


# TAKE YOUR TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY TO THE NEXT LEVEL

TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY I

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# Welcome, enthusiasts of travel photography !

If you've reached this point, it's because you're undoubtedly passionate about the realms of travel and photography, aiming to **refine your skills in capturing unique photos.**

Within this document, you'll discover a **curated selection of five essential tips to elevate your travel photography to new heights.**



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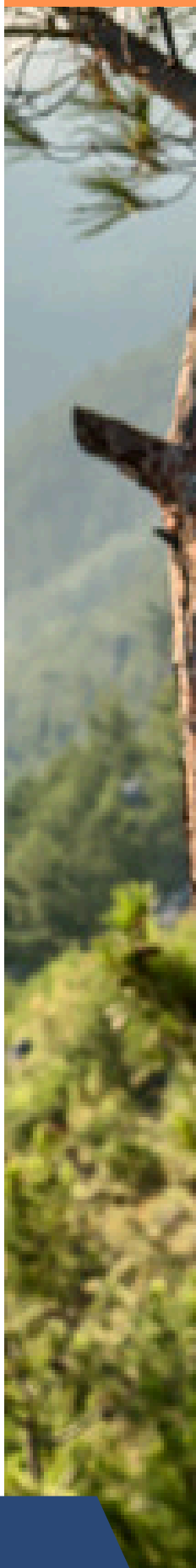
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# TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

The Master in Travel Photography is our 12-month online programme, taught live in English by working photographers. You will go from good single photos to complete photo stories, with a one-to-one session with the Master's director every month and a final project ready to publish.

**DISCOVER THE MASTER IN TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY**

This e-book guides you through five **essential tips to elevate your travel photography skills to new heights.**

It begins with the importance of carefully selecting photographic equipment, emphasizing portability and versatility as essential elements. It delves into photographic theory, covering concepts such as exposure time, ISO sensitivity, and the Rule of Thirds, offering practical advice for their application in diverse travel settings.

Next, the exploration ventures into the digital realm, discussing tools for planning photography trips, including itinerary apps, weather resources, and points of interest. The guide then focuses on nighttime star photography, unveiling techniques to capture the enchantment of the night sky. Finally, it explores the art of meaningful portrait photography, underscoring the significance of expression and offering practical tips for capturing compelling portraits.

For those eager to delve deeper into the secrets of travel photography, we invite you to discover our Master in Travel Photography, 12 months online and live in English, starting on 1 February 2027. There you'll gain **theoretical knowledge, practical skills, and the opportunity to connect with a passionate community dedicated to travel and content creation.**

# 1 TIP 1: SELECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS.

On this journey towards photographic excellence, **the choice of your tools is crucial**. Let's dive deeper into the vital concept of **"portability"** and how it can transform your photography experiences in every corner of the world.



**Portability** goes beyond the weight and size of your equipment. **It is about the ability to adapt effortlessly to different environments and situations.** Imagine walking the streets of an ancient city, exploring bustling markets, or venturing into remote landscapes. Your equipment should not only be light, but also versatile enough to capture the essence of each location.

Want to learn this with expert photographers? More information about the Master in Travel Photography here →

# Selection of photographic materials

## Cameras: compact and mirrorless

Opting for a compact or mirrorless camera can be your first big decision. **These models offer power and quality without the weight and size of traditional DSLRs.** The Sony Alpha series and Fujifilm X cameras offer excellent options for travel photographers, delivering uncompromised performance in a compact body.



## All in one lenses:

In the search for versatility, consider a high-quality zoom lens. These all-in-one lenses let you quickly switch between focal lengths, from wide landscape shots to detailed close-ups. **Lenses like the Tamron 18-200mm or the Sony FE 24-240mm** are excellent examples.

## Wide aperture lenses:

For those times when you want to highlight a specific subject and create a beautiful blur in the background, a lens with a wide aperture is essential. A **50mm f/1.8 or 35mm f/1.4 will give you that creative flexibility**, especially useful in portraits and street photography.

**Essential accessories:**
Portability is not just about the camera, but about all the elements that make up your equipment. **A lightweight tripod is essential for achieving sharp photographs, especially in low light conditions or for capturing long night exposures.** Brands like Manfrotto and Joby offer sturdy and compact options.





**Backpacks and camera bags:**
Selecting a durable and functional backpack is essential for safeguarding your gear during exploration of new destinations.

**Brands like Lowepro and Peak Design offer backpacks designed specifically for travel photographers**, with customizable compartments and quick access to your gear.

## Batteries and memory cards:

Don't underestimate the importance of energy and storage. Always carry extra batteries and high-capacity memory cards. You don't want to miss that perfect moment due to lack of energy or space.





## The philosophy of portability:

The essence of true portability is the freedom to explore unhindered. By reducing physical burdens and enhancing versatility, your equipment seamlessly integrates with your creative vision. Whether immersed in urban street photography, capturing the grandeur of remote landscapes, or preserving the enchantment of local markets, you can do so effortlessly, unencumbered by weight or technical complexity.

Now, travel photographer, you are equipped with the knowledge to elevate your photography to the next level.

More information about the Master in Travel Photography?
Request it here →



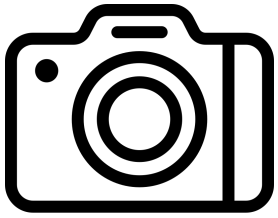
“Portability is more than just a technical attribute; it embodies a philosophy that will reshape your approach and enrich your experiences. Remember, each click presents an opportunity to narrate a distinct story. *Prepare to explore, create, and capture the world with your compact yet powerful equipment!*”

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# Practical exercise 1

## Portability and Versatility Session



- Objective: Design your Perfect Photographic Equipment.
- **Activity:** Develop the ideal photographic equipment tailored for travel scenarios. This exercise emphasizes strategic planning and the selection of tools that align with your personal photography style and travel needs.

Share the results on social media #STJPhotography and tag us.

Want expert feedback on your photos? Discover the Master in Travel Photography →




Canon 5D Mark IV Camera




Canon 24-105 F4 Lens




Canon 50mm F 1.8 lens




Artificial lighting




Lexar SD memory card 512 Gb 95Mb/s



Rain cover for reflex camera




Gobe Filter Collection




Adjustable polarizing filter




Double Shoulder Camera Strap



Benro iFoto Tripod



K&F Concept Camera Backpack



Neewer Light Reflector




Camera and lens cleaning kit



Camera and Laptop Backpack

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# 2 TIP 2: MASTERING PHOTOGRAPHIC THEORY.

We will delve into the core of visual creation: photographic theory. Together, we'll demystify the intricacies of **exposure time, ISO sensitivity, and the renowned Rule of Thirds.**

## Exposure time:

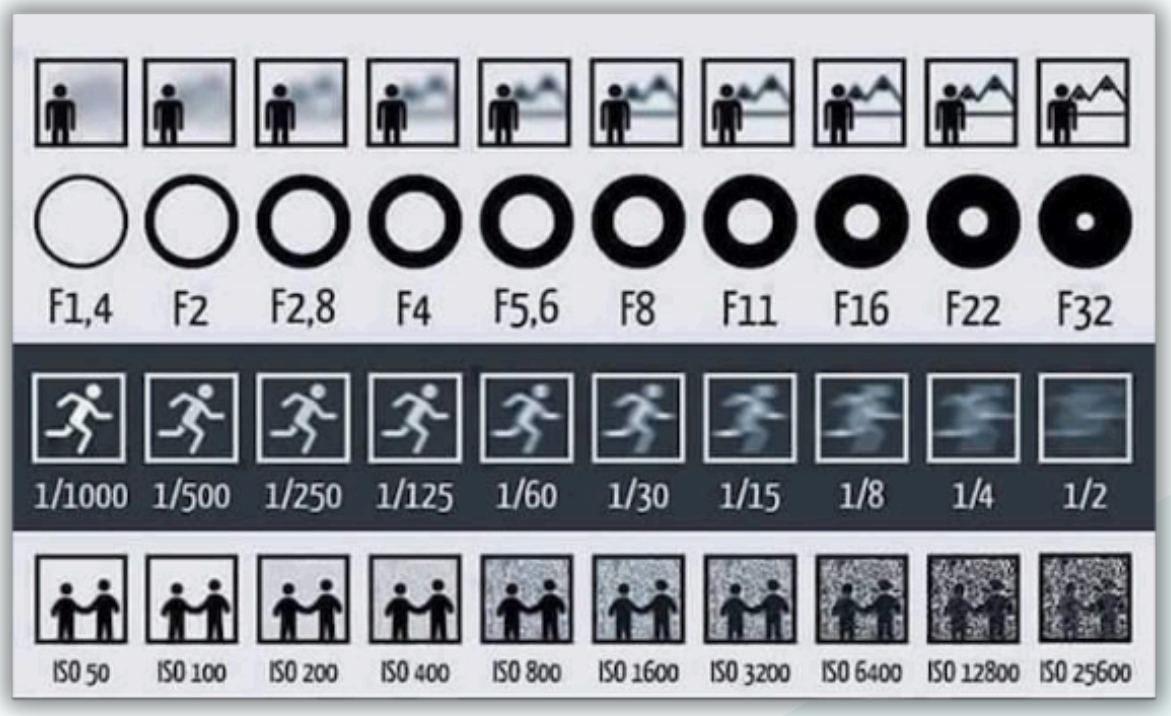


Exposure time, or **the duration your shutter remains open, is the key to capturing motion and controlling the amount of light that reaches the sensor**. In travel environments, where the action can be as unpredictable as it is beautiful, understanding and mastering exposure time is essential. Adjust this setting depending on the situation: **fast speeds to freeze action on busy streets, or slower exposures to capture the flow of a river or the softness of a waterfall.**

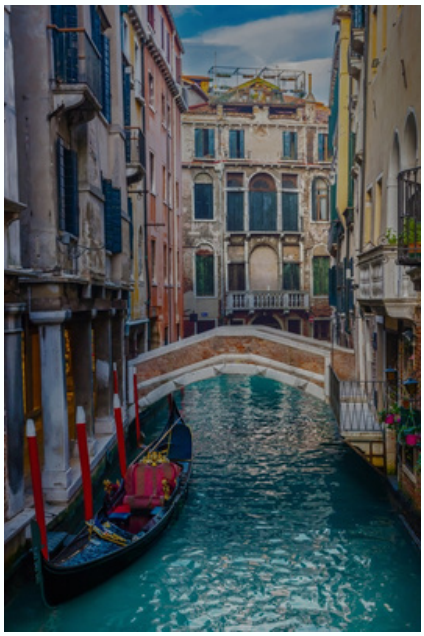


## ISO sensitivity:

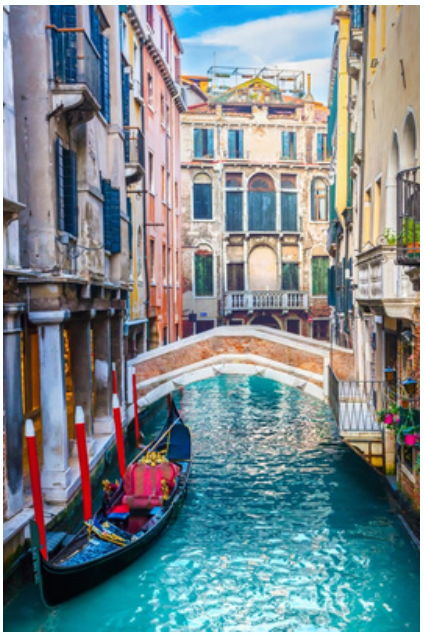
ISO sensitivity determines the amount of light the camera needs to create an image. **In low-light situations, such as dusk or indoors, increase the ISO to capture details without sacrificing sharpness.** However, keep in mind that a high ISO can introduce noise into your photos. Find the perfect balance based on the available light and the atmosphere of the place you are exploring.




Master exposure, ISO and light with working photographers: discover the Master in Travel Photography →



Underexposed



Correct



Overexposed



Underexposed



Correct



Overexposed

## Rule of Thirds:

The Rule of Thirds serves as a foundational principle in visual composition. **Picture your scene divided into nine equal sections by two horizontal and two vertical lines**. Position key elements at these intersection points or along the lines to achieve visually compelling compositions. For instance, in travel portraits, positioning the subject's eyes at one of these **points draws attention and infuses the image with dynamism.**



## Practical application:

As you immerse yourself in the experience of travel and photography, understanding photographic theory becomes instrumental in crafting compelling visual narratives. Here are some practical tips:



**Fast exposure time to capture action:** Employ high shutter speeds to freeze fleeting moments in vibrant markets, bustling streets, or spontaneous events.



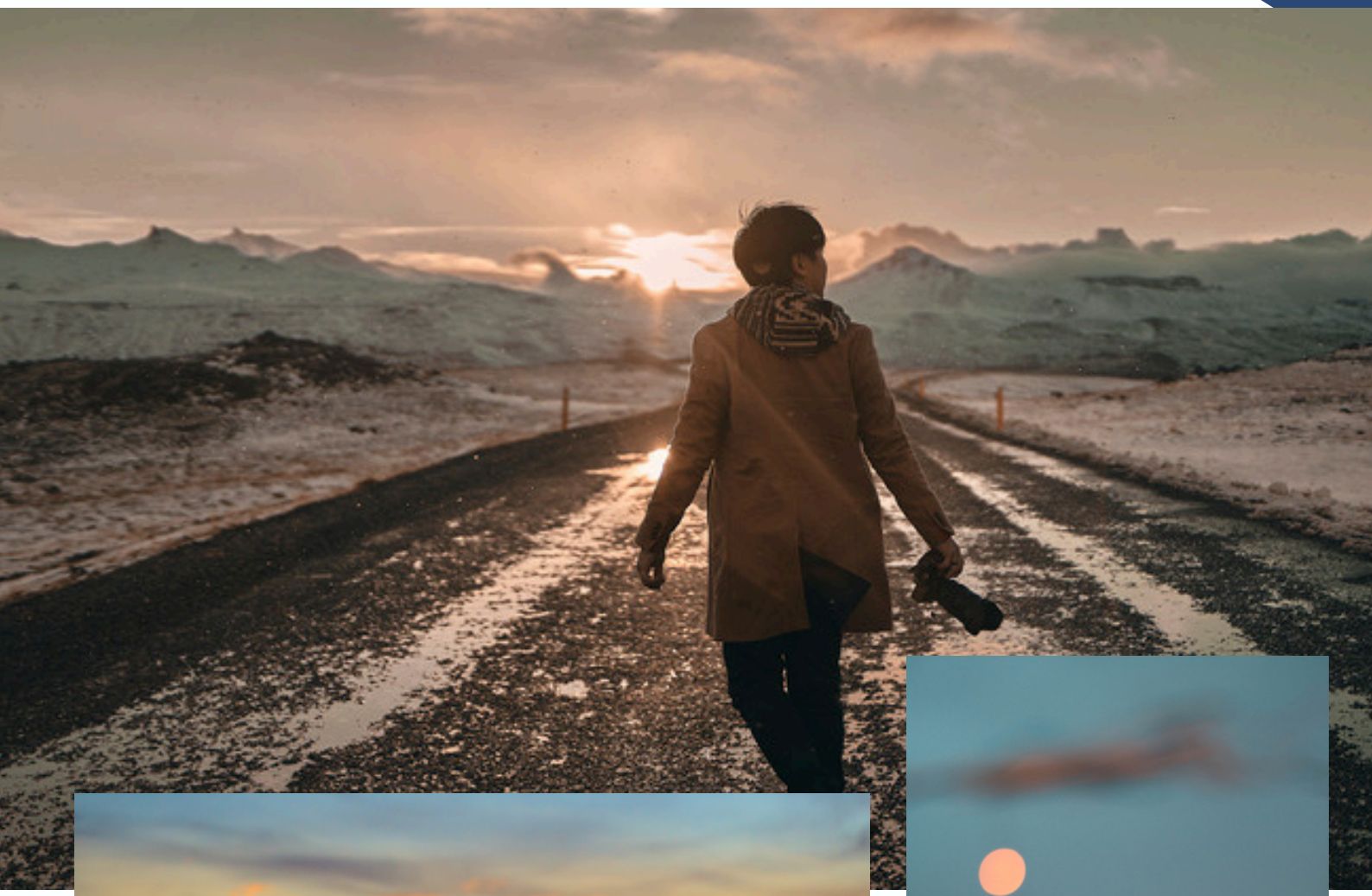
**Adjust ISO for indoor settings:** In enclosed spaces or under low-light conditions, increase the ISO to preserve image quality without relying on flash, capturing the authentic ambiance of the location.



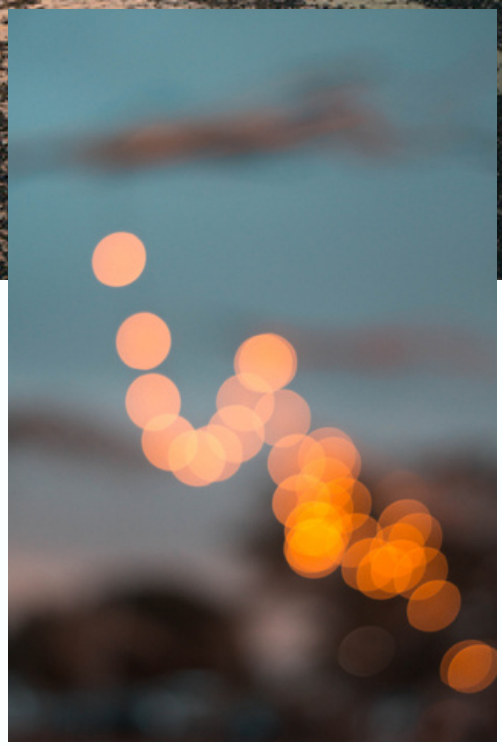
**Experiment with the Rule of Thirds**: Depart from centered compositions and explore placing key elements at intersection points to introduce dynamism and depth into your images.

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# TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY







**Remember, these principles are not strict rules but rather adaptable tools that you can tailor to your creativity and the unique characteristics of each destination.**

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## EXPOSURE TRIANGLE

+speed = -exposure

+light = -depth of field

**SPEED**

**OPENING**

**EXPOSURE**

-speed = +exhibition

less light = +depth field

**ISO/ 100**

Low sensitivity

**ISO**

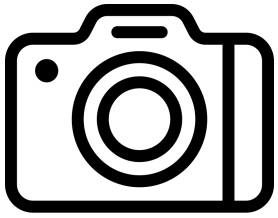
**ISO /14000**

High sensitivity



# Practical exercise 2

## Visual Stories with the Rule of Thirds



- Objective: Apply the Rule of Thirds in composition.
- **Activity:** Choose a place with interesting visual elements, such as a park or square. Take your time to compose each image following the Rule of Thirds. Capture at least three photographs where the composition stands out and guides the viewer's attention.

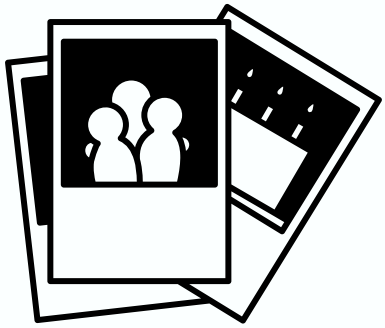
Share the results on social media #STJPhotography and tag us.

Master composition with working photographers in the Master in Travel Photography →

# 3 TIP 3: DIGITAL TOOLS TO PLAN YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP.

Now we enter the digital realm, where planning your photography adventure becomes an art form in itself. **Explore the digital tools that will help you craft perfect itineraries, anticipate weather conditions, and uncover hidden photography spots** that will elevate your images to the extraordinary.





## Itinerary planning:

Effective itinerary planning is crucial to maximizing your time at each destination. Apps like **Google Maps** enable you to create personalized routes, mark points of interest, and virtually explore your surroundings before you arrive. Additionally, **Sygic Travel** is an invaluable tool for organizing your daily agenda and suggesting locations based on your photography interests.

Plan real photo assignments with us: more information about the Master in Travel Photography →

## Meteorological conditions:

Light and weather have a significant impact on the quality of your photographs. To anticipate weather conditions, **AccuWeather** offers accurate and specific hourly forecasts. You can also explore **Windy** to get information on wind direction and speed, crucial for landscape photography.

## Locations of photographic interest:

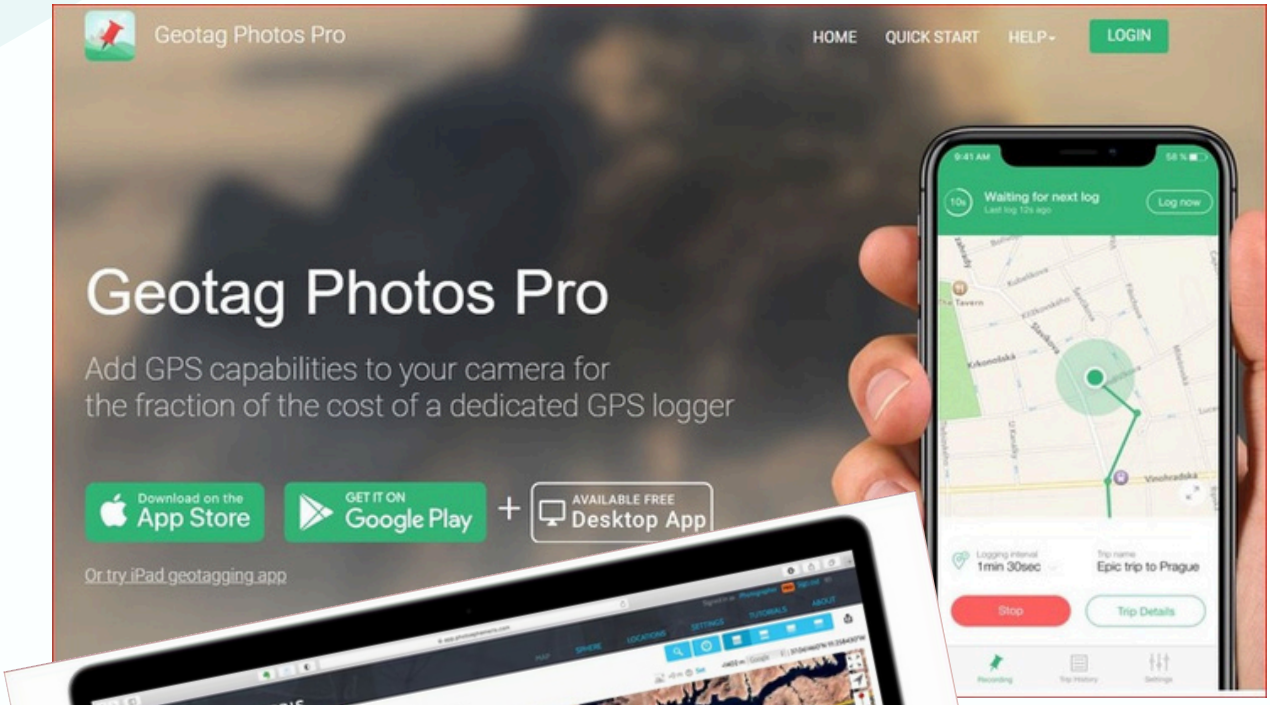
Discover hidden gems and unique points of view using apps designed for photographers. **PhotoPills** is a complete tool that helps you plan the position of the sun, moon and Milky Way. **The Photographer's Ephemeris** (TPE) provides data on the direction of light at any location and time of day.

## Social networks for travel photographers:

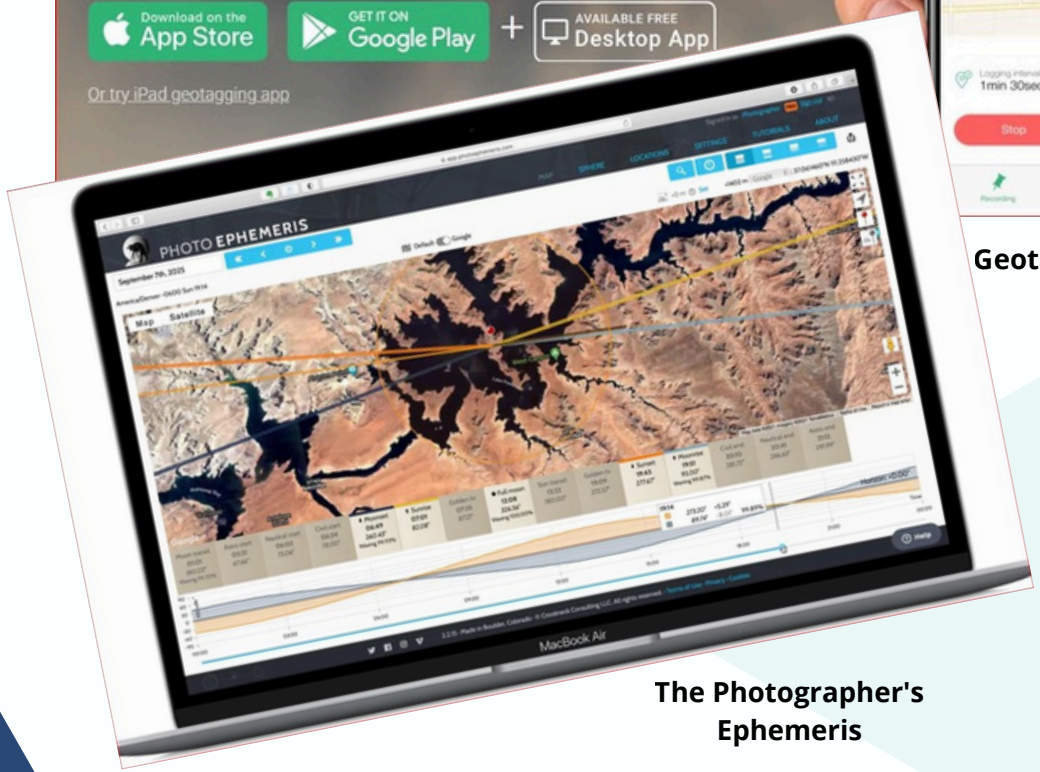
Connect with the community and discover fascinating places shared by other photographers. **Instagram and 500px** are ideal platforms to explore geolocated images and gain direct inspiration from the experience of other photography travelers.

## **Applications to capture geographic data**:

Add a layer of geographic information to your photos with apps like **Geotag Photos Pro**. Not only will this help you remember where you took each image, but it can also be a valuable source of data for other photographers.




**Geotag Photos Pro**




**The Photographer's Ephemeris**

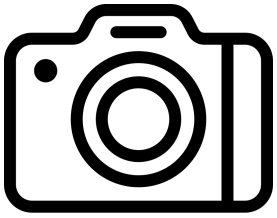
"Prepare your digital combo with these tools and transform your photography trip into an experience like no other. Technology not only simplifies planning, but also opens up a world of creative possibilities. Download these apps, explore them, and get ready to discover a new level of efficiency and creativity in each trip".



More information about the Master in Travel Photography →

# Practical exercise 3

## Digital Planning of a Photography Trip



- Objective: Use digital tools for planning.
- **Activity:** Choose a fictional destination and leverage apps like Google Maps, Sygic Travel, and AccuWeather to craft a detailed one-day itinerary. Identify key points of interest, factor in weather conditions, and schedule the best times for each photography session. Present your itinerary accompanied by reference images.

Share the results on social media #STJPhotography and tag us

Plan and shoot real photo assignments in the Master in Travel Photography →

# 4 TIP 4: NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY OF STARS

Welcome to the magic of the night sky, where every star tells a story and every photograph is a cosmic work of art. Let's study the secrets to capturing the celestial essence with our tips on night star photography.

## Importance of the tripod:

When the sun sets and the stars emerge, stability is crucial. Use a sturdy tripod to prevent any unwanted movement during long exposures, ensuring sharp and detailed images even in the darkest conditions.

## Capturing the Milky Way:

The Milky Way is a celestial marvel that deserves to be captured accurately. Utilize apps like **Star Walk** or **PhotoPills** to plan the exact location and time of its appearance in the sky. Research the ideal dates for photographing it in its full splendor and choose destinations with minimal light pollution for optimal results.

More information about the Master in Travel Photography? Request it here →

## High aperture and high ISO:

A wide aperture and high ISO are crucial tools in night photography. **A wide aperture (low f-numbers) enables more light to reach the sensor, while a high ISO (e.g., 1600 or higher)** compensates for low ambient light. Experiment with various settings to achieve the optimal balance based on sky conditions.



## Other techniques for night photography:

**Remote shutter:** Employ a remote shutter or timer function to minimize vibrations during shooting.

**Manual focus:** Adjust the lens manually to infinity to ensure sharpness when capturing stars.

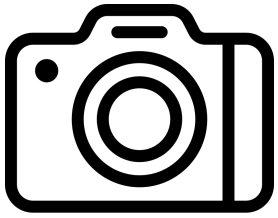


With these tips, you'll capture the wonders of the night sky with stunning clarity. The night sky becomes your canvas, and the stars your brushes. Let the magic of the cosmos inspire your travel photography!

Learn night and landscape photography with our teachers: discover the Master in Travel Photography →

# Practical exercise 4

## Night photography of stars



- Objective: Apply night photography techniques.
- **Activity:** Find a place away from light pollution and, on a clear night, capture images of the Milky Way. Use a tripod, adjust the aperture, ISO and exposure time according to the advice provided. Capture at least two photos of the Milky Way and one of the night landscape.

Share the results on social media #STJPhotography and tag us.

Take your night photography further in the Master in Travel Photography →

# 5 TIP 5: CAPTURING MEANINGFUL PORTRAITS.

Welcome to the captivating realm of travel portraits, where **each gaze tells a tale and every expression mirrors the depth of human experience.** Join us as we delve into how a glance becomes pivotal in crafting a memorable portrait, and uncover practical tips to master the art of travel portraiture.

## Importance of look:

The gaze is the window to the soul, and in travel portraits, it serves as the direct link between the viewer and the subject. **Capturing an authentic and expressive gaze adds emotional depth to your photographs.** Foster open communication with your subjects, cultivate a relaxed atmosphere, and patiently await the opportune moment to capture that distinctive look which narrates its own story.



## Specific tips for travel portraits:

### Steady hands:

- Maintain a steady hand to eliminate any trace of blur, particularly in low-light settings or when using slower shutter speeds. A portable tripod like the Manfrotto Befree provides stability without compromising on mobility, ensuring sharpness in every portrait.

### Multi-Shot capability:

- Harness the versatility of your camera by capturing multiple shots. This approach is particularly beneficial in dynamic settings, increasing your chances of capturing the perfect expression, even in spontaneous moments. Cameras like the Sony A7R IV or Canon EOS R5 excel in this regard, offering rapid burst shooting and exceptional image quality.

### Environmental awareness:

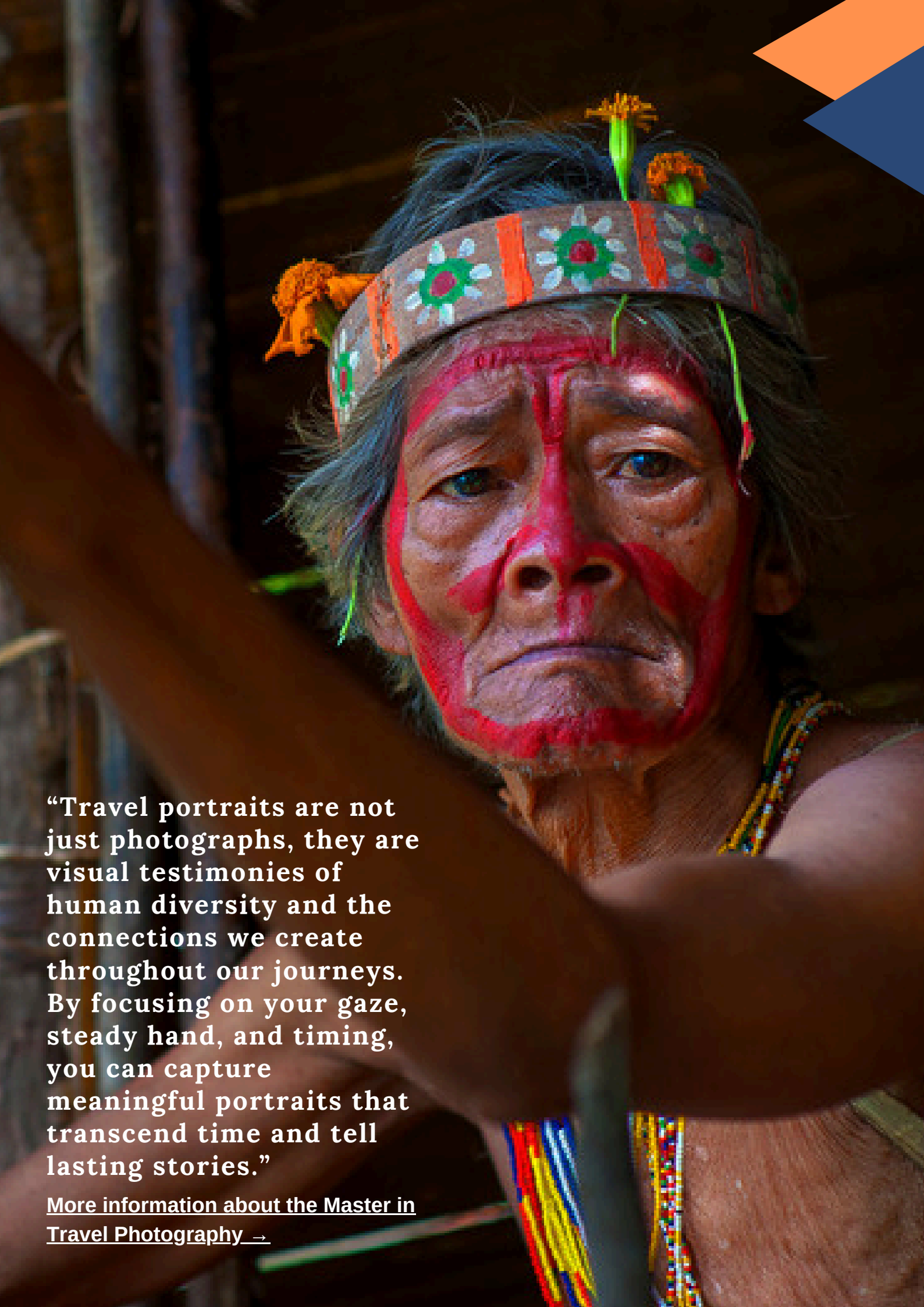
- Consider the surroundings of your subject carefully. A clean, uncluttered background directs focus towards the main subject, enhancing the impact of your portraits. Seek out contrasts, vibrant colors, or intriguing textures that complement the narrative you wish to convey.

## The moment of the shot:

Capturing the perfect moment in a travel portrait requires patience and observation. Observe the light, expressions and surroundings to anticipate the ideal moment. Be aware of the natural interactions between people and their environment, and wait for the moment when everything aligns to create an **image that tells a unique story.**



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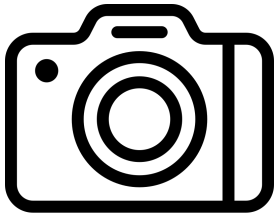


“Travel portraits are not just photographs, they are visual testimonies of human diversity and the connections we create throughout our journeys. By focusing on your gaze, steady hand, and timing, you can capture meaningful portraits that transcend time and tell lasting stories.”

More information about the Master in Travel Photography →

# Practical exercise 5

## Portraits with focus on the gaze



- Objective: Capture meaningful portraits focused on the gaze.
- **Activity:** Collaborate with a family member or friend as a model and choose an interesting environment. Practice the techniques of keeping a steady hand, using multiple shots, and focusing on the eyes. Experiment with different backgrounds and lighting conditions to highlight expression and emotional connection in portraits.

Share the results on social media #STJPhotography and tag us.

Turn your portraits into photo stories in the Master in Travel Photography →

# Master in Travel Photography

If you want to take what you learned in this guide further, join our Master in Travel Photography: 12 months online, with live classes in English taught by working photographers. You will go from good single photos to complete photo stories that you can publish.

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- Live online classes, all recorded so you can rewatch them.
- A 45-minute one-to-one session with the Master's director every month.
- Teachers who publish in National Geographic, Travel + Leisure and more.
- Pay in up to 12 monthly instalments.

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# MY NOTES


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