
LISBON PHOTO

PRIVATE & CUSTOMISED PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS



BLACK & WHITE, A MUST! A revival of old times or fully up-to-date, black and white photography is alive and kicking. We have been doing it almost on a daily basis, with all kinds of clients - from mobile phones to high-end cameras, the timeless “b&w” acronym is between us. This issue will focus on the following:

- People
- High contrast
- Hints and tips on image composition
- General info

Oriente is the new district in Lisbon - modern, with offices, hotels, shopping and expensive living. The public transports hub could be the best place to shoot b&w in Lisbon.

Using a 70-200mm, allows this fine balance between people and all the set.

PEOPLE - always a fascinating subject, around us, running to the office, shopping, taking care of the children, enjoying a coffee, what should we do or what can we do? Can we photograph them? Should we?

It is a controversial subject, with law and lots of personal opinions, no-one will ever be entirely right. So why do we keep doing it?

Some of the reasons are: the thrill of hunting for that special moment, beauty, elegance, sometimes to give scale to a place. Or maybe to give life to that same place. OK for all this, as long as we try to apply some common sense.

My personal style is to include the human factor (as I call it) to give life or scale, but without showing clear faces, which happens with the portrait style. I never do that. Why not? Well, my common sense tells me that. Would I like to have someone pointing a camera at my face? Probably not. But if I see that same person shooting from a distance and I realise that I will be part of the overall scene, then I do not bother. Common sense I would say.

“LISBON PHOTO is rated #1 photo tour operator in Lisbon and the reference in Portugal”

-TRIPADVISOR

Easy to read, simple, beautiful, so that the brain finds comfort when we look at them.

Each one will find their own style - LISBON PHOTO will help as much as possible, so you end your trip with some great black and white photos.



The São Bento train station in Porto can give great b&w photos, with or without the human factor. Go early in the morning.

Contrast is key to get it done, meaning, back light is needed! Thank you.

I always choose a longer lens to keep my low profile. Plus, it helps to organize the negative space around your subject. This is important, because it's how the world looks like.

IMAGE COMPOSITION - keep your eyes open to shadows and what they can add to a flat, simple surface. A boring wall can turn into an interesting photo or even art, depending on the subject. Top left is a self-portrait with a client, using a simple wall, having fun looking at the final result.

The value of this photo was to actually show my client what the camera sees, in comparison to what the brain sees - the camera always shows more contrast.



Top right was done in Porto, composing with a bridge, a train and people. Less contrast, that is true, but all the subjects are organised, meaning, they are at the right place with the right perspective. That's the power of this photo.

Then to the Douro river in Gaia, with a nice window reflection, showing an interesting extension of the bridge. Even if the window looks kind of dirty, the camera will do some magic and create a stunning reflection.

Finally, the Gloria Lift in Lisbon, sadly with a tragic end. We hope to see it back in the near future.

Because there is no color, contrast will define how powerful the photo will be.

Shining or raining, we depend on contrast, under the pressure of only getting boring grey tones.

October is that transition moment, from dry to wet, usually very interesting to photograph in b&w.

HIGH CONTRAST - perhaps the key to have success shooting in black and white. Since I am not into - almost war style - street portraits or scenes, I believe that all my human subjects should be as anonymous as possible. There will be exceptions because there are always exceptions, but this would be my rule.

Looking at this photo on the right, it almost looks like a staged scene; the woman is at the perfect spot, with the perfect attitude, with the perfect light, almost too good to be true. It was indeed a planned photo, but without knowing the woman.

I chose carefully the place, the time of the day, the sun position, my distance from the spot and which lens to use. Then I got into hunting mode, waiting from the right distance (again, this is personal) until someone came.

I don't remember how long I waited, how many photos I took, but there was one that gave meaning to all this planning - the one on the right.

The bottom photo is a fortunate moment, but let me explain. It was early morning, there was no sun and the negative space (the Lisbon Cathedral) was boring grey. So what

made the photo? It was the coincidence of a driver half dressed in black and a white tuk-tuk. Those two details created the contrast and made the photo.

**“Less is more”
also applies to
photography.
Do it.**

-MIGUEL HELFRICH

The rest of the story you know it already: all the back lines should be clean, organised and straight, like you see them when you get there.

Plus, the vehicle has space to move inside the photo. Done with a long lens to make my life easy.



Waiting from a safe distance with a long lens (70-200mm) will give fine results, because your subject won't feel exposed.

The tuk-tuk scene in Lisbon used to give great photos, like this one in front of the Lisbon Cathedral. Early morning photo before the tourists invasion.

LISBON and **PORTO** are two amazing cities to travel, spend some days, explore, eat, drink and take many photos. I am fortunate to have lived and experienced both during all my life. LISBON PHOTO is more than ready to take you on a top journey with your camera. Take a look at the website, send a message and we will plan something nice together.



At this moment we are still experiencing a long summer, but sooner or later the rain will come. October, November and early December are exceptional months to travel to Portugal.

NOT TO MISS: Oriente (Parque das Nações), one of the modern and also recent districts in Lisbon. Black and white paradise. Modern architecture, lots of offices (meaning smart casual dressed people), less tourists and the cherry on top of the cake: the Oriente public transports hub.

Composed by five levels of raw concrete, from the subway line to the train line, this is a place asking for a black and white photo tour. With rain even better.

No matter you have people getting into or leaving the photo, be aware of the surroundings - they should be clean and organised. Be patient.

Exposing for about 1/10 of a sec will add this moody motion feeling. You can use a bench to prevent shaking.



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