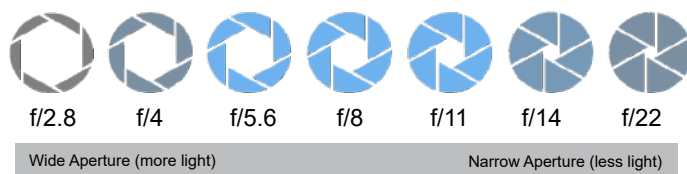


BLUE HOUR PHOTOGRAPHY

CHEAT SHEET

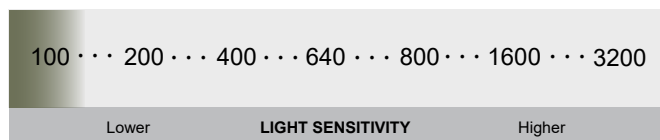


APERTURE



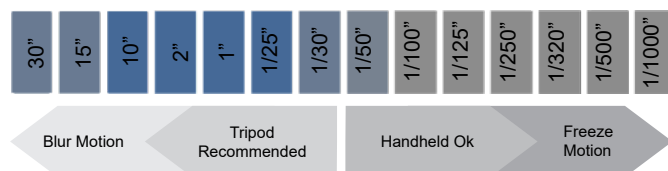
Set a mid range aperture of around f/5.6 to f/11. This will give you a reasonable depth of field.

ISO



Use base ISO value since you want the cleanest image possible. There will be a fair bit of manipulation in editing.

SHUTTER SPEED



Set your shutter speed to match the aperture. Aperture priority and manual mode are the best options. A shutter speed of 1 to 6s is a good starting point.

1 LOCATION AND TIMING

Blue hour happens twice a day, just before sunrise and just after sunset. It lasts between 20 to 40 minutes, depending on the weather, and your location.



You need to scout various locations so that you don't waste any time looking for one. To catch the blue hour, look up your local sunrise/sunset times and plan on being there early. You can also use an app such as The Photographer's Ephemeris.

TIP:

Great blue hour landscapes to consider include cityscapes, busy roads, bridges, beaches and marinas.

2 STABILIZATION

You'll be using a slow shutter speed, so a tripod will help you capture a sharp image. If you handhold your camera during a slow shutter speed, your photos will be blurry because of camera shake.



You should also be aware that pressing the shutter release button can cause camera shake, which will create blurry photos. To avoid this, use your remote or set the camera's self-timer to two seconds.

TIP:

Instead of a tripod you can use a gorilla pod or keep your camera still by placing it on top of your car, a bench, fence post, etc.

3 THE ESSENTIALS

3 RAW FILES

It's best to capture RAW files when shooting the blue hour. You need the highest quality capture because blue hour images always requires a certain amount of editing.



If you shoot in RAW you can easily adjust the exposure in editing. This way, if your photos came out a little too dark or light, you can adjust them up or down accordingly.

TIP:

Shooting in RAW will also allow you to adjust white balance easily in case you didn't get it right in camera.