

No airport damage here. By requesting visual film inspections at airport security stations, Monte Nagler made sure that all of his film arrived home in good shape. Shown is Sand Harbor Beach at Lake Tahoe.

Airport x-rays may ruin film

Spring is finally here and many of you are already planning your vacations. Part of vacation preparation is taking your camera out of winter hibernation, buying film, and getting geared up for those memorable holiday shots.

Well, if getting there by air is on the agenda, remember that airport X-ray screening devices may be hazardous to your film's health.

What a shame it would be to return home with those treasured rolls of vacation pictures only to have had them hopelessly damaged by airport X-rays.

This problem has been compounded in recent years by the introduction of super-fast films which are far more sensitive to X-ray damage than slower speed ones. As you all know, Kodak currently offers Kodacolor 1000 film and will soon introduce T-Max 3200. Konica has a 3200 ASA color print film as does Fuji with 1600 ASA.

Plus, X-rays have a cumulative effect on film. That is, if you're making three or four stops, your film is more likely to be harmed by repeated X-raying.

MANY TRAVELERS, aware of possible X-ray damage, place their film in check-through luggage thinking it will be safe there. Not so. This may be the worst place to store film.

Check-through baggage is subject to spot checks with high dosage X-ray units which increase the likelihood of damage.

Are there some things you can do to reduce or eliminate the danger of X-rays to your film? Absolutely.

To begin with, you can purchase a lead-lined film pouch. The lining will protect your film from potentially damaging X-rays.

Secondly, if it's convenient, have your film processed while on your trip. You'll not only get to see the results of your photographic skills sooner, but airport X-rays can't harm developed film.

Thirdly, exercise your traveler's rights at domestic airports and request that your film bypass the screening units in favor of a visual inspection.

BY ARRIVING EARLY and being polite, you usually won't have any problems with security personnel.

If you take some simple precautions at the airport, you can be assured that those unforgettable photos will arrive home in tact from a pleasant trip.

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photography
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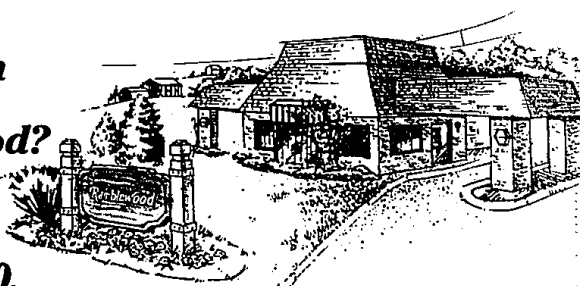
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