

NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY ADVICE

WHAT TO WEAR

Wear warm clothing, waterproofs, a hat and if possible fingerless gloves

WHAT TO TAKE

Camera, tripod, torch, remote shutter release, spare batteries, umbrella, hot drink.

SECURITY

Think about the remote location you are going to. Go with others. Take a mobile phone.

SETTINGS TO USE

If well-lit area, you could try high ISO, wide aperture (f2 etc.) and hand hold or use the 'Hand held night scene' mode on some cameras (takes four very quick shots at different settings).

For most night shots (includes sunrise and sunset) you want your camera on a tripod. Set your camera onto the lowest ISO setting (100 or lower). Turn off any image stabilisation you have on your lens/camera. Select 'Manual' mode and 'bulb' (b). Now set the aperture to what you feel is right for the scene in front of you. This might be about f11 for good depth of field.

Focus on your subject – can be done with 'auto focus' (perhaps with the aid of a torch), or use live view with maximum magnification. Whichever you use, once focus is achieved turn off auto focus and set it to 'manual focus'. At this stage, you could even set the focus to 'infinity' or just focus by eye.

Last of all, you are going to choose a shutter speed, based on what is in front of you. With your remote shutter release try 2 seconds or whatever you think.

Take a shot, review it and try again with a different speed.

How long the shutter is open is the only thing now preventing you from getting a good shot. Check your histogram.

Don't forget, the higher the ISO you use, the more 'noise' you will introduce.

Remember, if you have extremes of light in your picture take a number of shots to deal with (1) extreme highlights (short shutter speed) and (2) deep shadows (longer shutter speeds).

If you do not have a remote shutter release, select the longest shutter speed (still using a tripod) and play about with the aperture and ISO (and shutter) to get your shot – using the self timer to trigger the shutter.

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