

# 7 Tips for Wildflower Landscapes

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## 1) Complement with color.

Color often attracts us to flowers in the first place so use it to enhance your wildflower images. Look for opportunities within the landscape to use complementary colors when composing the shot (*colors across from one another on the color wheel*)—e.g., blue/orange, yellow/purple & red/green.

## 2) Build interest with blocks of color.

Fields of wildflowers can be breathtaking, but usually still need an element of interest. What do you do when there isn't one? Try using a block of color created by the flowers themselves as your "element of interest." You could even use that block as a kind of a focal point (*see Tip #5*).

## 3) Cut out distractions.

Take a shot & then check your camera with an eye out for distracting elements. Are there bright spots in the background that draw the eye to places you don't really want it to go? What about power lines or the edge of something else unsightly (*like a vehicle, perhaps*)? Is there something there that you didn't notice when the flowers first caught your attention? With beautiful scenery it's easy to be overwhelmed by the splendor & miss the ugly elements that keep your image from being a keeper.

## 4) Angle for a unique perspective.

Try getting down low & angling your camera up so that it almost appears as if you're capturing the field of flowers from a flower's perspective.

## 5) Maintain a firm focus on the focal point.

Not only do you want your image to have a clear focal point, but you want that focal point to be clearly in focus. Sounds obvious, but I sometimes see landscape shots with ambiguous focal points. If one special spot doesn't beg to be your focal point try focusing a third of the way into the scene. That often does the trick.

## 6) Flow with the blow.

Windy days can make for frustrating photography, but can also add interest to fields of wildflowers. Get setup on a tripod & start playing with slower shutter speeds. By varying the ISO & aperture you can maintain the same exposure at different shutter speeds. The results may surprise you!

## 7) Walk about.

When you see a breathtaking scene it's tempting to think that's the best place to take the shot. So take the shot but then go for a little walk-about. There could be an even better view of the same amazing field as few as 10 feet to your left or right.

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*Award-winning naturalist photographer, Jeff Parker, leads friendly & informative photo tours & workshops focused on the flora & fauna of North, Central, & South America. And now he also leads tours to India to photograph Bengal tigers in the wild!*

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