

TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

FOREWORD

While traveling around in foreign countries, you have the opportunity to experience the local vegetation, breath-taking landscapes, exotic animals, impressive architecture, as well as people from various cultures. Taking up travel photography will enable you to keep these once-in-a-lifetime memories alive for years to come.

The pictures you take should really be of something special since you're most likely to visit these places only once in your life. Another thing to consider is there are many other countries out there in the world just waiting to be discovered on your next holiday.

To ensure you make the most your travels and head back home after your holidays with brilliant photos, you should already begin your planning while getting ready for your trip, such as considering which equipment you want to bring with you, how to transport it safely, and how to optimally use the equipment on your journey.

Here we'll show you how to prepare for your travels and keep track of your journey in the form of photos as well as what you should keep in mind when in various places or situations. You'll also learn how to arrange your photos to ensure you have a good overview of your pictures as well as how to transform your photos into tangible memories.

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Choosing the Right Camera

There's no set recipe for success when it comes to choosing the right camera - it all depends on the trip itself and what kind of personal needs you have. There's a camera out there for every kind of traveller, whether you're a backpacker, city explorer, or beach bum.

For trips where you will have high demands from your camera you could go with a *digital single-lens reflex camera (DSLR)*, which comes with a multitude of setting options as well as the ability to use interchangeable lenses. A DSLR is also a good option for those of you who may be a bit newer

to photography since the camera comes with both semi- and full-automatic modes. Another advantage of the DSLR is the optical zoom that the camera comes equipped with, which you can use to zoom in on your motifs without giving up too much image quality. Some clear disadvantages of the DSLR, on the other hand, are its size and correspondingly its weight. Besides the camera, the whole kit and caboodle usually consists of an interchangeable lens, 1-2 extra batteries, as well as other accessories, which can all become a bit difficult to schlep around while travelling as well as take up a lot of space in your baggage.



An alternative to the DSLR is the *digital system camera*, which really impresses with its light weight and easy-to-handle size. These cameras are mirrorless and don't come with an optical viewfinder. You can also change out the lens. When buying a digital system camera, usually the more light-sensitive the sensor is, the better the quality of the camera. This also means the camera is usually more expensive. The functionality of these modern cameras helps them keep pace with the DSLR pretty well.

Action cameras are especially well suited for trips that turn out to be a bit more adventurous. They're light, compact, and can stand up to some pretty tough conditions. These cameras are not only protected against dust, dampness, and shock/impacts, but can also be combined with special accessories to film underwater. The lens of an action cam is located inside the camera housing, which means the camera comes with limited zoom capabilities in comparison with other cameras.



Useful Camera Accessories

If you want to shoot photos as much as you'd like without having to worry about the status of your camera, you should definitely bring along some **extra batteries** and **memory cards.** If going on a longer trip, you could make use of a battery grip, which enables you to utilise two batteries at the same time, which can be very useful.

Tripods and **remote-control releases** are also practical in many situations since they will enable you to take time exposures as well as night shots and also come in handy for taking group photos if there is no one around you can ask to take your picture. When looking for a travel tripod, it's important to make sure it's light, small, and stable.

The batteries are fully charged, your memory cards are completely empty, and your camera is set on the tripod - everything's all ready to go. Many travellers choose to venture into warm and sunny locations. In general, plenty of light is good for taking pictures, but too much light can become a problem. Especially the midday sun can cause quite a few problems.

In order to savour every moment, you can use the aid of a *lens screen*. These will shield the lens from light coming from the sides and will thus prevent sun rays from being reflected in the inside of the camera multiple times. If extra light from the sides of the camera is not shielded, the extra light could

cause lens flares or make your pictures appear matte and lacking in contrast. Also, a lens screen will shield the lens from dirt/grime, scratches, and fingerprints. Lens screens come in various forms and sizes and they should fit snuggly onto the lens in order to avoid unsightly black edges appearing in your photos. A further measure you can take to make the best of the lighting conditions you find yourself in is to use a correction filter. These kinds of filters can help influence or correct saturation, contrast, as well as UV exposure in your photos.

A *polarising filter* helps subdue reflections off of non-metallic surfaces and is thus especially well suited for photographing architecture and landscapes with water. It also helps produce deeper tones of green. A polarising filter will have its greatest effect when photographing at a 90-degree angle with the sun.

An ND filter, also known as a **grey filter**, consists of uniformly grey-coloured optical glass and reduces the amount of light that hits the camera's sensor. Reducing the amount of light that enters the camera is especially well suited for taking photos with a longer exposure time or when using a larger aperture opening without influencing the colour or contrast of your motif. This kind of filter is also really good at capturing light trails from cars in motion at night.

It can often happen that the sky will appear much brighter than everything else in a photo. This can cause a lot of contours and outlines to disappear in the photograph that are very difficult to restore when editing the photo later. In order to balance between the different brightnesses of the surrounding landscape and sky, you could make use of a *grey grad filter*. Using this filter can be a bit tricky at times, especially if there is a building or other object occupying a larger portion of the sky, since this will darken the area substantially.





Transporting Your Camera Safely From A to B

Especially when traveling by plane, it's no guarantee that your checked baggage will be handled with velvet gloves. This is a good reason you should consider which equipment should go in which bag(s) when packing. Sturdy and less-costly equipment

such as your tripod, batteries, and cords can be safely stored in your checked luggage without second thought. The camera body and lenses, on the other hand, should be transported in your carryon.

The max weight of a carry-on is between eight and ten kilograms in most cases and cannot be exceeded without having to pay extra fees. When carrying a high-quality DSLR camera body and a few interchangeable lenses, it might get a bit tight with the weight limit. If, however, you wear your camera around your neck and carry one of your smaller interchangeable lenses in your jacket pocket, you'll be able to save yourself a couple hundred grams since many airlines don't consider articles carried on your person a part of your carry-on luggage. Many airlines even allow you to carry on an extra camera

bag. In order to err on the side of caution, be sure to check the specific conditions of your carrier before traveling.

Your equipment should not only be protected while traveling to and from your destination by plane, train, bus, or car, but also while traveling around during your holiday. To ensure everything stays protected during your travels you could pick up a special camera bag, camera backpack, or possibly protective covers for both your camera and lenses.





Small, Light, and Always by Your Side - the Smartphone

The smartphone, with its built-in camera, has become a serious competitor of the compact camera over the years. If you prefer to photograph with a smartphone rather than with a camera, there are several factors you should keep in mind when making your purchase. The camera should have at

least eight to twelve megapixels. You should also make sure that the f-number is between f/1.7 and f/2.0. If the smartphone fulfils these two criteria, you can get the best out of your smartphone by following several useful tips.



Manual Image Focus – Besides the auto focus, smartphone cameras also enable you to use a touch focus. By simply tapping on a certain spot on the display you can focus in on that element.



No Zoom – Smartphones are only equipped with a digital zoom, which automatically worsens the image quality when used. This is a good reason why you should avoid using the zoom, especially when photographing at night.

Tripods and Lenses for Smartphones

Besides using a tripod and remote-control release, you always have the option of using the practical selfie stick. These are useful for taking group photos or pictures in front of landmarks or other sights without having to ask someone else to take a photo for you. To help save your phone's battery life, many selfie sticks come with a cable to connect to your phone instead of using Bluetooth.

Even if you don't use a selfie stick that relies on a Bluetooth connection, your smartphone's battery

will quickly run out of juice when photographing for extensive periods of time. To counter this, you can make use of a power bank or a smartphone case with an integrated battery as a portable power reserve.

You can also expand the photographic capability of your smartphone by using external lenses that you can simply clip onto your phone. You can use these to create macro, wide-angle, telezoom, or fish-eye effects.





Stabilise the Smartphone – In order to avoid taking a blurry photo while photographing in poor lighting conditions, you could invest in a special tripod for your smartphone. These kinds of tripods come equipped with flexible "legs" so you can set your smartphone on various objects. Alternatively, you could also just lean your smartphone against a stabile object.



Daylight and Flash – You'll get the best results from your smartphone's camera by photographing in an adequate amount of daylight. If you do, however, need to use a flash, it's recommended to go with a Xenon flash rather than an LED flash.

Different Situations

Once you've packed everything and all of your camera gear is safely stowed, it's time for the adventure to begin. Depending on where you're headed, you're sure to encounter a multitude of various situations and motifs that you'd like to capture to be able to fondly look back upon. Every situation will require different camera settings.

SITUATION 1: TWILIGHT AND SUNRISE

Even while on holiday it really does pay off to wake up in the wee hours of the morning to snap off a few photos since the early dawn brings along with it special lighting conditions. Capturing this ambiance is not always so easy; that's why it may be a good idea to first check out the spot you want to photograph in the daylight and plan a bit ahead of time. The sunrise itself will only take a couple of minutes. It's also important to check out the weather forecast ahead of time since the beautiful lighting conditions can only really be captured when photographing a mostly clear sky.



Choose a longer exposure time to counteract the shifting lighting conditions during sunrise. The ISO value should be kept low to keep image noise down to a minimum. You should also use an f-number of f/8 or f/11 to ensure you end up with a decent depth of field. Using a tripod will help ensure your photo turns out sharp and not blurry. Alternatively, you can lean your camera against something solid, since taking decent photos when using a longer

exposure time is fairly difficult when just holding the camera in your hands. To ensure you have more options and possibilities when editing your photos later on, it's important to choose the RAW format, which (as opposed to JPEG format) saves all the raw data of each photo. All of these tips and tricks also apply when photographing sunsets and in twilight.





Once you've adjusted the settings for the ISO value and the aperture, it's easiest to set the optimal exposure time from the live view mode. This will make it easier for you to track the changes you make.

· O		_
Manual mode		
ISO	ISO 100	
F-number	at least f/8	
Exposure time	up to 30 seconds	
Image format	RAW	
Accessories	tripod	

SITUATION 2: BACKLIGHTING

Never photographing against the light is a general rule of thumb in the world of photography and has been repeated time and again. Overexposure and lens flare effects resulting from photographing against the light, however, can be used as a stylistic medium and to produce one-of-a-kind artistic effects in your pictures.

When photographing against the light, you should arrange the image section so that the light source (in this case, the sun) is hidden in the photo. For this you can place the sun behind something like a building, trees, or a mountain. If you'd like the motif in the foreground to stand out, it's helpful to use a flash. If you don't use a flash, your motif will appear very dark and look like a silhouette. Both effects have their own individual appeal. Photographing



against the light will also let you play around a bit with the shadows and take a look at things from a different perspective.

When photographing against the light, you should use manual mode since using automatic mode in such lighting conditions will usually cause you to end up with underexposed photos. The best settings to start with are a low ISO value (ISO 100 best case scenario) and an f-number of f/8. You should avoid using an automatic white balance. Both a lens screen and a grey grad filter could also come in handy.



To ensure you end up with the perfect silhouette, photographing during sunrise or sunset while using backlighting make the perfect combination.

Manual mode	
ISO	ISO 100
F-number	at least f/8
Image format	RAW
Accessories	lens screen, grey grad filter, tripod

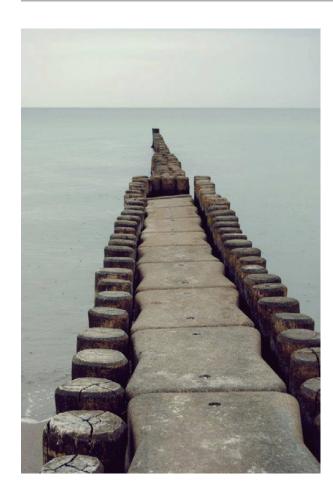
SITUATION 3: BEACH AND WATERFRONT

The beach remains one of the most popular motifs to photograph while on holiday. Without the proper precautions, water and sand can quickly damage your camera and accessories. When photographing here you always run the risk of dust and sand getting into your camera or scratching your lens, especially when there's a strong wind. You could use a UV filter to help protect your lens. These filters are made of transparent glass and have no optical

effect on your photos.

In order to limit unwanted reflections from the water, you could make use of a polarisation filter. A grey or grey grad filter could also come in handy in this situation. These filters will make the line between the sky and water more visible in harsh sunlight.







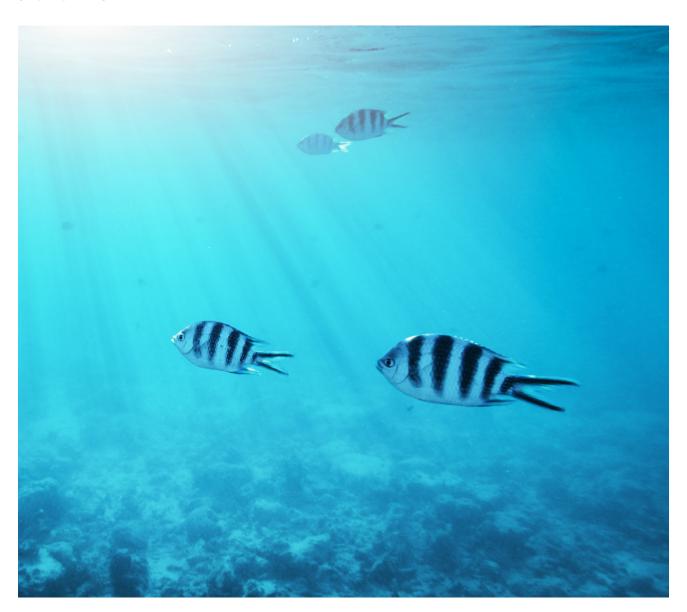
The beach and ocean make a breathtaking background for photos, especially during sunrise and sunset. The same goes for photographing against the light.

In order to protect your DSLR camera against water, there are special camera housings available. These, however, can be quite expensive. Buying one of these housings will only pay off if you regularly photograph underwater. To make sure you don't have to hold your camera too close to the water, it's recommended to use a focal length of at least 80 mm.

If photographing the ocean and waves while at the beach, you should select a shorter exposure time to ensure you correctly capture the movement of the waves. If you photograph from a deep perspective (i.e. from close to the ground) the waves will appear larger and more powerful. If you'd like the water to appear calm and flowing in your photos, you should select a longer exposure time. Here, however, you'll definitely need to use a tripod.

Manual mode	
ISO	ISO 100
F-number	about f/8
Exposure time	from 1/400 seconds
Focal length	80 mm
Image format	RAW
Accessories	polarisation filter, grey filter, lens screen

SITUATION 4: UNDERWATER



Snorkelling and scuba diving open up a whole new world under the ocean where coral and other sea dwellers help shape a really impressive and breathtaking atmosphere. When photographing underwater, you'll definitely need some special equipment.

The cheapest way to take photographs underwater is to use an underwater disposable camera. These cameras, however, take analogue photos and the quality may not turn out to be that great. For professional purposes, you can invest in either a special underwater camera or an action cam combined with a tight camera housing. These cameras will definitely be able to stand up to conditions encountered while snorkelling. When taking your camera scuba diving, however, you should make sure to check the maximum depth you can take your camera. As we've already mentioned in this article, there are special underwater camera housings available for DSLR cameras that will allow you to use all of your camera's capabilities underwater.

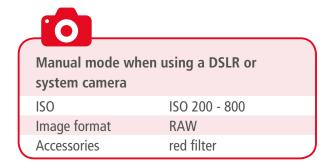
The deeper you venture in the water, the more important it is that you use a fast lens since the amount of surrounding light will lessen the deeper you dive. The source of light should come from a different angle than that of the camera to the object since directly illuminated floating particles in the water can make it look like it's snowing in the picture.

Also, even at a depth of just 5 metres, red shades of light start to diminish and can make your photos appear more bluish. You can use a red filter to balance this out.

You should photograph your motifs from the closest distance possible to ensure you have enough light for the background, such as a coral reef. Also, try to photograph sea life at eye-level to make your photos appear more lively and spectacular.

If photographing with a DSLR or system camera underwater, you can use manual mode to adjust your camera's settings for the current conditions. Due to the limited amount of light underwater, it's recommended to use an ISO value between 200 and 800. But the golden rule also applies here; set your ISO value as low as possible since using a higher ISO value can cause image noise to appear.

After finishing up your dive, it's very important to clean your camera equipment to ensure your lens doesn't become damaged by salt crystals.





SITUATION 5: PANORAMIC PHOTOS

Sometimes normal image formats just aren't enough for properly capturing a landscape in all its grandeur. Panoramic photos give you the possibility of taking a photo with a 180-degree view. Both modern cameras and smartphones come equipped with an integrated panoramic photo mode.

DSLR cameras also make it possible to make panoramic photos. Here, several individual shots in portrait format are taken, which can later be combined to create a panoramic photograph with the help of image-editing software. When taking the individual photos, it's important to make sure that they overlap each other by at least 20 per cent. This will make it a lot easier to combine the photos later while editing. In order to prevent noticeable distortions from appearing in your photos, you should use a short focal length. A small f-number, such as f/22, will lend your photos a high depth of field. Also, it can be advantageous to manually set the exposure time. Make sure your settings don't

vary too much from photo to photo.

For better image editing afterwards, it helps to shoot in RAW image format. This will make it easier to adjust things like colour temperature.

For taking a series of photos, it's not imperative to use a tripod, but it's definitely practical. There are special panorama tripod attachments available to make it easier to swing the camera around.

Manual mode		
F-number	approx. f/22	
Image format	RAW	
Accessories	panorama tripod attachment	





SITUATION 6: SIGHTS AND LANDMARKS

Visiting popular and impressive sights and landmarks is an integral part of just about every holiday. Some of the sights may include historical architecture, monuments, or religious sanctuaries.

A simple way to end up with a harmonious impression in your photos is to use the "rule of thirds," which is a simplified form of the golden

ratio. To make this easier, most cameras and smartphones usually make it possible to show a pattern that divides the display into nine equal sections. You can photograph according to the rule of thirds by placing one component in one third of the photo with other components occupying the other two thirds of the photo.





You can also place the object you're photographing right in the middle and use symmetry to give your photo a special look. Sights like historical buildings and churches often have their own harmonious elements built into their architecture.

You can also use unusual perspectives and optical illusions to make a sight or landmark look more interesting. An example of this could be to photograph a building or monument from a worm's-eye view to make it appear more impressive.

Another popular technique to use is to strike humorous poses with the landmark in the

background. This is especially popular with landmarks such as the Leaning Tower of Pisa where people pretend to support it or lean on it or people pretending to hold the Eiffel Tower in the palm of their hand.



If you want to avoid coming back home with typical vacation photos, let your creativity run wild! Exceptional compositions will ensure you end up with brilliant photos.

SITUATION 7: THE COUNTRY AND ITS INHABITANTS

The real soul of a land lies in the people who live there. It's their customs and way of life that make the surroundings special for a non-native. If you want to end up with especially expressive photos from your travels, you should photograph the landscapes as well as the people who populate them.



The first rule of thumb to follow in order to end up with authentic photos is to try to be a fly on the wall. Just about everyone will change their behaviour once they know they're being photographed. That's why using a telephoto lens can be helpful. A telephoto lens comes equipped with a focal length of at least 70 mm. It's important to keep in mind that the more you zoom in on your motif, the greater the chance that your photo could turn out blurry. Using a kind of hybrid lens with a wide focal length spectrum, such as 55 to 200 mm, will ensure objects far away also appear sharp in your photos. Such a camera lens is quite easy to tote along and is very versatile.

For people who might be a bit newer to photography, it could be a good idea to set the camera settings to automatic mode to enable you to concentrate

on taking photos of your selected motif. This can especially help since you're trying to capture spontaneous situations and gestures.

It's recommended, however, to inform the person afterwards that you photographed them.

For people who are a bit more familiar with the world of photography and are comfortable using manual mode, they should first adjust the camera's settings according to the surrounding conditions, including the aperture, ISO value, and exposure time. If staying in one place for an extended period of time, the surrounding lighting conditions will stay fairly constant throughout the day and you'll still be able to take spontaneous shots here and there.





SITUATION 8: BAD WEATHER

The day's forecast doesn't have to be clear skies and sunshine for it to be a good day to go out and take some pictures. Conditions like rain, storms, fog, and mist also make awe-inspiring motifs.

Having suitable camera equipment and weatherproof clothing will help you be prepared for anything Mother Nature may throw your way. There are special water- and weather-proof camera bags available to protect your camera from the elements. Also, a tripod can be useful when photographing in such conditions since bad weather usually means shooting in tricky lighting conditions.

Photos of lightning striking down towards the earth can be especially impressive. Even though

such scenes can be really impressive, your own safety should always come first. Buildings, tall rock embankments, and cars offer a degree of protection in stormy conditions.

When photographing lightning, you'll need to use a longer exposure time and focus the camera at a very far distance. Also, it's recommended to use an ISO value of 100.

You can use an extremely short exposure time to photograph the waves breaking on the cliffs during a storm and the resulting froth and spray. Here you should have the aperture fully open and raise the sensitivity of the sensor by using a somewhat higher ISO value.

The time after the rain and storm also make for beautiful scenes. A pane of glass covered by raindrops, behind which is a beautiful skyline showcasing the sun coming back out, makes the perfect setting for taking a couple of macro shots. Other cool motifs could be photographing the reflection of the city off of a puddle in the street or leftover clouds suspended over wide landscapes.



SITUATION 9: HIGH HUMIDITY

Tropical countries typically have somewhat humid weather conditions, which can lead to a build-up of condensation when there are large differences in temperature. This built-up condensation can be very harmful for your camera equipment when it gets inside the camera itself.

To protect your camera against the high humidity you should avoid changing out your lens before the camera is acclimated to the new surrounding temperature. In order to avoid a build-up of condensation on your camera equipment, you can pack it into a plastic bag. This will protect your camera when switching between hot and cold conditions. A microfiber cloth also makes a trusty companion for clearing a fogged-up lens.

Once your camera has adjusted to the new temperature, however, there's no danger any more to change out your camera lens.



Managing Your Photos

Making a pre-selection and photographing with care will save you a lot of time once back home. Many travellers like to play it safe and take multiple photos of the same sights and objects. With a little practice you'll end up with a keen eye, be able to instantly recognise good photos, and be able to keep the number of photos on your memory card to a minimum.

Blurry and unfocused photos take up unnecessary space on your memory card and should thus be deleted immediately. You could also make an additional "best of" file where you place your best 15 photos of each day to make the later selection

of photos easier.

There's also always the chance that something could go wrong with either your camera or memory card, which is especially aggravating. This is a good reason why you should download your photos to your laptop or cloud at the end of every day. Here you should also keep other devices, like your smartphone, in mind. When combining photos from multiple devices it would be a good idea to sort out the photos by the time they were taken. In order to do this, it's important that your devices are set to the same date and time before starting your journey.



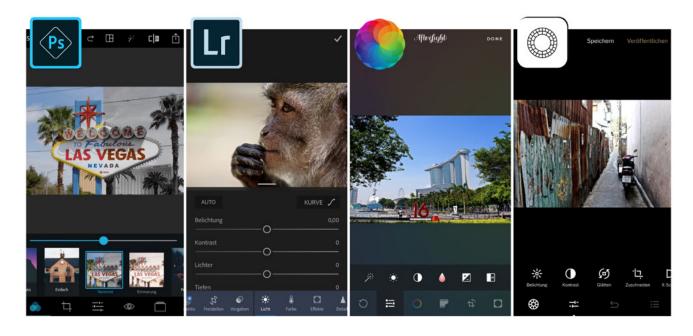
Editing Your Photos

You can use image-editing programs to give your photos their finishing touches. You can even edit your RAW images during your travels using various apps. This will enable you to share your best moments with friends and relatives via Facebook, Instagram, and other sites and keep them up to date as the action unfolds.

Various apps such as Photoshop Express, Lightroom, Afterlight, or VSCO offer you a selection of filters, borders, and other tools to finely edit your photos. These programs tend to be very similar to one another. Photoshop Express, Lightroom, and VSCO

are available in both the Google Play Store and App Store at no cost. The app "Afterlight" comes at a cost and comes with expandable tools, which can be purchased separately. The free apps, on the other hand, allow you to download such tools and try them out for yourself.

If you have a DSLR camera with integrated Wi-Fi, you can look at and save your photos directly to your smartphone by using an app. This makes it really easy to edit your photos quickly and without complications and then upload them.



For editing your photos at home on your computer in a more professional manner, Photoshop continues to be the most popular program, but there are several good alternatives such as the free-of-charge programs GIMP, PhotoScape, Lightbox Free, and Paint.net.

Lightbox Free is perfect for photo-editing beginners, since this program is really easy to use with its intuitive interface. GIMP features an interface that is a bit

more complicated, but also comes equipped with the most important tools needed for professional image editing. PhotoScape is useful in many different ways; besides the normal image-editing tools, this program also enables you to organise your photos and create your own collages. The jack-of-all-trades amongst the free-to-download software selection is Paint.net. This program is easier to navigate than Photoshop without sacrificing the amount of functions available.



Making Souvenirs Using Your Own Vacation Photos

Brilliant photos from your travels are sure to bring back beautiful memories. After investing so much time and energy in taking these photos, it would be a shame to have them end up just sitting on your computer, memory card, or cloud where no one can see them.

Once you've sorted through your holiday photos and edited them, you're sure to already have your favourites. Give them the attention they deserve and prominently display them in a photo book, photo calendar, or a wall decoration. Make use of the time you have while traveling back home and use the ifolor app to create brilliant keepsakes while on the go in the blink of an eye.



THE IFOLOR PHOTO BOOK AS A VACATION SOUVENIR

You can fit a lot of your holiday photos in an ifolor photo book. It'd be ideal to sort the photos in the book in chronological order. Especially for photo books featuring photos from a longer trip or a trip with multiple destinations, using maps can make your photo book a bit more comprehensive and easier to follow. You could use such maps to mark the beginning section for each destination or perhaps create a map that shows the route of your journey from start to finish and place this in either the front or the back of your photo book.

Would you like to experience your whole trip again or share it with others? Why don't you tell your story in the form of a travel journal? Bring together your experiences, memories, social media posts, and your own personal thoughts during your travels to create your journal and give the viewer an up-close and personal experience of your trip. You could also scan or glue in tickets and similar things saved from your trip. When doing this, plan ahead and save some space for them.

Click here to see our photo books

DISPLAY PHOTOS FROM YOUR TRAVELS ON A PHOTO CALENDAR

There are a multitude of possibilities for you to make use of when designing your own ifolor photo calendar. Try to limit yourself to the 12 best pictures from your travels or you could alternatively use a collage layout to display more of your photos. When ordering your photos, it's best to arrange them in chronological order. You can choose any month for the calendar to start on, which makes it the perfect souvenir for any time of the year.

Click here to see our photo calendars

A WALL DECORATION WITH A PERSONAL TOUCH

Your best photos deserve a befitting place in your home. As a photo canvas, gallery print, acrylic glass plate, aluminium dibond, or wall display, use your best vacation photos to lend your living room a really personal note. Whether you choose a large-surface single photo or a collage of photos and text, our diverse layouts will help you create a one-of-a-kind decoration.

Click here to see our wall decorations

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"A photo encompasses a moment. A photo doesn't only depict motifs, but also captures emotions. This enables us to relive our feelings time and again when viewing vacation photos later on."

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