



A FIRST CLASS OF LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY

QIWEI LI

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Before going on...



OVERVIEW

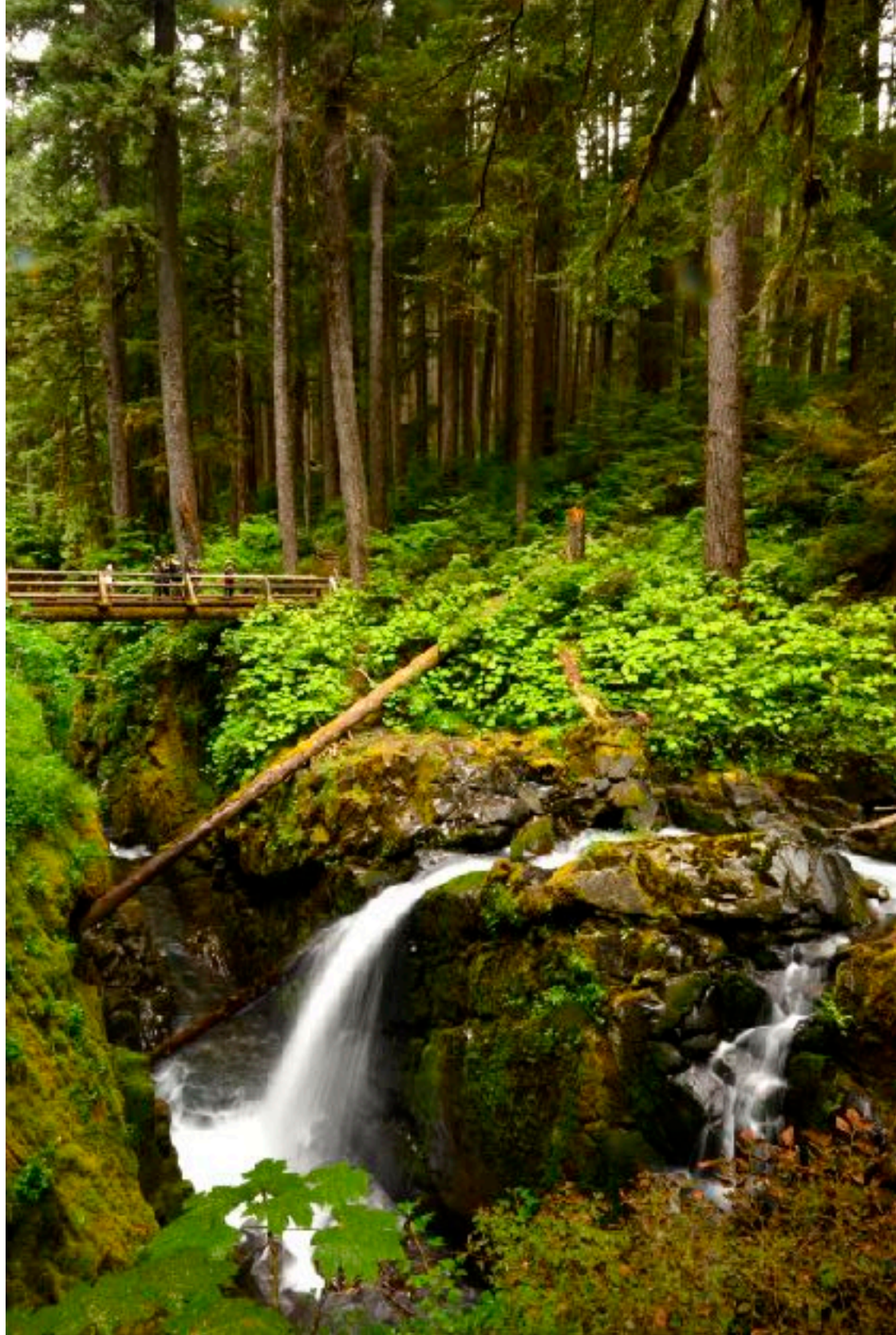
Three key factors to take good photos:

- To tell a story that has a distinct theme
- To highlight the subject
- To remove any irrelevant objects or features

OVERVIEW

The four skills to take good photos:

- Subject scale
- Subject isolation
- Color
- Lighting



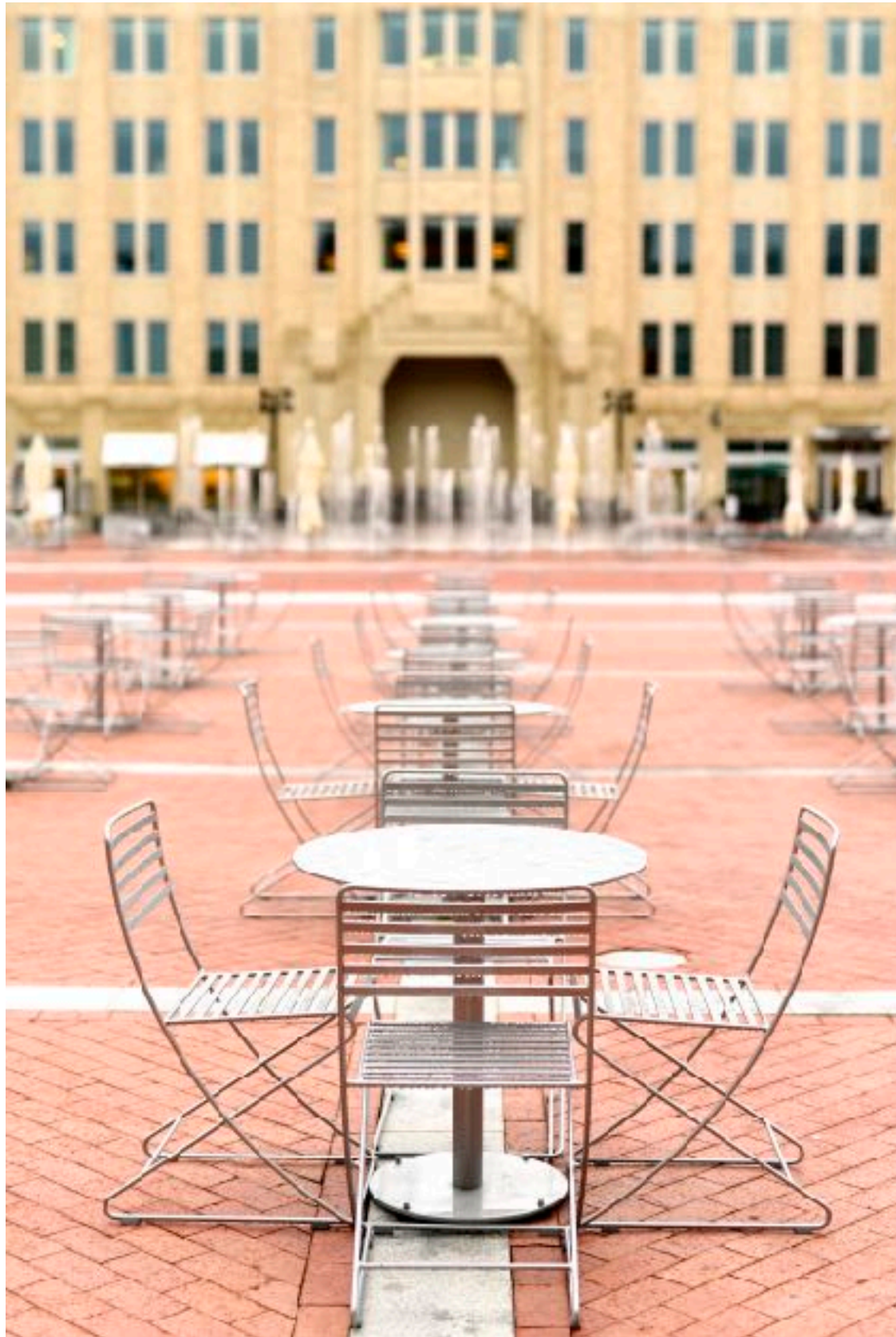






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MOUNTAINS AND HILLS

- **Location** and time

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

–Su Shi (Chinese poet, 1037 - 1101)

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

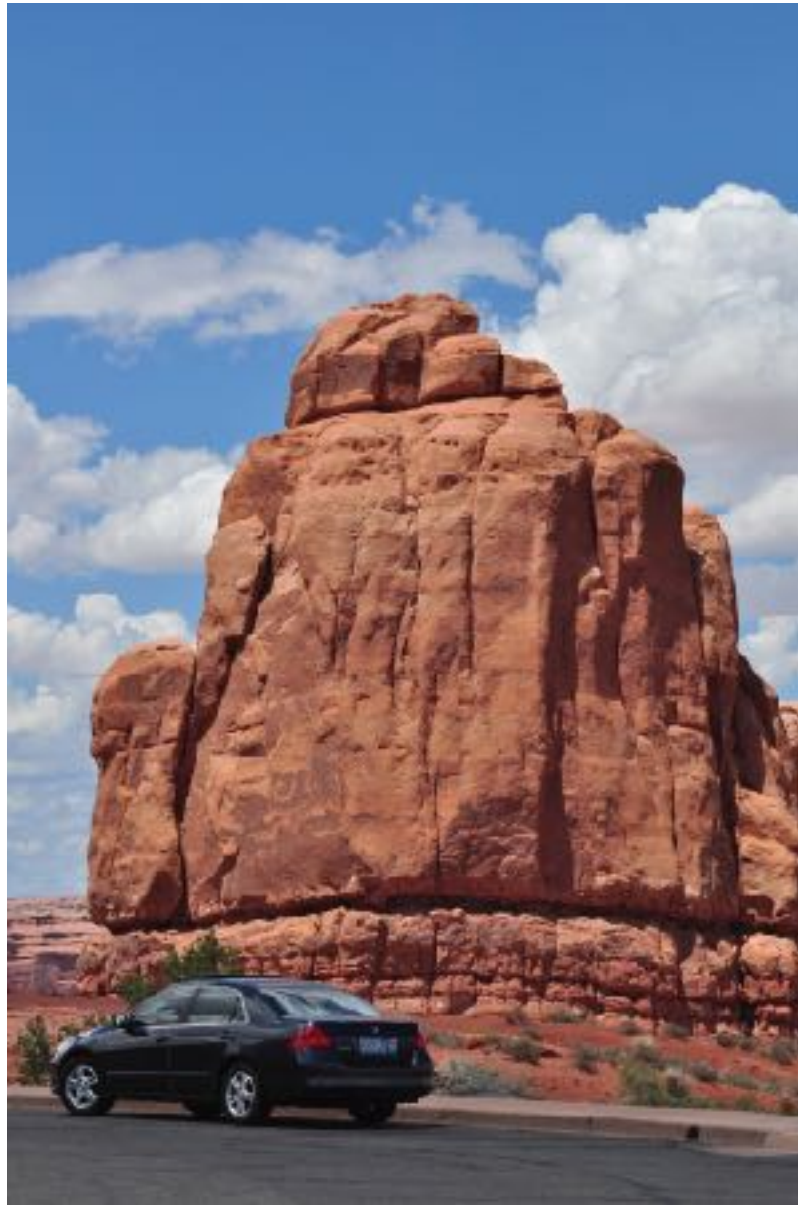
- Surroundings: local conditions



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, UT

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, UT

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS

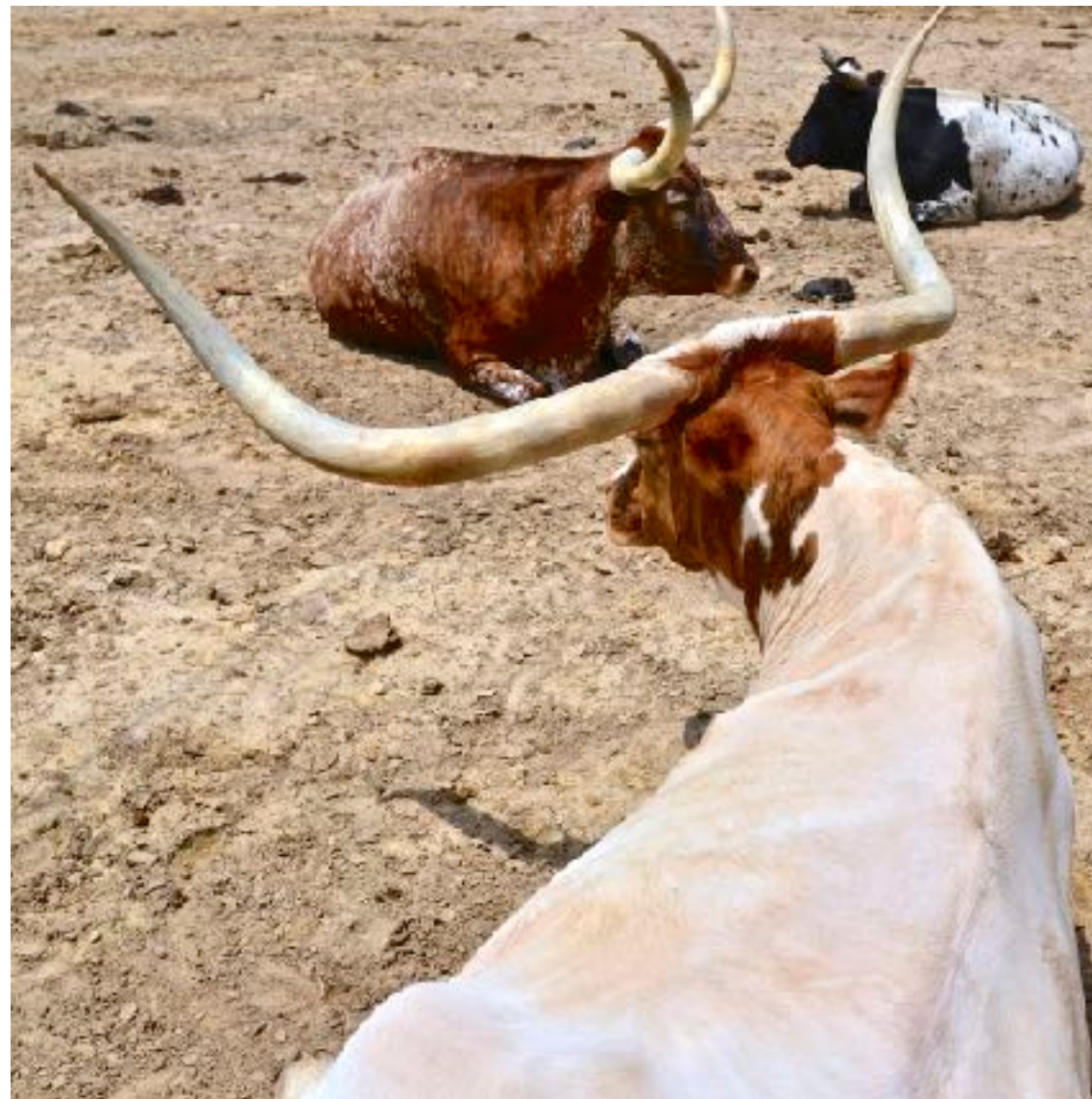
- Composition: s-line



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

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS

- Composition: U-shape



Sigma 35mm f/1.4 DG HSM Art, ISO 200, 35mm, f/7.1, 1/4000
@Fort Worth Stockyards, Fort Worth, TX

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS

- Angle of view: 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

- Angle of view: wide and narrow



AF-S 16-35mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 200, 35mm, f/8, 1/500
@Zion National Park, Cedar City, UT



AF-S 70-200mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 200, 125mm, f/4, 1/3200
@Zion National Park, Cedar City, UT

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS

- **Aperture** and shutter speed



AF-S 24-120mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 100, 24mm, f/4, 1/1000
@Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, Fredericksburg, TX

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS

- **Aperture** and shutter speed



AF-S 16-35mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 100, 16mm, f/8, 1/250
@Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, Fredericksburg, 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

- Surroundings: flowers

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

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



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 1600, 200mm, f/4, 1/1250
@Hampton Beach, Hampton, NH



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

- 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 16-35mm f/4G ED VR, ISO 200, 16mm, f/22, 1/3
@Olympic National Park, Port Angeles, WA



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

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



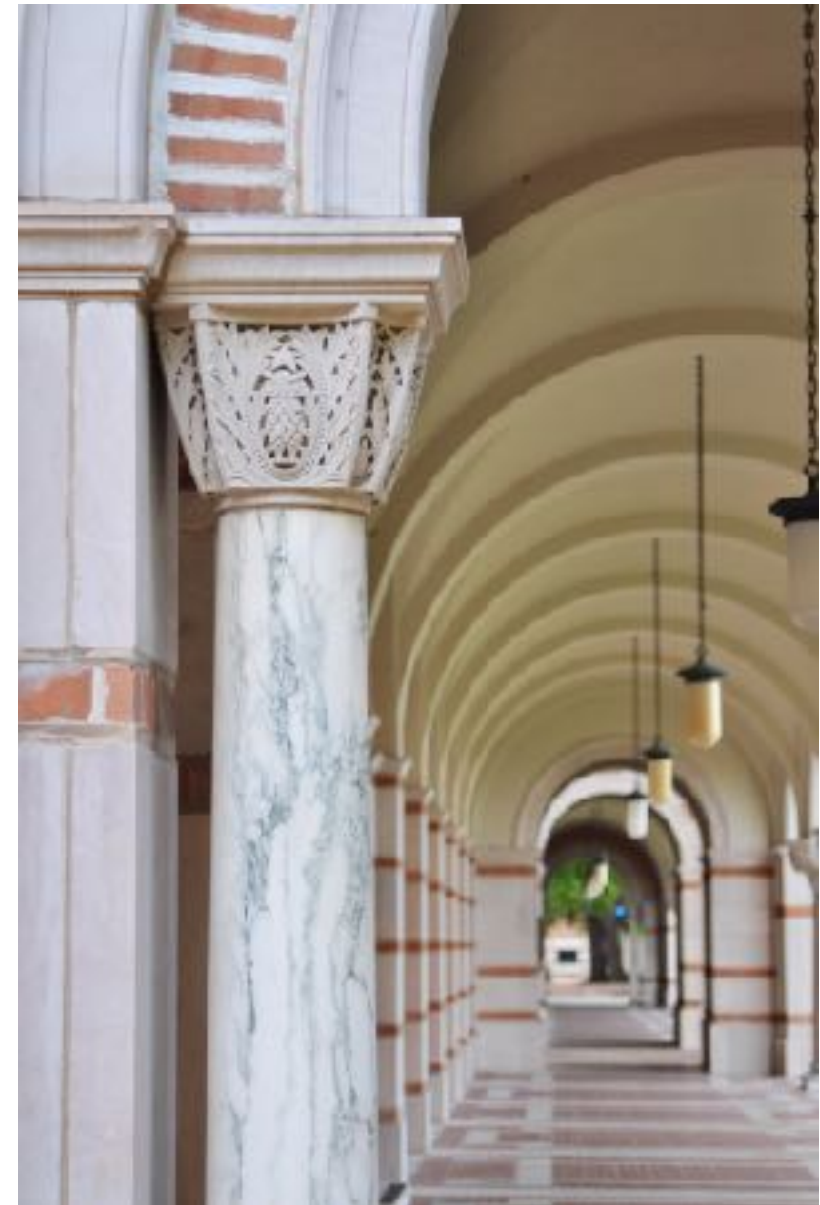
AF-S 18-35mm f/3.5-4.5G ED, ISO 100, 18mm, f/8, 1/25
@Times Square, New York City, NY

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



Sigma 35mm f/1.4 DG HSM Art, ISO 200, 35mm, f/2, 1/4000
@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

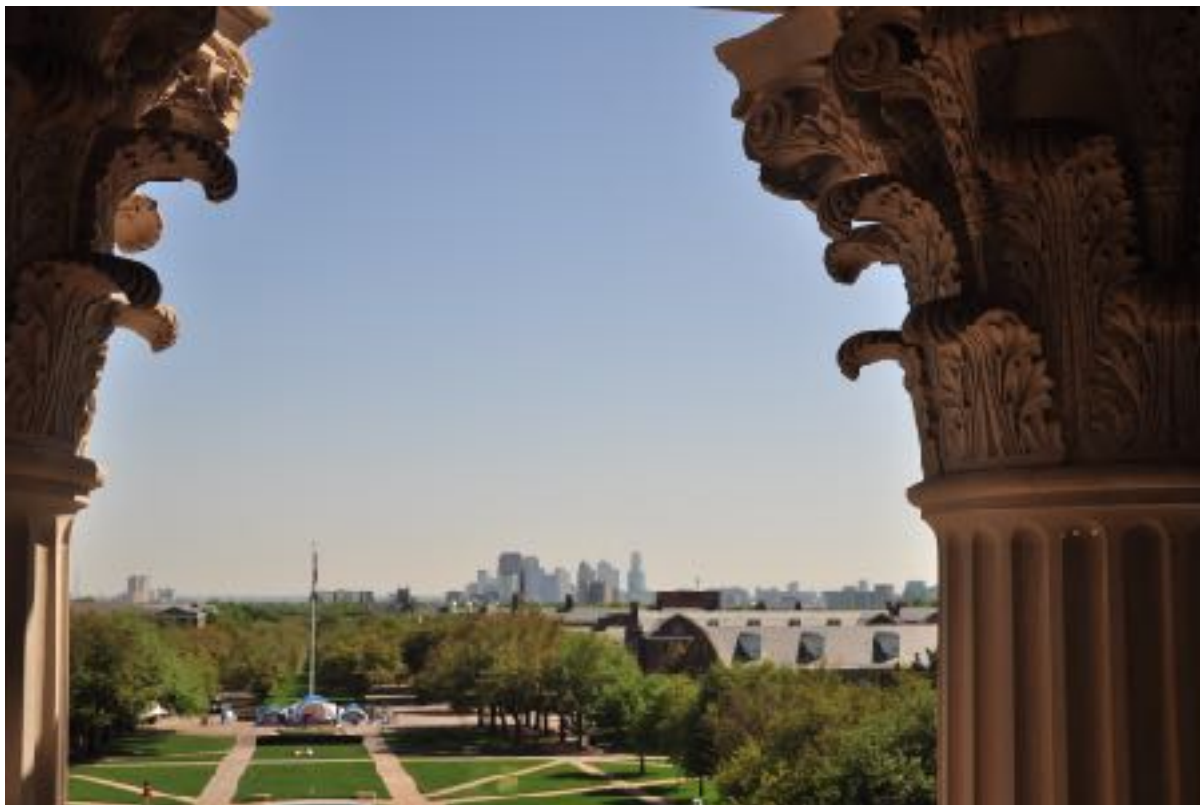
- Composition: asymmetry



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

- 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

- Black and white



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

HUMANISTIC SITES

- Bokeh



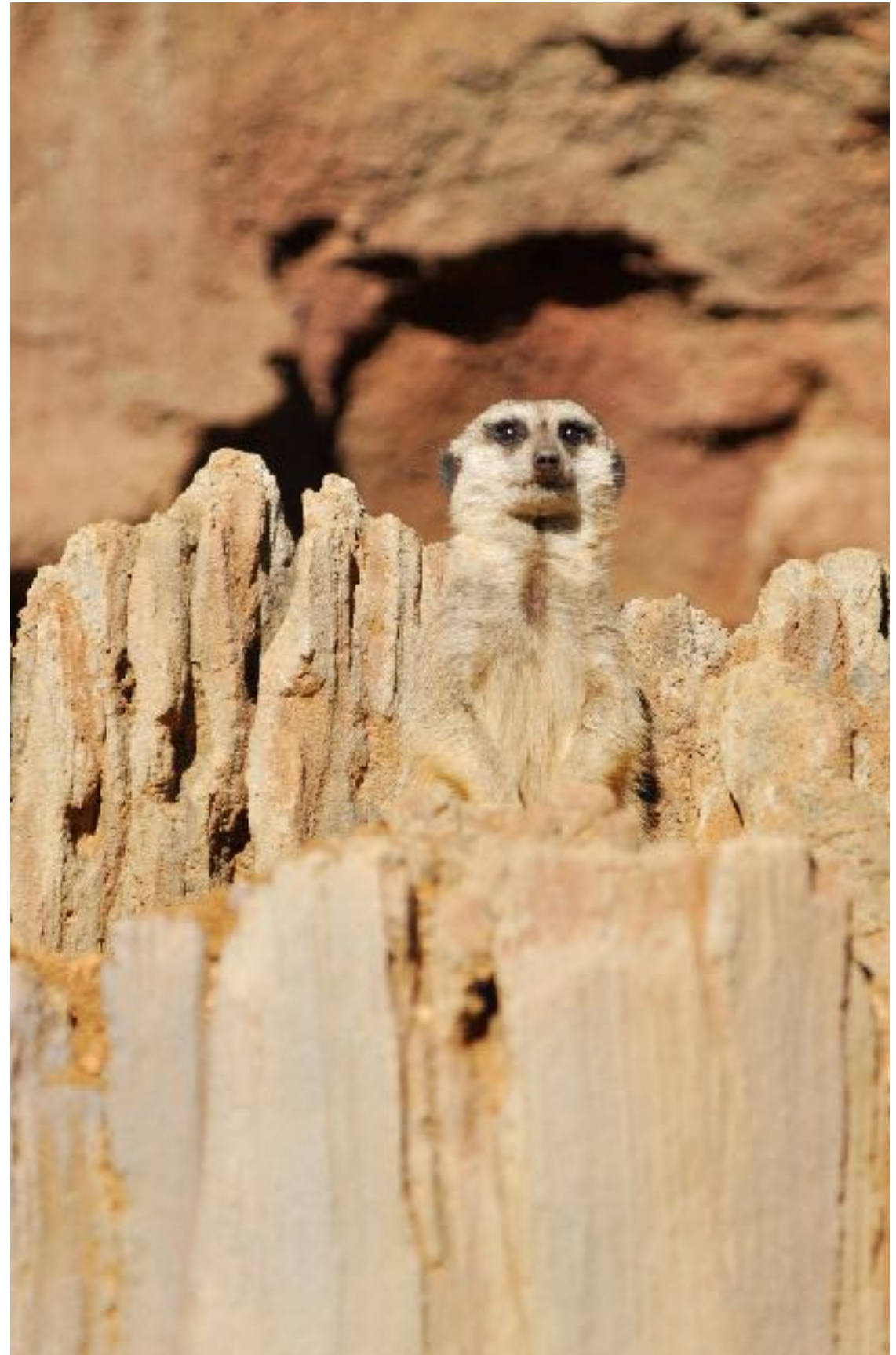
Sigma 50mm f/1.4 DG HSM Art, ISO 200, 35mm, f/4, 1/50
@Sundance Square, Fort Worth, TX



Sigma 35mm f/1.4 DG HSM Art, ISO 200, 35mm, f/2, 1/15
@Rice University, Houston, TX

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



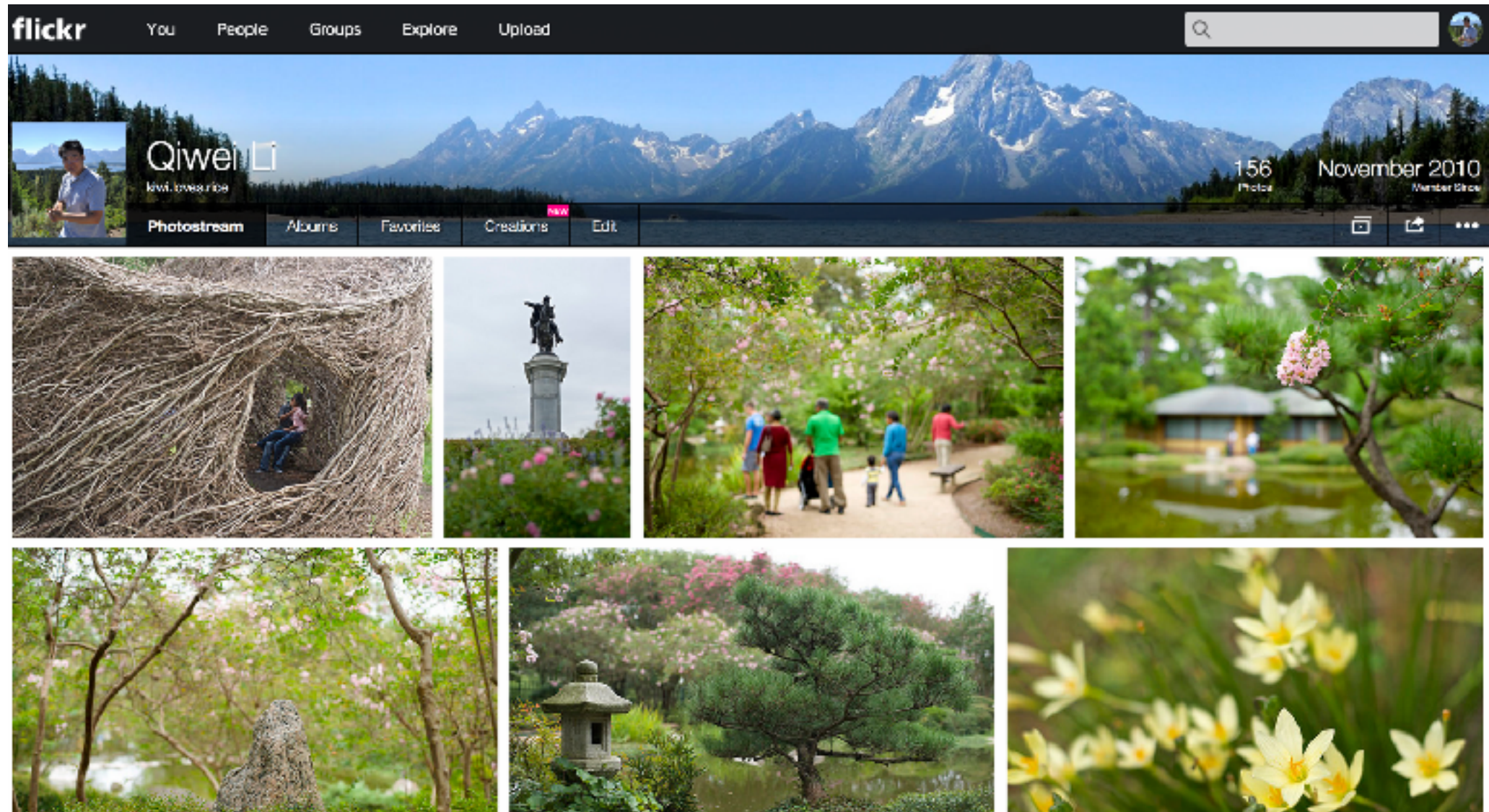
AF-S 85mm f/1.8G, ISO 200, 85mm, f/2.8, 1/200
@Rice University, Houston, TX



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

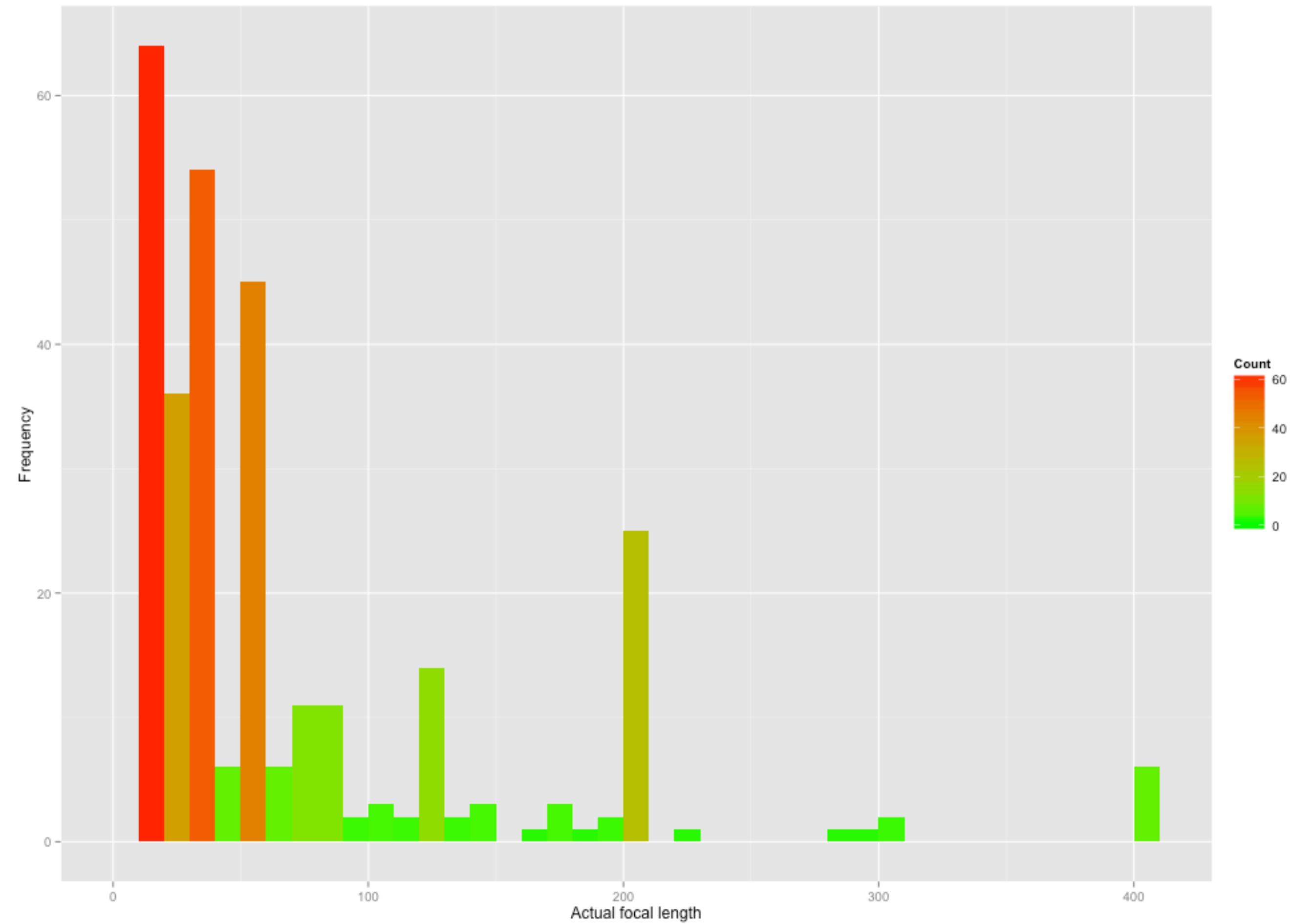
	When, where, what	Orientation and composition	View of angle	Aperture and shutter speed
Mountains and hills	Location: face or side	Landscape or portrait, shape	Wide-angle	Aperture
Seas and lakes	Time: sunrise or sunset	Landscape, golden section	Wide-angle	Shutter speed
Humanistic sites	Emotion: positive or negative	Landscape or portrait, symmetry	Wide-angle or normal	Aperture
Animals	Zoo or home	Landscape or portrait	Telephoto	Shutter speed

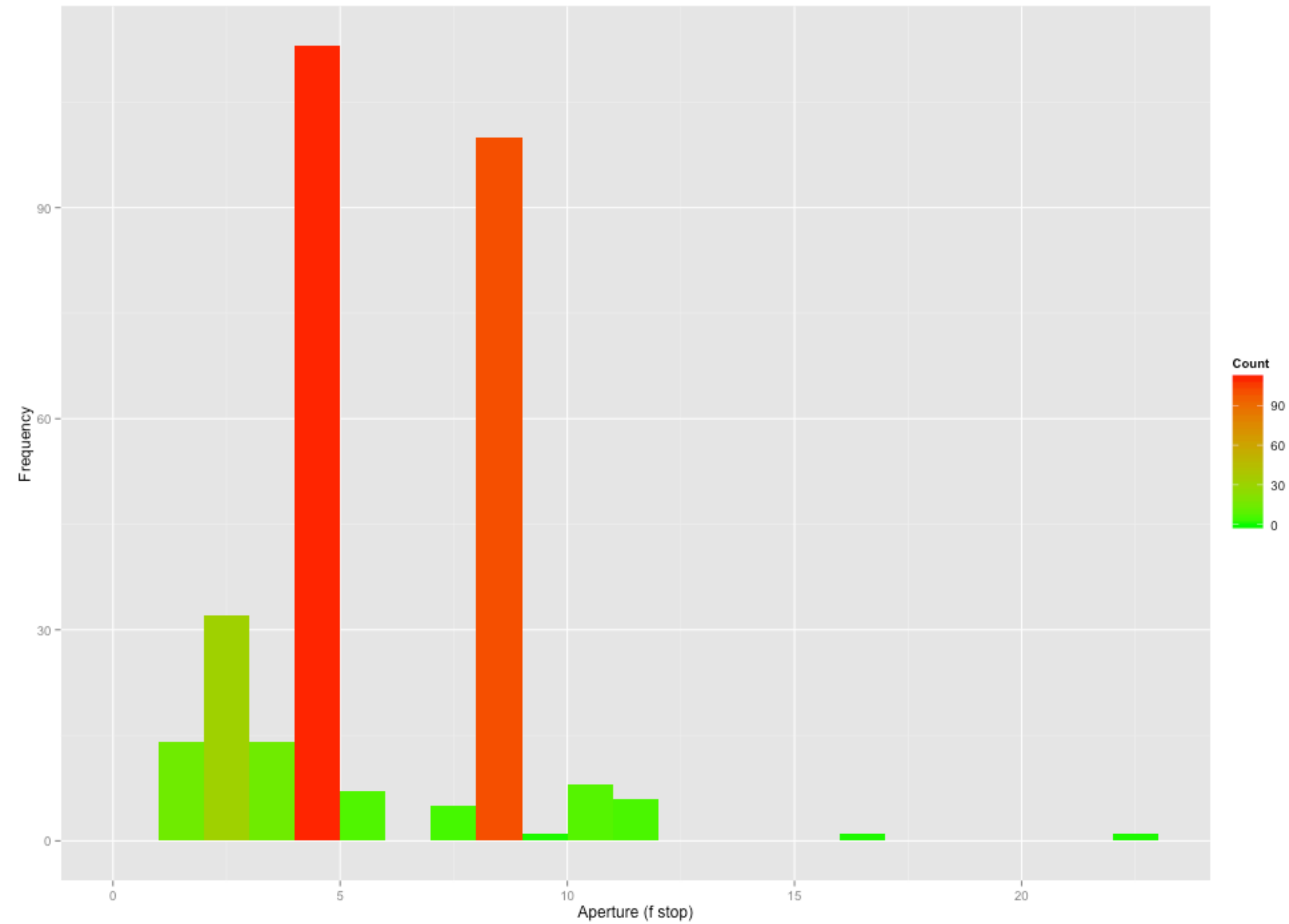
ADVICES

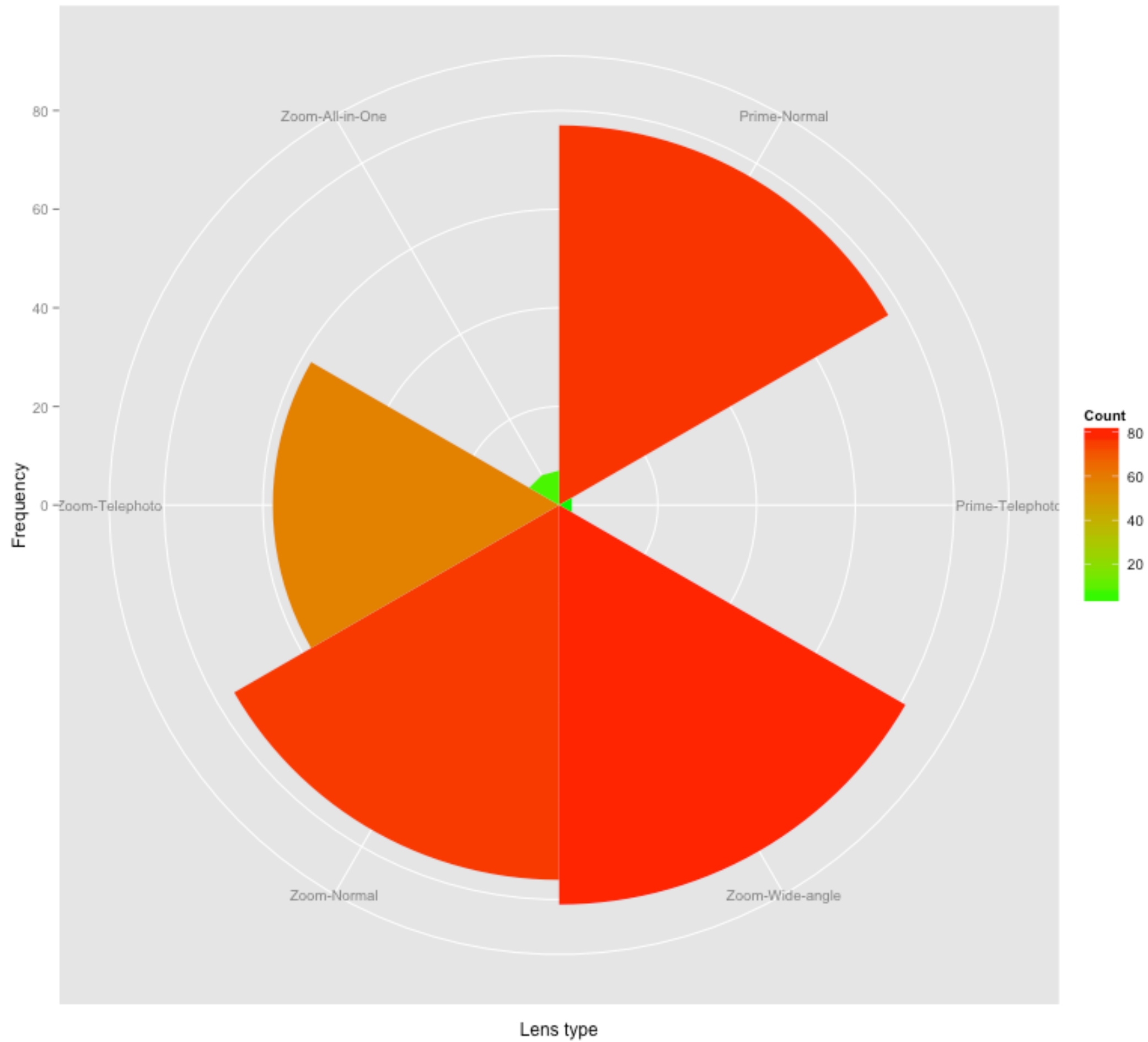
	Lens	Tripod
Mountains and hills	All-in-one zoom lens	Recommended
Seas and lakes	Wide-angle lens	
Humanistic sites	Wide-angle lens, normal lens	Not necessary
Animals	Telephoto lens	

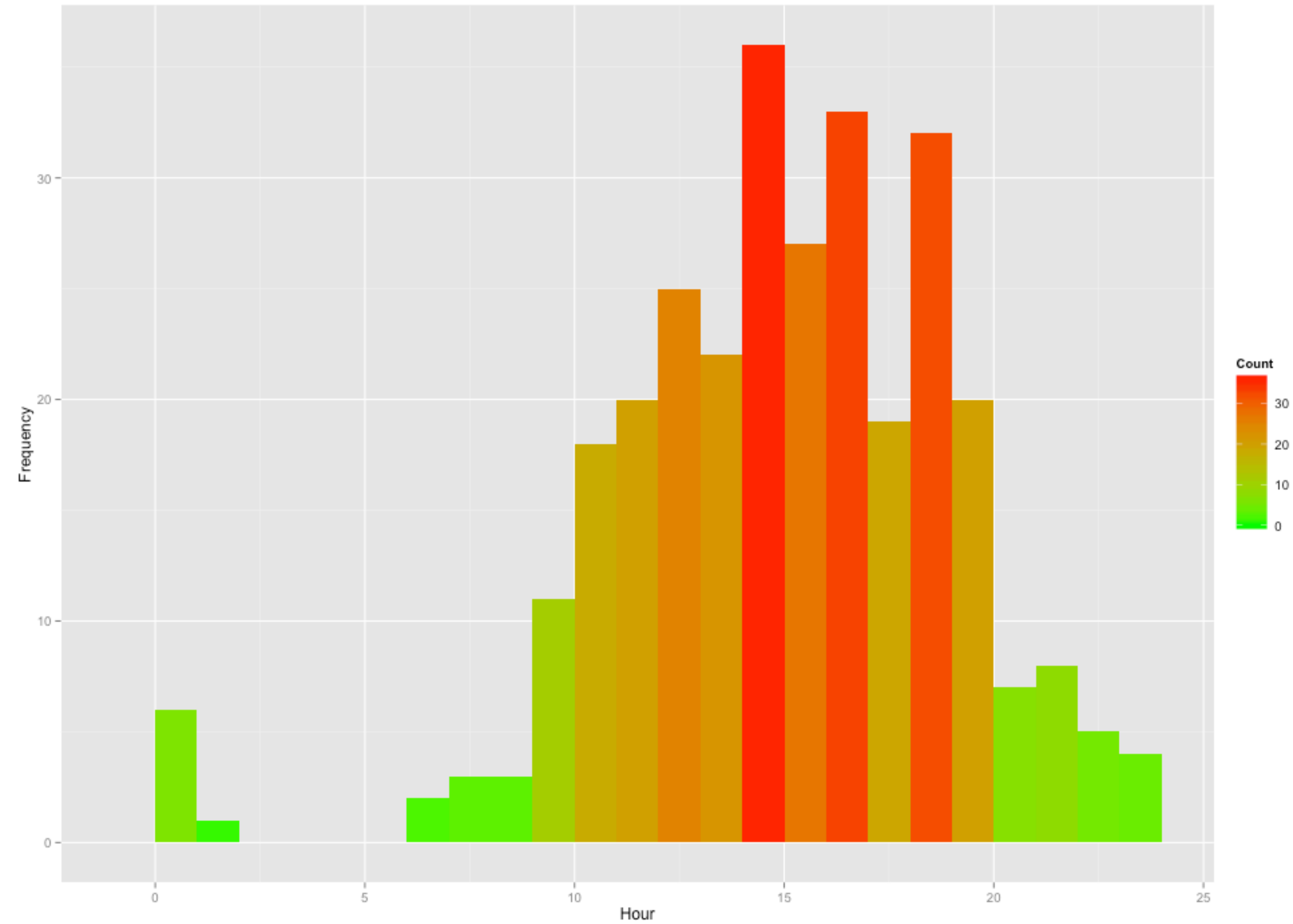
STATISTICS

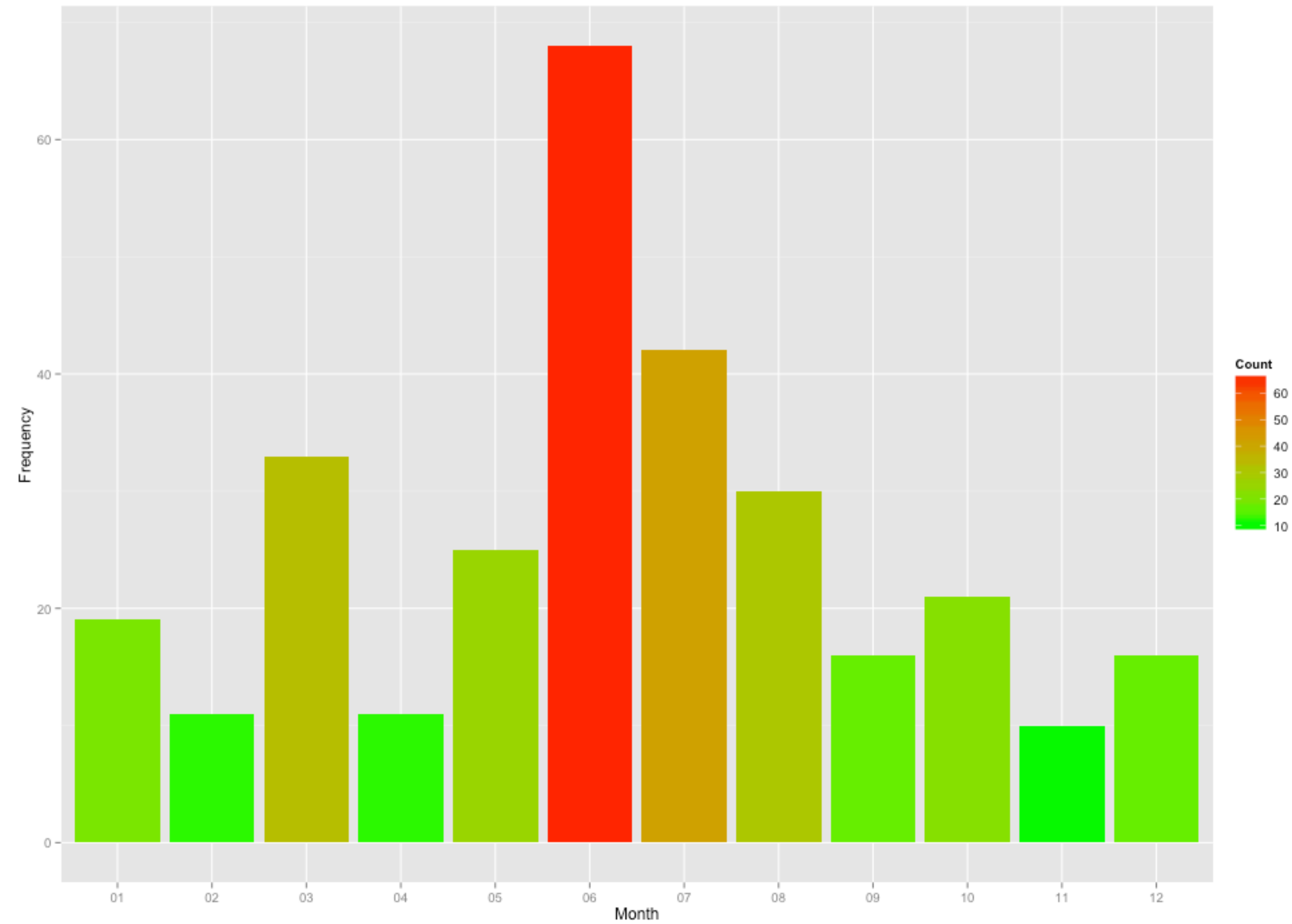
- Select 400 best landscape photos from 60,000 photos in the past 5 years
- Use R to visualize the exif data
- Answer the following questions:
 - What's the most frequently used focal length?
 - What's the most frequently used aperture (f stop)?
 - What's the most frequently used lens?
 - What's the most frequently time?











“Poets make the best photographers.”

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