sky, and a busy street.

Architectural photography is usually not strongly connected to winter photography ideas. How different the buildings look at this time of the year.

11. Take Landscape Images to Show the Magic of winter

The winter snow makes everything look different. Go for a walk in a forest with your camera and capture the beauty of this season.

Prepare for the cold weather, but if you keep moving, a small hike can be a great activity.

When it comes to winter photos, be tempted to make them as warm as possible to make up for the lack of colours.

Make your cold winter photos even colder. Adjust your camera's white balance. Experiment with different cool tones.

12. Get Up Early for Magical Light

Winter sunrises are magical. Morning light is colder than the light of a sunset. And it produces a mesmerizing effect from the reflections coming off of the snow.

The best combination is morning fog with the first signs of a sunny day. It will brighten the whole scene and make the mist look like it's glowing.

13. Capture Sunsets to Create Dramatic Contrast

One of the best ways to take stunning winter photos is to create contrast. If possible, use a vibrant sunset or sunrise to create outstanding photos of nature.

The dramatic difference between warm and cool tones will make your photos look striking and atmospheric. This is ideal for landscape photographers who want to capture the gritty and vulnerable sides of winter.

During the blue hour in winter, you can find perfect contrast with the white of the snow. Against the lighter sky and the actual landscape

The dark blue sky of the blue hour produces a good contrast with the snow.

14. Take Creative Photos of Snow Falling to Make Playful Images

Falling snow is often used in winter photography.

- capture the snowfall itself.
- But it's even better combine it with a portrait photography session.

Your goal is to take a sharp photo of falling snow and make your model stand out. Using the burst mode.

Burst mode allows photographers to take multiple photos while holding the shutter down

Play with shutter speed to slightly blur the falling snow.

Use this technique to take adorable and funny photos of people enjoying winter.

15. Take Adorable Photos of Your Pet in Winter Clothes

Adorable pet photos are always in demand. You can turn your pet portraits into stunning works of art every time you go out. You can use colourful outfits and accessories to make your photos stand out.

Make sure to reward the pet with treats during and after your photo shoot.

16. Don't Forget to Take a Wintery Self-Portrait!

During the cold season, don't forget to take a few photos of yourself surrounded by a stunning winter landscape.

Tips for Using and Protecting Your Gear

How to keep your expensive photography gear safe and working when the temperature drops.

1. Bring Extra Batteries

Keeping a camera operating are one of the biggest challenges when the temperature drops. Cold temperatures decrease battery life by as much as 50%

Always carry extra batteries in an inside pocket where they will stay warm.

When one dies, swap it out for a warm battery.

By alternating back and forth, you can extend the life of the battery. And you can keep shooting hours longer than you would otherwise be able to.

2. Mind Your Breath

Batteries aren't the only risk to your photo shoot during the winter. Your breath. Can ruin your day of photography. A mistimed, warm, humid, breath will condense on your lens, resulting in a layer of milky frost on the glass. It doesn't matter how much money you spend on your lenses, no amount of sharpness will make up for that kind of a blur. Wiping at it usually just smudges it more. And defrosting it inside can take hours.

Always watch where you breathe!

If you turn your camera around to check lens settings, don't exhale. wear a neck gaiter or balaclava that fits over your mouth and nose to keep the moisture of your breath off your lens

3. Use Your Lens Cap

Breath is the usual culprit of fogged lenses. But when shooting at night, there is always the chance that natural frost will form. To avoid fogging your lens, use your lens cap when you aren't shooting.

If you are walking from one location to another, taking a break, or searching for anew composition, put the cap back on your lens. And for added protection put the camera back in your bag

4 Go Back Inside Safely

The return indoors. You know how a cold drink on a hot summer day gathers condensation pooling in a messy ring on the hardwood table?

Now imagine that happening to your camera gear

If you bring a camera indoors that you've been using in cold temperatures, the equipment will be cold. an unprotected camera will form condensation seconds after coming inside.

The condensation can wreak havoc with the camera's electronics, and cause moisture to build up and fog in the internal workings of lenses and bodies alike.

Before you step back indoors, place your camera and lenses into an airtight plastic bag.

Ziplocs are good, but lightweight roll-top dry bags. These are tough, Reusable, and work like a charm. Once sealed up tight in a zip lock or dry bag, Condensation can't form on your gear. Just let your camera warm up to room temperature before you pull it out of the bag.

The Winter Wonderland

A lot of people like to hibernate during the long cold snowy months, but as photographers they miss out on some fabulous photo opportunities.

Why not bundle up and capture the magic light of winter?

Snow confuses the light meter – you need to set your white balance of your camera to a 18% grey card in order to obtain pure white snow

The best time is still sunrise or sunset where the sun casts a warm glow on the snow. It will cause deep blue and purple shadows. Bracket your shots for the best image.

Wildlife is easier to capture in the winter months, but the lighting is more challenging. The dark tones of the animal against the glaring snow will cause headaches you need to overexpose by 1 to 1.5 stops.

To obtain the perfect shot you need to get out early as human traffic will obliterate the perfect shot.

Be aware of the sun as the sun's position will dramatically effect will affect the outcome of your picture .

If the sun is low you need to stand at right angles to it

If the sun is high in the sky you need to have you back to it

Also it wise to use a polarizing filter to minimize the glare.

Get excellent shots in bad weather – look for fog or snow streams to add depth to the object ,and over expose by .5 – 1 stop.

Six ways to Improve Winter Photography

As the snow falls, the 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 clothing and use the following suggestions to capture winter scenes and heartwarming memories.

1. Capture the snowfall

Falling snow enhances any winter photograph, but to capture it is a challenge. Snowfall is unpredictable and can change in an instant. The forecast predicts big fluffy flakes drifting in the wind, but you encounter fast flurries blowing sideways instead. Capture the magical, winter scenery by photographing in Shutter Priority (TV) mode, this allows you to control how the snowfall appears in your photos. by using a slow shutter speed (1/15 sec.) it will blur a blizzard and eliminate slow-falling snows.

A fast shutter speed (1/250 sec.) will freeze the snow in mid-air. Use a moisture-resistant lens while performing outdoor photo shoots,

If you switch to Movie mode you will be able to take short videos of snow falling in slow-motion. To record at 1/5th of real time,

2. Get the proper exposure

Fresh snow will trick the camera sensor into underexposing a scene, To get the right exposure in-camera, experiment with exposure compensation settings by accessing P, TV and Av modes. Or adding +1 or +2 exposure compensation to allow more light into your camera,

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

- standard exposure,
- decreased exposure
- increased exposure

3. Embrace the night

Nighttime snow scenes are 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. Since winter nights are long, you'll have plenty of opportunities to capture evening activities such as outdoor ice skating, crackling bonfires, and dazzling light displays.

4. Freeze the action

As some people snuggle 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. With an image stabilized telephoto lens you'll be able to capture crisp shots of skiers descending along fresh powdered snow from a safe distance

5. Protect your equipment

Winter scenery looks beautiful, but to photograph outdoors in freezing temperatures for extended periods of time will affect your equipment.

Camera batteries lose their power faster when exposed to low temperatures, significantly reducing the number of shots you will get. For long outdoor shooting sessions, keep a spare batteries warm inside your winter coat. The body heat will help preserve its charge.

Protective rain Gear helps to keep your camera and lens dry in snowy conditions. Even a weather-resistant camera should be guarded from condensation build-up when brought indoors 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. Do your snowy scenes look blue? Switch your White Balance setting from AWB to Cloudy it will neutralize the bluish tint with warmer tones.

A circular polarizing filter that screws onto your lens it will help to 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.

As snow falls and melts, the winter scenes are constantly changing. There will always be activity from wildlife or spectacular shots of natural landscape to capture

Winter Sports

Choosing the Right Equipment

Most of the sports are of high action shots it is recommend to use a fast focus and high ISO camera combined with an ultra fast lens. You also need to activate the anti shake function of your equipment, use the longest lens possible as you will be a fair distance from the Action.

Keep Your Camera Steady

When panning or following the Action you need a solid grip on your camera.

Place one hand on the body of your lens and the palm of your trigger hand on the body of the camera, keeping your elbows locked. The camera itself should be mounted on a monopod to help support and balance the weight. and provide a stable platform to shoot from.

Shutter speed and ISO

To freeze the action yet create a blur free image use a shutter speed 1/500 to 1/2000 then use manual settings to determine The ISO and f stop settings. Don't forget about the white balance – use an 18% grey card to obtain perfectly white snow. You must practice with your camera and various settings prior to the actual event in order to obtain the perfect shot..

Anticipating the Action – Focus and Composition

Sharpness is the major factor in creating the perfect image. Try to capture the athletics expression and also create the sense of speed to produce the high impact nature of the sport. Set you camera to a preset focal point. Follow the Athletic to the given spot then fire off a few rapid shots to capture the action

Location Challenges

Each venue has different light settings

- Inside the Arena for hockey and skating there are high powered over head lights with various colour temperatures. It is very important to set your white balance up carefully.
- Outdoors with varying cloudiness poses another problem as the light keeps changing. Set up your white balance then turn on the auto white balance setting this will adjust the camera for intermittent sunny periods.
- When shooting outdoors with Ice and snow it is recommended to use a circular polarizer filter to eliminate any glare and maintain the colour contrast.

Cold is the most critical factor – When moving from indoors to outdoors or outdoors to indoors you **MUST** allow ample time for the camera to adjust to the temperature to prevent any condensation build up. Keep lots of dry wipes handy to clear condensation off the lens.

While standing or sitting outdoors you will get cold dress accordingly for the weather conditions. Use the layering principle for better warmth.

Some photographers use a fill flash. If you are one of them set your flash settings to -2EV and tilt it at 45° angle and to zoom mode. As not to overpower the subject.

My personal recommendation is to use available light with the proper white balance you will get a better shot as the range of the flash is limited.

Practice Makes Perfect

Practice shooting various sporting events by taking random shots during the practice sessions. Experiment with light settings and other camera settings, then evaluate all of your results so when the actual event takes place you will get the once in a life time shot.

Inspiration

You are a champion photographer as the athletics are champions in their particular sport. Practice makes perfect and you only get out of it what you put into it. So give it your all. Your full concentration and passion are required. Concentrate only on getting the perfect shot and nothing else. Arrive early Get the best location and don't forget some crowd scenes to establish the full effect of the games.

Winters Cold

The severe weather conditions can change the landscape from one day to the next.

The Images are beautiful but winter poses many challenges.

The Great Canadian North conjures up Images of a vast Wilderness Frosted forests snow covered landscapes and animals scurrying around for food.

Canada is filled with an endless photo opportunity but the extreme weather condition posed many a problem.

You need to dress accordingly wear several layers of clothing and stay dry , Protect your head and hands , wear loose fitting clothes to allow your body to breath.

The cold weather will drain your batteries quickly always carry an extra set but keep the extra set warm by storing them in your pockets close to your body.

Keep your equipment dry by using disposable sandwich bags

When changing environments allow ample time for the equipment to stabilize in temperature to prevent condensation.

Since the camera's light sensing sources are calibrated for mid tones at room temperature the automatic setting are often wrong thus producing under exposed images in frigid temperatures

You could override the automatic setting by adjusting the compensation by two stops or you could control the exposure completely manually.

Know your animals and their habits thus allowing for better shots

Your local parks or nature trails are a gold mine as the animals encountered in these local are human friendly and you will get better shots. Don't forget about some of your local nature reserves as these animals are human friendly as well.

Winter produces an endless possibility for nature photography get out and have some fun.

Be considerate of other photographers and the natural wildlife and do not destroy the setting

Dress appropriately

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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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