

Your Beautiful Kent

EMMA
STOKES



I'm based in Tonbridge and have always felt an affinity with the outdoors and enjoyed taking photos from a very early age. However, it's only since being made redundant last June that my passion for landscape photography has really taken off. I started my business in November 2017 selling photographic prints and was thrilled to win *The Telegraph Travel* 'Big Picture' competition in January with a photo I took in Iceland. I like my photos to reflect a sense of light and space from a scene and to ultimately give the viewer a feeling of peace. ♦

ABOUT THE PHOTO

I feel very lucky to have lived in Kent all my life, surrounded by such beautiful countryside. The North Kent coast provides a wonderful variety of landscape opportunities and I was fortunate on this particular day at Reculver to experience a beautiful evening sky. The sweep of the beach with its sand ripples and seaweed-covered rocks gave some striking foreground interest towards the stunning Reculver Towers.

MY CAMERA

I've always used Canon cameras and it was my 70D that I used on this particular day, with my Sigma 10-20mm wide-angle lens set to 10mm. To ensure front to back focus, I used F/14 with a tripod set ISO to 200 with a long shutter speed of 30 seconds to account for the low light conditions.

TOP TIPS

Getting the light right is crucial in photography but it can make or break a landscape image. It's very easy to over expose the sky, which will mean you end up with a bright white 'blown-out' sky with no detail. To reduce the risk of this happening, use a graduated filter on your lens to darken the sky and balance out the lights and darks, or expose for the sky and bring up the foreground shadows later using software.

GET IN TOUCH

I'm taking part in Tonbridge Open Studios over the first two weekends in June, selling at markets and also offering one-to-one landscape workshops for those looking to improve their DSLR skills. Please see my Facebook page [emmastokesphotography](#), or email me: emma@emmastokesphotography.co.uk
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