

The secret of taking night shots is to snap at twilight, about 10 minutes after sunset, before the blackest night sets in. This is the lighthouse and fishing pier at Manistee, Mich.

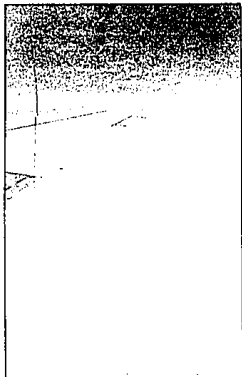
# VACATION PHOTOS

## Send us photos

Street Scene wants to publish your vacation photos through the summer season. Send photo and brief description to David Frank, Street Scene, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.



Framing can make or break a photo. These two men are framed by a breaking wave on the north shore of the island of Oahu in Hawaii.



Keep your camera by your side even aboard the plane. This is the view above a thunderstorm, 35,000 feet over the central United States.

By Randy Borst  
staff writer

An annual ritual is about to occur. This summer we'll all flock to our favorite vacation spots for a while and try to forget the workaday world. In the process millions of pictures will be snapped and processed, then leave us wondering what went wrong.

Photography is an integral part of any holiday. It's an attempt to capture, for a lifetime of viewing, a few days of fun. Whether using top-of-the-line 35mm single lens reflex or a simple point-and-shoot camera, good travel photos start with some study and planning before the trip.

Using travel guides, create a rough outline of what might make good photos. Make sure photography is allowed inside museums or government buildings on the list. It won't hurt to go to the library and find a picture book of the countries or cities on the itinerary. Seeing how other photographers have approached the subject will serve as a source of inspiration and ideas. Plotting strategy ahead of time gives an added measure of confidence.

IF THE CAMERA has been gathering dust all winter, shoot a roll of film and have it processed at least a month before the trip. Look for any problems on the finished pictures. Use the flash when taking the test roll to make sure it works with the camera. Camera manufacturers have made us all slaves to the battery. Put in a fresh one and take at least two spares on the trip! Depart knowing the camera is in good working order.

Most people who travel by air overlook the possibility of snapping some photos out the window of the airplane. The rapidly changing panorama of clouds and the landscapes below will result in stunning photos that help add variety to the record of the trip. Make airline reservations early, ask for a window seat and make sure it's in the front or rear of the aircraft. Sitting in the middle will guarantee a great view of the wing and that's about all.

A word of caution: Countries such as the Soviet Union, India and the nations of Eastern Europe don't allow photos to be taken from aircraft. When flying over a foreign country always ask if aerial photography is allowed. Getting a camera confiscated before reaching a destination is a sure way to spoil any vacation.

Try to capture the unique features of the area during the trip. Residents' style of dress, local architecture, the geology of the land and unusual weather are all fair game. Looking for details such as these will help

make the photos more interesting and keep memories of the vacation alive many years after it's over. Good photographers are always alert to their surroundings and pay close attention to how the scene is shaping up in the viewfinder.

**PROPER COMPOSITION** can make or break a picture. Take a few minutes to study the scene in the viewfinder. If it doesn't look good now, it won't at home either. Take the time to change the lens or move a few steps closer. Giving photos a professional look begins by mastering some basic skills of composition:

- Look through the viewfinder and ask yourself, "Is this really what I want the picture to look like?" More often than not the best part of the picture is what the photographer chose not to include.

- Don't cut the photo in half at the horizon. Tilt the camera up or down slightly to include more or less of the land or sky.

- Use surrounding objects to frame the main subject. Foliage, clouds or a group of people can be used to help isolate the center of interest from the rest of the scene.

- It's not necessary to always have the main subject in the center of the picture. Moving the subject to the left or right, top or bottom of the frame helps add impact to the photo.

- Try to shoot during the early morning or late afternoon. The low sun angle makes for intriguing shadows and color changes. If possible, avoid the harsh light of the sun at noon. Overcast skies provide soft, saturated colors on slide film.

The night provides another opportunity for dazzling photos. The secret here is taking the picture during the twilight, about 10 minutes after sunset, not during the dead of night. This will cause objects in the foreground to be silhouetted against a deep blue sky. Lights and signs on buildings and the headlights of cars will be illuminated, giving the distinct impression of nightfall in the finished picture.

A steady support for the camera is necessary for this type of work. If a tripod isn't handy use a window ledge or the fender of a car to help keep the camera steady. A self-timer can be used to trip the shutter to prevent shaking the camera. Exposure is tricky too. Take more than just one shot at different settings relying on the camera meter as a guide.

There are times on every trip when pulling out the camera seems more trouble than it's worth. Take the time and make the shot. Photos that never get taken always come back to haunt the photographer.

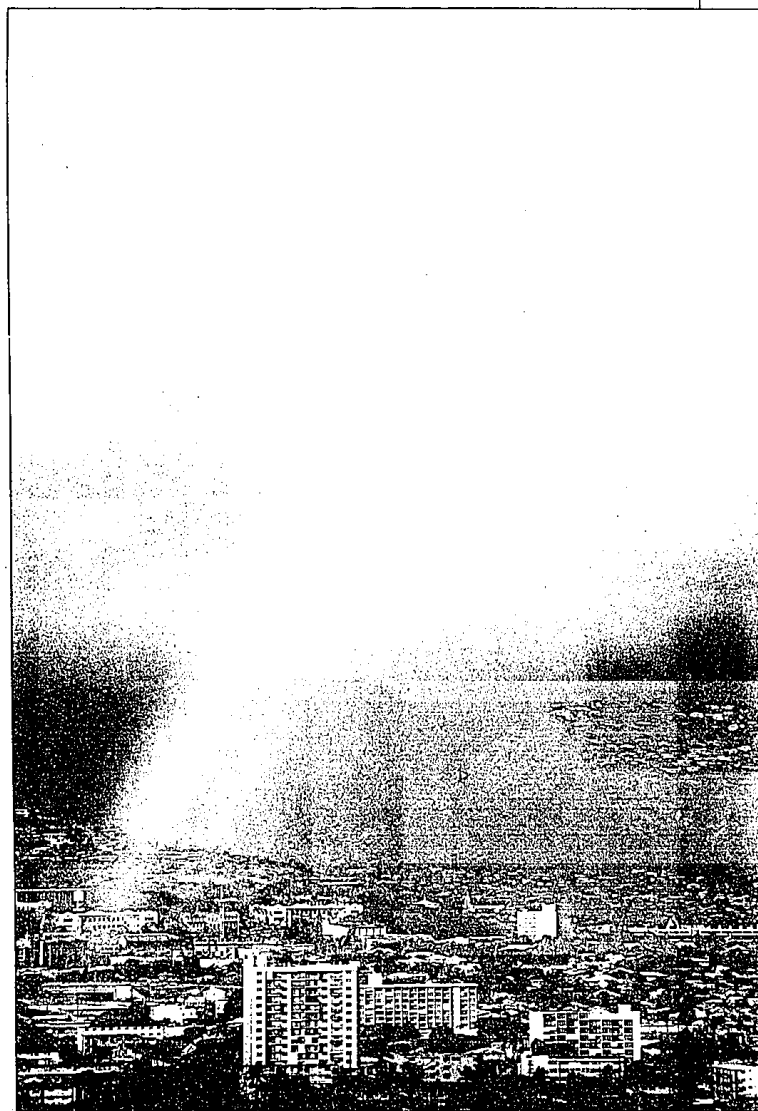
**ALWAYS BE** on the lookout for candid shots of friends and family. A picture of the spouse trying to hail a cab for the first time in New York or one of the children poking through the ruins of the Acropolis provide a more humorous and personal view of the trip.

When called upon to take a group shot of the family the photographer has to become a director. Most people need help when posing in front of the camera. Don't just line them up in front of the local landmark. Ask some to sit, some to stand and try to get more natural poses. If necessary, show them how to sit and stand and how to place their hands. The extra effort will pay off handsomely and produce a photo anyone would be proud to hang on the wall.

Hanging pictures on the wall is just one way to display all the effort spent recording the vacation. Some photographers choose slide shows while others use photo albums to show their work. Above all be selective and critical when choosing pictures to represent the trip. Don't include 15 pictures of the same sunset. A single bad shot can spoil the entire effect of the presentation.

Sometimes it is disappointing to see how few good pictures are left after the editing process. Don't worry. Practice makes perfect. There is always next year, another summer and a new destination.

Randy Borst is a staff photographer with the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.



Always keep your camera ready for an unexpected shot. This rainbow appeared and disappeared within 60 seconds over downtown Honolulu.

Staff photos by Randy Borst