

Travel Photography Program

By

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- Plan, but keep flexibility to change your plans as you travel.
- Don't book all nights when possible.
- Be prepared to stay in alternative locations.
- Plan for various weather conditions.
- Research the location - Find out as much as you can about your destination. Read forums for other people's first-hand experiences, especially on how to access difficult areas for photography and what time of year is best to go.
- Consider guided photography trips.
- Connect with local people before you go; arrange meet ups.
- Go to the same places with images in mind.
- Pack light; take the equipment for the chosen location, but have some redundancy
 - Camera
 - Backup camera
 - General zoom + lens hood
 - 50mm prime + lens hood
 - Special camera and/or lens for the destination (Infrared, macro, long tele, super wide, fisheye, tilt/shift)
 - Filters (ND, Polarizer)
 - Flash
 - Extra batteries and memory cards
 - Back up media
 - Power adaptors
 - Chargers
 - Microfiber towel
 - Camera raincoat
 - Flashlight
 - Light tripod / monopod
 - Good strap(s)

- When flying, always take your equipment as carry-on luggage; a photographer vest is a good way to carry more equipment on you when you fly.
 - Roll your clothes as it takes up less space and produces fewer creases.
 - Stay safe, study the areas before you go.
 - Visit gift shops and look at local postcards. They will give you ideas about local points of interest. However, avoid shooting more postcards and look for unique perspectives.
 - Visit the local tourist information offices and get ideas from local people.
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- **Travel Photography Tips**
 - Take advantage of morning and late afternoon light.
 - Use a sunrise/sunset calculator tells me exactly where the sun will rise or set, anywhere, at any time of year.
 - Capture local colors.
 - Avoid cliché' pictures.
 - Plan and work your images, avoid snapshots.
 - Use Aperture Priority mode - keep it simple and consistent. You'll make fewer mistakes. Aperture priority will allow you to control depth of field.
 - Shoot RAW which captures more information and allows you to reprocess the image in a different way.
 - Use a telephoto lens and wide apertures to blur distracting backgrounds.
 - Use fill-flash in bright light.
 - People may add interest to the scene, but may also be distracting. It's all about timing.
 - Use the histogram to evaluate exposure. Select the exposure that puts the graph as far over to the right without clipping.
 - Plan ahead with travel companions if they are not interested in photography. Rushing each other will hurt everybody. Have time dedicated to each person's interest.
 - Shoot into the light with a wide-angle lens and stop down to at least f/16 to create a natural sunburst for a dramatic image.
 - Shoot in bad weather - overcast conditions provide soft, even light.
 - Use ND filters for long exposures that capture motion.
 - Always carry your camera so you don't miss opportunities.

- Change your angle. Don't shoot everything from eye-level; try moving the camera higher or lower.
- Don't stop at sunset. Photograph the lights and colors at night or the blue hour.

Enjoying Street Photography - Discussion/Techniques/Tips

5 key considerations for creative photography:

1. *The Thing*

- The subject is only the start. The photographer has to make the image unique and different from the way others will make it.
- Make sure you capture and reflect your own experience, point of view, and impression.
- Consider personal feelings such as conflict, contrast, humor, beauty, etc.

2. *The Detail*

- Pay attention to fine detail that is not very obvious to the untrained eye.
- Look for special texture, colors, patterns, lines, curves.
- Also think of visual elements that the eye cannot see such as motion blur, selective focus, B&W, reflections.

3. *The Vantage Point*

- Choose unique vantage points that are not from the standard eye level.
- Show the subject from unusual angles and perspectives.
- Capture it in ways that others don't see (above, below, very close).
- Animal, birds, and people should be captured from their eye level for a natural look, but you may want to make a unique statement.

4. *The Time*

- Many subjects are not interesting unless captured at the right moment.
- Consider:
 - Light- quality, color, angle
 - Motion
 - Action
 - Composition of moving elements in the picture

- Inclusion/exclusion of elements
- Weather conditions- fog, clouds, sun, etc.

5. The Frame

- Composition affects dynamics, impact, and mood.
- Think about what to include in or leave out.
- Think about the best orientation (vertical, horizontal, diagonal).
- Keep the borders clean.
- Consider the placement of the horizon. High in the frame- gives feeling of depth and distance; low- feeling of space and volume.
- Use leading lines, diagonals, triangles, curves.
- Bright areas get the attention.
- Remember the Rule of Thirds; avoid the center.

Tips

- Check the local paper or online for street events. Street fairs, parades, and events offer great photo opportunities.
- Don't forget other public locations such as bus/train stations, markets, flea markets, zoos, and parks.
- Less is More - don't take too much equipment and travel light. It'll make you less obtrusive and you will be able to move around for the best shot quickly.
- Don't limit yourself to the touristy spots and subjects. Go to side streets to capture the real life scenes.
- Anticipate action and interaction between people and be ready to capture the moment.
- Always shoot in color. You may consider black and white in post work.
- Watch the background. What's going on behind your subject can make or kill the shot. Buildings, people, billboards, signs, graffiti, and other visual elements can make a statement in a shot, but a busy background that distracts from the subject will ruin it.
- Experiment with camera angles. Don't limit yourself to horizontal and vertical compositions.
- Make it your own. Surprise the viewer. Consider unique perspective, composition, timing, and subject matter to make it your own image.
- Practice by going back to the same locations. Your ability to see creatively will improve, not just your technical skills.
- Always be ready. Things happen, so don't miss them. When I'm not shooting a specific subject, I set the ISO to 200 and aperture to F8.

- Stay in one spot for a period of time and wait for the right moment, action, and subject.
- Street scenes are busy. Be clear on whether your picture is of a single subject or the chaotic street scene. Frame accordingly. Make sure that there's a clear subject in your picture.
- Don't forget Depth of Field (DOF). This is your best tool when you need to separate the subject from a distracting background.
- Street scenes in rain, snow, or fog are very interesting. Wet sidewalks and pavements and small puddles often have beautiful reflections. Protect yourself and your gear but don't be afraid to go out and shoot.
- Don't stop at sunset. City streets at night offer great photo opportunities.
- Your safety must come first. Be smart about it.
- My way of photographing strangers
 - I introduce myself and give my card
 - I explain what I'm doing and why
 - I tell them what I intend to do with the picture. Maybe show a project checklist
 - I explain why I want their picture. If I can't explain it, then I shouldn't be taking the picture. It has to be a positive reason
 - I spend time talking to them and give complements as I shoot
 - I offer to send the pictures to them. I ask them to send me an email. I don't ask for theirs
 - I respect my subject's wishes and don't push my luck
 - I prefer to walk the streets with a companion. Strangers are more comfortable with your intentions when you are not alone

Dealing with harsh light

- Expose for your main subject. Let the background go bright or dark.
- Get close to avoid mixed light and distracting backgrounds or get far to make the details less important
- Pick subjects that are in the light or shade, not mixed
- If portrait, have the sun behind the subject and have the head tilted down a little