



AVOID THE MIDDLE



A WORD OF ADVICE

You are starting to pay attention to the elements of photo composition and have an appreciation for them and that's fantastic.

The thing is, a lot of times when people begin to understand composition, they get too comfortable. I've done that. Because of that strong sense of "I know what I'm doing," people get complacent. And complacent is another word for lazy.

Just because you think you've got the exact composition you want with your first photo doesn't mean you should stop taking photos. Now, for me, I think that overshooting is another problem that a lot of photographers run into. I've been guilty of this too. So, I'm not by any means saying shoot fifty photos of the same scene. But, you should take some shots from different angles. Yes, Move around.

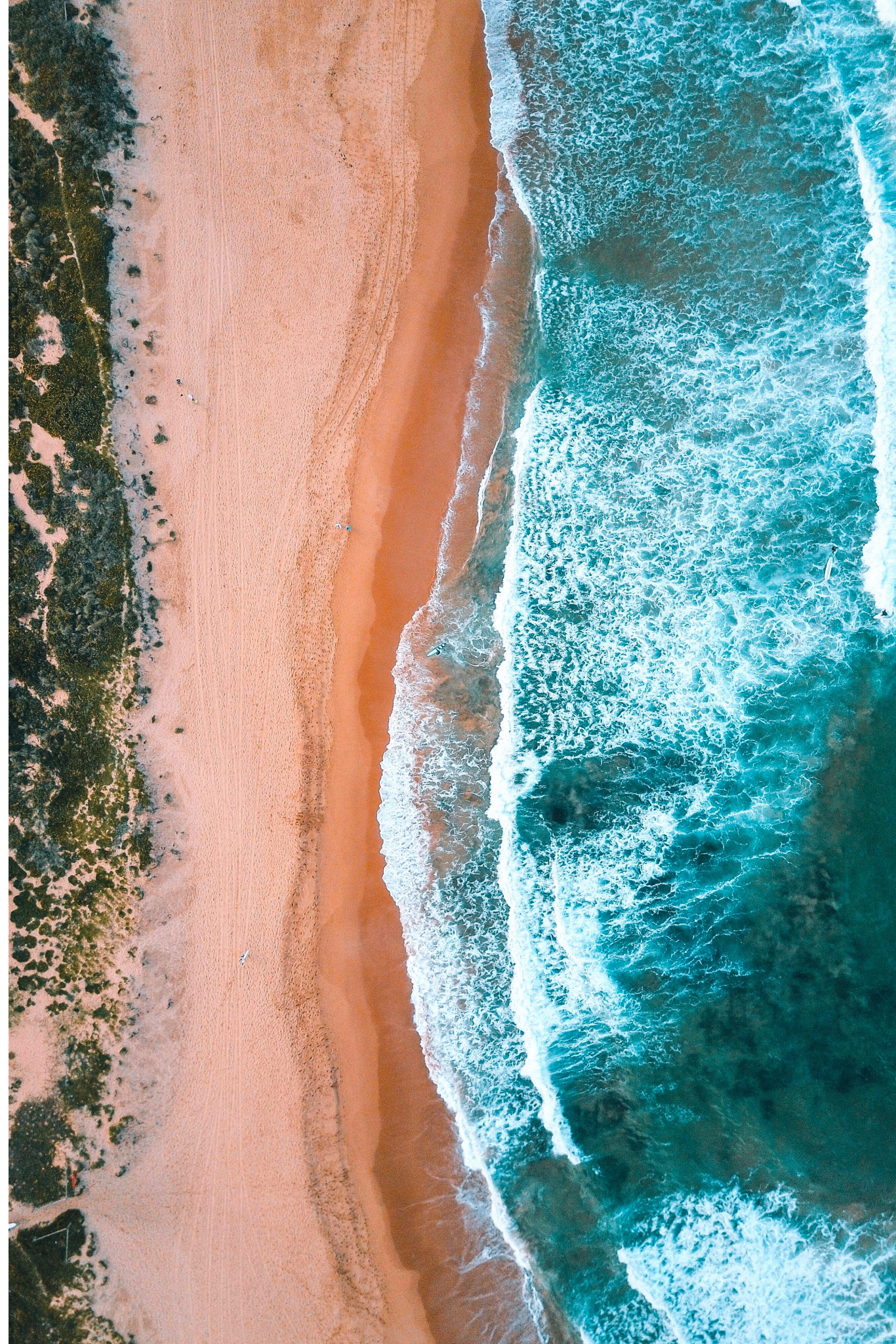
Since we have just spent time discussing avoid the middle, why not move around? Don't be afraid to explore various angles. Photography is a much more physical profession than a lot of people expect it to be. I have pair of jeans that I typically wear when I go out with my camera. I've worn these jeans many a time and I've also been down on my knees more times than I should share. Needless to say the knee area of the jeans are worn out.

When you find a scene you like, shoot it as you normally would. Take some photos at eye level, from the side, crouch down to get it below and get up above it. Take as many photos as you can from as many different angles & perspectives. Try to see and compose your images in 5 or 6 different perspectives.

Also, use the zoom on your lens, by all means, but all don't be afraid to physically move closer further away without zooming at all. Believe it or not, this will give you a different look than just using the zoom on your lens.

It doesn't matter where you think you only need one vantage point or if you know you only want one look. If you don't experiment and move around, you will regret it, because often, what we think we want in an image and what we actually get can be two very different results.

At the end of the day, having more options is better than having no options. And, remember, you want your images to be different than anyone else's photos.



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