

PHOTO EDITING BASIC PROCEDURE

1. IMPORT

Load your photo to your chosen software
Make a duplicate layer (no need in Lightroom)

2. CROP and STRAIGHTEN

Crop if necessary
Check and adjust the horizon
Consider the crop ratio depending on where the photo will be used

3. EXPOSURE and LIGHTING

Exposure: Correct overall brightness
Contrast: Increase or decrease to make image/subject stand out
Highlights: Reduce if bright areas are burnt out
Shadows: Bring out detail in darker areas
Whites/Blacks: Set the brightest and darkest points for depth
Depending on software, Clarity, Texture or Dehaze may be appropriate

4. COLOUR CORRECTION

Make the image look natural by adjusting some or all of the following:
White Balance: Can make the image look warmer or cooler
Tint: Adjusts green - magenta balance (use lightly)
Saturation: Makes colours more vivid (use lightly)
Vibrance: Boosts muted colours (use lightly)

5. SHARPEN and NOISE REDUCTION

Sharpening: Raw images require sharpening
JPEG images are sharpened automatically, but a little additional sharpening may help
Beware of over sharpening – subjects become too contrasty or have halos around edges
Noise Reduction: Use carefully to reduce graininess, but too much ‘muddies’ detail

6. REMOVE BLEMISHES or DISTRACTIONS

Use subtle edits with tools like: Spot Removal, Clone Stamp, Red Eye Detection etc

7. CREATIVE ENHANCEMENTS

Add a vignette to draw attention to the centre
Add filters or presets to enhance the image
Add curves for more tonal control

8. FINAL REVIEW