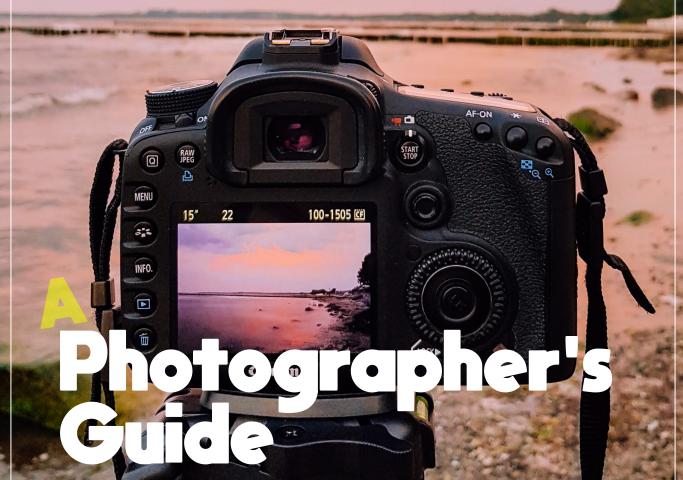
**APRII 2021** 

# Getting Back to It

#### INSIDE

Discover photography tips, tricks, and helpful advice for getting you back in-the-field with your camer



Look to the Clouds

LIGHT IS
EVERYTHING.
LEARN ABOUT
USING NATURE'S
DIFFUSERS TO
HELP TAME IT.

PAGE 8

When in Rain

LEARN HOW TO CREATE IMAGES IN RAINY WEATHER WITH HELPFUL TIPS AND TRICKS.

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Night Photography

**DISCOVER WAYS TO CREATE COMPELLING PHOTOGRAPHY AT** NIGHT.

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The world is starting to open up again. People are journeying out into nature parks and city landmarks, photographs are being taken outside of backyards and kitchens, and there is a feeling of normalcy in the air. If your photography was stuck inside for months, this is the perfect guide to getting it back into the real world.

Like anything that we do and stop doing for a while, take Golf, for example; we need to dust off the cobwebs and ensure we're ready to tee off with all of the necessary tools and equipment. When preparing for a tee time, Golfers usually consider the essential things; tools (clubs and bags), attire (shoes and jacket), and weather. How will the weather affect the tools and clothing I've brought with me? Is it even possible to execute in this weather? With photography, it's not much different. We need to make sure our tools and equipment match the situation and weather.

Start with considering the weather and environment that you'll be shooting in. Checking weather forecasts is a simple search online and can play a significant role in how successful your shoot is. As far as gear goes, make sure your equipment is clean and capable. Cleaning your sensor or lens after it's been sitting for an extended time can make sure your images don't have any dust spots or distractions. Capability is dependent on you and the weather. Make sure your camera batteries are charged and that the tripod you packed has the mount attached. If you're traveling to an area with a high chance of rain, make sure your umbrella works correctly and that your camera bag has a rain cover

Taking your camera out for a quick test shoot can help refresh your memory with the camera settings and menus. In doing this, you may also find that you need to format memory cards or update the firmware. All of these things help execute a successful photoshoot, especially one that has been postponed for months and months.

Nature and landscape photography sometimes requires a bit more planning, but I assure you that it always pays off in the end. After you've gathered the gear you need to test and have checked the weather, it's time to get creative. You'll find tips, tricks, and workflows for capturing images in any weather in the following guide. We're happy to see you getting back to your photography. Remember the most important thing - have fun.



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## In-The-Field Photography Tips

#### START TODAY

When it comes to creative hobbies or professions, especially photography, there is no time like the present. Dust off the camera gear you've been wanting to use for months and take a stroll to your favorite photo spot.

# TOP 5

- Know your camera's basic settings and how to properly take a picture in the field using them. Too often, the camera's dials and knobs get overlooked. Many of the newer digital cameras have lists of custom settings and creative modifiers that you can use to make your camera easier to work with.
- Study the foreground. Just like a captivating background, your photograph will benefit immensely from an interesting and thought-out foreground. Foregrounds that include textures, leading lines, or colors can help a photograph sustain the viewer's eyes.
- Slow down your shutter speed when photographing flowing water. When exposed correctly, flowing water can be softened and blurred to create silky textures and light. Unless you intend to freeze the frame, for example, waves crashing into a rock formation or a splash in a still lake, slowing down the shutter speed can make or break your river or waterfall photo. Remember to use a tripod to avoid any shaky frames.
- Vary your focal length to create unique perspectives and compositions. Using different focal lengths in-the-field can invite new and creative compositions into your viewfinder. For example, when photographing a landscape, use a longer lens to compress your environment and create depth. If you don't have many lenses to try, explore angles that bring your subject closer to the camera. Also, try distant angles that minimize your subject or scene. Blue sky landsacpes are great for minimal photography because the sky can be used as a large tonal section of the photograph.
- The Sunny f16 Rule is an easy way to capture correct exposures on a bright, sunny day without having to constantly look at your camera's meter. The rule works like this: If you're capturing photographs using bright, sunny light; set your camera's aperture to f16 and match your shutter speed to your ISO. For example, if you're using an ISO of 100; set your shutter speed to 1/100. With an ISO of 200, use a shutter speed of 1/200. Note: Lighting conditions and cameras vary, play with the shutter speed to find what works for you. camera and lighting situation.



#### PHOTO TIPS

In the world of photography, there are a countless amount of tips, tricks, and advice you can use when capturing images. The best advice that you can use when getting back in-the-field is to "make sure you're having fun." Photography should be an enjoyable experience, it allows us to capture memories forever. Sometimes it can be tough to find the motivation or time to dive into our cameras but regardless of the subject, find something in your environment that makes you tick as a photographer and capture it. Simply pressing the shutter down and creating a moment is a step towards improvement.





#### **LEADING LINES**

Leading lines are excellent for drawing attention to specific subjects in your scene. Study the foreground to find lines and textures that will enhance your photograph.

### THE BEAUTY OF OVERCAST LIGHT

IN MANY ASPECTS, OVERCAST WEATHER IS A GIFT TO PHOTOGRAPHERS IN NATURAL LIGHT SITUATIONS. WHEN USING NATURAL LIGHT, OVERCAST WEATHER PROVIDES US WITH A VAST AMOUNT OF SOFT LIGHT FOR OUR PHOTOGRAPHY. OVERCAST LIGHTING HELPS ALLEVIATE SHADOWS IN OUR ENVIRONMENT, GIVING US MORE CREATIVE HEADSPACE IN OUR PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE



#### HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR CREATING IMAGERY IN OVERCAST WEATHER.



OVERCAST LIGHTING CAN MAKE YOUR PHOTO APPEAR FLAT BECAUSE EVERYTHING IS EVENLY LIT. USE A UNIQUE BACKDROP TO PROVIDE SEPARATION BETWEEN YOUR SUBJECT AND THE ENVIRONMENT.



PHOTOGRAPH THE SKY. OVERCAST CLOUD FORMATIONS ARE MORE INTERESTING THAN A LARGE BLUE SKY WITH NOTHING IN IT, ESPECIALLY DURING SUNSET OR SUNRISE.



FIND WATER. FLOWING WATER
BENEFITS GREATLY FROM THE
SOFT LIGHT THAT IS CREATED
FROM CLOUD COVER. SLOWER
YOUR SHUTTER SPEED TO SOFTEN
AND BILLID THE WATED



PLAY WITH MOTION BLUR.
TYPICALLY, OVERCAST WEATHER
IS MUCH DARKER THAN BRIGHT
SUNLIT WEATHER. THE LACK
OF SUNLIGHT IS EXCLLENT FOR
EXPERIMENTING WITH YOUR
CAMERA'S SETTINGS AND MOTION
BILLIR



USE LONG EXPOSURE TO BLUR THE CLOUDS. SOFTENING THE BACKGROUND CAN ACCENTUATE THE DETAIL IN THE FOREGROUND.



SCATTERED ACROSS LANDSCAPES
ON OVERCAST AND PARTLY
CLOUDY DAYS. THE EXTREME
CONTRAST BETWEEN PATCHES OF
EVEN LIGHT AND SUNLIGHT ON A
GRAND SCALE CAN CREATE VERY
INTERESTING PHOTOGRAPHS.



WHEN SHOOTING LANDSCAPES
IN OVERCAST WEATHER, TRY
PLACING THE SKY PROMINENTLY IN
YOUR COMPOSITION. INCLUDING
THE SKY INTO YOUR LANDSCAPE
PHOTO CAN CONVEY LOCATION,
WEATHER, AND EMOTION.



USE BLACK AND WHITE TO FOCUS
THE VIEWER'S ATTENTION INTO
THE DETAILS AND TEXTURES OF
YOUR ENVIRONMENT.



LOOK FOR COLOR. COLORS, LIKE DETAILS AND TEXTURES, COME TO LIFE AGAINST THE GREY AND EVEN LIGHT IN YOUR SCENE.





USE A POLARIZER
WHEN SHOOTING
ON BRIGHT, SUNLIT
DAYS. POLARIZERS
WILL ENSURE THERE'S
DETAIL AND COLOR IN
YOUR SKY.

Shadows don't have to be unappealing. Letting shadows flourish in your image can make for a compelling photograph.

#### Creative ways to make your shadows a focal point:

Shoot low to the ground and use shadows as leading lines.

Look for complex objects that are creating patterns or shapes.

People also often create unique shadows on backgrounds or foregrounds. (walls, roads, vehicles, etc.)



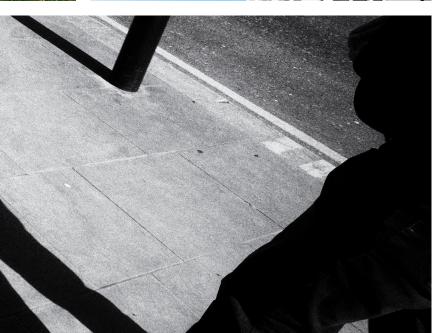














#### WHAT TO SHOOT

#### 1. BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

Structures such as buildings, bridges, roads, large art sculptures, etc, are excellent, bright light subjects. Try composing the image so that the building is illumniated by the sun or so the building is used as a silhouette, with the light coming from behind it.

#### 2. WILDLIFE

Wildlife can look great in bright, sunny light. Birds, hoofed animals, squirrels, among many other of our animal friends on this shared planet all awesome choices for bright light photography.

#### 3. BLACK & WHITE

Desaturating colors in bright, sunny light photography forces the viewer to pay attention to the image's detail and textures. Street photography is a prime example of utilizing bright light in creative ways.

#### 4. SPORTS

Sports are often played in bright, sunny weather. Bright light helps sports photographers keep their shutter speed high to freeze the frame without increasing ISO.

#### 5. NATURE

Nature and landscape photographs can benefit immensely from bright, sunny light. Try using the intense sunlight creatively, shooting directly at the sun to capture a "sun star" or creating a silhouette with a tree.

#### 6. FLOWERS

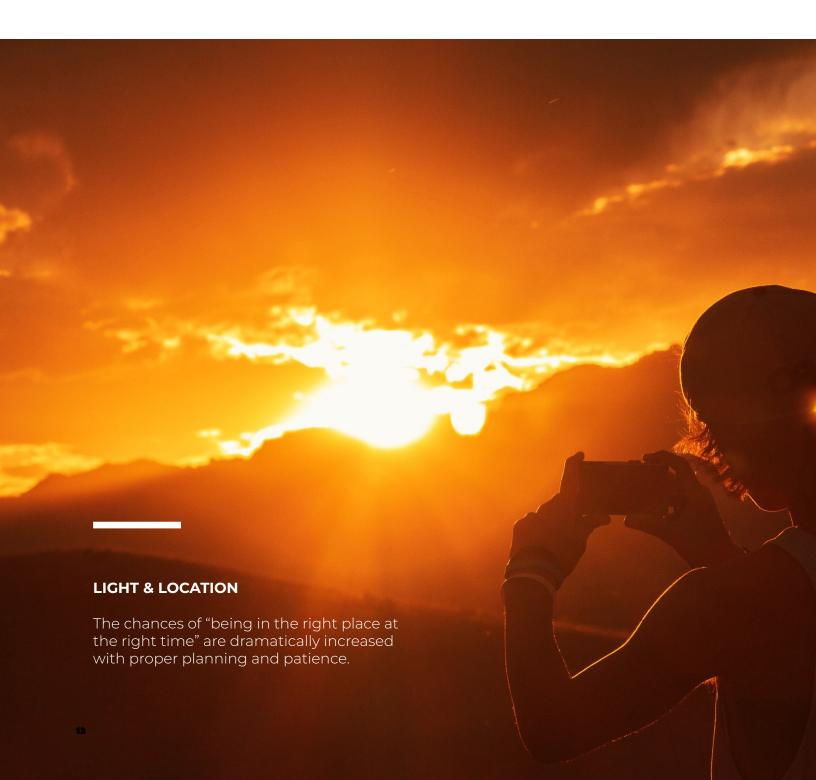
Flowers are beautiful in any weather. When using bright light, try capturing lower angles that reveal more of the flower's profile and avoid some of the harsh shadows created from the sunlight.

#### 7. PETS

Pets, like flowers, are exceptional subjects to photograph in any weather. Remember to capture an image at the animal's eye level; this creates the sense that the viewer has entered their world.

#### TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE

# Location





#### **TIDES & LOCATION**

Some photography locations require more planning than others. When photographing oceans or land formations near the beach, monitor the tide. Tide charts can be found at numerous sites online. Tide charts are not only a safety precaution, ocean waves and tides should not be taken lightly, but are helpful in finding large splashes into rocks or water flow closer to land.



#### Helpful tips

- If you're planning on photographing a new location or subject, check the local weather report to ensure you'll get the lighting conditions you are looking for.
- Photography is much more enjoyable when you are comfortable doing it. Always consider the environment that you're going to be photographing in. One location may call for rugged hiking boots and a tank top, while another may require gloves and a sturdy jacket with casual footwear.
- If you're planning to photograph a particular subject, such as birds, beaches, etc., make sure to consider how light will affect the subject's camera appeal. For example, flowers often look better with soft, overcast, or partially cloudy light.
- Much like the light that is illuminating your subject or scene, your lens can also play a powerful role in how effective the photograph is. Consider how your focal length will affect the image. For example, birds may require a longer lens such as a 200mm or more while landscapes might require a wide angle lens such as a 16-35mm.
- Once you've decided on lenses and timing, focus your attention into online scouting.
   Discover what your photo spot has to offer through travel guides and blogs. Just knowing where to park can be extremely helpful.

## CALL FOR RAIN

RAIN, TO SOME, IS A PERFECT ATMOSPHERE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY.

#### **IMAGE CLUES**

When it comes to rain, the viewer needs a visual clue. Using raindrops on windows and umbrellas works well. Puddles and reflections can also convey rainy weather.



#### WHEN PHOTOGRAPHING IN THE RAIN:

Carry a cover for your camera to protect it from the rain. A trash bag (use a plastic alternative, if possible) works well to sheild your camera from water. Place your camera inside the bag and poke little holes where you need to see and shoot. You can also lay trash bags on the ground to block water and mud from getting on your clothes when you're crouching for low angles.

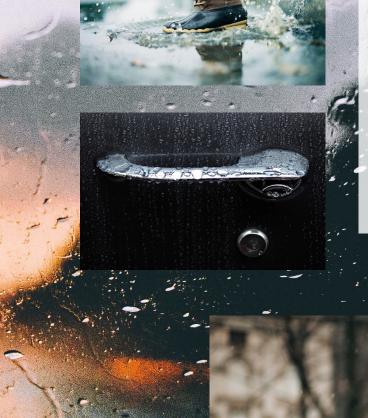
If you live in a rainy climate, equip yourself with a camera bag that has a weather cover. Weather covers help immensely to keep your bag and it's contents dry.

Bring an umbrella. Umbrellas, as awkard as they are to hold while managing a camera, are quite handy when it's raining.

Photograph from inside of your car.

Use water to give the viewer a clue that it's raining outside. Water droplets, umbrellas, and splashes in puddles are all great indicators that it's raining.

Find coverings that block your equipment from the rain such as an awning or dense tree.



## COMPARING LIGHT

Light is the most essential part of photography. As photographers, we're constantly exploring new ways to find and capture light. We're taking advantage of natural light in this guide so let's discuss two very common natural lighting situations; direct sunlight and overcast lighting. Direct sunlight (bright, direct light from any source; in this instance, we're using the sun) creates harsh shadows and stark contrast on subjects and objects you're photographing. Overcast weather provides softer light that gently illuminates subjects and objects, creating even lighting across the photograph's scene and focal points.

Use the direct sunlight for dramatic lighting, forcing the viewer to appreciate the light's harshness and what it's doing to the photograph's environment. An example of this could be a silhouette. The intensity of the light behind in the background can completely darken the entire subject.

Use overcast lighting when the subject calls for light that is delicate and soft. Flowers, for example, appear rich and colorful in a softer light. The same can be said for a lot of subjects, especially ones with vibrant colors and textures.



#### DIRECT SUNLIGHT

Using direct light as your single source of light is going to create harsh shadows and contrast on your subject. With most subjects it's not a big deal. However, portraits and other genres of photography benefirt greatly from softer light.



#### OVERCAST LIGHT

Overcast light provides a much softer light for your subjects to thrive in. There are far fewer shadows on the car and much less contrast in the scene. Overcast light works excellent for a large variety of photography genres.



## BACKLIT BY SUNLIGHT

When your subject is in front of sunlight (the sun is lighting the subject from the back, regardless of height in the sky), the front of the subject will become darkened. Try exposing for the shadows in-camera and recovering them in post-processing.



#### BACKLIT BY OVERCAST LIGHT

Even when the sun is diffused by cloud cover, the light is coming from a single source and can affect how the subject is exposed.

## NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY: A PHOTOGRAPHER'S GUIDE

Taking photographs at night can be tricky but is a gratifying, creative experience. The absence of sunlight allows for other natural and unnatural wonders to come to life. There are a variety of subjects that you can photograph at night, including buildings (with and without lights), landscapes, light trails, astrophotography, reflections, streetlights, among many others. Once you've decided on a subject or location to photograph, it's all about planning.

Weather can play a crucial role in your night-time imagery. With milky way photography or astrophotography, the night sky must be as clear as possible; this ensures that the atmosphere's stars and lights are visible to the camera. Cloud cover will block the night sky and your chances at a compelling milky way shot. However, with nighttime cityscape photography, cloud cover can create an interest in your background that clear skies wouldn't be able to. Equipment can also significantly affect your nighttime photography shoot.

At night, try a wider angled lens that has a low aperture. You can, of course, use longer lenses at night, but most of the time, they use higher apertures such as f4 or f5.6. Wide angle lenses are known for possessing smaller apertures. Smaller apertures will let more light in. With more light we don't need as much ISO and with lower ISO, we have a much smaller chance of getting annoying noise and grain in our nighttime photos. Try using a lowapertured lens, such as f1.4 or f1.8.

During your nighttime shoot, play around with shutter speeds and aperture to find what creative look suits you. When modifying the shutter speed, you can create artistic elements in your scene, such as light trails or motion blur. Light trails are an easy and fun way to get acquainted with nighttime photography. All you need is a road where cars drive and your camera. (Don't even need a tripod if you can find a flat surface for your camera to rest on!)

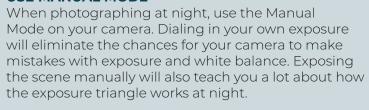
### TAKING PHOTOS AT NIGHT

**USE A TRIPOD** 



### some tripods are only certified up to a certain weight. With tripods, use a timer on your camera to avoid movement with the shutter button.

#### **USE MANUAL MODE**



Tripods may be the the most essential tool for night time photography. A tripod will stabilize the frame and ensure there is no frame shake or blur. Make sure the tripod is sturdy enough to hold your camera as



#### **PHOTOGRAPH IN RAW**

RAW files contain much more image data than processed files such as JPEGs. The more data you have, the more you can do with them in regard to editing; for example, recovering highlights and shadow tones is much easier to do with RAW files.

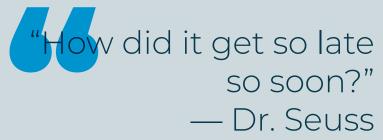


#### **SCOUT YOUR LOCATION IN ADVANCE**

Learn about your location before going out to shoot there. Weather and terrain can make or break your night photography.

#### **EXPOSE FOR THE HIGHLIGHTS**

The night sky is incredibly bright. Expose for the highlights in your scene to ensure the lights and stars aren't clipping or blown out.













# GREAT PLACES TO TAKE A PHOTOGRAPH



#### **NATURE PARKS**

THERE ARE SO MANY PLACES IN THE WORLD TO TAKE A GREAT PHOTOGRAPH. HERE ARE SOME OPTIONS TO CONSIDER IF YOU'RE STUCK ON WHERE TO GO OR WHAT TO SHOOT.

Nature parks are a gift to photographers. Nature parks and wildlife refuges are home to all sorts of incredible photo opportunities. Some nature parks speicialize in wildlife, allowing you to take your camera into their world and capture photos of them in some of their natural habitat. Other parks have miles and miles of flora, fauna, and vegatation to gaze upon and take photos of.

















#### **STRUCTURES**

Water is a perfect subject for photography. Water can reflect your background or foreground, it can flow into a silky smooth long exposure, or it can splash for drama.

When at a beach - use a polarizer and find depth.

When at a lake - reflections are great but don't forget about framing.

When at a river - slow the shutter speed to smooth the water.

Structures create excellent subjects for photographers. Bridges, roadways, buildings, large signs, and art pieces can be found nearly anywhere and are relatively easy to capture correctly. Experiment with angles - straight up toward the sky, down towards the ground, etc., but always pay attention to how your image is leveled and straightened. Crooked structures can appear wonky.

# NEVER FORGET AGAIN: A PHOTOGRAPHER'S CHECKLIST

Sometimes, as photographers, we get so immersed in the creative and technical planning of a photograph or a photography session that we forget about the little things. The little things such as making sure your batteries are charged or that your tripod is in your trunk. Here is a reminder checklist to make sure you always have the tools you need to capture a great photograph. Accompanied by some photography stories of true forgetfulness.

"As I pulled into the parking lot where I was meeting a couple for an engagement shoot, I immediately remembered that I had forgotten my portrait lenses. In my camera bag was one wide-angle lens. Wide-angles are not the prime choice when photographing engagement photography but asking for a reschedule 20 minutes before he gets on one knee with a diamond in his hand isn't an option. As you can imagine, I had to get quite close to my subjects for the entirety of the shoot and, to this day, wish I would have remembered my portrait lenses."

"If there is one thing that you need when photographing real estate, it's a tripod. I learned this the hard way. I showed up at the house I was photographing that day and popped my trunk to a



view that no photographer wants to see - no tripod. I tried to salvage the situation by being still and using my camera's level. However, in dark rooms, I was battling the camera's shutter speed, and that's not a battle easily won. If I were to have this checklist nowadays, I wouldn't need to return and reshoot the house. Which, as a photographer, is a very embarrassing combination of actions if you're the one to blame."

"My camera batteries should have been the obvious guests I bring along for a photography trip to the coast, but for some reason, I put them in a different bag that day. Being the scatterbrained creative I am, I put both my drone and DSLR camera batteries in a separate case and set that case on my kitchen table, thinking I would remember to grab it. I avoid the case entirely when leaving and secure my camera bag, which I place in the trunk, thinking we're good to go. We start the journey in Portland and drive to Pacific City, which is about two hours away. The whole drive there, we're talking about where to shoot and how beautiful the weather is looking. I'm envisioning photographs I'm going to take and looking up areas that I can safely fly my drone. We pull into Pacific City and start gathering up gear for our trip down the beach. We planned on shooting a rock formation that required a bit of hiking to reach; because of this, I didn't check to see if I had batteries in either my drone or my DSLR. After walking what seemed like forever to the rock formation, we pulled off our camera bags and started putting our cameras together. At this moment, I knew I had made a terrible mistake. Not being able to drive back or run to my car for a camera battery, I couldn't use my DSLR or drone. Luckily, I had friends with me to share the "doh" moment."

A tripod might not be a go-to item for a street photographer. A wide-angle lens probably isn't a portrait photographer's first choice. Figure out which gear is important to you as a photographer and keep it in your bag as often as possible.

# A PHOTOGRAPHER'S CHECKLIST

"DON'T SHOOT
WHAT IT LOOKS
LIKE. SHOOT
WHAT IT FEELS
LIKE."
DAVID ALAN
HARVEY

WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON PHOTOGRAPHING?

WHERE	ARE	YOU	GOING	TO	BE?

WHAT IS THE WEATHER GOING TO BE LIKE?

## THE GEAR CHECKLIST

Camera/Lenses

Batteries

Memory Cards

Tripod or camera strap (if necessary)

Camera Cleaning Equipment (Lens Wipes, Lens Blower, etc.)

	NOTES ON
LOCATION/SUBJECT	LOCATION/SUBJECT

# Photogre Guide VISIT OUR WEB SITE WWW.onl.com Credits: water water by Manohara from the Noun Project bridge by Srinivas Agra from the Noun Project nature by Adrien Coquet from the Noun Project