



# Travel Photography

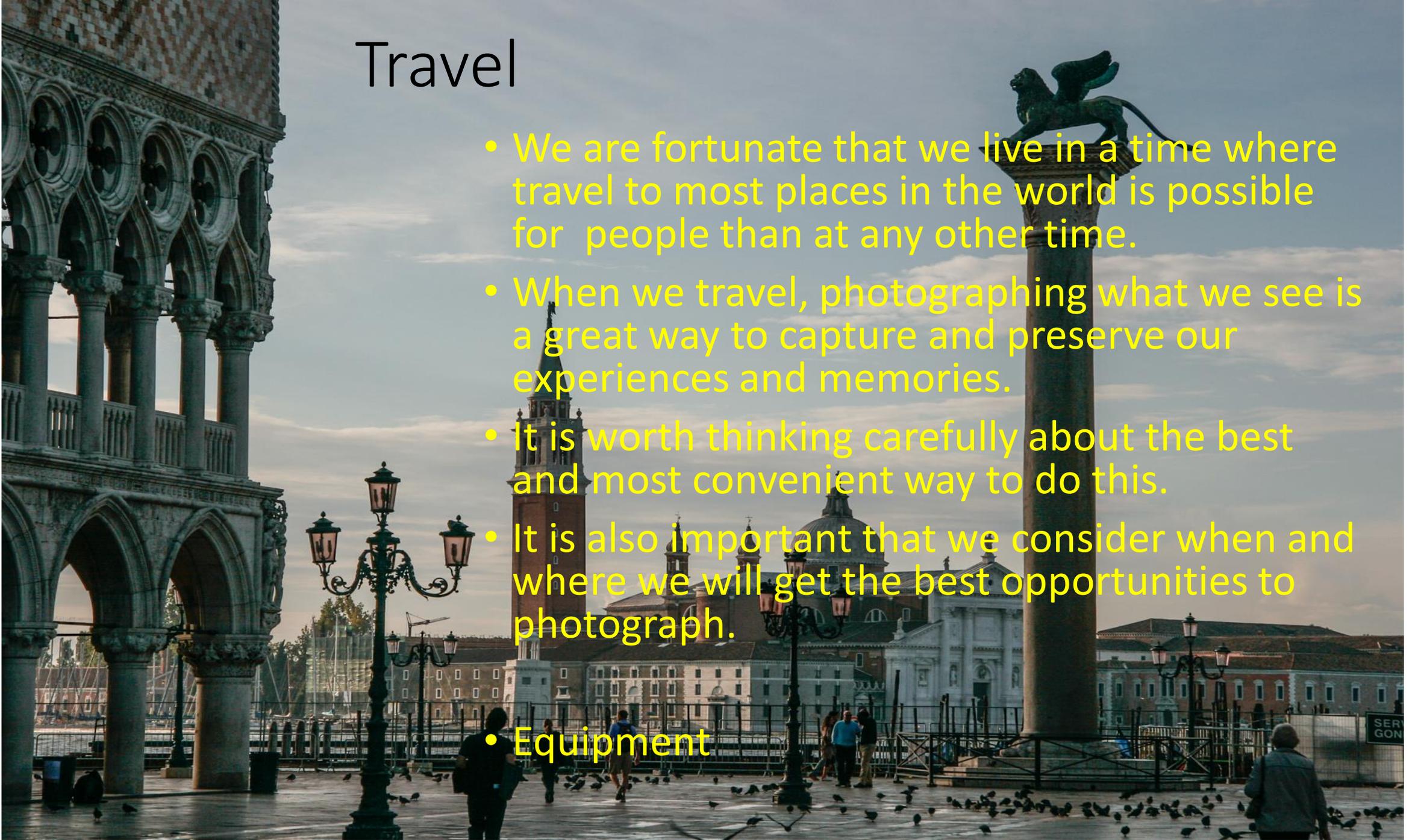
My Journey, and some tips from  
my experiences, good and bad.

Jeff Akers

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019

# Travel

- We are fortunate that we live in a time where travel to most places in the world is possible for people than at any other time.
- When we travel, photographing what we see is a great way to capture and preserve our experiences and memories.
- It is worth thinking carefully about the best and most convenient way to do this.
- It is also important that we consider when and where we will get the best opportunities to photograph.
- Equipment



# My first overseas travel was a photographic disappointment, and was the reason that I becoming involved in Camera Club Photography.

First trip overseas was to New Zealand in 1994.

3 weeks travelling in the north and south islands.

Travelled by car with my wife and 4 year old son.

Stayed in a variety of motels and farm stays.

- Photographic equipment –
- Canon AE1 Program with a 18 to 75 lens.
- Film – what ever I could buy along the way - (BIG MISTAKE)

# Thinking about what Cameras and equipment to take.

- A number of things can effect the type and amount of equipment you take with you, such as –
- 1 - Your destination. The facilities and amenities you can expect to find. Study travel guides before you go.
- 2 - Baggage weight allowances on aircraft, especially on internal flights. Pack for the lowest baggage allowance
- 3 - Ease of handling, especially if you are travelling by rail, bicycle or on foot.
- 4 - Think about security and how you carry your equipment and store your belongings.

# Cameras

- The great advantage these days for travel photography is the digital camera.
- My first digital camera was a Canon D20 SLR, and later, a Canon 7D with a 24-105 f4 lens and a 17-40 f4 lens. I was also carrying a 70-200 f4 lens .
- The disadvantage was that this equipment requires a large backpack, and with accessories weighs about 7.8Kg.
- I do have a shoulder bag to carry the camera and one lens, but this is still bulky and heavy.

 **CameraAssist**



# Cameras - Mirrorless

- I now use a Fuji Mirrorless camera.
- I initially brought a Fuji X-E1, and have since upgraded to a Fuji X-T20. Lenses are a 18-55 f2.8 – f4, a 55-200 f 3.5 –F4.8 and a 10 – 24 f4 wide angle lens
- Advantages –
- Light and compact with a sensor that has a larger megapixel rating than in my SLR.
- Lenses are just as good as those available for SLR cameras.
- With accessories and additional lenses needs a much smaller bag that is easier to manage.



# Batteries

- Modern cameras use batteries that need to be recharged, and during constant use, they will run out of charge. I take at least 3 spare batteries and make sure that I charge them as soon as possible after use.
- **DON'T FORGET YOUR BATTERY CHARGER!**
- On a full day of photography some cameras can use 2 or 3 batteries, especially if a GPS function is set in the camera.

# Think about power supply to charge your equipment

- Most countries have power outlets different to ours in Australia.
- Power point adaptors. Make sure that you have the correct adaptor for the countries you are visiting. In Europe this may involve a number of different adaptors.
- A TIP! We take an Australian 4 point power pack with us. It is easier to charge multiple devices this way as some countries do not have a lot of power outlets in rooms.

# Memory Cards.

- I take as many cards as I can with capacities up to 32GB.
- There are bigger cards available but I would hate to have a 128GB card fail with all my images on it.
- Download your photos every day.
- Have a way to back up your images each night, laptop or storage device. I also store the full memory cards separately with my luggage, and not with my backup device.
- If you can back, up to the 'cloud' but this is not always possible.

# A secure camera carry case or backpack.

- A bag that is secure and not easily opened without you noticing, but gives you easy access to the camera and equipment. Is well padded to protect your equipment while in transit.
- A backpack where the closures are secure when on your back, but the camera is easily accessible when needed.
- A quality camera strap to support and secure the camera while it is being carried.

# Think about an additional camera or body.

- The worst case scenario is that your camera is stolen or damaged while you are away, with no option to have it repaired or replaced.
- Even a small compact camera as a backup is better than no camera at all.
- Don't keep your spare with the camera you are using. Keep it with your luggage or secure in your accommodation.

# Camera Support

- Depending on where you are travelling, and the type of photography you expect to do, the type of camera support may vary.
- Tripod – Tripods can be bulky, and heavy, and in some places are banned, so think carefully about what you will take. A light weight carbon fiber tripod is worth the investment.
- Monopod – these are an option to help stabilize your camera, and it is possible to get some walking poles which double as monopods.

# Personal Preparation.

- Check if you need to have vaccinations for specific diseases prevalent in the area you are travelling to. Some require lead up time to be effective.
- Check if you need a visa for the countries you are visiting. This can take some time.
- Check if your passport is up to date. You will not be able to board a plane to travel overseas if you have less than 3 months left before your passport expires.
- If you will be driving check if you need an international drivers licence.

# Personal Preparation 2

- Use a Debit card rather than your credit cards. Take local currency with you rather than trying to get cash when you arrive.
- Make sure that you can access your accounts while away.
- If using rail transport, it is often less expensive to organize and pay for it before you leave. Europe and Japan.
- Internet access. It is usually less expensive to use local pre- paid sims than your Australian supplier.
- Check that your phone is not “locked” by your local service provider before trying to use a local sim.
- **TURN OF GLOBAL ROAMING.**

# Destinations and travel methods

- A lot of our travel has been in Europe, visiting a number of different countries, but spending a large amount of the time in France.
- We have also visited China, Japan, Hawaii, New Caledonia, Canada, The United States, Dubai and Singapore.
- When visiting these countries we have used different methods to organize our travel.
- Here are a number of options

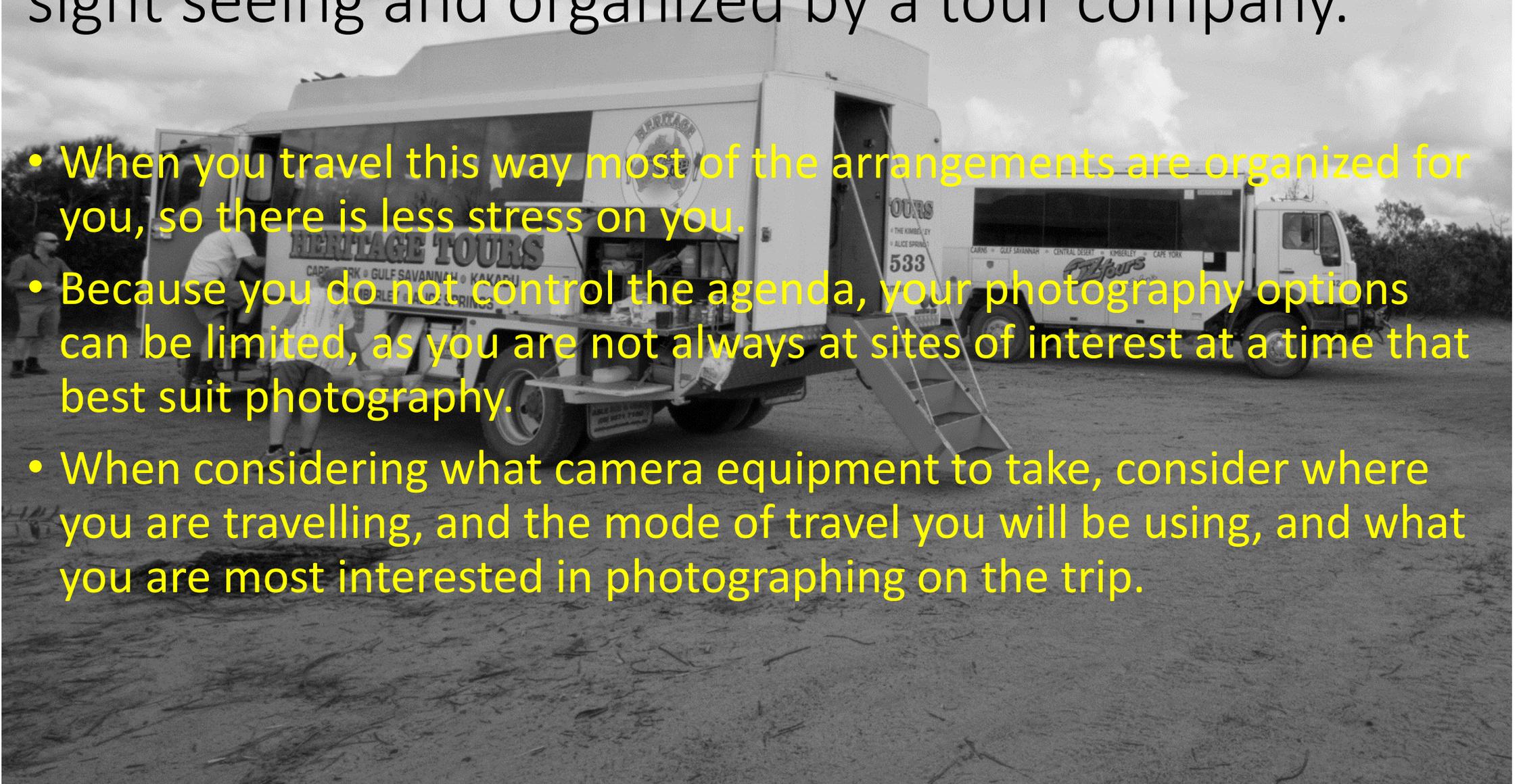


# 1. Guided photographic tours – Tours specifically designed for photographers.

- These are often to unique and interesting places where the organizers take the group to specific places of interest to photograph.
- Because of the nature of these tours, there will be guidance about the type of equipment will best suit the subjects that will be available.
- Check with the tour company what equipment they recommend.
- These type of tours can be expensive.

Guided Travel Tours – a group tour specifically for sight seeing and organized by a tour company.

- When you travel this way most of the arrangements are organized for you, so there is less stress on you.
- Because you do not control the agenda, your photography options can be limited, as you are not always at sites of interest at a time that best suit photography.
- When considering what camera equipment to take, consider where you are travelling, and the mode of travel you will be using, and what you are most interested in photographing on the trip.



# West Coast USA – 2005 – School Band Tour

Two weeks travelling with the members of my sons  
Normanhurst Boy's High School band where they performed  
in a number of schools and at Disneyland

Canon 20D with 18 – 105 f2.8 to 5.6 lens



# Self Guided Travel – where you organize all the arrangements and set the agenda.

- This is the type of touring that we most often undertake, where we organize our accommodation, travel arrangements and what we will be seeing.
- It is often more demanding to organize and takes a lot of preparation, but has advantages in that you set your own agenda and can optimize your photographic options.
- When we are organizing a trip we sometimes decide on specific subjects to target that we can photograph. We then organize our travels to optimize photographic opportunities.

# Second overseas trip – France 1999

- Travelled with wife, 8 year old son and Father in Law.
- Stayed for a week at a time in self catered accommodation in various locations. Travelled by car.
- The Loire Valley, Paris, Northern France, Alsace, Southern France, The Dordogne.
- Camera Canon EOS 650 film camera
- Film Fuji Provia slide film.



## Europe 2006 Triathlon world championships in Lausanne and then travel – Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia, Italy and France

- The primary reason for this trip was for my wife to compete in the age group section of the triathlon world championship.
- We arranged our trip so that we could visit friends living in Ljubljana in Slovenia and Trento in Italy.
- It was also an opportunity to visit some great locations
- Camera – Canon 20D with 17-85 lens.
- This was the first trip where I was really happy with some of the images that I took



Europe 2013 was for triathlon world championships in London, and then to Europe



- The majority of travel on this trip was done by train, going from London to Berlin, then Prague, Leipzig, Frankfurt, Heidelberg, and then Strasbourg.
- We then picked up a car and drove south through the French Alps and back around to Lyon, where we caught a TGV back to Paris, where we stayed for an extra week before returning home.
- Because of the rail travel we were restricted in the amount of luggage we could take and the amount of camera gear.
- Camera Fuji X-E1 with 18 – 55 lens and 55-200 lens.

# 2015 Triathlon World Championship in Chicago followed by travel in the East Coast USA



- From Chicago to New York by plane, then to Boston by train, where we picked up a car and did the rest of the trip by road.
- Camera was the Fuji E-X1 with 18-55 and 55-200 lenses.

# What To Photograph?

- If you are organizing your own travel, do some research about the areas you are visiting and think about arranging your travel to take the best advantage of possible photographic subjects.
- On our trip to the east coast USA we arranged our travel to take in Lighthouses, Covered Bridges and Frank Lloyd Wright architecture.













# Covered Bridges







SWIFT RIVER BRIDGE  
1869  
Town of Conway, New Hampshire

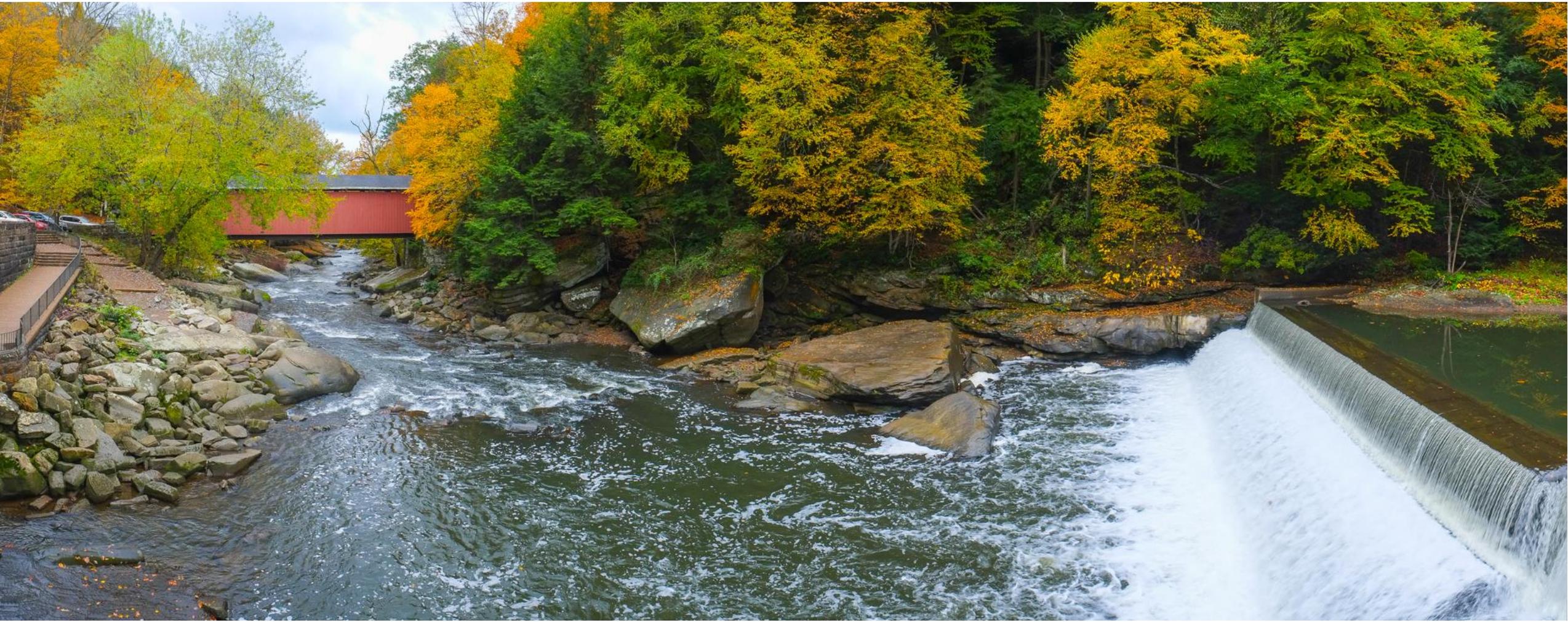




SPEED LIMIT  
HORSES AT A WALK  
MOTOR VEHICLES  
10 MILES PER H.R.

WELCOME TO  
NORTHFIELD FALLS  
VERMONT  
STATION COVERED BRIDGE  
DOG RIVER  
1872  
TOWN LATTICE

















HERR'S  
MILL BRIDGE  
LISTED  
NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER

NO  
MOTORIZED  
VEHICLES  
BUGGY RIDES  
ONLY

**CAUTION**  
The structure and bridge are  
old and fragile. No motorized vehicles  
and no bicycles, ATVs, or snow  
machines are allowed on the bridge.  
Please walk with caution  
on both sides of the bridge  
and do not drink or use drugs  
while on the bridge.

# Architecture



































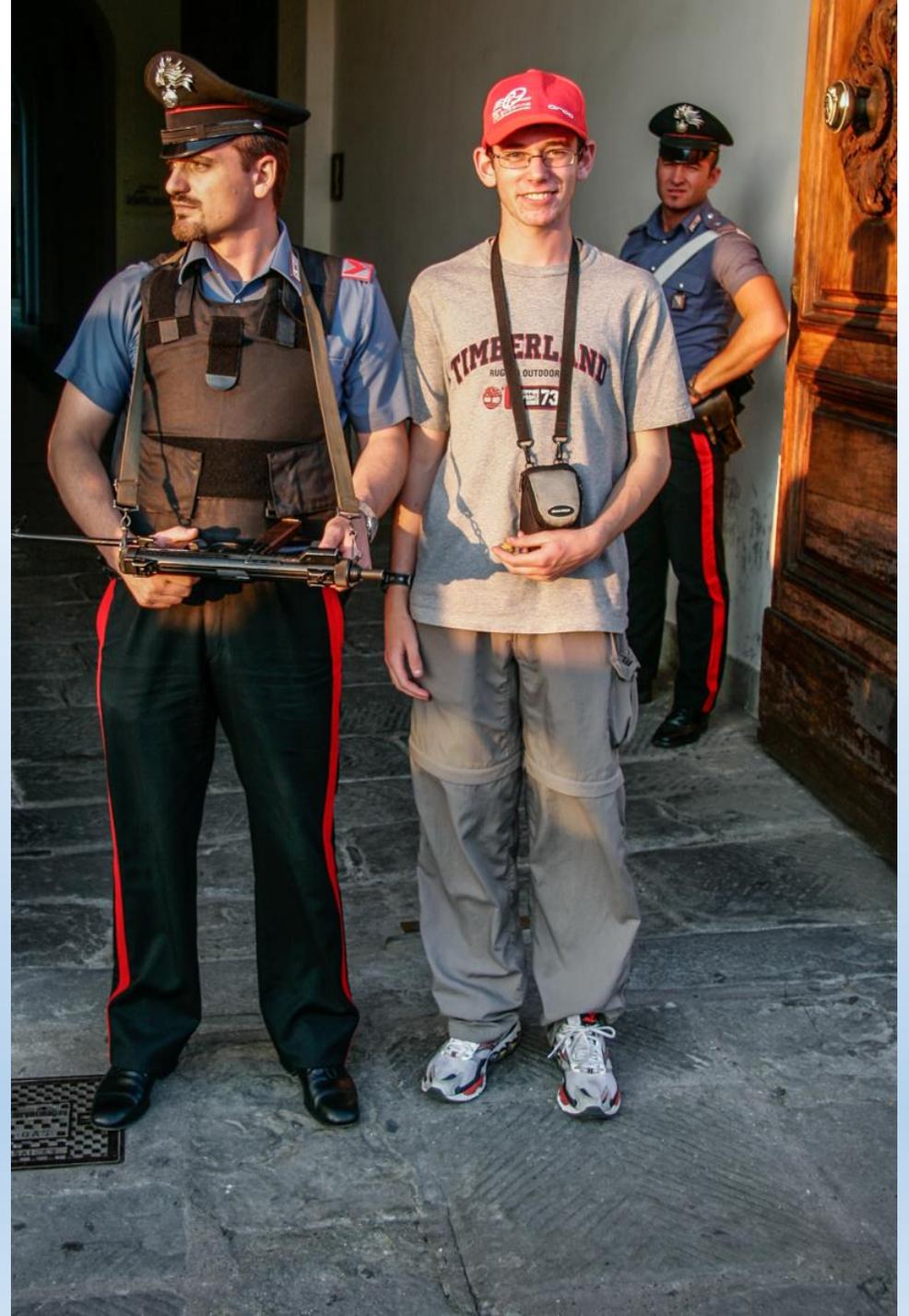


- The Flat Iron Building  
New York.
- (not by FLR)



You are a visitor, so be sensitive about what and who you photograph.

- When photographing people, be sure that they are OK with it.
- In some countries people are fine with having their photo taken and in others they will not be happy, and it may be illegal (France). Check out travel guides for information.
- Taking photos of military personnel, equipment or installations should be avoided and can get you into trouble!





In Japan women hire traditional dress and dress up to go out for the day. Approached the right way most are happy to have their photos taken





Often couples will also be happy to be photographed



# Don't be afraid to ask.

- The worst that can happen is the person says NO.
- Accept their answer.



# Domestic Travel -

A black and white photograph of a river with a waterfall cascading over rocks, surrounded by dense trees. The water is in motion, creating white foam and spray. The background shows a dense forest of trees under a cloudy sky.

- Whenever we go on holidays we are travelling and most of the same rules apply, especially if you are venturing into remote areas

# Remember that travel photography is not just about taking award winning images.

- It is about capturing memories of places you visit and the people you travel with.
- On some occasions the award winning shot will happen.
- Be patient.

