

TIPS FOR MAKING BETTER TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHS (BY DAVID H. WELLS.)

1. **Arrive early, stay late!** The best parts often happen before or after the main event.
2. Ask yourself, **why am I taking pictures?** Do your photos record a mood, successfully share a good memory, or are they simply a marker of your presence?
3. **“Work” the situations.** When I am working, I may only photograph a few situations but I work those in many different ways till the image says what I want.
4. What is the **best position or angle?** I often try to get low down like a dog or to photograph from above, like a giraffe. Both give a very different experience.
5. Notice the **quality and direction of the light?** Where is the light coming from, what can I do to use that light by changing my position, lens, etc.?
6. Strive to remember the **importance of detail** shots to add to the story.
7. **Vary lenses.** Consider all the tools available to you, such as different lenses.
8. The **drama of silhouettes** makes for a powerful photograph. Use them to create highly graphic images that give the viewer a more dramatic perspective and simplify the image down to a few elements.
9. Capture a **sense of time** by using high shutter speed to stop the action, a slow shutter speed to pan with a moving object or fix the camera and let the activity blur by you.
10. Keep an eye on the backgrounds, which make or break your images. Keep it “clean” and **watch your corners!**
11. Put it all together to get **“the moment.”** The best photos exhibit two or more of the points above to make a complete image that tells the story without distractions.

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