Welcome to Imber Court Photo Training Online Diploma Course Module 9

IMBER COURT
PHOTO TRAINING

Understanding Your DSLR

Image Quality RAW v JPEG

JPEG files are compressed files and we can choose the amount of compression in our image quality settings within the camera menu. For those who prefer to shoot in jpeg mode its best to set the quality to fine or large. When shooting in jpeg our camera only sees 256 tones which are shades of light from black to white in a scene and a restricted amount of red green and blue that mix together to make the colours in our image. For example if we were taking a shot with a blue sky and a green field the camera would ignore a majority of the colours in the scene. It may see 100000 different shades of blue in the sky and ignore 75% of them along with the greens in the shot. This is not a problem if you manage to get everything spot on. If you later need to edit the image using software then you will be restricted to the amount of editing you can carry out in regard to exposure and colour adjustments.

Think of a RAW file as a digital negative, these files are uncompressed and contain all of the information that the camera captures. If your camera is a 12 million megapixel model then each image will be 12 million megapixels where if you shoot in jpeg each image will be roughly 3 million megapixels in size. This affects the amount of images that you can fit on a memory card but it is a false economy to shoot in jpeg just because you can fit more images on a card. When you shoot in RAW it could be the difference between a good quality image captured in jpeg mode looking average and when shot in RAW looking outstanding. A RAW image has much more flexibility when editing. More on this in the next module.

Search in your camera menu under quality or image quality to change your settings. Your camera handbook will explain the options.

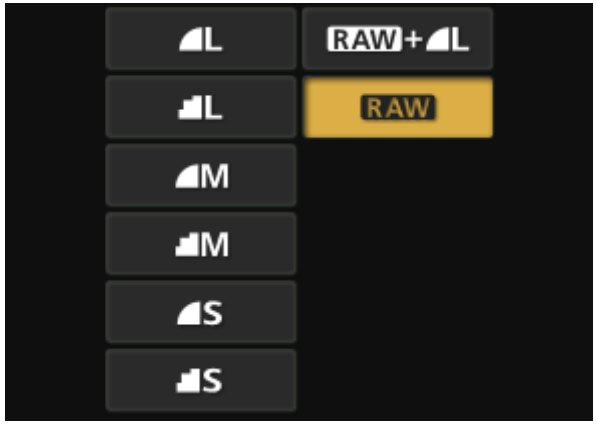

Image quality settings on a Canon DSLR