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Simple rules

Orientation

Fill the frame

Rule of thirds

Look around the viewfinder

Be aware of the background

Look out for red

Repeating patterns

Leading lines

Focus lock and recompose

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Level 1 – Composition basics

- In the western world we tend to view images from left to right like reading
- Look for compositions that provide balance
- Make sure horizons are level
- Focus on the eyes of your subject
- Make sure the image has a proper subject
- Compose an image to lead the viewer to the subject
- Avoid looking down on animals
- Explore different angles and viewpoints
- Try different lenses
- Do not be happy with the first picture you take

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Orientation



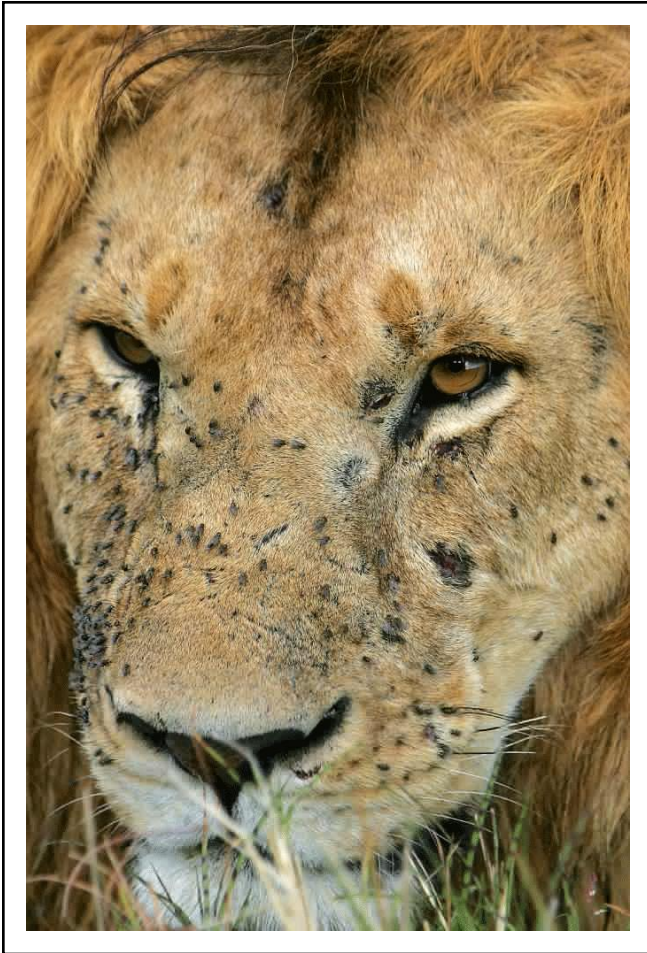
Vertical or 'Portrait' Format



Horizontal or 'Landscape' format

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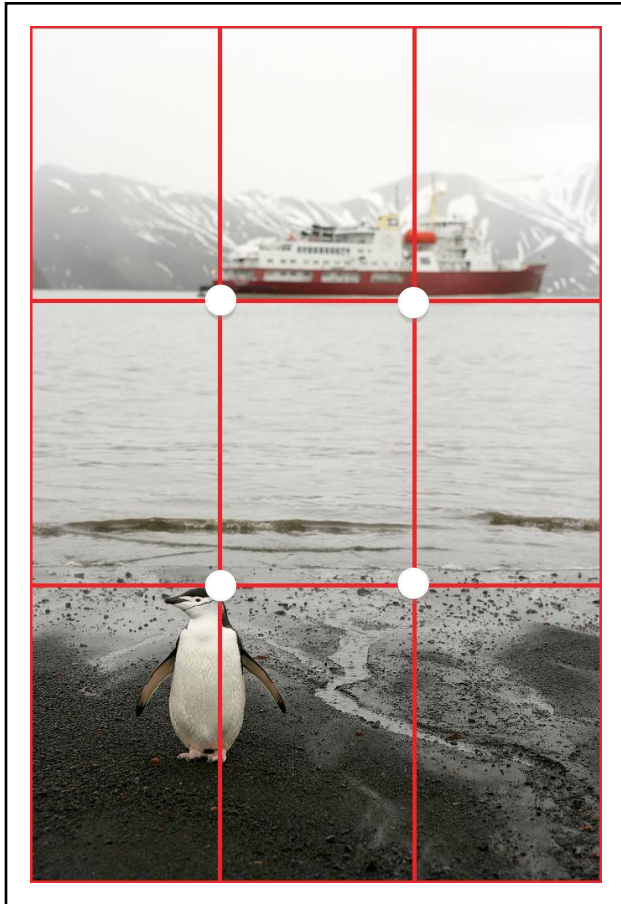
Fill the frame



- Make the most of the space you have
- Fill the frame with the subject for more impact

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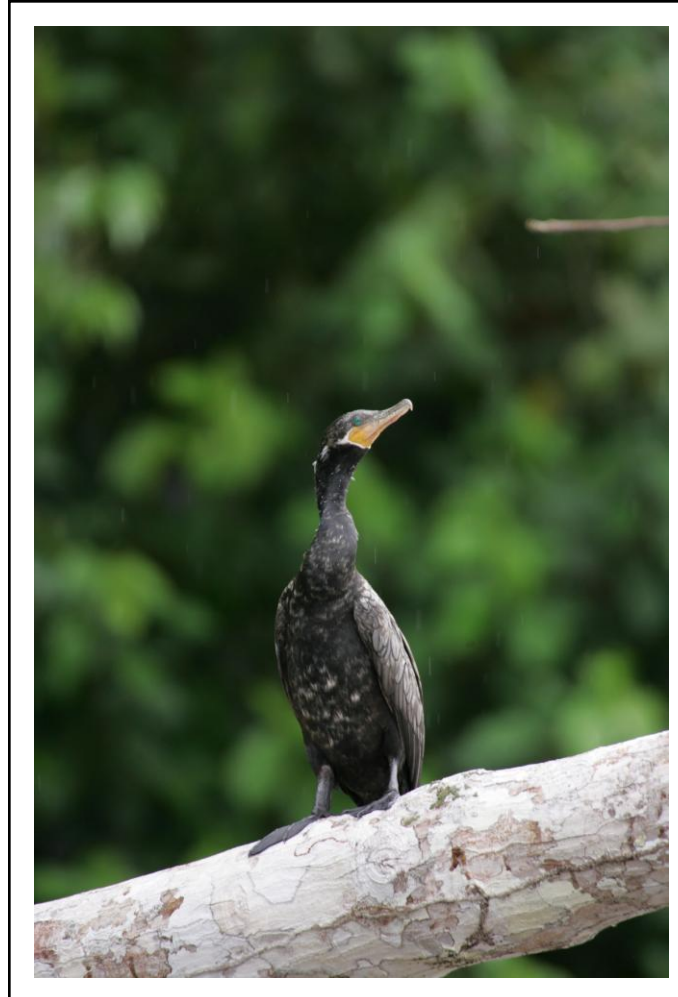
Rule of thirds



- The rule of thirds is a simple compositional rule that helps you arrange a picture
- Divide the scene into three equal parts horizontally and vertically
- Try and place subjects on or near these lines. Avoid putting the horizon line across the middle
- The points where these lines intersect are called cardinal points (marked with white points). Any subject placed on or near here will have more impact
- It is not a fixed rule but simply a guideline. It can be broken successfully if you are willing to experiment

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Look around the viewfinder



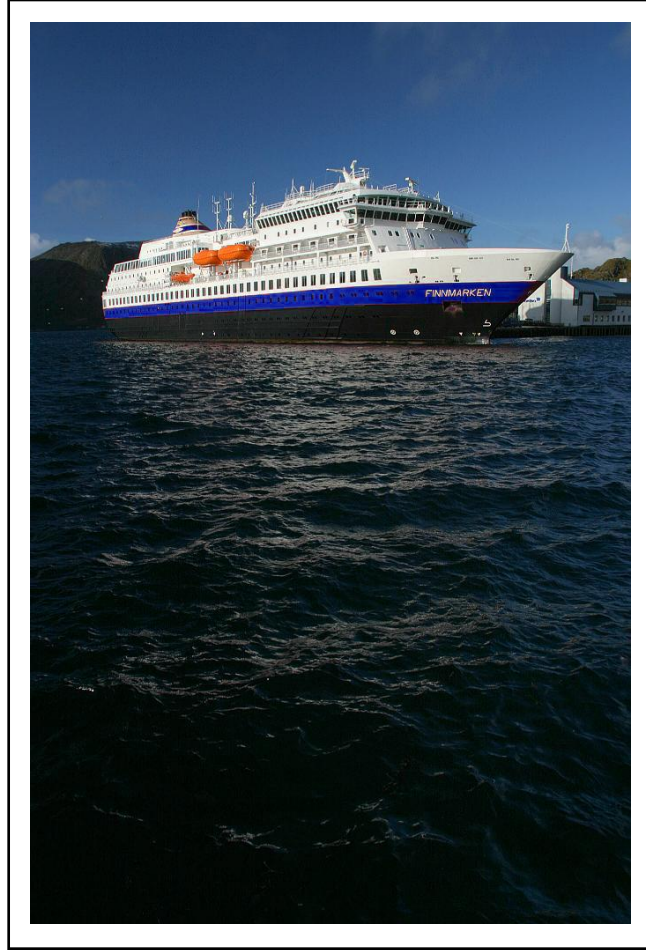
you can
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Be aware of the background



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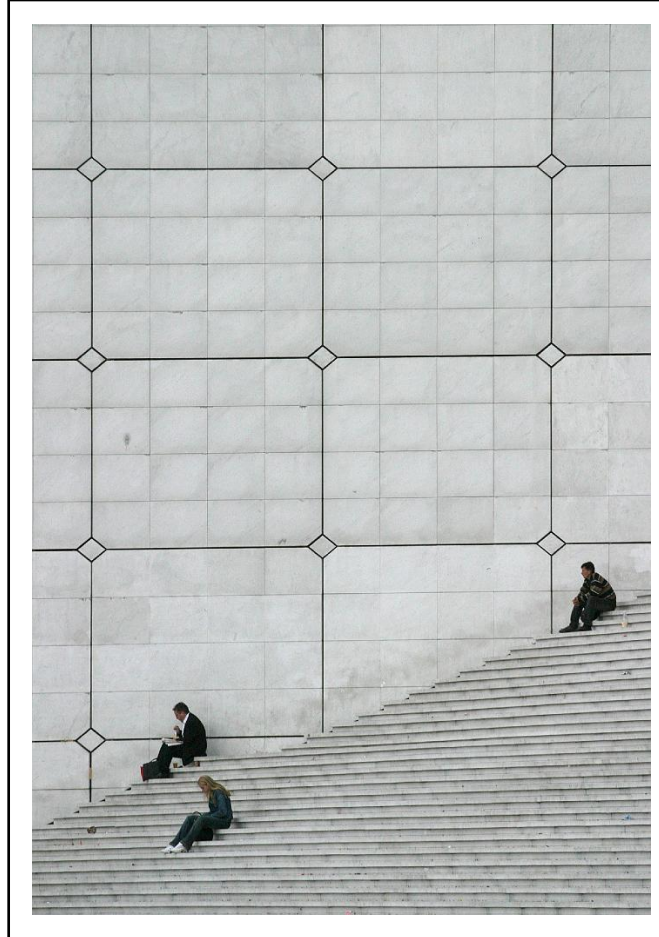
Look out for red



- Red is a powerful colour that commands attention
- Try and look for red subjects to use in your image as they will stand out more than other colours

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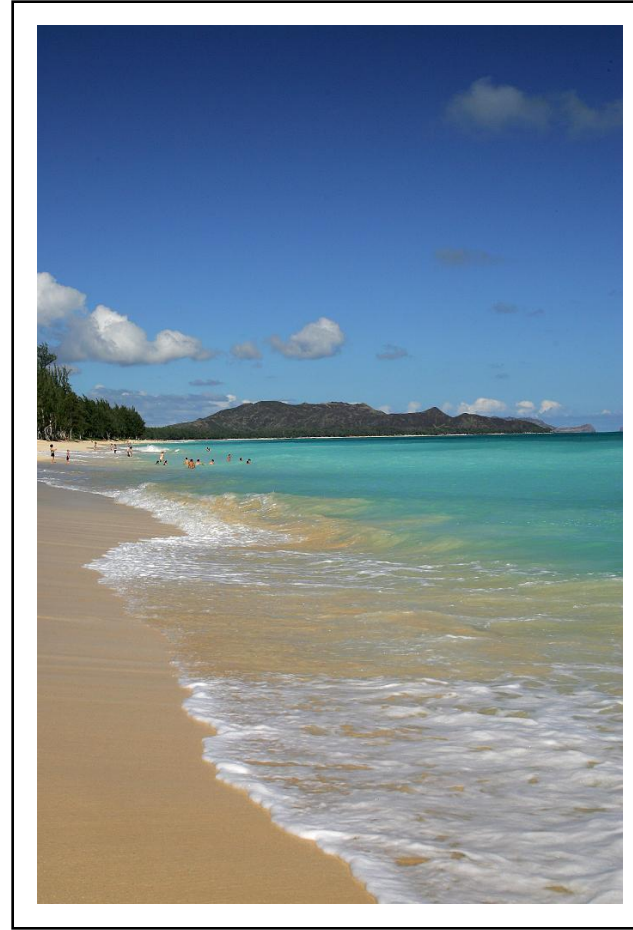
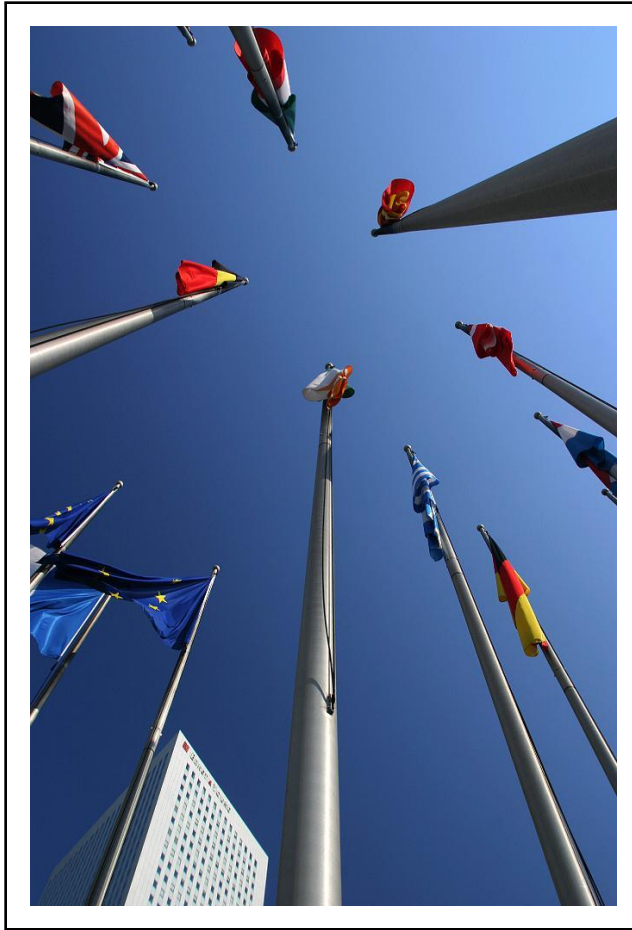
Repeating patterns



- Patterns which repeat in an image can help provide balance and harmony
- They hold the viewer's attention better

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Leading lines



- Use lines to draw the viewer into the image
- It will hold the attention and make the image more interesting

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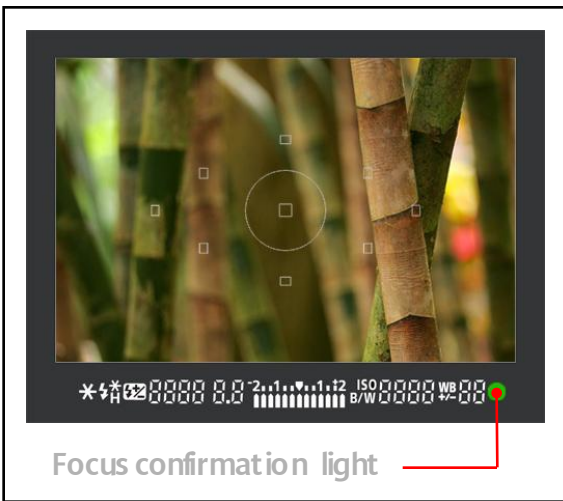
Focus, lock, recompose



- Focus lock and recompose allows you to place a subject off-centre for a more interesting composition

In One Shot AF

- Press the shutter button halfway
- When the Focus confirmation light is solid in the viewfinder, keep the shutter button half pressed
- Recompose your image to place the subject where you want it
- Fully press the shutter button to take the image



What have we covered?

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