beach PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

FIND A FEATURE

White sand with a crystal clear sky is beautiful, but it can be too plain for a photograph. Try to find a feature – like a rocky jetty or lifeguard boat – to build your photograph around. Not only will your photos have a stronger focal point; they will also have more appeal for viewers who can pick out familiar structures in the image.

USE FILL FLASH

If you're photographing people at the beach on a bright day, you'll find that they will almost always have shadows on their face. Switch on your flash and you'll find the shadows are eliminated. This is particularly important when shooting into the sun to avoid turning your subject into a silhouette.

TIME IT RIGHT

Early in the morning and late in the afternoon are the best times for picture-taking at the beach; with the sun shining on an angle you will get more interesting effects of shadows and colors. If you take your photos in the middle of the day, the glare from the sand and the white water will create stark, high-contrast photos that will not do justice to the location. And, there will be less people there at that time of day.

TRY A FAST SHUTTER SPEED

Surfing, windsurfing, jet skiing, and kayaking are all common water sports for capturing people having a blast at the beach. Use a fast shutter speed to freeze movement but again, wait until the sun is at a low angle in the sky for gentler light.