



Outdoor Travel Tips



Basic Tips for Winter Photography

03-34/41 Changi Airport Terminal 3, Departure/Check In Hall North, Mezzanine Level 03 -113 Marina Square 04 -15 Paragon 04 -19 ION Orchard

Winter brings out photography opportunities that are quite unique and completely different from the rest of the seasons. There are so many unusual and unique designs available from the newly fallen snow and frozen water. Cold weather can either help or hurt your photography. If you keep your camera from hibernating, you will find some great photo ops around you.

/ Basic Tips

Keep an extra battery warm

Your camera will do fine in the cold, but your batteries won't. Keep them warm and plenty.

Find a pair of flexible gloves

Fleece gloves with a rubberized grip that works is very important.

Use a two-glove system when it is really cold

Always pack a lighter pair of gloves for shooting, then a large pair of mittens to go over them in between shots.

Watch your exposure

Snow scenes often cause a camera to underexpose its shots. Try increasing your exposure compensation by a full step.

Never bring a cold camera directly into a warm space

This can cause very unwelcome condensation. Put your camera inside a zipped camera bag or other sealable bags. Then bring it inside to warm up.

Get outside right after a quick drop in temperature

That's when you often find some fantastic ice formations to photograph.

Photograph snow and ice at sunrise and sunset

Winter sunsets are early and often have great color. Both sunrise and sunset color reflects in the snow and ice.

/ Take better photos: 10 winter photography tips you should know

White balance

Set your white balance and shoot raw. When your camera "sees" snow, its bright white color can throw off the white balance. The result will be a photo that looks too dark or bluish in tone. Some cameras have a snow shooting mode, to compensate for snow and lighting conditions.

Exposure

Over exposure will wash out details. Under exposure will result in photographs being too dark. In snow-covered scenes, shoot in manual mode so you can make subtle adjustments. Make sure your histogram and metering are set right.

Flash

Use flash to light up the snowflakes a bit. The flash actually balances out the light off the snow.

Go for contrast and color

Winter's sparse landscapes make great subjects, especially when punctuated with contrasting shapes and colors, such as trees, buildings, animals, or loved ones in bright clothing.

Capture winter action

Skiing, snowboarding, and sledding make great action photos. Get the perfect shot by using Action Mode. It lets you freeze the action.

Time of the day

Make note of the time of day. Early in the morning, after a snowfall, it is at its most pristine. In the evening, do not be afraid to use a tripod and take a long exposure.

Breathe control

Hold your breath when you take the shot. Breath condensation can fog up your lens and viewfinder.

How to get a perfect exposure of a snow covered landscape

- Use exposure compensation. Setting the exposure compensation between +1 and +2 will give you a good exposure for snow covered scenes.
- Use an 18% gray card.
- Expose off the sky.

Essential camera gear for winter photography

- Ziploc bags to wrap your camera and lenses and avoiding condensation
- Batteries
- Paint Brush to brush off the snow from your camera/lens
- Heavy tripod
- Rubber lens hood Go for a heavy duty model, preferably one that's adjustable from wide angle to telephoto
- Weatherproof bag
- Photography gloves
- Proper footwear
- Laptop to store images
- Memory card wallet to keep your SD or CF cards in control

Covering yourself up for winter photography

Head: Everyone knows that you lose most of your body heat through an uncovered head, so wearing a good hat is important for keeping warm. A jacket with a hood will help keep out the wind as well.

Face: Avoid frostbite by covering your face with a balaclava or neoprene face mask.

Body: Wear a base layer, fleece jacket and a down jacket. Dress in layers and make use of high tech synthetic and wool fabrics.

Hands: Use chemical hand warmers. They fit right inside your gloves or mittens and provide an easy way for you to warm up after using bare hands for short periods to adjust camera controls. Fingerless gloves that fit inside bigger mittens will also suffice.

Feet: Winter photography often means tromping around for hours in deep snow. Wear warm boots and socks to keep your feet insulated.

**Refer to The Planet Traveller tips on How To Pack For Cold Climate Travel*