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Introduction to Travel Photography

Travel Photography can be described as candid photography of everyday life producing many different avenues in many forms as life happens.

Today's travel landscape poses interesting and frustrating challenges such as the invasion of privacy, national security and an overall wariness the general public has of photographers. Fair or unfair, this is the world in which we live

Respect for the subject

This is the most important facet of travel photography.

If a subject does not wish to be photographed, don't photograph them.

There are many reasons a subject shouldn't be photographed

- the destitute
- Or those in distress), do not make that picture.
- Follow the general rules of etiquette and you'll be fine.

If you think you'll get around this issue by using that 70-200 lens. You could, but with the increasing wariness the public has of photographers you might become the person people call the police on. Travel photography isn't about being sneaky or stealthy. Blend in, be a normal person and wear normal clothes.

The photographer's vest and the big backpack are out and so is the big white eyeball-magnet lens. Don't attract negative attention and the way you carry yourself is the first step. You are a part of the scene whether you like it or not. Don't forget to smile and don't be afraid to engage in conversation. You'd be surprised how far it can get you.

Travel light with one camera and one lens – maybe two. If you're going to use a bag, keep it simple. Bring your ID in case you're approached by law enforcement, debit/credit card, some business cards and a good pair of walking shoes as your bare essentials.

How gear can have a negative impact on the perception of the photographer. Big lenses and big cameras have their place but travel is not that place. If discretion is the better part of valour, small form factor cameras and smaller lenses are better suited in the hands of the travel photographer.

A DSLR with a prime lens or a small zoom will work perfectly. Traditionally, the 50mm lens has been called the perfect travel lens. It's really the choice of the photographer and your money

Why the prime lens?

Three reasons;

- high quality optics,
- smaller size and
- How the human eye views the scene

When using a prime lens, before you put the camera to your eye, your brain is already formulating a composition.

Pre-visualization is crucial to travel photography because time is at a minimum. Moments are fleeting, lighting changes or somebody starts yelling at you. Plan your scene. Most of the time, the scene happens quickly and the better prepared you are mentally, the more success you'll have.

What should you shoot?

Life as it happens. Look for interesting shadows, leading lines, contrast, humour, irony and happiness. It's easy to photograph the downtrodden or the depressed because it's everywhere. Happiness is harder to find but it's there and when found and captured it makes for a compelling image worthy of attention.

Shooting on Location

While shooting on location you are provided with a unique experience of unlimited possibilities. You have a minimum amount of gear and are subjected to the environmental conditions. You must plan ahead in order to capture all the great images.

By planning a head you visualize the shot before you take it.

What is your subject?

What is the lighting?

What kind of message do you want to portray?

The better you visualize the shot the better the final product will be..

Control the light with reflectors.. Bright sunlight will create harsh shadows – position your subject with their back to the sun with a reflector in front of them to eliminate the shadows.

On cloudy days Place the reflectors off to the side of your subject to eliminate as many shadows as possible.

Use you light meter to set your camera settings, then bracket your shots around these settings.

Indoor shots are a little more complex as you need to set your white Balance. (If the shot contains a lot of white use an 18% grey card)

Watch for stray lighting coming through the windows as it will produce nasty shadows.

Use your Imagination

Whenever you go out on a shooting expedition experiment with various shots and settings and always have fun.

On location photography is challenging always strive for excellence in every shot let your imagination take over and you will get a lot of amazing shots.

Tips for Travel Photography

Whether you are traveling to distant lands or staying within the boundaries of your own country, you will get the best results by using photography tips recommended by professionals and experienced amateur photography buffs

After deciding your destination, research it to properly capture the flavour of the area you are visiting. Make a list of the area's natural highlights, cityscapes, bridges, cathedrals, mountains, ocean, lakes, natural rock formations, historical locations, and all other places of interest.

1. Keep a Journal

When traveling, it's easy to forget names and places, unusual spellings, flora and fauna species, and descriptions of the images photographed. A small notebook with pen attached, will keep you organized when you peruse your files at days end. Include local lore in your notes when applicable, as well as correct spellings of locations, buildings, and people included in your images.

2. Make Acquaintance

When you smile at the people you meet, they might smile back. Include people in some of your images, to enhance a landscape or cityscape. Friendliness with the locals will gain trust. It is important to make the locals feel included in the photographic process. Being included in your images can make them very happy, and usually they are not expecting payment for their inclusion. Although it may not always be necessary, it's a good idea to have a few model-release forms handy

3. Check Your Equipment

It's critical to check all your equipment.

- Be sure to have extra memory cards and batteries
- Prepare for the unexpected with a first aid kit, flashlight and batteries, rain poncho, and an extra pair of shoes.
- If your trip entails physical demands, such as hiking or climbing, do physical training in advance of the trip to avoid injury and disappointment.

4. Don't Over-pack

It's important not to over-pack. Too often people are burdened down with their luggage and bags, and then discover some locations are too difficult to navigate unless you travel light. Bring only the supplies you need. It isn't necessary to bring every camera and lens you own. Choose the equipment that will do the best job for the trip you are planning. Resist the urge to pack an extra few items "just in case an opportunity presents itself." Pack just enough clothing to get by for a few days. It can be washed when necessary.

5. Go Exploring

Explore the surroundings, avoid tourist attractions, eat where the locals eat, and walk up and down all the tiny paths where everyday people walk. You will start to experience how the people of the area live, play, and work. Don't look at your watch, but look at all that surrounds you, including the buildings, travels, animals, children, festivities, musicians, crafts people, workers, businesses, and a thousand other things the observant photographer will notice. Engage the people, smile, toss some coins to the travel performer, and capture people as they live. View the area from all angles by standing on something high to shoot down and sitting or lying position to look up. Frame images with windows, doors, and archways. Incorporate as much texture as possible into the scene. The landscapes around your destination may include mountains, desserts, rivers, or other beautiful scenery. Capture the essence of the area, including the vistas, wildlife, and people.

Travel photography soon becomes a passion, and fulfills the artistic nature dwelling in every photographer. A large percentage of fine art photography is generated from travel photography. Plan your trip carefully and you

Travel Tips

The length of your trip doesn't matter there are many factors that will make or break your photo.

Plan ahead – go over your travail ternary and visualize the images you would like to keep. Then pack the appropriate camera gear to capture the image.

The camera body needs to fit your hand. Learn all the camera settings select a good camera with high ISO capabilities to capture low light Images. This comes in extremely useful when the use of a tripod is not permitted.

Carry a small backup camera just in case something goes wrong.

Zoom lenses are best for travel as they provide a wide range of focal lengths and gives you more composition advantages, eliminating the need to change lenses and getting dust on the sensors.

Bring a tripod- a compact light weight model is the best opening up a realm of possibilities –low light situations long exposures, light painting. a remote shutter release is A small flash light to help set the camera settings in the dark.

Small portable collapsible reflectors also come in hand .positioned at 45° angle to the camera lens to reflect the light source onto the object.

Find a camera bag that is large enough to carry your Gear yet comfortable to use. The back pack version works the best as it passes the airline regulations and is very comfortable to carry thus leaving your hands free to do the everyday tasks.

Always have extra batteries and memory cards.

Plastic sandwich bags help keep your camera dry in damp moist weather.

Keep your camera equipment clean and never used Compressed air as the pressure could damage the sensors.

Make every day count. the best time is the golden hours one hour before or after sunrise or sun set

Be considerate. Always ask the person if you could take their picture. But don't offer any money and always show your subject the result.

After returning to the place you are staying Sort your pictures and document the ones you want to keep. Change camera cards and batteries clean your equipment and get ready for the next day.

Getting Started

What Do Travel Photographers Do?

The main goal of a travel photographer is to capture stunning images of their experiences in locations away from home. This allows them to serve as storytellers and educators on the world's rich diversity — with the power to capture moments in time, just as they were experienced.

As a travel photographer, your main reason for traveling must be for taking photos —being able to take the best possible photographs. Many travel photographers find their career choice to be one of the most fulfilling occupations in the photography world.

How Can You Become a Travel Photographer?

Professional travel photographers have existed for several years. In previous times, this profession was mainly limited to explorers who had their work published in popular magazines.

The Internet and social media has made travel photography more accessible to the public, increasing work opportunities and earning potential for photographers of this genre.

While it may appear simple to become a travel photographer by simply traveling with a camera, it involves much more than that. Professional travel photography requires a lot of work, time, and skill development. If you want to become a travel photographer, you should take the following steps:

Define Your Personal and Professional Goals

Research, plan, and define your personal and professional goals before starting a career in travel photography. Many aspiring travel photographers make the costly mistake of entering the field without a clear vision of their brand objectives. In a highly competitive field like travel photography, having a clear set of long-term goals gives you leverage and a head start.

Outline your goals for a career in travel photography, whether you want to make it a long-term career or use your photography career to travel.

Learn the Art of Travel Photography

Becoming a successful travel photographer involves much more than just taking cool photos. Most successful photographers have mastered their craft and are proficient with high-quality equipment, allowing them to capture shots that will stand out and wow viewers.

To produce work that meets the standards of magazines, stock image sites, and other outlets that want to purchase travel images, you must become skilled with a DSLR. While smartphone cameras have improved, they still cannot match the quality of a high-end DSLR and a set of standard or professional lenses.

Observing and learning from other professionals will also help improve your photography. This includes taking travel photography courses, watching YouTube videos, and reading online articles from seasoned pros.

Create a Brand and Portfolio

Given the competitive landscape created by social media and the internet for photographers, developing a niche or brand is critical. Give your brand a unique name and logo, and define your niche.

Creating a portfolio for your brand and work is very important. Your travel photography portfolio allows you to show off your work and tell stories about your travels. and showcase your work and creative abilities, giving potential clients a sense of your brand goals and overall photography skills.

Consider scaled image features, horizontal-scrolling galleries, accessible menu options, and an intuitive layout design when creating your travel photography portfolio. Your portfolio should only contain your best work and be updated frequently.

Your online portfolio will be your number-one tool in helping you grow your career in travel photography and winning new clients.

What Education Do You Need To Become a Travel Photographer?

While having a photography or arts degree can be helpful in getting your travel photography business off the ground, formal education isn't a requirement to pursue a career in travel photography. At the end of the day, your clients will want to see your ability to produce stunning images — not your credentials. This means that your certificates can spruce up your resume and speak for your experience, your portfolio will be your key tool in impressing your viewers and landing more gigs.

What Are Some Travel Photography Courses You Can Take

If you'd like to sharpen your skills, there are hundreds of travel photography courses online to help you cover the fundamentals and learn to take better photos. Many universities, community colleges, and online workshops feature certificate programs and seminars to help you master your craft.

There are a number of free and paid resources online to take your photography skills to the next level. In our list of photography courses, explore all the classes you can take from renowned brands, education institutes, and professional photographers.

What Skills Do You Need To Become a Travel Photographer?

Resiliency

Travel photographers must be organized, flexible, and ready to adapt to time constraints (wake up early or stay up late) to capture shots of a particular place, event, or person. Traveling isn't always luxurious; it can be time-consuming, and demanding. Long-haul flights can be taxing on the body, causing fatigue, stress, and decreased productivity.

Travel photographers must be prepared for delays, crowds, language barriers, lost directions, and traffic. Mandatory COVID-19 testing and awareness of pandemic-related travel restrictions have recently been added.

Flexibility

Compromise is required in the world of photography. The more you're willing to travel or relocate quickly, the more travel photography opportunities you'll have.

Given that opportunities can vary based on location, being flexible will help you land more gigs. Consider how much time you can and want to spend away from home. Many travel photographers choose to work as digital nomads, constantly moving their base of operations to meet demand.

Strong Communication Skills

Language is a powerful tool in photography. The ability to communicate with strangers and ask for directions in unfamiliar places will help you grow as a travel photographer. Even better is learning basic phrases in each destination's language.

Is Travel Photography a Good Career?

While many aspire to a career in travel photography, it is not without its challenges.

Travel photographers spend several hours in planes, trains, cars, and transit stops. Due to the nature of landing gigs, you may be required to spend extended periods away from home and alone. Early in your career, the frequency of gigs and pay can be unpredictable.

There are many benefits to working as a travel photographer. It will allow you to travel to amazing places and meet amazing people. You'll also get to meet other creative professionals, try new foods, and have a flexible work schedule that allows you to explore new ideas.

How Much Money Does a Travel Photographer Make?

The amount of money you can make as a travel photographer is dependent on how much work you do and the type of work you choose to take on. Other factors that can determine your financial success include how many clients you receive, what their general budget range is, and where (and when) you decide to travel for work.

Some of the main ways travel photographers generate income include selling their photos to stock photography websites, to clients, magazines or tourism publications, taking on assignments, serving as retainers, selling prints, conducting in-person workshops (which can generate advertising or affiliate revenue).

According to ZipRecruiter, the average annual pay for a travel photographer is \$45,581 Per Year

What Is the Best Equipment To Use for Travel Photography?

While different photographers will have varying preferences and budgets, finding the right equipment will ensure you're prepared to take the perfect travel shots for your upcoming trips.

Best Camera for Travel Photography

When it comes to choosing the best equipment for travel photography, professional travel photographers often prefer a compact camera for its portability, affordability, and budget-friendliness. A smaller device is also easier to fit into a carry-on bag (or even a pocket) when traveling light.

DSLRs are the better option for still photography mirrorless cameras. With the optical viewfinder can help you get a better idea of what your camera will capture. DSLRs have better low-light performance and more manual controls.

Action cameras have also revolutionized travel photography. Small, waterproof, and damage-resistant, these cameras are ideal for hiking, boating, snorkeling, scuba diving, and other outdoor activities.

Best Lens for Travel Photography

Like your camera, you won't want your lens to weigh you down while you're on the road. If you've chosen a DSLR or a mirrorless camera as your trusted device, you'll need to figure out which lenses to carry as well.

When choosing the best lens for travel photography, performance isn't the only thing that needs to be considered. It should be durable, versatile, and as compact as possible during long periods of travel.

The best lens types to consider for travel photography include:

All-Around Lens – If you're new to travel photography, a 24-70mm lens is ideal. With its extensive features, it can easily capture landscapes, portraits, and close-ups. Pricy, but high-performing and sharp-shooting device that will help you capture serious photography pieces.

Telephoto Lens – If you're looking to specialize in landscape photography, having a telephoto lens in your luggage is a must. To shoot detailed landscapes with sharp precision, you'll want your camera's focal length to have greater reach. A 70-200mm lens will provide you with extra length, without being too weighty or difficult to carry around on the road.

Wide-Angle Lens – A wide-angle lens is ideal for capturing stunning landscapes, cityscapes, and architecture. Wide-angle lenses' added depth and smaller aperture allow them to capture perspectives unseen by the human eye. Wide-angle lenses are a premium choice for those willing to carry a little extra weight.

Travel photography can be an exciting career. Pick up your camera and start shooting around your own city and start building your travel photography portfolio!

Showcase Your Travel Photography

Choose a [professional website template](#) and build an eye-catching online website portfolio.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

Every photographer decides where they stand on the philosophical issues of this type of photography.

Do you think street photography has to be candid?

Does it have to be shot on the street, or even in a public place?

Does it have to include people?

Give it a name, or classification, so that if you see a street photo you can identify its classification and think about how it fits into the broader category of street photography. This process will also allow you to see how the various types of street photography overlap, because street photos are sometimes more than one type.

Provide “homegrown” tips on how to get started or develop this type of photography for your portfolio.

CLASSIC OR CANDID STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

The photography community defines street photography as

1. It captures the day-to-day lives of people in their daily surroundings
2. It is candid photography; as people are unaware of the photographer
3. It tends toward being documentary or journalistic
4. There is a balance between people, the environment, the story, and the feeling

Almost every street photographer takes some classic or candid photos. This is an easy entry point into street photography because smartphone cameras are perfect starter devices for candid, documentary-style photography. They are inconspicuous; always with us; and have focal lengths, which vary by brand and model,

The fact that you have taken a photograph of people in a public setting does not mean that it is a compelling picture. If you take this kind of photograph, look for interesting scenes.

compelling have compositional connection, a repetition of colour, people spread out evenly, or any group of things that the viewer will see as similar.

Photos that capture a funny scene, show surprise, or signal distress also tend to be more interesting.

Composition counts for a lot, so the more familiar you are with the principals of composition, the better chance you have to produce a good candid photo.

STREET PORTRAITS

This is another straightforward type of street photography; although, we could spend a lot of time debating whether the “posed street portrait” really qualifies as street photography. Or should it be in its own type?

Street portraiture has these characteristics:

1. It can be shot candidly or posed
2. It focuses on the person more than the environment
3. It often conveys feelings. There is a lot of interest right now in telling the story;
4. The face is the focus

If you are studying tips on photography, there is no shortage of coaching about the how-to of getting started and advancing your skills in the street portrait type.

Travel is one opportunity. Because cultures are so different, almost everyone is interesting.

Also, your inclination to boldness is heightened because it might be a once-in-a-lifetime chance for a photograph.

You will find vendors on the street, at trade shows, in food trucks, or at community events welcome the opportunity to be photographed.

Anywhere there are crowds, there are street portraits to be taken.

This is, in part, is because the crowds are large and confining that there is often no other choice but to concentrate on the “close shot.”

Mass transportation, such as a subway system, is also a place for a story, and another accessible and good place to take street portraits.

GEOMETRIC STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

Geometric street photography is another traditional type of street photography, but the name is not as familiar. It is also sometimes called graphic street photography, but as the term 'graphic' can have a larger meaning than design,

These are the characteristics that define geometric street photography:

1. Patterns, textures, shapes, lines, tones, colour, and light to give a visual experience
2. There is little reportage or documentation of events
3. It is a pleasing combination of people and objects, but the people, or parts of people, are not usually the main subject; the emphasis is on the environment
4. This type of photography rarely tells a story, but can pique feelings.

Geometric street photography is a great entry point for anyone interested in architectural photography.

If you are a STEMs type (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics), you will find this type of street photography to be the most comfortable place to start. Ironically, it is probably a good fit for the artistic types as well, because the hallmark of this type of photography is good design.

One way to look for this kind of photograph is to find an interesting building, staircase, door, or anything architectural; study where you will get the most dramatic light; and then wait for a person to show up there.

Look for lines, shadows, bands of colour, or the repetition of shapes, and wait for a person to enter the scene. This is not a type of street photography that requires stealth, but rather a good eye.

Street photography is deceptively simple. You don't have the same constraints as some types of photography, such as demanding placement of focus or stringent lighting requirements.

There are streets everywhere, so the opportunity is endless.

It can be daunting to start taking pictures of people you do not know.

Understanding the types of street photography can help you find an entry point that feels comfortable.

Techniques

You finally book a trip to your ultimate bucket list destination.

Antarctica, Iceland, Namibia, Bali, seeing the Aurora Borealis – wherever it is, you've waited your whole life to finally visit.

You want to capture the best travel photos possible of this once-in-a-lifetime adventure to share with your friends and family members, on social media, and maybe even a print on the wall at home.

Moments in time or a travel experience that you always want to cherish.

You've purchased a new camera based on expert recommendations, and you're keen to hit the road.

The problem is – you don't have the faintest idea how to get the images you see in postcards or on the internet.

The kinds of travel photos that just pop, stand out from the rest, and inspire you to book a flight immediately.

Today is the time to learn.

Starting with general travel photography tips that are the most important, and also the most difficult to master.

Developing an eye for photography takes time. Years in fact. It's a never-ending learning process, but with practice you will get better.

And once you start to get the skills for framing and composing a shot, the rest is easy.

1) Know Your Camera

Whether you shoot on a DSLR, mirrorless, smartphone or an old film unit, the first travel photography tip is to get to know your camera equipment.

Whatever you have in your camera bag, take the time to read the instructions, play around with all the buttons and camera settings, and spend hours with it in your hand so that it becomes a part of you.

Study the menu so that if you need to change camera settings in the field you're not spending minutes scrolling through it when timing is critical.

Also don't forget to learn your camera's limitations.

Does it perform well in low-light or does the image fall apart?

Is it sharp wide open, or do you need to stop down to get the best clarity?
Does it have inbuilt image stabilisation?

Ultimately when you pick up your camera you want to feel comfortable and know exactly how it works. Then getting better pictures will come faster and easier.

Knowing your camera allows you to capture the moments that happen quickly,

2) Focus on the Golden and Blue Hours

Light is everything when it comes to travel photography images, and there's a good chance you've already heard about the golden and blue hours.

The Golden Hour is that time when the sun is low in the sky and it throws a magical, warm glow across the scene.

Think the first hour after the sun peaks in the morning, and the last hour before the sun drops over the horizon in the afternoon.

The Blue Hour is when the sun is below the horizon and the sky gives off a beautiful blue hue.

If you really want better travel photos, one of the best travel photography tips is to get used to waking up early and stay out late to make the most of these two times of day.

If you're not a morning person, set an alarm. Many of the great travel photos and tourist sites with no one in them were taken by people who got there early.

Taking photos in the middle of the day can still result in great shots, but in general you'll find the blue sky too blown out unless there are some interesting clouds, and on a sunny day you'll find the lighting conditions can be a bit harsh.

Instead use the middle of the day to get street photography, or scout out photo locations and a vantage point for your sunrise and sunset photos to come back later.

Bonus Tip – Even if it looks like the sunrise or sunset might not be so beautiful, wait around. You never know when the clouds might break or the sky randomly lights up in brilliant colours.

3) Plan Your Shots

Before you arrive in your tourist destinations, spend a few hours planning out your shot list of images you want to photograph.

You can get inspiration from Instagram, Google Maps, travel guides, magazines and more.

Make a note of these pictures, and then plan your day around the optimum time to shoot (sunrise or sunset for example).

Doing this will help you get the shots you want and give you more purpose and direction.

You need to know that all of the best photographers use tools like Google Maps or social media to form a shot list, and you should get used to it too.

Make sure you plan out your shots before you arrive to a destination.

4) Learn About Composition

You've probably heard about how important it is to compose a shot properly, and if you've ever read a photography manual you would have come across the 'rule of thirds'.

Good composition can be the difference between an average shot and award-winning travel photos.

There's all kinds of 'rules' that theoretically make a photo look nicer, such as not putting your subject in the middle of the shot, don't cut elements out of the frame, etc.

But right now let's go a bit into the Rule of Thirds.

This concept is where you divide your image into 9 even squares (many cameras actually have this grid line feature built into their display options).

Then place the subjects and points of interest such as a human element along those lines and squares.

The idea of the rule of thirds is that this is a mathematical idea of what our eyes naturally find pleasing. So it's good practice to incorporate this method into your shots.

Another thing to look for is leading lines that naturally draw your eye around the photo, as well as different angles and shapes.

Have a river flowing from the side of the shot up to a waterfall on the top left for example, or the foreground bending around, leading the eye towards a church at the top of the photo.

This is a skill that you'll learn with more practice.

An important thing to remember is that rules are meant to be broken.

Get used to analysing your shots with the rule of thirds, but don't use it as gospel if you think a different composition would work.

Adding a human element brings a lot of interest to a good shot, place people in your frame.

5) Framing, Framing and More Framing

When you look through the viewfinder or LCD screen, don't only focus on the subject.

Make sure you move your eyes around the entire frame to make sure you're not accidentally cutting off something important.

Double-check that the top of a mountain is fully inside the frame, or that your friend's whole body is in the shot

Sometimes having something cut off from the frame can be good for composition, but you'll have to be the judge of that.

Also check to see if you can use something natural in the scene to create a frame inside your picture.

Think of looking out a window at a building, or a bent-over tree surrounding a pretty lake.

These can all help make better travel photos.

6) Move Your Feet

Move your feet.

Don't arrive and take a shot from the place you're standing. Take a few minutes to walk around and see if there is a better frame or composition.

Go closer, move back, step to the side, consider your lens' focal length, etc.

Imagine trying to take that iconic Taj Mahal photo, only to find out later that you were 2m to the left of centre, throwing off that perfect symmetry.

Or maybe if you walk to the river's edge you'll be able to incorporate interesting rocks into the scene instead of just water.

Take multiple travel photos and fill up the memory cards from the same photo location so you have lots of options when you get home to select your favourite.

7) Ask People for Permission

Travel photography isn't all about capturing the most beautiful sunsets and gorgeous architecture around the world.

Travel photography is also about the people you meet. But if you're shy how do you get those amazing portrait photos without feeling rude?

Simple – just ask for permission.

Asking someone for permission to take their photo is polite and respectful.

If you have had a great encounter with someone, or you just see a great opportunity and want to capture a wonderful portrait, give them a big smile and ask if it's ok to take their photo.

You'll find many people are more than happy to pose for a photo if you just ask (just make sure you respect them if they say no).

A great trick is to ask someone for permission to take their photo, and if they agree take one and then wait for them to come back to what they were doing. But what if you want to get a candid shot, with the subject looking natural?

There's always another way to get these without annoying the person.

Don't make it obvious that you are taking their photo. Act natural and take lots of photos of the environment around them.

You can also keep your camera down by your side and point the lens in their direction.

If you have a zoom lens, use it. You could be on the other side of the street or market and still photograph the person.

Make Them Feel Comfortable

Some people will feel uncomfortable posing for a stranger, but if you can make it about something else they will feel much more at ease.

As an example, maybe ask if they can pose with something in their store like a rug, or ask them to show you their wedding ring.

This way they'll realise there is more to your photo than just them. This will also add a lot more interesting elements to the shot!

8) Use a Tripod

A tripod is one of the best camera accessories you can have in your camera bag, and really essential for travel photography.

This will allow you to get excellent shots in low light, as well as get creative with your images (like taking long exposures).

You don't always need a massive tripod, especially if you want to travel light and are a hobbyist photographer.

A good thing about using a tripod is that it forces you to slow down and put more thought into each shot.

Rather than just pointing and shooting, you will think carefully about where you want to set up your tripod and how you want to compose your shot.

9) Find the Right Travel Photography Gear

You don't need to go out and spend tens of thousands of dollars on new travel photography gear to get the best shots. Chances are you already have an adequate camera right next to you (your phone).

Get what you can afford, and as you grow with your photography style, post production, etc, you'll acquire better camera gear and the various accessories like filters, tripods, flashes, prime lenses, zoom lenses, etc

10) Be Unique

There's nothing wrong with those iconic shots of the Eiffel Tower or Machu Picchu to share on social media.

They're beautiful and are often amazing camera angles of famous places that everyone wants to visit.

But don't forget to be unique as well! Find a different perspective that hasn't been photographed a million times.

Make it your goal to get a few unique shots that you can be proud of.

- Over-expose,
- under-expose,
- incorporate motion blur –
- The only limitation is your imagination!

11) Find Your Voice as a Photographer

Just like a writer or musician finds a particular style they like, as a photographer you need to discover your 'voice'.

Travel photography is such a broad term that can cover just about anything.

Taking any travel photos fit the description, whether it is landscape photography, wildlife photography, architecture, portraits, food or whatever.

Just find a style you love most, and focus on getting better at it.

If you really like black and white photography, then start shooting in black and white! Love taking images of crazy street markets? Then get out there and find them!

Experiment, learn, discover and nurture!

Just keep taking photos until you find your style!

All about Travel Photography

Travel photography is the best way to capture your wonderful moments and use them to warm your hearts even in the darkest of times.

If we tried to give a definition of travel photography, it would be something along these lines: travel photography is the documentation of all the components of any given destination.

Including

- the landscape, both natural and human-made,
- the people,
- the culture,
- the food,
- the history of the place.

Tourism photography is part of travel photography, As It focuses on hotels, resorts, restaurants, and businesses in the tourism industry.

Travel photography is the broadest photography classification in terms of all the different subjects it covers. It encompasses numerous other areas of photography, such as

- Street,
- landscape,
- Architecture photography.

This is why it takes a lot more than mere photographic knowledge to excel as a travel photographer.

A good travel photographer must be flexible, well-organised and outgoing.

Flexible to adapt to time-related challenges (e.g. waking up early, staying up late).

Well-organised to plan photographic trips to the last detail. Outgoing because, you can go a long way with a smile if you plan to, take portraits of total strangers in faraway lands. Learning a foreign language wouldn't hurt either.

There's something unique about travel photography that makes it stand out from all other photography types. The purpose of travel photography goes beyond just shooting a spectacular image. Travel photography is a means to tell a story, to inspire, and, above all, to educate people on the diversity of our beautiful world.

In the last decades, many factors have conducted to travel being accessible to more and more people. As a result, travel photography isn't appealing to professional photographers alone. Everyone is keen to perfect their skills in travel photography.

1. Research Your Location

Your photographic trips should begin well before you even reach your destination. No matter if you are an amateur or a professional photographer, researching your location is vital if you want to capture those epic shots you've always dreamt of. Either you are on holidays or specifically travel for photography, help you keep track of all the places you want to visit is to create a personal map with all the points of interest you want to shoot. Know the best time to visit the locations on your list. Some places are best enjoyed at sunset, while others should be visited at dawn to avoid the crowds. Do your homework and adjust your day-to-day schedule accordingly.

2. Choose Your Gear Wisely & Learn How to Use It

You've decided to invest time and money in travel photography, Do not buy the most expensive gear from the start. Because you may eventually realise that travel photography isn't for you after all. And, it will be easier for you to master the basics of shooting while using entry-level equipment.

Start with an entry-level DSLR or mirrorless camera and keep practising until you're confident with using the manual mode there's no reason why you should spend money on a camera if you're planning to use the Auto settings alone. You'd be better off with a good smartphone if that's the case. Always shoot RAW, as it allows you to edit your images afterwards.

Once you know your camera, start experimenting with the various lenses to achieve diverse results.

- a wide-angle lens, you will be amazed at how an entire village can be squeezed in a single frame.
- Or, a telephoto lens, especially if you are into wildlife photography.
- The possibilities are endless.
- It all comes down to your preferences and budget.

After a certain time you're still interested in travel photography, you can start buying other accessories that includes

- Tripods
- , extra batteries,
- a flash,
- a drone.

3. Keep Practising & Be Patient

Don't wait until next time you travel to test your camera and its functions. Go on a photography trip around your neighbourhood and start shooting. Shoot indoors and shoot outdoors. Shoot in bright sunlight, shoot in low light, and shoot at night. Hold your camera and shoot, use your tripod and shoot. Play around with all of your camera's settings and functions (*on manual mode*).

Once realize the importance of practice, it's time to embrace patience, You can't expect to learn everything in one go. You must invest a lot of time to be able to shoot superb travel images.

Photography can be a waiting game. Often, you find yourself waiting for the right time to take the perfect shot. It may be the exact moment when the sun disappears into the water or when the high tide comes. Weather conditions are not always in your favour. it takes a lot of determination, and, patience to make it as travel photographer.

4. Always Carry Your Camera with You

You've spent an entire day out shooting and now you feel it's time you left your camera at the hotel room to go have dinner and maybe enjoy a drink but think twice before you leave your camera behind. Why not experiment with night photography while taking your post-dinner stroll?

No matter how well you've planned your trip, you never know when an exceptional opportunity arises for a shot you won't want to miss. It's better to carry your camera and never take it out of your bag than to leave it behind and regret not capturing that perfect moment in time that unfolded before your eyes and then vanished for ever.

5. Respect Locals & Wildlife

Whether you're travelling within your country or abroad, you should always respect the locals. Under no circumstances should you make anyone feel uncomfortable for the sake of taking the perfect shot. Not even a one-billion shot is worth making another person feel uneasy. If you're dying to take a close-up of locals (and, especially, their children) or shoot during a local event, **always ask for permission first.**

You should be mindful of animals and their well-being at all times. If you're planning to shoot wildlife, you must always keep a safe distance and avoid any noises or movements that may disturb the animal. This is when a telephoto lens comes handy..

Making a living out of your passion is the dream. That holds for many travel photography enthusiasts who pursue a career in this field. There are several factors in play when it comes to becoming a professional travel photographer.

The most important steps for a career in travel photography:

1. Understand that professional travel photography is all about commitment and hard work. Make sure you are genuinely passionate about it before taking any further steps in this direction.
2. Learn photography. Attend travel photography courses, classes, and workshops. Watch tutorials, read travel photography books, and practise a lot.
3. Create a portfolio to showcase your work to potential clients.
4. Network and collaborate with photographers around the world and other content creators.
5. Attend conferences and similar events to get in touch with travel brands and tourism boards.

Remember that competition is hard. Be ready to step out of your comfort zone when pitching yourself for travel photography jobs.

Essential Travel Photography Gear

Main Camera Body:

1. DSLR or Mirrorless?

The benefits of mirrorless cameras for travel photography. They're way lighter and more compact than DSLR cameras.

Featuring 4K video, fantastic focusing and impressive battery-life,

Camera Lens:

28-75mm f/2.8 This all-in-one zoom lens has the ideal focal length range for travel photography, it's lightweight and, most of all, quite affordable.

Lens Filters:

1. UV Filter for protection.
2. Variable ND Filter for cinematic video and long exposure shots.

Backup Camera For Video:

Drone:

Admire spectacular views from above without all the negative emotions from the fear of flying when travelling by plane.

Travel Camera Backpack:

DSLR Backpack is a travel backpack that would fit all the travel photography gear, a laptop and personal items.

Small Camera Backpack:

If you don't need to carry all your equipment around.

Travel Tripods:

A Travel Tripod that features maximum stability and easy set-up

Mini Tripod Fitting in your pocket,

Selfie Stick Tripod it comes handy when shooting a time lapse or motion lapse with the Pocket Tripod

External Microphone:

Compact camera microphone to minimise noise interference when used outdoors.

Cleaning Kit:

A cleaning kit for your camera lenses is of the utmost importance and it's a purchase you should make right from the start. When it comes to cleaning kits, the sky's the limit. Make sure the cleaning kits include microfiber cleaning cloths, a cleaning pen and an air blower.

Memory Cards:

Shooting RAW and video means always carry several fast memory cards with a Portable Hard Drive: A fast SSD hard drives to store the images and video footage.

Spare Batteries:

There's nothing more aggravating than running out of battery in the middle of a photo shoot. That's why having spare batteries for your camera and drone handy at all times.

What's So Important about Travel Photography?

As one of the most famous travel quotes goes, travel is the only thing you buy that makes you richer. Who'd want to let these precious memories go to waste? The importance of travel photography lies in its superpower to revoke those memories long after the smells, sounds and tastes that accompany them have worn off.

Travel photography isn't just about helping travellers keep the memories of their past trips alive. It's about showing the world to people who haven't travelled as far and wide as they'd like.

Not everyone has the privilege to travel as much as their heart desires. Travel photography has the noble mission of communicating the most exotic feelings to these people, making them travel with their minds and souls and inspiring them to roam the world if and when their circumstances allow it.

As a means to get a glimpse of cultures and people in faraway lands, this superior form of art can bridge the imaginary gaps that exist between people. It can provide proof that our world is a stunningly diverse wonder. Ultimately, it can teach people that there's nothing wrong with being different. From North to South East to West, travel photography captures fleeting – yet meant to become timeless – moments in the lives of people from all four corners of the globe.

At the end of the day, it makes no difference if the light that goes through our camera's shutter records joyful or sorrowful scenes. What matters is that it takes a look at these travel photos to know that the light shines as bright on all of us, regardless of skin colour, age, or gender. And this is what is loved about travel photography the most.

Tips

While the technical side of using a camera is usually the most overwhelming thing for a new photographer to think about, it's one of the easiest things to master. All it takes is study and practice.

If you've never got out of 'Auto mode' on your camera, then terms like ISO, aperture, white balance and shutter speed will seem completely foreign.

Exposure Triangle of Photography

The Exposure Triangle is a metaphor to explain the 3 elements that allow light onto a sensor.

A camera captures light, and the right amount is needed so that your image isn't too bright or too dark.

The 3 parts of the Exposure Triangle are aperture, ISO and shutter.

Each one affects how light reaches the sensor in different ways, and getting this combination right is essential to capturing a beautiful image.

Aperture

Aperture is how wide, or small, the blades in your lens are and how much light goes through the lens.

The aperture size is measured in 'F Stops', and displayed as numbers. f5.6, f8, f11, f16, etc

A wide aperture (small number – f1.8) lets in more light than a low aperture (big number – f22).

A wide aperture also has a shallowed depth of field than a low aperture. it can be a little confusing, but you'll pick it up the more you play around with it.

If you want the background blurry in your photo, you'll want a wide aperture. If you want everything in focus, you'll want a low aperture.

ISO

ISO is how sensitive your camera sensor is to light. A small number, such as 100, means it's not very sensitive and therefore needs more light to leave an impression.

A high number, like 6400, means it's very sensitive and needs only a little bit of light to show up on the sensor.

The higher the ISO, the more noise shows up in a photo. Noise lowers the quality of your image, so in a perfect world you'll want to keep this as low as possible (unless you're going to stay out late doing astro and night photography).

It's also necessary to increase your ISO if you're shooting moving subjects (or handheld) indoors.

There are times where having a higher ISO is actually better for the photo.

Shutter Speed

Shutter speed is pretty straight forward – how long it takes for your shutter to open and close. This allows you to freeze a frame, or introduce motion blur.

Want to capture a bird in flight? You'll want to have a fast shutter (1/4000th of a second).

Want to make a waterfall look silky smooth, like you see in so much Iceland photography? Go for slow shutter speeds (3 seconds),

Keep in mind that if you are holding your camera equipment rather than using a tripod, you'll need to have a fast enough shutter to eliminate your own hand movement.

As a general rule 1/60 of a second is the slowest you should go so your picture doesn't pick up hand movement. Any slower than that and you'll need a tripod.

Combining All Three for Perfect Exposure

There is no 'perfect setting' for aperture, ISO and shutter. It all depends on what you are trying to photograph and the style you're going for.

Luckily most decent digital cameras have two little tools that will let you play around figure out how all three work together – manual mode and histograms.

Manual gives you complete control over your camera's ISO, aperture and shutter.

If you change one, nothing else will change, unlike in 'aperture priority' mode or 'shutter priority' mode.

The histogram is a visual display of light. When the bars are all the way to the left, the image is dark. When they are all the way to the right, the image is light.

When most of the bars are in the centre, it is perfectly exposed.

Pick an aperture (f/8) and point it at the scene. Now look at the histogram.

If the image is too dark, then you'll need to let light in. make the speed slower.
Put the shutter back to where it was and change the ISO. Make the ISO higher.

Spend an hour or two playing around with different apertures, ISO and shutter so you get an idea of how each one affects the light hitting the display.

Take note at how drastically things can change if a cloud goes in front of the sun, or you take the camera inside.

It comes with practice, and knowing what settings you want for a particular scene will become second nature

Not all travel photos need to be perfectly exposed. Sometimes having a darker image looks much better than having one that is nice and bright. You can use your judgement for this.

Bonus – General Ideas for Camera Equipment Settings

This is basic and should not be read as gospel. There are a million different things that can affect why you would want a faster shutter, or wider aperture. But if you are confused about what to pick for what here' are quick tips

Landscapes –

- Aperture around f8-f11.
- ISO as low as possible.
- Slowdown the shutter accordingly.

Portraits –

You'll probably want to photograph your subject to be sharp, but the background blurry to bring focus on the person

- a wider aperture (say f2.8)
- a fast shutter around 1/160 to freeze the subject.
- Adjust ISO accordingly.

Indoors –

Because it is darker inside than outside, you'll need to let a lot more light into the sensor.

Unless you're using a tripod,

- keep the speed at around 1/60
- the aperture around f5.6
- . Adjust ISO and aperture accordingly.

In time you'll learn what settings work best for each scene.

Use Manual Mode

The best way to get to know your camera and how light works is to have complete control over what settings you choose.

The only way to do this is to shoot in manual mode (shown by the letter M on most cameras).

It will take months of practice, but I promise you that in time you'll be able to look at a scene and instantly know what aperture, ISO and shutter to use to get the exact style of image you're looking for.

You can also use aperture priority mode (the letter A on your camera) if you don't want to make the big leap to manual just yet.

This way you can lock in the aperture you want (f8 for landscape photography, f2.8 for portraits, etc) and the camera will automatically adjust the ISO

Focus on learning the manual settings until you have it perfected.

When you take a photo with your digital camera, the computer chip inside converts what you captured on the sensor into a format that can be easily read. For most cameras, these two formats are RAW and JPEG.

JPEG is a compressed format that the camera creates to save on space. In doing so it 'locks in' all the data that it picked up such as the colour and white balance.

RAW files actually saves all the data of what you took and doesn't compress it.

Most decent digital cameras will give you the menu option of shooting in RAW, use it if you plan on editing your photos.

The file sizes are a lot bigger (RAW is 42, JPEG is 20,

Learn About Post Processing

Some people think that editing your photo is 'cheating'. But the truth is photographers have been editing their photos ever since photography was invented.

Yes, even your favourite photos in National Geographic have been manipulated in some way.

99% of photos you see in your favourite travel magazines have been edited. Every professional photographer edits their photos to some degree.

The reason is that not all cameras are great at capturing exactly what the eye saw in terms of colour and light.

If you really want to get the most out of your professional travel photography business, you should start playing around with post processing.

Many people have heard of Adobe Photoshop, but it's an advanced tool that most people never need to use

Look at the free apps that you can get on your phone, or free editing programs on your computer,

Once you become serious about travel photography and you want to start editing all of your photos that are filling up your memory cards and external hard drive, it is recommend purchasing Adobe Photoshop (many versions choose the one that suits your style

Practice, Practice, Practice

Just like anything, becoming a great travel photographer takes time, and a lot of practice. The only way you can get better is by getting out there taking travel photos!

You don't even have to travel the world to tourist destinations or have the most travel camera available to be a great photographer.

Buy whatever you can afford, go for a walk around your city and snap away.

Remember to take your camera!

If you are not a professional travel photographer, but travel a lot, and always hope to take the best photos possible. Here's how to keep both the travel and photography balls in the air at the same time.

Getting ready

A modest collection of equipment including the iPhone provides the best chance of coming home with photos that are pleasing

Travel light.

If there is anything you can do to help facilitate getting the pictures that you want on a trip, it is cutting down both the personal luggage and the photography equipment that you take.

Have a general pack list that you use as a checklist when you travel.

A pack list of electronic and camera equipment that will go in a carry-on includes:

- an iPhone,
- an iPad,
- a four-thirds mirrorless camera
- one additional lens
- , a microfiber cloth
- an eyeglass case that will hold an iPhone securely,
- a small” bag to carry a memory card holder with six memory cards
- two additional memory cards in individual holders,
- two chargeable camera batteries,
- a camera battery charger,
- an iPad charger that will charge two devices at once,
- two charging cords,
- two international electrical adapters
- an iPad card reader,
- an iPad stylus.
- a travel tripod packed in checked suitcase.
-

Choose your equipment carefully.

Donot use an off-brand iPad card reader or off-brand camera batteries. If you are out of the country and they fail, which they will do sooner or later, you are out of luck.

use 8 GB memory cards if something happens to the card, less will be lost.

Carry one 32 GB card for emergency situations.

Always check what is on the card in playback before you reformat it!

The international electrical adapters are cheap and they have work in every country Take two because there are a lot of things to charge. The hours you have to charge can be limited because the electricity will likely go off when you leave your room with your key, or there are limited hours of electricity.

Find a good camera bag that meets your needs.

A small, light backpack that doubles as a camera bag and an overnight bag. With a built-in rain cover and straps that can hold a rolled jacket, walking sticks, and even
A small tripod. A Hydration pack. A 9.5" iPad

Know how to use your equipment.

If you are using a new camera or a new lens that will Or Even an old trusted camera could be difficult to use if you have not used it since the last trip.

Part of the trip preparation is getting acquainted, or reacquainted, with the camera (If that is necessary). It also helps to download the camera manual onto the iPad, just in case a reference source is needed.

Do some advanced planning Google the country you are going to visit to see photographs taken in it.

The planning is over and are ready to go

Make it simple for the, things go in a tote bag along with everything else you might carry:

- A small, mirrorless camera with a really good zoom lens,
- Two individually packed 8 GB memory cards
- Two fully charged batteries
- An iPhone for photos taken in dark settings

Even if you need to access more than one lens, choose the lens of the day. When there are going to be opportunities to photograph wildlife, 70mm to 300mm zoom, by Minimizing lenses means less chance of damage while changing a lens, and less chance of missing the picture you really want to take because the wrong lens is on the camera.

The balancing act of being a traveler and being a photographer

The active travel part, is real. We have places to go and things to see, and Taking the time to take a photograph is a footnote for the group.

Seize every opportunity! It starts at the airport where there is often waiting time. Many airports have beautiful art that is literally only available to 'ticket holders.'

Use your travel time for photography. Sometimes, long hours can be spent on a bus or train as you travel from place to place. By all means, choose a window seat with a full window and take pictures out of the window. There are many challenges in this kind of

Photography.

- you need to know the reflections,
- the dirt in the window,
- Use the action or sport scene mode setting on your camera. This setting automatically chooses a fast shutter speed to stop the movement. The slower the bus ride, the better your chance is of getting good photos, In a country where the roads are good, your opportunity might be restricted to traffic stops in the towns or cities.

Use your walking time. You have to keep moving, but you can turn group walks into photo walks. Sometimes that means you will not hear everything the guide is saying. It probably means that you are always toward the end of the group. For the photographer traveling with a spouse, perhaps it means you do not get the perfect street photo because you cannot wait long enough for it to happen, but you can still get a great street photo.

Find some alone time that is dedicated to photography. In group travel, that means using the 'on your own' time that is regularly scheduled into the trip. Look for opportunities to get up early to take photographs during the golden hour. When other members of the group use time to shop, you use it to take photographs. Some great people photos and food photos can be taken in restaurants.

When everyone is shopping, you can take pictures

Be safe! Listen to your guide's suggestions for keeping yourself and your possessions safe. If you have no guide, talk to the hotel staff. Watch your step, especially while you are taking photos. Missing a curb or stumbling on an irregularity in a street can have serious consequences to both you and your equipment. It is not just older travelers who fall.

Balancing being a traveler and a photographer is to make sure you don't miss being a traveler. In the old days of film photography, a photographer took one picture and hoped for the best. Today, we can take hundreds of pictures and spend real time looking at them in preview. Be sure there is plenty of 'look up' time so the camera is not always between you and the things you came to see on the trip.

Travel provides a unique opportunity for a wide range of photography. It can help you understand where your photography passion lies. your skills will improve.

Street photography

Street photography isn't necessarily about taking pictures of streets. It's about taking photographs of the human condition as it occurs in public places.

The origins of street photography date back to the mid 1800's. But it wasn't accepted as an art-form until around the time of WWII

The best examples of street photography capture emotion and tell a story.

A street photographer must have the skills of anticipation, readiness, and timing and must click the shutter at peak action and composition-

There are two primary techniques for street photography. One takes the approach of keeping a distance, while the other has an "in your face" approach.

Street photography will bring you face-to-face with strangers who may have questions and concerns.

There is no right or wrong to either method..

Most Beginning Street photographers begin with the distance method with allows them to gain experience without confrontation.

THE DISTANCE METHOD

This technique minimizes physical contact to a minimum. The photographer doesn't interact with the person they are taking a picture of. Using a telephoto lenses or diversionary techniques to blend into the background.

Telephoto lenses assist with the distance method. But, it require you to keep an eye out for intrusive subjects moving in and out of your picture area. You must be ready to capture peak action and expressions as they happen.

Street photography requires a good camera with a low noise ratio at higher ISO settings. an electronic flash unit is rarely used in street photography; especially with the distance method. You will often find yourself using an ISO of 400 to 1600.

Take general meter readings and determine an ISO setting for your shot. It is recommend to shoot manual mode with manual focus,

An excellent technique for the distance method is called," shooting from the hip". This is a covert type of shot that is exciting because it's surprising!

An excellent technique for the distance method is called, "shooting from the hip". This is a simple type of shot that is exciting because it's surprising!

Invest in a good telephoto lens; something (85mm to 200mm) range. A zoom lens will work, but they tend to be bulky and more visible, causing your subject to react. They also have slower maximum apertures..

Shooting from the hip gives a unique perspective and surprising results!

Walk down the street with the camera at your hip. Point it in the direction of subjects that interest you (they should be within 3 to 12 feet from the camera). Fire the camera from your hip. (a remote shutter release makes it less obvious)

This technique conceals the fact that you are taking photographs; the result being an undisturbed view of the human interaction.

The Distance Method Quick Start List

1. Use a quality camera with a low noise ratio.
2. Use telephoto lenses in the 70mm to 200mm range -preferably with a maximum aperture of f/1.8 to f/2.8 - for a compressed view.
3. Use wide angle lenses in the 15mm -24mm range -preferably with a maximum aperture of f/1.8 -/2.8 -for a wide view with maximum DOF.
4. Avoid the use of bulky zoom lenses that will attract attention.
5. Set your metering mode to center weight. This will prevent underexposure from bright backgrounds.

The in your face method

With this technique, a street photographer will make contact with their subject(s). leading to a more intimate view of the person(s) being photographed.

It can also lead to confrontation, as you may have to explain your actions.

You will find it helpful to carry a small (3.5 x 5) photo album in your pocket. Fill it with samples of your photography. Strangers will often become suspicious when their photograph is taken. Showing them the album, discussing what you're up to, and offering a copy will often make your subject more agreeable.

There is no legal standing to keep you from doing this as long as you don't sell the images commercially. If your intent is to sell the images, keep your model releases in your pocket and use them.

The "In Your Face" method will yield more interesting results because you not only capture the subject's physical side, you also capture a part of their personality.

You'll want to use a lens in the 18mm to 50mm range.. A 50mm f/1.8 prime lens is a relatively inexpensive lens, and it's a perfect choice for the street photographer.

The distance method will lead to images that are disconnected. The story is there, but it's hard for the viewer to discern what the story is. Try to force yourself to get close enough to tell the story.

New street photographers have a tendency to shoot without concern for composition. Try to avoid this and use all the tools of composition at your disposal.

Street photography requires a quick eye for story and composition.
. Keep your eyes open for developing interaction around you.

Shooting from the hip gives excellent results. It also has the added bonus of surprise.
Remember to be unobtrusive.

If your camera has a "silent mode" for the shutter, make sure you turn that function on.

Photo Walk

If you're a photographer living in a popular tourist area and you're looking for stable income, then you should consider setting up a vacation photography package or a photo walk.

What is a photo walk exactly?

People are reaching out to photographers, inquiring about photos of their vacation. Vacation photography is when you deliver a private photoshoot with all the highlights from a specific city.

A photo walk is a part of vacation photography, usually a group tour targeted toward travelers on a budget who love meeting new people. Having full capacity on a photo walk enables the photographer to earn even more money than with a private vacation photography shoot.

Does your city have enough tourists?

With targeted advertising you can reach tourist customers. And target amateur photographers who would like a guided tour of your city, so that they visit all the great photo spots in a short period of time.

Where Can You Find Photo Walks?

- Airbnb Experiences – easy to get customers
- Vacation photography platforms, provide easy watches to get higher-paying customers
- Personal websites – harder to find

How to create your own photo walk?

You will see photographers and tourists in the city center all the time!

Pros

Meeting new people every day – People who sign up for the walks are fun! Whether they are individuals, friends, or couples, you will never feel like you are working because it is so exciting to have clients from all around the world every day) Easier than other photoshoots – When you walk to the same spots, you get to know all the best photo points and don't have to worry about! Waking up stressed

Cons

Repetitive and not as challenging – Knowing all the photo spots comes with a disadvantage, though. It doesn't push your creativity, and you are shooting the same picture with a different person and walking the same path.

How do you manage an experience?

It's not hard to set up an experience, because any organization that you choose (for example, Airbnb) will carefully walk you through all the steps with text and image suggestions!

Before you start setting your advertising page up, make sure that you already have images on your portfolio page to attract clients!

Depending on the country different rules exist, always consult with the local authorities of the area to discuss the legalities.

The referring parties usually require a percentage from your sales

Welcome Message

When a guest books you, don't forget to send them a message as soon as possible, ideally with all the important reminders such as time and location. They should already know them, but it will help refresh their memory! Don't forget to encourage them to ask you anything about the city and be ready to respond. With some providers, you can prepare an automated first message. Just make sure it's always up to date!

Added Value

What to include in your welcome message is some added value that they did not expect. Provide them with a map where all their favorite locations are, as well as a large PDF file with more images from previous photo walks. Also include FAQs and tips on what to wear, and where they might want to go on their own. There is also a short biography about you because you want them to be comfortable meeting you for the first time!

This little unexpected act of added value will make your guests feel more comfortable about being photographed and "lost" in a new city. Don't forget to include your social media links!

Group Chat

On the day before the photo walk create a group chat with all the participants! It's easier for us to discuss any changes (such as weather) and it's a perfect way to keep everyone in touch after the photo walk ends.

Arrive at the spot at least 10 minutes before the official meeting time, and make sure all guests know what you are wearing so they can easily spot you

When everyone's ready to start the walk, ask them to introduce themselves to the others, as it's easier when you break the ice in the beginning. The whole experience can take up to three hours, and it would be a pity if everyone spent it quietly. This way, you are leaving with amazing photos and new friends from all over the world!

The Photo Walk Experience

It's essential that you have your route planned out! In the end, the spots are what you are advertising to your clients. That doesn't mean to avoid experimenting, but stick to your path.

Along the way, encourage your guests to show you a spot they'd like to be photographed in and combine it with your pre-planned views.

The most important thing is to know your sun! You must know the lighting!

All tours start differently depending upon the time of the year. Avoid harsh sunlight. Those who want nice pictures won't mind waking up early! And free coffee will help them survive the morning.

Drink Included

Free coffee or Tea, you said!? Yes! Guests love being taken care of, and that includes a free drink.

City centers of a big metropolis tend to be very overwhelming, with overpriced restaurants and tourist traps everywhere.

Your guests will appreciate it if you show them a place that you, as a local, like visiting!

There are many beautiful hidden gems in your city known only to locals. If it's nearby, don't be afraid to show it to them!

Free drinks have many advantages. Not only is it a small gesture of appreciation, but if you do it in the beginning, it is also a great time to break the ice!

Group Photo

Don't forget to take a group photo of your guests and, if possible, a selfie including you! It's provides a good memory they will cherish forever, and it only takes a few seconds!

Fast Turnaround

Now that the photo walk is over, the post-processing begins.

This is not a photoshoot that needs high-end retouching.

It's a photoshoot for travelers who want nice pictures from various places and ideally to share them online while it's still relevant! Turnaround time should be within 48 hours and with minimal post-processing.

Always Over deliver

It's not as hard for you to deliver a bit more than you promised, so why not do it?

Your guests will be so happy to get something extra and you will earn that nice review! Make sure you include a photo from each location.

Reviews

It's important to maintain a good rating because it allows you to ask for a higher price in the future, and it builds trust with potential clients.

If your guests want anything, deliver it with a smile!

You are there to make their vacation memorable, show them hidden spots, and help them to experience the city from a local point of view.

If you feel like you've clicked and had a great time, don't forget to kindly ask for an honest review when sending pictures. Sometimes, they just need a reminder, and in the end it's the greatest reward.

If you go above and beyond for your guests, they will do the same with the review.

FINANCES

Photo walks are usually full of competition. That's why you need to play with your price in the right way.

You shouldn't think about this as your regular photoshoot!

What about pricing when it comes to group photo walks? The prices of photo walks vary widely from country to country!

Steps to better travel photos

Call it obsessive compulsive, but there is a reason why we humans are obsessed with traveling and love taking countless pictures of our trips. For some it is the thrill of sharing your photos with friends and family. For others it is a way to earn money through travel guides, stock images. For yet others, it is the simple joy of capturing images that will forever immortalize their adventures for years to come.

Getting an early start

Set an alarm when you are on vacation. is one of the best things you can do for your photographer's soul.

It is photo time – time for you and your camera, and the surroundings. The light is perfect – a soft shade of pink and the slow warmth of the sun just peeking out of the horizon. This 'me time' generally satisfies the creative juices and you will find that the start of the day you will be refreshed and ready for all the other adventures that lie ahead.

A general tip for your early morning photography exercise is to know ahead of time where and what to shoot. Scope the location prior so you are not spending precious early morning hours looking for the right spot and the right subject. Track sunrise times and also track the weather. Look at other photographs from the area Also think about what you want to get out of this early morning shoot working with a goal in mind makes getting up early even more rewarding, as well as being an effective use of me time.

Getting a variety of photos

Get about three or four shots of one area or location.

1. aim for a horizontal wide angle shot,
2. a vertical view,
3. a zoomed in (a.k.a. detailed) view of the same scene.

Usually, when we travel, we often tend to focus on only one of these three. But don't forget about the others that also make up that moment and help tell the story. You can also try other points of view. Focus on one aspect of an interesting architecture instead of the whole building or shoot a detail of that delicious street-side food stand.

Add a sense of scale and notice details

In order to communicate true scale in an image, always try and include a recognizable object or subject. Frame a vehicle, person, or house within a landscape, or a hand for a food shot. This gives your audience a better understanding of the dimensions of the subject in the image.

The old adage “it’s all about the details” is so true, especially in travel photography. People want to experience an image and almost imagine themselves in your shots. Colours, textures, and patterns are all details that make up the story. Pick a subject and focus on that subject for details.

If there are any distracting elements in the shot, try shooting straight or overhead to help remove the distractions. If there are no distractions, use the rule of thirds or negative space to draw the viewer’s eye to the details.

You can also try creative cropping to bring attention to colours and textures by filling the frame with the detail. While it is tempting to do this in post-production, it is best to get things right in-camera., take the time to compose your shots mindfully before pressing that shutter.

Pack the right gear

Be practical and pack smart. The last thing you want to do is lug ALL your gear halfway across the world only to be so frustrated, and not to mention sore,

Do you really need a 35mm lens and a 24-70mm zoom? Sometimes it is also helpful to leave the heavy DSLR at home and shoot solely on a handy iPhone,

Be ready for the shot

Take the camera everywhere you go so it becomes second nature for capturing photos of things that interest you never know what you are going to get. Capture the in-between moments that would otherwise go unnoticed..

Not everything needs to be photographed. Especially in travel, you might find situations and people who don’t appreciate being photographed. Respect those rules and sentiments and put the camera down.

At the end of the day, don’t forget to focus on what really matters: the people you share the experience with and all of the memories you make. Photographing your experience is great, but don’t get so caught up in documenting it that you forget to live it. Candid images, blurry images, and motion are as much a part of the experience as is the perfectly posed and perfectly lit shots.

Take a step back and take in the scene, and then bring the camera to your face and take a shot. Don’t let the anticipation of photographing every minute of your vacation be the reason you travel! Schedule some camera-free days to get yourself energized and rejuvenated as well.

How to approach a stranger and ask to take their portrait

Many photographers struggle when taking photos of people: How do you approach a stranger to ask to take their portrait?

Photographing people, whether they are strangers or not, requires different abilities.

Are you shy and introverted?

Overcoming the fear of photographing strangers is the first step to capturing great portraits of anyone. This is not an easy thing to do, but it is also not impossible.

Dealing with your fear

When you take portraits of strangers, the first thing you must do is dealing with your fear. The fear of rejection is the common inhibiting factor that stops you from taking portraits of strangers.

The fear is in your head. By learning a few techniques on how to approach strangers and asking them, you'll find that the rejections are few. You will need to stop the negative thoughts from controlling what you do—or don't do.

Tell yourself to remain positive. If the negative thoughts about being rejected remain in your head, you will project a negative feeling when you do approach people. Your facial expression and body language must be as positive as possible for you to be successful when you want to photograph strangers.

Control your thoughts by replacing negative thoughts with positive ones.

Practice is the best way to achieve having a clear and positive mind. It may not happen easily, but it is essential to being a successful portrait photographer.

With a head full of positive thoughts, you'll feel more confident. When you approach strangers, your body language and expressions will be warm and welcoming.

Be mindful of your body language and energy

Think about how you respond to negative people. Someone approaching you with a hesitant and negative attitude will not endear themselves to you. Often you will recognize a negative person before they even open their mouth to speak.

When you talk with someone, they notice your facial expressions and body language. Even if they are not consciously aware of it, people sense your energy.

Approaching people with a positive attitude is reflected in your body language and expression. People sensing your positivity are more likely to and they are more likely to say yes to your request, but it also means they, too, will have a positive expression.

At first, this will be challenging, but as you work on being positive, your anxiety fades away, especially when you have some positive experiences.

Think about making a portrait rather than taking a photo

Between the words 'making' and 'taking,' there is a subtle difference when considering photos.

Thinking about taking something is not the same as thinking about making something. When you make something, you can give it to someone. Make a portrait and it can become a connection between you and your subject. This small adjustment of thinking goes a long way towards maintaining a positive attitude.

Many people love being photographed. Some people will even enjoy the experience even if they are a bit shy and hesitant about you wanting to make their portrait.

Approach the stranger you want to photograph with an open mind and a positive attitude. Be confident that the experience will make each other's day better. They will appreciate that you have noticed them and taken the time to connect with them.

Key Lesson: Having a positive mindset towards photographing strangers is both the most difficult and the most important step. Develop the understanding that you are giving rather than taking and you will be successful.

Use your camera as a bridge

When you have a camera in your hands, you will find it less challenging to talk to someone, particularly when taking their portrait. Think of your camera as a bridge between you and your subject. It helps to make connections.

Using your camera as a bridge provides a perfect reason to photograph people. You will slowly become less uncomfortable with photographing strangers.

Be determined — don't make excuses

Overcoming fear requires perseverance. The more excuses you make for not photographing strangers, the more difficult it is to succeed. You need to be determined and set goals for yourself if you want to learn anything.

Make realistic, but not easy, goals—whatever will help you get started. It might even be to photograph people you know to start with. Think about how many photos of people you'd like to make and give yourself a deadline. Then go for it.

Once you have practiced taking photographs of friends and family for a while, rethink your goals. Begin to include photographing strangers in your mix. You don't have to go out into the street and begin stopping people. You can try making portraits of people you don't know at school or in your workplace. Sports clubs, religious gatherings, and social hangouts are all also places you can try. If you already feel comfortable in places like this,

Have realistic expectations. Start with feeling comfortable, focus on practicing with a positive attitude. In time, photographing strangers will become fun.

Develop an introduction to go with your question

Being prepared with an introduction and a short speech about what you are doing helps. When you approach a stranger, wear a nice smile and have something interesting to say to them. If you simply come straight out and ask if you can take a photo, you will probably receive more rejections.

Tell people about your project. Introducing yourself and telling a stranger why you'd like to take their photo works well.

Show an interest in who they are. Pay them a compliment. Why the person caught your eye? Why were you attracted to them? Tell them as this will help give them some context and confidence in what you are doing.

Once you have greeted a person and asked if you can photograph them, be ready. Have your camera set and ready to go. Make sure your exposure is going to be good and that the person is in focus. If you hesitate, you may miss the moment.

Capturing the moment

At the local fresh market one day you might spot a porter waiting for a customer standing leaning on his cart. Capture with interesting tattoos on his arms and in front of a nice dark background.

The next time you go to the market give him the picture (s) that worked out.

When someone says yes. you don't want to be fiddling with your camera settings. Be well prepared so you can keep the flow of conversation going and capture wonderful portraits.

Should you ask to take their picture?

As a street photographer, sometimes you are faced with the question, “Should I ask for permission to take pictures of strangers, or should I take them without permission?”

The decision on whether you need to ask someone if you can take their picture is down to four issues.

- Is it legal to take the picture without asking?
- Is it culturally appropriate to take the picture without asking?
- Is it ethical to take the picture without asking?
- If all of these pictures are taken with the impediment of having to ask first, how does that affect your “street photography” portfolio of work?

Does the law require me to ask?

In the United States, and most English-speaking countries, it is legal to take pictures of anything or anyone on public property.

On private property, owners have the right to prohibit or restrict photography.

Can you take someone’s picture that is on private property if you are standing on public property? The answer is ‘yes,’ as long as there is no reasonable expectation of privacy.

You must use common sense in determining what a reasonable expectation of privacy is.

If you shoot under a bathroom stall, in a public restroom or any bedroom window shots, you will be in trouble. even if you are on a public street.

Many places, like shopping malls, airports, and amusement parks, seem like public places, but they can be subject to restrictions imposed by the owners when you enter the property.

In these types of locations, signs will generally be posted that list the restrictions.

Also, there are some public places where photography can be restricted.

These include

- military bases,
- public hospitals,
- courthouses,

Even though they are clearly public; the government owns them, and the government can impose restrictions.

Important Note: Having the legal right to take someone's picture, without permission, is different than having the legal right to publish it. If you take a picture of someone in a public space, do you have to get a model release in order to post or sell the picture?

The laws regarding whether it is legal to take photographs without permission vary considerably from country to country.

if you plan to travel, you must become familiar with the laws of the country that pertain to photography.

Does the culture dictate that i ask?

Within some countries, taking a picture without asking permission first is not a culturally accepted practice.

the Old Order Amish Mennonites don't allow their pictures to be taken.

They believe that it breaks the first commandment that says, "Thou shalt not make any graven images."

A wider group of Amish feel that photographs of people are prideful and therefore sinful.

In addition, tourists often flock to Amish communities as a travel destination. Think about it: would you want people in your neighborhood constantly taking pictures of you?

Religious belief is not the only cultural barrier. Buddhist temples in many Asian countries, prohibit photography inside of a temple. Photography is considered disruptive to the serenity of the service. The issue is one of ceremonial respect rather than religious belief.

Sometimes there is an expectation of payment

If you are asked not to take photographs or flash photographs, don't take them.

Do personal values require that to ask? Is it ethical?

Street photography, unlike many other photographic genres, requires that the photographer develop an internal set of rules.

- Do not take pictures of people on the fringes of society unless you ask for their permission.
- Do not take pictures of children without asking, although sometimes the “moment of cuteness” sweeps over any good judgment.

Asking, can take many forms. In addition to verbal communication, a nod, a lifting of the camera, or simply using it in a conspicuous way that draws no objection constitutes a fair ask. These options can broaden the opportunities for taking pictures of children.

These are some other special considerations:

- Respect the privacy of those mourning in a cemetery.
- Do not take pictures of street performers.
- Do not embarrass people.

Opportunities for street photographers are unlimited.

The problem is too many pictures,. The limitations impose on yourself will not obstruct either the quantity or the quality of your work.

How will my portfolio change if i always ask?

The street photography images that you want to create are those beautiful, quirky, or poignant moments that happen spontaneously.

There are many sub-categories of street photography.

They include, but are not limited to, documentary; intrusive; raw; fine art; geometric; smart or intelligent; and portraiture, both candid and posed.

The photographers who choose to always ask for their subject's permission are usually taking posed street portraits; their work can be described as both documentary and fine art.

There are considerable advantages to not asking whether you can take a picture.

Candid street portraiture, gives you a look into peoples' souls.

If you do not ask for permission to take pictures of street subjects, you will have more shooting opportunities. This will result in more output because you move and shoot, move and shoot.

Always try to capture is the moments that cause a viewer to say, “How did you ever get that picture?”

That can only happen with experience in taking street photography.

In these days of social media and communication, street photography is growing more popular.

It differs from other kinds of photography in both technical and aesthetic ways.

The most important difference is that it requires attention to both legal and ethical issues that revolve around the question, "To ask or not to ask."

No matter how you choose to answer that question, you will find moments of discomfort.

Busy outdoor Market

Lots of photographers love to photograph busy outdoor markets. There's always plenty of action and light,

This Chapter will walk you through a market you'll learn how to approach capturing the essence of the place, produce, and people and how you can make a series of unique images at any market you visit.

Leave Your Camera in Your Bag

When you arrive at the market, leave your camera in the bag for a while. Don't immediately start snapping pictures. Observe the place and what people are doing there.

- Watch the vendors and shoppers.
- How are they interacting?
- What's the general pace of activity?
- Does this change from place to place in the market?

Look for pockets of heightened activity. These might be at a particular store or at a busy intersection. Maybe there's a mobile vendor selling some cheap products from a cart that everybody wants. Think about what the locals are finding most interesting.

Think about lighting. There will be areas in the market with more attractive light than other places. Look to see how you can make the most of this light. Where can you stand, sit, or squat to use the light to your best advantage?

Discover what makes this market unique find the points that are special to the place.

- a clock tower
- a water fountain.
- a set of train tracks running right through the center.
- If that's the case, find out when the next train will be passing.
- Don't be distracted or you might miss it.

Even if you don't speak the local language, interact a little with people. You never know what you might be able to learn. Let them see your camera and they may show you some hidden nook or cranny to photograph that you'd never discover on your own.

Who are the most interesting, photogenic vendors at the market? Find people you think will enjoy being photographed. There are always some at every market. Watch for those who engage with shoppers and are outgoing. These will often be the ones who you'll be able to make the best street portraits of.

Finding repetition will help to capture some of the best action photos. It might be a team of people unloading a cart or truck. Maybe a certain way people come to buy a product.

A fishmonger cleaning fish. There are many repetitive tasks occurring; you just have to look for them.

Be observant even before you get to the market. Find out what time of the day, or night, the market is most lively. It may be well before sunrise as trucks come to unload produce. A quick internet search will provide an answer.

Think like a movie Director:

Aim for three types of compositions: wide, medium, and close-up. Including all in the series of photos you take at a busy outdoor market will present your experience. Anyone who has not been there will have a clear view of what the market is like.

Imagine you've been assigned to cover the market for a magazine story. You want to show your editor, who's never been there, as much about the market as you can. Look for an establishing image, one that gives a broad overview of the market environment. This should be the first photo you take when you arrive. This is a key, foundational photo for your magazine spread. It can also be one of the most challenging to capture.

If you can find a place to get above the general activity, this will provide an ideal view of a market. If, it's not possible you will have to make do with capturing broad perspective from ground level.

Medium compositions will show more of the general pace of life and activity. Focus on one aspect of it: people preparing fruit and vegetables; a vendor cleaning their table at the end of sales; transactions taking place. These photos are often action photos.

Look for interesting things happening that would be a regular part of daily life at the market. Take your time. Be observant and you will find them.

Close-up photos can be of anything that catches your eye. Look for detail in everything that is typical that others may overlook. Think about colour, line, and shape. Find interesting things and get in close to them.

You don't need a macro lens to get close. A wide angle lens allows you to get up close and still be able to focus.

Frame your subject so you can't see anything else. Chili peppers are a favorite to get close-ups of. The shape and strong colour make them very attractive. Hands doing things also make fascinating subjects for close-up compositions.

Photograph what's attractive

Add your own style. Concentrate on photographing what you find most attractive, or unattractive, at the market. This will mean you create a series of images that are unique.

Avoid the cliché images and what you think others may photograph. You don't want to end up with the same set of photos most people take at the market.

There will be subjects that stand out and need to be photographed. Think of these creatively. Don't only take the first angle you think of. Move around.

Consider the lighting and what's in the background. How can you make an interesting subject into an interesting photograph? The subject alone does not mean your photo is necessarily good. You must frame it well, expose it creatively, and capture it at that precise moment.

Spend time with a subject that attracts you. Cover it from different angles, even from different times of the day if you can. Look to photograph it at its best. Avoid snapshots of interesting things. They will never appear so interesting unless you make the most of them.

Concentrating on what you find attractive is easy. Don't worry that other people may not think so. Focus on presenting that which you find engaging, and others will be drawn to what you see. It's all about how you present what you see. What should you include, and what should you leave out of your compositions? How you expose and time your photos will make them interesting for someone who may have no interest in what you've decided to photograph.

It's mostly about the people

Busy outdoor markets are all about people. When there are no people at the market, there's not much to photograph. The character of the location is not nearly so strong.

Think of ways to include the people in your photographs that show how integral they are to the market. It's all about commerce and transactions, so look to capture these happening.

Local fresh markets are places people come to buy the food that sustains their lives. They are the heartbeat of a town. Often, they are old and full of history.. Look for people that are part of the market.

Some people have been coming there every week or every day since the market's inception, or at least for a long time. Look at how the vendors present what they have to sell. See how they interact with people who buys their products. This is the real life and soul of a market.

Photograph the relationships people have with each other. It may be a husband and wife shopping together. Or possibly a tourist enquiring about something they're not sure of what it is. Or two vendors sharing a joke. Capturing the connections will add life to your photo story. Magazine editors tend to like images like that.

Think about Your gear

Don't carry too much with you. Packing a bag full of gear can restrict you. It will become too heavy very quickly. It will also inhibit your movement in crowded and busy spaces.

Some people prefer to work with a zoom, and that's a good option. But take only one. Even leave your camera bag behind if you can. Taking every piece of gear you think you may need, because you fear missing the best photos, may be the thing that causes you to miss the images.

Carrying a bag through a busy market you'll be knocking into things. It may even restrict your movement if the place is really tightly packed. Besides, you may find you aren't comfortable opening your bag and changing lenses because of how busy the market is.. When you have less gear to concentrate on you have to be more creative. You have more head space to think outside the box and still capture the photos you want.

Hints

Looking to improve your travel photography?

Some people collect souvenirs when they travel others collect beautiful images with the camera.

Travel photography is like a time machine, freezing memories from a journey that you can look back on and enjoy for years. Plus it can help others find new inspiration.

Every travel destination has its own look, culture, history, people, feelings, landscapes, and stories.

Learn how to capture the subjects through photos helps convey the spirit of a place to others, giving them a glimpse of what it might be like to venture there.

1. Wake Up Early, Stay Out Late

Light is the most important ingredient for great photography — and soft, warm, morning light creates amazing images.

Waking up early means you'll have to deal with fewer tourists and other photographers. Want an epic postcard shot of a famous landmark get there early right when it opens and you'll have the place to yourself!

Sunrise isn't the only time to catch good light. Sunsets are also great. The hour after sunrise and the hour before sunset are nicknamed "golden hours" because of their soft, warm tones and eye-pleasing shadows. "Blue hour", is the hour after sunset (or before sunrise) when the sky is still blue, but city lights are turned on.

In comparison, shooting photos at noon on a bright sunny day is probably the absolute worst time for travel photography!

2. Pre-Trip Location Scouting

Research Locations before Your Trip

- Read travel guidebooks about your destination.
- Scour the internet for articles and blog posts to help give you ideas for photos.
- Talk to friends who have been there.
- Reach out to other photographers.
- Become more knowledgeable about which images will capture the essence of a place.

Wandering around with no plans has its place, but being well-prepared with research beforehand saves time so you can fully commit to producing amazing travel Images once you're there, and maximize your time.

3. Ask For Permission from Locals

Photographing local people in a foreign country is tough for many photographers. What if they don't understand you? What if they say no? Will they get offended?

The key is to talk to people first. Say hello. Ask for directions. Buy a souvenir. Compliment them on something. Chat for a few minutes BEFORE asking for a photo. It's far less invasive this way.

Always ask permission for close-ups too. Spend 15 minutes learning how to say "can I make a photograph" or "can I take your portrait" in the local language before you arrive. People really appreciate the effort, and it's a great way to make a new friend.

Some people will say no. Some will ask for money It's not the end of the world. Thank them for their time, smile, and move on to someone else and try again. The more you get rejected, the easier it gets to ask!

4. Never Stop Learning

Enroll in online photography classes. Invest in a travel photography workshop. Go out and practice on a regular basis.

This is how you get better – not because you have the latest gear or use popular Instagram filters.

, there's always something new to learn invest in online courses and books about photography to improve your craft.

Think you know everything about landscapes? Then go out and challenge yourself shooting portraits of strangers. Stalk animals like a hunter for a taste of how difficult wildlife photography is. Stay up late experimenting with long-exposures of the Milky Way.

You'll become a more skilled and resourceful travel photographer when you take the time to learn new techniques and skills from other genres of photography.

Fancy gear is nice, but learning from other photographers is a better investment.

5. Rule Of Thirds In Photography

One of the most basic and classic of photography tips, understanding the Rule of Thirds will help you create more balanced compositions. Imagine breaking an image down into thirds horizontally and vertically, so it's split into different sections.

The goal is to place important parts of the photo into those sections and help frame the overall image in a way that's pleasing to the eye.

- Place a person along the left grid line rather than directly in the center.
- Keep your horizon on the bottom third, rather than splitting the image in half.
- Remember to keep that horizon straight too!

Composing using the Rule of Thirds is easily done by turning on your camera's "grid" feature, which displays a rule of thirds grid directly on your LCD screen specifically for this purpose.

Before composing a travel photo, you should ask yourself:

- What are the key points of interest in the shot?
- Where should I intentionally place them on the grid?
- Paying attention to these details will improve the look of your images.

6. Pack a Lightweight Travel Tripod

A tripod allows you to set your camera position and keep it there. With the camera fixed, you can then take your time arranging the perfect composition.

You can adjust exposure settings, focus points, and pay attention to the image you want to create.

Tripods give you the ability to shoot at slower shutter speeds (waterfalls, low-light, stars, etc) without worrying about hand-held camera shake. You can keep your ISO low (for less sensor noise) and use smaller apertures, so more of the images in focus.

You'll have greater creative control over your camera's manual settings when using a tripod. for sharp landscapes, low-light photography, self-portraits, flowing water shots, and sunsets/sunrises, a travel tripod makes a huge difference.

7. Experiment with Composition

Get Low for a Different Perspective

Experiment for a better photocomposition. Take the first shot standing up straight, then lay on the ground for a low angle. Climb up on something nearby and shoot from a higher angle.

Along with different angles, try shooting from different distances too. Start with a wide shot, then a mid-range version, and finally, get up-close and personal. Never be satisfied with your first idea for an image!

Include a powerful foreground, mid-ground, and background too. If your subject is a mountain range— find a flower, river, animal, or interesting rock to include in the foreground. This gives images a 3-dimensional feel and helps convey scale, drawing a viewer's eye into the rest of the photo.

Focal compression is another great compositional tactic in travel photography. Compression is when a photographer uses a zoom lens to trick the eye into thinking objects are closer than they really are.

8. Make Travel Photography a Priority

Attempting to take quick snapshots as you rush from one location to another will leave you with the same boring photos everyone else has. Make sure you plan “photography time” into your travel schedule. Good travel photography requires a solid time commitment on your part.

If you're traveling with friends who aren't into photography, it can be difficult to find the time necessary to create amazing images. You need to break off on your own for a few hours to make photography your priority.

Splurge on a rental car for a travel photography road trip. This allows you to control when and where you stop for photos. There's nothing worse than being stuck on a bus while passing an epic photo opportunity, powerless to stop and capture it!

9. Don't Underestimate the Human Element

People like to live vicariously through human subjects in photos. Especially if the viewer can pretend the person in the photo is them. It adds more emotion to an image, you feel like you're experiencing the location yourself.

How do you accomplish this? By posing the subject in such a way that they become anonymous. Not showing the subject's face.

The human element also gives a better sense of scale. By placing your subject in the distance, you can get a better sense of just how big those mountains really are. It's why photographing “tiny” people in large landscapes goes well.

Adding a human element to photos helps to tell a story. Images seem to be more powerful when people are included in them. You completely change the storyline of a particular photo depending on what type of human element you decide to incorporate.

10. Patience Is Everything

Photography is about really seeing what's in front of you. Not just with your eyes, but with your heart & mind too. This requires dedicated time and attention. Slow down and make a conscious effort at becoming aware of your surroundings before pressing the shutter.

Pay attention to details.

- Are the clouds in an eye-pleasing spot?
- If not, will they look better in 15 minutes?
- Sit at a photogenic street corner and wait for a photogenic subject to pass by.
- Then wait some more, because you might get an even better shot. Or not.
- If you don't have the patience to try, you might miss a fantastic photo opportunity!

Good photography takes time. Are you willing to spend a few hours waiting for the perfect shot? Because that's what professionals do. The more patience you have, the better your travel photography will turn out in the long run.

11. Protect Against Theft

Cameras are small expensive products. Making them a prime target for theft while traveling. Buy camera insurance. This is the best way to minimize losses if your camera gear does wind up in the hands of a criminal. Your homeowner or rental insurance might already cover you.

Keep your gear secured when not shooting, like in a hotel safe or hostel locker. Never check expensive photography gear under a plane, always take it carry-on. Try not to flash your camera around in sketchy or poverty-stricken areas, keep it hidden in a nondescript bag until ready for use.

Register new gear with the manufacturer. Copy down serial numbers and save purchase receipts to help speed up insurance claims. Include your name & camera serial number on image EXIF data, so if your camera is stolen, you can track it down online using StolenCameraFinder.com.

12. Shoot Travel Photos In Manual Mode

You'd think that modern cameras are smart enough to take incredible pictures on their own, in AUTO mode. They do a pretty good job, but if you want a stunning image, you need to learn how to manually control your camera's settings yourself.

If you're new to photography, you may not realize all the camera settings that need to be adjusted. These include

- ISO,
- Aperture
- Shutter speed.

If you want the best images possible, you need to know the relationship between them, and how to adjust these settings on your own.

Switch your camera's dial into Manual Mode. Giving you more control of your images in different situations. By manually adjusting aperture you'll have more control over the depth of field in your image.

By manually controlling shutter speed, you'll be able to capture motion in more creative ways. By manually controlling ISO, you'll be able to reduce the noise of your images and deal with tricky lighting situations.

13. Always Bring A Camera

There is a saying in photography that "the best camera is the one you have with you". Be ready for anything, and always carry some kind of travel camera around, because luck plays a pretty key role in travel photography.

The difference between an amateur photographer and a pro is that the pro is planning in advance for this luck, ready to take advantage of these special serendipitous moments that will happen from time to time.

You never know what kind of incredible photo opportunity might present itself while you're traveling. Maybe while outwalking you happen to stumble upon a brilliant pink sunset, a rare animal, or some random street performance.

Keep your camera on you, charged up, and ready for action at all times.

14. Get Lost On Purpose

Ok. You've visited all the popular photography sites and captured your own version of a destination's postcard photos.

Now what? It's time to go exploring and get off the beaten tourist path. It's time to get lost on purpose.

If you want to get images no one else has, you need to wander more. The best way to do this is on foot — without knowing exactly where you're going. Grab a business card from your hotel so you can catch a taxi back if needed, then just pick a direction and start walking.

Bring your camera, and head out into the unknown. Check with locals to make sure you're not heading somewhere dangerous, but make a point get lost. Wander down alleys, to the top of a mountain, and around the next bend.

In many places, locals tend to avoid tourist spots. So if you want to capture the true nature of a destination and its people, you'll need to get away from the crowd and go exploring on your own.

15. Backup Your Travel Photos

Portable Hard Drives for Travel

Along with camera insurance,

A travel photography backup workflow includes an external hard drive backup of RAW camera files, as well as online backup of select images and another online backup of final edited images.

Sometimes, for important projects, mail a small hard drive loaded with images back Home if the internet is just too slow for online backup of large RAW files or video

16. Get Better at Post Processing

Learn How to Edit Your Photos

Post-processing is an integral part of any travel photographer's workflow. Just like darkroom adjustments are a part of a film photographer's workflow. Learning how to process your images after they're taken is FAR more important than what camera you use.

Learn how to improve contrast, sharpen image elements, soften color tones, reduce highlights, boost shadows, minimize sensor noise, and adjust exposure levels (without going overboard) using the software.

Spend money on professional post-processing tutorials before you invest in the latest camera gear. Post-processing knowledge can improve your travel photography.

17. Don't Obsess Over Camera Equipment

You Don't Need Fancy Equipment...

Why? Because the gear you use is not what makes a great photographer. Just like the type of brush a painter uses doesn't make them a great painter. It's knowledge, experience, and creativity that makes a great photographer. That's why photography courses can be a great gift for photographers too!

Professionals use expensive gear because it allows them to produce a greater range of images.

Instead of buying the latest equipment, spend time learning how to use your current camera's settings. It's a far better investment, and cheaper too!

18: Look For Leading Lines

Using the Road as a Leading Line to the Mountains

Travel photos can be full of interesting objects to look at, but you must direct the viewer's attention THROUGH the photo, it makes for a wonderful experience. Framing your image using leading lines will help with this.

Try to use the land, objects, or other features to send people deeper into your photo, leading them to the main subject. Examples of leading lines are roads, rivers, hiking trails, alleyways, or mountain ridges. The key is to draw the viewer's eye into the frame.

19: Framing Your Photos

Learn how to properly frame a photo. Leave a little buffer space in the sky above the mountain. Make sure the horizon is straight. Don't cut people's feet off the bottom of the photo. Does something in the background look out of place?

Don't only focus on the subject, take a moment to glance around the rest of the frame to make sure you're about to take great photo!

20: Be Nice & Have Fun!

Many travel photographers take their photography seriously. You know the type, blocking off famous photography locations with a wall of tripods, ignoring closed off areas, yelling at anyone who gets in their frame.

Remember we're all sharing the space with others, and we have to learn to get along. Be kind to other photographers, practice patience and common sense. Try not to be the person that ruins everyone else's photo, but treat other photographers the way you would want to be treated!.

Travel photography in your own back yard

Travel photography is fun and exciting.

Seeing new places and have new experiences. When traveling, always find something new to photograph.

Most of us can't travel all of the time. If we're lucky, a couple of trips a year.

Most our lives are spent around home rather than traveling, but that doesn't mean putting your camera down for months on end.

We often think of traveling as part of a long trip, but traveling is a mindset. As long as we're open to the experience, travel photography can happen wherever you are. Even in your own back yard.

Finding local travel photo ops

When traveling, we go to interesting places, eat different foods, and learn a about local cultures.

Travel photography is about documenting and sharing these experiences. There are all sorts of travel experiences, but here are some top travel activities:

- Visiting cultural sites (e.g. museums, landmarks, unique places)
- Sampling local cuisine
- Seeing a show or attending an event (e.g. concert, market)
- Having a unique experience (e.g. kayaking, hiking to a waterfall, sun tanning on the beach)

The trick to becoming a local travel photographer is to think, , like a travel photographer even when at home.

The local City Museum is a favorite tourist stop

Hangout where the tourists are

Find out what the tourists do when they come to town and follow them. Visit tourist offices for your city and neighboring places.

If there's not a published guidebook for your area, make your own.

Look for historic landmarks or scenic highways. Find local museums or walk nearby parks. You may be surprised at what you discover about your home.

Become a tourist in your own neighborhood.

Don't worry if the tourist destinations don't seem that exciting. Through familiarity you've developed a immunity to the excitement that comes with travel. Visiting local tourist destinations is about getting out of our normal routines and going to places that you don't normally go. It's about thinking like a travel photographer.

Find a local guide

Places with a tourist industry often have organized tours. Sign up!

If organized tours aren't available, create your own by becoming a local guide. And use your local knowledge to gain access to interesting places and people.

Local guide's help people find interesting places and people to photograph.

Make it a habit to ask for a recommendation. Your neighbor may know of an out of-the-way hiking trail or a historic landmark.

If you're outside of your comfort zone in an area of a city or on a hiking path you don't know, you may feel more comfortable going with someone who is knowledgeable about the area.

Attend local events

Part of traveling is attending cultural events. Visit street markets and interesting shops. Farmers markets make for great travel photographs.

Keep your eye open for festivals, parades, concerts, etc. These all provide interesting photographic opportunities.

Show up with your camera and try to capture what makes this event special.

To find local events, sign up for electronic updates, often available through your local newspaper website or city home pages. Photography meetups or Facebook groups are also a great source of information about local events. Also follow historical and hiking groups since they go to some interesting places, too.

Look at a map

You think you know your local area well, but you only know the places that fit into your daily life. Looking at a map of your local area may point to parks, lakes, and points of interest that you didn't know were there.

Enjoy the journey

Get into a habit. Of stretching your travel mindset by taking random routes to work or when running errands around town. Leave plenty of time to dally along the way.

Travel photography is as much about the journey as it is about the destination.

If you can, detour off onto smaller roads. This will let you see the area at a slower pace. You can easily stop when you see something photographically interesting.

Photo walks or drives are all about exploration and capturing the travel spirit even though you're not far from home. Walk down streets, explore parks, and generally poke your nose (or your camera lens) into every local nook and cranny you can find.

These are the places you can only find by being there. Your neighbor may have a garden to rival any botanical garden or a collection that could easily be in a museum. You won't know about these photo opportunities until you stumble upon them.

You'll look at your neighborhood differently and find places that you didn't know were there. By being open to the journey, you may find great photo opportunities just around the corner.

Maps can help you find photographically interesting places, but some photos you can only find by being there.

Visit again and again

The best travel photos of a place are often taken by local photographers. Local photographers have an advantage over the tourists: they can return to a place or event.

They have the luxury of time.

When you are on a trip, you often have to photograph the place in whatever weather and lighting conditions you encounter. If you are lucky, you get a good sunset or arrive at the perfect time.

Local photographers get the best autumn colors or the best sunset shots not because they are lucky, but because they have time to return (sometimes dozens of times) until they get the best shot.

Sometimes the world comes to you. A local university invited Tibetan monks to campus to create a mandala.

What is travel photography?

Travel photography documents a place and the people who live there. It is about exploring what makes the place unique and special. Travel photographers focus on the landscape, culturally important places, or unique customs and events.

When we think of travel photography, we think of images in National Geographic. We imagine exotic places and people in colorful outfits. We envision grand landscapes and wildlife we've only heard about in stories.

But what isn't part of the definition of travel photography is how far the photographer was from home when he or she took an image.

You can make travel photos by traveling one mile or a thousand miles.

Local travel photography is about documenting where you live and the people who live around you.

It is about exploring what makes your home unique and special. You might not think you live anywhere special, but everywhere has some sort of vibe.

Taking travel photos locally should be easy because you know the area. But familiarity can blind you to potential travel opportunities. You drive by landmarks so frequently that they no longer have special meaning. Taking for granted local events

Travel photography is a genre of photography where the photography captures the landscape, cultures, historic, traditions, landmarks, customs, history, and the story of the place.

Travel photography is the term used to describe the types of photographs that are taken while someone is traveling. The goal of a travel photographer is to capture their adventures and experiences through the lens of a camera, allowing them to be documented and experienced for future viewing.

Travel photography can include landscape, architecture, portraiture, food, street photos, and adventure photos, found in tourism brochures, billboards, advertisements, nature magazines, and restaurants.

Popular subjects often shot by travel photographers include landscape, tourist attractions, people, culture, food, history, nature, architecture, street photography, landscape photography, architecture photography, and food photography

Adding a shot list when travelling

The reason you travel is to have a new experiences. Everything is different from everyday life. The food, the accommodation, the architecture, the scenery, the people, the birds and animals, the transportation – it is all new

If your interest is architectural photography, you may not be able to see the people for the buildings.

Landscape photographers may be counting the minutes until a sunset. We each have our preferences and specialties. So how do we produce?

Why create a shot list

Create a shot list to avoid taking pictures that are easy and familiar to take. The intent of this Chapter is to show how a shot list might be constructed,

- **Opportunities for improvement**
- **Improving on your favorite genre**
- **Standard travel shots**
- **Technical achievement shots**
- **Gear limitations**
- **Special opportunity shots**
- **Other travel interests**

Opportunities for improvement

Look for opportunities in street photography that may not be your strength.

You tend to miss the forest for the trees. You will go to an event and take the pictures of individual transactions, but come home with no actual street scenes.

Use “patches of light” to spotlight people, but looking for that light is may not come naturally for you

You will miss your best street photography shots if you did not have your shot list to look for this kind of special lighting.

Using a high ISO setting, and negative exposure compensation, bookmark articles about using techniques that are new to you so that you can review them while traveling.

Two of the shots on your list – flash street photography and street photography from a straight-on shooting angle.

Both of these shots increase the likelihood that your subject will realize that you are taking their picture.

As you gain more experience as a street photographer, these small settings become second nature for you, the shot list will remind you to push yourself out of that comfort zone.

Improving on your favorite genre

In order to have a reminder list of shots you must have a sense of how you want to grow in your discipline.

- As a landscape photographer, are you using foreground effectively?
- Is your placement of your equipment leveling of the horizon consistently good?
- Are you getting optimal depth of field?
- Are there scenes that you do not usually take, but would like to?
- If you are taking literal landscapes, photos that document the geography, can you take landscapes that document how you feel about the scene?

Tips and tutorials on the Internet can assist with good practices and anecdotes on your shot list.

Pictures from other photographers will open your mind to new possibilities.

Wherever there are opportunities for improvement, add them to your shot list, and keep them in the forefront of your mind.

Standard travel shots

The next few categories on your shot are standard travel categories.

You might wonder why you would even need to bother to put them in a list.

If landscape photography is not your forte you might need a reminder to look for those opportunities and then make use of them.

Instead of looking out at and shooting a beautiful panoramic landscape, your back is turned to it, so that you can see what the people around you are doing.

Your challenge is to create people photographs this might be greater than the challenge to get photos of landscapes or buildings!

Putting 'people' on your shot list might be your courage shot.

Add photographing vendors to your list as it might be the easiest place to start photographing people,

Technical achievement shots

Action photography, and the camera panning technique, are technical achievements.

Do research on how to get the special photos. Make a shot list, and learn how to accomplish them before you leave!

If it was on your shot list it might become a favorite shot from your trip

Gear limitations

It is not worth it to carry a specialized lens,

Special opportunity shots

Weddings, design, and signage are special opportunity shots.

Based on Your experience, you have a 100% chance of encountering a wedding or engagement shoot when you are traveling. They are always in a nice location. Your subjects will be posed. The only downside is that you will not be popular with the professional photographer who is doing the shoot!

Design is an area of photography that seems to be gaining traction,

Signage is the humor opportunity in travel photography. You may or may not find one, but the odds are greatly increased if you are actually looking.

Other travel interests

Your shot list should include airports, hotels, and flags. These are more informational categories of photography,

Airport photography, in particular, is a great way to pass the time while waiting.

A country's flag can add interest to any architectural shot. The shot list helps you to remember to look for one. You can make it a personal challenge to capture it perfectly unfurled.

The last category on your list is the hotel, and it is a weak point. It is a helpful data point to have a shot of the hotel, because your friends will occasionally ask for hotel recommendations.

At the end of the day, you are tired, the shot list is staring you down. A little rain and a nice sunset will help you get the best photo possible. Giving you the motivation to try.

The failure to take the special shots will just irritate You Even with the help of a shot list,

You will still need to be aware of the shots you want to take but tend to not take.

CONCLUSION

Asking a stranger if you can make a portrait of them becomes easier the more you practice. What you need is lots of experience, and that only happens one way. You have to get out and start approaching people.

Use what you have learned from this guide. Develop your own way of connecting with people. Present yourself in a positive way and be natural. At first, this takes a lot of courage, but the more you practice, the better you'll get.

No matter how practiced you become in approaching people, you must always have your camera ready. Always expect that you will have a narrow window of time when

Photographing busy outdoor markets is a lot of fun. They are a very popular subject because there's so much interesting activity going on. This also means they are often very well photographed. The challenge is being able to capture unique images that convey the character of the place and the people who inhabit it.

Take your time. Look for what you find attractive.

Then get in to take a series of wide, medium, and close-up photographs that would make any magazine editor smile.

You may find your home area boring only because you see it every day. Another photographer might be jealous of what you have (wide-open fields, storms, abandoned buildings, people on the street).

Be a tourist wherever you find yourself. Don't assume because you don't live in a tourist hotspot that there will be nothing to do or photograph.

Look for interesting buildings and churches, unique events, or places. Look for details and interesting lighting that makes even a mundane scene special. Look for landscapes even those that aren't part of a national park. Little streams, solitary trees, farmland, and random geology make for great photographs, especially in lovely light. These can be found everywhere, not just places reviewed on TripAdvisor.

Traveling is a mindset. You don't have to board a plane or drive for hours. You can travel on your lunch break or take a weekend trip. You can take a photographic holiday and still be home in time for dinner.

You will be continually surprised at the places that you have never been to that are just a few miles from home. Your camera is your passport to meet new people, have new experiences, and maybe learn a thing or two along the way.

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