GUIDES TO SPECIFIC TECHNIQUES OF PHOTOGRPAHY

CREATING A PANORAMA

https://www.mikesmithphotography.com/videos/how-to-do-panorama-photography

What is a Panorama Image?

It is a very wide (letterbox) aspect made up by stitching images together across a wide scene.

What does this mean for my Photography?

1) The primary consideration is to plan your composition. Too wide and the shot will end up very shallow but wide. Like all images you need to include point(s) of focus and so you need to plan to capture these PoFs at a good point in the panorama (1/3rd).
2) Many cameras offer built in Panorama systems and these can be ok, but tricky to plan / get right and mostly produce a jpeg, not RAW image.

Here is a guide to how to go about producing an Panorama:

Needed:

- Digital Camera (can be done on mobile phone but will only produce a jpeg)
- Tripod – very level throughout pan of the camera.

IN Camera:

- Set up on a tripod and ensure the camera is level throughout the 'pan' across the intended panorama
- Put the camera into portrait position – this will give the end panorama much more height – when you think about it, you can make it as wide as you like, but you can't change the height.
- Do not use polariser – as the effect will be different across the panorama
- Once you have finalised your settings in MANUAL (If in auto the settings will change as you pan). Lookout for very bright areas and take that into account in your settings (i.e. reduce exposure across all to avoid overblow.)
- Look across the view and carefully decide your composition - choose a start and finish point that create good edges to the final image where possible.
- Now review the space and look for 'markers' that you can use to as landmarks.
- Swing to the start position (say left) – take a shot – first one with hand in front and then the real shot, (this is so that you can easily see where the panorama images start in Lightroom)
- Now pan to the right – BUT keep a marker from the first shot at around 2/3 from left and place this 1/3 from the left of second picture – this allows the images to be overlayed accurately in Lightroom.
- Continue across the full width – each time keeping a marker at roughly 1/3 from left of image.

- You may want to repeat at different settings or a different pan – but keep the settings the same throughout.

IN Lightroom: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=biJ1u8C9Omk

- Find the set in your thumbnails (the one with the hand will remind you where they are!)
- Select them
- Right Click and find the option: Photo Merge – Panorama
- A preview page will appear – you normally need the spherical option
- Start the process and wait – it usually takes around 30 seconds, depending on complexity
- A new image will then be auto loaded in the background and will appear in the tray. The filename will be changed to pano.dmg – so as to distinguish it from the source files
- This can now be edited like any other image.

Example of Panorama Image



Created from a set of four overlapping images, this Panorama combines parallel paths on either side and a Foreground PoF on right 1/3rd with foreground interest of the mountain peak PoF on left 1/3rd.