

Urban Night Landscape Photography Cheat Sheet Joe Redski

Location

Cityscapes

Ideal for urban landscapes with their towering buildings and colorful lights.

Streets

Dark, atmospheric streets with lighting can provide great subjects.

Buildings

Unique or characterful buildings, especially those that stand out at night. Houses, modern structures, etc.

Landmarks

Local landmarks accessible after hours are excellent for night photography.

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Equipment

Camera

Any camera works; consider lens types based on desired framing (wide angle 18mm - 50mm, telephoto 50mm - 200mm, prime 28mm, 35mm, 50mm, etc).

Tripod & Sturdy Tripod Head

Essential for stability during long exposures.

Shutter Release or Self-Timer

Helps avoid camera shake or use self timer in camera.

Pro Mist Filter

Recommended for enhancing light sources in night photography. 1/4 mist filter is great.

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Composition

Leading Lines

Utilize roads and pavements as leading lines towards your subject.

Night Lighting

Ensure there is adequate lighting from shop lights and streetlight and building lights to illuminate subject and add ambience.

Additional Elements

Incorporate interesting elements like street lamps, foliage, trees, statues and monuments, or unique architectural features.

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Camera Settings

Focal Length

Choose based on framing needs.

Camera Mode

Manual Mode for full control over ISO, Aperture, and Shutter Speed, or Aperture Priority for ease.

Metering Mode

Use multi metering mode for balanced exposure. (Name might differ depending upon the camera)

White Balance

Choose Auto White Balance and shoot in RAW

Focus

Single shot Auto Focus with the Wide focusing area. Or try Manual focus with the Peaking Display on.

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Camera Settings

Bracketing

Shoot multiple exposures - choose from a bracketing range from 0.7ev - 3.0ev to capture a range of light conditions. Take extra shots for insurance.

Aperture

f/2.8 - f/8 depending on desired depth of field.

ISO

ISO 100 for higher quality images.

Shutter Speed

Adjust based on aperture and ISO to achieve the correct exposure. Check exposure meter and histogram to make sure exposure is correct before taking the shot.