

PPS Workshop: Landscape Photography Three things to avoid *[at all costs]* and how to do it

1. Sloping Horizons



We can all experience this in camera – when the excitement of capturing the image takes hold. But why - oh why – don't we correct it in Photoshop? It's really easy to do, takes just a few seconds, and not doing so is inexcusable.

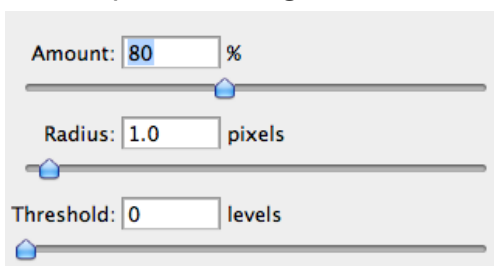
2. Out of focus

If it's out of focus - **bin it!** No amount of adjustment in Photoshop will correct a blurred image. It's all too easy to move the camera just a fraction when pressing the shutter - particularly with small pocket cameras. Landscape workers recommend using a tripod because a good landscape image needs to be pin sharp.

The camera can also focus on a foreground object and unless you are using a small aperture setting such as f16, the rest of the image may not be sharp.

So check your images carefully at high magnification on screen.

At the same time, virtually EVERY image that comes out of camera can benefit from some sharpening in Photoshop. Use the Unsharp Mask tool and start with these settings and then experiment to get the best result



3. Poor exposure



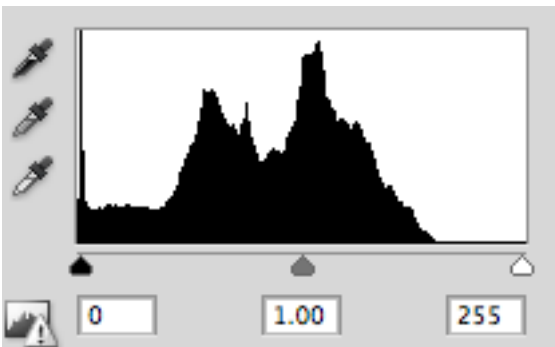
Too dark & dull, or washed out?
Colours flat and lifeless with little contrast?

It's best to get exposure right in the camera of course, but often the camera meter is fooled by a bright sky or a dark foreground or shadow. So in this photo (apart from the sloping horizon!) the bright clouds have caused the camera to underexpose, and the image is too dark.

But why show the photo in this form? Putting it right in Photoshop is easy.

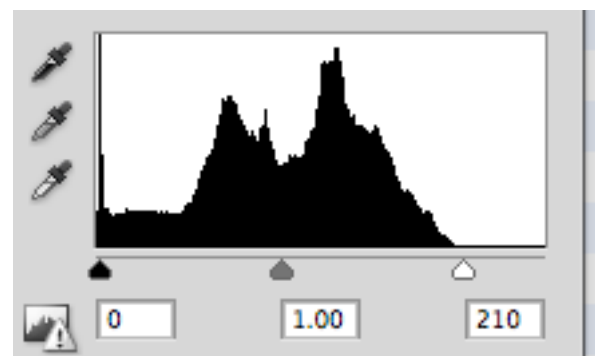
Try clicking on Auto contrast or Auto Level in photoshop to see the

difference.



This is the Levels Histogram of this image and you can see that there are no highlight pixels at the right hand end of the graph.

Move the left hand slider arrow along to meet the beginning of their histogram and see the difference. The photo is immediately brighter.



An introduction to understanding Histograms can be seen [here](#).