

# Plein Air Tips

1. Take some time to search for a composition with a strong design (you may want to use a viewfinder or take a photo and look at it objectively), but not necessarily a PERFECT one, you may never find it.

*Apply rule of thirds, crop, use asymmetrical balance instead of symmetry, use scale contrast to establish foreground, mid ground and background. Devices like paths work better if they are not dead center.*

2. Consider thumbnailing your comp before working larger.
2. Keep it simple - squint down detail and look for big shapes.
3. Establish light and shadow early on and commit to it - don't chase it.
4. Work on a smaller scale, unless you paint very fast!
5. Use a colour strategy: primarily neutrals with touches of intense colour; primarily intense with touches of neutrals; analogous palette (harmonic); complementary palette (energetic).
6. Pay attention to colour temperature - warm light/cool shadows, cool light/warm shadows.
7. You will need to embellish what's in front of you, it's not possible to copy what you see.
8. Finally, enjoy being outside and if this is your first plein air experience be easy on yourself, but take some risks!