

# PCQC Video Presentation

Fundamentals of Travel Photography by Bob Krist—National Geographic

## Lesson 8: Gear, Packing, and Security

Traveling? Planning on taking good quality photographs? This lesson will suggest what gear you will need and how to keep it safe.

### • Tips on Gear Selection

- Two words describe travel photography: mobility and adroitness. You will be moving quickly, working for long periods of time, and improvising. The former activities are not compatible with lugging around heavy, bulky equipment.
- You will be encountering a wide array of situations, many of which will demand different types of lenses and equipment. The key to addressing this dilemma is to find a middle ground. Example: a novice with an entry level zoom lens might just be better prepared than an experienced friend who brings a set of expensive, heavy, fixed lenses and other gear.

### • Tips on Smartphones

- A common saying, “the best camera is the one you have with you,” also applies to smartphones. But just like any piece of photography equipment you must be thoroughly familiar with its operation, its strengths, and its weaknesses.
- Pick the right subject matter. Most smartphones have wide angle lenses; shooting good photos with wide angle lenses requires careful utilization of the foreground. In most cases you are not going to get great pictures of distant subjects, for example, sporting events and wildlife.
- Keep subjects simple and get close enough to fill the frame. In general, you won’t be able to blur our backgrounds with wide apertures or telephotos.
- Avoid using flash and look for good lighting. Most smartphones are not great in low light: seek better natural lighting.

### • Safety and Security

- A few basic items: 1. Don’t wear flashy or logoed clothing/items (ie., the ugly American). 2. Avoid jewelry, 3. Avoid branded camera straps and aluminum or hard plastic camera cases. 4. Try to use soft rolling duffle bags. 5. Avoid black bags; use colorful bags or colorful handles instead to avoid mix-ups at the airport or on bus trips.

### • Hotels

- The most vulnerable time is during room service; if the staff leave the door open a thief may walk in pretending to be you. These are called dippers. They grab an item and walk out. Don’t leave equipment and other valuables laying around the room. Keep them locked in a room safe if available, or the hotel safe, or in a lockable suitcase. Some suitcases have an attached security wire that can be secured to a pipe or other solid object. If you go out after the room is serviced, leave a “Do Not Disturb” sign on the door and a TV or radio on at low volume.

### • Exercise

- Shoot pictures with your iphone and your camera and see which you like the best.