

PHOTO STORY

THUNDERSTORM LIGHTNING PHOTOGRAPHY

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LUCKNOW, UTTAR PRADESH, BHARAT

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I n t r o d u c t i o n

“T h u n d e r s t o r m l i g h t n i n g P h o t o g r a p h y i s a d a n g e r o u s h o b b y b u t v e r y e x c i t i n g , s k y l i g h t n i n g p o w e r s t o r m i s h i g h l y u n p r e d i c t a b l e , a n d i t s t r i k e a n y t i m e i n r a i n y s e a s o n ”



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Choose the Safe Place and Tripod Setup

First you find a safe location or place for thunderstorm lightning photography . It is best to stay inside a building, car, or other object that can protect from a direct lighting strike.

I strongly advise an open area, especially. Stand at least approx. 50 to 100 feet away from water and tall trees.



(Lightning storm over the Lucknow Rural at KhurdahiBazar, Lucknow Uttar Pradesh, India

Device- NIKON D750+ NIKKOR 18-120mm f/5.6 @ Focal length 18.5 mm, ISO 200, Exposure time 1/8 sec, Aperture f/18)

THUNDERSTORM LIGHTNING PHOTOGRAPHY

Device and Equipment

1.DSLR OR MIRRORLESS CAMERA

If you take a very good picture of thunderstorm lightning bolt, use a DSLR or mirror less camera with tripod, torch is almost a must & set the DSLR manual controls for shutter speed, aperture, ISO. Also be sure shoot in RAW files.



A bolt of lightning captured with NIKON D750 + 18-120mm f/5.6 @ 120mm, ISO 200, 1/10, f/16)

2.TRIPOD,CABLE RELEASE OR AN INFRARED REMOTE AND TORCH

Another most important equipment is a tripod. Some people get lucky by taking a good picture of lightning hand-held, but I suggest you to use a tripod instead. You'll need to use a long shutter speed, have the patience and wait for strike the thunderstorm sky lightning, and click the good lightning images. Wide angle lenses also make it easier to photograph lightning, more area cover but it requires a bit more luck.

There are also a few accessories you might find useful for lightning photography. Like cable release or an infrared remote to take photos without touching your camera. Second, consider bringing along a good flashlight Third, take a lens cloth or lens towel with you.

CAMERA SETTINGS

ShootTime
needed:

IF YOU LUCKY THEN 30 TO 50 MINUTES OR HAVE A PATIENCE FOR TAKING IMAGES.

WHEN YOU'RE ON LOCATION, PUT YOUR CAMERA ON YOUR TRIPOD AND CONFIGURE THE FOLLOWING CAMERA SETTINGS

1. FOCUS SETUP

Another most important equipment is a tripod. Some people get lucky by taking a good picture of lightning hand-held, but I suggest you to use a tripod instead. You'll need to use a long shutter speed, have the patience and wait for strike the thunderstorm sky lightening, and click the good lightning images. Wide angle lenses also make it easier to photograph lightning, more area cover but it requires a bit more luck.

There are also a few accessories you might find useful for lightning photography. Like cable release or an infrared remote to take photos without touching your camera. Second, consider bringing along a good flashlight. Third, take a lens cloth or lens towel with you.

2. ISO SETUP



Set your camera ISO to “base” ISO (lowest value). On most cameras, the base ISO is somewhere from ISO 64 to 200. Most Nikon and Canon cameras today are base ISO 100.

3.SETCAMERA MANUAL MODE



Set your camera to full manual mode. I would not trust any of the camera's automatic modes, because periodic lightning strikes will brighten up the area, and your camera might give an incorrect exposure.

4.SET SHUTTER SPEED



A longer shutter speed (5–30 seconds) will give you a better chance of capturing lightning images, perhaps even more than one lightning bolt in your image. However, it will also brighten up the foreground, so you might not get that “dramatic silhouette” look. A shorter shutter speed (say, 1–3 seconds) means the foreground stays much darker, but it makes it harder to capture a photo with lightning in the first place.

5.SET APERTURE OR LENS OPENING



If you don't have anything close in the foreground, start out with an aperture of f/5.6. If the aperture is too wide for the given aperture and your image looks too overexposed, you can stop your lens down to f/8 and smaller. However, if it is so bright that you are forced to use extremely small apertures like f/16,18 then your best to use an ND filter to reduce the amount of light reaching your camera. In situations where you have a foreground subject, you might need to use a small aperture to get more depth of field.

Hopefully this guide gave you a good understanding of how to photograph lightning and stay safe while you take images!

Good luck



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