

Tips for Photographing Size & Scale



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In Photography terms we call it Size and Scale, but really we are just talking about Size. Size gives a person looking at a photograph a frame of reference. Scale comes in when we compare Size to something with which we are familiar with such as a person.



Including foreground subjects such as a tree, rock or lake in front of a mountain can give the viewer a sense of depth in the scene.



The easiest way to show a sense of scale is to include a person in the photo. We are familiar with just how tall humans are (even though people vary in height and size). When you put a person in a natural landscape, it immediately shows size and scale of the subject or area.



One of the better ways to show scale in your landscape is by showing something mid to far distance. The subject's small scale in a larger frame shows the expansiveness of the surrounding scenery. This is called Distant Scale.



Common objects such as cars can sometimes serve as objects of scale. Do you really know how big an object is from a distance? By adding something people are familiar with, they can accurately predict the size and scale.



Sometimes it can be fun to just show a photo and let people guess how big the object is (such as the grouper on the left). Then show the next picture to give a person something to relate to.

