

Tips on Photography Safety

Compiled by Bob Spalding



Put Safety Ahead of Photography. Don't do anything that will put you in danger – such as walking out on slippery rocks trying to take a photo of a Waterfall or hiking down to a Waterfall that you cannot climb out of. Both are good reasons to always go with a fellow photographer or group. Listed below are some Safety Tips that you should consider when out photographing.



Be aware of your surroundings especially if you are in an area with a lot of people. Never, put your camera bag down and walk away from it even for a minute. If you are in an airport, restaurant, etc, place your camera bag under you with one leg inside one of the straps.



If you are walking around with your camera in your hand, somebody could steal it from you before you know what has happened. Highly recommend that you place your camera strap around you neck and arm. If you have to leave your equipment in a vehicle without a trunk, consider covering it with a towel.

Research your Location and know what to expect. How much walking will be involved? Will you be around a lot of people such as at a concert or event, or walking down a street?



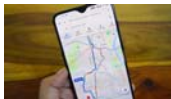
Take out Travel Insurance, not only for yourself, but also for your camera equipment. Check with your home owners Insurance company to see what is already covered.

Plan B

Have a Plan B in case what you want to photograph is not available, such as a landscape photo outing and it is raining hard. Along with your Plan B, include what you might do in case of an emergency.



Take some maps with you; a map for driving to various locations (You may not have a GPS signal) as well as maps of the location you maybe shooting in. Of course this is mainly for locations you are not familiar with.



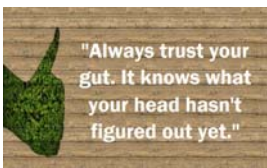
It is always a good idea to tell someone where you are going, where you park, and your time to return, even if you are local and will be gone only for a couple of hours. This is another good reason to travel with a partner.



If photographing in the summer, always take some water. Of course if you will be in the woods, you may want to take some bug repellent.



If you are in a city photographing, try to fit in. Look confident and like you know where you are going (even if you don't know). Do not act like a tourist.



Trust your Gut. Words like gut feelings and a woman's intuition do exist and more than you think. Remember that a photo opportunity does not come before your safety. If the situation feels too dangerous or you do not feel comfortable, LEAVE.