

Thoughts on Travel Photography

Bob Oze, 3/03

Good travel photographs come from good trips and good trips come from good planning. Don't buy a new camera or lens just before going on holiday; test and be familiar with all equipment before leaving.

Don't look only for the obvious—the panoramas, the strange clothes, all the things that are different from back home. Have an eye for the details. Remember that you will show your pictures to friends on your return, so try and give them the atmosphere and feel of the place. This is sometimes better done with three or more detail shots rather than one general picture. Carry a camera at all times; the miniature types are eminently portable. If you miss a shot you'll kick yourself—because you won't forget the image left on your brain.

Never put off a shot until tomorrow. The chance may not be there—and neither the photographer. By all means return to the spot later, but take the shot anyway.

Do not photograph military installations. Even civil airports have restricted areas, so be careful. Respect other people's cultures. Read all about the place before visiting. It is often better to choose a location and wait for the action to come to you.

When visiting a foreign town or country buy postcards of the place of interest. It saves time and where language is a problem it can be used to show the cab driver where you want to go.

Happy trails to all of you.