



## Tips and tricks for taking great nature photos

What makes a great photo? There are a few things you need to think about when taking photos of nature.

Firstly, be respectful of the creatures and plants that you are photographing. This is an important part of nature photography. While in the Gardens, don't pick flowers or leaves and don't get too close to birds and lizards. This is their home and we all need to care for it.

When choosing your photo, take the time to look at what you can see in the frame of your camera.

Things to look for:

1. Is your subject in focus? This is really important. Your photo is going to be enlarged to A3 size, so you really need to make it as clear and detailed as you can.
2. Where is the light in your photo coming from? Bright light from a sunny day can make photos look flat. Early morning and late afternoon can make softer light and great shadows. Light coming through trees can often create a lovely effect, that is much softer.
3. If your subject is too dark you can lose a lot of the detail. Think about changing the lighting. Use the flash on your camera, or a torch to add more light in a shaded area. Using a torch to give lighting behind your subject can make a great effect.
4. Is your subject close or far away? If your subject is too small and lost in the distance, it won't have the same impact. If you can, take shots from close to the subject and further away, that way you can see which works best.
5. Are there things in the photo that might distract people from your subject? For example, other people, bright objects. See if you can move your camera to remove these distractions.
6. If photographing insects, birds or other animals, try to get them in action, rather than just sitting. For birds, bathing in the water, drinking from a pond, or eating nectar from a flower. This can be difficult, so you should practice. But you can also get some great shots when birds are sitting on a branch or on the ground interacting with each other. For insects, catching them feeding on nectar is something that is easy to find in the gardens.
7. Change your view of your subject. Sometimes the most obvious shot isn't the best. If you photograph a flower from above in bright light it can look very flat. If you get down to the level of the flower, and take a photo from the side, you will get a very different light effect and see more of the flower's structure.
8. Most importantly, have fun! Play with different images and how you take them. Feel free to experiment. Put your subject in the centre of the frame, take another with it at the side. Get down on the ground and see it from a different angle. You might see something that no one else has noticed!