

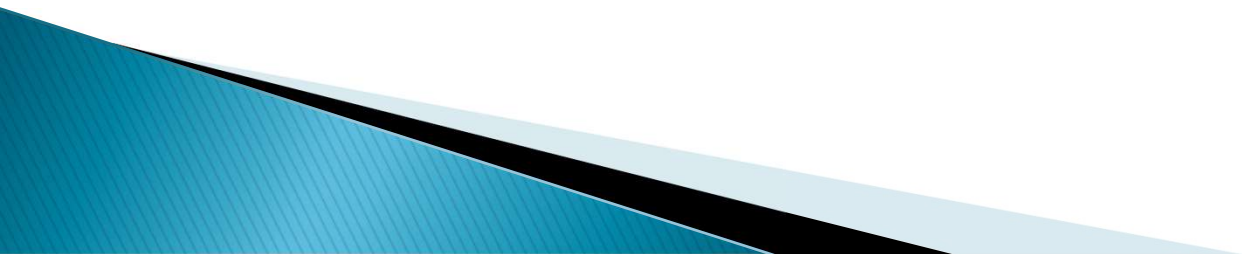


Photography Tips and Techniques

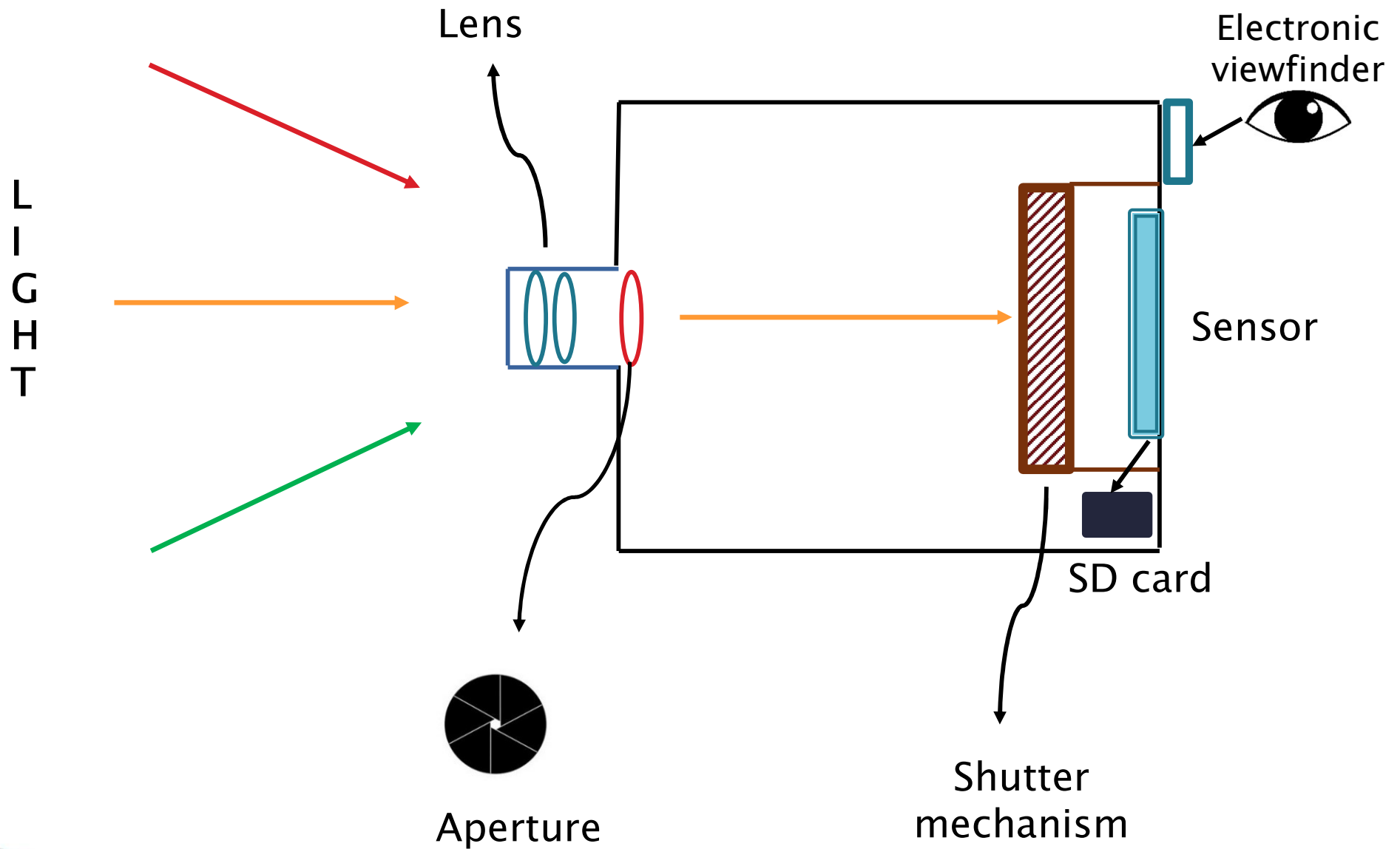
Lynda Buske

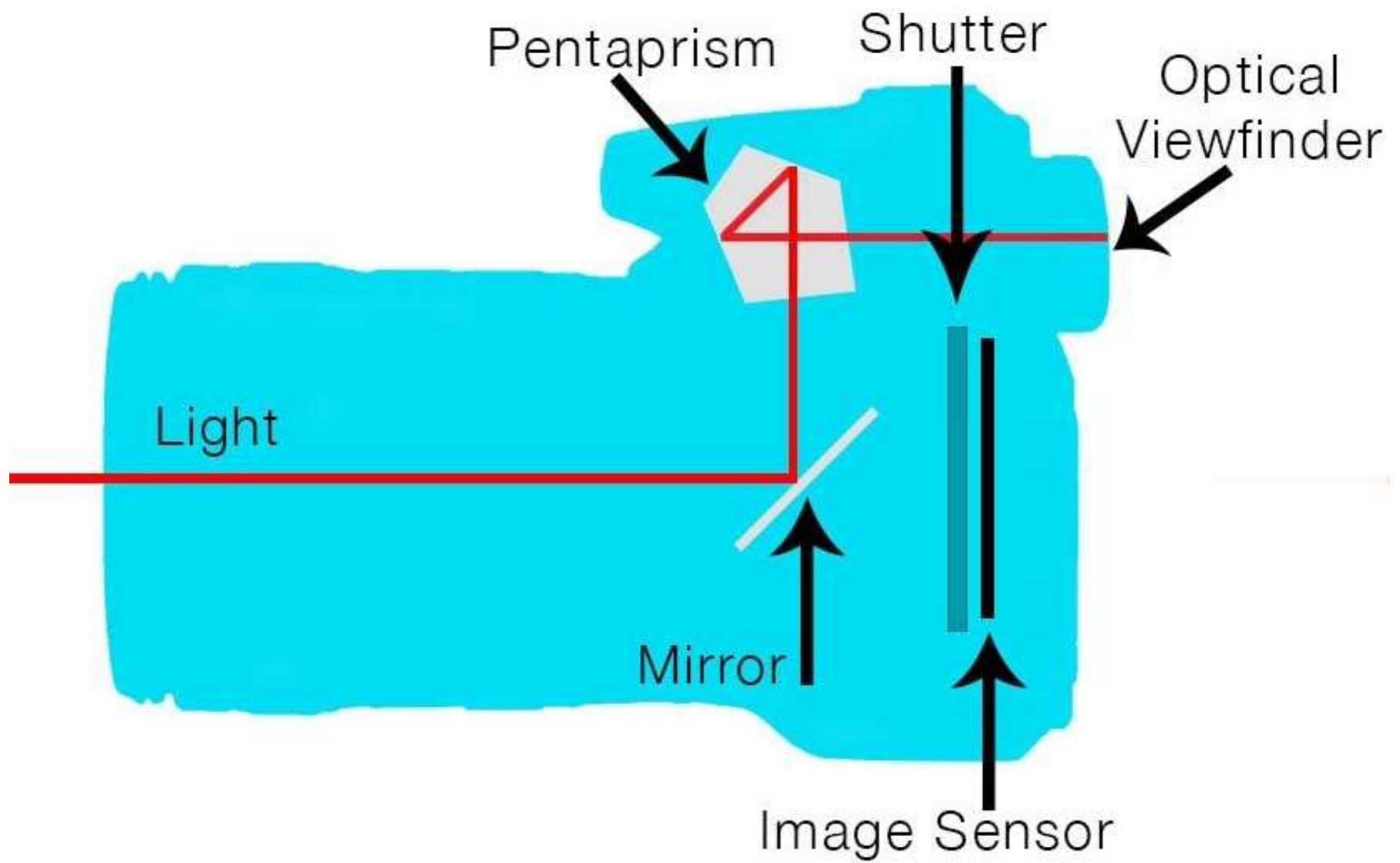
Topics we will cover

- ▶ Camera structure
- ▶ Composition
- ▶ Depth of Field
- ▶ Using light
- ▶ People, animals, flowers
- ▶ Shooting near water & at sunrise/sunset



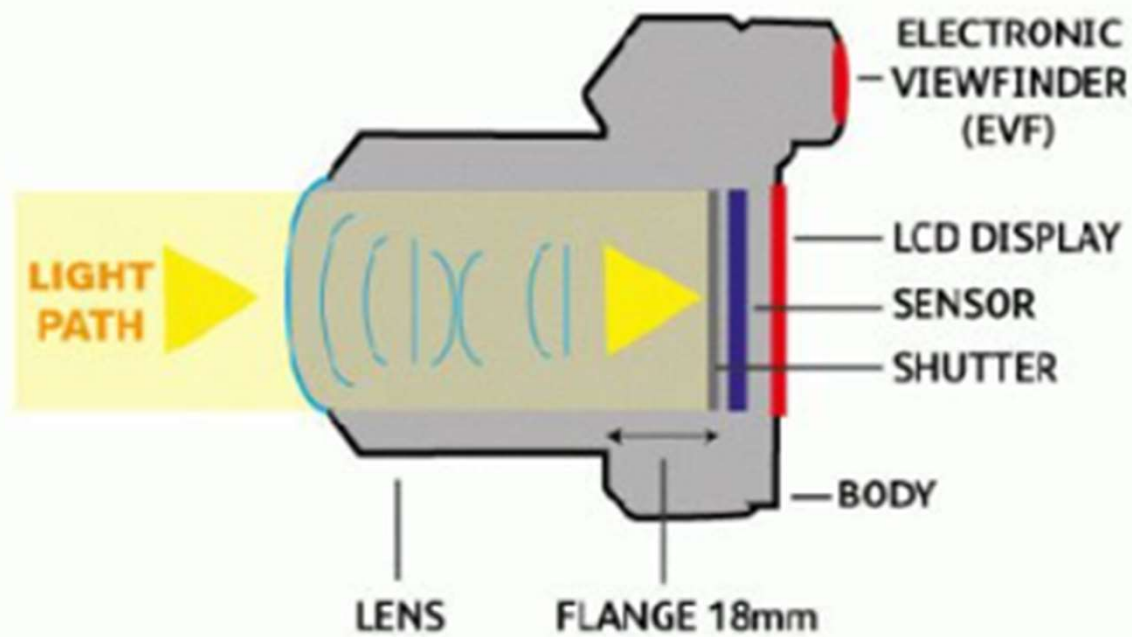
How does a camera work?





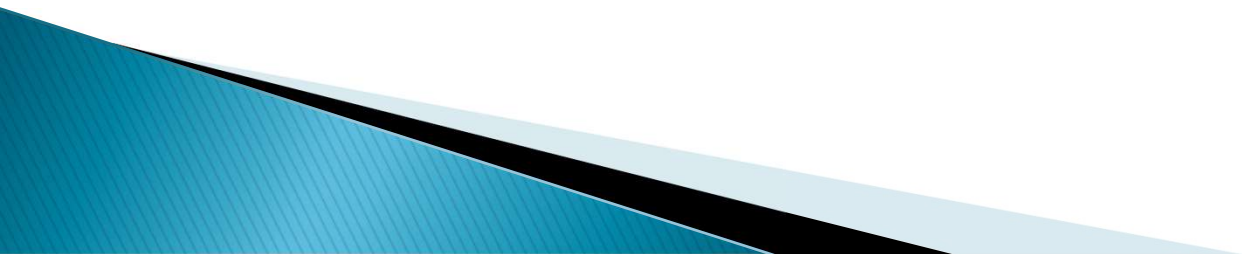
DSLR

Mirrorless Camera

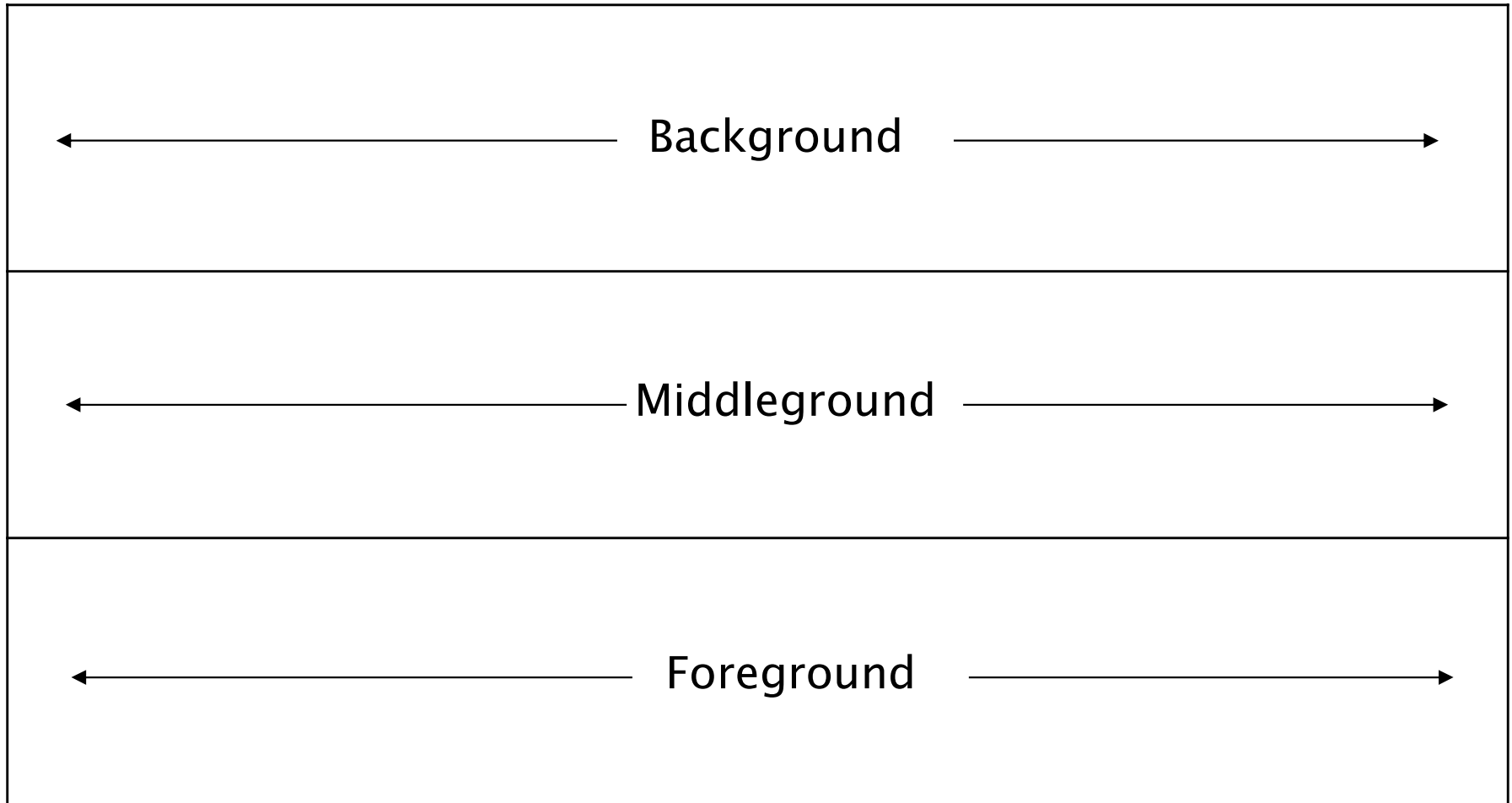


Basic tips for composition

- ▶ Use the rule of thirds, rule of odds.
- ▶ Keep horizons straight
- ▶ Keep middle vertical straight (usually).
- ▶ Leave space for movement
- ▶ Put denser objects below, lighter on top.
- ▶ Looking for triangles



Dividing your image into thirds





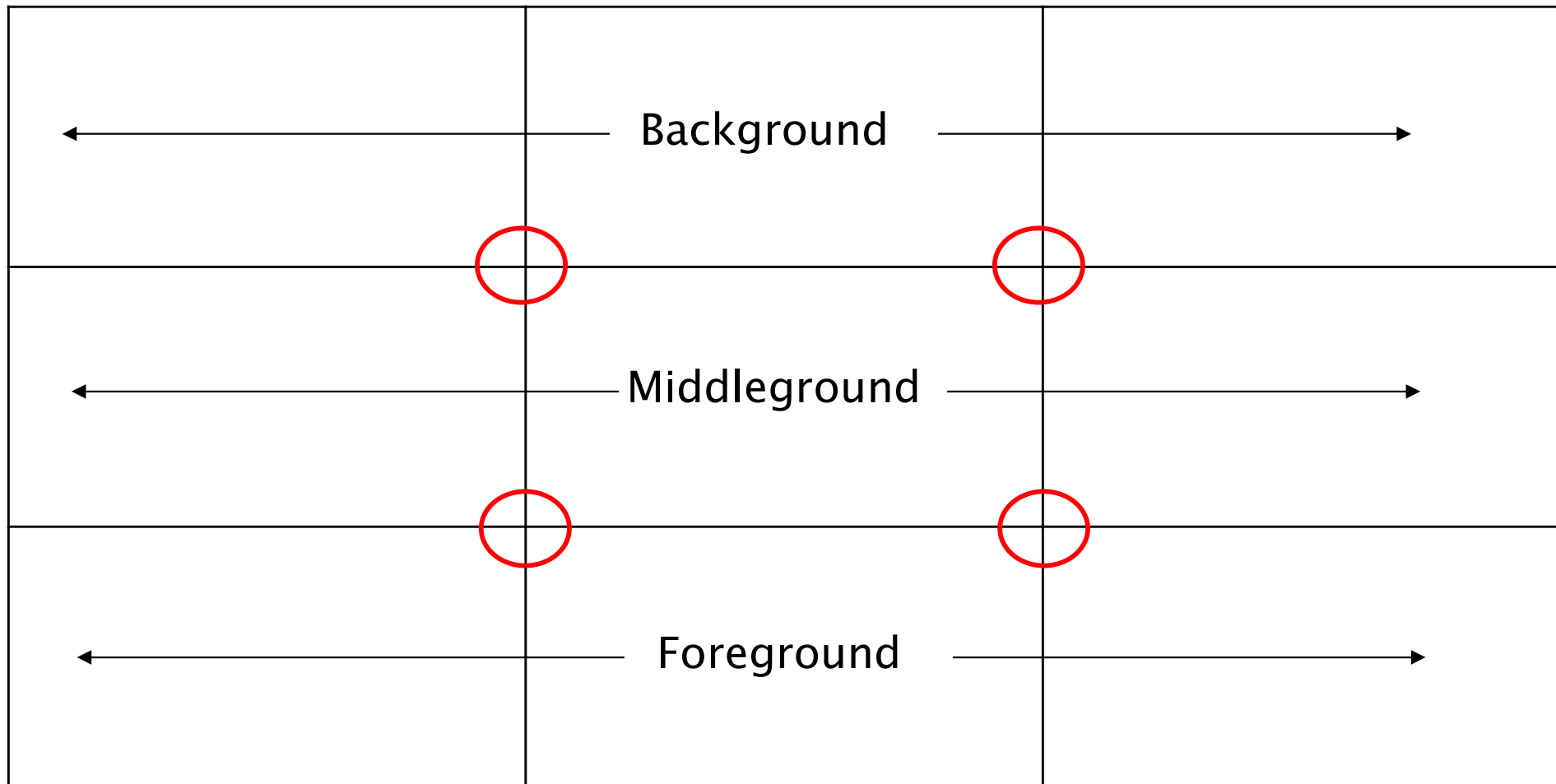
Background

Middle ground

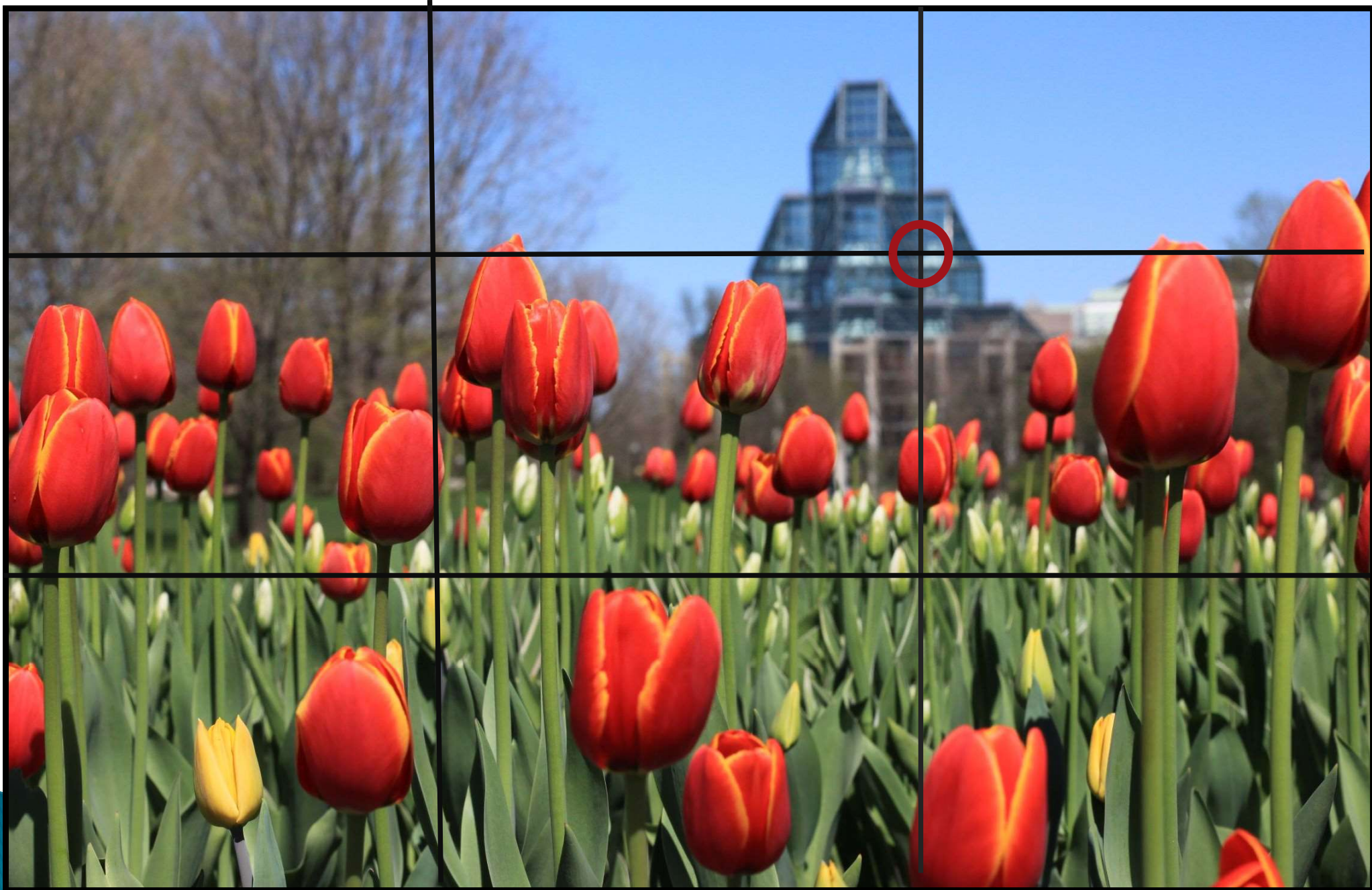
Foreground

Especially important
for cell phones!

Rule of thirds – place objects of interests near the intersections

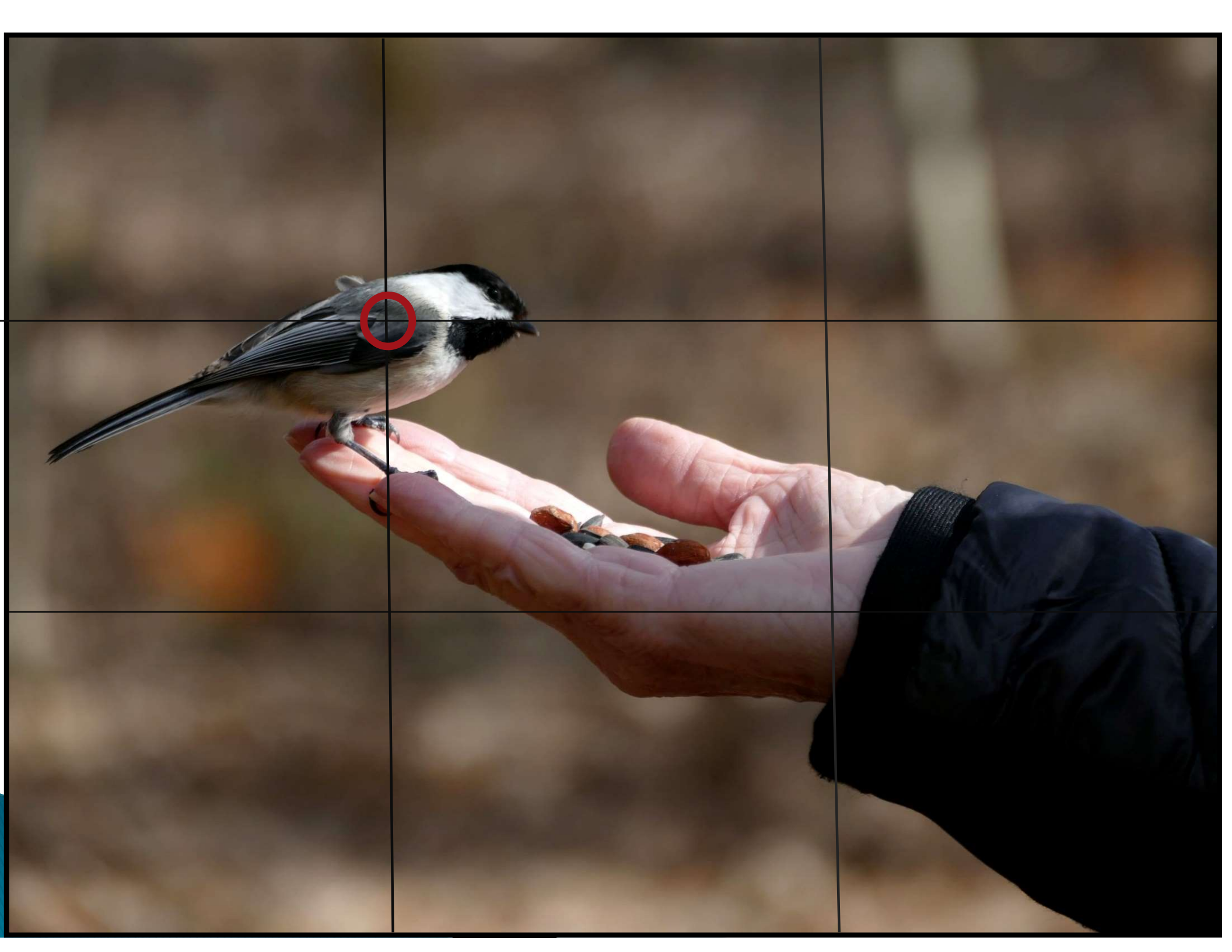


Rule of thirds



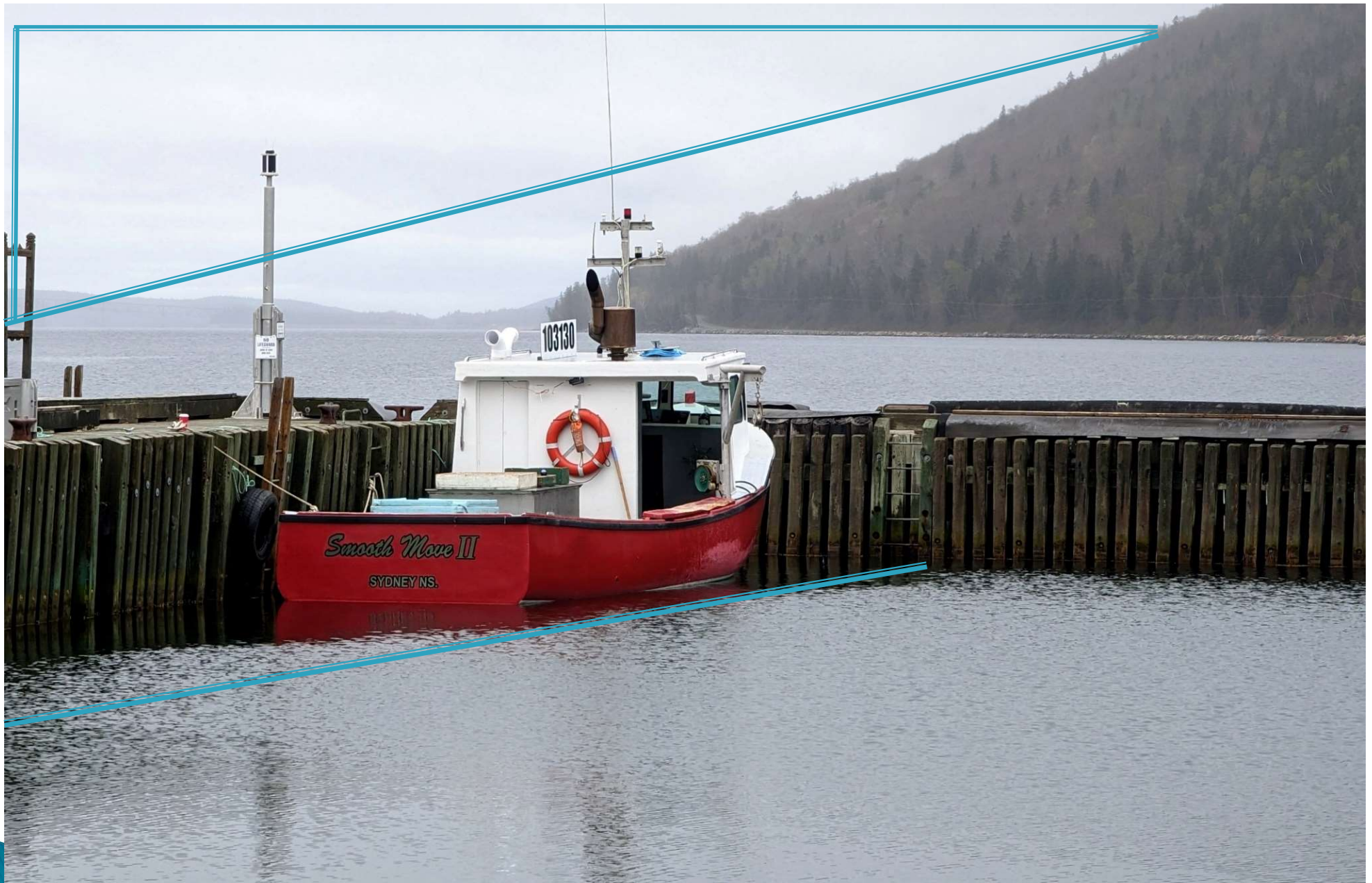




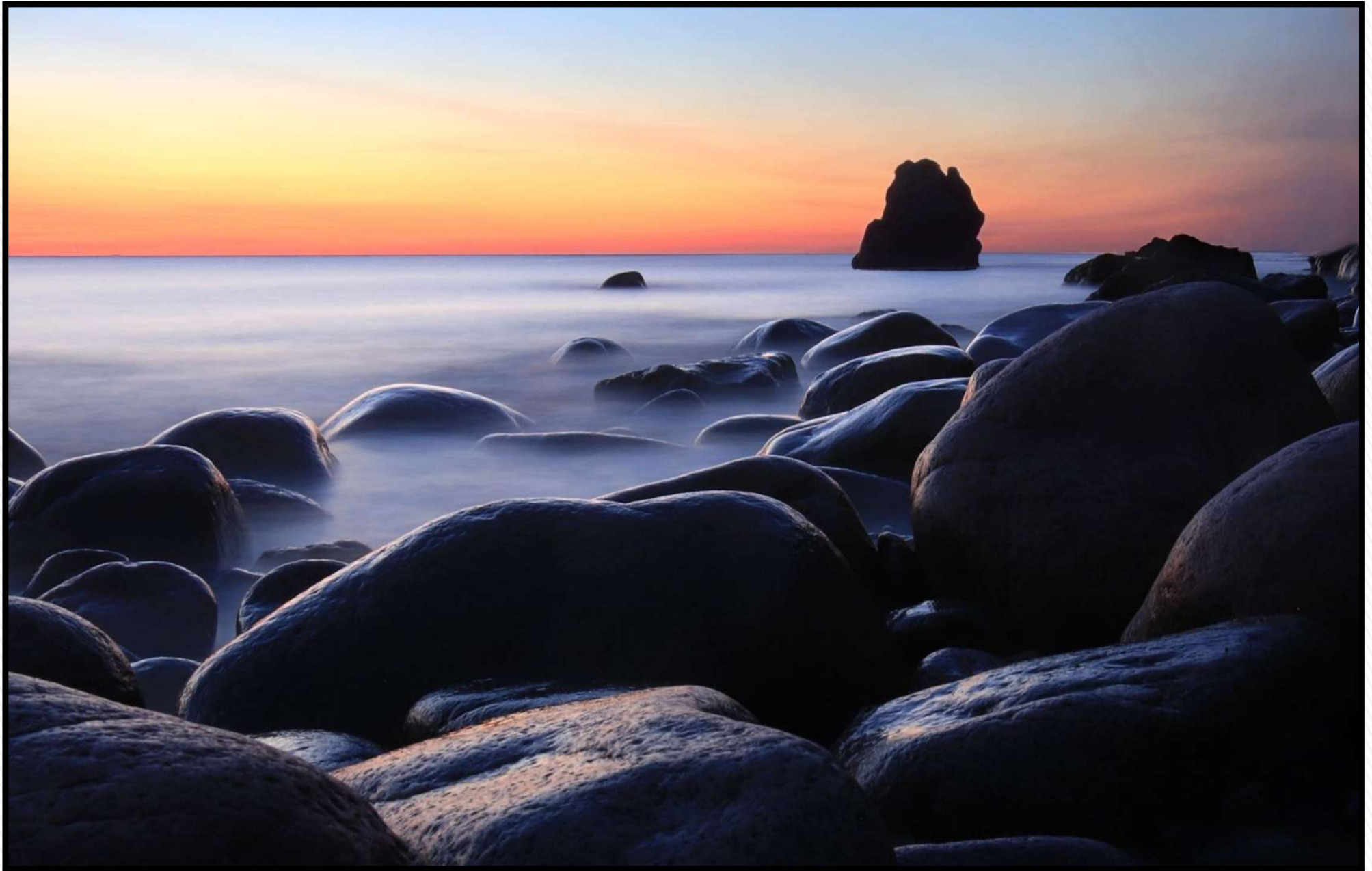




Look for triangles



Place “heavier” objects lower in the photo



Create a 3D effect with foreground

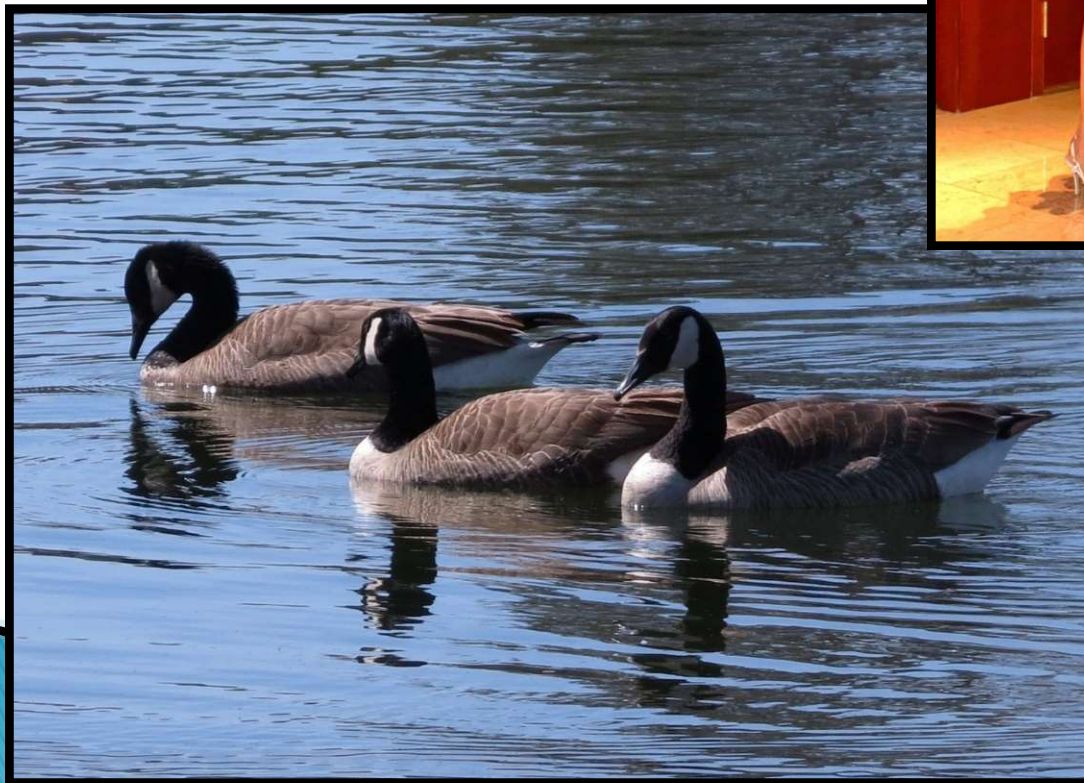




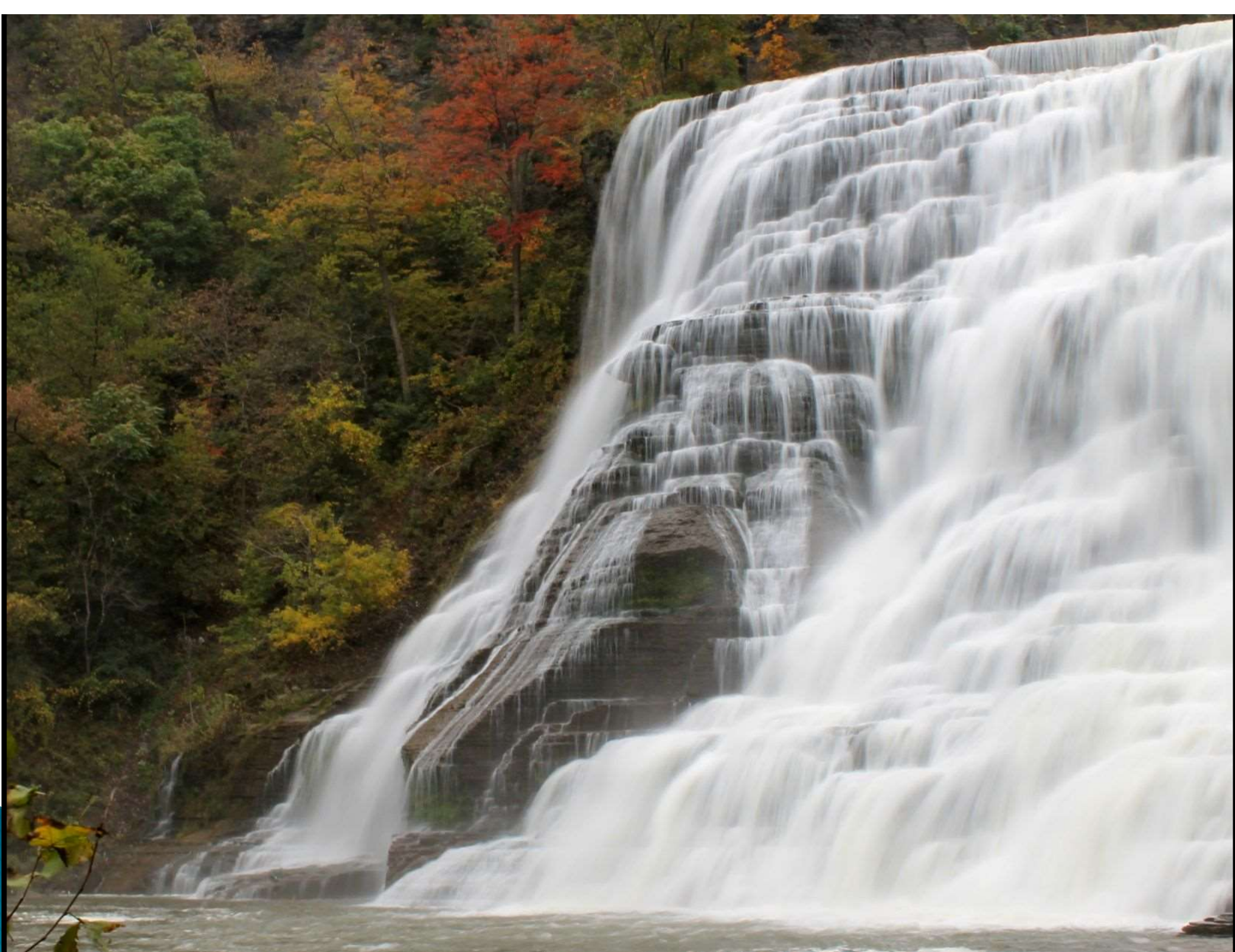


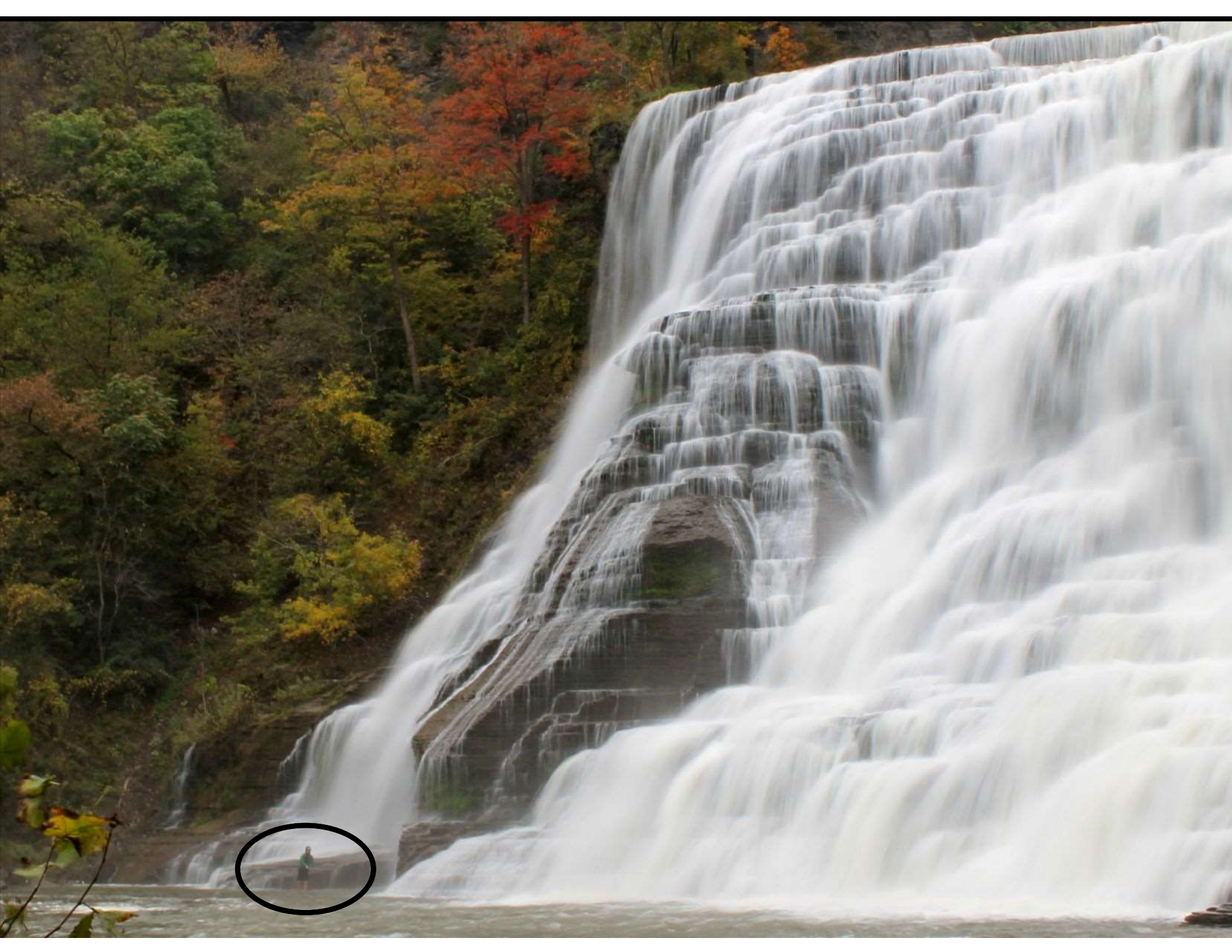
Break up an empty expanse





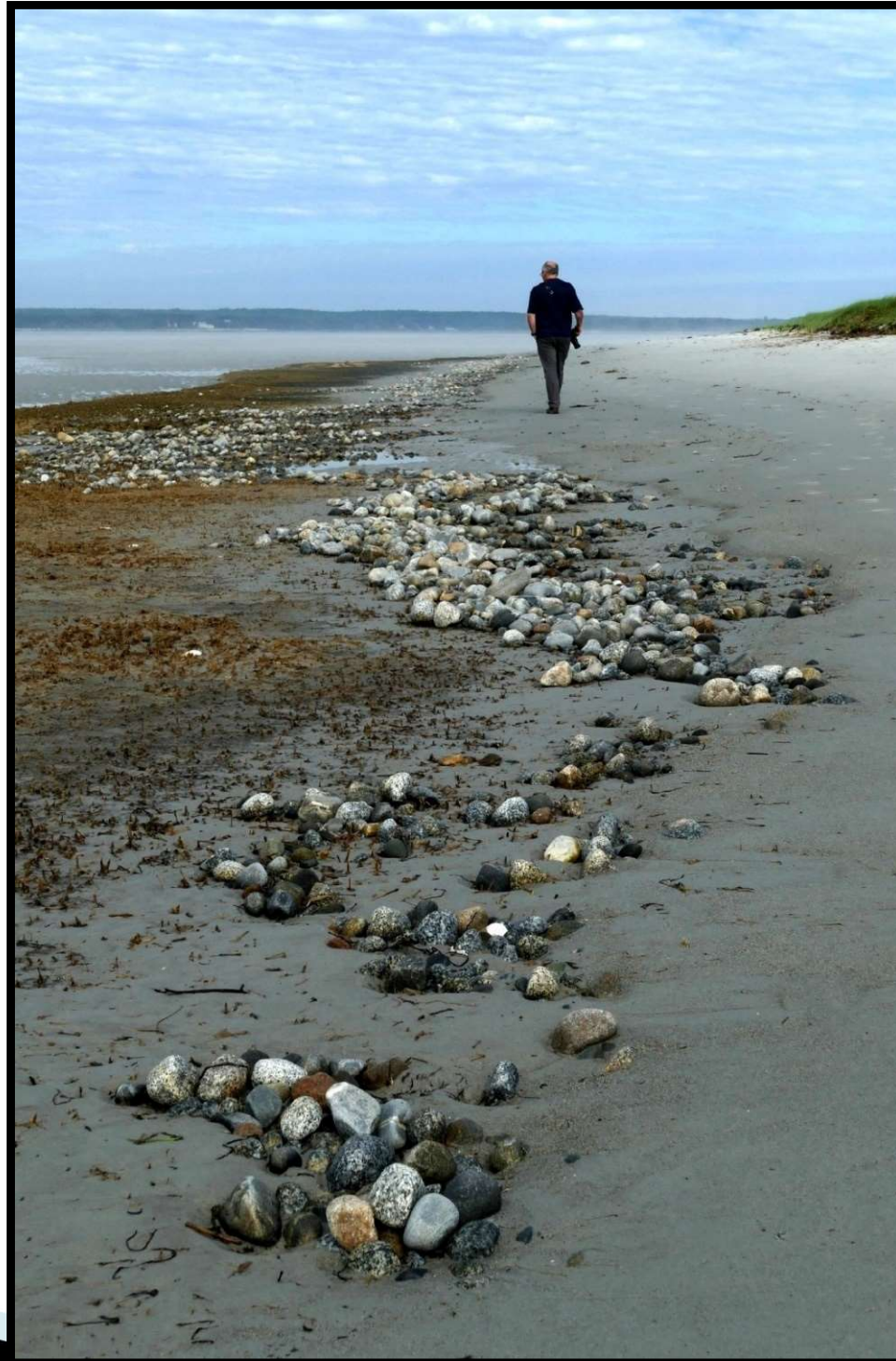
Look for odd numbers

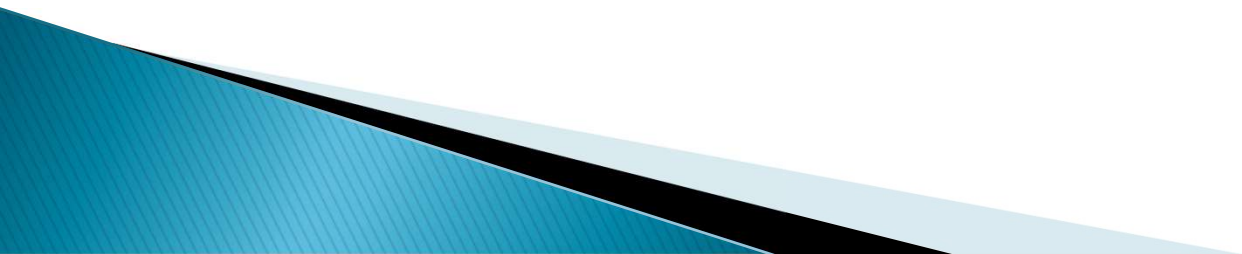
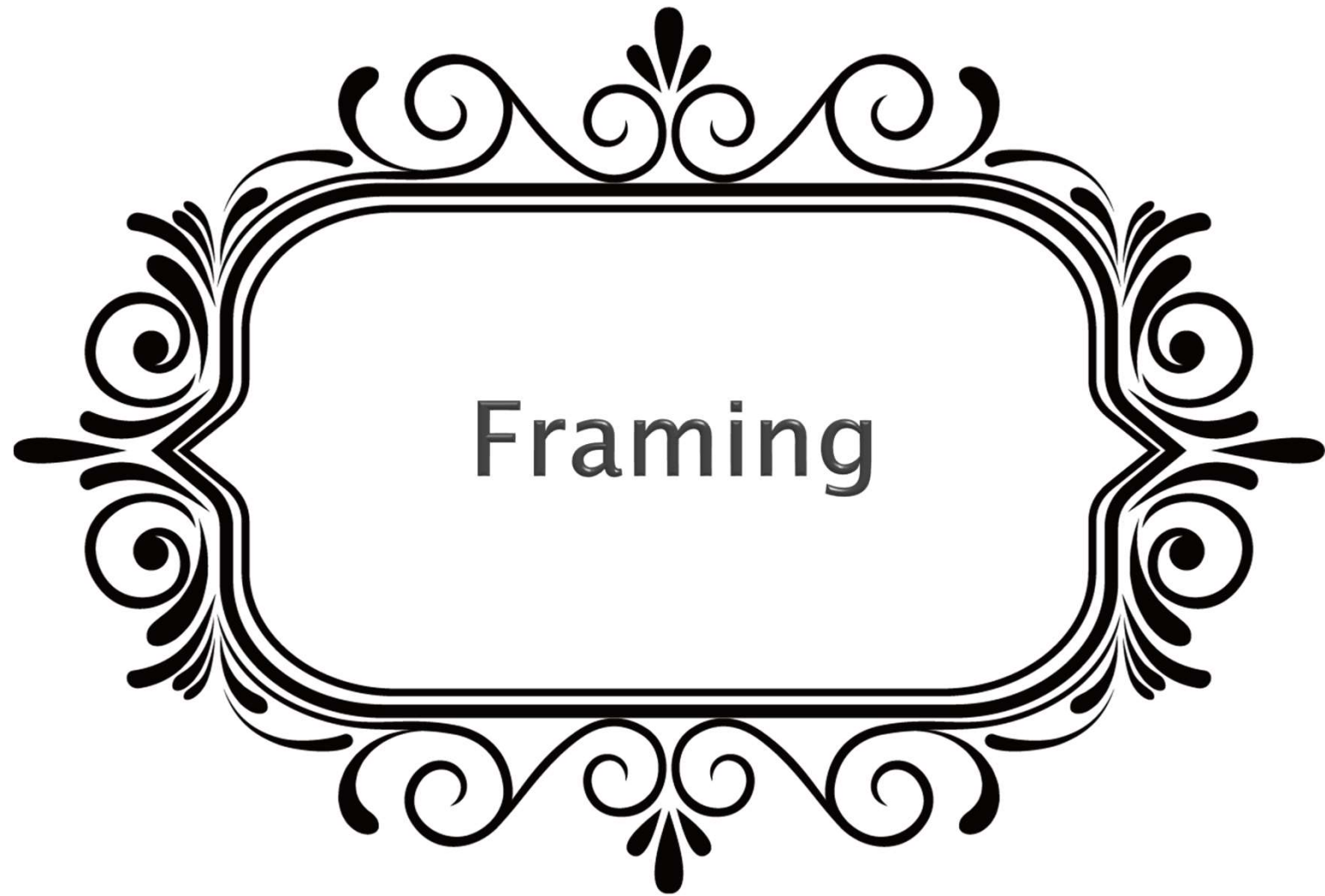




Lead the viewer through the photo

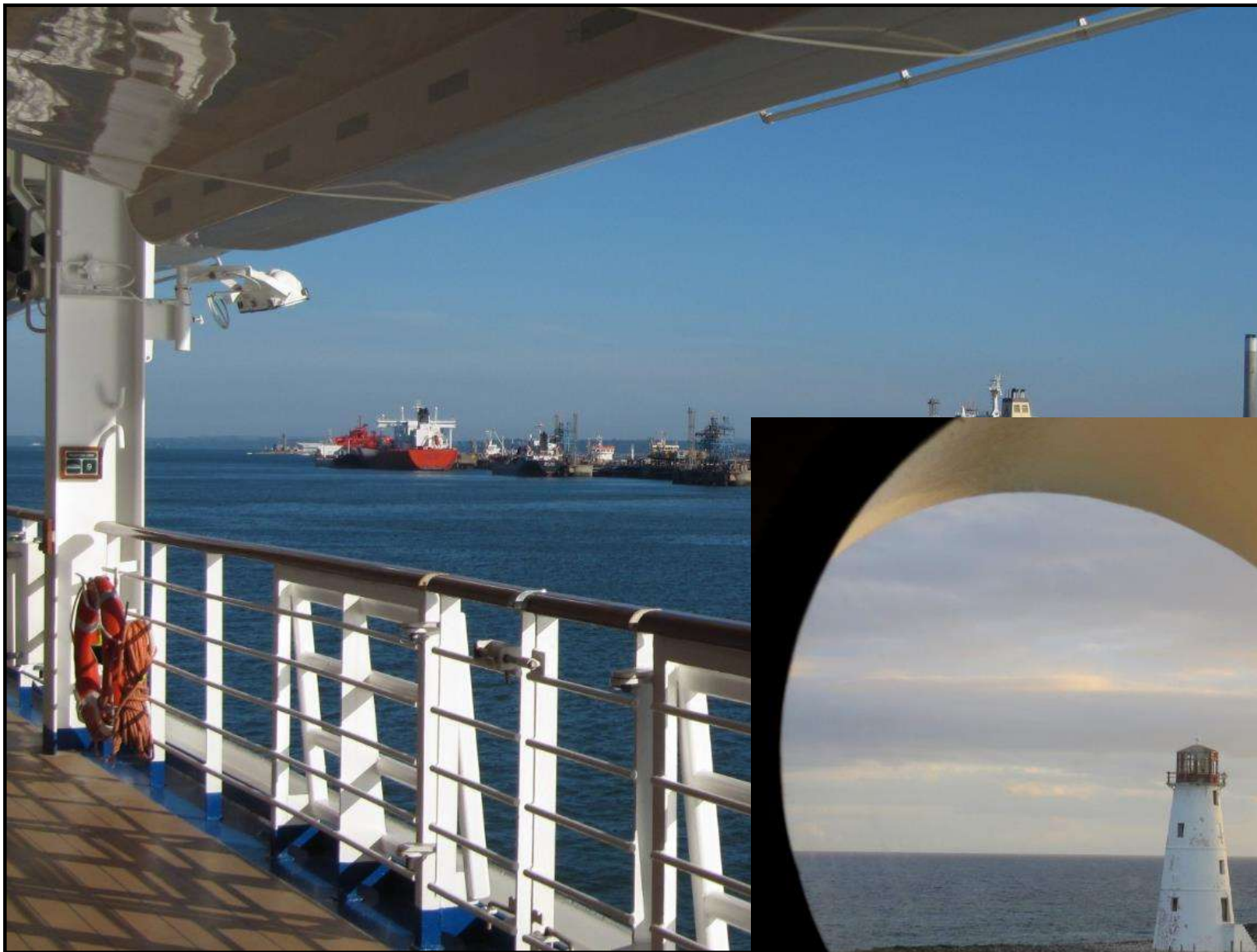






Too much sky & water
No context



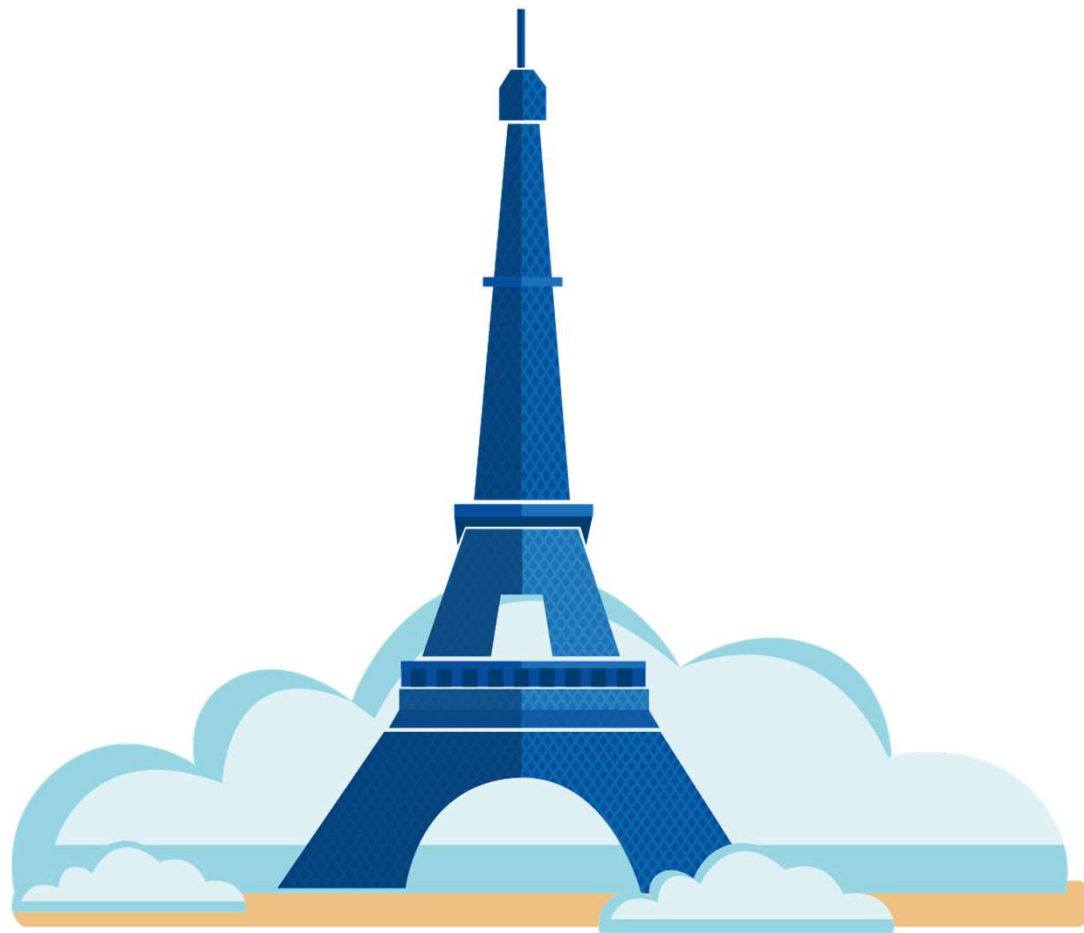


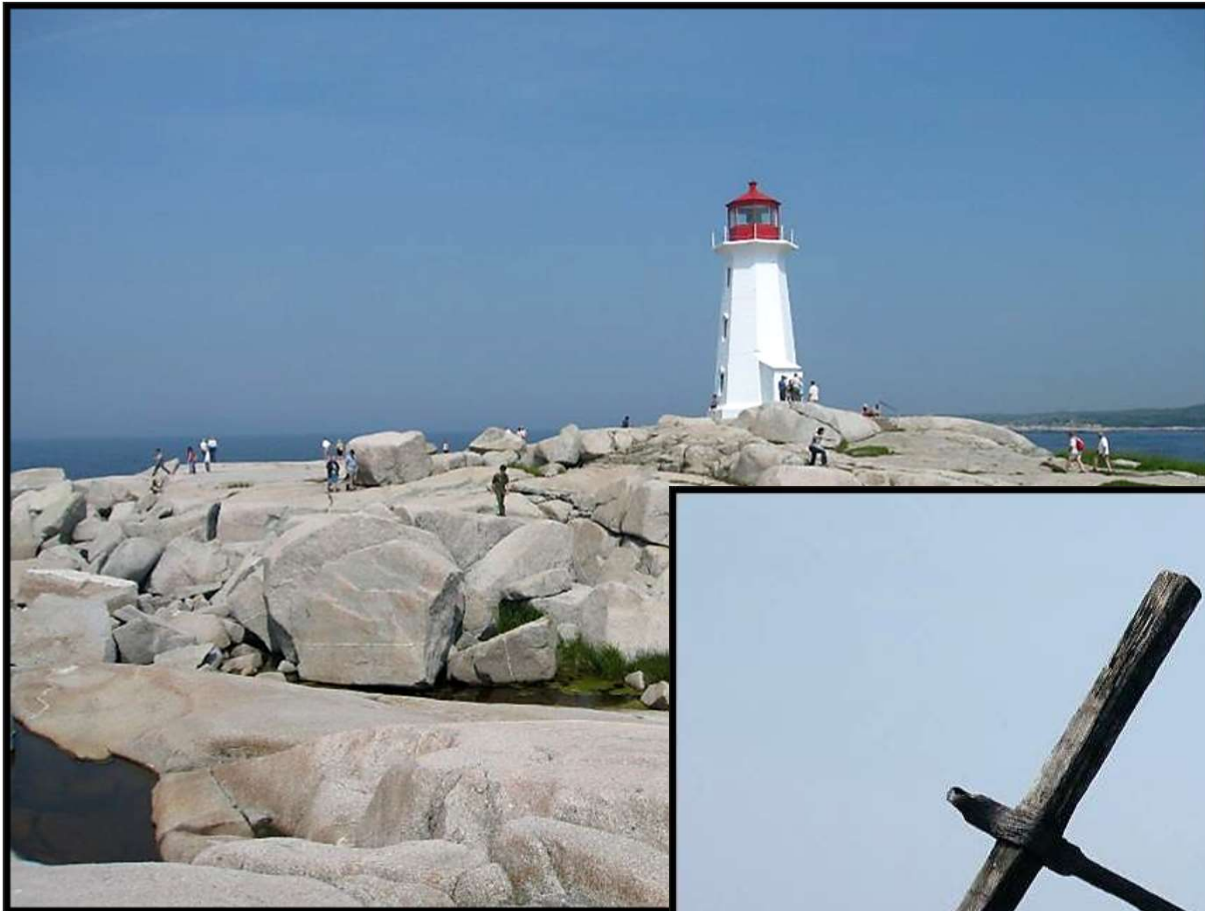






Work the scene



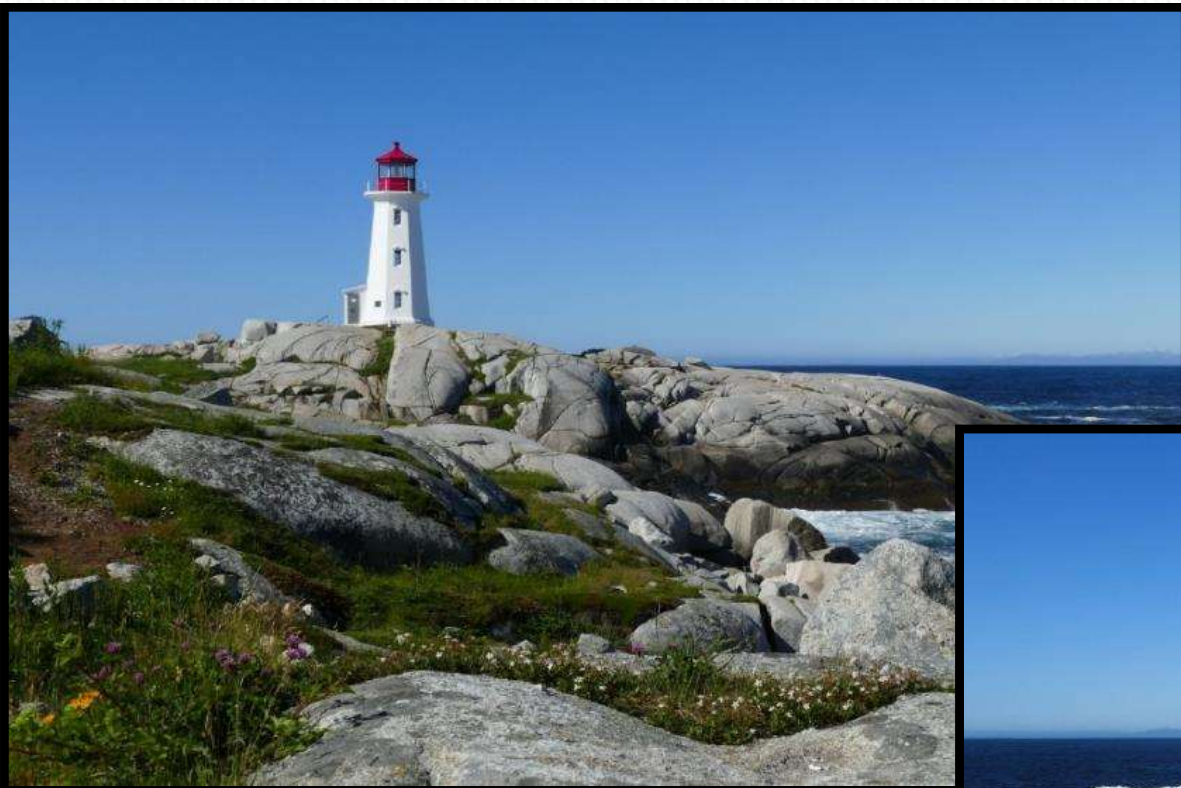


Easily recognized
location
2017

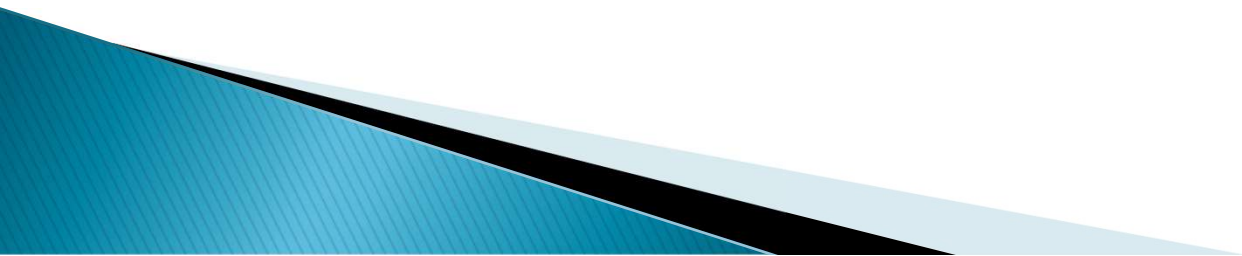
Find a different
viewpoint, “work
the scene”

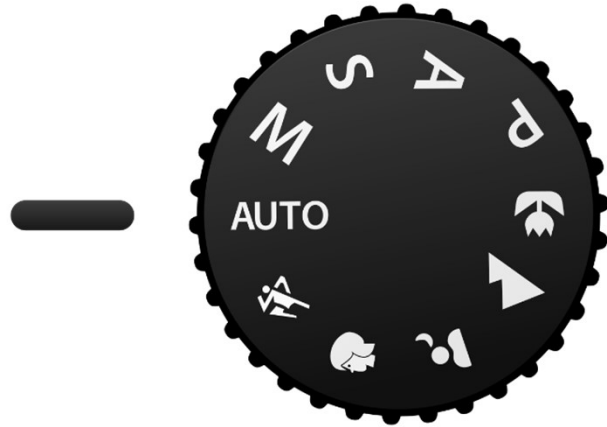


2022



Getting off Auto





Scene modes

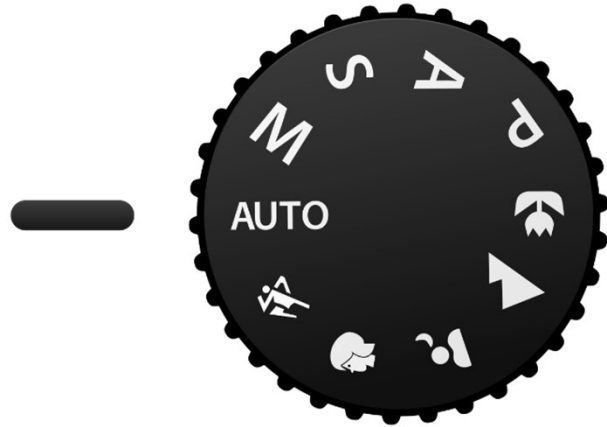
Action – faster shutter speed

Portrait – less sharpening, short depth of field

Night shots – wider aperture, higher ISO, underexpose

Landscape – long depth of field, blues/greens?

Macro/super macro – allows you to get closer

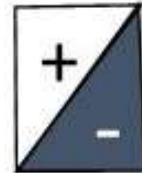


Manual – you set aperture and shutter speed

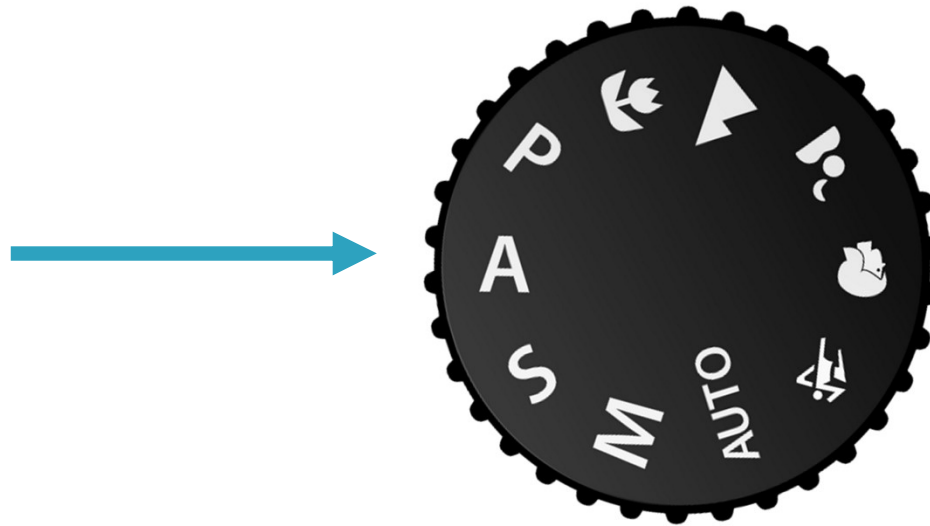
S or Tv – you set shutter speed

A or Av – you set aperture

P – you can make minor adjustments to lighten or darken



Aperture Priority – A or Av on dial



f/22



f/1.8



Whole image in sharp focus
Aperture (fstop)=11

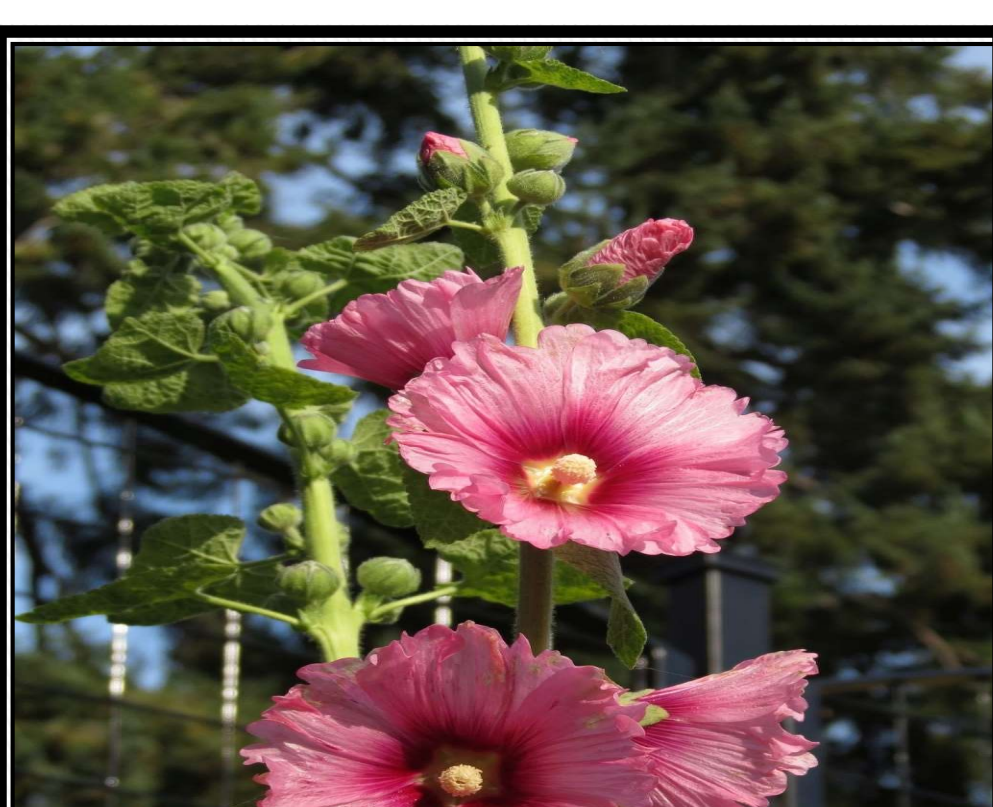


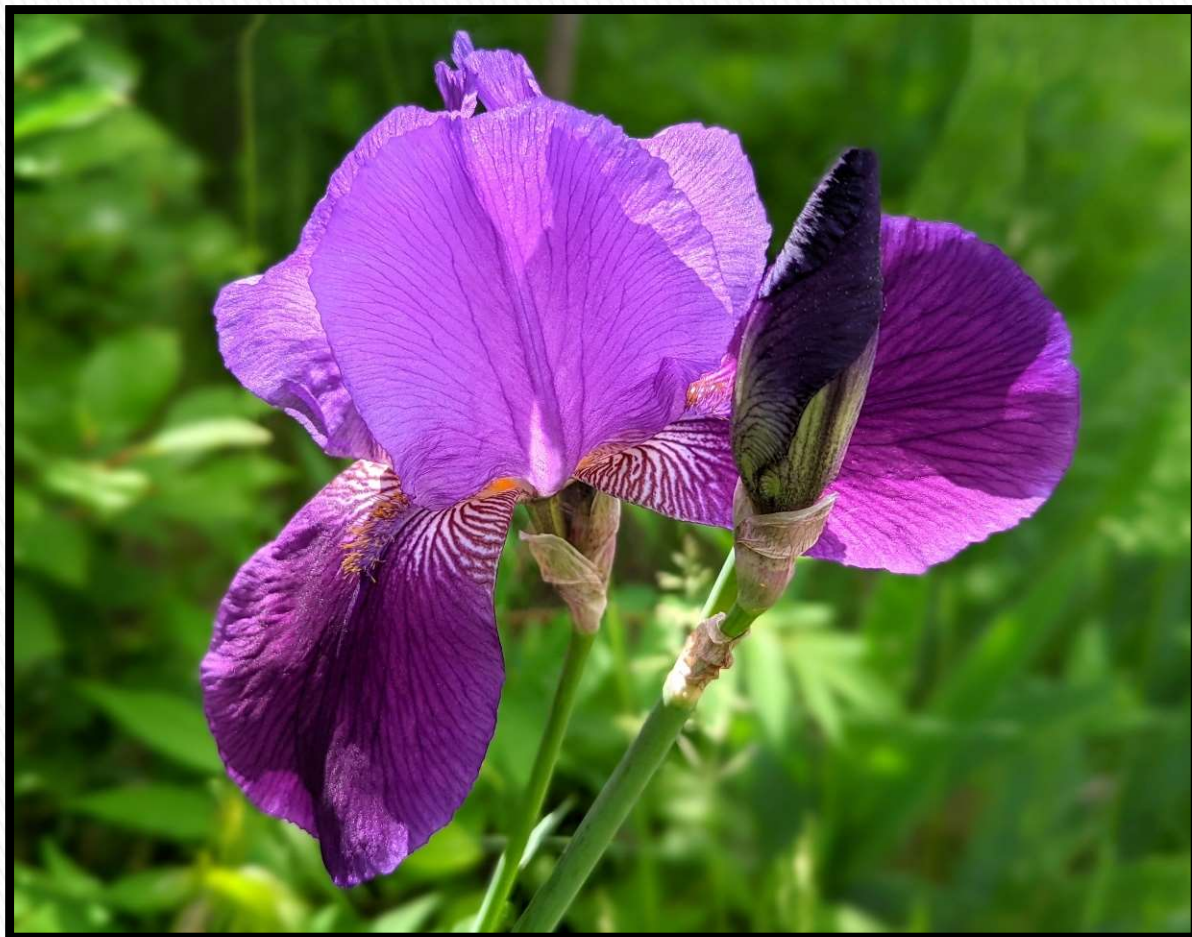
Foreground in sharp focus
f/5.6



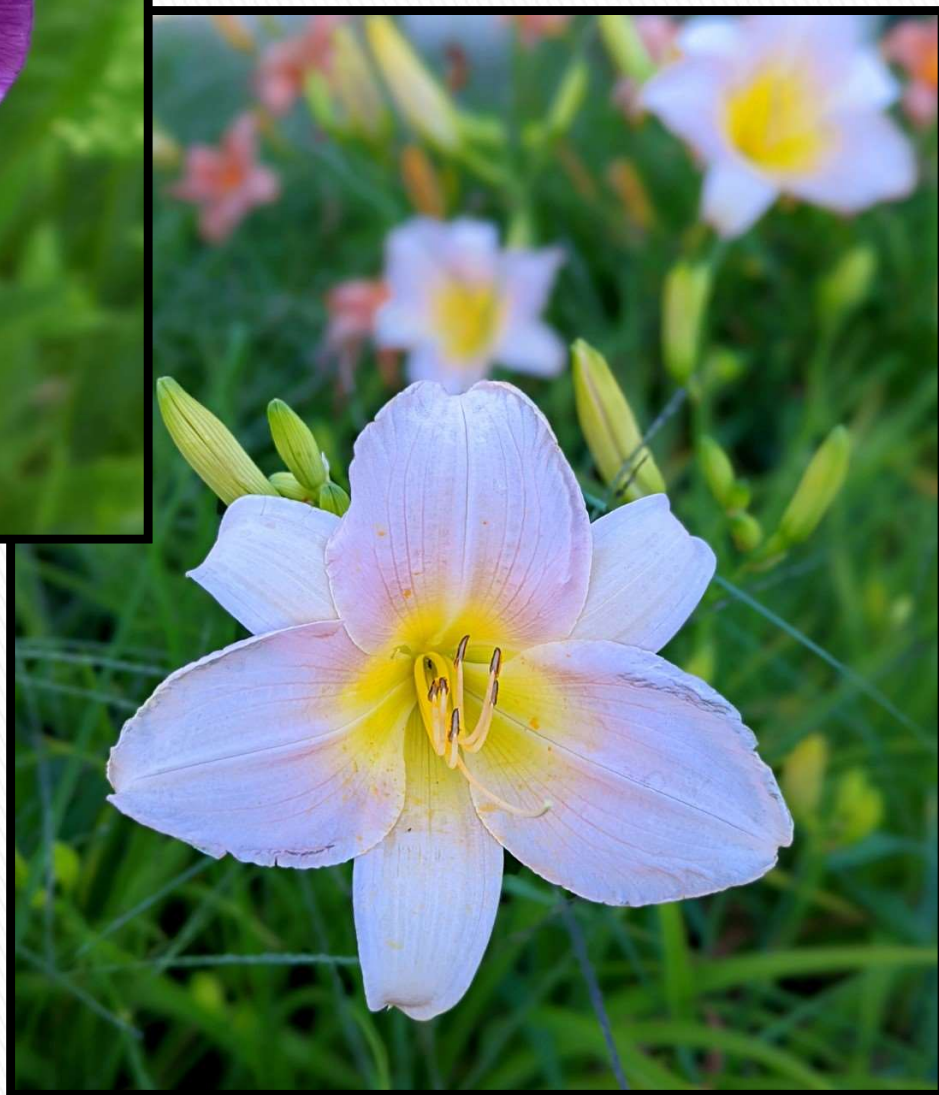
Foreground in sharp focus
f/8

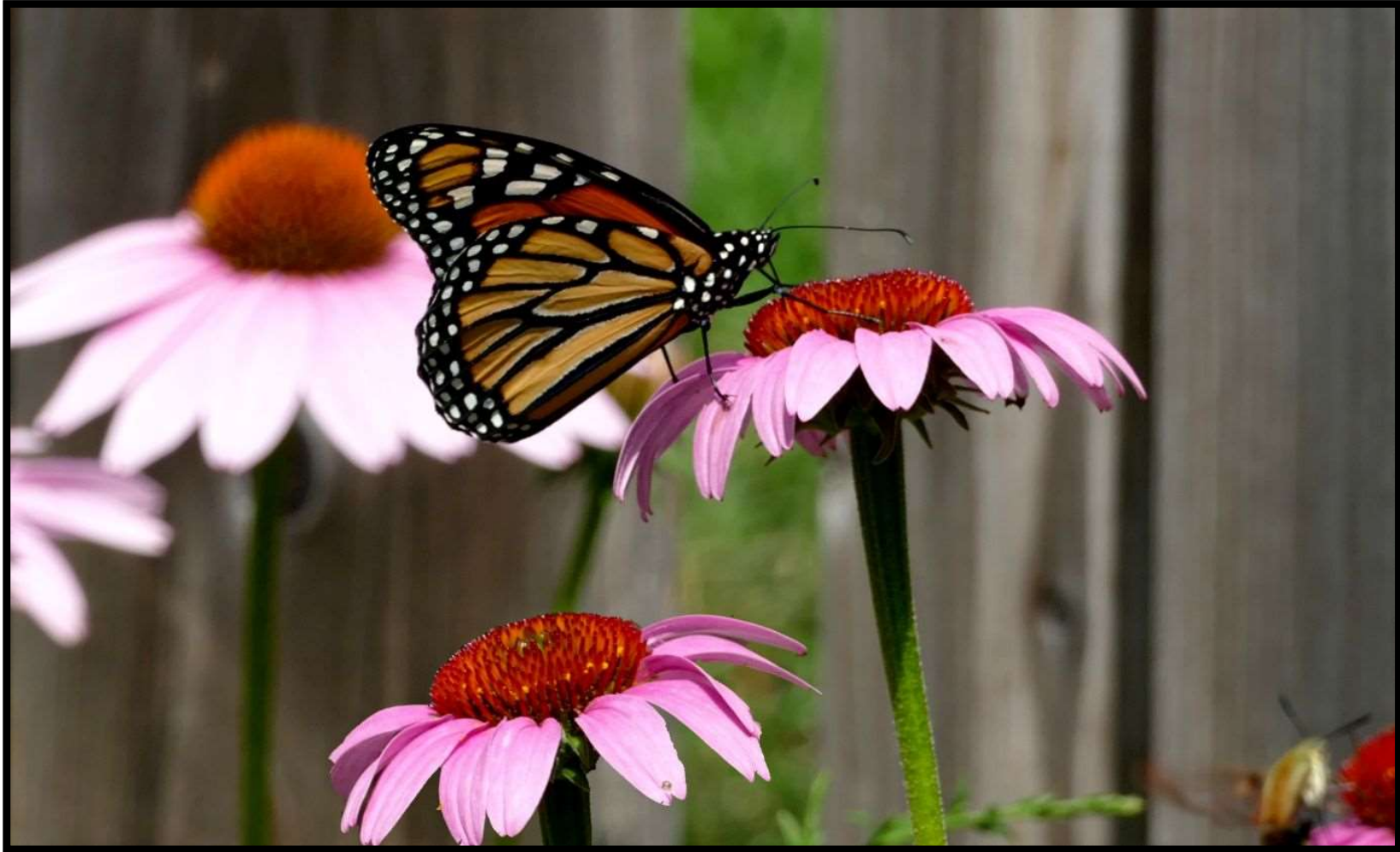






Use *Portrait* mode
on cell phone





Stand back and zoom to get
short depth of field

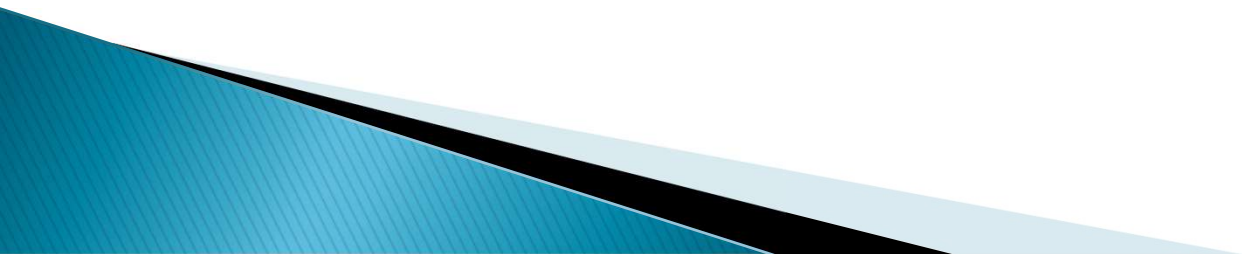
What's the best thing about
cell phone cameras?



We usually have
them with us!

Pics to take with a phone

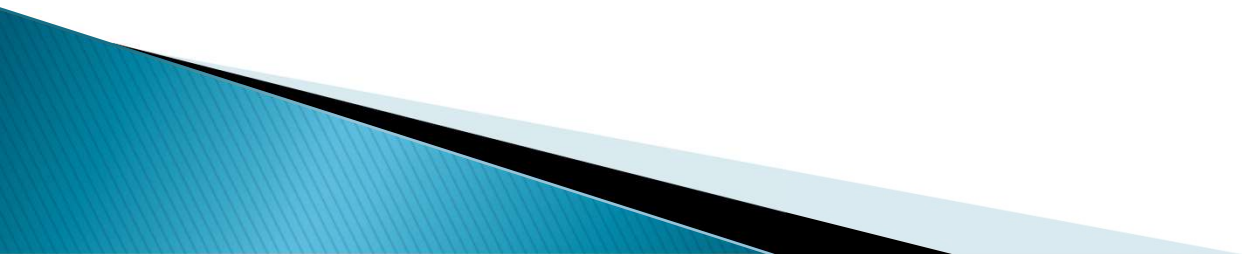
- Indoor shots
- Close subjects, eg flowers
- Night shots
- Photos with foreground
- Selfies



Downsides

- Fewer megapixels than a camera
- Usually no optical zoom, just cropping
- May over-process the pic
- Limited control over aperture, speed, etc.

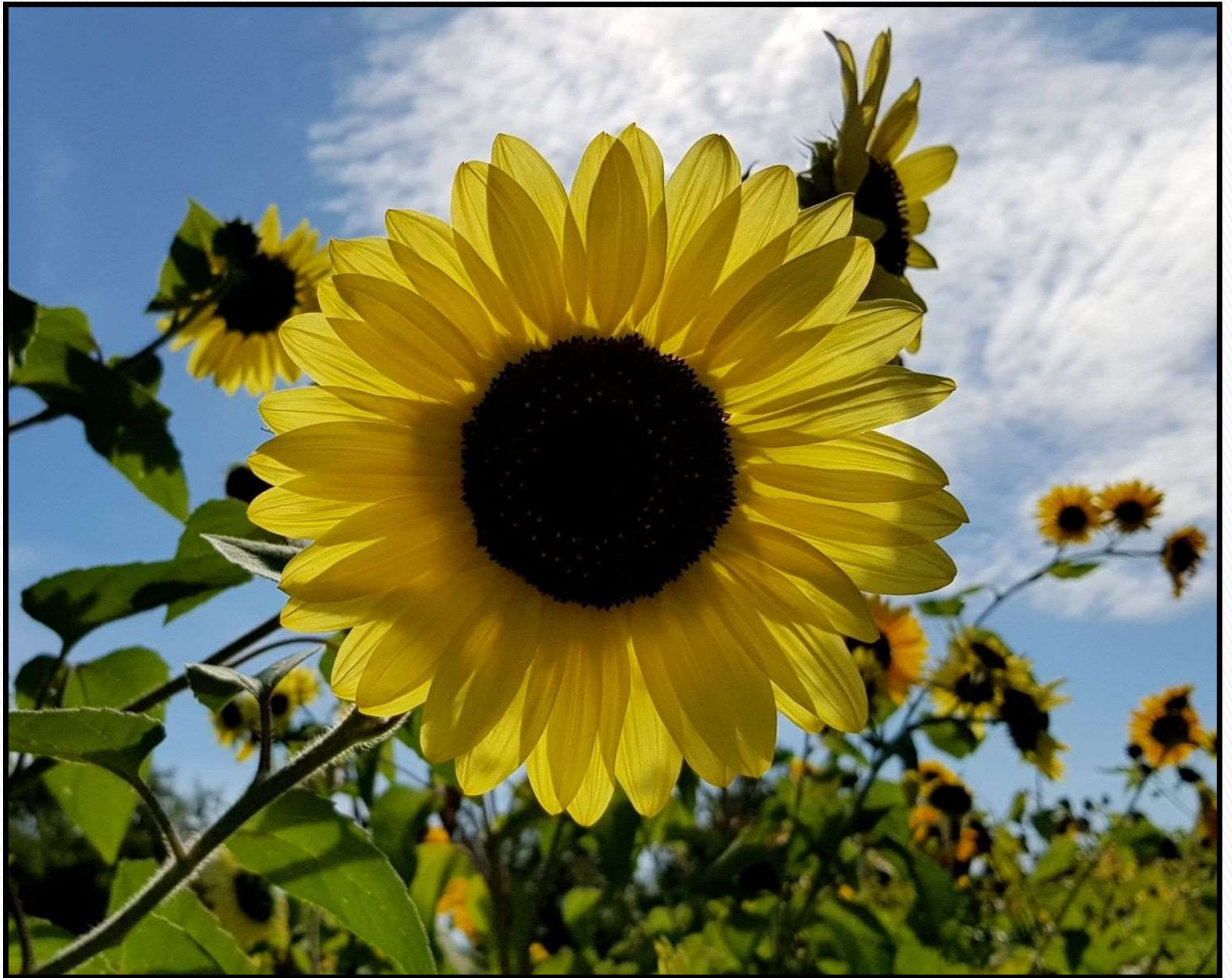
Zoom sparingly!















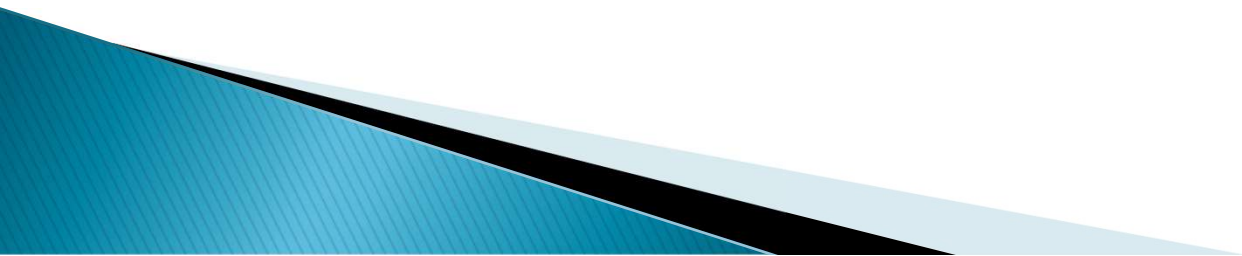


Use a person to lead the viewer through the image





Capturing motion



Action may be dramatic!



Crop for impact!



Or motion
may be
gentler

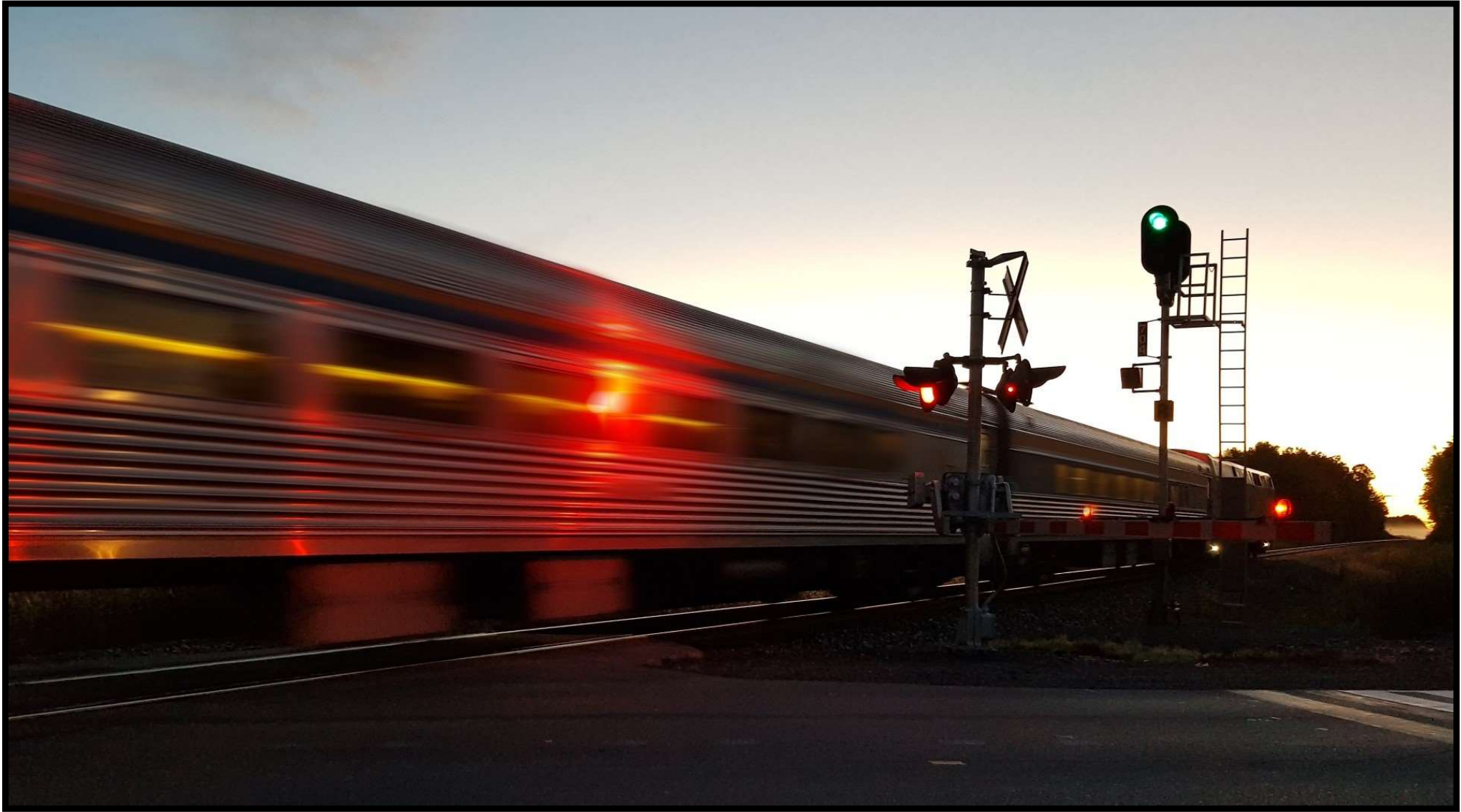




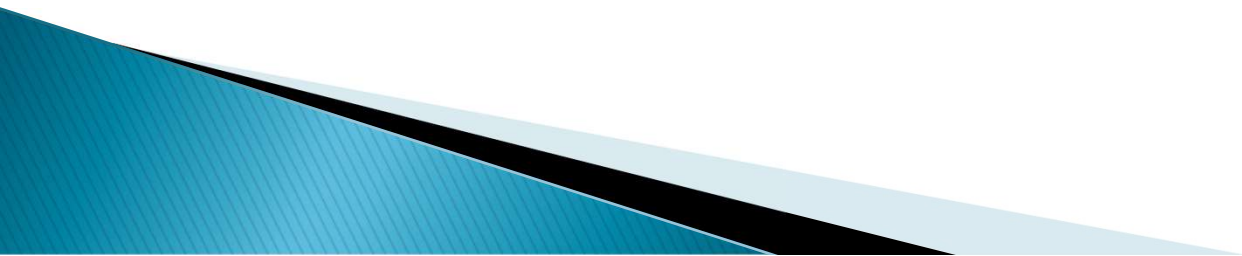
Tension

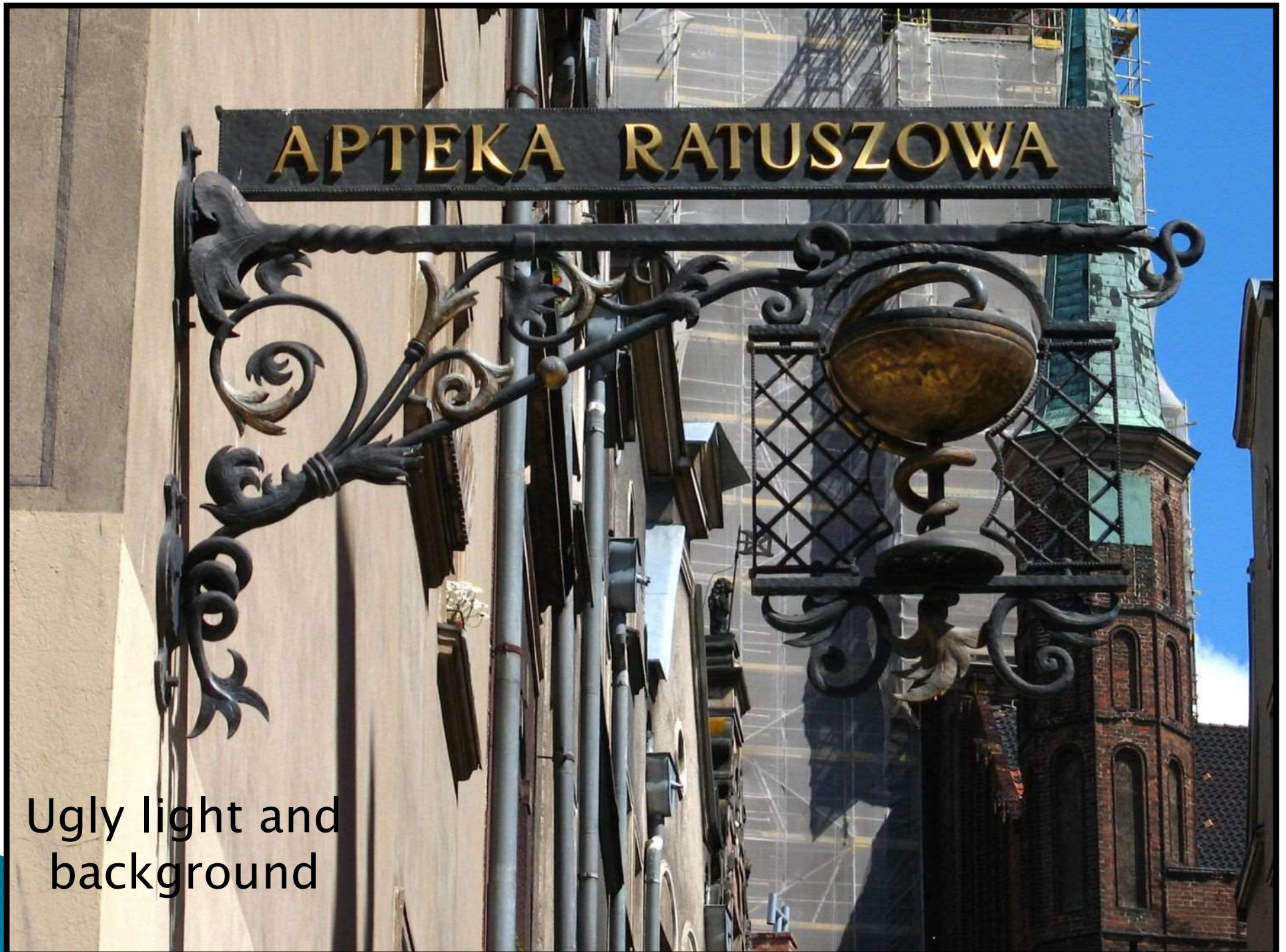
Gentle motion





Use light to your advantage





Ugly light and
background

APTEKA RATUSZOWA



“Find the light, then take a picture” Scott Kelby





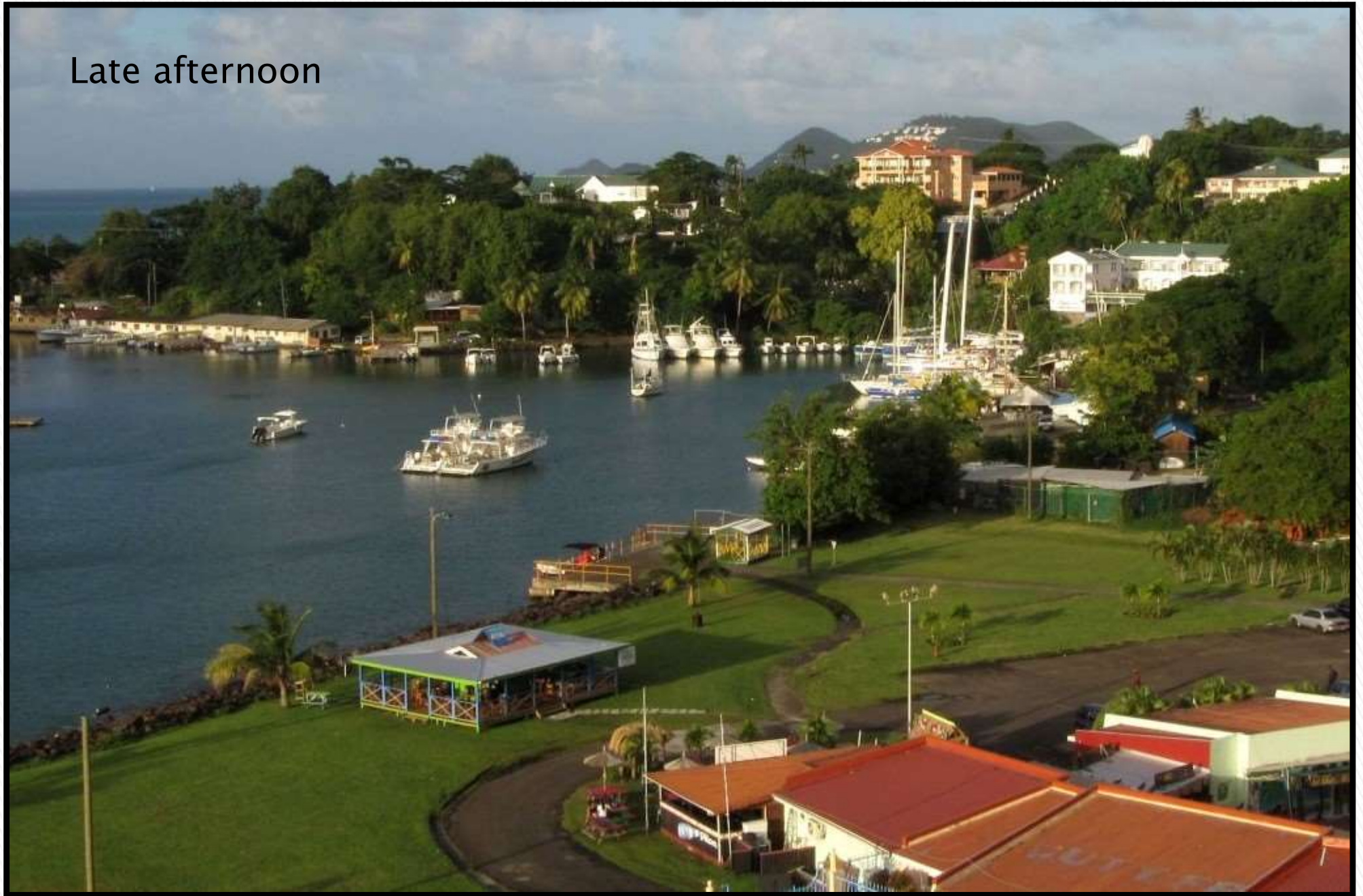




Mid morning

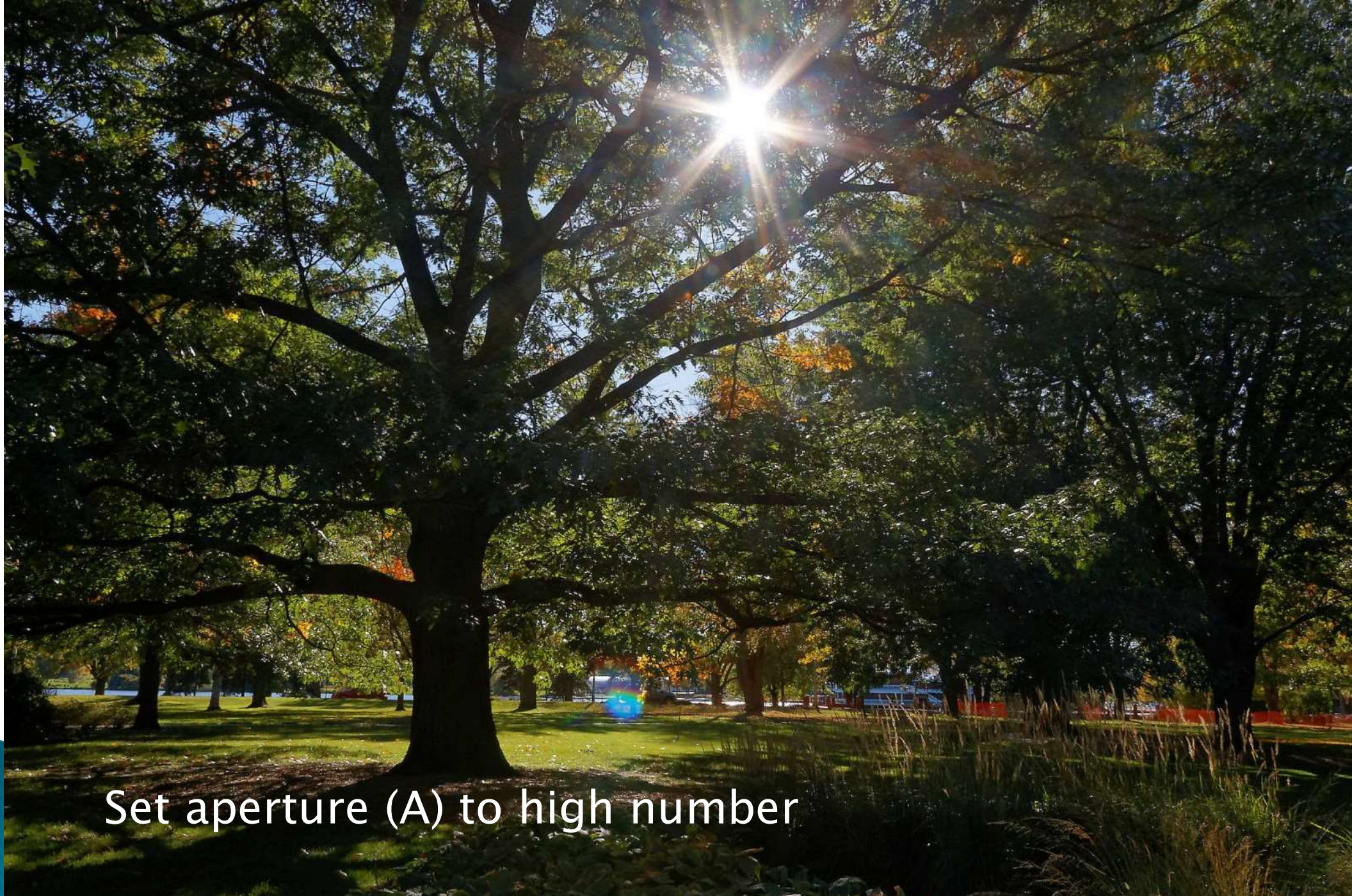


Late afternoon





Don't be afraid to shoot into the sun!



Set aperture (A) to high number





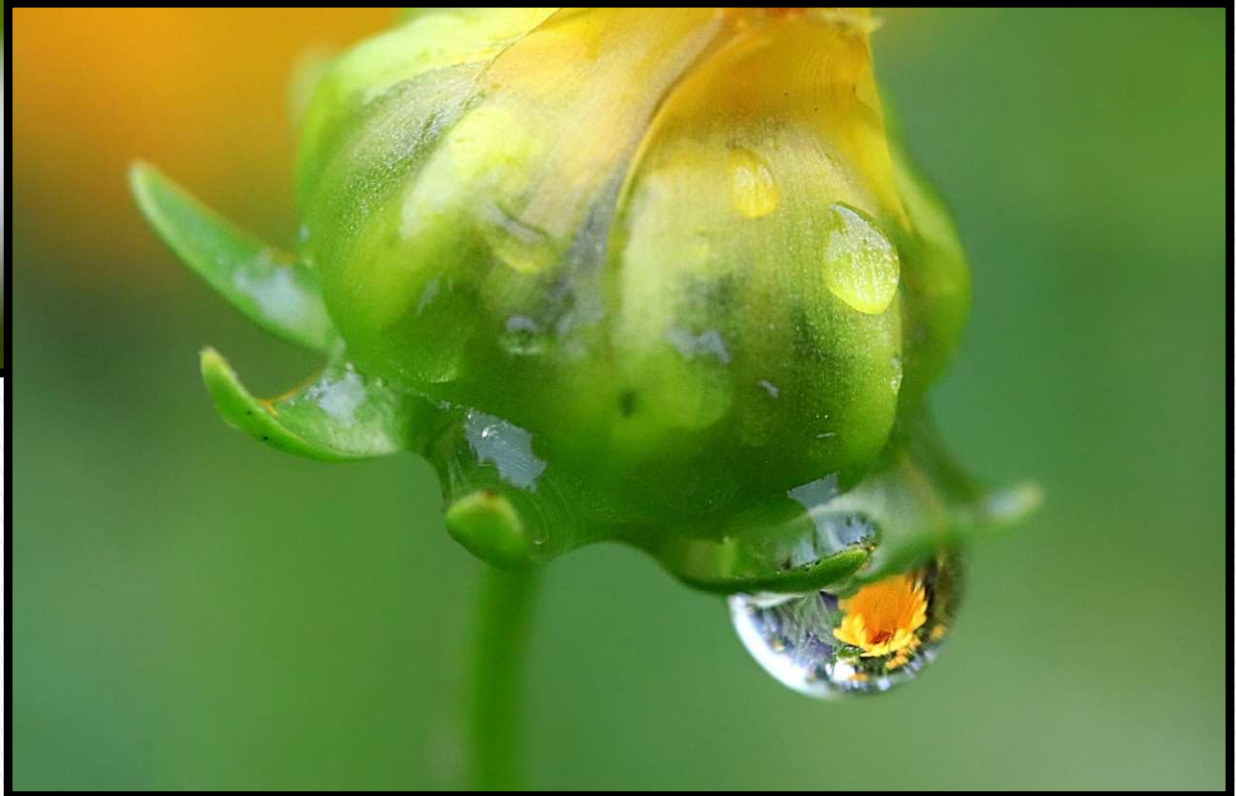
Capturing Flowers



Use light to your advantage



After the rain!







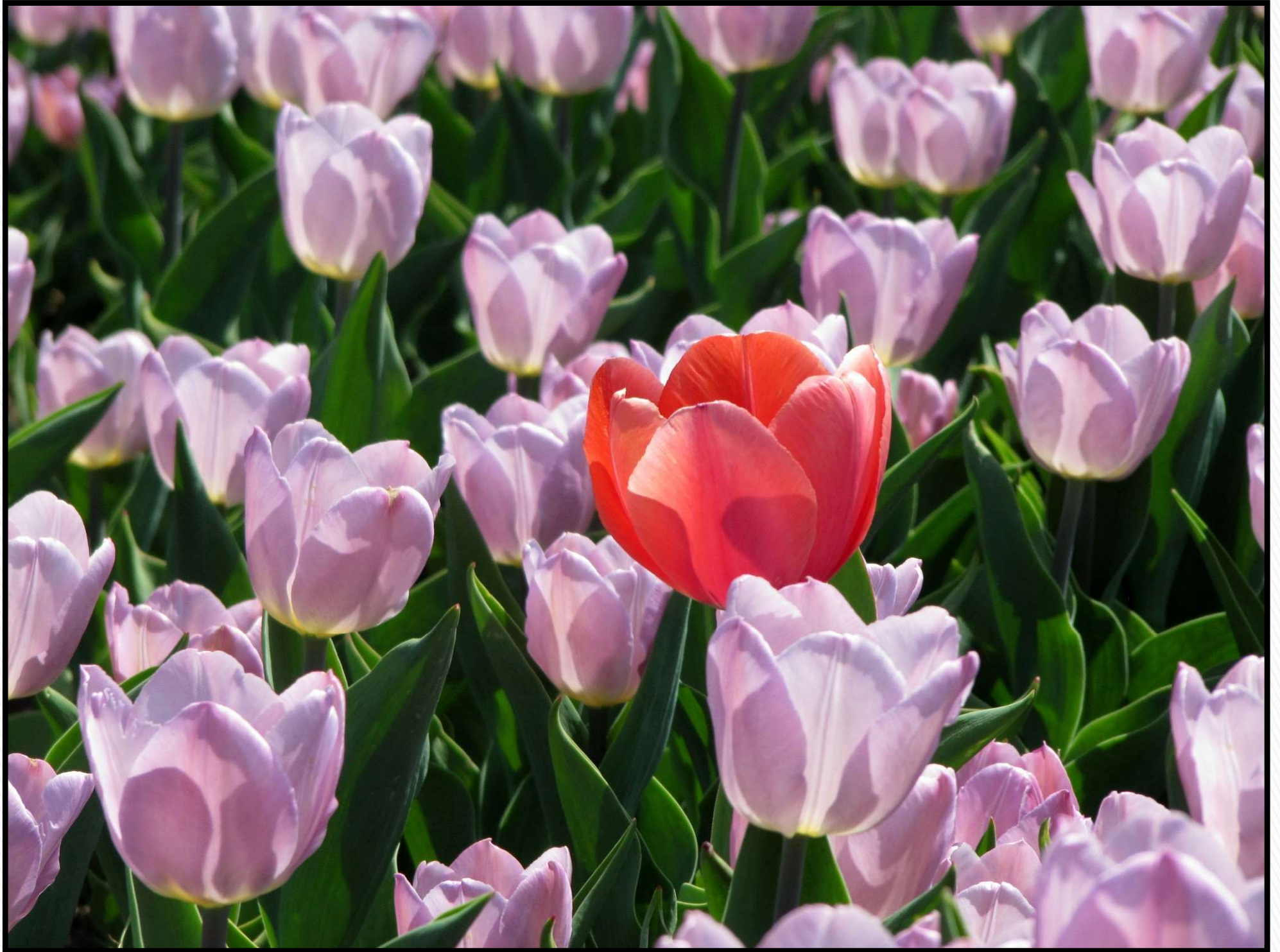






Enhance flowers with light









Perfecting People Photos



Don't be afraid of strangers!

BUT:

- ▶ Keep your distance, be careful zooming, especially with kids.
- ▶ Try to stick to no faces or hard-to-see faces.
- ▶ Take a shot and move on.
- ▶ Be selective in what you post, especially if your camera's has a gps.
- ▶ For foreign cultures, be fast, buy something small. They will help you get a great shot.
- ▶ Take an interest in their craft/activity.





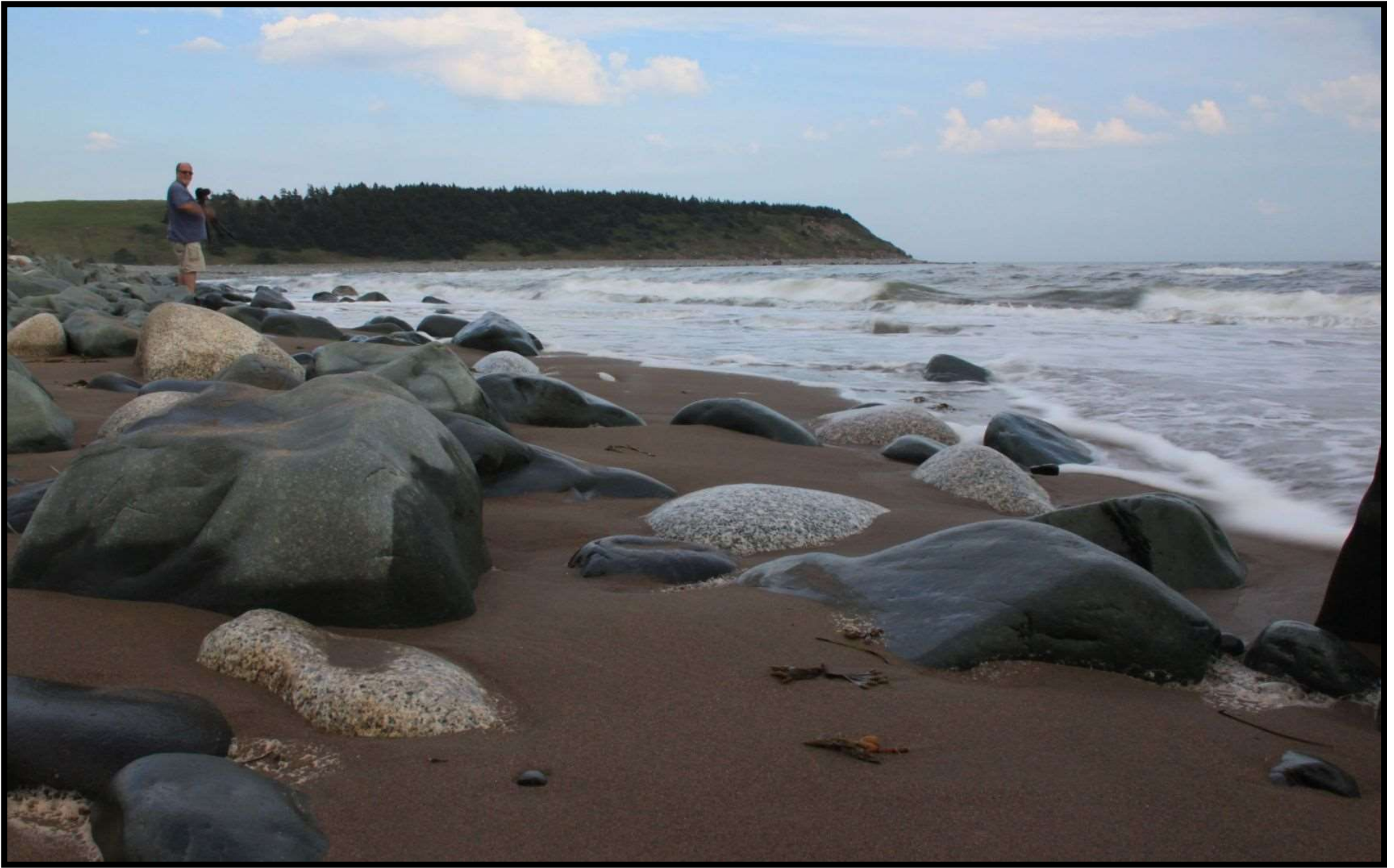




Sometimes the people make the picture





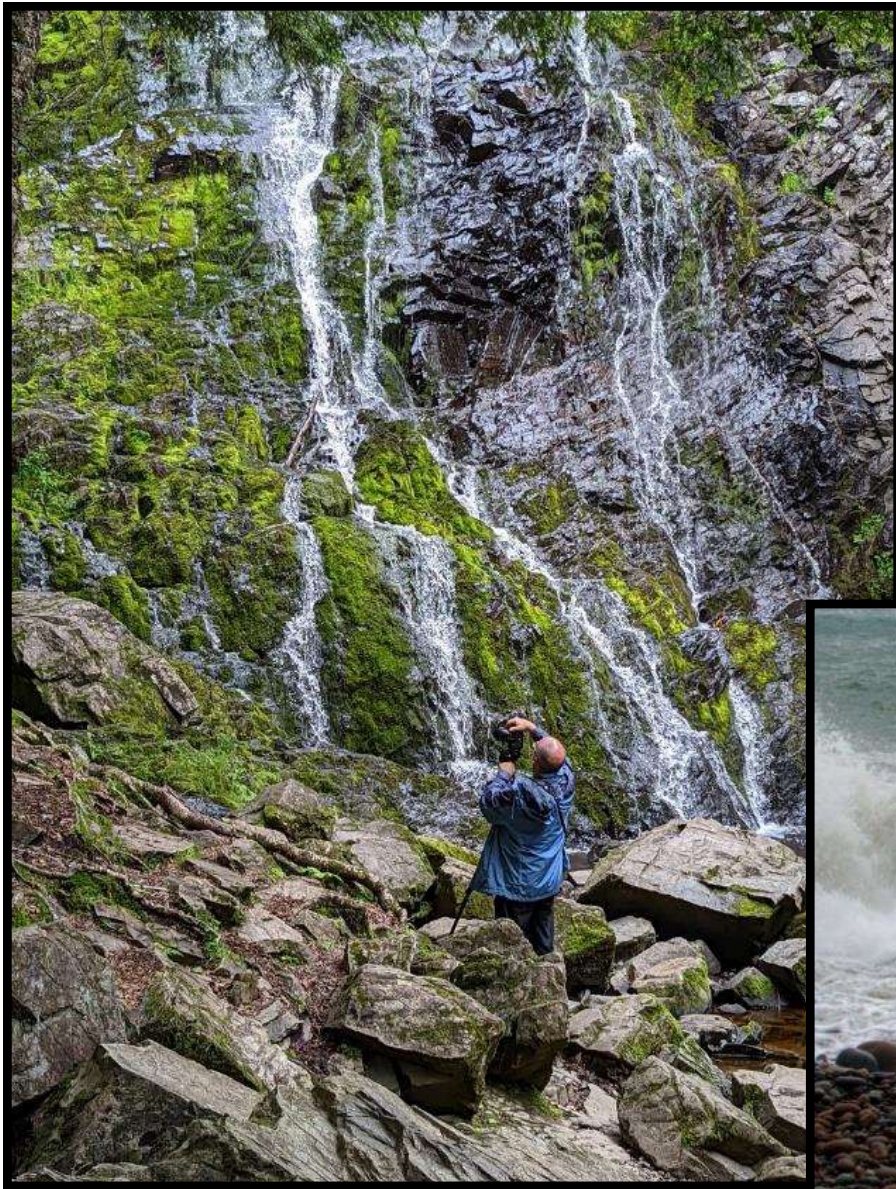


Your eye will go to the person even if they are almost out of the shot





Give the person
something to do



If using window light, set up a reflector (eg something white) to light the other side of the face.





Work as a team if you can









Height differences are easier to cope with when people are seated.



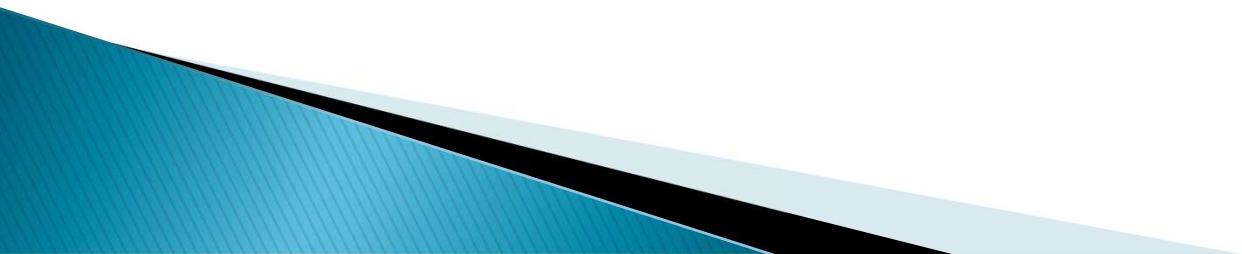






Tips for people photos

- ▶ Small spaces between heads
- ▶ Shoot from an angle, off to the side
- ▶ Seat people if possible
- ▶ Use stairs
- ▶ For large groups get up high
- ▶ Crop tight



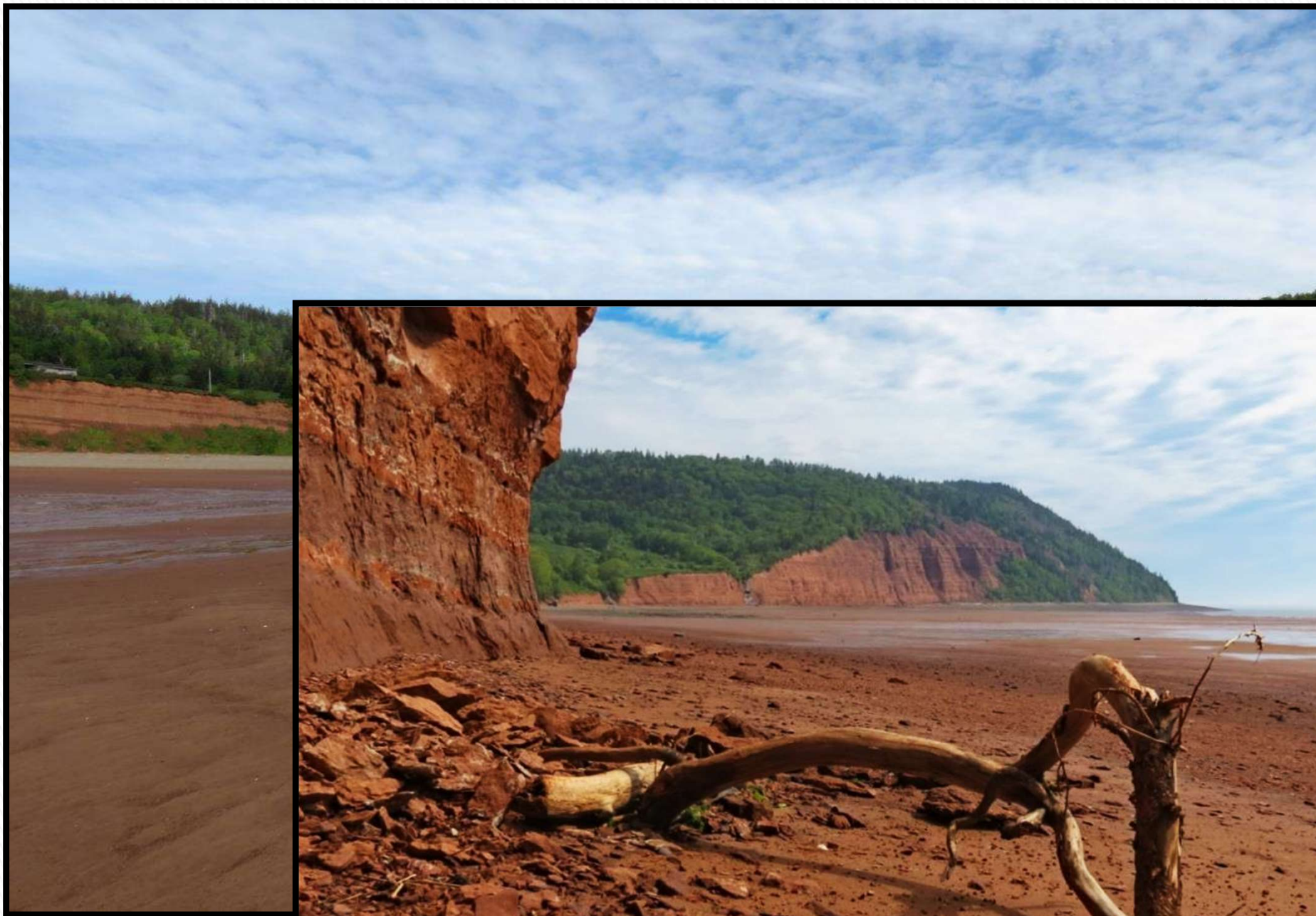
Waterside photos



Uninspiring image



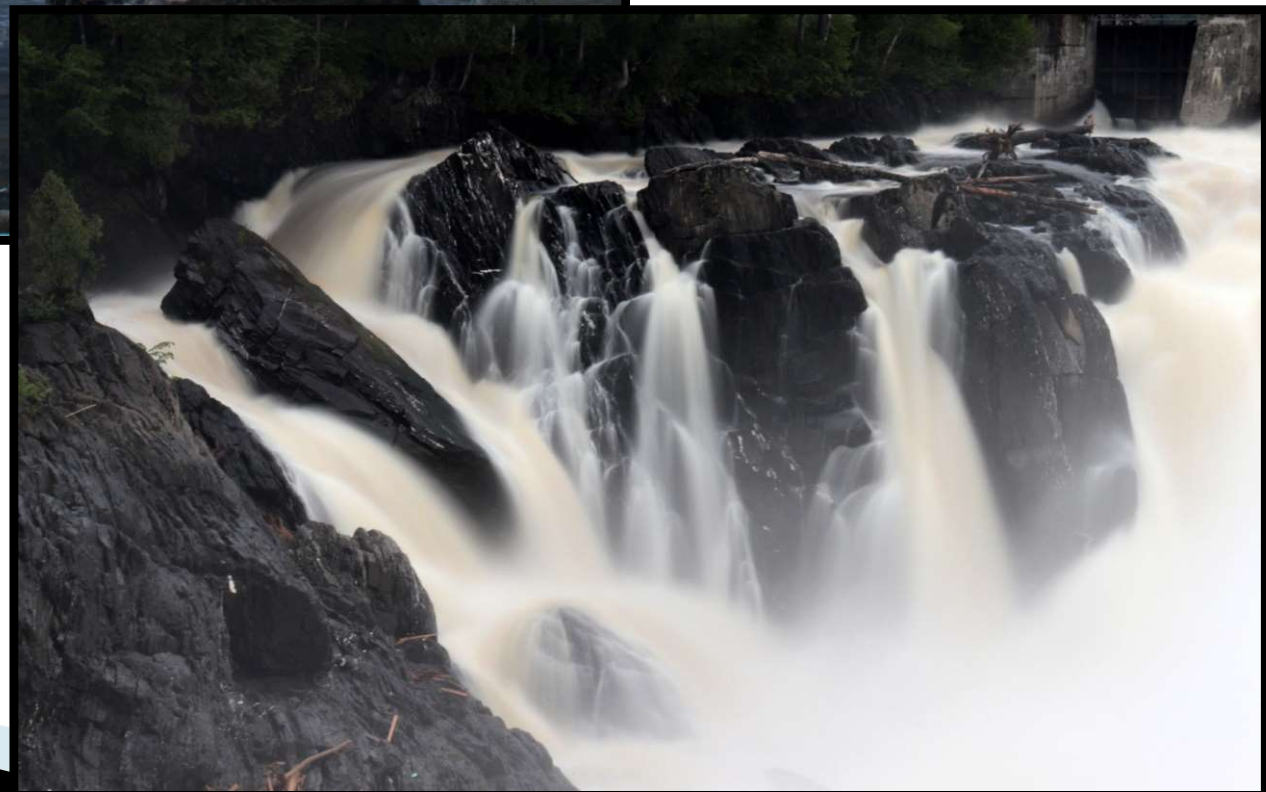


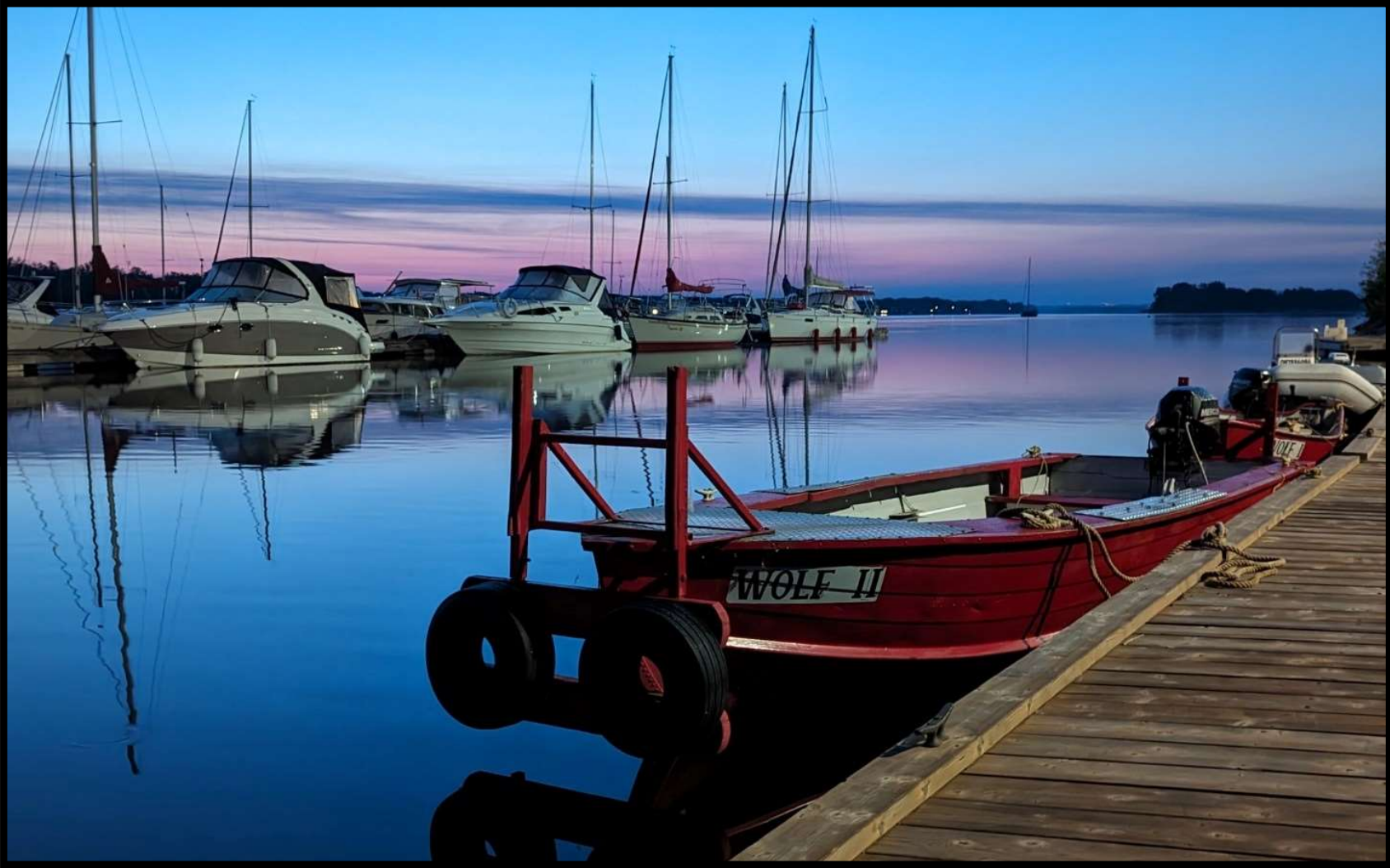


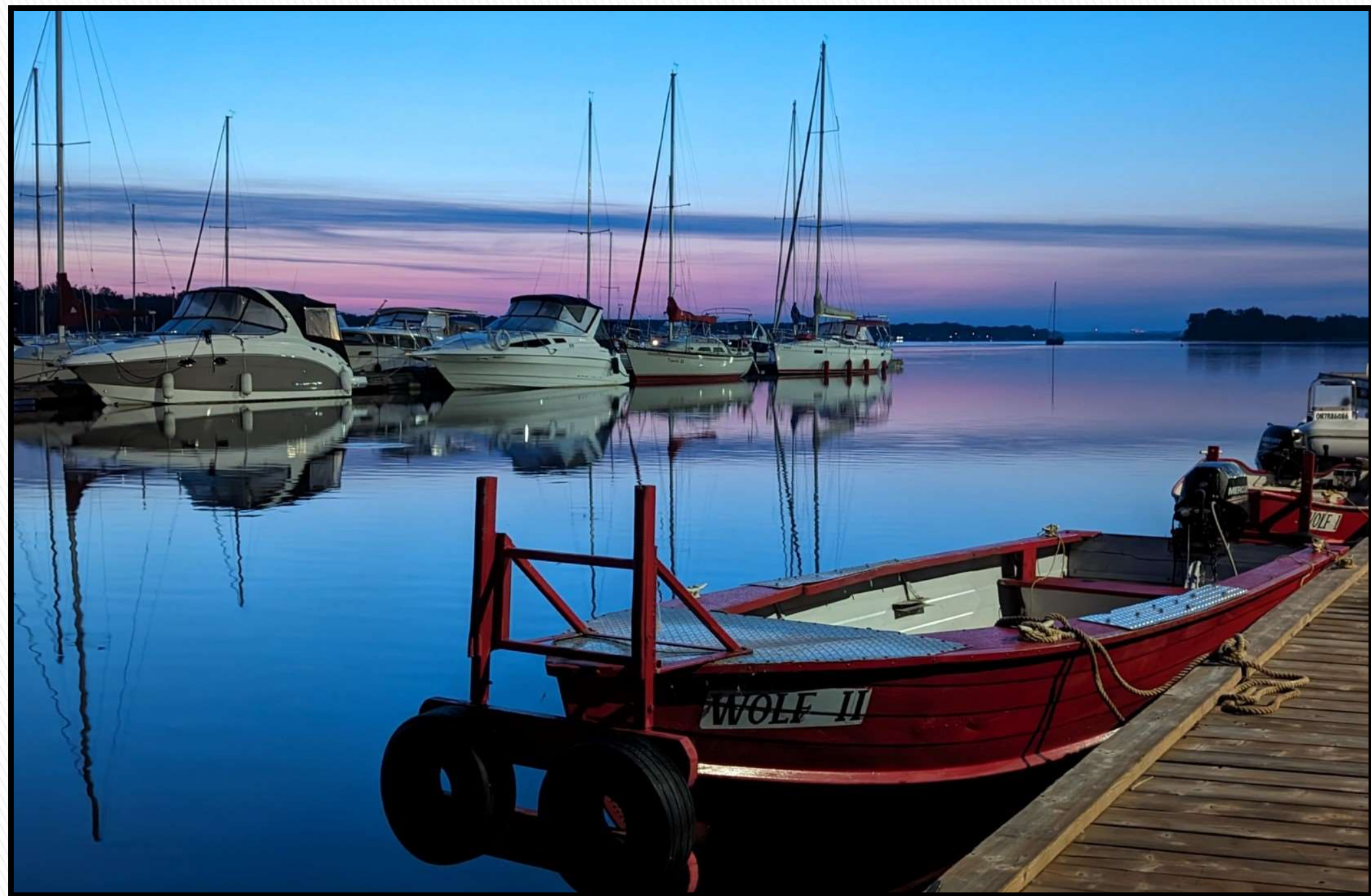


Small aperture
for long speed

Lower ISO
setting

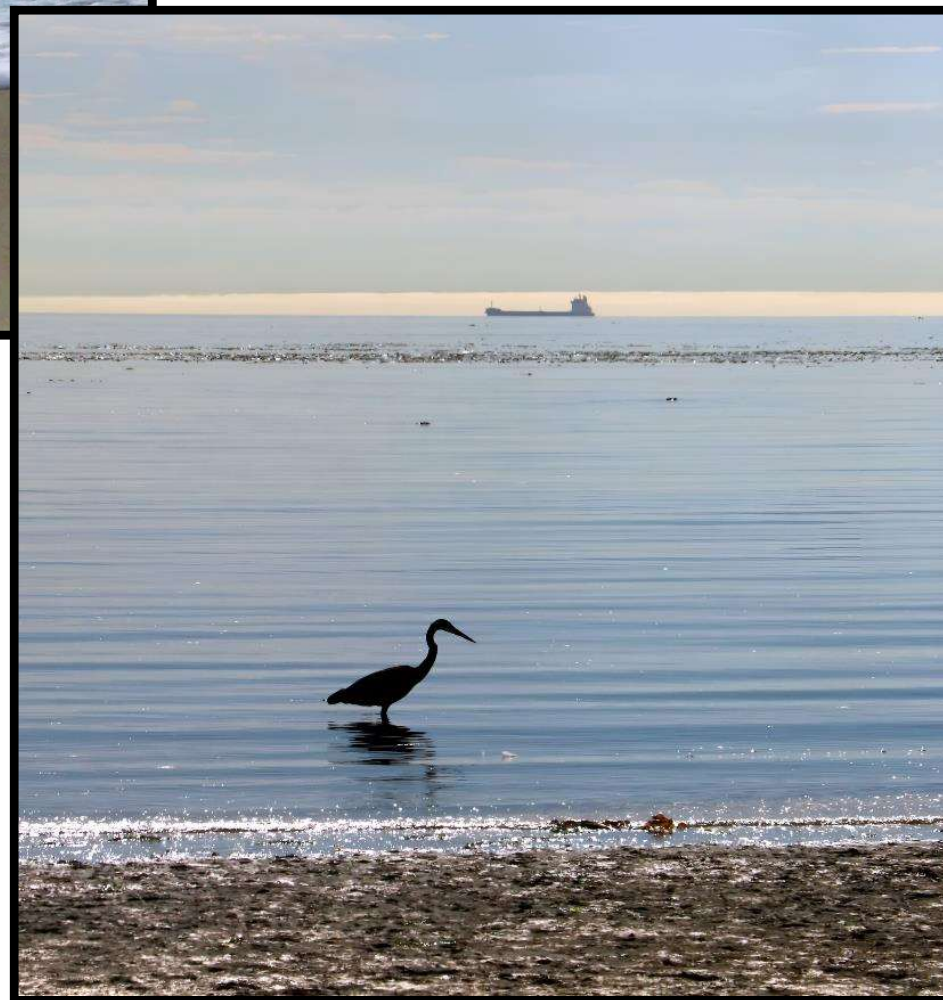


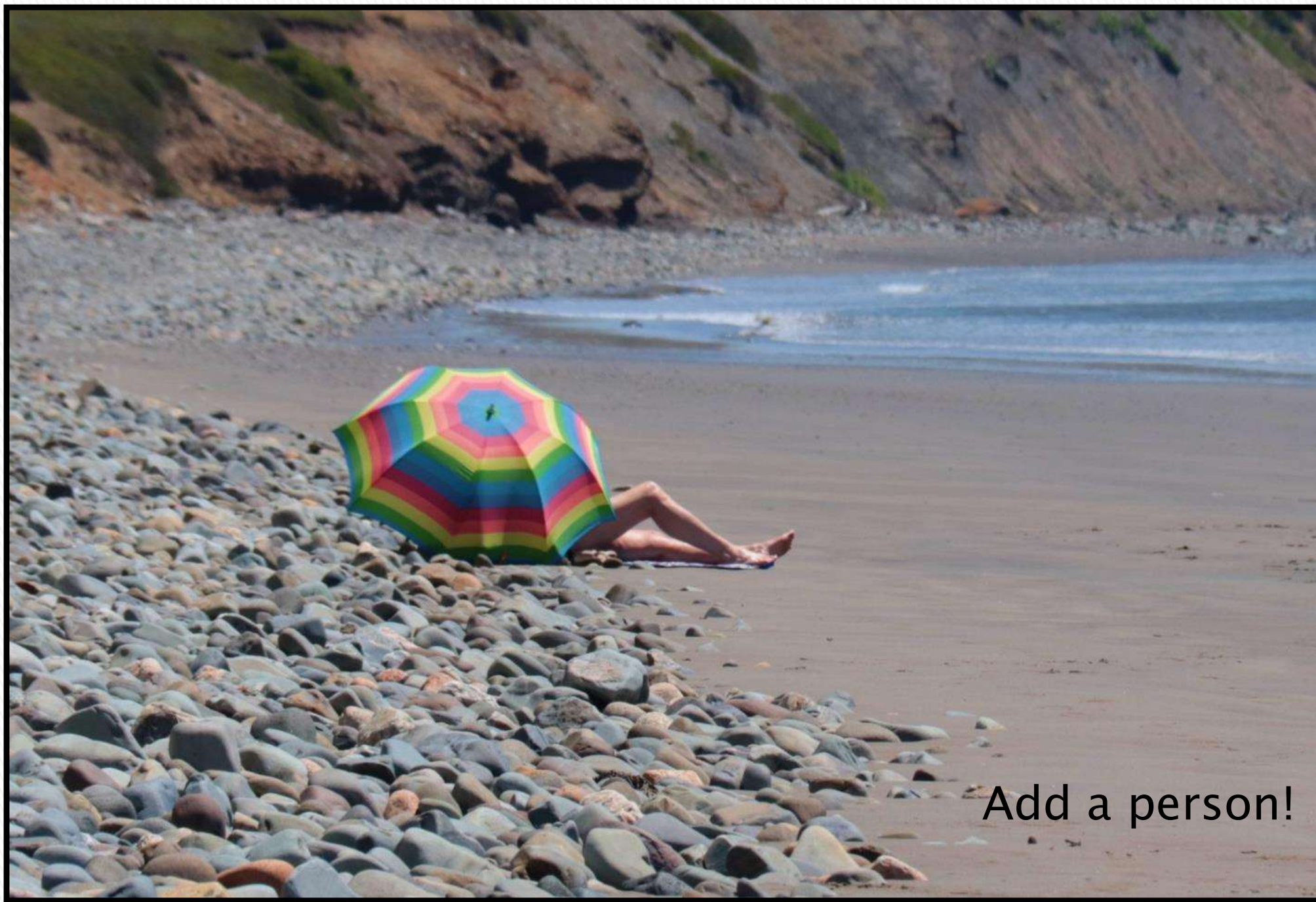




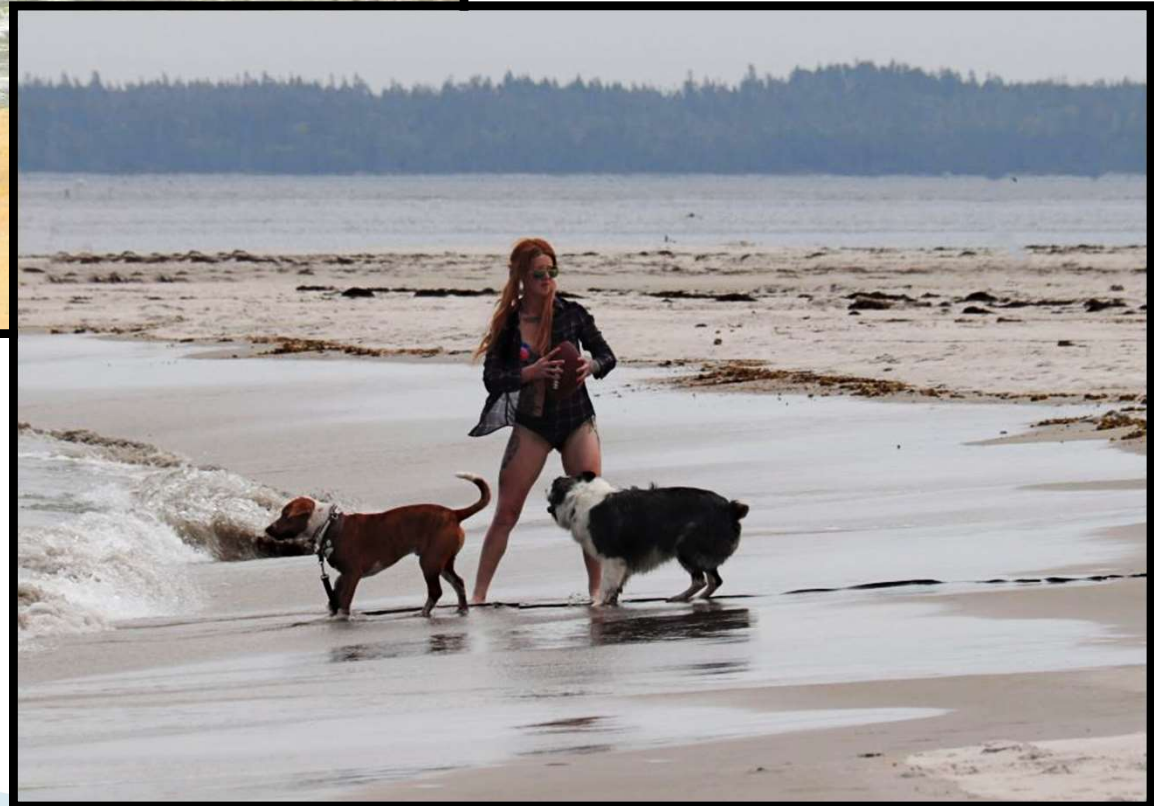


Look for birds





Add a person!





Bad weather and off season –
two great times to take pics!



Don't ignore the fog

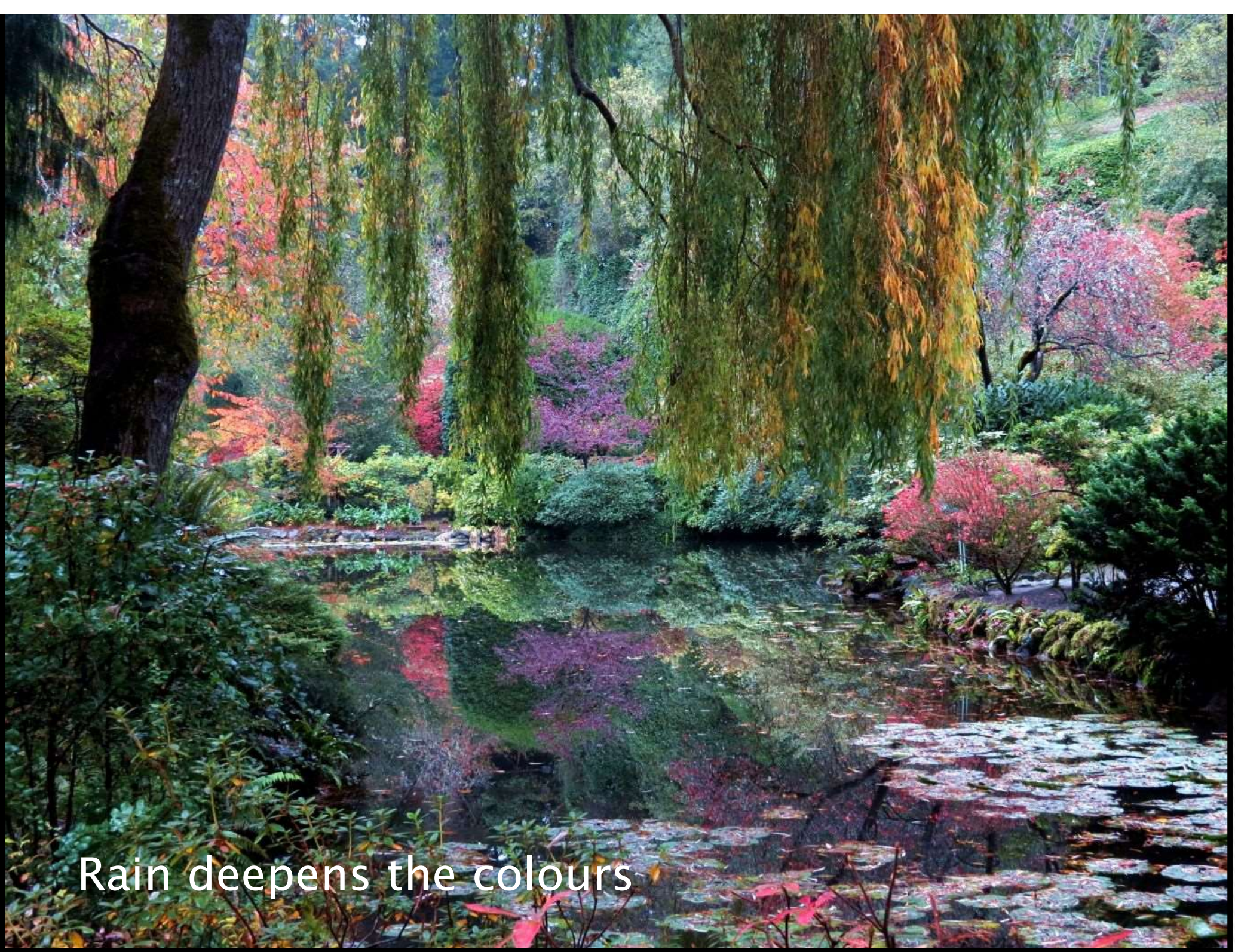








Rainy days give you longer
exposure times



Rain deepens the colours



And you don't have to worry where
the sun is in your shot!

Rain lasts longer than dew





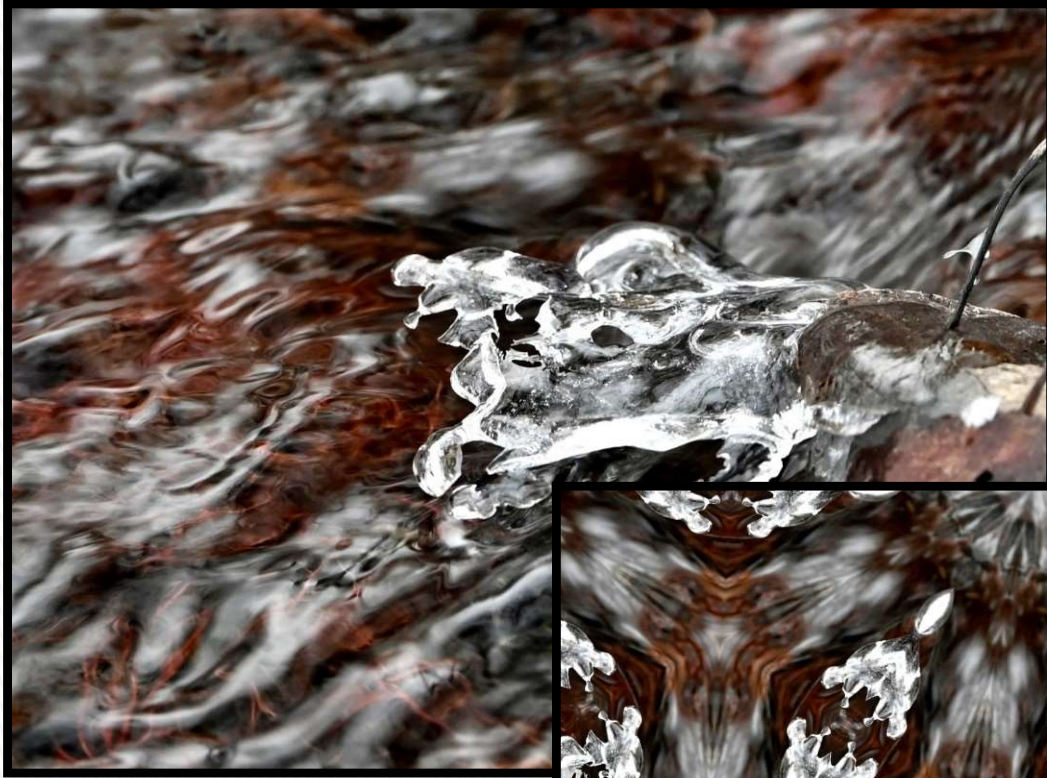




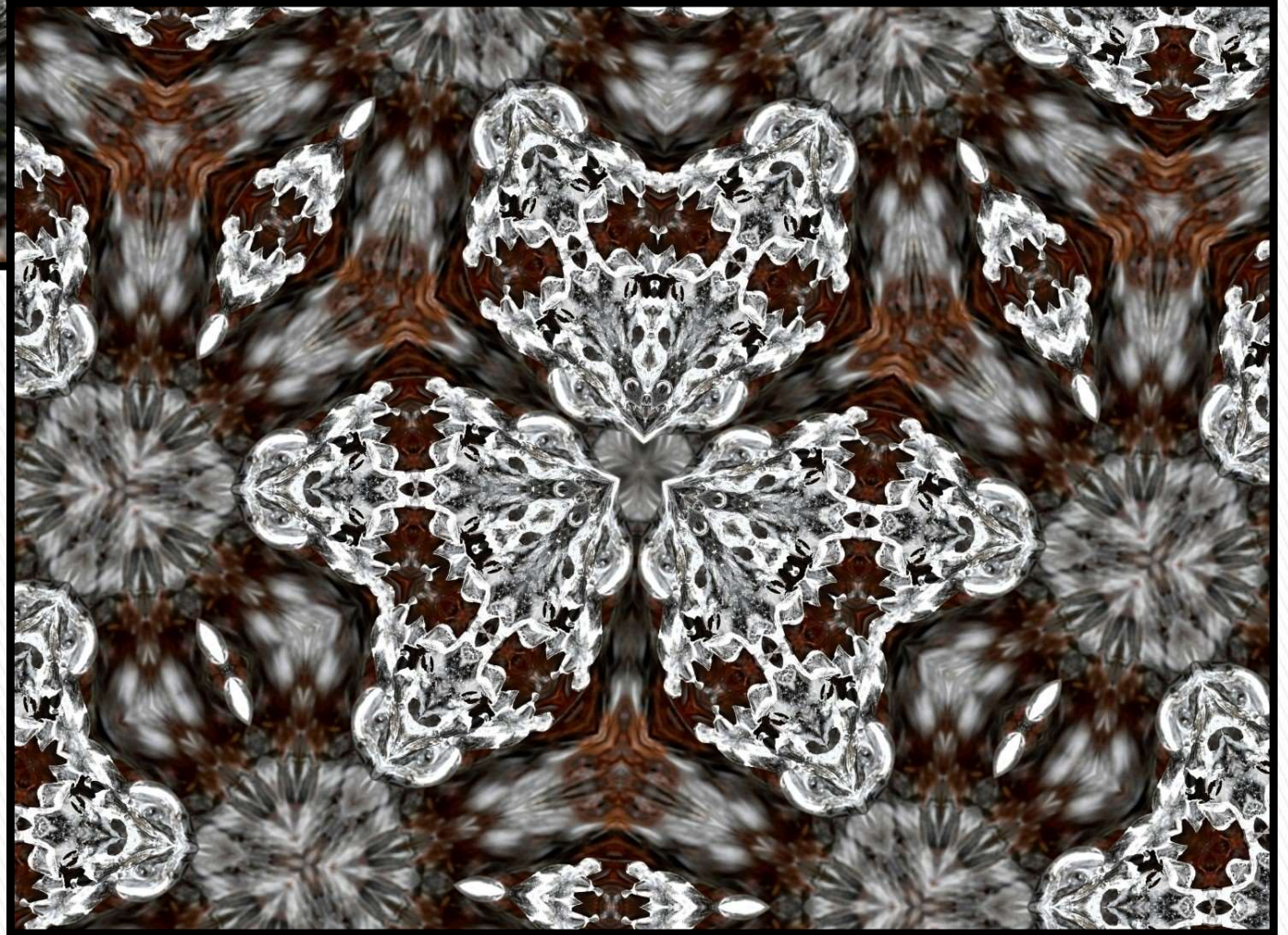








Experiment with
abstracts



Wildlife photography









Not a fast enough shutter speed



Wide aperture (low number) gives fast shutter speed.



f/5.6

1/1600 sec

If a dull day,
bump ISO



Fletcher Garden, Ottawa





Parc Omega, Quebec





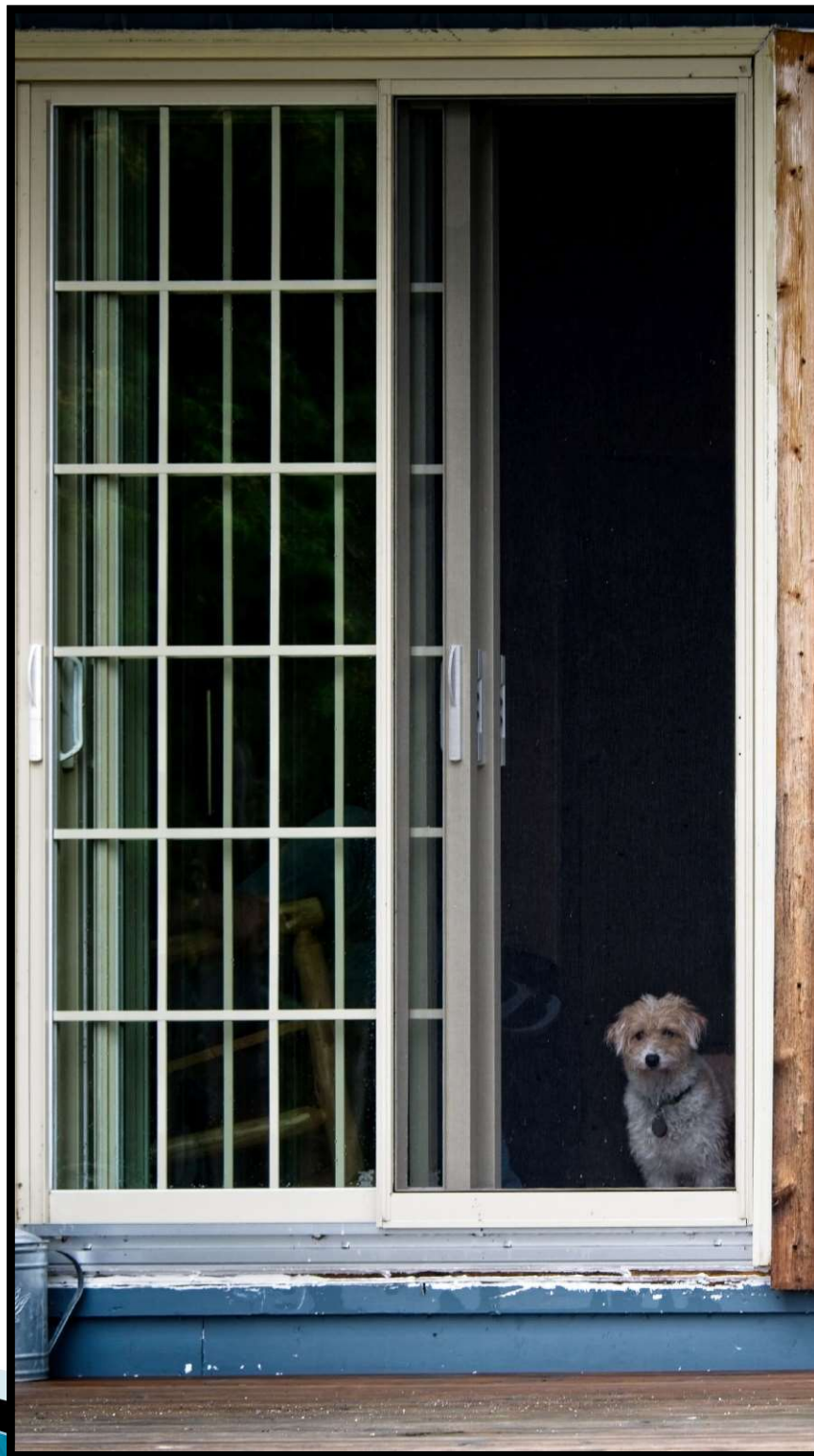


Wide aperture (small number)
gives soft background

Tips for pet pictures

- ▶ Focus on eye or face expression
- ▶ Get rid of clutter around the pet
- ▶ Follow the natural light (e.g., by a window)
- ▶ Get low to shoot them in their environment
- ▶ Add some context (e.g. dog waiting)
- ▶ Move slowly
- ▶ Crop tightly







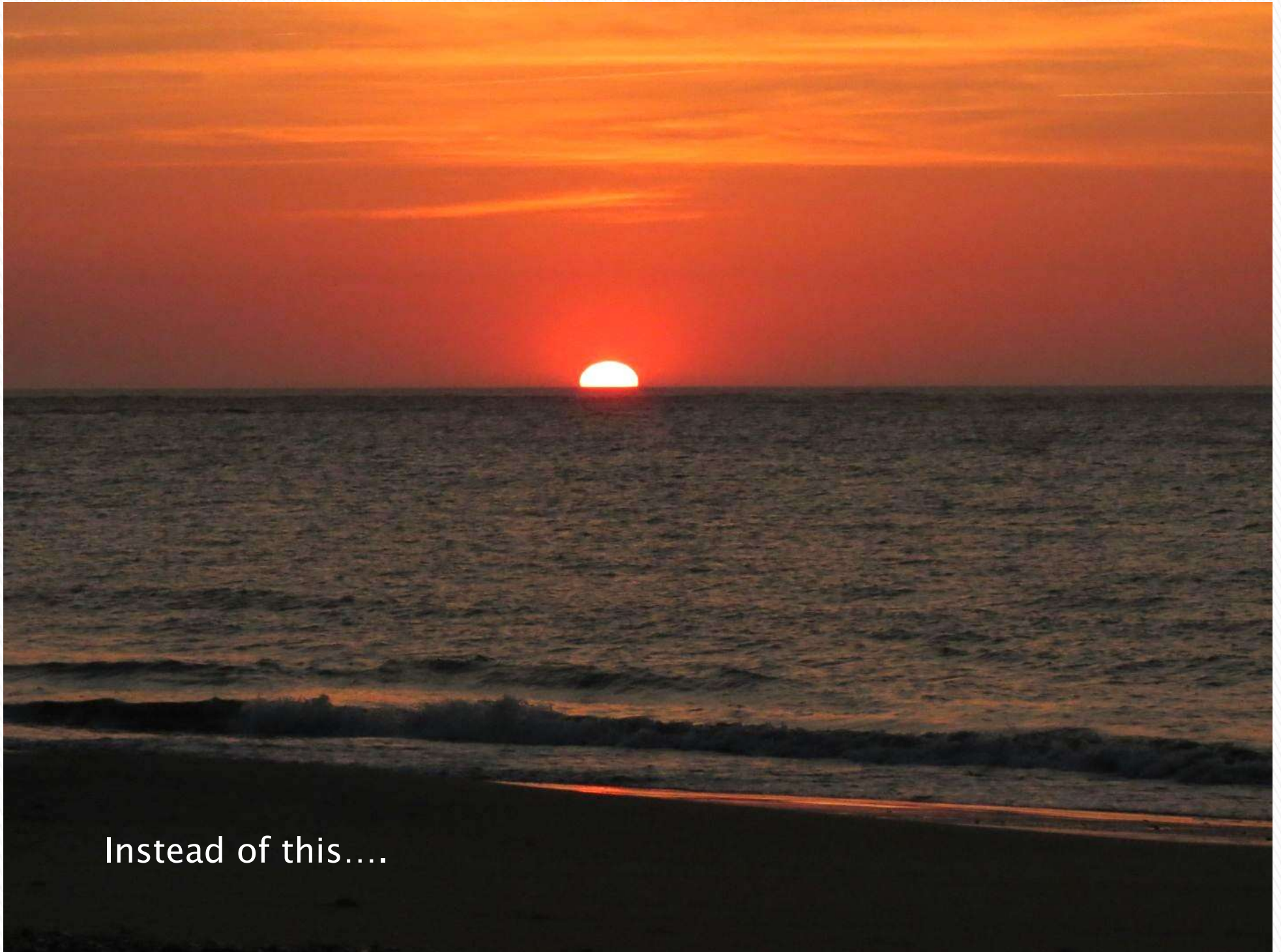


Sunrise...Sunset

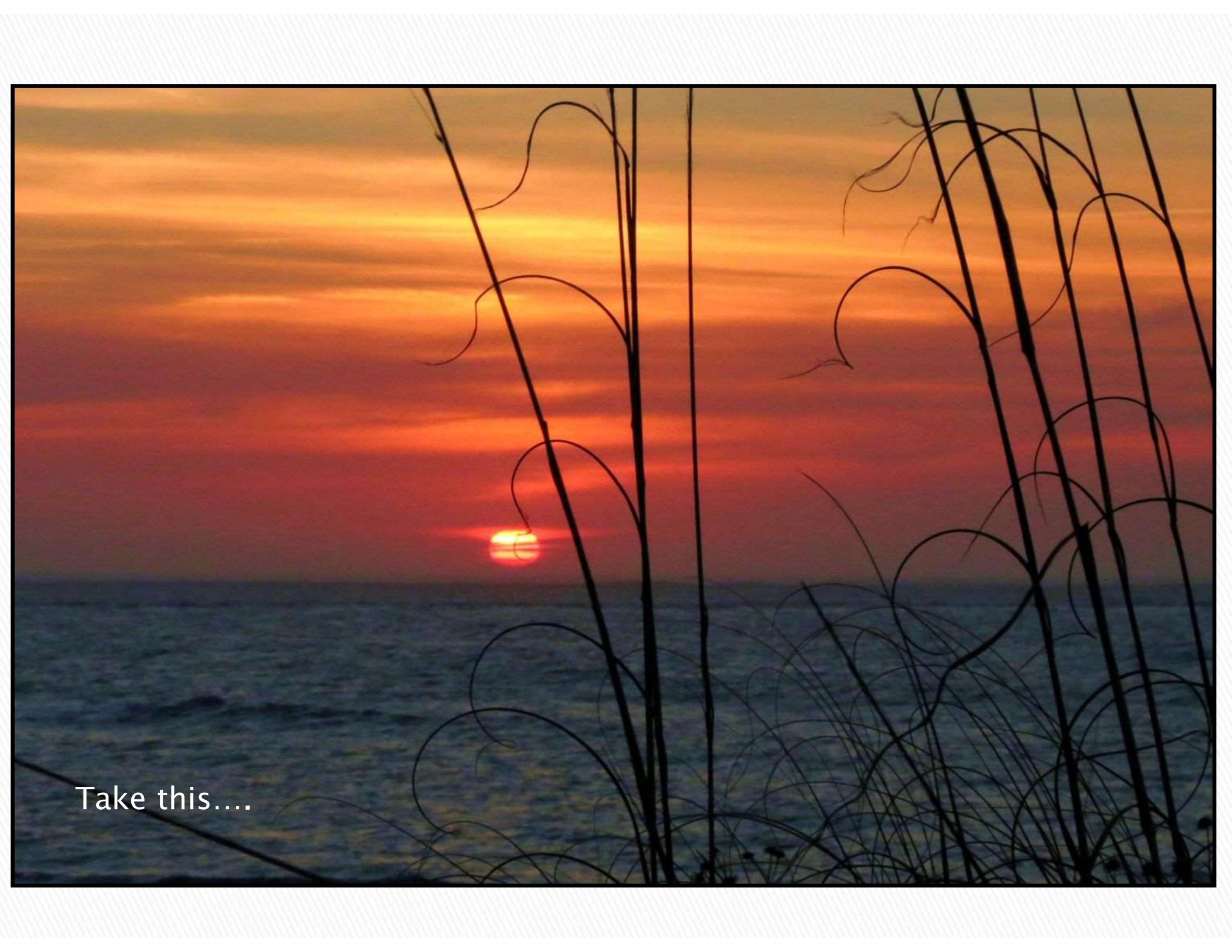




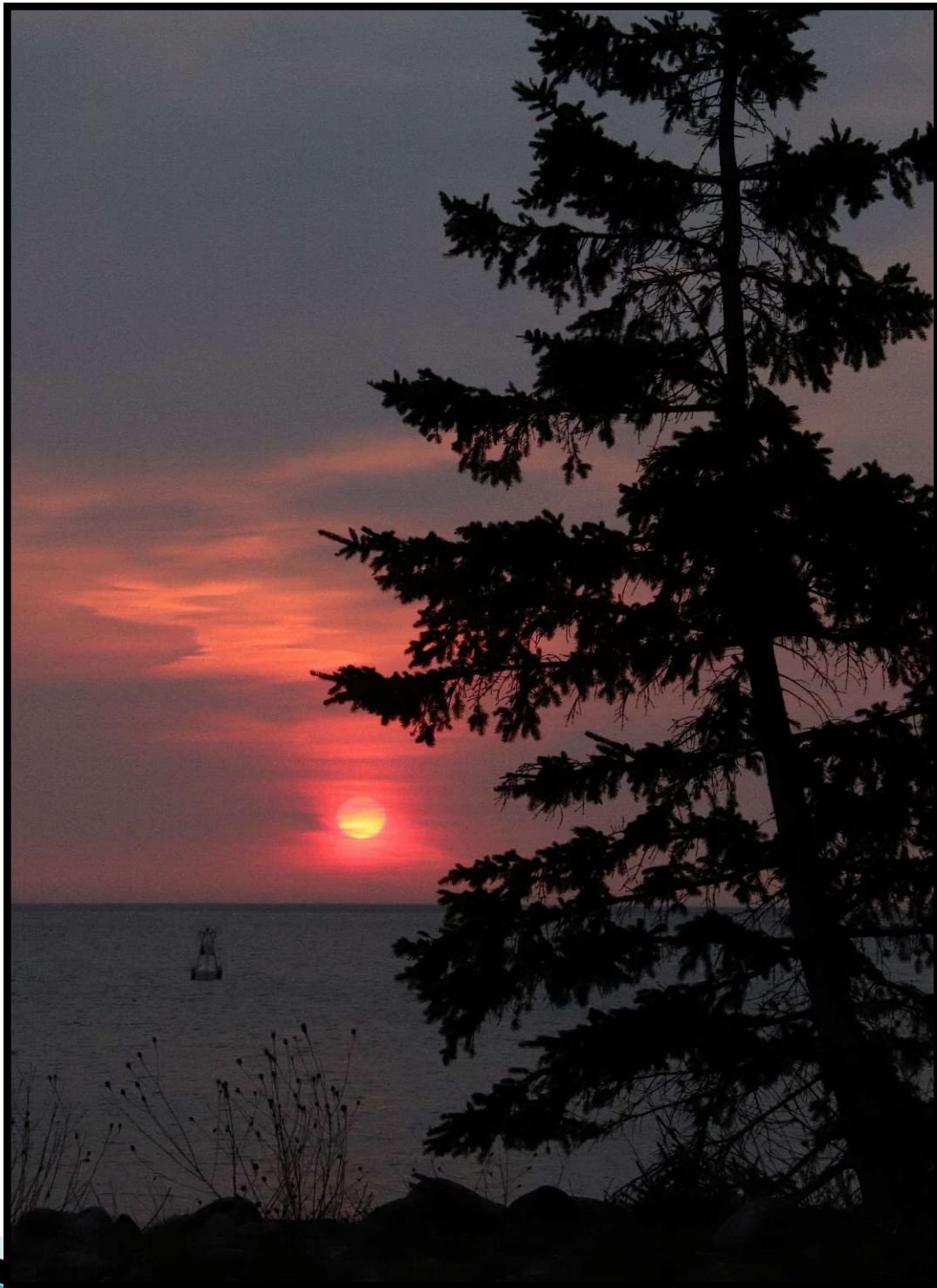
It is okay to put the sun in the middle



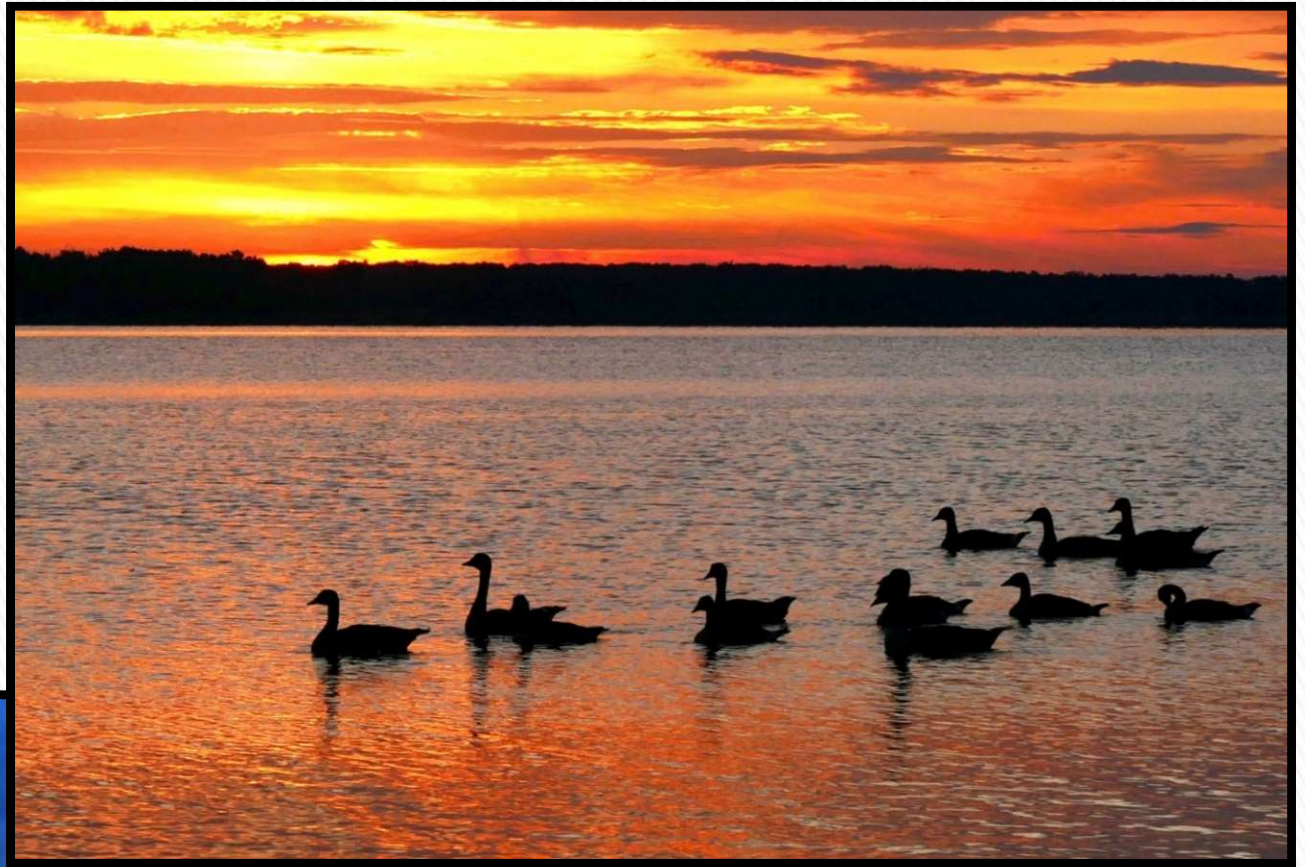
Instead of this....

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is a bright orange circle on the horizon, partially obscured by the silhouettes of tall, thin grasses in the foreground. The sky is a gradient of orange and red, with some clouds. The ocean is dark blue with small waves. The text "Take this...." is in the bottom left corner.

Take this....

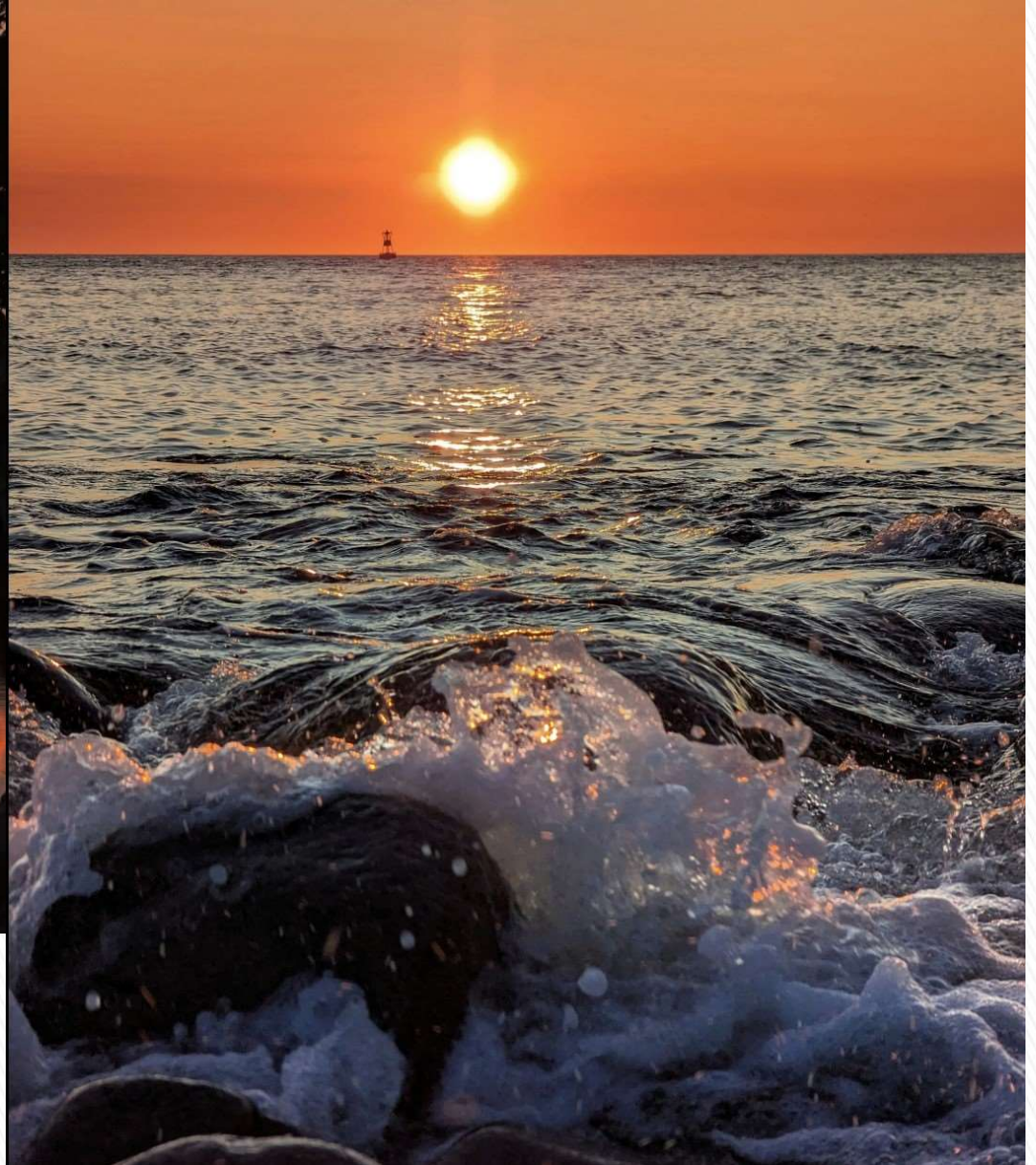
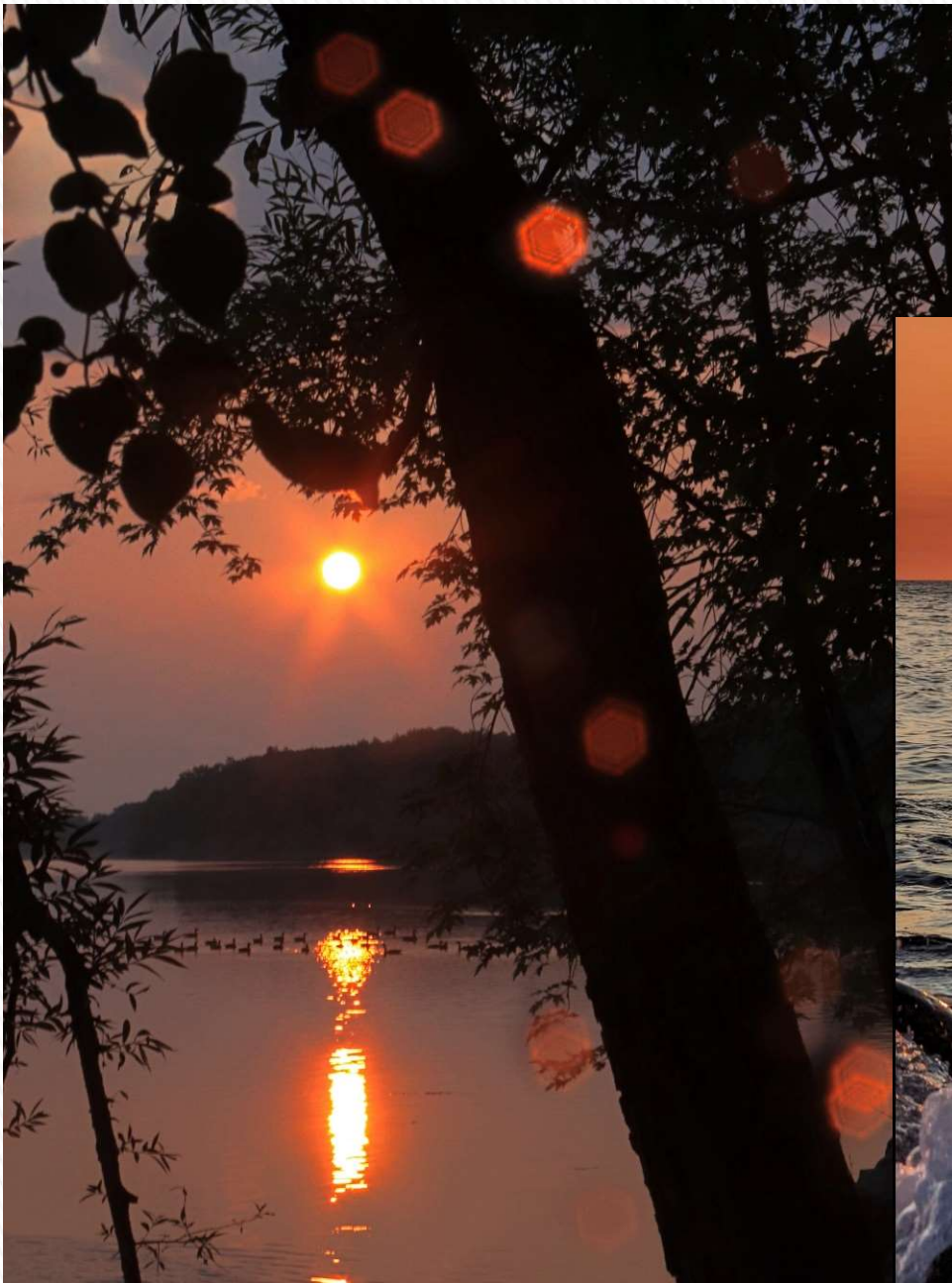


Petrie Island



Fun to favourite spots

Don't forget
portrait mode









Summary

- ▶ Composition – rule of thirds
 - ▶ Follow the light – early morning, late pm
 - ▶ Place people close together
 - ▶ Utilize black and white
 - ▶ Don't ignore bad weather
 - ▶ Try for a sunrise!
- 

*You miss 100% of the
shots you don't take!*

lbuske@sympatico.ca

This deck in pdf format:

[https://opcug.ca/presentations/2024-03-
PhotoTips.pdf](https://opcug.ca/presentations/2024-03-PhotoTips.pdf)

Youtube videos (total 17mins). Search for
Lynda Buske



<http://www.canonoutsideofauto.ca/>