

15 TOP SHOTS TO TAKE RIGHT NOW!

2 | Moody industry

WHY NOW? Industrial scenes are more dramatic when set against moody skies typical at this time of year.

When you first see this shot you could be forgiven for thinking the cooling towers are belching out infinitely more steam than usual. In fact they are releasing just as much steam as any on other day, but the dramatic temperature difference between the steam and the air creates an illusion of much more. The great thing about shooting industrial scenes at this time of year is that there often appears to be more steam leaving the chimneys than in warmer months, and dramatic skies work perfectly as a backdrop for these monuments to man's progress. All the normal rules of landscape photography apply here, so think low ISO settings, narrow apertures like f/22 and ND grad filters to hold detail in the sky. It's hard, if not impossible, to get close to power stations, so don't be too surprised if you need a telephoto rather than a wide-angle lens.



JAN BRADHAM

4 | Four seasons

WHY NOW? Photograph the same location from the same spot every season for a year, starting now.

Anytime is a good time to start a photo project, but if you're planning a seasonal project now is the time to begin. Find a location you find interesting and photograph it from exactly the same spot during spring, summer, autumn and winter. We found a derelict windmill that will provide an unchanging focal point for our shots, as the field in the foreground changes throughout the year. Although the result will be primarily about comparison, you should still wait for the right conditions to help add creative flair to your shots.



ANDREW JAMES BAULER

3 | Star trails

WHY NOW? You don't have to stay up until midnight to see the stars.

We all complain about the nights drawing in too early but this is ideal for photographers shooting star trails. At this time of year you don't have to stay out half the night waiting for stars to appear on clear nights. However, light pollution will still be a problem, so find a location well away from towns and cities for best results. Check out www.startrails.de/html/software.html for free light trail software to help you merge shots together.

OLEG NOVIKOV