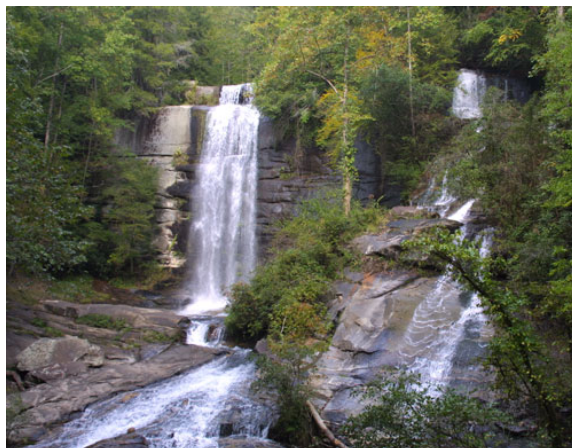


Tips on Photographing Waterfalls

by Bob Spalding



1. **Shutter speed is important in waterfall photography!** Some people like using a slower shutter speed for a motion effect of the water. A fast shutter speed will show individual waves and droplets, but a slower shutter speed actually shows the path of the water.

Typically, try for a slow shutter speed of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 second to show milky water.
2. **ISO Matters** - Keep your shutter speed slow, so you may need to lower your ISO speed to 200 or less.
3. **Use a tripod.** With slow shutter speeds, you will need a tripod to steady the camera.
4. **Make sure the camera is level.** A photo of water that appears to be flowing uphill is not good.
5. **Direction Matters** – Remember to check the direction of the falls, to determine the best time of day for light hitting the falls. Low light gives the most dramatic photographs. Best to shoot in the early morning or late afternoon.
6. **Seasons do matter** – Check out the falls in different seasons. The wetter the season, the more water running over the falls. Also look for flowers and turning leaves to add to your waterfall photo.
7. **Keep an eye on the wind** – With slow shutter speeds, it's important to pay close attention to any movement in your scene such as a moving branch can mess up your picture.
8. **Research before you go** – Learn what you can about the falls and what you need to do to get to them. Some hiking may be involved.
9. **Use a polarizing filter** – This filter will reduce or eliminates reflections in the water and on wet rocks.
10. **Take lots of photos at various exposures** – This may help you discover what your best setting for waterfall photography are.