

LIGHT & LANDSCAPE

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Magazine

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LANDSCAPE SURVIVOR

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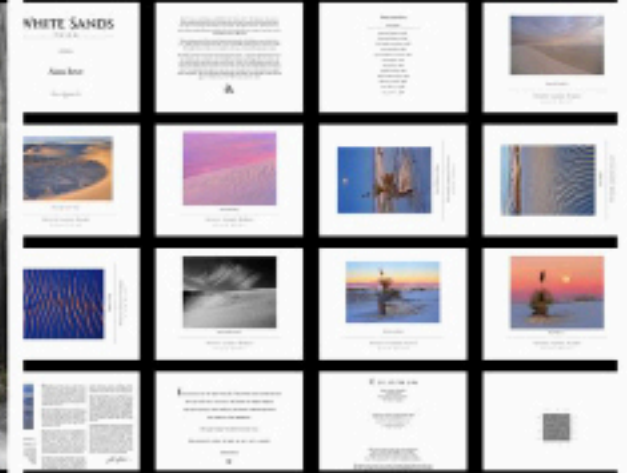
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Not too long ago, I found myself in the enviable situation of being able to take my camera to Iceland. When I returned home, I eagerly checked the images I had taken and found myself extremely happy with the results. I observed solid composition, perspective, depth of field, and at the same time, skillful use of light. Looking back to when I began taking pictures, I could then barely imagine that I was not only going to learn those concepts, but also put them into practice.

Almost everything I have learned about photography has been self-taught through experimenting, observing images, and reading books and magazines. After reading articles on photography, it seemed that most people had state-of-the-art equipment and a solid photographic background. They used the latest generation of cameras, several expensive lenses, specialized tripods, and filters. They had studied photography, were masters of illumination, had won photography contests or had their own

photography business, which enabled them to making a living from their passion.

I started my own photographic adventure about 16 years ago when heavy cameras and rolls of film were used. Depending on where your roll of film was developed, you sometimes obtained different results. The excitement of receiving those pictures often turned quickly to disappointment when the developed images did not reflect what I may have seen when pressing the shutter. When digital cameras arrived, I eagerly bought my first one. My photography skills improved because I could check my pictures instantaneously and could easily learn from my mistakes. After a while, I decided that I needed a better camera. Why, you may ask? Well, I agree with those who say that your camera matters less than the effort you make, the time spent learning the craft, your imagination, passion and creativity. However, I am also sure that there are a lot of situations that require a good camera. Without it, it is sometimes impossible to obtain good results. It has



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been difficult balancing family and professional life while finding spare time and money to dedicate to this hobby. But it is not impossible. I eventually updated my old camera and equipment and chose interesting places to visit on holidays and went on day trips with my family so I could make the most of our time together. At the same time, I took landscape pictures. After several updates of camera and equipment, I got my current camera, a Fuji X-T1 with a 18-55mm lens. It is a light camera that is as good as full frame cameras. It has improved my images considerably

During my trip to Iceland, I did not expect to find a lot of people in the places I intended to visit. At one lagoon, however, I walked on a black sand beach surrounded by ice and crashing waves. I noticed that there were almost 10 to 15 other photographers with tripods and very good gear. It was a little bit intimidating. It looked like they knew what they were doing, huddled together snugly in couples or in small groups. The beauty of that scenery, though, encouraged me to take my camera and my tripod out in spite of the pang of isolation I had initially felt. That silly anecdote of lonesomeness makes me remember my cousin, who lives in the Channel Islands (a wonderful place for coastal photography) and

one with whom I have discussed photography for hours and hours. Sharing this passion of ours, exchanging ideas, experimenting, analyzing images, and awakening early in the morning to take pictures has made me a better photographer.

I wish everyone could fulfill his or her passion as I have, but in this world, a lot of people are called but few are chosen. However, never give up, keep enjoying photography, and share your enthusiasm with others because you never know when the next opportunity is going to come. Never stop looking for goals. Sell, trade, investigate, share, admire. Never regret not having the best gear, the means to travel, or the ability to obtain the picture you desired. The most important thing is the connection with nature, and the ability to transmit those feelings into a photograph. If you are able to do that, and friends and family react positively and say, "Wow! I want to go to the place," that pleasant feeling is a reward that will keep your passion for photography alive. In closing, I leave you with these thoughts: a mistake is an opportunity of improvement and beautiful landscapes will be always be there, around the corner, waiting for skillful photographers to capture their unique beauty.



Elisio Jiménez



I am a teacher from Spain, enthusiastic about photography and also passionate about spending time in beautiful landscapes and travelling. I have travelled to some awesome places and worked in the USA where the scenery is remarkable. I now live in northern Spain with my family near the second largest beechwood forest in Europe; the Irati forest. Most Summers, I enjoy visiting my extended family in Guernsey, on the Channel Islands which has an outstanding coastline. Whenever the opportunity arises, I look for unique places of natural beauty to explore with my family. I believe that the different facets of a landscape can speak to each one of us and inspire us all. Recently, I was fortunate to journey to Iceland for the first time. Here I had fantastic experiences of an extraordinary place like no other I had ever know, where aquamarine glaciers are enveloped by crisp blue skies and the horizon goes on beyond the imagination. It is a dreamy place for landscape photographers. I have an abiding goal in my photography, I hope that I may manage on occasion to reflect the feelings that I have while taking a photo in the photo itself and then to be able to write about it afterwards so that other people might be inspired to dream.