

Essential Travel Tips

Travel Photography

Travel photography by its very nature is inspirational and exciting. Whether going on vacation, traveling for business, or just passing through, the information and tips provided here will help to get you started right. With the right equipment properly packed and a sense of adventure, taking great travel pictures is easy.

1 / What to Bring

- Compact point and shoot camera or a DSLR
- Camera bag
- Camera lens (12-24mm wide zoom, a 24-120mm standard zoom, a fixed 50mm f/1.4 and fixed 180mm f/2.8 telephoto)
- Memory cards
- Batteries
- Laptop
- Tripod
- Cables
- Filters (the basics include ultraviolet filters to protect the lens, polarizing filters that cut glare and haze, and graduated density filters to balance the range of darks and lights)
- Brush (to dust off particles on your camera and lenses)

2 / Always be prepared

- Practice and experimentation is key to doing anything well. Try different compositional techniques on your family and friends and study the results before you set off on a trip. Practice motion photography at home before you leave. Go to an amusement park with rides, a race track, or even a nearby highway. You don't want to waste precious time on your trip learning.
- Carry a notebook that fits easily into your camera bag. Take notes about both what you want to photograph and what you already have. When you cover a lot of subjects, it's easy to forget.
- Be patient and friendly with customs and security inspectors at home and abroad. They have a difficult job, and getting impatient with them usually means it just takes longer.
- Check the weather forecast in the local media as soon as you arrive so you can make plans for sunny, cloudy or rainy days.
- Keep your eyes open and camera ready as you head out into the world. Architecture, colors and mountains all give us a sense of place. Wherever you go, be on the lookout for humor which you can incorporate into your photographs.
- Don't be shy about photographing people. Contact the locals. The way they are dressed and behave can help your images convey both the look and feeling of different seasons in different places.

3 / Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What time of year to go?

It is best to go to a place out of season, often when the weather would be considered less-than-ideal by tourists. The quality of light in the days before poor weather is absolutely fantastic. Colors are rich and light is neither too contrasting nor too dull.

Where to stay and how to travel?

If you would like to have a better feel for how the locals live, try and stay in small hotels. For safety reasons, it is important to go with a like-minded photographer.

Should I hire local guides? Will guidebooks help?

Never go to a place unprepared. Read up on the destination before leaving. Remember to get a guide and a driver because you are in an unfamiliar place where you do not know anybody, probably don't speak the same language and are unaware of the local customs.

Should I insure my equipments?

Yes! Contact your insurance company before you go and make sure your photography equipment is covered as you travel. Be specific about what equipment you'll be carrying and where you'll be going. Then write down serial numbers and models of all of the equipment.

4 10 Travel Photography Quick Tips

- Framing is important
- Learn the rule of third
- Seek out the golden hour (first and last hour of daylight)
- Learn to crop people properly
- Turn off the flash when there is ample natural light
- Shoot mundane things that remind you of something special
- Become your own tripod
- Look for reflections in still water
- Consider your options when photographing strangers
- Capture triangles (they are great aesthetically)