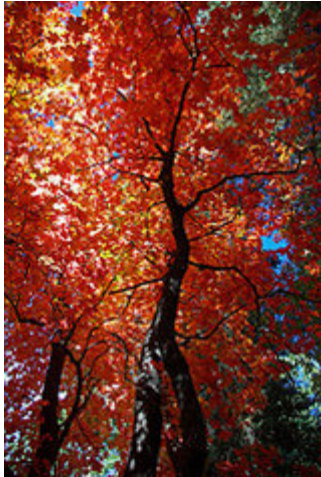


Fall Photo Tips

Learn How to Photograph Fall Foliage as the Leaves Change Color

By [Liz Masoner](#), About.com Guide



Fall Leaves by Coconino National Forest ©

© Coconino National Forest (via Flickr)

Fall is a wonderful time to get out your camera and capture the splendor of the world as it puts on its party clothes for one last dance before winter. Leaves change from rich green into jeweled tones of red, orange, and yellow. A few simple tips will help your fall photography shine as brightly as the leaves this year!

When and Where to Find Fall Colors

Leaves change color based on several different environmental factors. As such, the times vary from location to location. Most states see color change in October but some see it as early as September with others waiting until November. Lauren Himiak, our National Parks Guide, has a [great list of when to expect fall foliage by state](#).

What Time of Day is Best for Fall Colors

In general, the more direct light the better when working with fall foliage photography. I say this because the brighter the leaves, the more impact your photo will have most of the time. Early morning and later afternoon when the angle of the sun is more pronounced and light is less diffuse around the [Golden Hour](#) is a great time for fall leaf photographs.

What Weather/Lighting is Best for Fall Photography

Bright sunshine is a big help with fall photography most of the time. However, just after a rain is a special time for fall photos. The rain washes pollution out of the air, rinses off the leaves, and darkens tree bark. This serves to intensify the colors and clarity of your fall photos when the sun comes out just after the rain.

Exposure Tips

The brighter leaves of fall can often reflect light much more readily than fresh green leaves. Because of this, fall foliage can often wind up as blown out highlights. Try underexposing about a [1/2 stop](#). This will not only help prevent overexposing the leaves but will help intensify the colors as well. Also, when working with fall foliage it is a good idea to try different metering methods. Center-weighted average will not work for all scenes just like multipoint metering may not work well for another scene. Test out the different metering methods on your camera so that you are comfortable in finding the right one for the right scene.

Try a Filter

There are several filters that can help you make sure your fall foliage photos pop. A color intensifier filter (yes, that's really what it is called) will bring out the color better. An UV filter will clarify the image by cutting through any haze in the air. A polarizing filter will remove reflections from water surfaces if you are photographing fallen leaves in ponds.

Composition

Don't forget about good composition when working with your fall foliage photos. The [rule of thirds](#), [natural framing](#), and [point of view](#) are just some of the [composition ideas](#) you can use to make sure your photos create visual impact.

Lesson: Fall Collage



Shoot several pictures over the next few weeks and save them to a folder named fall collage lesson. Your shots should include close ups as well as landscapes of the different looks of fall as it progresses. You may also use props such as pumpkins or anything fall related but do not have any people in your shots. When you are finished you will be creating a collage in Photoshop and you will be grade by your use of the following:

Exposure

White Balance

Rule of Thirds

Leading Lines

Color Depth

Dramatic Affect