
GUIDE TO LOW LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY
Top tips to help you take better photos after sunset or in darker environments
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Use wider **aperture** (smaller f-number)

1

This allows more light into the camera to get a good exposure. It also gives you a more pronounced background blur (shallow depth of field).

If you are shooting landscapes, this may not be the best option. You would probably want to use a large f-number (narrow aperture) to ensure more of the scene is in focus.

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Use faster **shutter speeds** to freeze action & avoid camera shake

2

If handholding your camera, the rule of thumb is to use a shutter speed with a reciprocal value to the focal length to keep images sharp e.g. 1/100 sec for 100mm focal length.

In low light, this can be difficult if you don't have a lens that allows smaller f-numbers or if you don't want to increase your ISO.

Also turn on Image Stabilisation is you have the option on your lens or camera.

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Creative **Long exposure images**

3



Using slower shutter speeds allows you to capture movement as blur. You will need a tripod and self-timer / remote release setting on the camera to ensure that the static subjects in your photo are sharp and in focus.

Perfect for car light trails, fireworks, funfairs, light painting plus lots more.



Try **Burst Mode** (continuous shooting)

4

Useful for capturing action shots of moving subjects - improves chances of obtaining an in focus image, in low light situations.

Also allows you to select the composition of your choice - when you subject is in location you want them to be in the frame.

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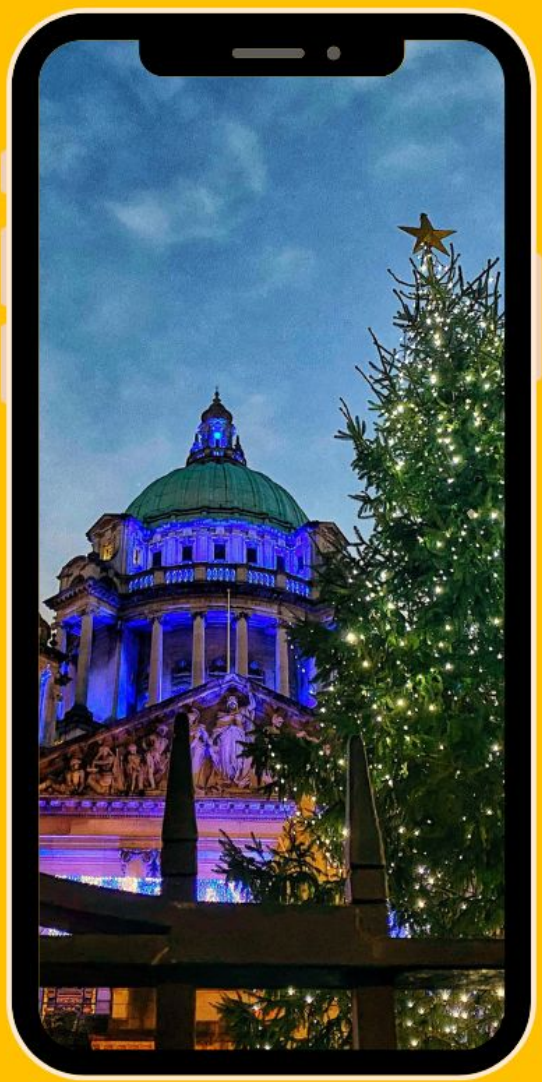


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White balance - the colour of light

5

Try experimenting with the White Balance setting on your camera or whilst editing to enhance your images.

If there is artificial light in the frame, you can adjust the warmth or coolness to produce a totally different look to your shot.

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Increase your **ISO setting**

6



If you find that your image is too dark, based on the aperture setting and shutter speed you wish to use, increase your ISO.

This makes your sensor more sensitive to light and is useful when shooting anywhere you don't want to use flash.

Depending on your camera, you need to check when using a high ISO number as it could impact on image quality - introducing noise or grain. Experiment and see what works with your make & model of camera.



Convert to **Black & White** when editing

7

If you are forced to use a higher ISO and the image doesn't look so good due to colour issues, try converting to black & white.

It's a little more forgiving and it avoids the need for additional light sources being used when taking the shot.

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Shoot in **RAW** format

8

If your camera allows you to shoot in RAW format, it's a bonus for low light conditions.

RAW files capture all the uncompressed data from your camera sensor, allowing you to take better quality images and rectify exposure errors made when shooting.

It won't turn a terribly exposed photo into a good one, but it gives you more leeway to adjust highlights, shadows and noise in your images.



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