



Tonight's Topics

- *Things You Should Understand*
- *Things You Might Need*
- *Tips & Guidelines*
- *Techniques*
- *Things to Shoot*

First, a Definition

"Travel photography is a sub-category of photography involving the documentation of an area's landscape, people, cultures, customs & history."

Wikipedia

Another Definition

"Travel photography is about documenting any destination."

"It can include people, street life, culture, customs, celebrations, heritage, monuments, landmarks & natural or urban landscapes that offer a sense of place."

Darter Photography – Tour Operator – Bangalore India

Things to Understand

Travel photography can be extremely rewarding & exceptionally challenging, at the same time

- Constantly on the move
 - Not location/landscape photography
 - Time restraints
- Control over lighting is non-existent
 - Weather
 - Time of day
 - Opportunities to shoot what you want, when you want
- Constrained amount of equipment
 - Weight restrictions
 - Electrical power issues
 - Internet access

Things to Understand

What's wrong with travel photographs?

They can be:

- Repetitive
- Tedious
- Irrelevant
- Intimidating
- Mediocre quality

They don't:

- Broaden the viewer's experience

Things to Understand

What's right with travel photographs?

Images can be:

- Photo-journalistic
 - You are pointing out something about the location
 - You are selecting & recording something about the location
- Artistic
 - You are saying something about yourself
 - You are putting something of yourself in each image

Solutions You Might Consider:

- Start out earlier in the morning or stay out later in the day
- Software can improve your shots
- Shoot with a *Polarizer*
- Shoot subjects that are closer to you
- Shoot after the people have left
- Since the scaffolding won't move, change to another vantage point
- Send your travel companion off shopping
- Shoot intending to crop or change your lens
- Set your camera on something solid or bring a tripod

Time for an Attitude Adjustment

Don't ask "What am I going to photograph today?"

Do ask "What gift will I be given today?"

Do put yourself in the place of most potential

Do SMILE!!

Things you might need

- Camera body, lenses & accessories
 - Wide-angle prime or zoom lens for sweeping shots
 - 7-14mm or 10-22mm zoom (for crop bodies)
 - 8-15mm zoom (for both types)
 - 20mm prime (for full frame bodies)
 - Mid-range prime or telephoto zoom for general shooting
 - 12-100mm or 15-85mm zoom (for crop bodies)
 - 24-70/105mm zoom (for full frame bodies)
 - 50mm prime (for both types)

Things you might need

- Camera body, lenses & accessories
 - Long-range prime or telephoto zoom for targeting details & close-ups of specific areas of interest
 - 75-300mm zoom (for both types)
 - 400mm prime (for both types)
 - 100/150-400/500mm zoom (for both types)
 - All-In-One Zoom, walkabout lens
 - 18-200mm zoom (for both types)
 - 14-150mm or 18-270mm zoom (for crop bodies)
 - 28-300mm zoom (for full frame)

Things you might need

- Camera body, lenses & accessories
 - Extra camera body
 - Could be a "crop" body & other a "full frame"
 - Could be (& probably is) your cell phone
 - Change lenses less often
 - Can keep things cleaner
 - Extra precaution
 - Take photos of the serial number of your equipment
 - This can establish proof of ownership if something is stolen

Things you might need

- Support System
 - Tripod (preferably) or monopod
 - Panning ballhead
 - Quick release system
 - Try a **Beanbag**, in a pinch
- Specific hood designed for each lens
 - Minimizes stray light from affecting image
 - Moderate level of protection is provided
 - Mitigates the need for UV Haze or Skylight "protective" filters

Things you might need

- Circular Polarizing Filter
 - Deepens sky & separates clouds
 - Defines mid- & foreground colors
 - Does away with unwanted reflections
- Graduated Neutral Density (ND Grad) Filter
 - Use when sky is bright & foreground is dark
 - Useful to slow shutter speed for "cotton candy effect" of moving water
 - Universal mounting systems from Cokin or Lee Filters

Things you might need

- External flash
- Cleaning supplies
- GPS and/or maps & guides of the area
- Snacks & water
- Rain gear for you & your equipment
- If hiking & shooting in an area for the first time, for safety's sake, have a partner with you.

Tips & Guidelines

- Considerations before you go
- Camera setup
- Considerations once you get there
- Capturing the image
- Composition

Tips & Guidelines

- Considerations before you go
 - Destination Research
 - Google & Wikipedia
 - Local Library & Used Book Stores
 - Travel Guides & Tour Operators
 - Determine what are the "must see" locations?
 - Cathedrals & Synagogues
 - Art Galleries & Shops
 - Fountains & Statues
 - Harbors & Waterfronts
 - Street Scenes & Cafés

Tips & Guidelines

- Considerations before you go - *Practice*
 - Shoot with friends in a café
 - Capture food & beverages
 - Capture activities
 - Shoot outdoor events & parades
 - Sit in the front & shoot from there
 - Sit in the back & shoot from there
 - Sit on either side & shoot from there

Tips & Guidelines

- Considerations before you go - *Practice*
 - Shoot street scenes & interiors
 - Shoot sunsets & sunrises
 - Shoot with various camera settings
 - Auto
 - Program
 - Aperture or Shutter Priority
 - Manual

Tips & Guidelines

- Camera Setup
 - Change time of each camera to local time
 - Clean each lens
 - Carry cleaning cloths & solution
 - Charge batteries
 - Carry at least 2 extra batteries & your charger
 - Check memory cards
 - Carry at least 2 extra cards & your card reader
 - Check camera settings for highest quality possible

Tips & Guidelines

- Considerations once you get there
 - Continue your research
 - Travel guides
 - Tourist bureaus
 - Try getting lost & then finding your way back
 - Confirm what are the “must see” locations
 - Cathedrals & Synagogues
 - Art Galleries & Shops
 - Fountains & Statues
 - Harbors & Waterfronts
 - Street Scenes & Cafés

Tips & Guidelines

- Capturing the Image
 - Plan to see the shot in your mind’s eye - Pre-visualize
 - Plan to experiment with composition & exposure
 - Plan your first shots to be “words”
 - Plan your next shots to begin your story

Tips & Guidelines

- Capturing the Image
 - Plan to shoot loads of images, especially if you won’t be returning anytime soon, or ever
 - Plan your final shots to complete your story
 - Plan your shots based on the anticipated output media
 - Printed
 - Posted on line
 - Put into a scrapbook
 - Put into a slideshow

Tips & Guidelines

- Capturing the Image
 - Pre-visualize – Ask yourself
 - What is the intent of the image?
 - What will it look like?
 - What could it look like?
 - What should it to look like?
 - What camera settings are needed to capture sunrise or sunset colors correctly?
 - Probably not “Auto” nor “Daylight”
 - Probably “Cloudy” or “Shade” instead

Tips & Guidelines

- Capturing the Image
 - Plan to experiment with composition & exposure
 - What can be done in-camera?
 - What happens moving to the right or left?
 - What happens moving forward or backward?
 - What happens moving up or down?
 - What can be done with complex lighting conditions?
 - What to do with a "backlit" image?
 - Shoot with a flash
 - Shoot +2 EV
 - What to do in a dark cathedral?
 - Shoot higher ISO
 - Shoot long exposure, even off a tripod

Tips & Guidelines

- Capturing the Image
 - Plan your first shots to be "words"
 - Capture images of *Signs* & *Landmarks* to set the scene
 - Plan your next shots to begin your story
 - Capture "establishing shot(s)"
 - Capture wide angle shots for a sense of place
 - Capture close-in shots to reveal important details
 - Capture shots of people & streets
 - Capture your shots with a variety of orientations
 - Shoot verticals
 - Shoot horizontals
 - Shoot panoramas

Tips & Guidelines

- Capturing the Image
 - Plan to shoot *loads* of images, especially if you won't be returning anytime soon
 - Plan your shots based on the anticipated output medium
 - Will it be printed?
 - Will it be projected?
 - Will it be potentially sold?
 - Will it be put on the web?
 - Will it be part of a competition?
 - Will it be part of a slide show?

Tips & Guidelines

"If you don't know what you're doing & you break the rules, you're a 'goober.'"

"If you know what the rules are, but you break them intentionally because you like the way it looks, then you're an 'artist.'"

Scott Kelby

Tips & Guidelines

"To consult the rules of composition before making a picture is a little like consulting the law of gravitation before going for a walk.

"Such rules & laws are deduced from the accomplished fact; they are the products of reflection."

Edward Weston

Tips & Guidelines

- Composition
 - Review background & foreground before shooting
 - Avoid cluttered or chaotic backgrounds
 - Avoid distractions in the foreground
 - Avoid poles growing out of anyone's head
 - Adjust f/stop to blur (or sharpen) background
 - Remember your horizon
 - Adjust your composition so the horizon is in upper or lower third of image
 - Adjust to make the horizon straight

Tips & Guidelines

- Composition
 - Is there a “picture within the picture”?
Ask yourself:
 - Can a more effective image be created by *cropping*?
 - Can a more effective image be created by *changing from “landscape” mode to “portrait” mode*?
 - Can a more effective image be created by *removing or de-emphasizing less important or distracting elements*?
 - Can a more effective image be created by *more closely highlighting important elements*?
 - Can a more effective image be created by *changing angle of view*?

Tips & Guidelines

- Composition
 - “Rule of Thirds”
 - Let your subject be off-center
 - Centered subjects should generally be avoided
 - Create some “artistic tension”
 - Let your viewer “explore” the image with leading lines
 - Let your viewer “follow” the motion
 - Leave some room for the action to “move into” or “out of” the frame
 - Left to right perceived motion is typical, at least in Western cultures

Tips & Guidelines

- General composition tips
 - Include some, but not too much, foreground in sweeping shots
 - Include a natural framing element
 - Place horizon 1/3rd from top or 1/3rd from bottom
 - Place main subject(s) at a “power point”
 - “Rule of Thirds”
 - Don’t “bull’s-eye” subject
 - Pay attention to leading lines
 - Use Neutral Density Filters
 - Break the rules when it makes sense

Tips & Guidelines

- Strategies – Timing
 - Shoot a quick shot in *Program* mode
 - Shoot again, refining your settings, in either *Manual, Aperture, Shutter* priority mode
 - Shoot from another angle
 - Shoot again from yet another angle, looking to continuously improve your result
- Strategies – Fail Safe
 - Shoot with exposure bracketing
 - Shoot varying depths of field (w/different f/stops)

Tips & Guidelines

- Make a list of shots doing your pre-trip research
- Make yourself take time to:
 - Study the scene
 - Shoot from different angles & perspectives
 - Shoot when the subject is right
- Make yourself:
 - Start out early
 - Stay out late
- Make creative choices:
 - Shoot verticals & horizontals
 - Shoot a variety of cropped orientations

Tips & Guidelines

- Take time to ask locals to take their portrait
 - They are as much of the location as the architecture
- Take a look at the LCD screen before leaving the location
 - This can be difficult in harsh light
 - This can make sure the image is sharp
- Take time to keep your gear clean
 - Tools like a bulb blower are essential
- Take notes
- Take a picture of a sign or plaque to jog your memory
- Take care of yourself & your equipment

Techniques

- Wide angle shots
 - Capture more of the scene
 - Create more interest:
 - Front to back
 - Top to bottom
 - Side to side

Techniques

- Shooting Panoramas (super wide-angle)
 - For *all* shots, overlap 20-50%
 - For *all* shots, shoot RAW
 - Forget “auto white balance”
 - Pick one color balance & use it throughout
 - Post-processing can correct any inconsistencies
 - Forget Polarizing or ND Grad filters
 - For a wide & sweeping “landscape” result, shoot vertically
 - For a tall or architectural “portrait” result, shoot horizontally

Techniques

- Consider “High Dynamic Range” shooting
 - What is it?
 - The result of *in-camera shooting techniques* (bracketing identical exposures with varied shutter speeds) & *merging* those images with *post-processing* (tone-mapping) *techniques*
 - The result is significantly *greater dynamic* range of luminance between lightest & darkest areas of a scene.

Techniques

- Consider “High Dynamic Range” shooting
 - What to expect?
 - The result of this wider dynamic range allows HDR images to *represent more accurately* the range of intensity levels found in real scenes, ranging from direct sunlight to faint starlight.
 - The result can appear “normal” or “abnormal” - “realistic” or “surrealistic” & anything in between.

Techniques

- Consider “High Dynamic Range” shooting
 - What are the benefits?
 - To *reveal* more accurately what your eyes saw when you composed & captured the image.
 - To *represent* more correctly the widest range of intensity levels found in real scenes ranging from bright sunlight to deep, dark shadows.
 - To *reproduce* more precisely the details in both highlights & shadows.

Remember

“A great camera can’t make a great photograph, anymore than a great typewriter can write a great novel”

“A great photograph is about depth of feeling, not depth of field”

Peter Adams

Things to Shoot

- Food & Feasts
 - Preparation
 - Presentation
 - Personal interaction
- People – old, young & in-between
- Architecture – old, new & juxtaposed
- Water – how is it used
 - Harbors & Piers
 - Rivers & Lakes
 - Fountains & other Water Features

Things to Shoot

- Transportation – How people get around
 - Motor Coaches & Taxis
 - Motorcycles & Rickshaws
 - Maserati's & Luxury Yachts
- Commerce – How people do business
 - Markets
 - Boulevards
 - Money
 - Bargaining

Things to Shoot

- Nighttime
 - Moonlight
 - Neon lights
- Religion
 - Cathedrals & Temples
 - Ceremonies & Rituals
- Landscapes & Cityscapes
 - Natural
 - Man-made
- Classic Icons, even the clichés

Final Thoughts & Ideas

- Add to this list
- Don't subtract from it
 - Growth as a photographer comes from shooting outside of your comfort zone
- Share your trip images
 - 2-4 images from each category forces you to show only your best work in an online album
 - Create a video slideshow

Final, Final Thoughts

Don't Wait!

***Don't wait** to do something that's really important to you because you might run out of time.*

*"If there is some experience that is high on your priority list, **don't wait** too long to do it."*

Jim Zuckerman