TRICKY LOCATIONS

5 TIPS TO MAKING TRICKY LOCATIONS WORK FOR YOU

BY PARKER & ABBEY

WELCOME

Hey there! Thank you so much for downloading this freebie! We hope you find it useful!

We know the feeling of showing up to a location and not knowing exactly how it will work in photos! Sometimes locations can be very tricky to work with - you want the end result to be beautiful but the location itself is not promising. What should you do?

Read on to find out!

— PARKER & ABBEY

01

CROP

When shooting in a tricky location, cropping in tight to exclude items you don't want in the photo is helpful. Notice how the picture on the top left has cars, signs, buildings, and leaves on the ground.. By getting closer to the subject and "cropping" those things out the image, you get a less distracting photo. You can also crop in editing, as needed, but we find it's better to do as much as you can in camera.

02

SHOOT VERTICALLY

Many times a location that doesn't look promising can be transformed if you shoot vertically. Notice how the photo at the top has trees, stair rails, wooden poles, and plants off to the sides. By shooting vertically like the photo on the right, you can cut out the distracting items and focus on the subject.
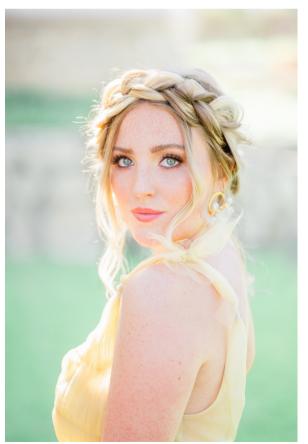
03

PLACE SUBJECT INTENTIONALLY

Intentionally place your subject in places that are less distracting and draw the eye to them. For example, the photo on the bottom right was taken at the spot in the photo on the top right. We intentionally placed him on the lower steps and shot angled down so the background wasn't distracting.

FOUR:
LOW APERTURE

When the background seems to be too distracting or busy, use a low aperture to blur it as much as possible. Additionally, it is helpful to pull the subject away from the background and zoom in on them (or get closer to them).

Notice the photo on the top right - you can see the outlines in the rock, the people in the background are outlined, and the harsh light is more intense.

The photo on the bottom right has a more blurred background and the harsh light isn't as distracting.

05

USE SUBJECTS TO BLOCK ITEMS

Sometimes there may be a fire hydrant, gate, stop sign or other distracting items in the place you want to shoot. You can place your subjects in front of those items to hide them and keep the distractions out.

For example, in the photo on the right we placed the family in front of a gate. The gate was a ways behind the family with bright, neon yellow signs on it. We intentionally placed the family to cover the gate in the background to keep the background clean and the editing minimal.