

Tips for photographing Bluebonnets

Jina Armstrong

Jina Armstrong Photography

Some say the best showing of Bluebonnets in the whole state is right here in Ennis, and I'm bless to get to live here!

I think it is safe to say Bluebonnets are the most photographed flower in Texas! While photographing these beautiful flowers are fun and rewarding, there are also some challenges that come along with that.

One reason for the Bluebonnet's vibrant color is because they grow in full sun. You will find them growing on roadsides, in pastures, anywhere that there is little or no shade. While full sun grows beautiful Bluebonnets, photographing in the sun is not an easy thing to do, especially when you have people in you images. Below I have listed a few tips that may make your "Bluebonnet photography" a little easier!

1. Always try to have the sun located to the side of or behind your subject, direct sun in the face of a person will not be a flattering image
2. Use a flash! I know it sounds crazy on a bright day, But with the sun behind your subject their faces will be shadowed. By using the flash on your camera you can light up your subject and still capture the beautiful bluebonnets
3. When photographing people in the bluebonnets, zoom in enough to see your subjects, don't worry the bluebonnets will make a statement, even if only a few of them show!
4. When photographing a landscape setting ,be sure to zoom out enough to catch a little of the sky, This will give you a sense of how grand your view was!
5. It is always a good idea to include some other "thing" in your bluebonnet shoot. Try to find an old fence, barn, Indian paintbrushes. Nothing says Texas like those types of shots
6. ALWAYS take a macro shot!! (Close up) get down on the ground and shoot level, zoom in as much as you can! This will be a beautiful image!! You will be able to see each little "bonnet". This shot may take a few attempts, of holding still and getting in just the right position, but it will be worth the effort!

7. If possible, try a sundown evening shot. You have to shoot quickly. The "golden hour" only last a very short time, But if you are lucky enough to get this shot!! It will be one of your favorites! You need to focus on the bluebonnets right close to the horizon. They will be in focus and the beautiful colors of the sunset will make them pop!

Remember, the best way to take great photographs of anything from Bluebonnets, grandkids, or a cute dog.. Is to practice!! Take as many images as possible! You will get many great shots and hopefully learn something along the way!

While out enjoying these beauties, take extra precautions. Be extremely careful while pulling over to take pictures!! Most of the Bluebonnet patches are right next to roads, so watch for cars! And remember, the only bad picture, is the one you didn't take!

Thanks for taking the time to read my tips! Enjoy Ennis and the Bluebonnet trails, around here; we don't believe there is anything more beautiful!

Be safe & happy Shooting!
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