

# The Question

- Minh asked for a presentation to discuss the following question wrt landscape:
  - “How to know where to point the camera?”

# An Answer

- Landscape is a big topic which requires a lot of learning
- This short presentation only focuses on
  - Basic rules of composition,
  - Where to focus and,
  - How to correctly expose photos

# Agenda

- **Basic rules of composition**
- Where to focus
- How to correctly expose photos

# What Is Composition?

- From Wikipedia:
  - “Composition techniques in photography are mere guidelines to help beginners capture eye-catching images”
- Google Translate
  - “Kỹ thuật lập bố cục trong nhiếp ảnh chỉ là những hướng dẫn giúp người mới bắt đầu chụp được những bức ảnh bắt mắt”



# Basic Rules of Composition

- Some basic rules of composition
  - Leading Lines
  - Foregrounds
  - Rule of Thirds

# What Are Leading Lines?

- “Leading lines are a compositional technique where lines lead the viewer’s eyes through a photograph to the subject”
- Google Translate:
  - “Đường dẫn là một kỹ thuật bố cục trong đó các đường dẫn mắt người xem qua bức ảnh đến chủ thể”

# Leading Lines - Example #1

- Dẫn dắt ánh mắt của người xem đến chủ đề (núi)



“The Tetons and the Snake River” by Ansel Adams



# Leading Lines - Example #2

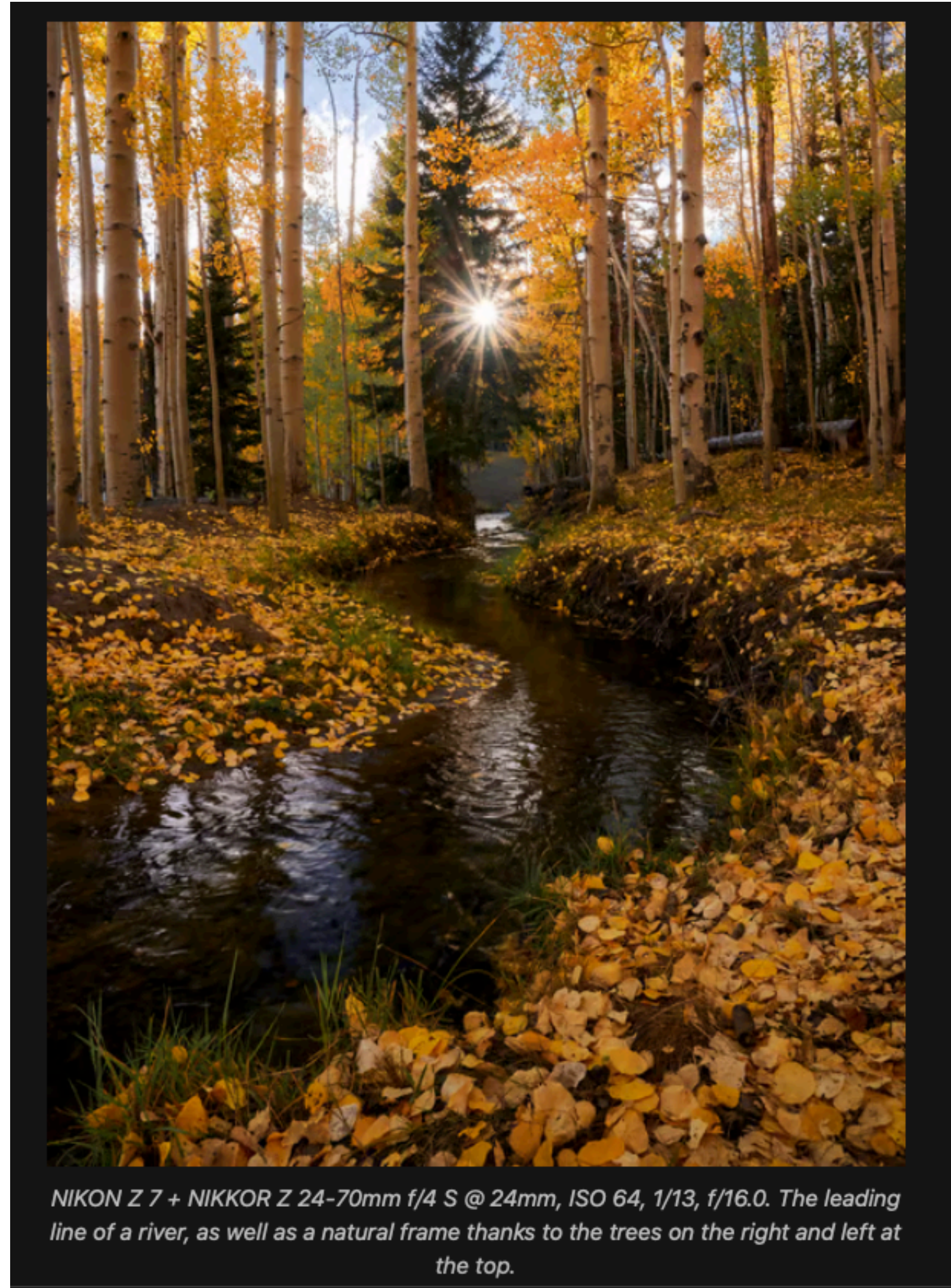
- Sử dụng con đường để dẫn dắt ánh mắt người xem tới các tàn tích





# Leading Lines - Example #3

- Leading line of a river
- Google Translate:
  - “Dòng đầu của một dòng sông”





# Leading Lines - Example #4

- Sử dụng lối đi để dẫn mắt người xem đến ngọn hải đăng





# Leading Lines - Example #5

- Dùng sóng để dẫn ánh mắt người xem về phía cây cầu





# Leading Lines

## Do not work example #1

- Con đường dẫn tầm mắt người xem ra **khỏi** khung hình





## Leading Lines Do not work Example #2

- Attempted to use the path to lead viewers' eyes to the lighthouse.
- I think it does **not** work here
  - Path is barely visible
  - Path does **not** lead to the lighthouse





# Foregrounds

- The foreground is a powerful tool that offers an image depth, context, and framing. By including elements closer to the viewer, you can invite a rich, three-dimensional experience, transforming a flat scene into one with layers and perspective.
- Google translate
  - “Tiền cảnh là một công cụ mạnh mẽ cung cấp độ sâu, bối cảnh và khung hình cho hình ảnh. Bằng cách đưa các yếu tố đến gần hơn với người xem, bạn có thể mang lại trải nghiệm ba chiều phong phú, biến cảnh phẳng thành cảnh có nhiều lớp và phối cảnh”



# Foreground - Example #1

- The swirling water and the rocks in the foreground added depth to the scene
- Google Translate:
  - “Dòng nước xoáy và những tảng đá ở tiền cảnh đã tạo thêm chiều sâu cho khung cảnh”





# Foreground - Example #2

- Foreground rocks added depth to the scene
- Google Translate:
  - “Đá tiền cảnh thêm chiều sâu cho cảnh”



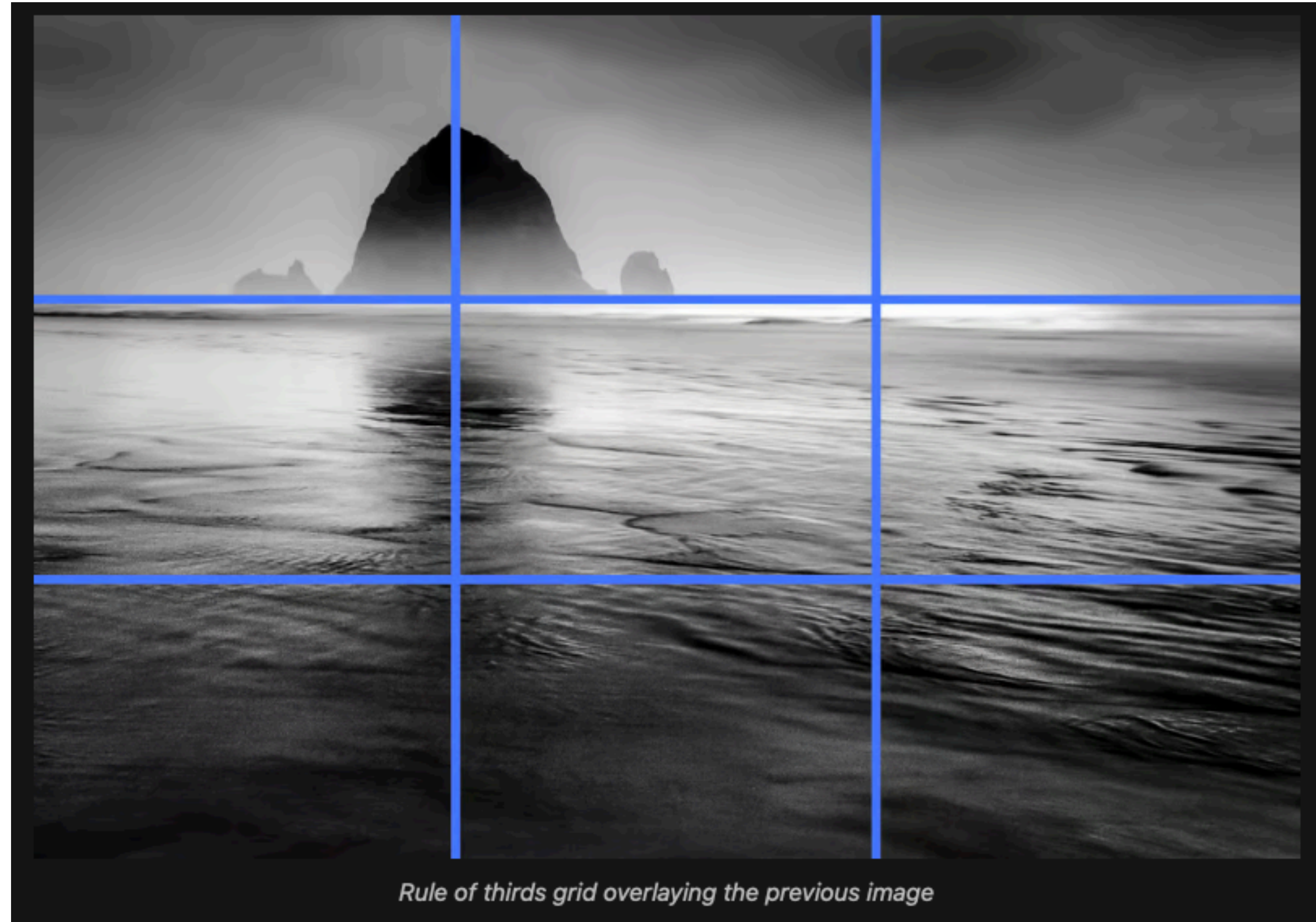


# Rule of Thirds

- The rule of thirds is a type of off-center composition where important elements of a photograph are placed along a 3x3 grid, which equally divides the image into nine parts.
- Google Translate
  - “Quy tắc một phần ba là một kiểu bố cục lệch tâm trong đó các yếu tố quan trọng của bức ảnh được đặt dọc theo lưới 3x3, chia đều hình ảnh thành chín phần”

# Rules of Thirds - Example #1

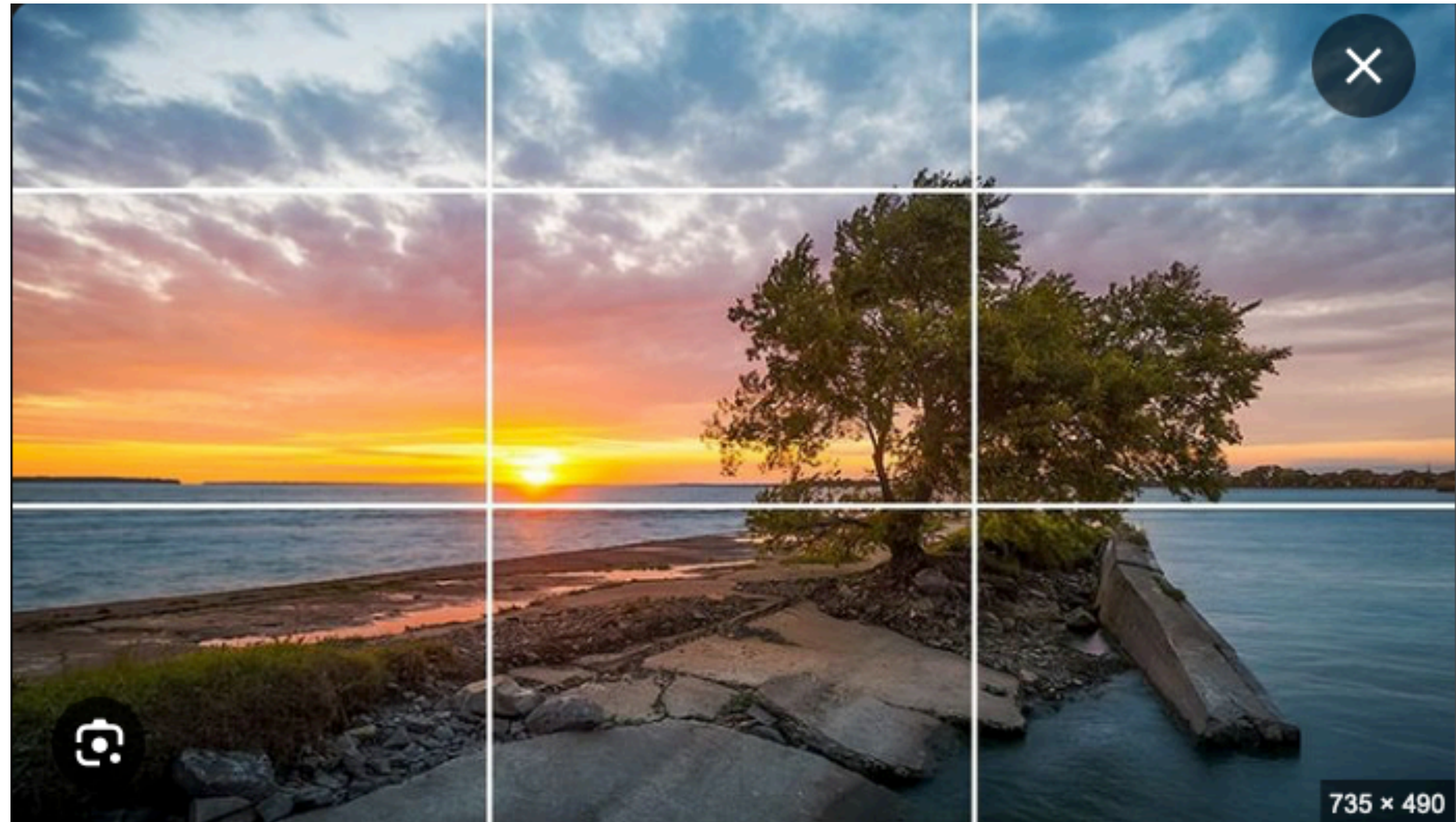
- The rock was placed at the top third





# Rule of Thirds - Example #2

- Note the placement of the tree and the sun





# Rule of Thirds - Example #3

- Note the placement of the rock





# Stack Rules of Composition - Example #1

- Used a rock as the foreground object to add depth to the image
- Used the flow of water to lead viewers' eye from the foreground to the sea stack and the starburst





# Stack Rules of Composition - Example #2

- The log was used as a leading line
- The log was placed at a third
- A simple rock was the foreground



# Agenda

- Basic rules of composition
- **Where to focus**
- How to correctly expose photos



# Where to Focus?

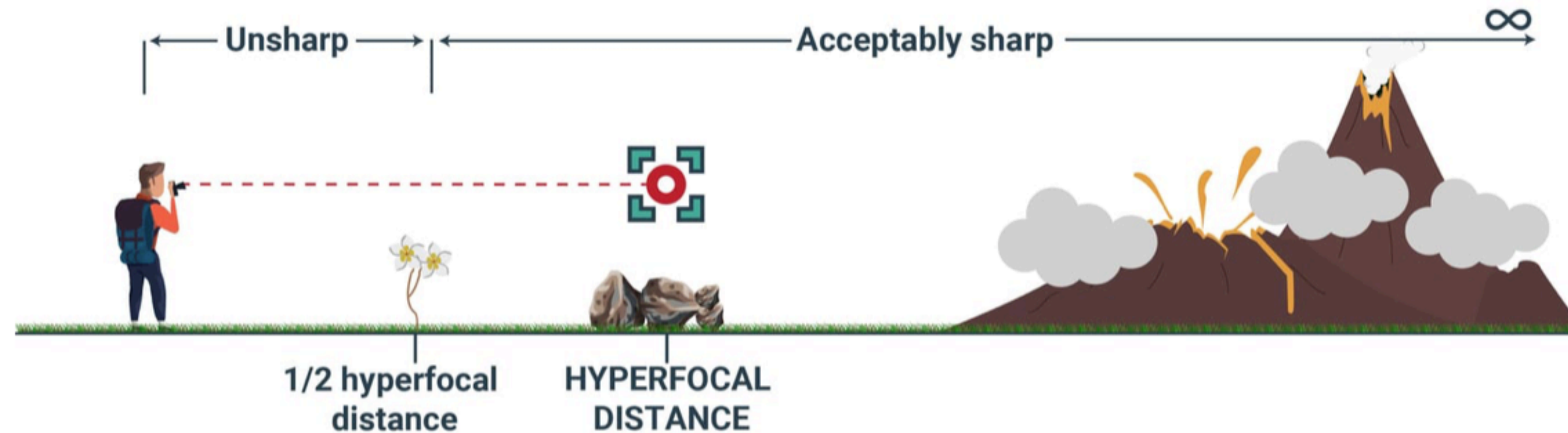
- Lấy nét ở đâu để đạt được độ sâu trường ảnh tối đa?



“Moraine Lake” by Tim Shields



# Where To Focus - Hyperfocal Distance



Hyperfocal distance is the focusing distance where we achieve the maximum depth of field

When we focus our lens on the hyperfocal distance, everything from half of the hyperfocal distance out to infinity is going to be acceptably sharp

You can use a hyperfocal distance calculator or chart to calculate the hyperfocal distance according to your camera, focal length, and aperture

# Where To Focus - Hyperfocal Distance Table From PhotoPills

AT&T 5G E 3:49 PM 89%

Back Hyperfocal Table

Camera Canon EOS R5 >

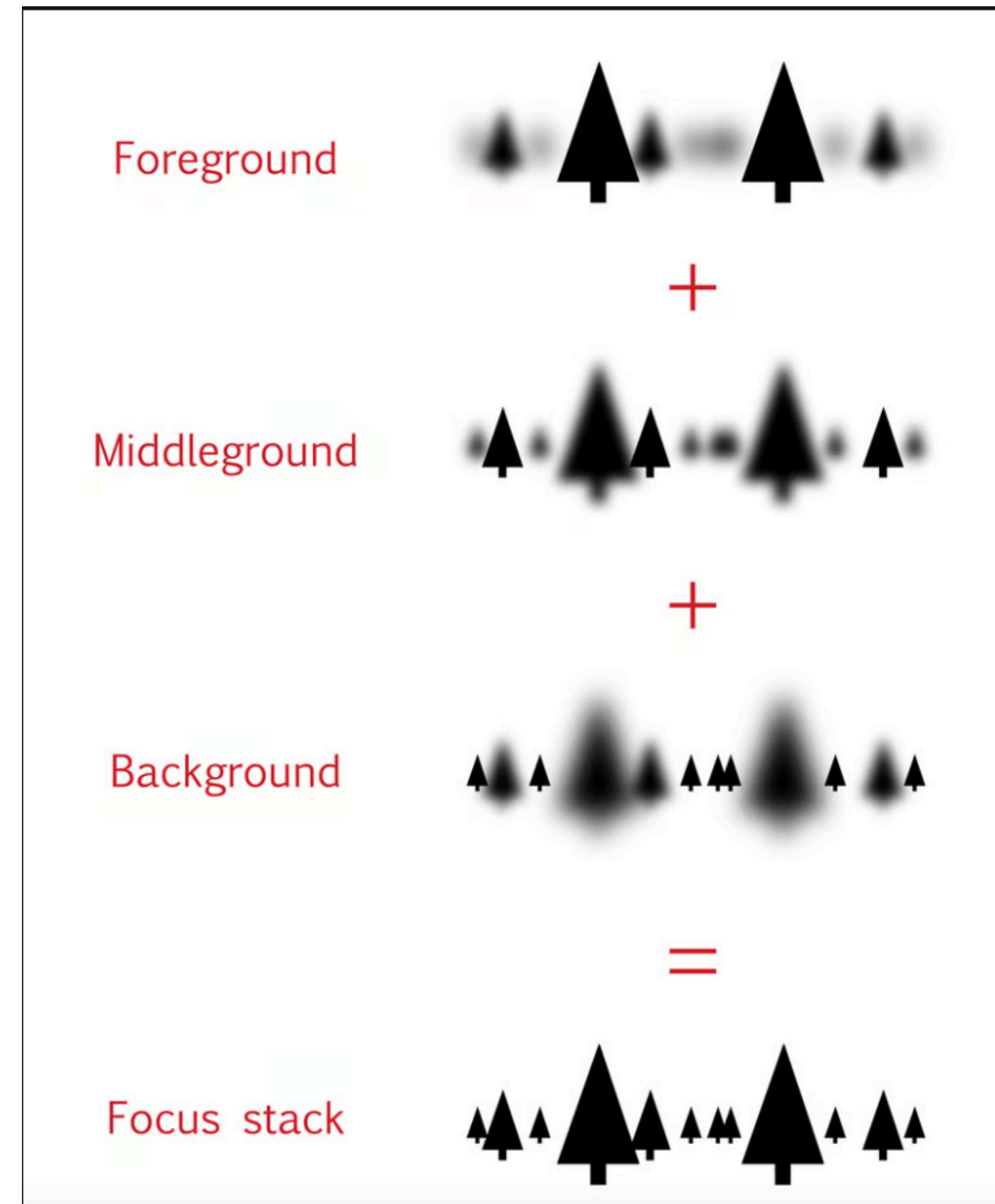
Hyperfocal distance (ft)

Focal length (mm)	f/11	f/13	f/14	f/16
16	2' 6"	2' 3"	2'	1' 10"
17	2' 10"	2' 6"	2' 3"	2'
18	3' 2"	2' 10"	2' 6"	2' 3"
19	3' 7"	3' 2"	2' 10"	2' 6"
20	3' 11"	3' 6"	3' 2"	2' 10"
21	4' 4"	3' 10"	3' 5"	3' 1"
22	4' 9"	4' 3"	3' 9"	3' 5"
23	5' 2"	4' 7"	4' 2"	3' 8"

Visual AR Share

# Where To Focus - Focus Stacking

- Take multiple images, each focusing on different areas of the scene
  - Foreground,
  - Middle ground,
  - Background
- Then combine these images into a single image
- Does not work well when the scene changes (like moving water, windy, etc.)





## Where To Focus Duy's Preferred Method

- Make sure any foreground object is a few feet away from the camera
- Use a smaller aperture (a compromise between image quality, depth of field and starburst effect)
- Focus 1/3 into the scene



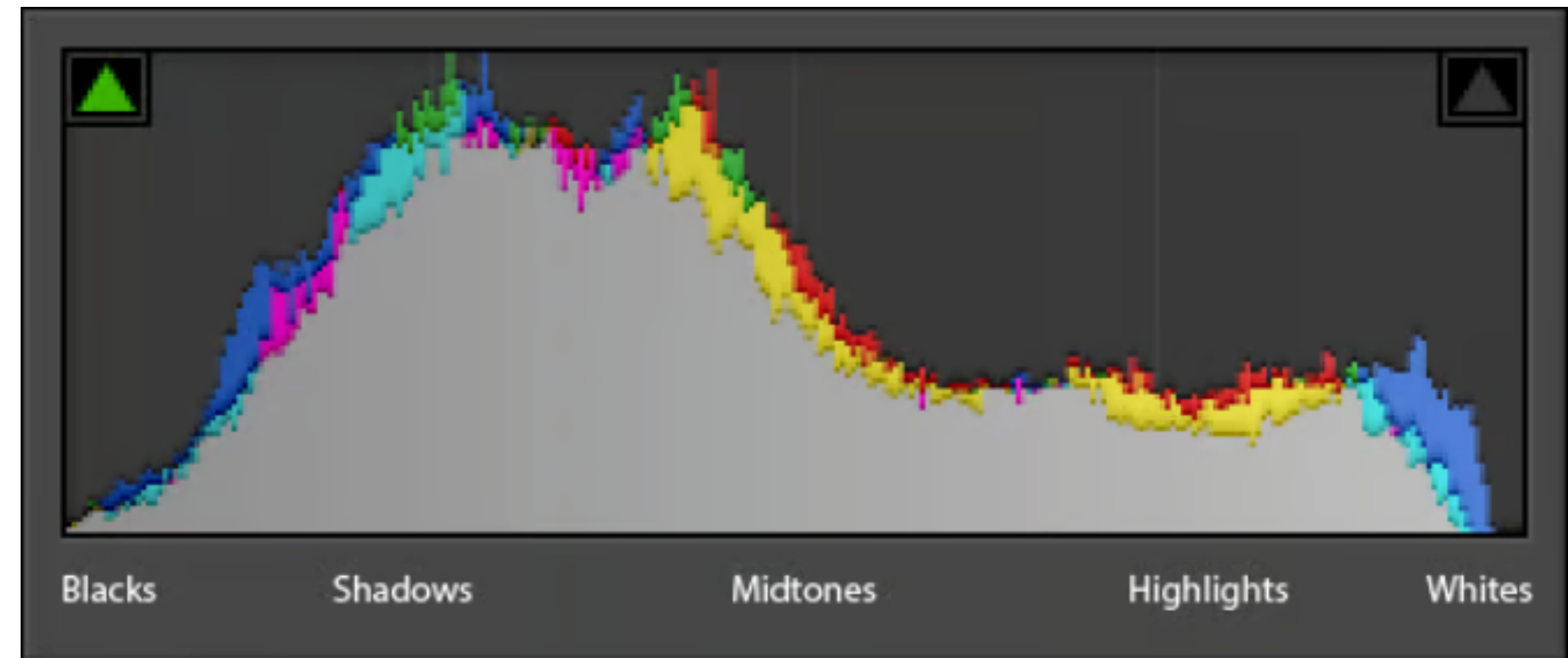


# Agenda

- Basic rules of composition
- Where to focus
- **How to correctly expose photos**

# How To Correctly Expose Photos Histogram

- The histogram plots the number of pixels in the image (vertical axis) with a particular brightness or tonal value (horizontal axis)
- Google Translate
  - “Biểu đồ biểu thị số pixel trong ảnh (trục tung) với độ sáng hoặc giá trị âm cụ thể (trục ngang)”



# How To Correctly Expose Photos

## Histogram

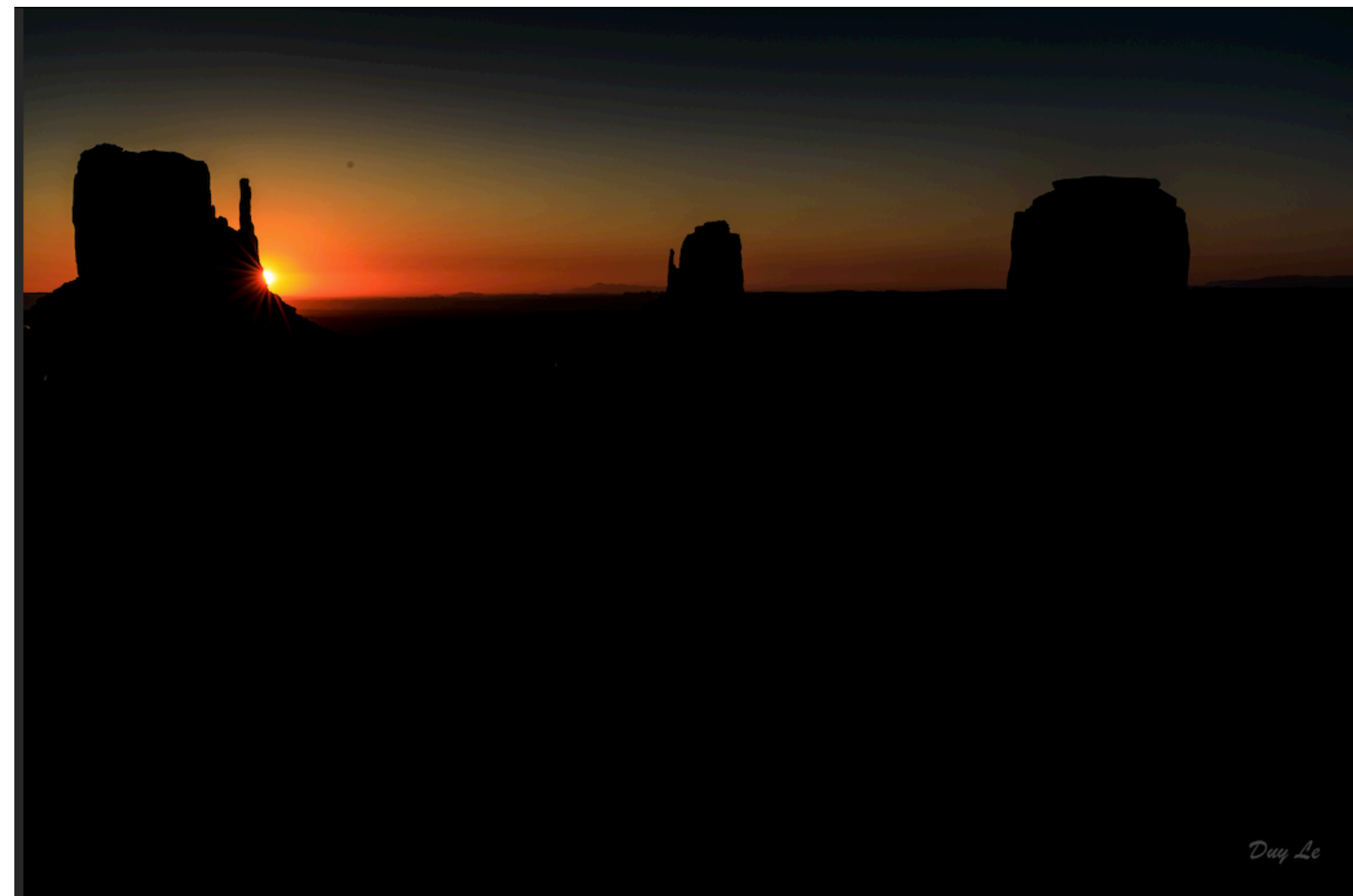
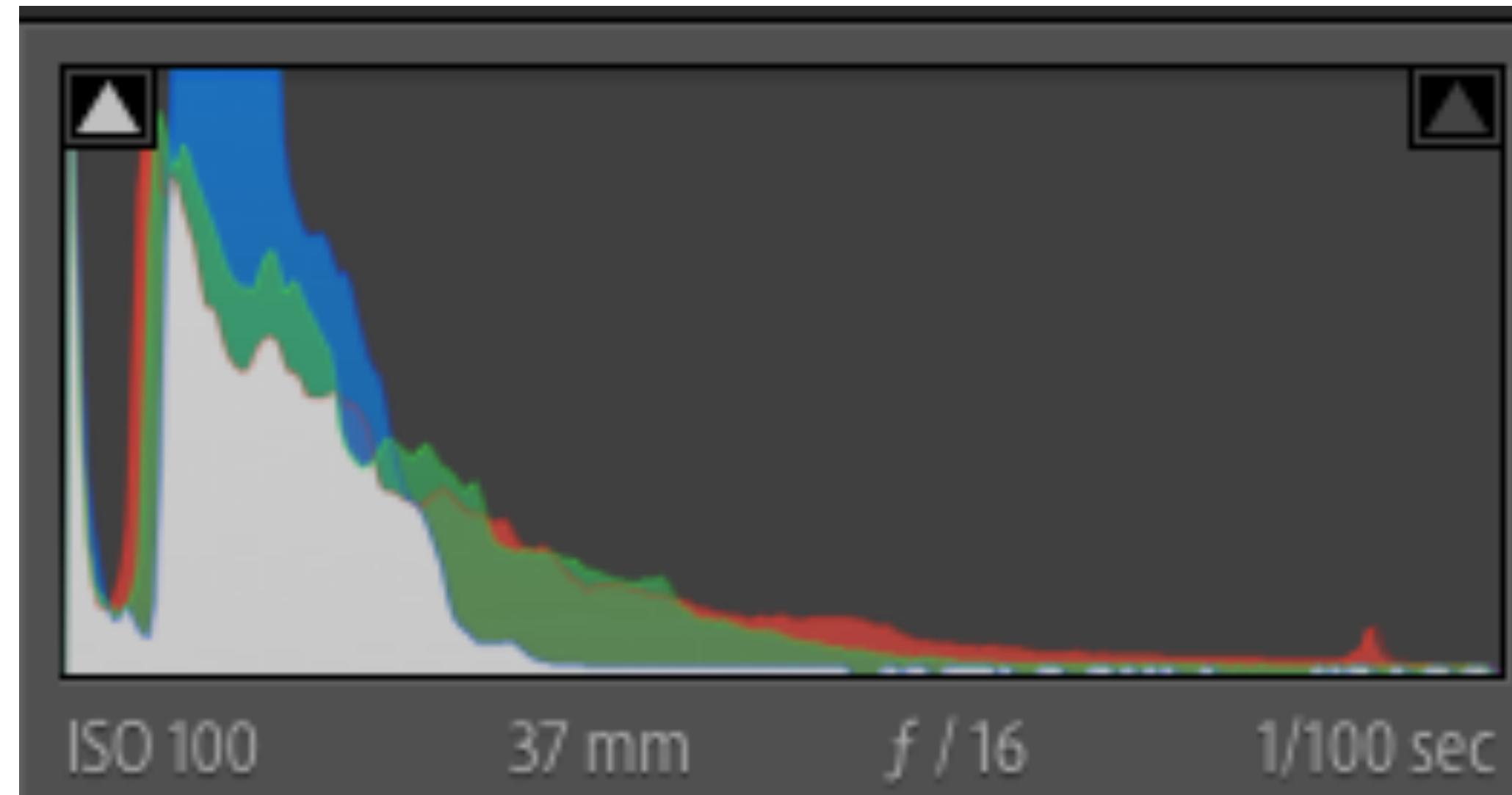
- Every camera provides a histogram
  - With mirrorless cameras, the histogram can be displayed before a picture is taken
  - With DSLR cameras, the histogram can be displayed after a picture is taken

Please consult the manual of your camera on how to display the histogram

# Histogram

## Shadow clipping

- Note that graph touches the left hand side of the histogram. These areas are completely black and absent details

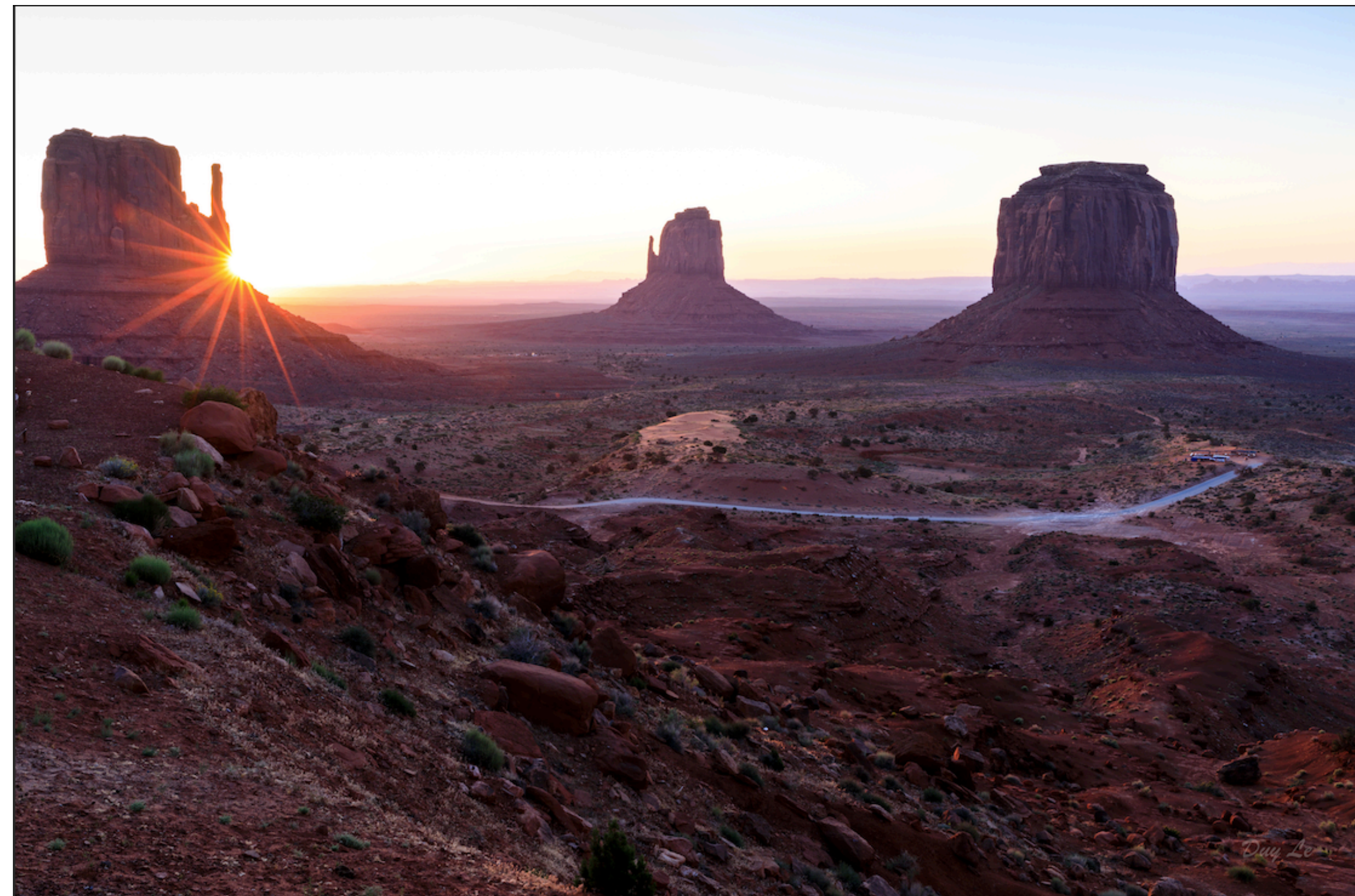
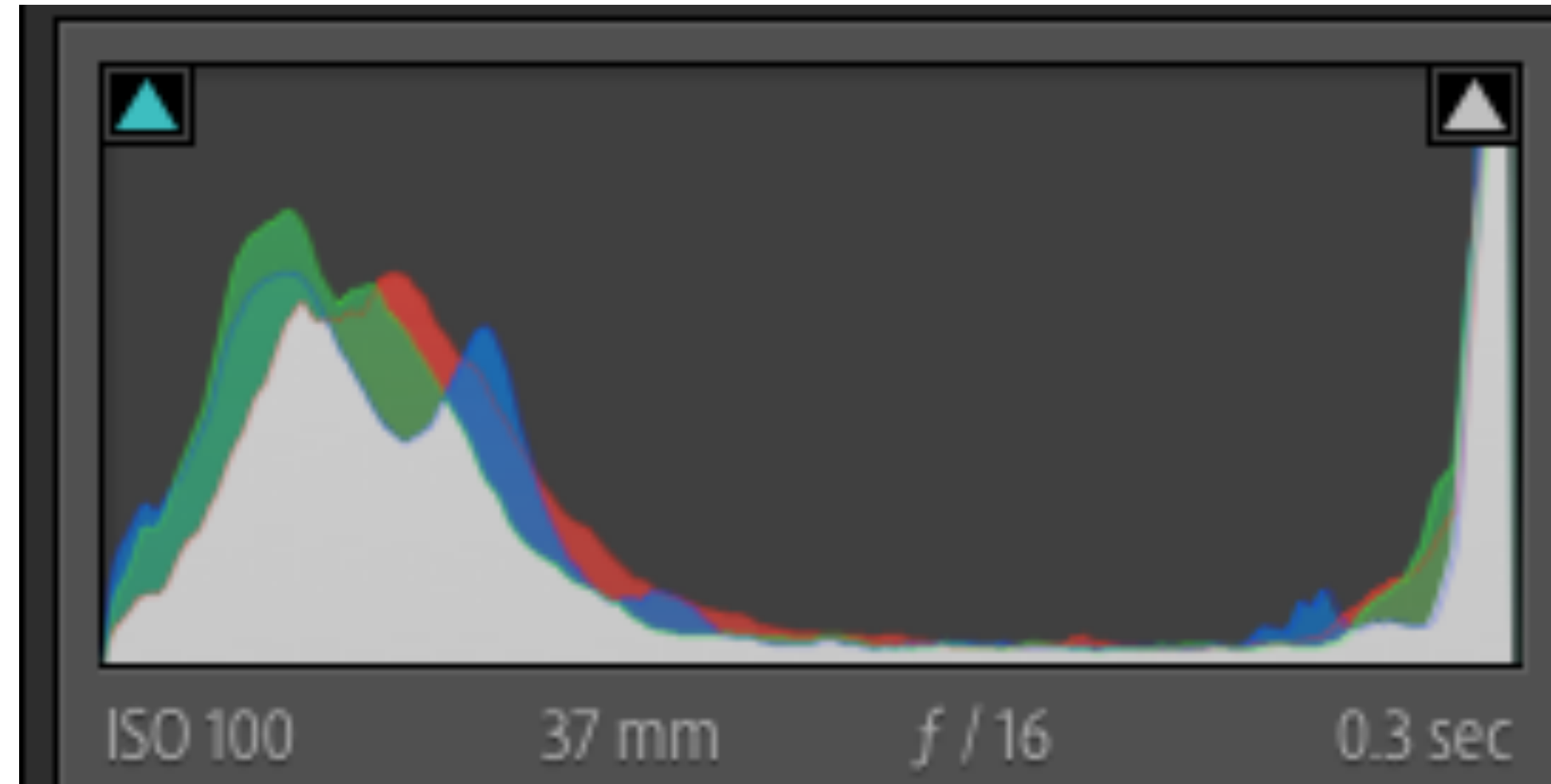




# Histogram

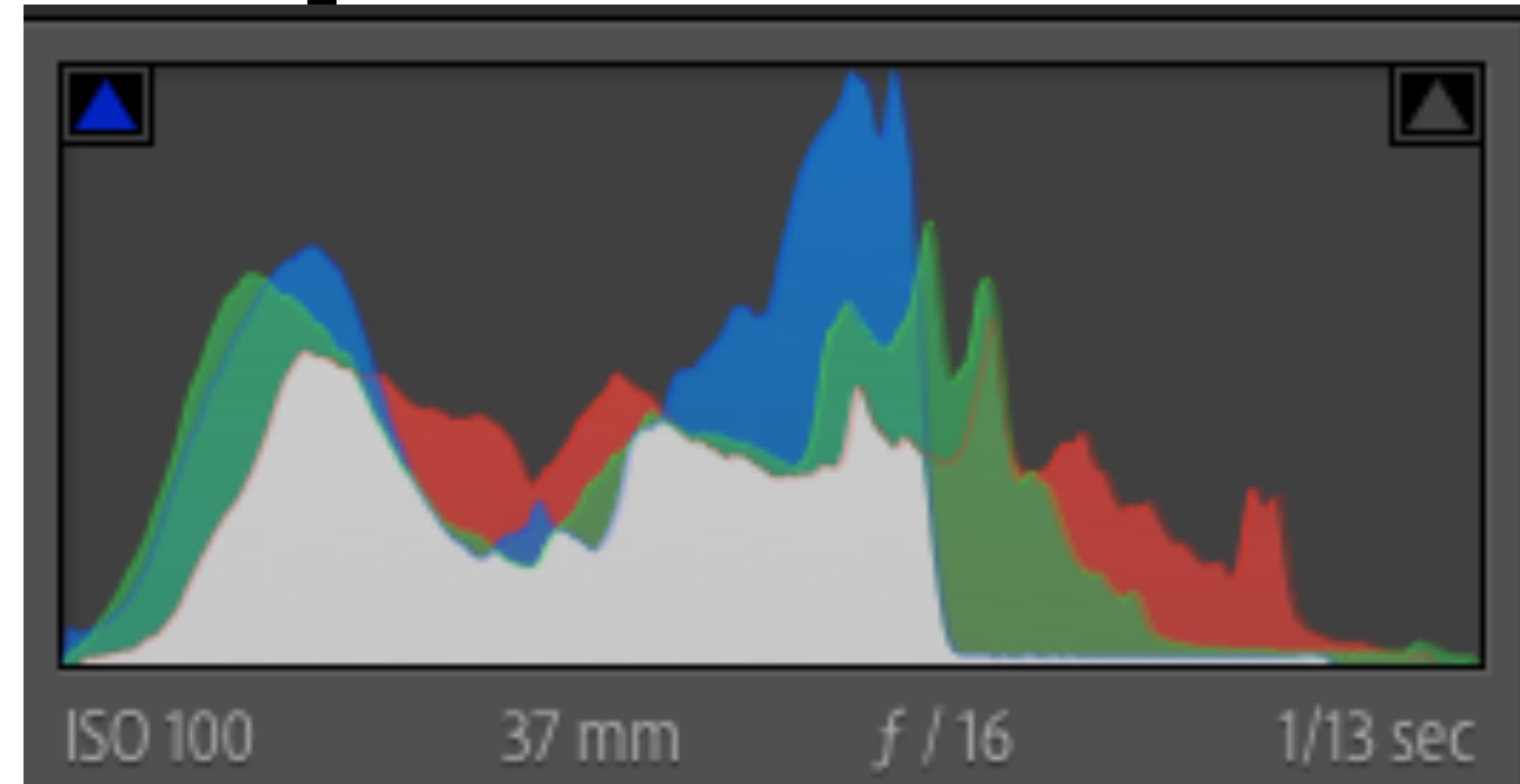
## Highlight clipping

- Note that the graph touches the right hand side of the histogram. These areas are completely white and absent details





# Histogram - An Example



- Note that the graph does not touch the left hand side or the right hand side of the histogram
- Details are available in both highlight and shadow



# Sources

- “How to Stack the Rules of Composition in your photos”
- “Hyperfocal distance”
- “A River Runs Through It”
- “How to select the best focus point”
- “Focus Stacking Tutorial for Landscape Photography”
- <https://photographylife.com/balance-in-photography>
- <https://www.outdoorphotographyguide.com/post/tips-for-using-foreground-to-create-depth/>