



How to take better travel photos

Make them your favourite souvenirs!

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Topics we will cover

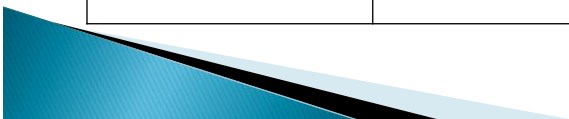
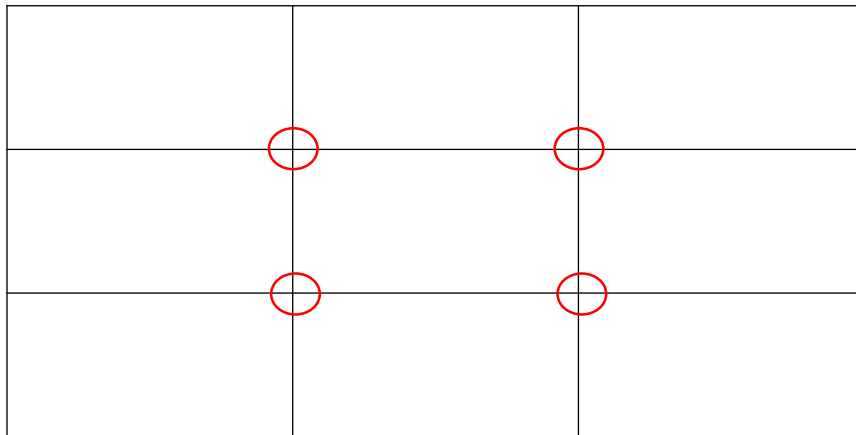
- Basic rules of composition
- Keys to telling a good story
 - Context
 - Foreground
 - Action
 - Details
- Using the best light
- Utilizing fellow tourists
- Patterns and lines
- Making common vacation scenes special

Basic tips for composition

- ▶ Use the rule of thirds, with some exceptions
- ▶ Keep horizons straight
- ▶ Choose which verticals you want straight.
- ▶ Leave space in front of objects especially when they are moving.
- ▶ Put denser objects below, lighter on top.



Rule of thirds – place objects of interests near the intersections







Too centred





Exceptions to every rule





If a single blossom doesn't fill the frame, offset it a bit.

Didn't leave enough space in front





Telling a good story

- ▶ Context
- ▶ Foreground
- ▶ Action, details, being part of the scene, humour
- ▶ Re-order pics if it tells a better tale



Context and foreground

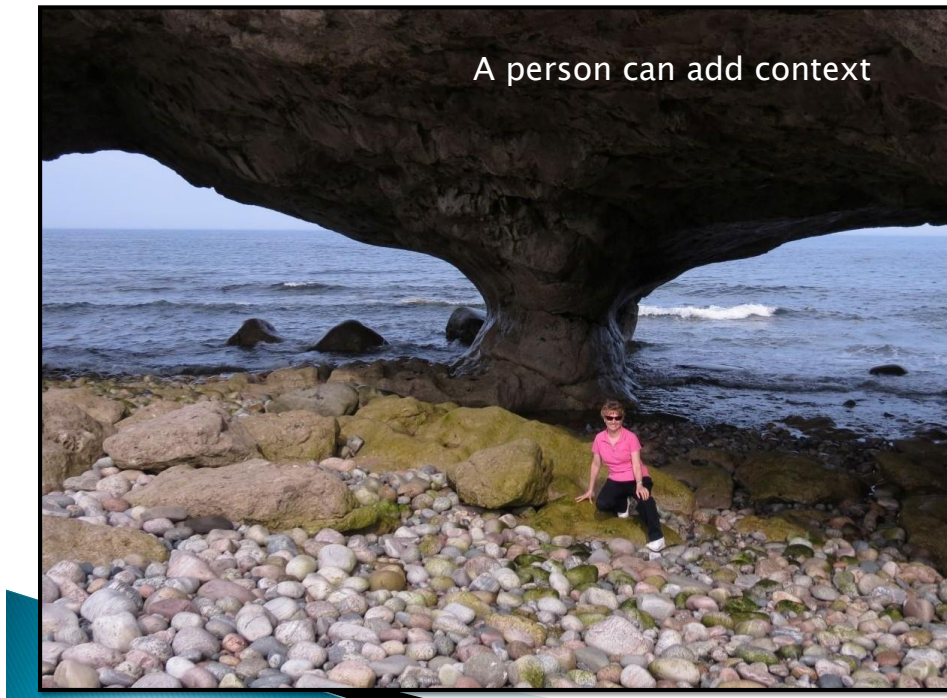


Context can be important



Difficult to know how large these arches are







Using foreground for context

This shot tells more about your travel experience



Canal in the countryside but where am I taking the picture?

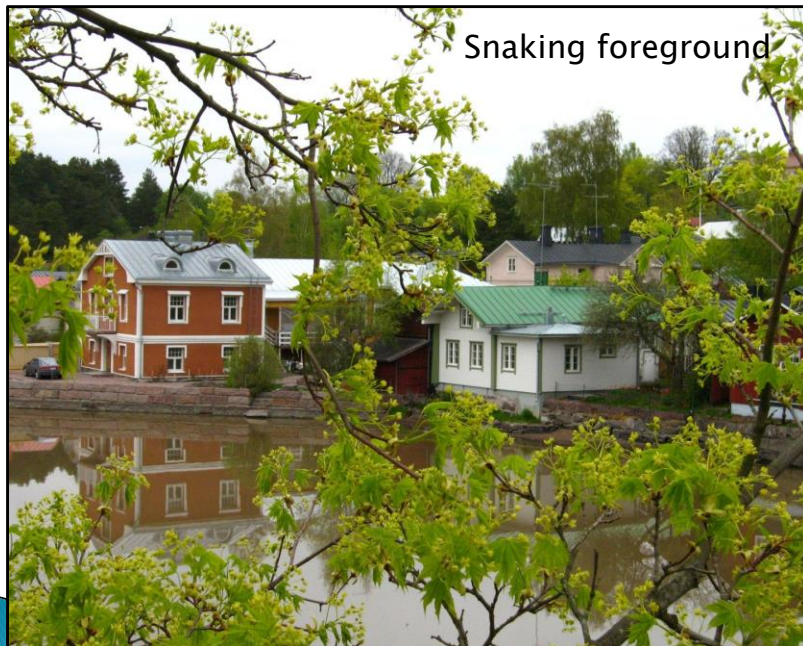


Don't hesitate to use fellow
travellers for context



Using foreground to make photo more beautiful







Make the locale look inviting

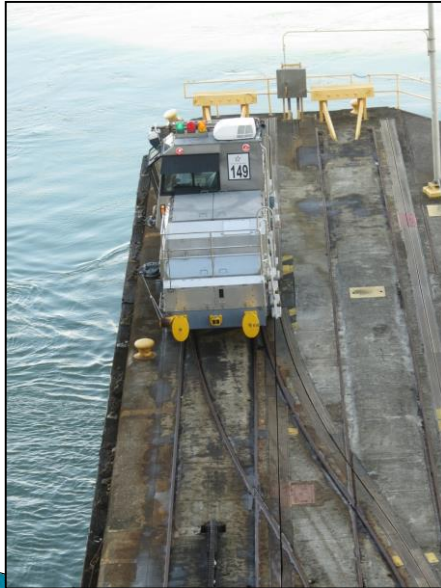


Try standing under a tree!

Don't be afraid to experiment and delete later if you don't like the effect.

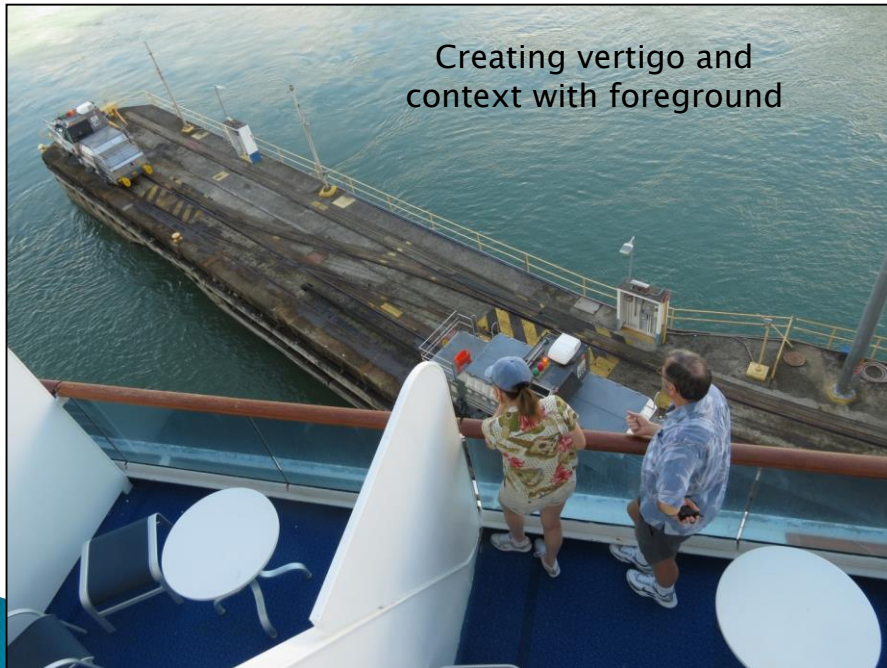


Without a caption you know where this photo was taken.



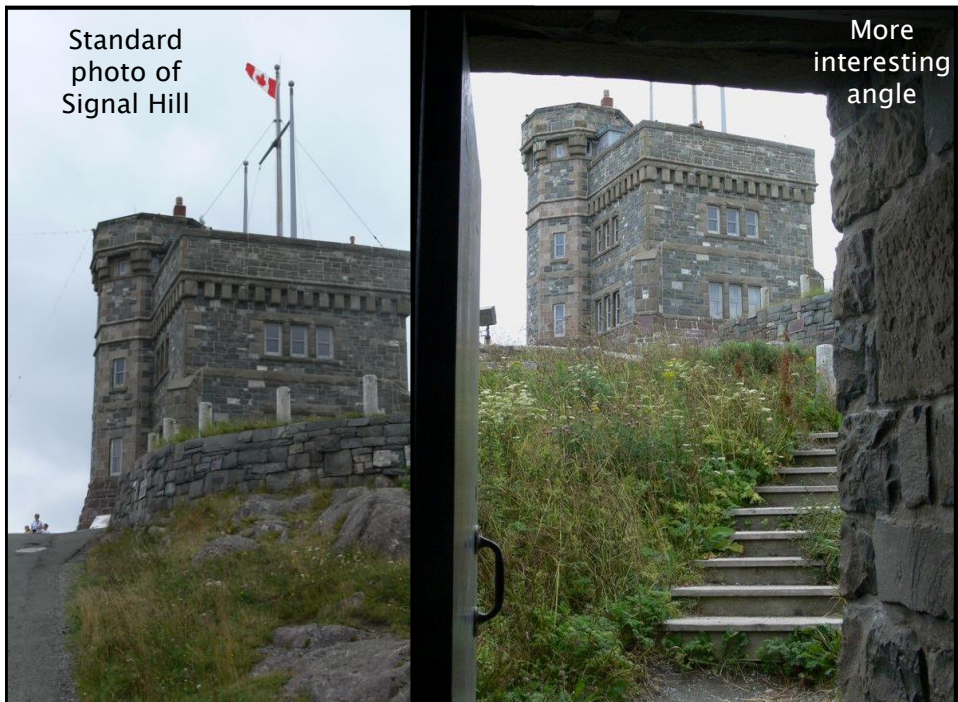
Difficult to figure out
what is going on in
this picture.

Almost looks like
the water is in the
sky



Creating vertigo and
context with foreground





Is this what you picture when I say
Peggy's Cove Lighthouse?



Find the shot no one else has!

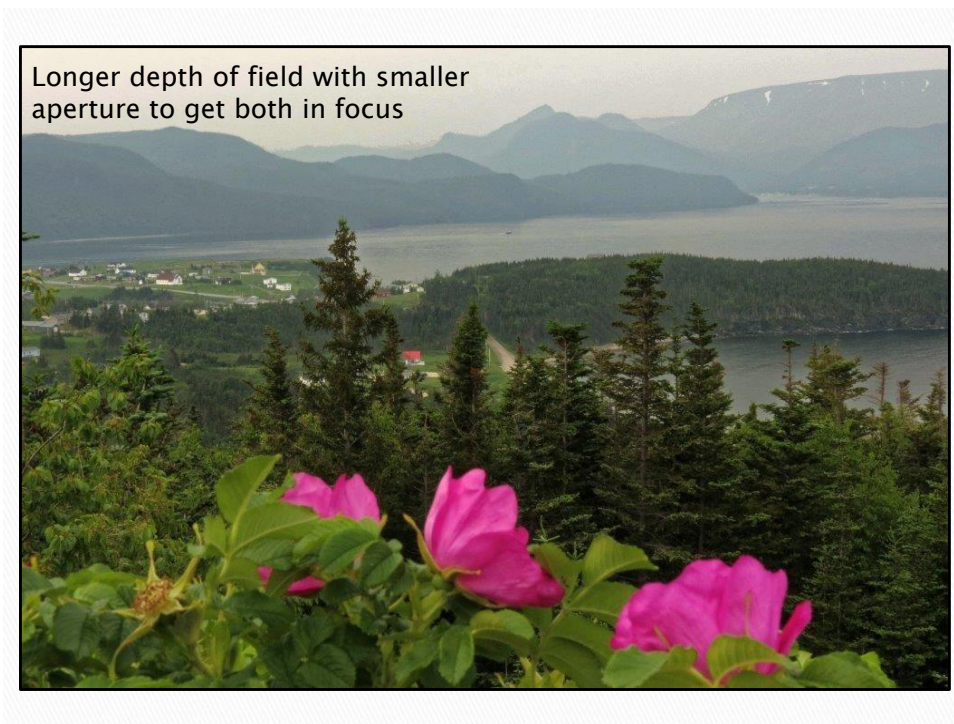




Look for objects that can help frame your photo and reduce sky and water.



Foreground in sharp focus





Get down low for a shot
like this!

Too much middle ground in this photo



Kneeling down would have solved it!



Should have gone down the hill – would mean less wires and more compression of empty spaces





What do you do if you don't have a zoom?



If you can't get closer, put in some foreground!





Pleasant but boring





From the road, trail, cottage dock?



Now you know!





Same old, same old



A richer picture of the area



Let the picture
tell the tale



But get as
much of the
story as you
can!





The whole story in one photo

Capturing motion

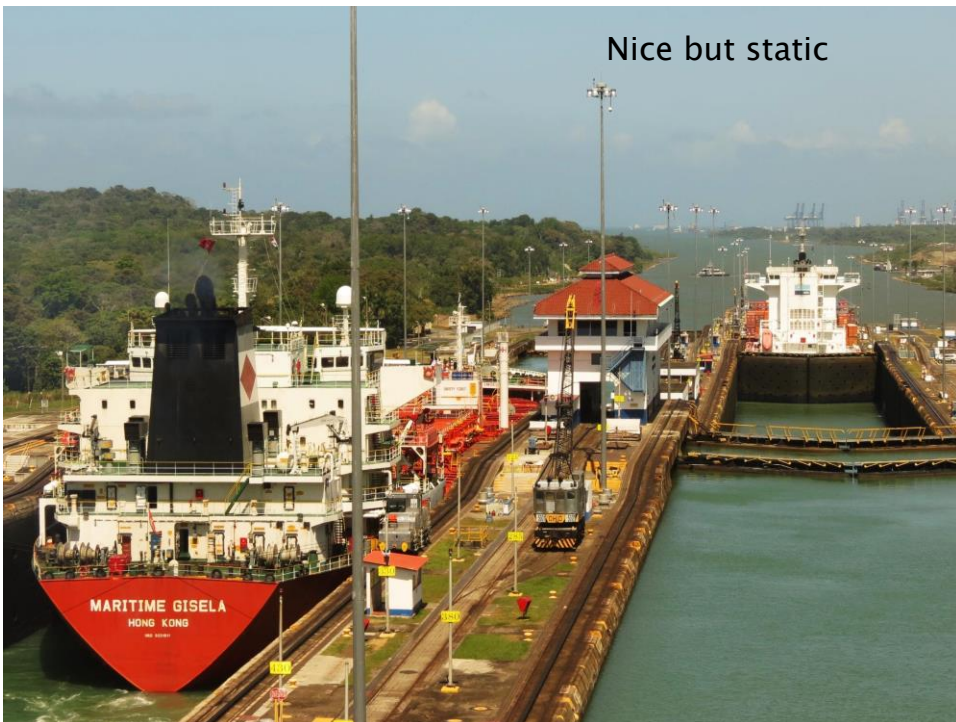
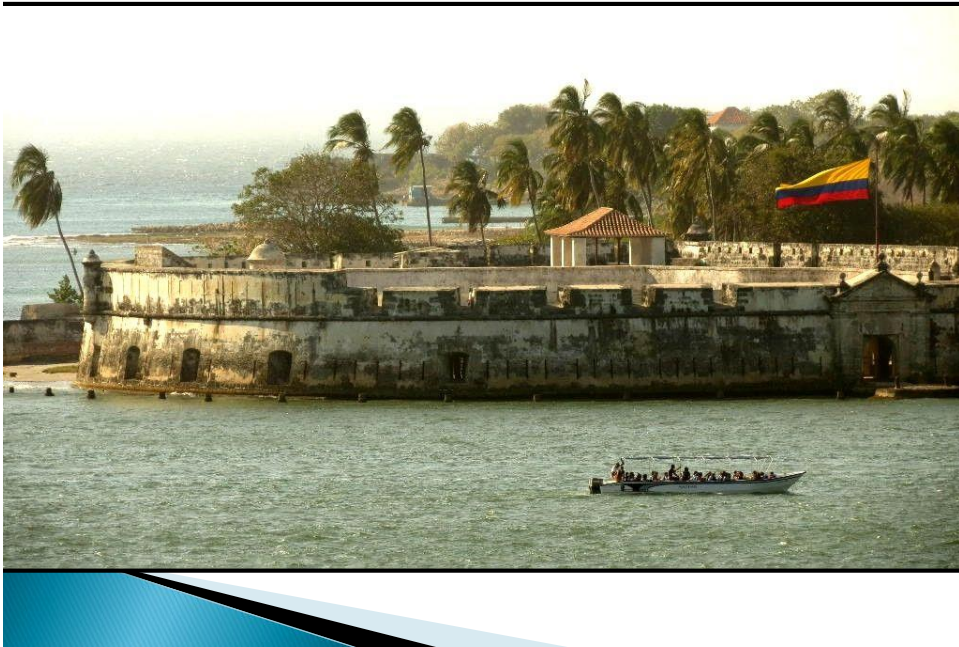


Action may be
dramatic!



Or motion
may be
gentler





Nice but static



Capturing architecture





Shoot from a corner if possible



Grab colour when you can!



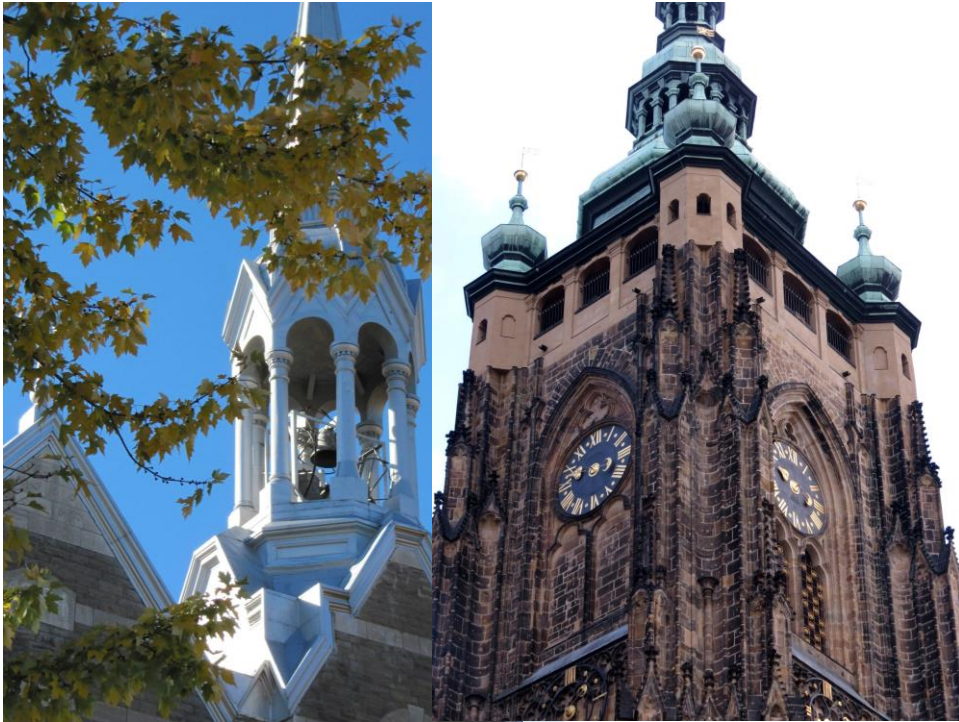




Add colour and foreground!

Try a long perspective





As in previous slide, don't worry about cutting off top of steeples, your brain fills in the missing pieces.

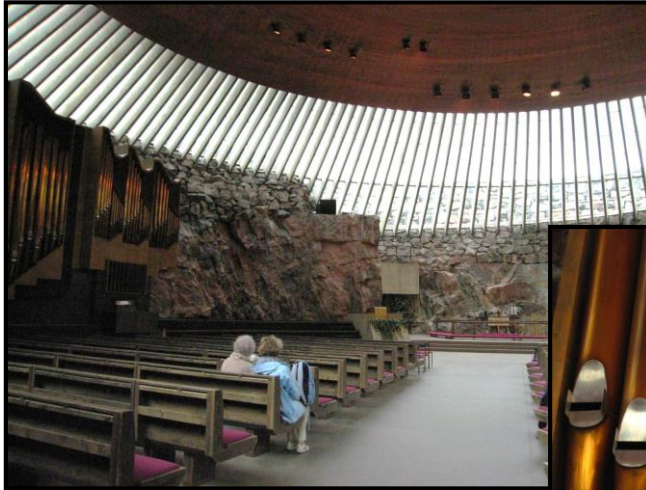


Buildings look better when light is low

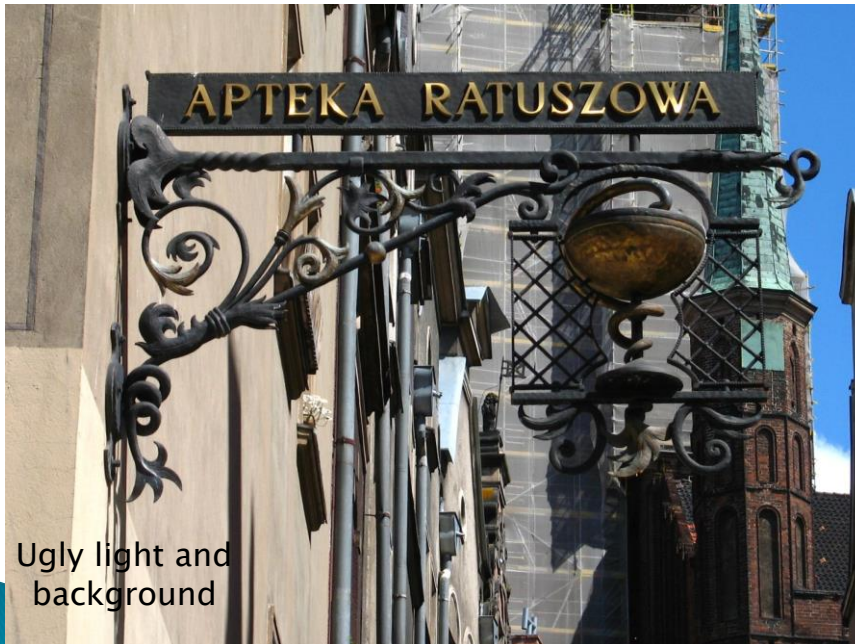




Capturing the details



Go for some details to
enrich your story



Ugly light and
background

Look for a better angle



Don't forget
to look up and
look down









Adding a touch of humour

- ▶ Don't embarrass anyone
- ▶ Looking for just a smile
- ▶ Be sensitive to local culture – don't make it look like you are poking fun at them.
- ▶ Pick things that are universally amusing.





Make your
audience do a
double take!



Best civil servant job ever?



Going nowhere until high tide!







Kinda cute



Funnier!



Incongruous things
can be amusing

All these
objects were
for sale but
rather oddly
grouped!

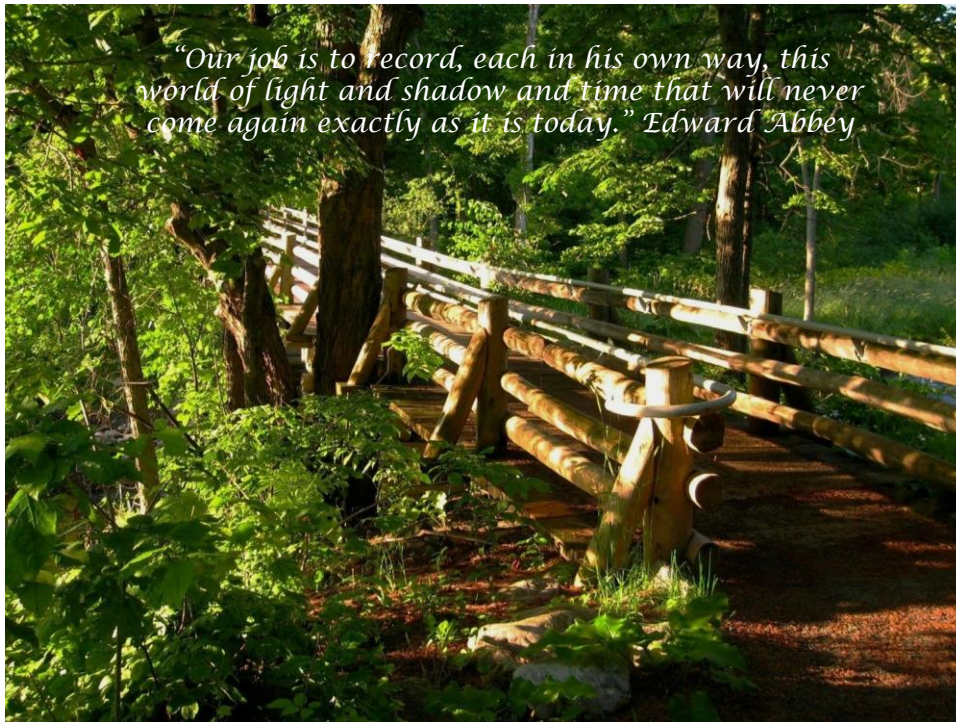


The great white north?



Use light to your advantage





Early morning is a great time for photos



Or late afternoon...



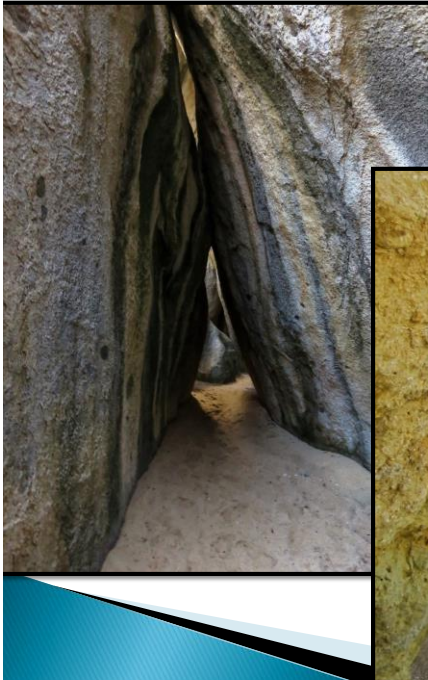
Don't be afraid to shoot into the sun!





Back light can be beautiful!





The viewer will find the light



Bring out the best in
flowers with light



This shot would
be boring without
the light.



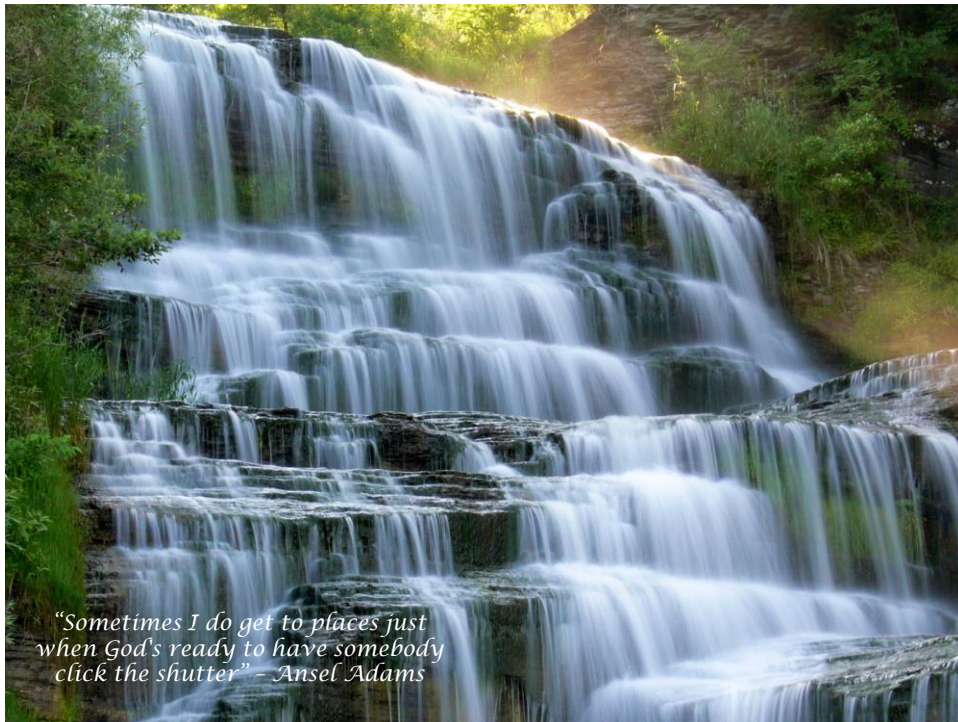
Prop your camera if you don't have a tripod



Try to shoot mostly
without flash (it also
saves batteries)







Make the most of the seaside!



Add a bird!



Add a bunch of birds!



Add a kid – they'll make the waves look bigger!



Add a family!



Add a chair or put a person
in the chair

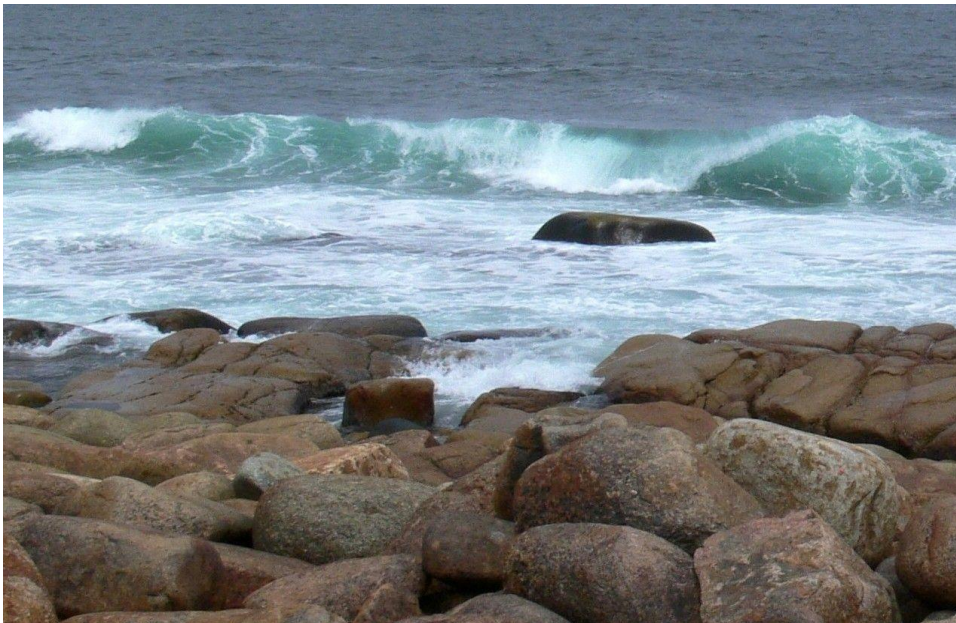


Get out early





Then add some fun context as to the size of the kelp!



Use the rule of thirds and multiple layers

Don't forget some details



Aging can be beautiful





Older
objects can
have lots of
character







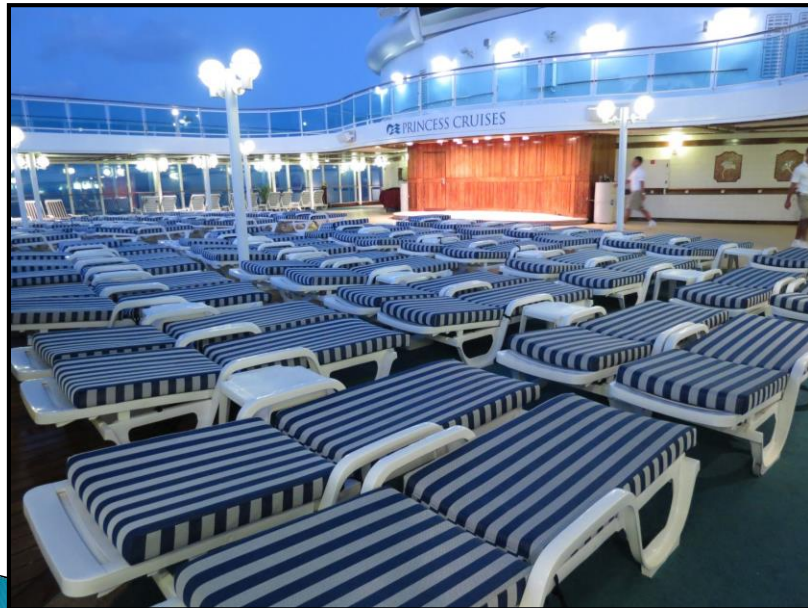




Don't be afraid to experiment with unlikely subjects

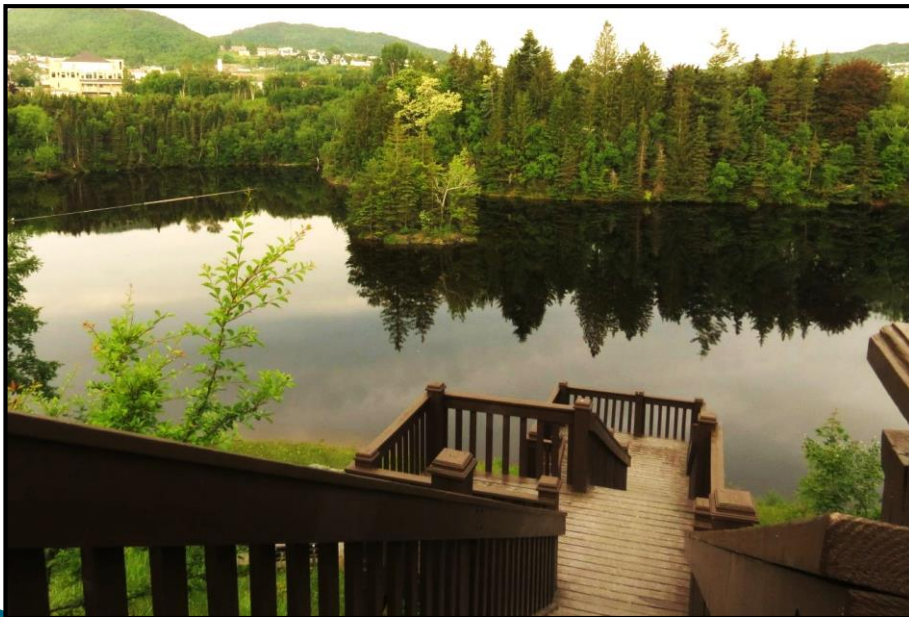


Patterns, clusters and lines





Lead the viewer through the photo



Although the viewer to go
down the stairs with you.



Let lines and shadows add interest





A staircase can be interesting if
your photographer's eye is open!





Simple pattern, lovely light







Subtle curves



Mimicking curves



Be on the lookout for a good pattern

**Bad weather and off season –
two great times to take pics!**



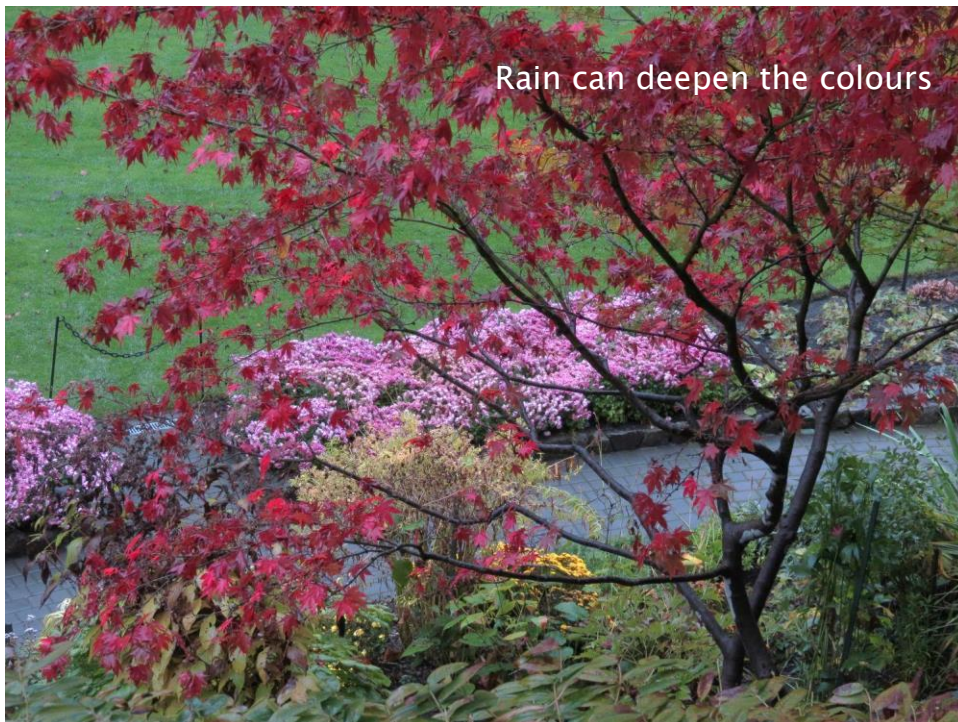
Don't ignore the fog







Take more than
the autumn
leaves if you
travel in the fall.





And you don't have to worry where
the sun is in your shot!



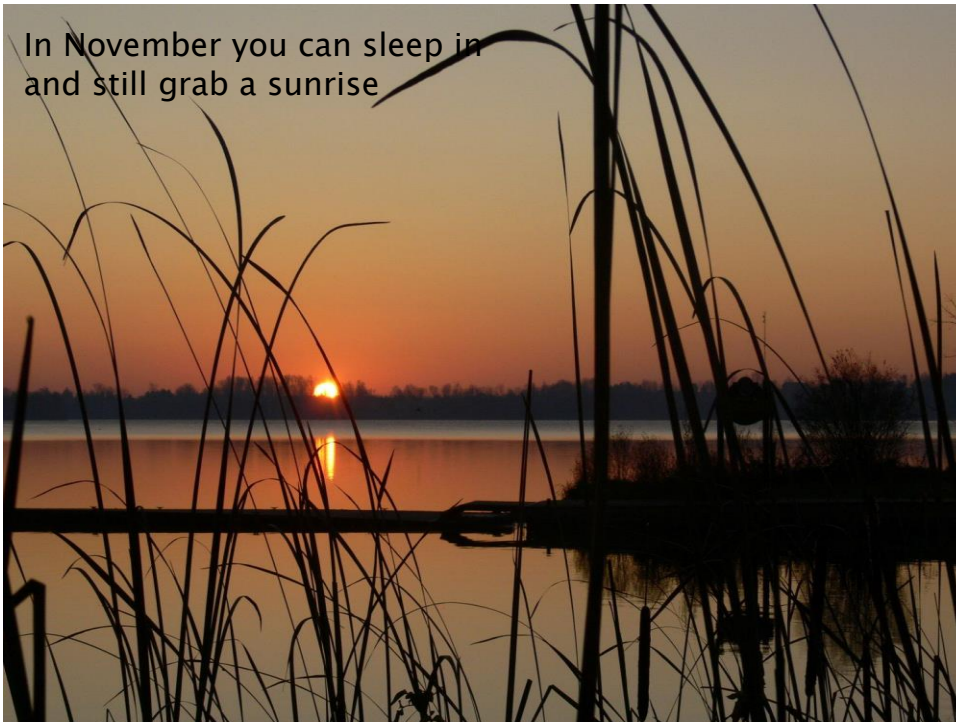
The rain adds sheen to the cobblestones

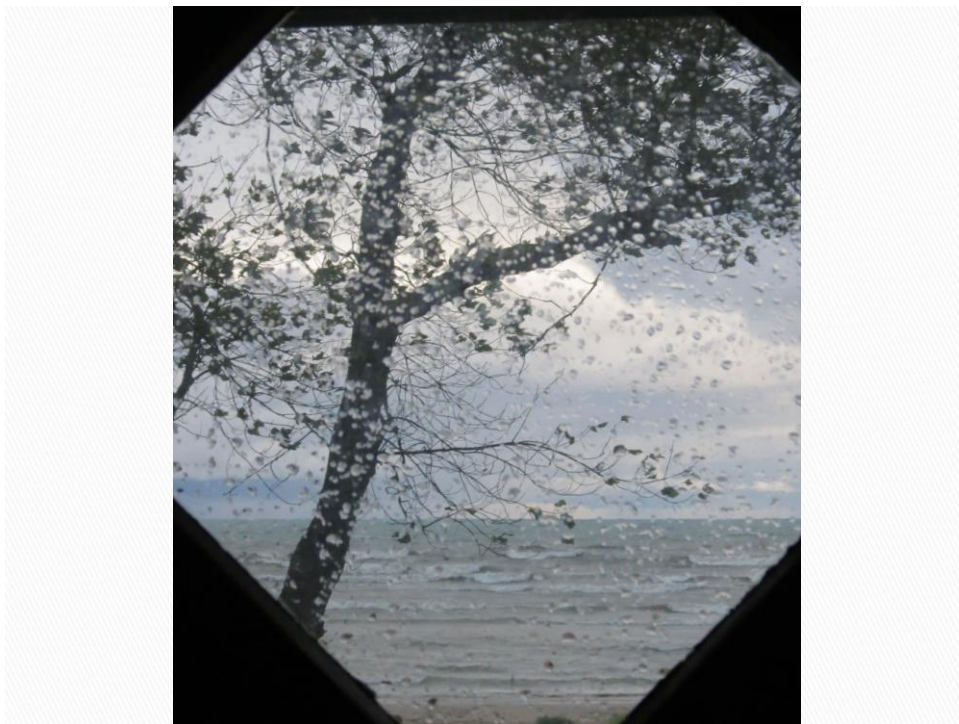
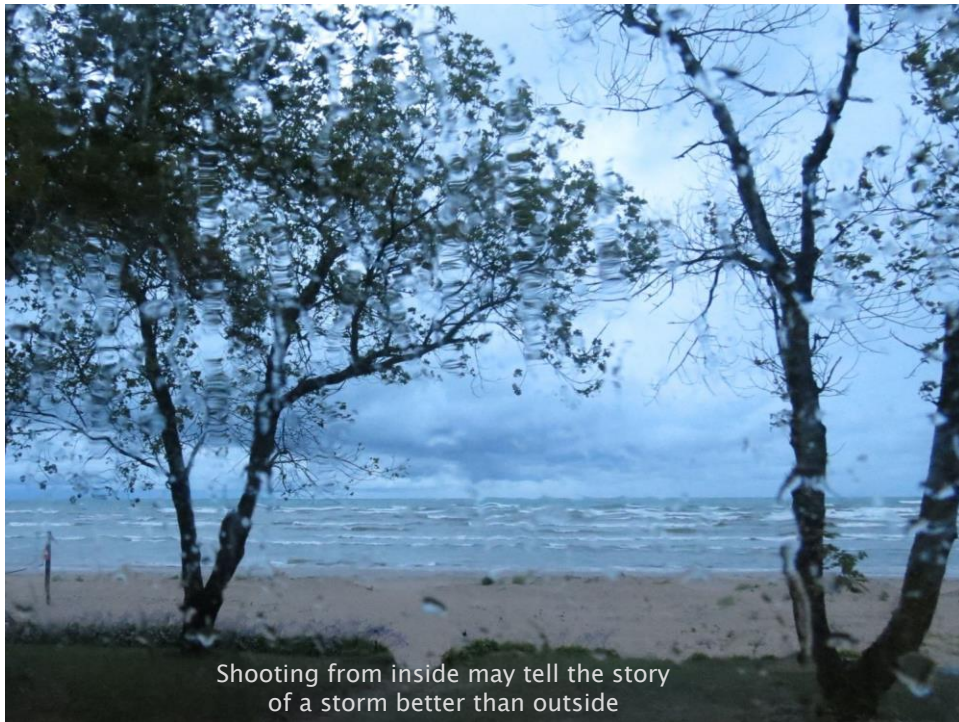


In the fall you can shoot at noon!



In November you can sleep in
and still grab a sunrise





Placing people into your photos

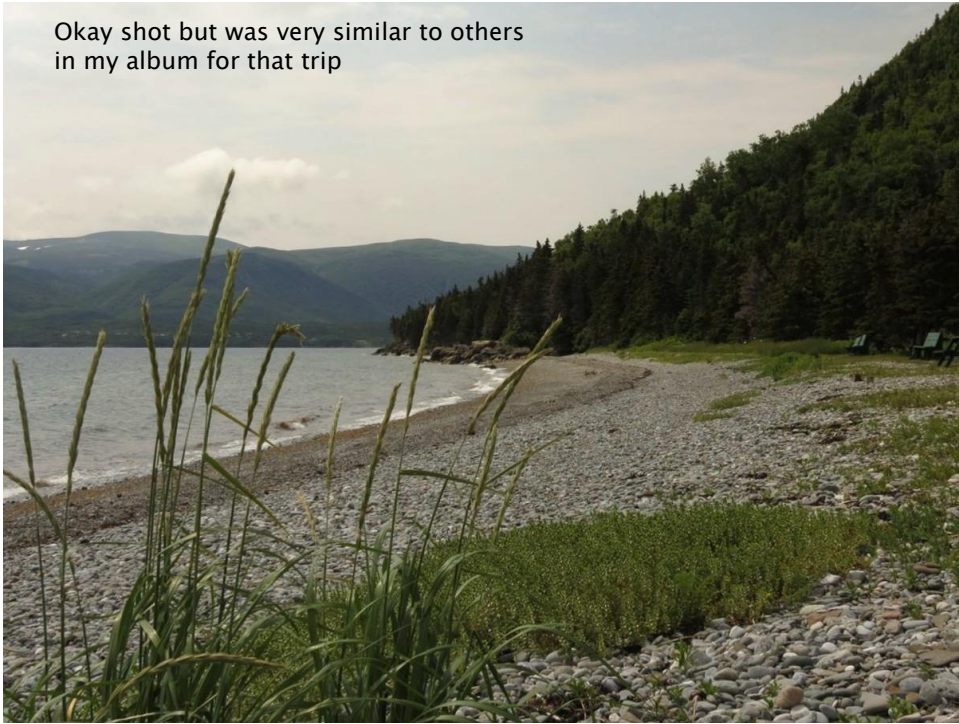


Don't be afraid of strangers! BUT:

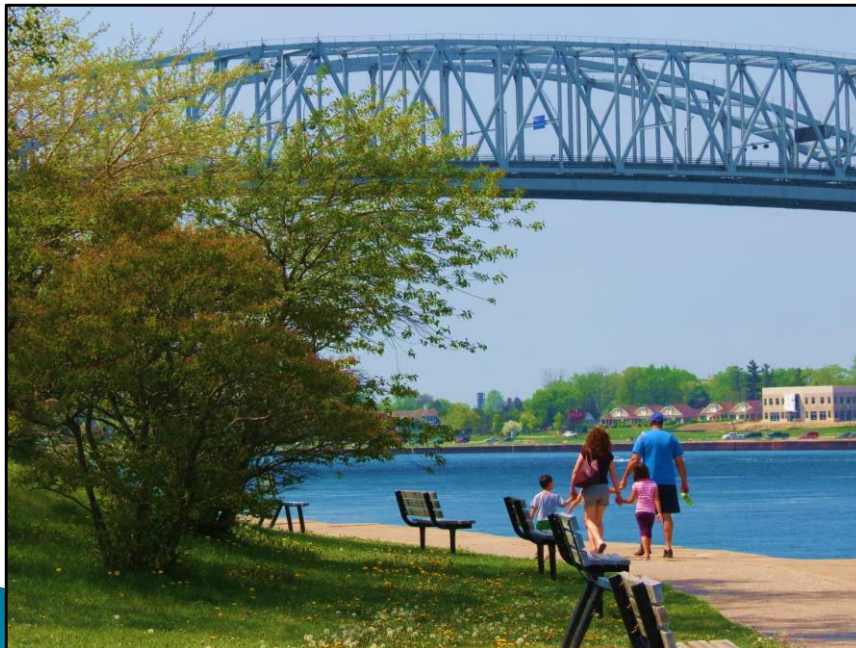
- ▶ Keep your distance, be careful zooming, especially with kids.
- ▶ Try to stick to no faces or hard-to-see faces.
- ▶ Take a shot and move on.
- ▶ Be selective in what you post, especially if your camera's has a gps.
- ▶ For foreign cultures, be fast, buy something small. They will help you get a great shot.
- ▶ Take an interest in their craft/activity.



Okay shot but was very similar to others
in my album for that trip



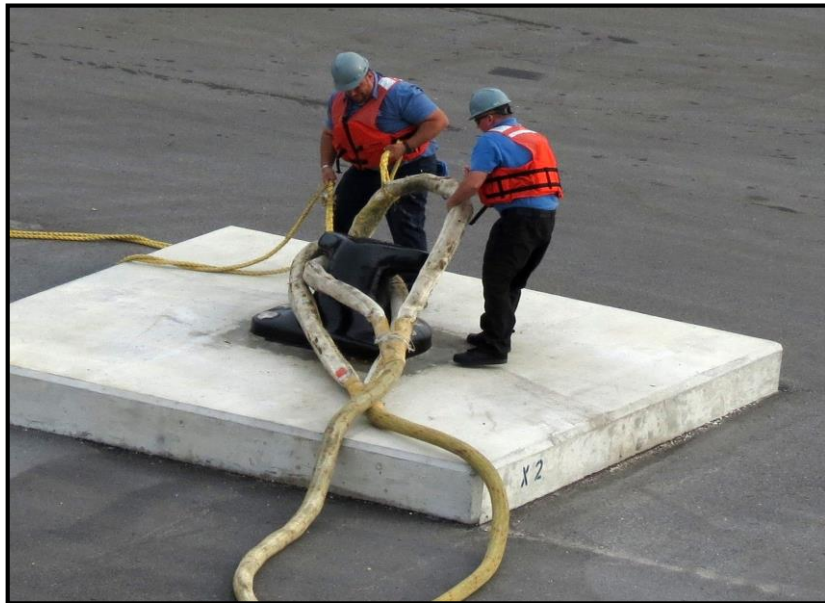






Even in pictures it is fun
to watch people work!



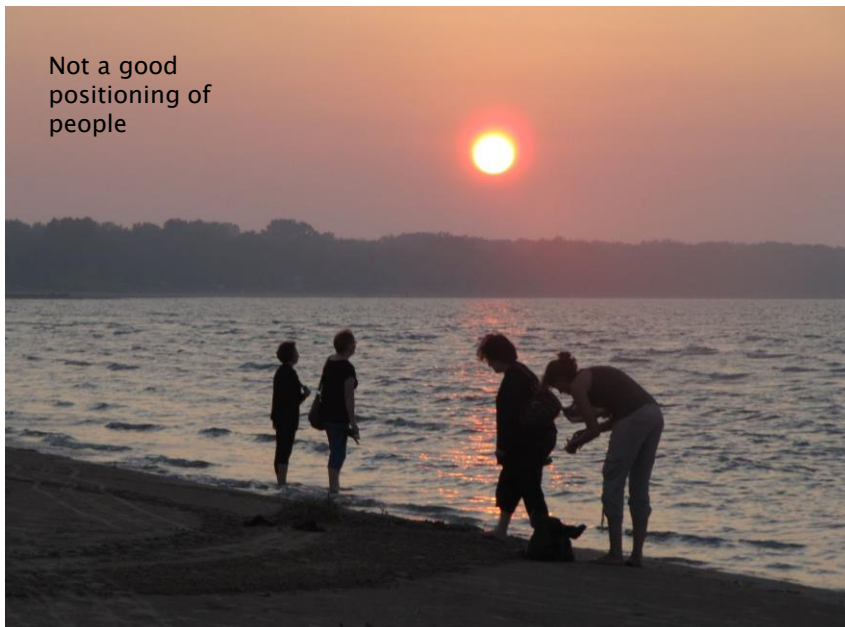


Position people well – take lots of shots!





Get some action pics!



Not a good
positioning of
people

Be patient if you have of time.



Still not a good photo



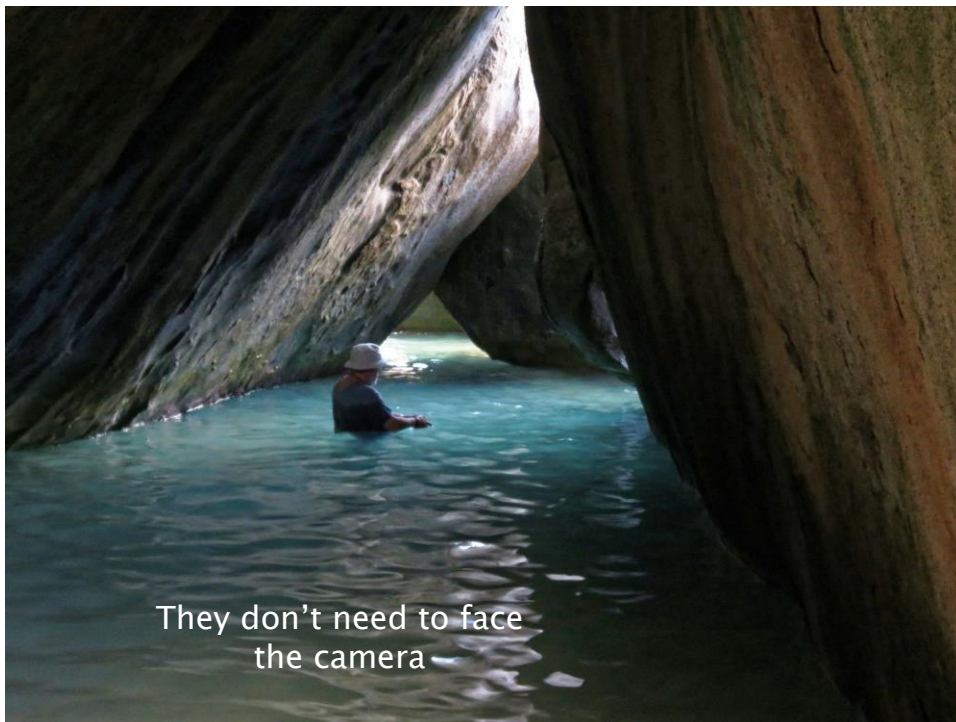
Finally a composition that works!

Sometimes the people make the picture





The eye find the person even if they are almost out of the shot; humans like to look at other humans.



They don't need to face the camera



Give the person something to do





Reflection shots

- More forgiving of negative space



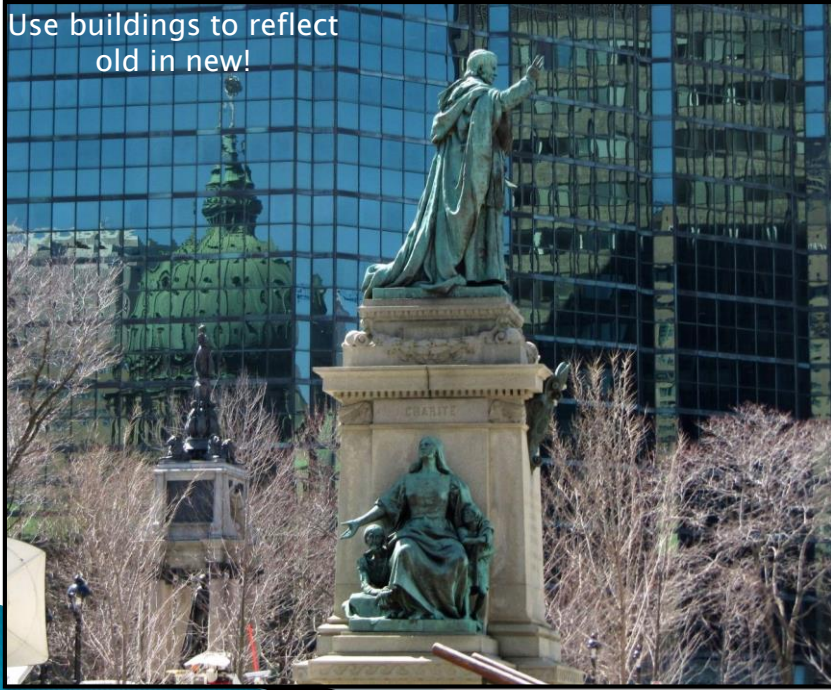


The reflection is the main event





Use buildings to reflect
old in new!



Sunrise...Sunset





Wait for something interesting

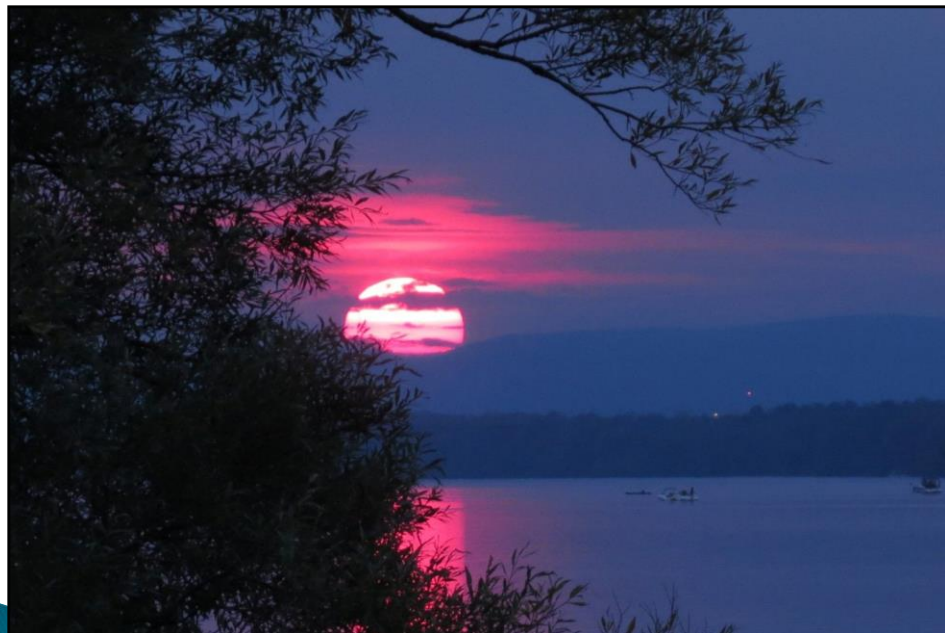


Don't forget winter shots!



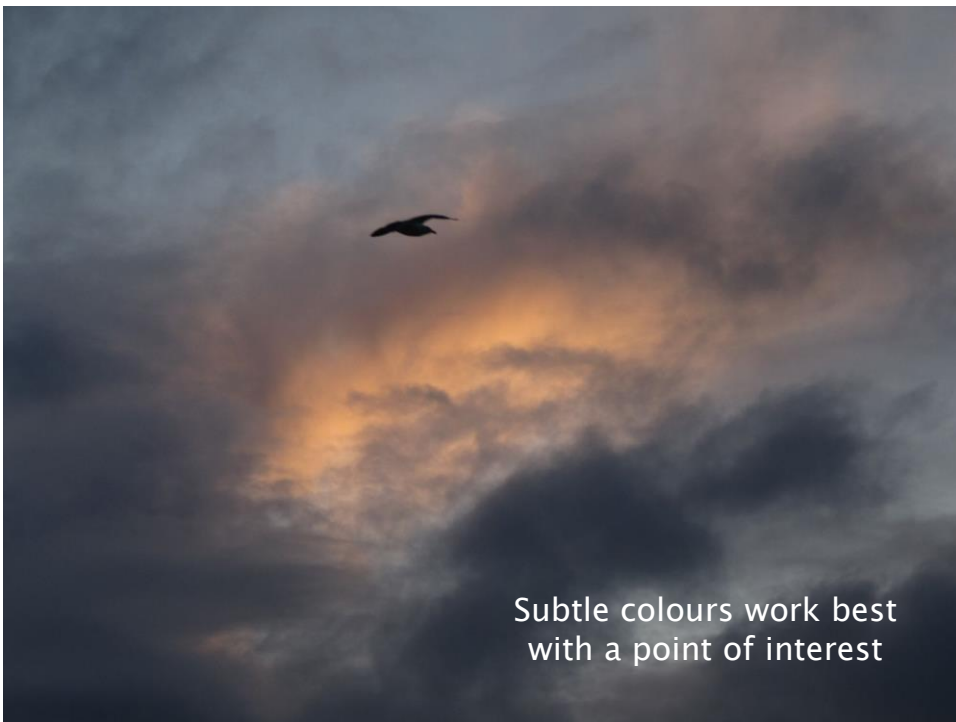
It is okay to put the sun in the middle





The sun doesn't have to go in
the middle

The sky doesn't have to be red



Subtle colours work best
with a point of interest





Shoot the food





Pay attention to colour choices



Sometimes colour is an important element

Consider monochrome



Distracting colours



The person going the opposite way suddenly becomes much more noticeable



Jarring colours may not match the mood you want



Try masking and desaturating
the colours



Or try black and white



Too many competing
colours



The pink house
"disappears"







Too many competing colours?



Road shots – try not to zoom
unless the car/bus is stopped





Remember not to zoom if vehicle is moving





Shots that would be missed if not taken from bus or car





The challenge of wildlife





People are very
forgiving of less than
ideal wildlife photos



Many dead
blossoms
but your
eye is
drawn to
the
butterfly.





No nice leaves on the trees but squirrel is the object of interest



Backlighting means dark faces but people will forgive this because they are horses!

Most will not notice the murky
water if one of many pics



Capturing moods

Good way to show isolation







Grab opportunities



This was taken waiting for a bus!



Take lots of pictures

- ▶ Carry spare batteries so you get all the shots
- ▶ Don't show all the pics you take, cull and re-order
- ▶ 100 photos can be viewed in 10 mins if you give about 5 secs per photo.
- ▶ If you have more than 100, set up separate albums or in-person sessions.
- ▶ Don't try to make every shot a perfect picture – think about the story!



*You miss 100% of the
shots you don't take!*

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<https://lyndasphotos5.shutterfly.com>

This deck in pdf format:

<http://tinyurl.com/OPLtravel>

