

Roads, paths and walkways

Brief: All roads lead to? Find the road less travelled by, look down - find the ant pathway. Go to the field and find a footpath eroded over many years.

Leading lines are important. Also consider using forms, remember the strength of an "S" shape. Viewpoint also makes for creative shots - get down low, or high up in the sky.

Why not photograph a lovely mountain pass. A traveller may enhance the shot - but is in no way a requirement.

Remember animals and insects make pathways too... Many of us have pathways in our gardens. Post editing encouraged especially to get the cropping just right. AR allowed

Presented By Riaan Jacobs

Riaan Jacobs

ROAD PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

- Use a tripod when ever possible
- Try using both a wide angle and telephoto lens
- Use F11-16 for maximum depth of field
- Include part of the road in the corner of your photograph
- Vary the angle if possible consider positioning your wide angle lens low to the pavement
- Put the horizon near the top of the picture frame to emphasize depth
- Pull well over to the side especially if photographing at night or in the fog - look for a pull out
- At night consider using long exposures and including lights from passing cars
- Include other subjects in your images e.g. a car, person or animals
- If you plan on driving off road its a good idea to bring someone with you in case of safety

Light and composition

As with most types of photography the quality of the light helps make a photograph more interesting. Sidelight around sunrise and sunset adds texture to the vegetation surrounding the road. A road disappearing into the fog conveys a sense of mystery. Soft light is ideal to show off trees adjacent to the road in Autumn. When photographing the road in fog or at night be sure to pull well over to the side of the road, use a pull over or drive into a side road to avoid causing an accident.

Roads can look very different as the seasons change and also during different times of the day. Early morning and evenings provides warm side light that enhance textures around the road. Having a road lead to a mountain also provides a picturesque view. A thunderstorm, rainbow, or snow storm can all make for more interesting photographs of the road.

Equipment and Settings

The two main lenses to use to photograph roads are my wide angle lens (e.g. 20-35 mm) and a telephoto lens (70-300 mm). The wide angle lens exaggerates space and try to shoot from near the ground with this lens. Telephoto lenses compress space and make telephone poles and hills appear to stack closer together. Telephoto lenses also work well when trees cover the road and form a canopy. Try to use a tripod most of the time and set the camera to F11-16 for a maximum depth of field









