



focus on photography

## Let lighthouses guide you to strong photos



Everyone loves lighthouses. They possess an almost magical attraction that captivates all of us.

Perhaps this is why they've always been a favorite subject for both professional and amateur photographers.

Photographed with thought and care, lighthouses can reward you with strong and satisfying pictures.

Good lighthouse photographs begin

Good lighthouse photographs begin by carefully studying the lighthouse itself and its surroundings.

Is there a photogenic cove you can place in the foreground or perhaps a plece of driftwood or pile of rocks nearby you can use as a foundation in your composition? Can you get into a camera position to include whitecaps in the picture to add a dramatic touch? Or is there a tree or two that can serve to "frame" the lighthouse?

In other words, spend some time thinking and planning out your picture so that you can produce a photograph with strength and stopping-power, rather than just take a snapshot.

Decide what time of day might be

best for your shot – a sunrise, sunset or even night picture. What kind of weather would work best – a blue sky day with white, puffy clouds, or a stormy day that will ad drama and mood to your photographs?

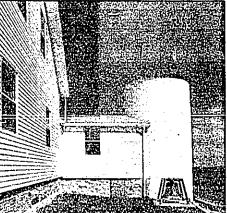
I waited for a dramatic, early moming sky to take this photograph of Maine's Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse. A wide angle lens helped me obtain this unusual composition and a red filter helped contrast the white lighthouse against the sky.

As in all good photography, pay close attention to depth-of-field. It was important in this shot to get everything sharp and in focus from front to back. Most often, all it takes is a small aperture to do the trick.

Lighthouses, over the years, have guided mariners to warmth and safety. Now let them be your guide to making strong additions to your photographic portfolio.

## Short shot

Monte Nagler will be conducting a two-week photo workshop to Spain June 27 to July 11. Call Nagler at his office, (810) 426-0333, for more information.



Maine subject: Monte Nagler walted for a dramatic sky to photograph Maine's Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse. Notice how use of a red filter added important contrast to his shot.

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