



Handy Tips & Tricks Guide

Print off this handy Guide and carry it with you on your next photo excursion!



What's In Your Camera Bag?

Lenses:

- » **50mm F1.8** - Inexpensive, compact and great for low light
- » **70-300mm** - Great for distant objects and sports but also brilliant for portraits and candid. Get an image stabilized version for extra versatility.
- » **Super wide-angle** - A super wide-angle lens is wonderful for any landscape shooter as it allows you to capture the whole scene. Generally look for a focal length under 17mm.

Filters:

- » **UV Filters** are like safety glasses for your lens. If you scratch a filter, you can always replace it inexpensively. If you scratch your lens, it's much more expensive.
- » **Circular Polarizing Filters** are a must for any landscape photographer as they will help make skies more blue and eliminate unwanted reflections.

Lighting:

- » **Reflectors** are one of the most useful tools a photographer can carry with them. In situations where you don't want to use a flash or you need a little fill light, reflectors offer an inexpensive way to add light compared to using a flash.
- » **Flashes** are an essential photography tool and with a little technique and know how you can capture a more compelling image.

Other Stuff:

- » Extra Batteries
- » Instruction manual
- » Garbage bag (for kneeling on)
- » Extra memory
- » Lens cleaning tool

Tips & Tricks

Getting close & Filling your viewfinder will help your subjects stand out more in the photo. Too often we are reluctant as photographers to get close. Filling your viewfinder will put extra emphasis on your subjects, especially portraits.

Think like a photojournalist and capture more than just the subject. Capture all of the surroundings. For example, if you were in Rome, you wouldn't just capture the ancient architecture. You'd shoot the local people going about their day to day life. You'd look for smaller details of a larger object and you would take more than 1 picture of any given scene.

Place your subject off center. This will add extra interest to your shots. It's all about knowing the rule of thirds and then bending that rule to suit your needs for better composition.

Get lower to the ground when taking landscape pictures. Make sure to include something in the near foreground and focus on it to help show depth in the photo. Be sure to close down to F16 or F22 and you'll ensure great depth of field.

Bounce your flash off a ceiling or a wall to make the light from your flash less harsh and/or more dramatic.

Diffuse your flash to make the light softer and more pleasing to flatter your subject. There are a number of diffusers that can attach to flashes that will shape the light to better light the subject.

Know the benefits of shooting RAW because with the right software, images can be adjusted and improved dramatically compared to JPGs.

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