

MILKY WAY PHOTOGRAPHY - CHEAT SHEET



Camera Settings:

- Manual shutter, exposure & focus
- Image: RAW or RAW+JPEG
- Turn off in-camera noise reduction feature
- White balance: Daylight or tungsten
- Shutter delay: 2 seconds (or remote trigger)
- Set live view monitor brightness to low (to save battery)



How to Focus:

- **Lens:** Set to manual focus
- **Focus:** Set focus at infinity
- **ISO:** Turn on auto ISO
 1. Turn on live view
 2. Digital zoom on the brightest star/planet in the sky
 3. Adjust focus
 4. Reset ISO and digital zoom
 5. Alternatively: Set your focus while it's still light out, then don't touch it.



Getting the Image:

1

F-Stop - Set to the widest possible for your lens
(Fixed)

2

Shutter - Use 500 Rule = $500 / ((\text{lens in mm}) \times (\text{crop factor}))$
(Fixed)

3

ISO - Start at 1600 and then raise to adjust exposure
(Varies)



Packing List:

Must Have:

- Camera/lens
- Memory card
- Tripod
- Red LED headlamp

Nice to Have:

- Remote camera trigger
- Additional batteries
- Bright flashlight
- Low level light panel
- Lens/dew heater (cold nights)

Comfort:

- Water/snacks
- Light weight chair
- Jacket/sweatshirt
- Cap/hat
- Bug spray
- Bear/pepper spray