

Some Tips When Making A Travelogue Slideshow. By Frank Knor, Feb. 6, 2015 For Kanata Digital Camera Club.

When you are doing travel photography generally you have little control over such things as lighting, time of day, activities you find or don't find, or various other picture controls. You may also have problems with having the correct lens, tri-pod or not, flash or not, etc. Often you do not have much time to take your picture, especially if you are on tour. You generally have to shoot what you see, when you see it, as best you can. The only things you have some control over is your creative composition elements and editing. You can try to make the ordinary look extraordinary. It is highly unlikely there will be a chance for a re-shoot. Here are some shooting and post photographic processing ideas which may help.

Shooting Your Story. — Shoot Tons of Pics. Memory cards are cheap. Use a number of smaller ones not just one big one.

1. Always keep in mind that you want to tell a story and you are not sure what the story will be until your trip ends.
- You should include setting shots which tell where you are. Consider signs, including people or not, etc.
2. Take a mix of long, medium and close-up shots so you can add interest to your story. You might also take some video clips for inclusion where action/motion can be a very important element. Jumping from a long shot to a close up can add drama and tension to your slide show. Including cultural components, food, local people in action, etc.
3. Consider taking sequential shots, such as sun partly set, halfway set, fully set, etc. You can link these up in your story.
4. Include special action shots showing what is happening in areas, where appropriate. Again consider sequences.
5. Include people where their appearance and/or activities represent what they do. Be sure your camera date/time is set.
6. Include shots of food, especially special dishes and people enjoying them when you can.
7. Include "shopping" shots if there are special features or products to be found in your area.
8. Of course composition is a kingly rule. Take lots of pictures with different composition. This is where zoom lenses or various focal length lenses can add interest. Watch for distracting colors, lighting, focus issues and other factors which can weaken or ruin your photograph.
9. Also try various exposures and lighting, where appropriate. Sometimes backlight images can look better as black and white when processed. Post processing changes and use of art treatments can give you some surprising results.
10. Unless you are shooting a family event, or a wedding, etc. it probably is a good idea to minimize repeatedly using family members or yourself in your pictures — unless you have a terrific model that can add to the story.
11. Don't expect each photo to be great. It is not unusual to have well over 250 pictures on a two hour trip. If you have five or six you really like from this 250 number then you are shooting about average. Many National Geographic photographers figure that they are lucky if they get one or two percent of their shots they are happy with. A multiple day shoot for them can result in as many as 30,000 images. Have lots of memory cards and back-up your photos when travelling.

Shoot Is Over — What to do next?

1. Be a harsh critic of your photos. Throw out bad ones and make copies of good ones in another working file you think might be used in your slide show.
2. Set up a 'storyboard' using your pictures, and perhaps some video clips if you are also using them. Storyboards are placing pictures in comic book sequence fashion. Numbering them helps files sort out properly in your computer.
3. In order to line the pictures up correctly in a file add a number to the front of each copy image.

Remember, you never use original pictures, but only use copies of the selected ones.

Do numbering in computer programming manner, such as using number in increments of 10 or 20.

Example: 10-First title picture.jpg 20—Second title picture.jpg 30- First setting shot.jpg 250 ~ The end title.jpg etc.

Using spaces with these number will make it easier to put them in different order should you need to. Once you have your storyboard pictures lined up you are ready to do your post-photography editing to improve them.

Post-Photography Editing.

This is done to make your images as attractive as you can. Whether you use Photoshop or any other editing program it is important to use them. Even the free downloadable IrfanView program is quite good. Very few pictures right out of the camera are as good as they can be. The editing process can be complex, so it will not be gone into in this short presentation. Only a few tips are given.

1. Usually always crop first. When composing your image the rule of thirds does not have to be a hard and fast rule, but keep it in mind along with other good compositions strategies. You crop first, because when you are doing other changes to your image (such as adjusting light, contrast, color, tint, color balance, sharpness, and so on) the software editing is more accurate because it is just dealing with what will be in the final image.
2. You may want to add to the name of edited images. I use a code to tell me what was done to the copy picture.

Example: If I just edit the picture *30- First setting shot.jpg*, then I would rename it: *30- First setting shot-E.jpg*
If I resized (R) and edited (E) as well then I would rename it: *30- First setting shot-RE.jpg*

3. Once you have finished editing you are ready to load your edited picture storyboard into a slide show making program.

Various Slide Show Making Programs — ProShow Gold is probably the best for PC Operating systems.

Again, discussion of all of the techniques to consider when making a slide show these are far to extensive for this presentation. Here are some major points to consider.

1. You usually want your slide show to be between about three minutes and not to exceed six. You will need about 10-14 per running minute of your show. A six-minute show with transitions will take about 60 to 75 pictures. If your show is too long the audience will lose interest, especially younger audiences. If it is too short you may not be able to tell a good story.
2. There are a multitude of transitions available. (Transitions are the special effect to change from one picture to another.) The simplest transition is a direct "Cut", next comes dissolves, and of course there overlay blends and fades, including the "fade to black". Over the years picture filmmakers have used transitions to help tell their stories. Now we subconsciously accept some of these transitions. A classic example is the 'Fade to Black' we accept as meaning *a passage of time or end of a sequence*. ProShow Gold and ProShow Professional have over 300 transitions.
3. Timing and tempo of your slide show is very important. Fast transitions give a feeling of action and activity, whereas slower transitions give a more serene impression. Too many or too busy transitions can ruin a slideshow and add nausea.
4. How long should an image be on the screen? This is a big question which depends upon what the picture is. Titles should be on the screen long enough to be easily read, about 6-7 seconds, depending on complexity. Simple uncomplicated shots should be shown usually for a minimum of 3 seconds. More complicated shots can be on screen for up to six seconds, but usually not more. Keep in mind that special effect sequences, such as cuts of sun sinking below the waves, might see rapid cuts with three pictures or more in less than 5 seconds. Lazy transitions, such as falling leaves, snow, dissolves, slow fade in/outs, can all add to and effect the tempo and mood of your slide show. If you add video inserts these should be just long enough to clearly add to your story ~ usually just a few seconds in length.

5. When you have loaded your images into your software do your transitions next. Once slide time and transition time is known you will know how long your show will be. This is needed if add music and/or narration to the slide show.
6. If adding music and/or narrations remember that music can be faded in and out. The start of the music/narration should always be after the titles and start during the 'setting the scene' shots. Music and narration should end before or during the last 'end slide'.
7. It is nice to use music which relates to your travel setting, example: Jamaica music for show on a Jamaica trip, perhaps classic for a museum visit. Instrumental music is usually better than using vocals. Try find royalty free — free play music.
8. If you are putting your production on YouTube or want to generate revenue for your slide show video then you must be very careful of the music you use. Nearly all music is covered by copyright. There is Royalty Free Music available which you can find on the Internet, but finding it and the right length, tempo, and style etc. is no easy task.

Have Fun. You can view some of my work on my YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/user/franchek43/videos