



A FIRST CLASS OF LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY

QIWEI LI

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- MOUNTAINS AND HILLS
- SEAS AND LAKES
- HUMANISTIC SITES
- ANIMALS
- SUMMARY AND ADVICES

BEFORE GOING ON

- **Foundational skills:** aperture, shutter speed, ISO, focal length, focal points, exposure value, white balance, metering mode, etc.
- **Basic settings:** aperture priority (f/8), shutter speed (<math><1/125\text{s}</math>), ISO (<math><200</math>), focal points (automatic), exposure value (+0.7), white balance (daylight), metering mode (evaluative), etc.
- Always try and adjust

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS

- **Location** and time

“From a thousand different positions, it takes on a thousand different appearances”

–Su Shi (Chinese poet, 1037 - 1101 AD)

AF-S 18-35mm f/
3.5-4.5G ED, ISO 100,
35mm, f/8, 1/200
@Grand Teton National
Park, Jackson, WY



AF-S 18-35mm f/
3.5-4.5G ED, ISO 100,
24mm, f/8, 1/160
@Grand Teton National
Park, Jackson, WY



MOUNTAINS AND HILLS

- Surroundings: local conditions



AF-S 18-35mm f/3.5-4.5G ED, ISO 100, 18mm, f/8, 1/320
@Grand Teton National Park, Jackson, WY

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS

- Surroundings: vehicle



AF-S 70-300mm f/4.5-5.6G ED VR, ISO 100, 70mm, f/8, 1/500
@Arches National Park, Moab, Utah

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS

- Surroundings: belongings



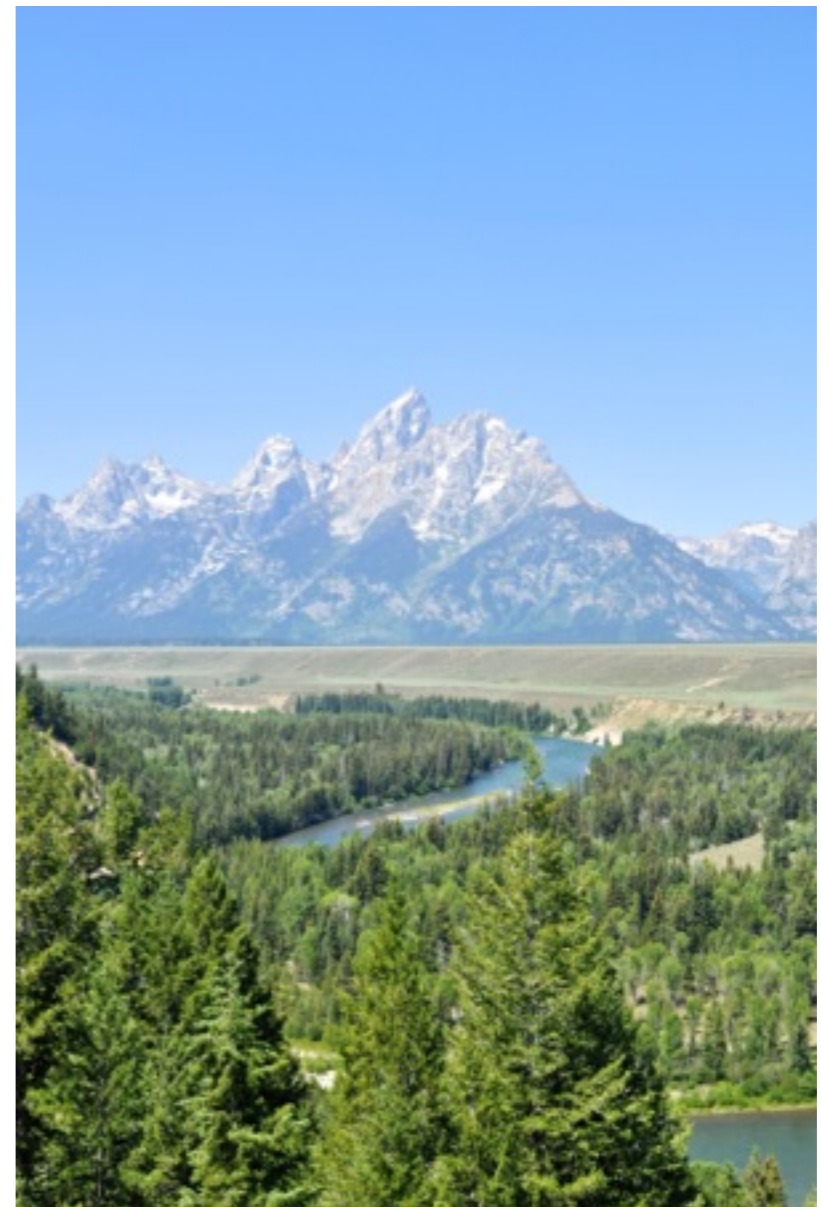
AF-S 18-35mm f/3.5-4.5G ED, ISO 100, 35mm, f/8, 1/200
@Grand Teton National Park, Jackson, WY

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS

- Orientation: broadness and depth



AF-S 18-35mm f/3.5-4.5G ED, ISO 100, 18mm, f/8, 1/200
@Grand Teton National Park, Jackson, WY



AF-S 18-35mm f/3.5-4.5G ED, ISO 100, 35mm, f/8, 1/200
@Grand Teton National Park, Jackson, WY

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS

- Composition: geometric shapes



AF-S 18-35mm f/3.5-4.5G ED, ISO 100, 18mm, f/8, 1/500
@Arches National Park, Moab, Utah

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS

- Composition: s-line



AF-S 18-35mm f/3.5-4.5G ED, ISO 100, 35mm, f/8, 1/125
@Arches National Park, Moab, Utah

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS

- View of angle: wide and narrow



AF-S 18-35mm f/3.5-4.5G ED, ISO 100, 18mm, f/8, 1/200
@Grand Teton National Park, Jackson, WY



AF-S 70-300mm f/4.5-5.6G ED VR, ISO 100, 140mm, f/8, 1/800
@Grand Teton National Park, Jackson, WY

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS

- **Aperture** and shutter speed



AF-S 85mm f/1.8G, ISO 100, 85mm, f/2.8, 1/3200
@Waxahachie, TX

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS

- **Aperture** and shutter speed



AF 50mm f/1.8D, ISO 160, 50mm, f/5, 1/1250
@Texas Medical Center, Houston, TX

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS

- Exposure and white balance



AF-S 35mm f/1.8G ED, ISO 100, 35mm, f/2.8, 1/1250
@Waxahachie, TX

SEAS AND LAKES

- Location and **time**: sunrise and sunset



AF-S DX 18-105mm f/3.5-5.6G ED VR, ISO 200, 22mm, f/3.8, 1/40 @Trinity Pines Conference Center, Trinity, TX

AF-S 16-35mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 125, 16mm, f/8, 1/100 @Fort Desoto County Park, St Petersburg, FL

SEAS AND LAKES

- Location and **time**: silhouette



AF-S 16-35mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 125, 16mm, f/22, 1/10
@Fort Desoto County Park, St Petersburg, FL

SEAS AND LAKES

- Surroundings: flowers

“I only wish to face the sea, with spring flowers blossoming”

–Hai Zi (Chinese poet, 1964 - 1989 AD)



AF-S DX 12-24mm f/4G ED, ISO 200, 12mm, f/4, 1/1250
@Irvine, CA



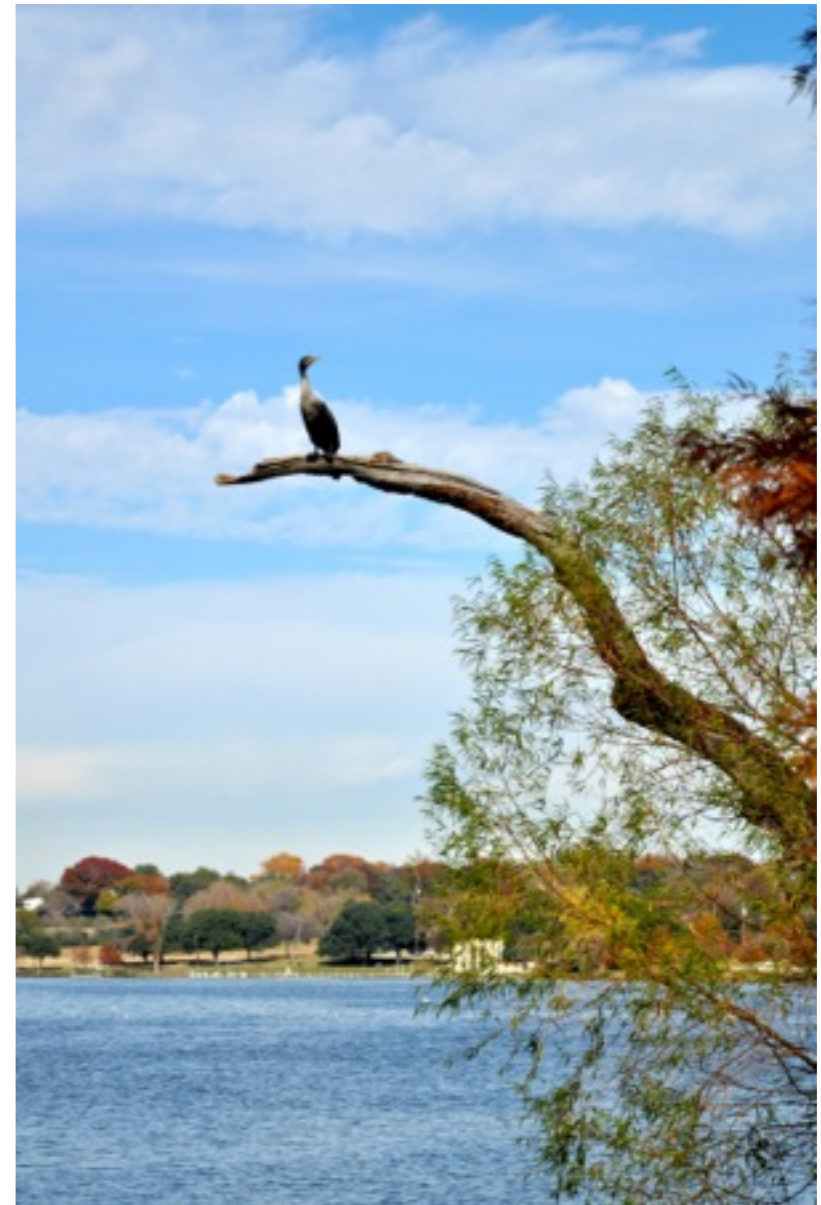
AF-S 16-35mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 100, 35mm, f/8, 1/250
@Epcot Theme Park, Disney World Resort, Lake Buena Vista, FL

SEAS AND LAKES

- Surroundings: birds



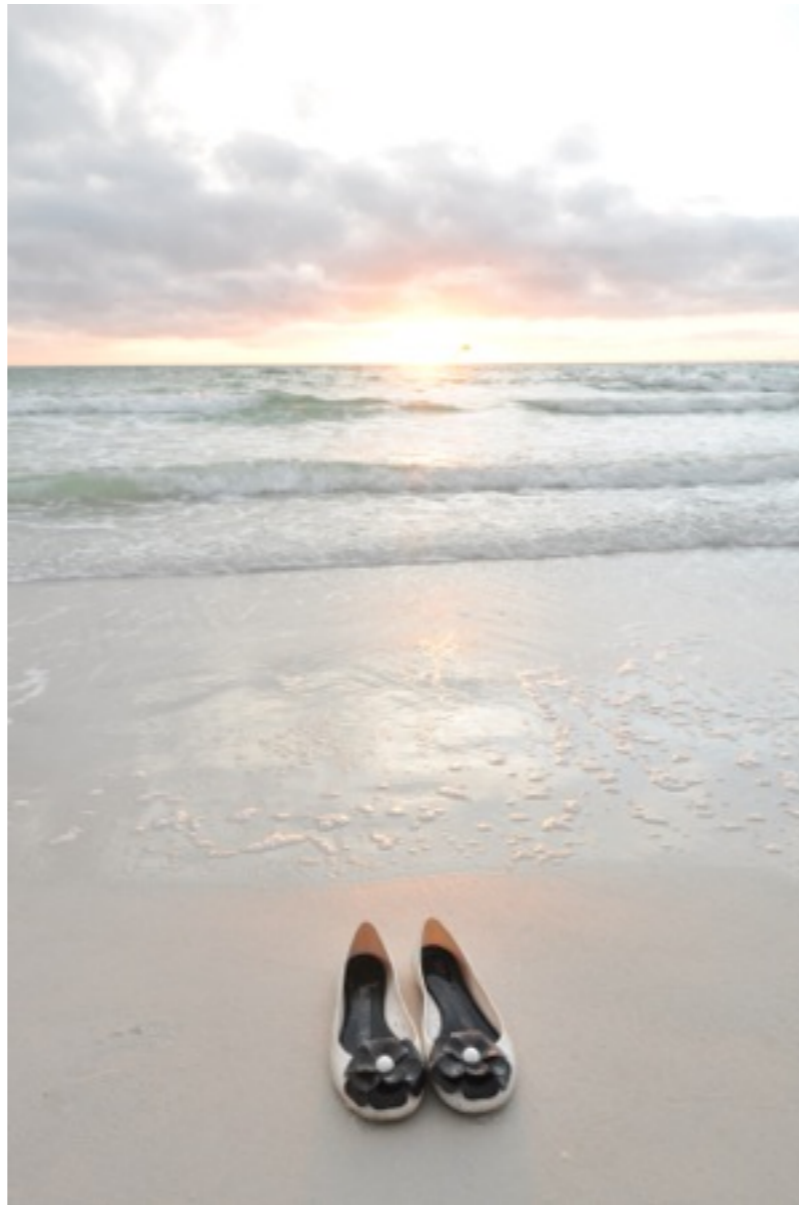
AF-S 24-120mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 400, 120mm, f/4, 1/4000
@Fort Desoto County Park, St Petersburg, FL



AF-S 24-85mm f/3.5-4.5G ED VR, ISO 100, 85mm, f/4.5, 1/1250
@White Rock Lake, Dallas, TX

SEAS AND LAKES

- Surroundings: belongings



AF-S 16-35mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 125, 16mm, f/6.3, 1/25
@Fort Desoto County Park, St Petersburg, FL

SEAS AND LAKES

- Orientation: always horizontal



AF-S 24-85mm f/3.5-4.5G ED VR, ISO 100, 85mm, f/8, 1/400
@White Rock Lake, Dallas, TX

SEAS AND LAKES

- Composition: straightness and golden section



AF-S 70-200mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 100, 105mm, f/4, 1/640
@Galveston Beach, Galveston, TX



AF-S 16-35mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 100, 35mm, f/8, 1/500
@Clearwater Beach, Clearwater, FL

SEAS AND LAKES

- Composition: contrast between still and dynamic



AF-S 70-200mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 100, 105mm, f/4, 1/640
@Galveston Beach, Galveston, TX



AF-S 24-85mm f/3.5-4.5G ED VR, ISO 100, 62mm, f/4.5, 1/1250
@White Rock Lake, Dallas, TX

SEAS AND LAKES

- View of angle: low-angle shot



AF-S DX 35mm f/1.8G, ISO 100, 35mm, f/8, 1/500
@Hermann Park, Houston, TX

SEAS AND LAKES

- Aperture and **shutter speed**



AF-S 18-35mm f/3.5-4.5G ED, ISO 100, 31mm, f/8, 1/320
@Grand Teton National Park, Jackson, WY



AF-S 18-35mm f/3.5-4.5G ED, ISO 100, 18mm, f/8, 1/400
@Grand Teton National Park, Jackson, WY

SEAS AND LAKES

- Exposure and white balance



AF-S 16-35mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 100, 31mm, f/8, 1/400
@Clearwater Beach, Clearwater, FL

HUMANISTIC SITES

- Emotion



AF-S DX 12-24mm f/4G ED, ISO 800, 12mm, f/5.6, 1/6
@Paris, Las Vegas, NV



AF-S 24-120mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 200, 120mm, f/10, 1/320
@Zilker Park, Austin, TX

HUMANISTIC SITES

- Symbols



AF-S DX 12-24mm f/4G ED, ISO 800, 20mm, f/4, 1/8
@Marina Bay Sands, Singapore



AF-S 18-35mm f/3.5-4.5G ED, ISO 100, 18mm, f/8, 1/25
@Times Square, New York City, NY

HUMANISTIC SITES

- Details



AF-S 24-120mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 100, 48mm, f/8, 1/40
@Rice University, Houston, TX



AF-S 24-120mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 100, 66mm, f/4, 1/125
@Rice University, Houston, TX

HUMANISTIC SITES

- Surroundings: human and nature



AF-S 70-200mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 100, 70mm, f/4, 1/800
@Texas Medical Center, Houston, TX



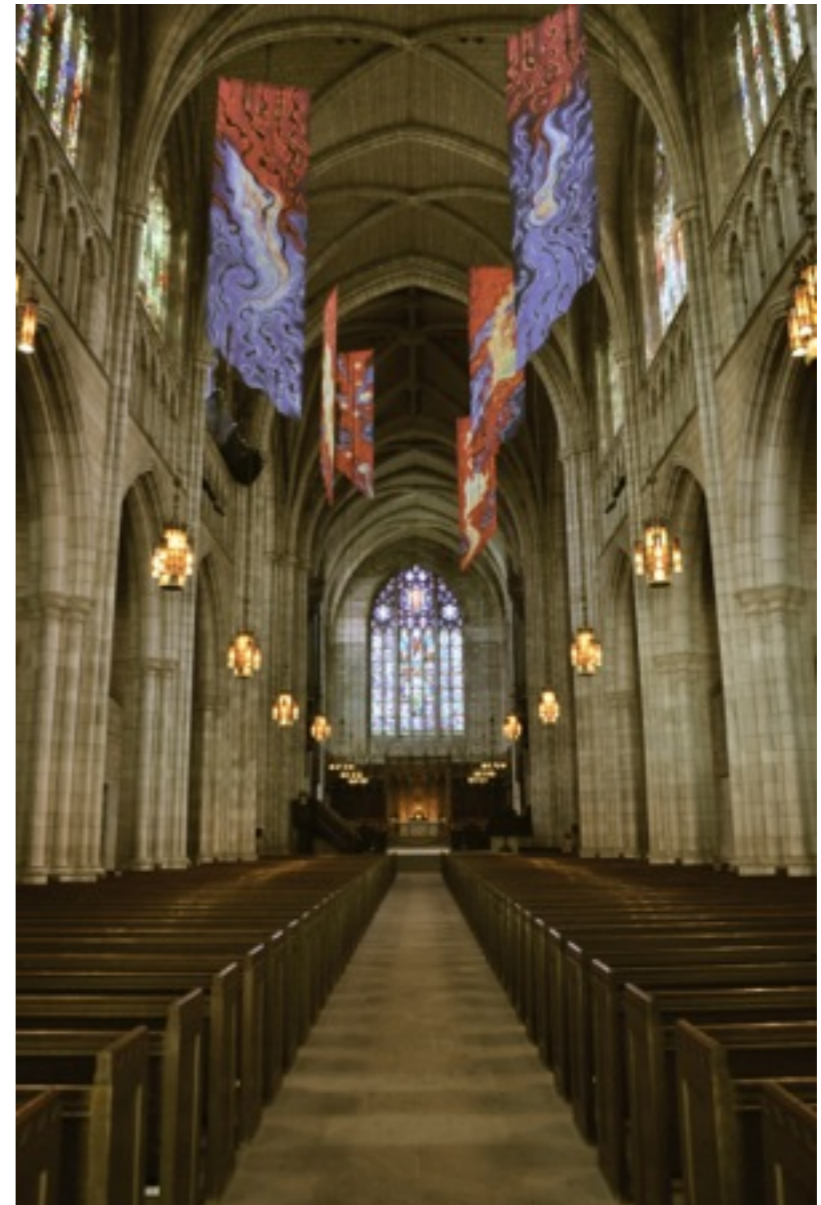
AF-S 16-35mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 100, 16mm, f/4, 1/1250
@Clearwater Beach, Clearwater, FL

HUMANISTIC SITES

- Composition: symmetry



AF-S 24-120mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 200, 24mm, f/10, 1/320
@Rice University, Houston, TX



AF-S 18-35mm f/3.5-4.5G ED, ISO 800, 18mm, f/3.5, 1/10
@Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

HUMANISTIC SITES

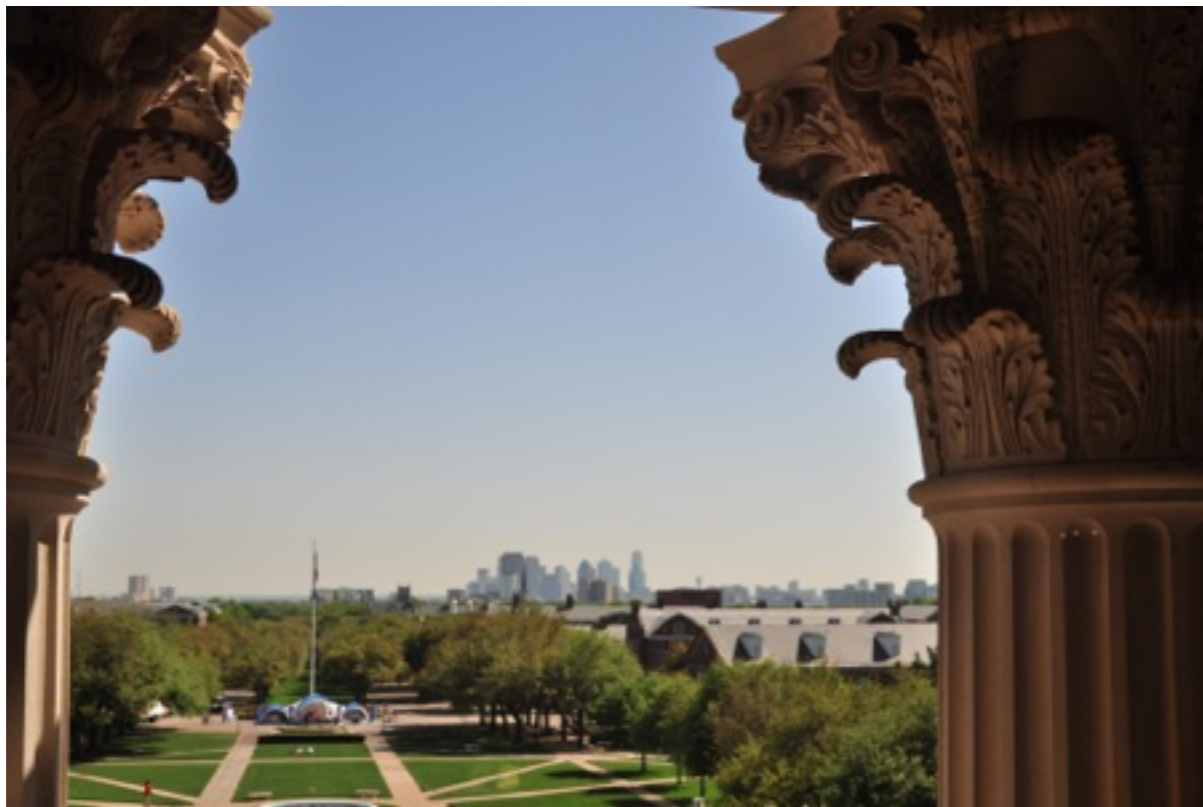
- Composition: asymmetry



AF-S DX 35mm f/1.8G, ISO 200, 35mm, f/8, 1/80
@Oak Alley Plantation, Vacherie, LA

HUMANISTIC SITES

- Composition: frame



AF-S 24-85mm f/3.5-4.5G ED VR, ISO 100, 29mm, f/4.5, 1/1600
@Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX



AF-S 85mm f/1.8G, ISO 200, 85mm, f/2.8, 1/320
@Rice University, Houston, TX

HUMANISTIC SITES

- Composition: foreground and background



AF-S 18-35mm f/3.5-4.5G, ISO 800, 18mm, f/4.5, 1/3200
@Empire State Building, New York City, NY



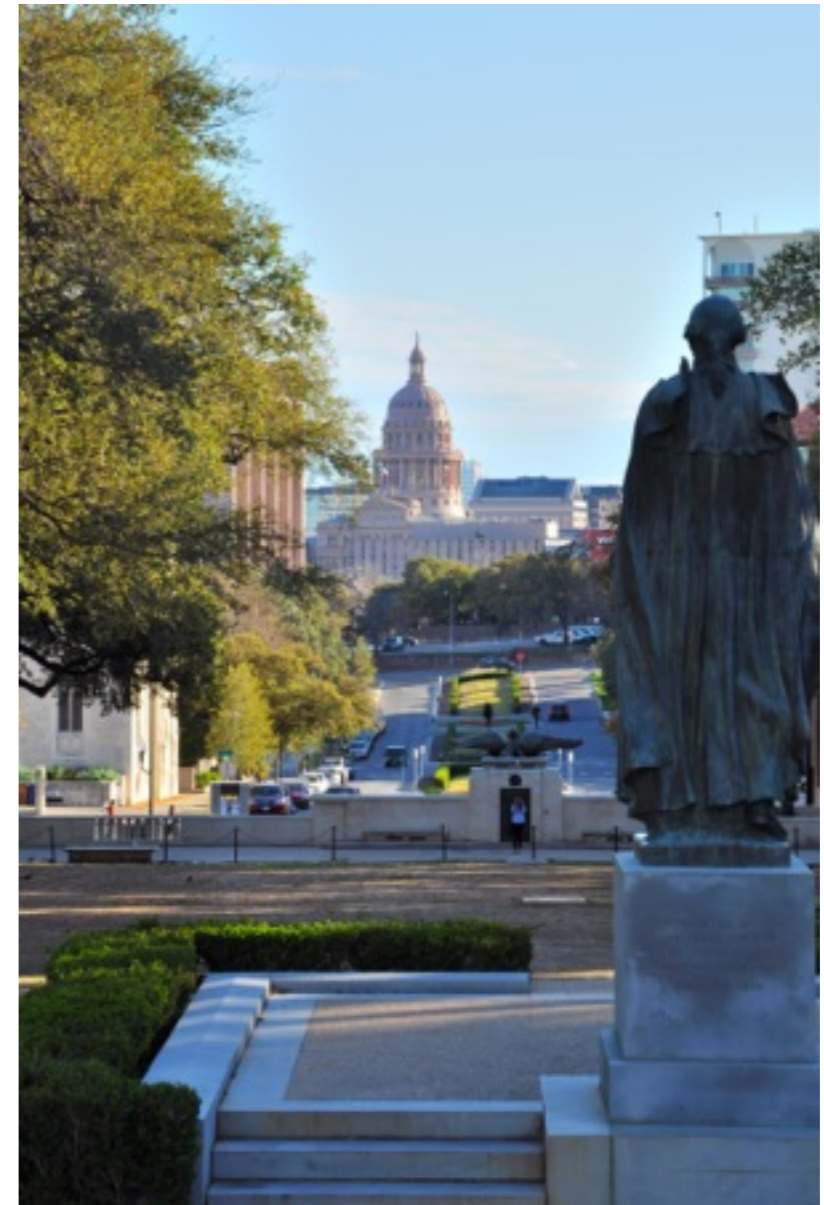
AF-S 24-85mm f/3.5-4.5G, ISO 100, 85mm, f/8, 1/30
@Empire State Building, New York City, NY

HUMANISTIC SITES

- View of angle: high-angle shot



AF-S 18-35mm f/3.5-4.5G, ISO 100, 18mm, f/3.5, 1/800
@Columbia University, New York City, NY



AF-S 24-120mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 100, 70mm, f/8, 1/160
@University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

HUMANISTIC SITES

- Exposure and white balance



AF-S DX 35mm f/1.8G, ISO 100, 35mm, f/8, 1/200
@St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans, LA



AF-S 18-35mm f/3.5-4.5G, ISO 400, 18mm, f/3.5, 1/80
@Grand Central Terminal, New York, NY

ANIMALS

- Choose telephoto lens
- Set faster shutter speed (< 1/125s)
- Point focus on their eyes
- Use continuous shooting if necessary
- Try more



AF-S 24-120mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 100, 120mm, f/4, 1/1250
@Houston Zoo, Houston, TX



AF-S 70-300mm f/4.5-5.6G ED VR, ISO 100, 170mm, f/5, 1/800
@Bayou Wildlife Park, Alvin, TX



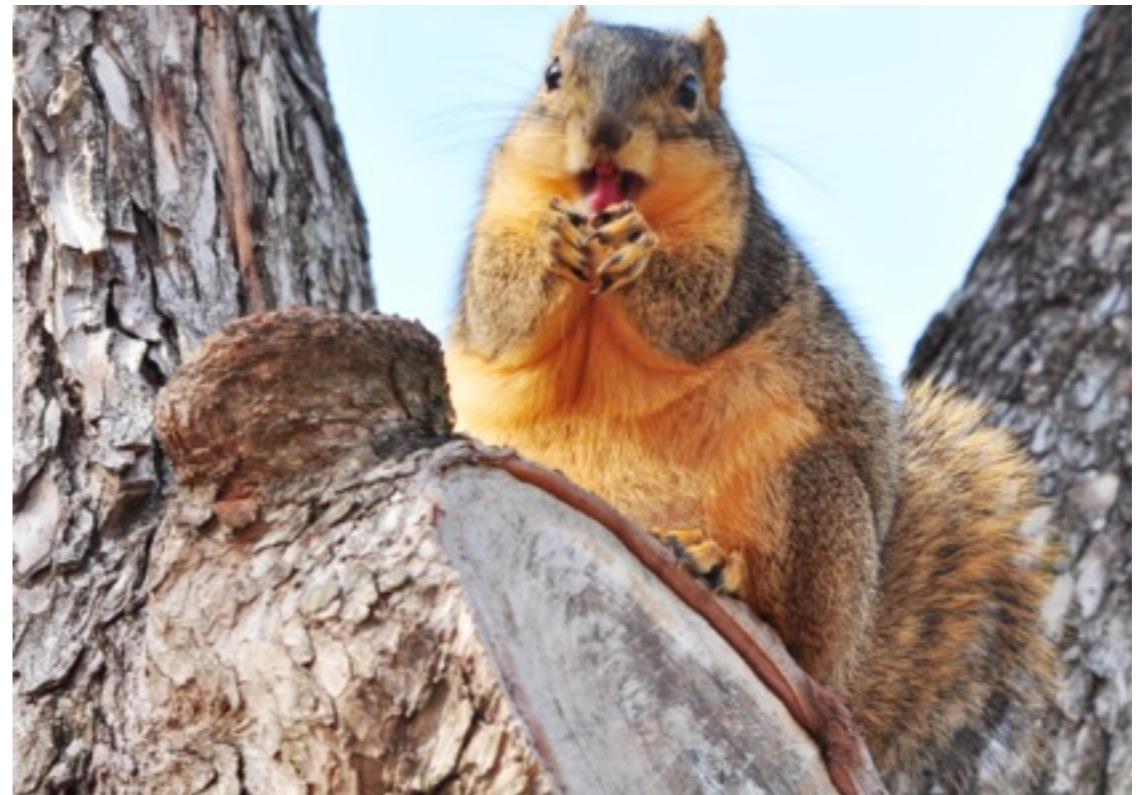
AF-S 70-200mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 100, 200mm, f/4, 1/500
@Galveston Beach, Galveston, TX



AF-S 70-300mm f/4.5-5.6G ED VR, ISO 400, 70mm, f/4.5, 1/1600
@Bayou Wildlife Park, Alvin, TX



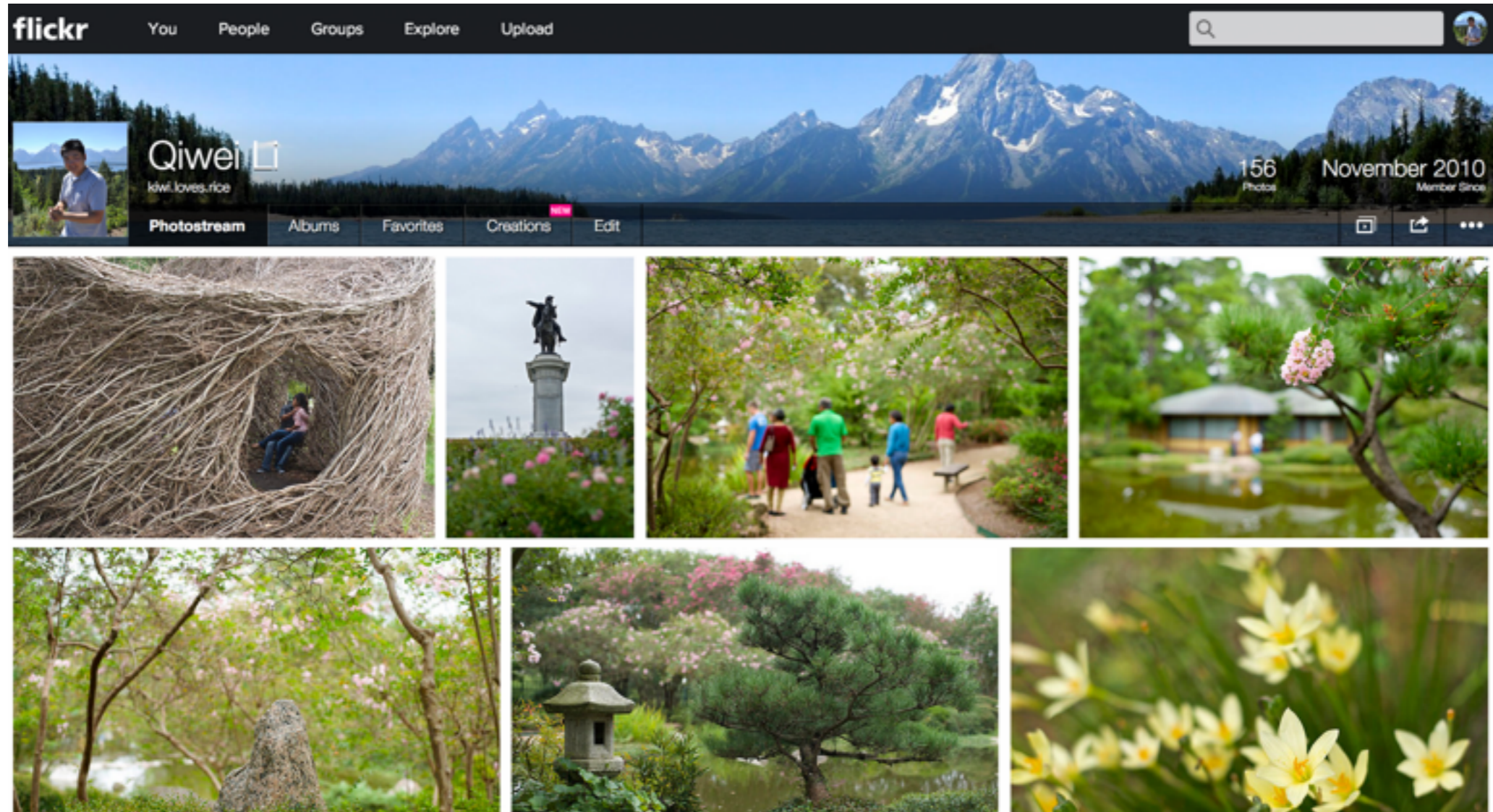
AF-S 85mm f/1.8G, ISO 200, 85mm, f/2.8, 1/200
@Rice University, Houston, TX



AF-S 24-120mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 100, 120mm, f/8, 1/60
@Rice University, Houston, TX



Sony E 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 OSS, ISO 1600, 55mm, f/5.6, 1/15
@Fort Bend, TX



For more my landscape photos, just visit my flickr (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/liqiwei2000/>)

SUMMARY

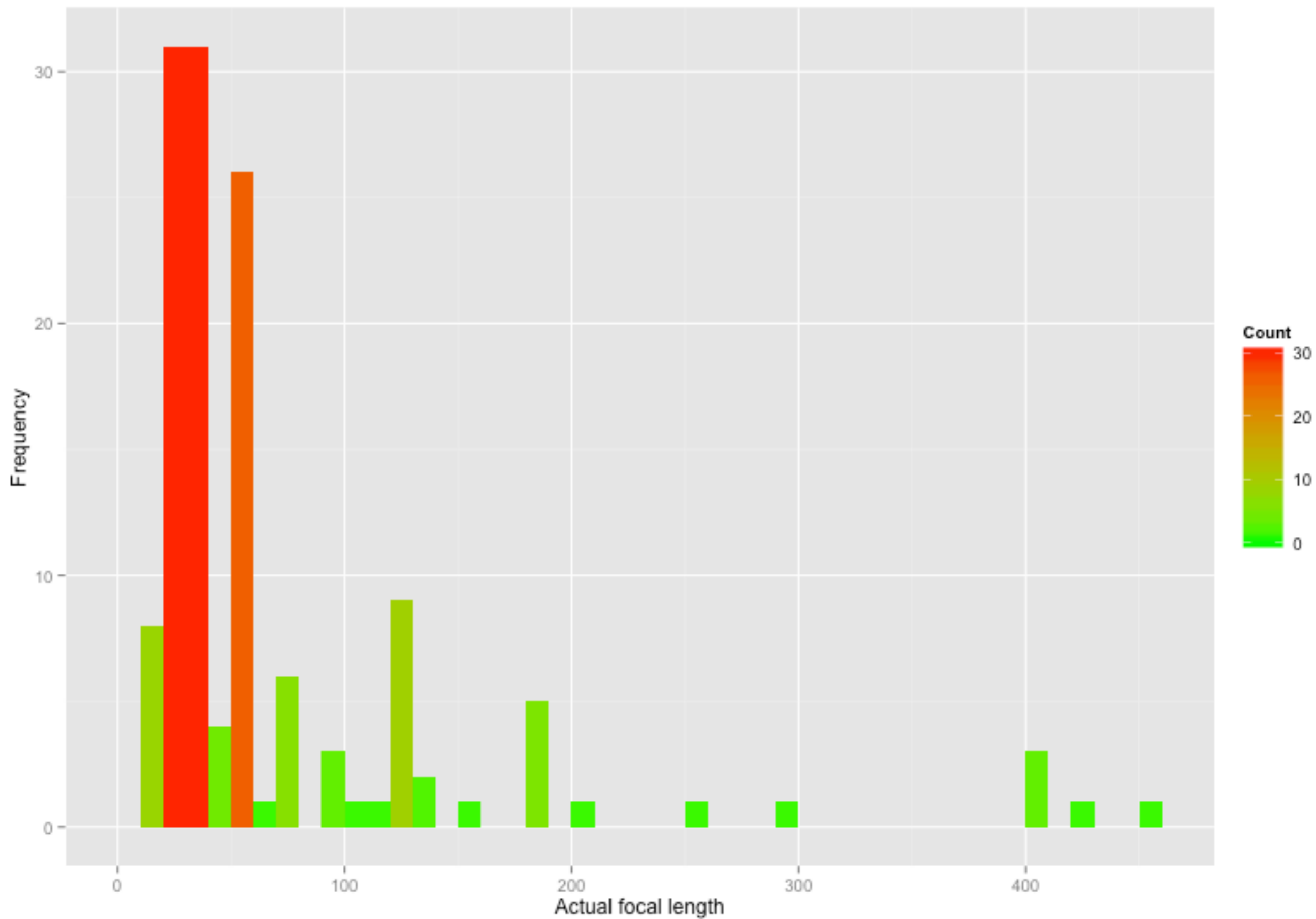
	When, where, what	Surrounding s	Orientation and composition	View of angel	Aperture and shutter speed
Mountains and hills	Location: face or side	Hard or soft	Landscape or portrait, shape	Wide-angle or telephoto	Aperture
Seas and lakes	Time: sunrise or sunset	Cold or warm	Landscape, golden section	Wide-angle	Shutter speed
Humanistic sites	Emotion: positive or negative	Nature and human	Landscape or portrait, symmetry	Wide-angle or prime	Aperture
Animals	Emotion: positive	Nature	Landscape or portrait	Telephoto	Shutter speed

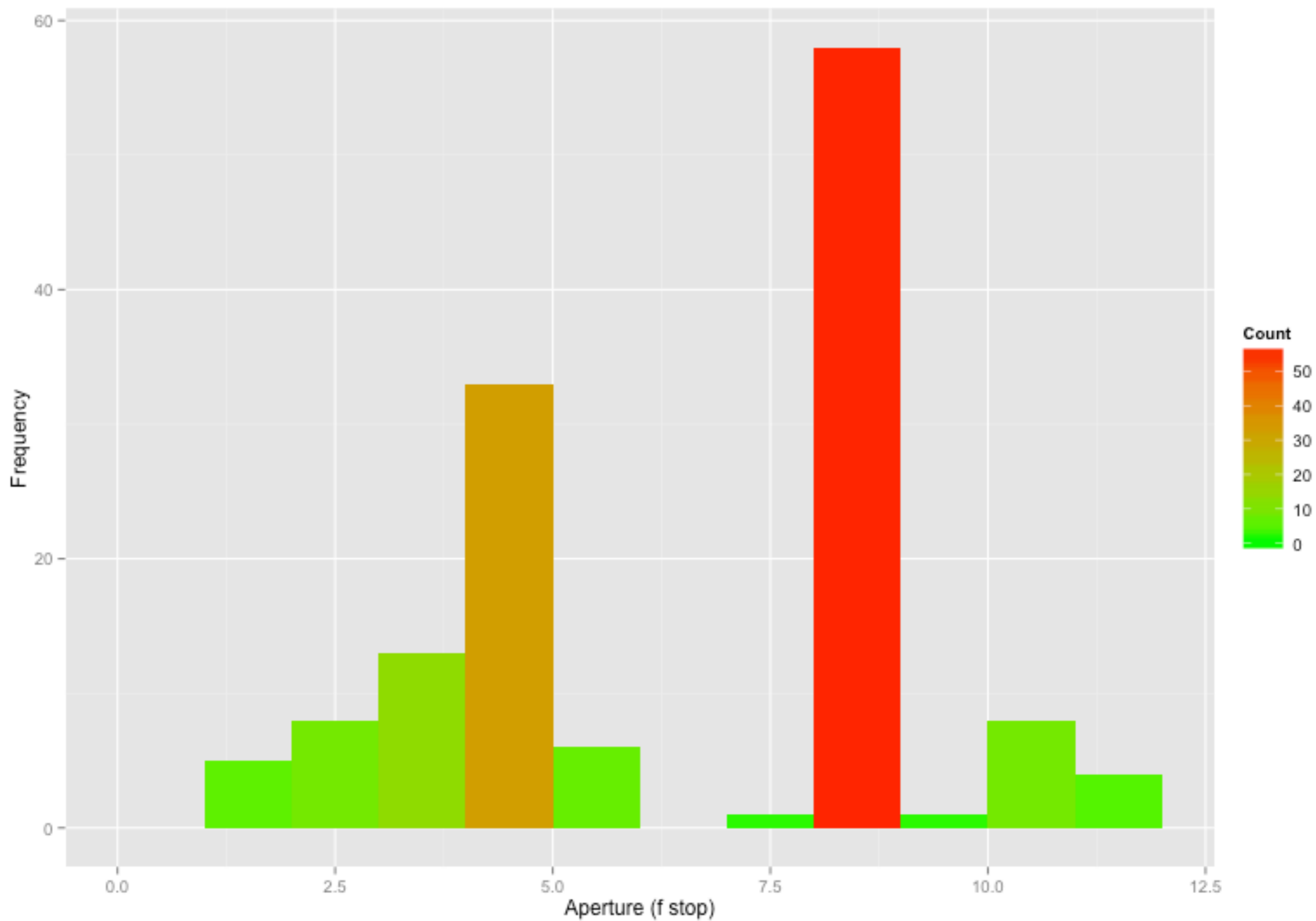
ADVICES

	Lens	Tripod	Notices
Mountains and hills	All-in-one zoom lens	Recommended	Be prepared and kind
Seas and lakes	Wide-angle lens		Protect DSLR and lens
Humanistic sites	Wide-angle lens, prime lens	Not necessary	With emotion
Animals	Telephoto lens		Keep distance

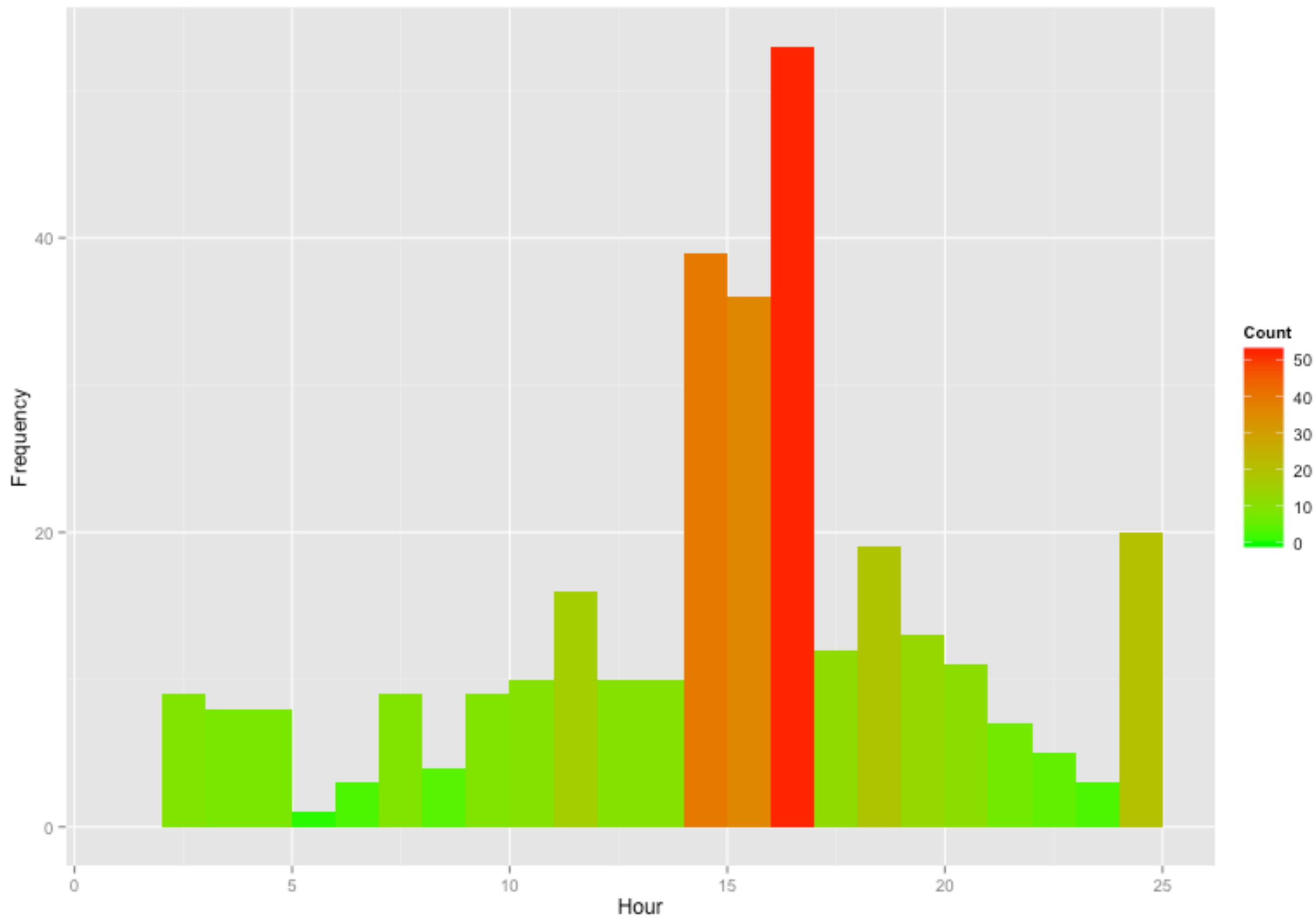
STATISTICS

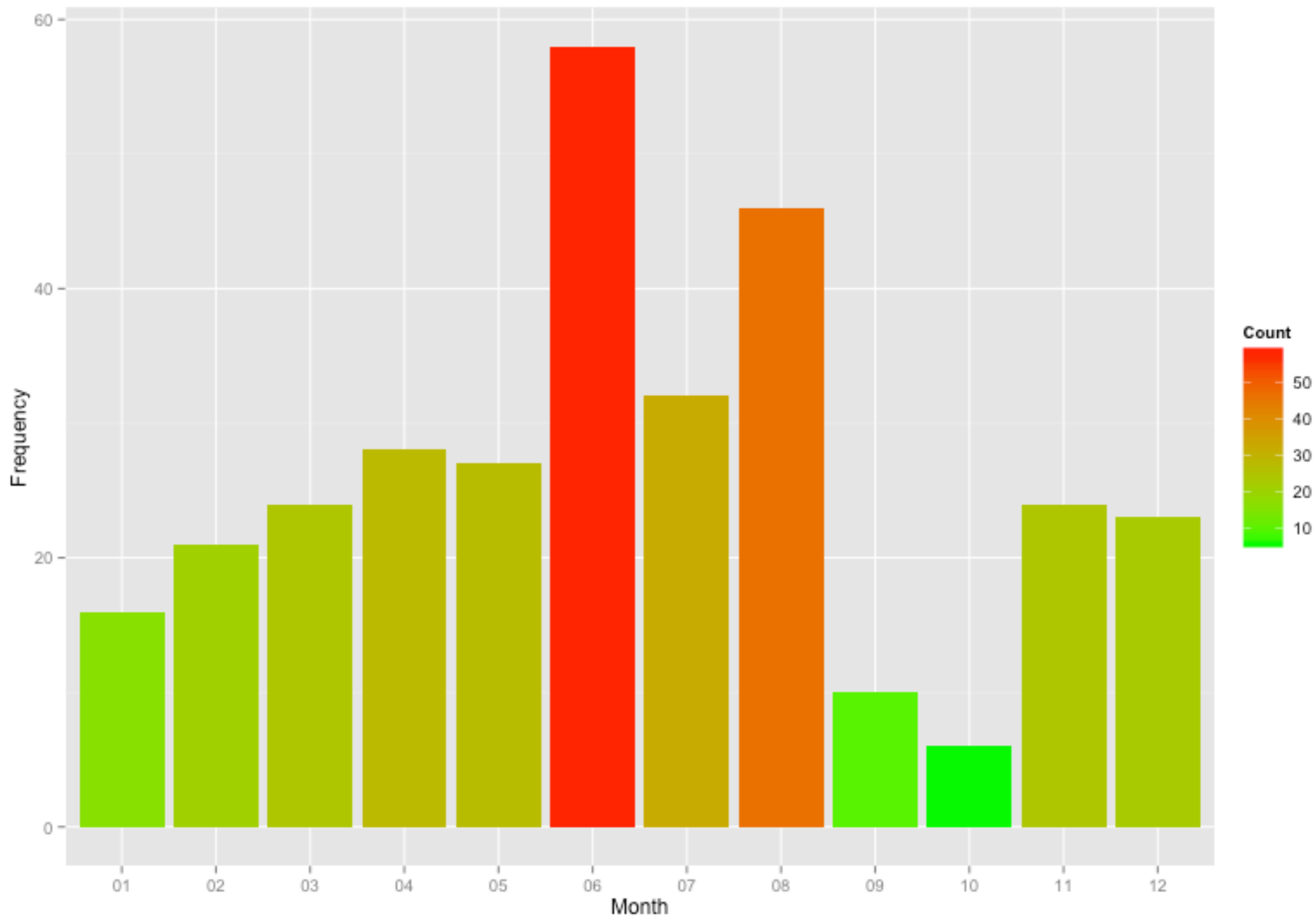
- Select 156 best landscape photos from 50,000 photos in the past 5 years
- Use R to visualize the exif data
- Answer the following questions:
 - What's the most frequently used focal length?
 - What's the most frequently used aperture (f stop)?
 - What's the most frequently used lens?
 - What's the most frequently time?











“Poets make the best photographers.”

–William George Hoskins (a well-known English historian)