

Top 10 Lightroom Tips

1. Adjust the Histogram

Instead of using the Exposure/Highlights/Shadows/Whites/Blacks sliders adjust on the Histogram.

2. Detail

Keep the Alt key down when adjusting sharpening/noise to show the adjustments' effects clearly.

3. Sync

Apply consistent changes across a number of images by using Sync... in Library or Develop modes. Use the Metadata or Smart Collections to find and select similar images.

4. Default your Noise and Lens Corrections

In Develop, set sharpness, noise reduction and lens corrections at every ISO and use Alt+Reset... to store the default setting applied on every Import. (In Preferences, Presets set Make defaults specific to camera serial number and ISO setting.)

5. Presets

We're creatures of habit so create Presets for your most used Develop and Export settings.

6. Improve your skies

To give a little more contrast to the sky, in Develop select HSL then, just for the Blues, increase Saturation and decrease Luminosity.

7. Curves

If you click the little circle top left in Develop's Tone Curve section you can click on the image to select the tone to adjust.

8. Metadata

In the library the Library Filter: Metadata can be used to identify your favourite equipment and settings. You'll see the best default settings, what can be left out of the bag or justify a purchase.

9. Hide what you don't need

If you don't often need a feature of Lightroom, such as Split Toning, right-click and deselect it; you can do that to the Library to Web options too. Using Solo mode will simplify the bars at the sides.

10. Keyboard Shortcuts

Learn these and you will work much faster. They're not always obvious so search them out.

Useful resources:

Julianne Kost's videos from Adobe, Victoria Bampton: The Lightroom Queen, Laura Shoe
Recommended authors: Martin Evening and Scott Kelby