

Nature photography



Taking photos of wildlife and wild places is lots of fun. You don't need a fancy camera with a big long lens to do it, either. Even a compact camera or phone camera can take some great photographs. Here some tips to get started.

The little things

Insects and plants make wonderful subjects for photographs. You can find them in almost any park or garden, so there is always plenty of choice.

Unlike most birds and mammals, if you are careful you can get right up to insects to take a photo without frightening them away.

Start off with beetles first, as they're less likely to fly away than butterflies!

Get low

For really cool photos, try showing the world from the wildlife's point of view!

Get down low so your camera is eye level with the creature you want to photograph.

You might have to crouch or even lie on the floor, so make sure there's nothing sharp or stinging in the way first.

For the best light, try to make sure the sun is behind you.

Do some research

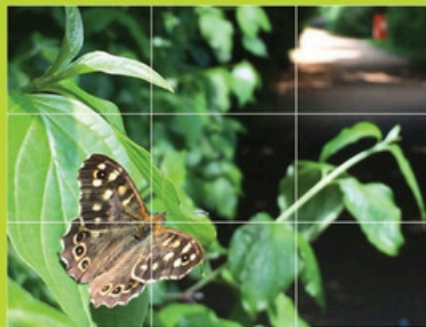
Learn as much as you can about an animal you want to photograph. What habitat does it like? What does it eat? The more you know, the better your chances of photographing it. By knowing what caterpillars, like this puss moth caterpillar, like to eat, you can search them out!



The rule of thirds

This one's a bit tricky, but can really help make your photos more exciting. Instead of always putting your subject in the middle, try putting it slightly to one side for a change. Imagine that your photo is split up into nine equal sections, separated by lines.

Put the most interesting part of your photo in a spot where two of the lines cross over each other. Check out this photo of a speckled wood butterfly for an example. For added impact, try to make sure your animal is facing towards the centre of your photograph.



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To be consistent as a wildlife photographer you need plenty of time, dedication and patience. Learning as much as you can about your subject: behaviours, light and weather conditions, can all help you capture that award-winning image.

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Steve Race
Wildlife photographer



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