

# PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS FOR YOUR NEXT HOLIDAY

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**VACATIONS ARE** exciting times filled with new tastes, sounds, smells, and most importantly, sights! If you are keen on immortalising your holiday memories in high quality images, here are some basic and helpful tips to keep in mind before you embark on your journey!

## Gearing up: items to pack

First, it would be helpful to consider the equipment to bring:

- Depending on the nature of your trip, would you prefer to travel with a digital single-lens reflex (DSLR) or a compact camera? If you'd like the best of both worlds, you could also consider smaller and lighter DSLR models.
- If you'd like to travel light, you might not wish to bring along too many lenses. Consider bringing just two versatile lenses that would cater to most situations.
- Do remember to bring along spare camera batteries, especially if you're travelling to colder climates since lower temperatures mean that your batteries would run out of juice faster. On top of bringing additional cells, keep them warm by placing them in an insulated pouch or simply carrying them close to your body while you're on the go. Extra memory cards would come in very handy if you're a trigger-happy photographer. These would help ensure that you would never miss a brilliant photo opportunity because of a dead battery or a full memory card.

## Exploring small worlds: macrophotography

A holiday album wouldn't be complete without some lovely close-ups. While you snap away at vast landscapes on your next holiday, don't forget to pause and smell the flowers, or in this case, take a close-up photo of them! Casual macrophotography has been made readily accessible to us today, with most point-and-shoots equipped with an inbuilt macro function. But if you want to take it to a higher level with a DSLR, consider using macro lenses. Another tip: make sure that your subject is well lit to achieve the best colour vibrancy and clarity.

## Going for gold: autumn photography

While winter particularly captures our attention and wonder, we often forget that autumn too is beautiful with all its glorious hues, providing numerous opportunities for

vivid photographs. Try capturing autumn foliage during the magical hour: the first half hour following sunrise, and the last half hour just before sunset. The golden rays of the sun would not only complement, but also enhance the colours of the leaves. If lighting conditions aren't favourable, fret not! Many newer camera models come with inbuilt creative filters. Simply snap away and the cameras would automatically apply the best-looking filters to suit your images.

## Taking astronomically beautiful pictures: astrophotography

Capturing heavenly bodies is particularly difficult in Singapore due to the bright city lights. This is known as light pollution and it affects both you and your camera's ability to capture the complete details of the night sky. As a rule of thumb, get as far away as possible from the city lights. While astrophotography would typically require some technical know-how, a new generation of compact cameras now comes with a special shooting mode designed for such photography. You can achieve beautiful photos and videos such as star trails and even a breathtaking time-lapse movie, simply by activating said mode.

## Defying convention with unique perspectives: be experimental

Unless you're a documentary-maker, feel free to let loose your creative juices in capturing your shots! Literally bend reality by using wide-angle lenses to capture towering skyscrapers. This creates a unique effect of distortion. Look out for lenses with built-in image stabilisers to suit this purpose. Additionally, these lenses would help you capture more details in one shot, and work well in taking amazing landscape shots.

## Lighting the fire in your images: photographing fireworks

The first and simplest thing to do in preparation for capturing fireworks is to scout out a good location. Go for spots where you can get a clear, unobstructed view of the skies where the fireworks would be released. To achieve a pretty "trailing" effect, increase your shutter speed. Following that, tune down the lens aperture (eg, f/11) and lower your ISO settings (eg, 100 or 200). Finally, use a tripod! While cameras come with inbuilt image stabilisers,



**Clockwise from top left**  
 Lotus lake in Phatthalung, Thailand  
 Fisherman at work in Phatthalung  
 Fishing net illuminated by the morning sunrise in Phatthalung  
 Morning ice-frozen bridge in northern Xinjiang, China

this special type of photography requires utmost stability to capture the best images.

**Capturing movement in stills: long exposure photography**

Photographs taken with long exposures can create an effect of movement within the frame. To showcase that movement, it is important to feature still subjects against moving objects. Setting moving objects, such as people or cars, as the background against still subjects would create an almost 3D-like effect, with the static subjects popping out from the images. Long exposures also have an interesting and “smoothing” effect, giving even rough water a calm, glassy look.

**Making a mark: geotag your pictures to revisit your journey**

An unconventional and enjoyable way to reminisce about wonderful trip is to map the places that you’ve been to. With the unique feature of being able to geo-tag your photos down to the precise altitude and latitude, try creating a travel log in the form of a world map, and drop pins on all the places you’ve visited! Some cameras have a built-in global positioning system (GPS) for geotagging purposes. ■

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