

Travel Photography tips

By Linda de Sosa

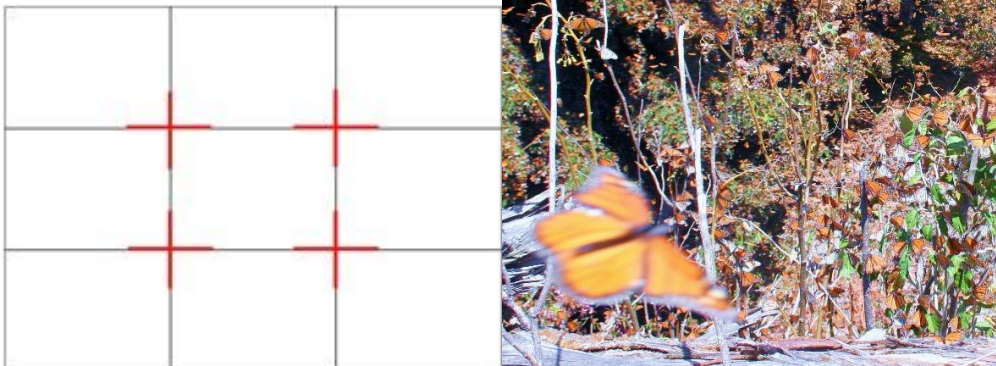
General

Camera

- Charge batteries each night and bring extras or a power bank.
- Travel as light as you can. Each trip will have its own requirements for zoom and complexity of shot. Be careful of weight limits.
- Know your camera and its capabilities before you go. Practice in your town.
- Have a good zoom.
- Choose the right lenses and filters. Ask at a photo store.
- Check homeowner's insurance for coverage. Travel insurance has low value limits and requires a police report.
- Bring a camera with you always wherever you go. You never know what you might see!
- Download each night and bring multiple memory cards and use them interchangeably so if one is lost, you don't lose all the photos of one area.
Note that if you are a member of Amazon Prime, you are allowed an unlimited number of photos in their cloud for free. Videos are limited. You can then search them by person or place.
- Ask us to book you a photography tour or lesson onsite. I took a photography tour in Paris where they took us to sweet spots to get unusual angles of the landmarks.
- Clean lens frequently
- Consider which gear for each trip
- If you think you might need night photography, consider a portable tripod for long exposure in low light. Remember, flash only lights up 20 feet or less.

Composition

- Remember the rule of thirds. Imagine a grid on your screen and try to put the points of interest on the grid lines. Or the horizon



- Use Burst (or live) mode or a mode on your camera that will freeze action if there is movement or potential movement, especially with animals or water



- Try to avoid posed shots
- Get in your photos
While this is posed, it is telling a fun story in that my leg is in a cast and I still climbed out on a ledge on the Grand Canyon.



- Check out the capabilities of your camera to see if there is something unusual you can use. I found one of my cameras let me isolate one color with everything else in black and white, which looked cool in a garden.
- Tell a story with effects and poses.

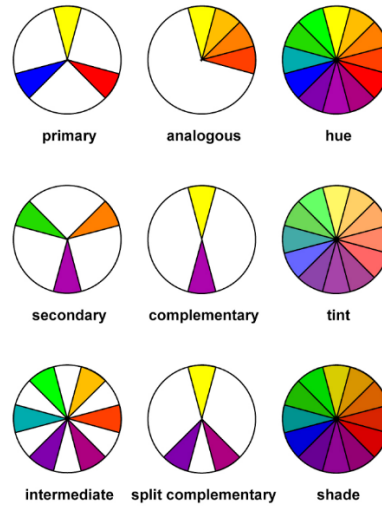
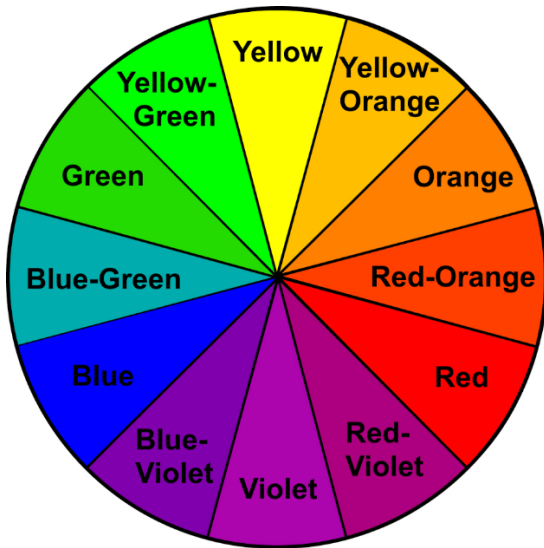
Chernobyl is a stark reminder of a nuclear accident. It just seemed like it needed to be in black and white.





This little Vietnamese boy looked so innocent from this angle and was a contrast to the images of the Vietnam war.

- Use Color theory – you want contrasting colors across the wheel



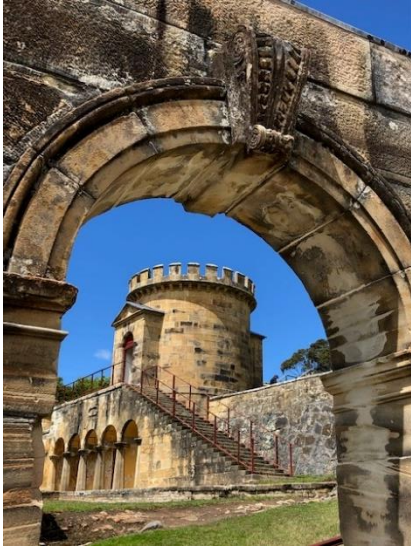
- Change your perspective. Look at different angles - if you kneel, will it be more interesting?



- Check photos with people that nothing is sticking out of their heads, like lamp posts
- Ask permission for portraits. The worst they can say is no. I would chat with them first to create comradery.



- Try to frame your shot with trees or something of interest.



- Use textures around you

Having the spiky plants in the front adds interest here



- Closeups are better than far away.



- Consider lighting. Places look different at dawn, noon, twilight, and night.



- Don't center everything



These monasteries on cliffs in Meteora, Greece would be less impactful if you did not see the context and just centered it in the frame.

- Consider the mood of a location when you decide on the mode.

When I took this photo of Chernobyl, it was stark, dead, and dated to the past so black and white seemed the best option.



- Cloudy days or rain can be interesting. Use Light and shadow.



- Rain - look for the rainbow in the opposite direction of the rain



- Change focus point



This horse was just so unexpected in front of the windmills that it became the focus point.

- Don't be afraid of the sun



You can use trees or buildings to block it and get neat effects.

- Play with depth and highlighting the foreground.



This taster tray of beer is more interesting with a unique background.

- Put people next to items to provide size perspective.



This slave hut was small, but a photo of it by itself would not reveal that.

Attitude

- Have patience to wait for the shot
- Beauty can be in anything

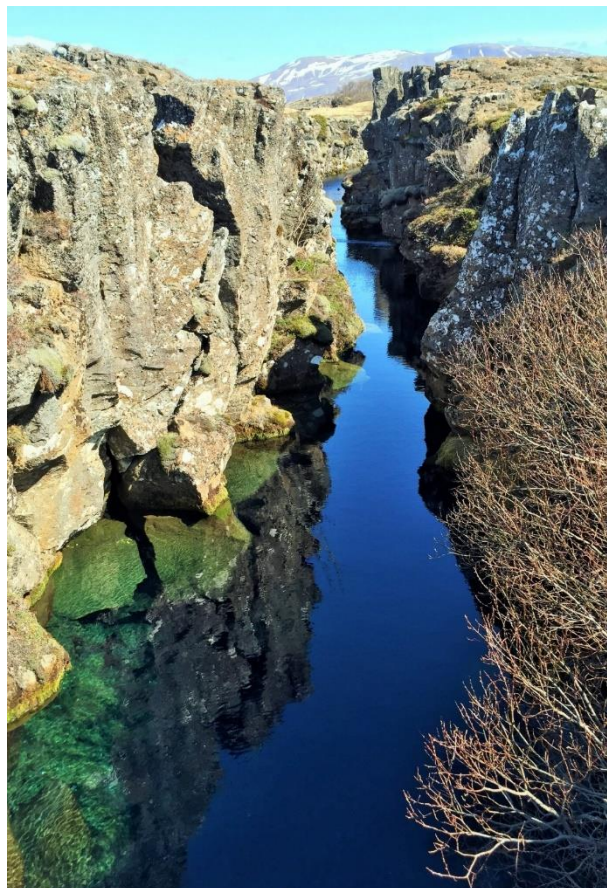


This photo looks like a Japanese painting, but it is water damage in a ruined high school in Detroit.

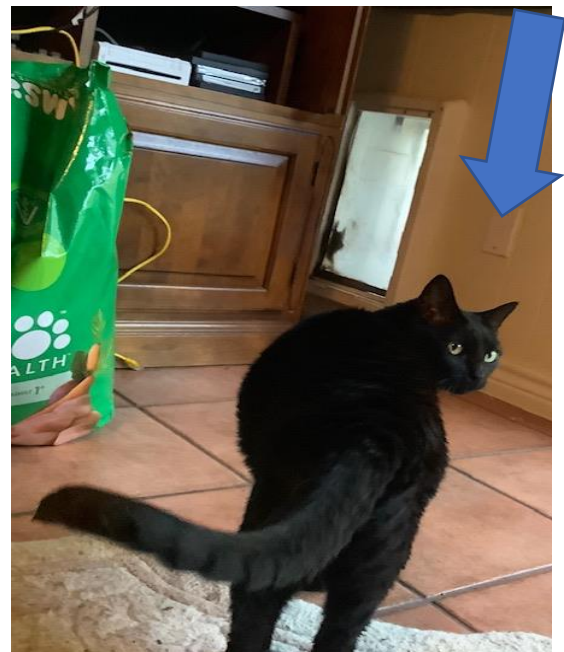
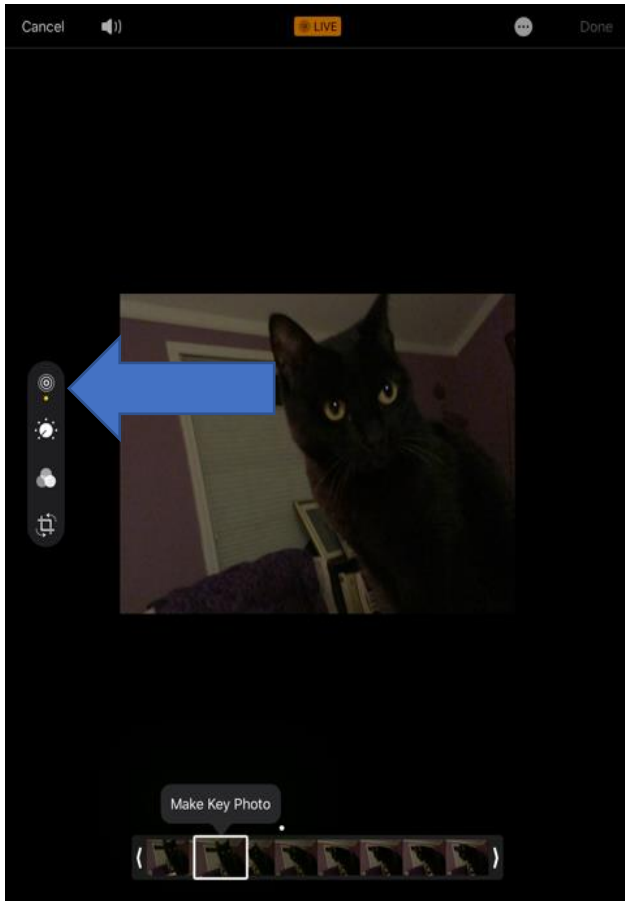
- Share photos instantly on social media
- Put down the camera – remember to be in the location without a lens between you.

iPhone

The new iPhones do a credible job of photography. I was pretty proud of this picture in Iceland.



- Use Live Photos to get animals or moving targets. To do this, click on the live symbol
 - To look at it after, hold your finger down on the image and it will move.
 - To edit, switch into edit mode, click on live, and you will see all the shots. The one you like, you can make the key photo.



- Learn the camera settings. Put it into HDR mode and have it use the gridlines mentioned above. These can be turned on in general settings
 - HDR takes 3 exposures of each shot and gives you the best one.
- Panorama settings make for good vista shots



- Portrait mode will put the person in focus and blur the background.
- If you are going to post on Instagram, use the square setting

Wildlife

Everything above, but additionally

- Use Burst or live mode to get every quick expression.
- Bring multiple cameras so can get a quick shot without having to look for the right lens
- Ask locals about habits and research the best way to see behaviors



- Hurry up and Wait

- Try to capture the relationship of animals and people



For some reason, in Peru all the llamas kept congregating around my son, to the point where people asked if they were his. With his red hair, he certainly did not look Peruvian!

- Be prepared for low light since that is frequently when animals are most active.
- Get close and on their level
- Remember your safety and theirs
- Use the depth of field
- Respect the wildlife
- Watch outside the camera
- Fill the frame with the animal

Different ways to shoot photos of the butterfly migration in Morelia, Mexico.

All photos by Linda de Sosa
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 adventures

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**Like
 millions of
 butterflies,
 who will you
 affect?**