



10 TIPS for Photographing Flowers

If you're just starting out in photography, capturing beautiful floral images are a perfect way to learn about your camera without feeling pressured. Here are **10 simple tips** to create stress-free floral photographs!

Tip 1

Avoid strong daylight.

It's ideal to wait for a cloudy day to get your floral photos. Harsh sunlight will add heavy shadows and disguise the beautiful detail in those petals.

Instead shoot on an overcast day with soft light to get a 3D effect with texture.

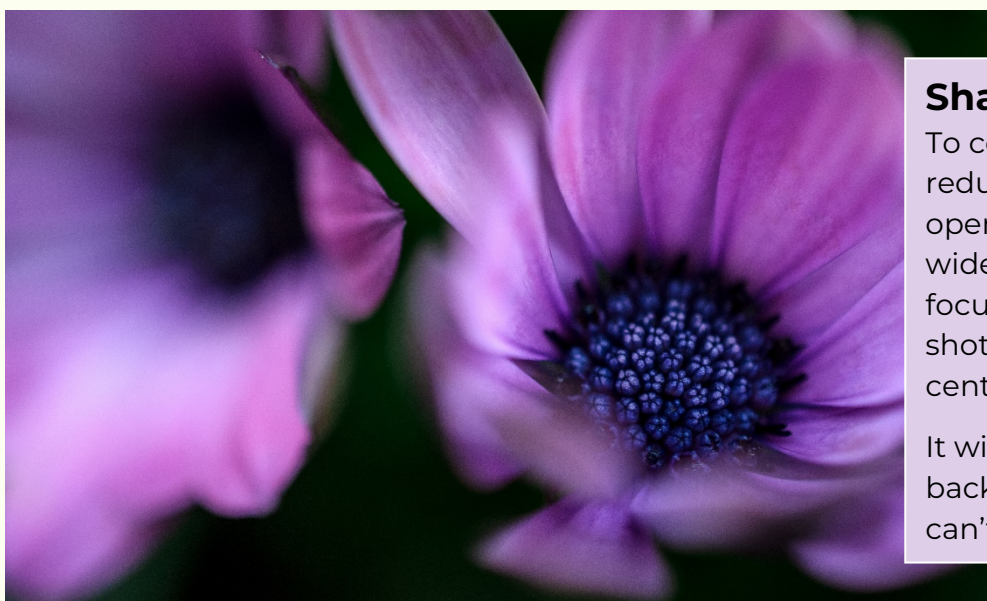


Tip 2

Shallow depth of field.

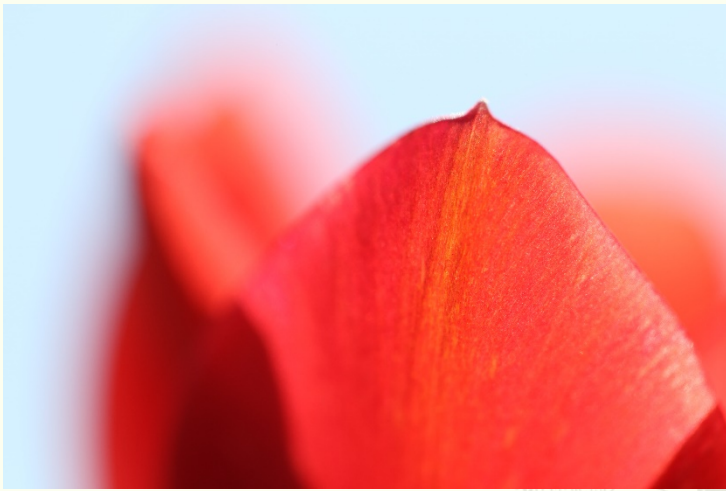
To complement soft lighting reduce the depth of field by opening your aperture to f/4 or wider. This reduced area of focus will blur the edges of the shot and focus attention on the centre of the shot.

It will also eliminate any background distracts if you can't get any closer.



Tip 3

Use a white reflector. If you are stuck with harsh sunlight with no alternatives, then use a white reflector on the opposite side of your flowers. This will at least bounce light back into the shadow area and act as fill light to stop dark areas appearing in your shots. Use bedsheets, cards or polystyrene as cheaper options.



Tip 4

Shield the wind. Shooting outdoors you'll always be fighting the elements. To limit the movement of your flowers, block the path of any wind to keep your shots free from motion blur.

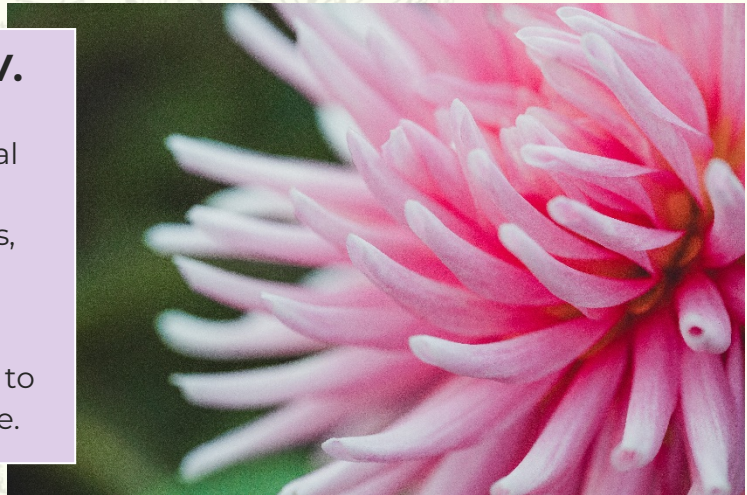
Shooting indoors would be the best alternative but not always practical.

Tip 5

Don't go for the obvious POV.

Mix up your creativity and look for different points of view. Overhead floral shots are expected and overdone. Instead try minimalist crops, half crops, abstract views and even upside down!

If you want your images to stand out amongst a gallery of photos you need to make them unique at a thumbnail size.



Tip 6

Use foreground bokeh. Shallow depth of field is normally structured, so the background is out of focus, but there are creative opportunities to make your foreground blurry instead.

Try bringing other flowers into the fore of your shot to create a frame to shoot through, creating a voyeuristic perspective. Focus on your main flower and let the wide aperture blur everything else around it.



Tip 7

Think about complementing colours. Most flowers blossom one colour, with different tones/shades. But if you want to feature several plants then try to balance out your choices using complementing colours. Oranges work with blues; reds sit nicely with greens and yellows tend to look cute alongside purples.

Tip 8

Use a Macro setting or lens.

To get the best quality finish to your flower photographs getting up close is always the best approach.

Look for the macro 🌱 icon on your camera modes to activate your close-up function. This will automatically reduce the DoF and create a small spot focus area – perfect for flowers.



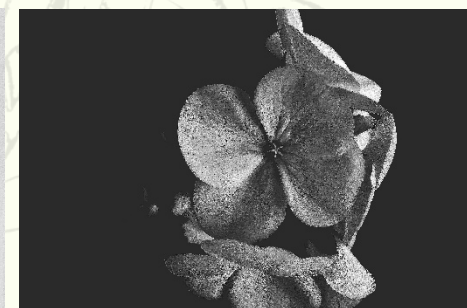
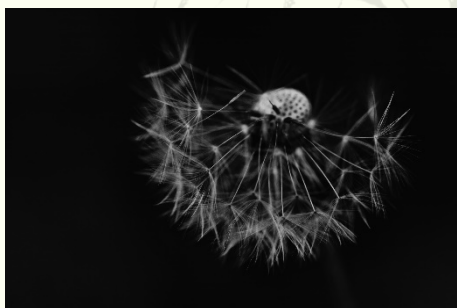
Tip 9

Take a spray bottle for water effects.

If you want to add an environmental atmosphere to your flowers, then give your flowers a blast of cold water. Look for the droplets of water forming on the petals and dripping off the tips for a rain-soaked look.

Tip 10

Don't be afraid of B&W. It's natural to assume flowers should always be shot in colour, and you're probably right 99% of the time – but don't dismiss the power and opportunity to create a different message in monochrome. Desaturating colour replaces the energy with emotion and atmosphere. It may not work all the time but dropping your shots into B&W may create a totally different story than the one you were planning on.



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