

# 7 Tips for Shooting Silhouettes

© 2018 ~ Jeff Parker / [ExploreinFocus.com](http://ExploreinFocus.com)

## 1) Find a bright background.

For silhouette shots, the background needs to be brighter than your subject. The sky & bodies of water tend to offer good ops for that. When shooting your subject against the sky you need to be lower than your subject so the horizon doesn't merge with it (*see Tip #5*).

## 2) Make it dramatic.

In post-processing, enhance saturation, heighten contrast, & fashion a fully black silhouette by deepening darks.

## 3) Lower that ISO.

By definition, a silhouette shot consist of many dark shadows. You don't want those shadows full of noise so keep that ISO as low as possible to keep that from happening.

## 4) Use a fast shutter & large aperture.

You want your subject's edges crisp so set your shutter to avoid any motion blur. A large aperture works well because depth-of-field isn't an issue since silhouettes lack detail.

## 5) Seek separation.

Probably the most important factor for silhouettes is separation. It may seem obvious, but I often see folks overlook this key element. Objects that "touch" your subject will merge with it. Space between body parts or background elements is essential.

## 6) Expose in the middle.

Generally, you'll set exposure smack dab in the middle as measured by your camera's meter. If the sun is part of the image it will be blown out & that's okay. Otherwise, don't blow out the highlights. And when it comes to those darks we WANT them underexposed.

## 7) Try B&W conversion.

If your background lacks interest or cool-looking color, convert the image to B&W & see what you get. You might go from "eh" to "ah!"

\* \* \* \* \*

*Award-winning naturalist photographer, Jeff Parker, leads friendly & informative photo tours & workshops focused on the flora & fauna of North, Central, & South America – & now India, too!*

Call (512) 378-3355 ~ or ~

Click [www.ExploreinFocus.com](http://www.ExploreinFocus.com)

