

Notes on Photography

<http://www.dpreview.com/reviews/> Camera and equipment reviews

<http://www.dpreview.com/learn/> Welcome to Learn Digital Photography on Digital Photography Review, the aim of this section of the site is to provide beginners and advanced users alike an area for reference and a place to learn new techniques and help improve their digital photography techniques

<http://www.cameralabs.com/> Camera reviews

<http://www.trekearth.com/> Mission TrekEarth is dedicated to fostering a global community interested in photography from around the world. TrekEarth members strive to provide engaging photographs and useful critiques for each other and the entire internet community.

www.luminous-landscape.com Photos, critiques etc from photographers around the world.

<http://www.nyip.com/> Browse Photography Articles, photos plus lots of "how to do" advice.

<http://www.photography.org.nz/> The aim of the Photographic Society of New Zealand is to promote the wider enjoyment of photography.

http://www.freedownloadcenter.com/Multimedia_and_Graphics/Graphics_Editors/ArcSoft_Panorama_Maker_Pro.html To stitch together landscape pictures to make a panoramic image.

<http://stsite.com/camera/> An excellent site for beginners, well presented etc.

<http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/> A step up from the above, wonderful informative site.

<http://www.digital-photography-school.com/travel-photography-tips-2>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBpi-O_ixUM 10 tips on youtube.

<http://www.digital-photography-tips.net/travel-photography.html>

<http://www.olympusdigitalschool.com/index.html> Excellent for beginners

<http://www.dphoto.co.nz> Our own NZ photography magazine web site.

www.tinyurl.com/7de7he Digital photography school, more aligned to beginners.

<http://www.thephotoforum.com/> Where you can ask a question, read threads, view members galleries etc.

<http://www.passionforpixels.com> Similar to the above with galleries including a few NZ pics !

<http://www.faststone.org/FSViewerDownload.htm> (use site 2 to download version 4.4) An **image browser, converter and editor** that supports all major graphic formats including BMP, JPEG, JPEG 2000, GIF, PNG, PCX, TIFF, WMF, ICO, TGA and camera raw files. It has a nice array of features such

as image viewing, management, comparison, red-eye removal, emailing, resizing, cropping, colour adjustments, musical slideshow and much more.

<http://picasa.google.com/> Together, Picasa & Picasa Web Albums make it easy for you to organize and edit your digital photos, then create online albums to share with friends, family & the world. The annoying thing with this program is it brings up “all” your images before you can get underway and that takes time.

Composition

- Position your subject outside the centre; think about the “rule of thirds”.
- Learn more about the rules of composition.
- Experiment with breaking those rules.
- Eliminate unnecessary clutter. Check the background before pressing the shutter, especially for portraits.
- Get your horizon straight. You will see even small deviations from a straight line.
- Not everything has to be sharp in a picture. Try to concentrate on the main elements by reducing depth of field, especially if you have an interesting subject in the foreground (e.g. portraits)
- For good reasons, wide-angle is often used for landscapes. However, this makes it especially important to look for something interesting in the foreground.
- For portraits, zoom in to reduce depth of field. Choosing a different angle can hide or pronounce physical characteristics.
- Get close. The face is the most important part of your subject. A portrait will usually be much more impressive and personal as a close-up. Showing the whole body rarely is necessary.
- When shooting at night, use a tripod and/or the self timer. A torch can be very handy for checking the setup.
If you do not have a tripod with you, try to use an elevated object like a wall instead.
- When in doubt, bracket (take several shots with different exposures).
- Try to shoot mainly in the morning and evening as the light usually is better for most subjects.
- In less perfect weather conditions, you may find subjects that look actually more interesting than on a sunny day. Rain, fog, the harsh light of midday and overcast skies can create very special atmospheres that will also look more “unusual” as most photographers just put away their cameras at this time.
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Travel and sundry tips.

- Get the basics right. Know your camera. Study the manual and have it printed out in A5 size from your camera disk. Warehouse Stationery will do this.
- Use your Modes; learn how to access functions and your camera layout.
- Use the “half press hold shutter” function to focus on the subject then reframe your pic.
- Increase ISO in difficult lighting situations.
- Always set camera on max pixel count and quality at superfine (or Fine at the lowest).
- Set time and date, change at time zones and watch for daylight saving change.
- Camera cards. Better to have many small ones than one large. An 8GIG card is maximum.
- Batteries. If you can recharge every day you may be ok. Generic batteries are about ¼ to 1/3 cost of an original buying on trademe.

- Crop “in the camera” where possible, always carry a small tripod (e.g. gorilla-pod). A large tripod is useful in crowds, set the 2 second timer and hold above people.
- Steady camera against your cheek or push against neck strap, lean against a pillar/column.
- Set camera up beforehand for your intended pics; say for indoor, night-time, sport, macro, etc.
- Work the location. Don’t be happy with just one shot. Take many shots and vary your settings and position, even one metre can make a difference.
- Always have your camera ready. It is not much use if you keep it in your back-pack.
- Research beforehand, where to go for the best shots. Use the web, Google say “photos of Rome” or where-ever. When at your destination check out local post cards for good locations.
- Include something in your pic to illustrate perspective, a flower, car or person to display size but watch you have your subject in focus. This is most important.
- In your hotel you should run through the days takes and delete any that you know are real bad but if in doubt leave until you get home where you can make a decision on your computer. Personally I prefer to do my sorting out as I go, on the fly!
- Ensure you can turn off your flash for museum and inside large spaces, cathedrals and trying to take a pic through glass, e.g. a photo in a frame or through a window however if you place your lens up against the window you should be ok provided the glass is clean. A built in camera flash will NOT be of any use beyond about 3-4 metres.
- If your battery is getting low switch off your screen display and playback plus don’t review each pic. Note Li-ion batteries are best but when they are exhausted you will only have 1-3 more pics.
- Study the work of others for inspiration. Refer to “trekearth.com”, NYIP, see above. Cambridge is an excellent site where photographers critique each other.
- Choose suitable software. I highly recommend Faststone followed by Pisca. Adobe Elements and Photoshop are tops but cost. The latter \$700 to \$1300 depending on selection.