



friendship force  
VIRTUAL EXPERIENCES

## “Improve Your (Travel) Photography--Tips, Tricks, And Gear”

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### TIPS

- Adjust your camera/phone/tablet settings
- Cropping can increase close-up
- Check surroundings/background
- Some of the best shots are after you passed a spot
- Identify your place
- City welcome map- good place to check if you changed date/time stamp.
- Ask permission! (don't just take someone's picture if it is a close-up)
- Same subject-different views
- Take more than one shot
- Ask for help
- Break some rules
- Be sure to document
- Take pictures of yourself and your travel partner(s)!

## **LAST MINUTE TIPS**

- Set camera date and time set for new day/time zone.
- Clean lens/screen
- Bring extra memory card(s) and batteries.
- Bring charger, charging cord, battery charger
- Bring different lenses for camera/cell phone/tablet, if needed.
- Bring rain sleeve
- Hide logo, replace camera strap for a more generic look.

## **GEAR**

- Camera strap and camera bag- generic is better
- Lenses and filters
- Camera wrap
- Tripod
- Monopod
- Camera manual or cheat sheet

## **Personalize your photo-taking experience.**

### **AUTOMATIC**

- Automatic - might also be called Auto-Scene or Intelligent Auto. Usually indicated by “A”.
- Automatic or Auto mode - most basic and easiest to use. Based on the lighting situation, the camera automatically chooses the settings to try to produce a well exposed image.
- Use this mode when you don’t want to change settings and let the camera do all the work.
- The camera takes control of every setting.

### **PROGRAM**

- Usually indicated by the letter “P”.
- Program Mode - gives you some control of the camera.
- The camera sets the optimum aperture and shutter speed. If you manually adjust one, the camera will automatically adjust the other to keep the exposure balanced.
- Program Mode gives the camera some control but allows you to adjust more settings.

### **MACRO**

- Macro Mode - may also be indicated as “Blossoms” or “Flower”.
- The Macro setting will focus on your subject at very close distances to produce close-up or “macro” images.
- Capture a subject matter with small details or when the subject matter itself is small.
- Anything beyond subject will be relatively out of focus or blurry.
- Can sometimes use zoom function.

## SPORTS/CONTINUOUS MODE

- Usually indicated by a “running” figure.
- Continuous photos, usually around 10. Lag time after last shot.
- Some cameras also have a continuous setting, which might take more than 10 pictures in a row.
- Good for catching an action shot or movement.
- Burst mode on cell phone-hold ‘take picture’ button

## FLASH

- The flash is usually indicated by a lightning bolt.
- The flash provides an additional light source to fill areas of shadow (fill flash). Fill flash is helpful in brightly lit situations where shadows are harsh (midday), as well as evening or night when light levels are low.
- Some cameras can set flash to automatic, off, or on (manual).
- The flash might not be powerful to reach subjects far away, and subjects very close to the camera may become overexposed.

## COMPOSITION

**Rule of Thirds** -try to place your objects where grid lines meet

**Leading Lines** -lines your eyes will follow

**Rule of Odds** -try to have an uneven number-asymmetrical

**Perspective** -point of view-up, down, back, front

**Lighting** - contrast/soft/hard/shadows/partial

**Framing** -horizontal/vertical/height/vantage point/doorway-window

**Breaking All The Rules**

## COMPOSITION CONSIDERATIONS

- What rules are used/followed and do they add to what you are trying to express?
- Does the composition add/subtract to what you are trying to express?
- Would cropping improve the subject/story?
- Are there distracting elements to eliminate?
- Would a higher or lower angle improve the photo?
- Is the presentation skillful?
- Is the presentation dynamic?
- Is the photograph balanced?

## TRICKS-DIY

- Lens Cleaner-eyeglass cleaner (attach to bag, belt, etc.)
- Filters-large sunglasses or pop out lenses
- String-monopod/tripod
- Camera Cover-clear plastic shower cap
- Black Tape-hide logo on camera and bag
- Printable CHEAT SHEETS of photography

## REMEMBER

- Don't get caught up having the perfect picture and miss the shot.
- Don't miss the enjoyment of the moment by having to have a picture.
- Take a picture rather than rely on a memory (name of item/place/person).
- Ask permission to take picture, offer something if situation requires
- **The best pictures are the ones that have the most meaning to you.**

## **RESOURCES**

www.youtube.com

www.udemy.com

www.bhphotovideo.com/find/EventSpace.isp

www.adorama.com/als

Printable cheat sheets - look up for pictorial representations of photographic concepts-  
example--<https://www.slothygeek.com/60-infographics-cheat-sheets-every-photographer-needs/>

Camera manual and manufacturer web site

Library-photography books, magazines, DVDs

Book stores (actual stores or online)

Book services that stream

Print/online magazines

Live/online classes--college, adult education, art centers, and museums

Clubs and Meet-up (meetup.com)

Groupon—live instruction or internet courses (groupon.com)

**Thank you very much for your attention and attending this zoom presentation,  
brought to you by Friendship Force International.**

**If you have any questions/comments on composition, please contact me ---**

**Sharon Swallowood**

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site if you have any questions about my photography)**