

- a Animals add interest
- b Feel the mood
- c Think about light
- d Use space and perspective



Reem Al Shamsi is a landscape photographer based in Fujairah. She takes us to a few of her favourite places around the country to get some great shots. 'There's so much natural beauty in this land of ours. You just need to take your camera and get out there!'

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Rock climbers love mountain ranges like Jebel Hafeet and Wadi Ghalilah because of the challenging climbs, but from a photographer's point of view, it is the light and shade contrast that are really interesting. The contrasts between the amazing peaks and valleys are a photographer's dream. The sunlight over the deep gorges and the shadows in the rocky canyons are just beautiful. At a height of up to 1200 metres, you get the chance for some brilliant panoramic views. There are a number of caves that can add an interesting frame to any shot. Absolutely amazing places!

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Trees, flowers and bushes can create a rich background for a good photo. There are lots of beautiful things to be seen in Wadi Al Bih in Ras Al Khaimah – the rocky moors and the flowers in bloom, however, good landscape photography is really all about recreating the atmosphere of a place. I love this area for the incredible silence, which is broken only by the sound of the wind blowing through the shrubs and bushes. Another

excellent location further south is the Al Hayer forest, with the unique sight of the ghaf trees standing like natural statues in the dusty earth – a spellbinding view!

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Looking over the dunes of Liwa, there's an overwhelming sense of emptiness in this huge stretch of desert. The best view is from a hot-air balloon – an unforgettable experience. Even if you can't get up in the air, deserts are great locations for taking photos. The colour of the sand seems to change all the time, and the way the wind has shaped the dunes is a spectacular sight. The sense of open space and the sky contrasting with the sandy dunes is simply breathtaking!

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Any good photographer will tell you that animals in their natural habitat will add a focal point to your photo. Here in the UAE, we've created some wonderful nature reserves along the coast. Thanks to conservation work, marshes, like those at the Wasit Nature Reserve in Sharjah, are now rich with wild birds. It's not just birds which have benefitted from protecting our natural heritage, but land animals too. The Arabian oryx, with its distinctive horns, is now safe and growing in numbers in places like Sir Bani Yas Island. In the UAE, we've got some awesome animals which will transform any landscape.

