

# Travel Photography

## General Tips When Traveling (Abroad) with Your Camera Gear

### Hotel Security.

- ✓ The old tricks don't work anymore, like keeping the TV on, keeping valuables in a suitcase, etc.
- ✓ Leave valuables at front desk or in room safe. Some suggest it's OK to leave in car rental trunk.

### Personal Security

- ✓ Maintain a general high level of awareness of your surroundings.
- ✓ Travel with a partner and watch each other's backs.
- ✓ Try to "Blend in," by not wearing garish clothing.
- ✓ Walk like you know where you are going.

### Data Security

- ✓ **Epson P-3000/6000 Photo Viewer**  
**Pros:** Ample storage, Many formats, Large viewing screen, AA Batteries readily available. **Cons:** Bulky, Extra batteries needed, All your eggs in one basket?, Transfer times can be long.
- ✓ **Multiple Memory Cards.** **Pros:** Light, Compact, Inexpensive, Generally easy to find, but don't go too high with capacity. Better to use several. **Cons:** Storage pouch adds bulk, You need a

system to endure that data is not overwritten.

- ✓ **Should You Take a Laptop?** How dispensable is it? Take an old one. Leave non-essential data home. Is the power supply dual voltage? Don't forget extra blank media or thumb drives.
- ✓ **Pocket USB Hard Disk Drives.** Inexpensive, High Capacity, Compact, Power from laptop, Consider TWO!!
- ✓ **Flash/Thumb Drives.** Inexpensive, high capacity, easy to find, but easy to misplace!
- ✓ **Memory Card Recovery Software.** Recommend Lexar ImageRescue

### Power

- ✓ **Power Requirements.** Modern electronics are dual voltage so don't need converters. Check labels. However, you DO need plug adapters. [www.Magellans.com](http://www.Magellans.com) has a good wizard and chart that helps.
- ✓ **Battery Chargers.** Check that they are dual voltage. Remember, though, that AA batteries are sold everywhere – even on the moon!

### Know Your Gear!

- ✓ Make a list of all your gear and photograph it.
- ✓ Understand your gear. Take your Manual for reference.
- ✓ Decide which camera. Do you need two bodies, or an extra point-n-shoot?
- ✓ Weight is a big factor. Consolidate lens focal lengths to one or two lenses.
- ✓ Do you really need that flash and tripod? Flashes need power. Flash

heads and tripods are bulky. Consider a monopod instead. Keep in checked luggage.

- ✓ The only filter you need is Polarizer.
- ✓ Don't forget a micro-fiber cleaning cloth, flashlight, plastic bags, journals.

### Travel Photography Tips

- ✓ Fully research your trip ahead of time!
- ✓ Be sensitive to local customs (esp. religious). Remember, you are a visitor. Be respectful.
- ✓ It's not just about monuments! Shoot the local people, travel companions, food and drink, hotels, transportation, market spaces/shops, street scenes, yourself!
- ✓ Signs give your photos context.
- ✓ Get up early (to catch the "golden hour").
- ✓ Reserve your "photography time" when traveling with family.
- ✓ **Always** have a camera with you.
- ✓ Take pictures of maps.
- ✓ Shop the postcard racks for photo ideas.
- ✓ Keep a photo-journal.
- ✓ Consider equipment insurance.
- ✓ Bring copies of equipment receipts for U.S. Customs upon return.
- ✓ Have Fun!
- ✓ Don't Forget to take photos out of plane window! Show a part of the plane. Watch vibration at window. Use manual focus. Shoot early in flight to avoid condensation. Stand by for banking turns. Turn off that flash!

### Photographing People

- ✓ Look for interesting faces.

- ✓ Make eye contact and smile.
- ✓ Ask permission - especially with children and women. Can do this by pointing to your camera and smile.
- ✓ Fill the frame with your subject.
- ✓ Get them in their environment, at work or at play.
- ✓ Consider making a small donation as compensation. Or, if domestic, offer to send a print.

### General Travel Tips

- ✓ Take the earliest flight outbound to avoid domino effect when massive traffic delays occur.
- ✓ Make a photocopy of passport cover and inside cover.
- ✓ Keep a record of embassy numbers, passport numbers, credit card numbers.
- ✓ Keep twenty, \$1 bills for tips abroad.
- ✓ Men, use a money belt.
- ✓ Mark your checked bags with colorful tape or tags.
- ✓ Stay hydrated when flying long intercontinental flights.

### HOW ABOUT PUTTING DOWN THE CAMERA FOR A BIT?

*Travel is about more than just the photos you take.*

*It's about being in beautiful places with good friends and family.*

*Remember ... you don't need to capture a moment to make it a valuable experience! So, put the camera down and enjoy the moment ...*

*... then quickly pick it up and shoot, Shoot, SHOOT!!*