

- 1 **DigiTravel**
Travel & Vacation Photography By
Bill & Pat Ruting
- 2 **Overview**
 - Equipment
 - Doing something with photos
 - Technical stuff (very briefly)
 - Travel tips
 - Composition
 - Light
 - Subject Selection
- 3 **Before We Begin...**
 - Am a Canon user...
 - Don't know specifics about other cameras
 - The great thing about digital...
- 4 **Why are you traveling?**
Have fun & take pictures?
Take pictures & have fun?
- 5 **Equipment**
- 6 **Definitions**
 - Aperture: how big the hole
 - Shutter Speed: how long is the hole open
 - ISO: how sensitive is the sensor to light
- 7 **Choosing a Camera**
 - What's a megapixel?
 - Types of cameras
 - Point & Shoot
 - SLR

- Hybrids
- Lenses
 - Wide angle
 - Telephoto
 - “Normal”

8 **What’s A Megapixel**

- First, what’s a pixel?
 - Individual unit of the image
 - Physical area on sensor
- Megapixel
 - 1,000,000 pixels
 - Sensors run from ~3 to 37 MP
- Number of megapixels means nothing!

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10 **How Many Pixels Do I Need?**

- 1st – What do you plan to do?
- 2nd – How much do you want to spend?
- 3rd – Need or want?
- 4th – Future plans?
- 5th – Size does matter!
- 6th – More MP = more space/image

11 **Which camera?**

12 **Some Guidelines**

- Maximum print size:
 - 4 MP = 8 X 10
 - 6 MP = 11 X 14
 - 8 MP = 12 X 16
 - 10 MP = 13 X 19
- Other factors impact quality

13 **Let’s Talk Cameras**

- Six levels
 - Basic “point and shoot”
 - Advanced P&S
 - Basic (level) SLR
 - Prosumer SLR
 - Advanced (Pro) SLR

- 14 **Basic Point & Shoot**
- Easy to use
 - Built in zoom lens
 - Compact – easy to carry
 - Inexpensive
 - Good quality to 8 X 10
 - Small image file size
 - \$150 - \$400
- 15 **Advanced P & S**
- More features
 - Greater lens range
 - More megapixels
 - Larger file
 - Heavier
 - P&S on steroids
 - \$250 - \$500
- 16 **Entry Level SLR**
- Interchangeable lenses
 - More features - advanced control
 - Generally no “live view”
 - Good for 11 X 14” +
 - Built-in & External flash
 - \$500 - \$1,000
 - Plus lenses
- 17 **Prosumer SLR**
- Advanced controls and features
 - Some have movie capability
 - High speed sports mode
 - Advanced metering systems
 - Upper end have full-frame sensor
 - 10 – 21 mp
 - Built In/External flash
 - Built-in IS on few
 - \$1,100 - \$3,000
 - Plus lenses

18 **Pro SLR**

- Professional features
- 20+ mp, full frame sensor
- Prints 20" X 30" +
- Rugged, sealed body
- No built-in flash
- Very large files
- \$4,000 - \$8,000+
 - Plus lenses
 - Only pro lenses

19 **Lenses – P & S**

- Limited to built-in range
 - Add-on lenses?
- Consider optical range when purchasing
 - 4X to 20X
 - Digital “zoom” is useless or worse
- Small camera = small apertures
 - Small window = less light

20 **Lenses – SLR**

- How much you got?
 - Unlimited range of lenses
 - What to buy?
- Try to avoid overlapping and gaps
- Consider how often you will use
- Consider features
 - Image stabilizing
 - Auto focus

21 **Wide Angle Lens**

- Covers more area – H & W
- Easier to handhold
- Good for tight spots
- Poor for people pictures

22 **Lenses – Telephoto**

- Zoom lenses best choice for most
- Short telephoto good for portraits
- Expensive?

- Difficult to hold steady
 - Image stabilizing
- Visual compression

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24 **Angle of View**

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26 **Tip:**

Long lenses require good support
 $1/\text{Length} = \text{Minimum Shutter Speed}$

27 **Choosing Chips**

- Brand name v. “no name”
- Speed
 - 60X – 120X – UDMA?
- Capacity
 - 1 – 8GB or 4 – 2GB?
- Caring for chips
 - Storing
 - Airport security
- Formatting v. deleting

28 **Batteries**

- NiCads
 - Inexpensive – “memory” issues
- LiIon
 - Expensive – no charging problems – better cold performance
 - Do not put spares in checked luggage!
- NiMH
 - In between – no charging issues

29 **Batteries, Cont'd**

- Proprietary v. standard (AA's)
- Some SLR's can use both
 - With battery grip
- Carry a spare – or two
- Chargers – universal voltage
 - Check ahead of time

- Know voltage where you are going
- Protect contacts from shorting

30 **Tripods**

- Good for long exposures
- May not be allowed in some locations
 - Check ahead of time
- Quality v. price v. weight v. size
 - Construction: Al v. Carbon
 - Head type
- Buy best you can afford!

31 **Minipods**

- Gorillapod®
- Table-top tripod
- Beanbag

32 **Monopods**

- More acceptable
- Lighter, cheaper
- Stabilize against something
 - Use correct technique
- Get above crowd...
- Double as a walking aid
 - Deterrent to ne'er do wells?

33 **Tip:**

Carry a beanbag for self-portraits.

34 **Filters**

- Not all cameras can use
- Do not “protect you lens”
- Basic
 - Skylight 1A – useless on digital
 - Polarizing – “Circular”
- Many effects can be produced in editing

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37 **Camera Bags**

- What are you taking?
- How do you use your camera?
 - Keep out or take out as needed?
- Select appropriate style
 - Shoulder bags
 - Back packs
 - Sling packs
 - Camera case

38 **Weather Protection**

- Cold into warm
 - Plastic bag + silica gel packs
- Rain
 - Plastic bag
 - Lightweight covers
 - Medium weight covers
 - Underwater housings

39 **Lens Cleaning**

- NEVER use paper towel!
- NEVER use treated eyeglass cleaners!
- Use lens cloth – microfiber
 - With lens cleaning fluid
 - Use sparingly
 - Keep lens cloth separate
- Use lens caps
 - At both ends!

40 **Other Cleaning**

- Use soft cloth for LCD screens
- Use gentle blower for dust
 - NEVER use “canned air”
- Sensor care
 - P&S – sealed
 - Natural static charge
 - Change lenses quickly – point down

41 **Miscellaneous**

- Screen protectors
 - ‘da Products
 - Flip-up
- Cable release/remote release
- Spirit level
- Focusing aids
 - HoodLoupe
- External flash units

42 **More Miscellaneous**

- Image Downloading
 - Camera link v. card reader
- Photo software
 - Editing – Elements or PhotoPaint
 - Elements = \$90 – PhotoShop = \$700
 - Resizing – JPegsizer
 - ZoomBrowser EX

43 **Another Album?**

Displaying and sharing your travel pictures

44 **How do you plan to display?**

- Traditional album
- Photo books
- Slide shows
- Frame & Hang
- Digital picture frames
- On-Line sharing
- Greeting cards

45 **Photo Books**

- On-Line preparation
- Several producers
 - I like MyPublisher.com
- “Reverse” travel books
 - Show others where you live
 - Gifts for friends and relatives
 - Practice your travel photo skills

46 **On-Line Sharing**

- FaceBook & Flickr
 - No cost for basic account
 - Can limit access
 - Great for sharing with family & friends
 - Considered “publication”
 - Photos can be stolen?

47 **My Flickr Home Page**

48 **A Little Bit About Printers**

- Stand alone v. “all in one”
 - If one function fails...
- Recommended brands
 - Canon, Epson
 - Separate tank for each color
- Selecting paper
 - Manufacturer’s brand
 - High end brands
 - Ilford, Moab, Legion

49 **Tip:**

Cartridge refills? May not be good value in long run.

50 **Technical Stuff**

51 **Shooting Modes**

- Automatic modes
 - Portrait, night, snow, close-up, etc.
 - Learn how these work
- Manual modes
 - Offer greater flexibility
 - Require some knowledge

52 **Do Nots**

- Turn up brightness of screen
- Hold camera at arms length
- Be afraid to turn upside-down
- Compose on screen

- Use digital zoom
- Use video mode(?)

53 **Tip:**

Get off the “green square” – explore the other modes and options

54 **How Do I Shoot?**

- Aperture preferred (Av on Canon)
- ISO 200
- f 8.0 – 11
- Watch shutter speed
 - Adjust ISO or aperture

55 **Let the Travel Begin!**

56 **Trip Planning**

- What to take?
- Customs and Entry
- Security
- Local Customs
- What to Shoot?

57 **What to take?**

- Think about where you are going
- Types of conditions, situations
- Can you get it where you are going?
- How are you traveling?
- How much do you really want to carry

58 **What to take?**

- Make a checklist
- Camera + backup
 - Spare body?
 - Point & shoot?
- Extra chips
- Unless standard batteries...
 - Take at least 1 spare battery

- Don't forget charger

59 **Customs & Entry**

- Research BEFORE you go
 - Make list of equipment, serial #'s
 - Take copy, leave copy
- Entering foreign countries
 - Some charge “professionals” a fee
 - “Professional” is what agent decides it is
- Not only foreign
 - Yellowstone = \$1,000/day

60 **Security**

- Cameras = CASH
 - Treat camera like money
 - Keep close to you
 - Use a strap
 - *Be aware of what is going on*
- “Can I take your picture...”
“...with YOUR camera?”
 - Know who you give it to

61 **Security**

- Put bag strap around chair leg
- Don't rest bag where someone can grab
- Don't leave in car in view
- Small locks on zippers
- Leave filled cards in hotel or safe
- Consider Pacsafe bags if...

62 **Local Customs**

- Embarrassing or unflattering situations
 - Poverty or “slums”
- Religious/tribal shrines or sites
- Use of tripods and/or flash
 - Museums, churches

63 **Photographing Buildings & Things**

- In U. S. – generally no restrictions IF:
 - Taken from public location
 - Not for commercial use
 - Does not invade privacy

- Is not legitimate security concern
- Private citizen cannot:
 - Demand you erase photos
 - Stop taking pictures

64 **Photographing Buildings & Things**

- Foreign countries:
 - Laws may vary widely
 - Don't take chances
 - Use good judgment
 - Ask permission
 - Avoid security concerns

65 **Examples**

- Subways in Russian cities
- Military bases in most countries
 - Includes bridges, airports, trains
- Aircraft flying in Sweden
- Police in England
- Religious ceremonies in Laos
- Any photography requires permit in Sudan

66 **Photographing People**

- Commercial use (sales)
 - Requires permission
 - Written – release
- If you plan to sell:
 - Learn the legal issues
 - Get a pad of release forms
- Famous people “own” their image

67 **Photographing People**

- Respect religious laws
- Children
 - Be cautious
- Ask permission
 - Not always...
 - Show camera and smile
 - Some small payment
- Locations – e.g., topless beaches

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71 **Composition Basics**

There are no rules...
only recommendations.

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73 **“Rule of Thirds”**

- Split image into three vertical & horizontal
- Focal points at intersections
- Place interest along lines
- Avoid dead center, corners

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77 **Horizons**

- Keep level
- Top or bottom third line
- Avoid an even split
 - Top and bottom compete

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79 **Warm Front, Cold Rear**

- Warm colors appear to move forward
- Cooler colors move back
- More pleasing to our eye

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82 **Go For the Red!**

- 83 **Diagonals Are Dramatic!**
- Bottom Left to Upper Right
 - Eye moves naturally
 - Way we read
 - Draws your interest across the picture
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- 85
- 86 **So Are “S” Curves**
- 87 **Avoid Mergers**
- 88 **Shoot Vertical Subjects, Vertical**
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- 90 **Show Scale of Objects**
- 91 **Frame for Perspective**
- 92
- 93 **One Step Closer**
- If object is 20 miles away...
 - Add foreground
 - Item of interest
 - Provide perspective
 - Avoid foreground
 - Distractions
 - Competing elements
- 94
- 95 **Look for the Expected & the Unexpected**
- Be ready!
 - Shoot when you can – don’t wait!
 - Shutter lag
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98 **Let There Be Light**

99 **Thinking Light**

- Consider the contrast
 - Between sun and shade
 - Light and shadow
 - Brightest and darkest
- Sunny v. overcast
- Can you wait?
 - For light to change

100 **Your Meter's View of the World**

101 **Metering**

- Scene with lots of black or white
 - Hard to meter accurately
 - Whites get overexposed
 - Blacks are underexposed
- P&S cameras
 - Try “snow” and/or “night” mode
- If adjustable compensate manually

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104 **Flash!**

- Can you use your flash?
 - Let's not get crazy...
 - Limited range
- Consider others
- Location
- Reflections
 - Shoot at angle (~45°)

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106 **More Flashing**

- Direct v. bounce
- Filtered
 - Use handkerchief
- Avoiding dreaded “red eye”
 - Shoot at angle
 - Don’t look directly into camera
 - Practice with your camera
- Fill Flash
 - Outdoors

107 **Fill Flash**

- Bright backgrounds
- Shadows on subject
- “Punch Up” picture
- Avoid squinting
 - Place subject in shade

108 **Available Light**

- Turn off flash
 - Manual setting
- Use self-timer & support
 - Motion
- Inside = warm light
 - Exception: fluorescent lights

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111 **A Note About Sunrise, Sunset**

- “Magic Hour”
 - ½ hour before, after sunrise, sunset
- Look for good subjects
- Think about light
 - Direction – shadows – reflections
- Sunrise, sunset charts
 - On line link

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117 **Choosing Subjects**

118 **What To Shoot?**

- Do your homework!
- Tourism bureaus
- Web sites – Flickr
- Magazines
 - National Geographic
 - Outdoor Photographer
- Practice before you go

119 **What To Shoot?**

- Ask for suggestions
- Look at local guidebooks
 - Library!
- Ask friends, others
- Its digital! Shoot your head off!
 - Better to have 100 too many
 - We shoot between 100 – 400 per day

120 **What To Shoot?**

- Look for a theme
 - Church ceilings
 - Doorways
- Look for unusual
 - Less visited sites
 - Private homes – gardens
- Don't forget the people

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122 **Include People**

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127 **Include the Ordinary**

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133 **And the extraordinary...**

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149  **And don't forget**
YOU!


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153  **Final Thoughts**

- Carry a notebook or recorder
 - Take pictures of signs at buildings
- Don't be afraid to photograph people
- Check the weather forecast – plan for it
- Practice before you go
- Read guides
 - Know your camera – a bit at a time
 - *Reset the clock!*

154  **Final Thoughts**

- Mark your map
 - Keep a journal
- Shop at camera stores
- On-line training (free!)
- Look at other's photos

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