

# Take better holiday photos this summer

The most important thing about holiday photos is capturing personal memories that you can treasure forever, but here are a few pointers to make them more pleasing for the masses.

## 1. Ever ready

The most memorable and unrepeatable moments of a holiday can happen at the unlikeliest of times, so try to keep your camera with you and always be ready to shoot. That, of course, means keeping your battery charged (or having spares).

## 2. Family fun

When photographing children and image-conscious teenagers, the best shots are taken when they're naturally enjoying themselves. Instead of formal poses, try to be unobtrusive and snap them playing on the beach or just having fun. Using a long lens and taking shots from a distance can assist you with this, but this doesn't need to mean enormous telephoto lenses..... something up to about 100mm on an APS-C DSLR should be plenty.

## 3. In the shadows

For close-up portraits of family members and friends, avoid harsh sunlight. Moving into the shadows stops your camera turning eyes into black holes and capturing unsightly shadows under noses and chins. And try to keep away from the thought of keeping the sun behind you. Your camera can work a little harder for its keep with some back-lighting. Don't be afraid to use any reflective card, sheet, anything you can find, to bounce light back into the shot, or even to use that pop-up flash for its best task - fill-light.

## 4. Get up early

Skip that lie-in and you'll be able to catch some wonderful lighting before breakfast, just as the sun is coming up. You'll also be able to shoot popular scenic views before the crowds arrive. Taking pictures in the middle of the day is never a great idea so you may as well set that time aside for a little nap!

## 5. Whatever the weather

You don't need clear blue skies for great holiday photos. Dramatic weather makes for brilliant shots and even dull, overcast days are great for portraits. If shooting portraits, try dialling-in a little overexposure for smoother skin tones.

## 6. Straighten up

Photos of landscapes or architecture, and shots that include the sea's horizon often require the camera to be absolutely level. This can be surprisingly hard to achieve, so zoom out a little further than normal to allow for straightening and cropping on your computer later.

## **7. House of cards**

Memory cards are cheap these days. Take plenty to last the whole trip. Don't trust all your shots to one high-capacity card - it's safer to use several low capacity cards instead.

## **8. Think differently**

Keep your eyes open for the unfamiliar. Photographed alone or as backdrops to portraits, unusual objects or buildings can add interest to your shots.

## **9. End of the day**

No holiday collection would be complete without sunset shots. Look for strong foreground shapes to create silhouettes or for reflections in water. A picture of just the horizon with the sun going down is quite boring.

## **10. End of the holiday**

With a bit of luck, you'll have had some great weather on your holiday and, by the end of it, everybody will be looking tanned, healthy and relaxed. This is the best time to take your posed portraits.

Holidays are also a great time to try out other photographic styles (if you can get out on your own for a while). Think of Macro shots, Panoramas, HDR, long exposures with twilight and water, wildlife, night life, urban etc. Lots of opportunities. One slight distraction is that the family might want 'postcard' shots, while the friends and family back home will be looking for pictures of the family on holiday. If you try to please everybody you'll either be taking thousands of pictures and not have time for anything else, or you'll get home disappointed that you don't have many 'special' shots that might find their way into competitions etc.

There are some good books around that cover Travel and Holiday photography - pick one up, study it and see if you can put together some similar pictures that convey the flavour of a location. It could be good to stick with the thought that your pictures could end up in a printed and bound book - your very own travelogue - by one of those companies like 'Blurb'.

Have a look at the Learning page for more tips on photo styles.

[www.kingstonphotographicclub.ca/workshop.htm](http://www.kingstonphotographicclub.ca/workshop.htm)

