Photography Guidelines and Tips

Subject, composition, lighting and focus.

Subject: When you see a potential photo think about why it’s a nice shot. Decide what the focal point is and how to best represent it in the shot. Make sure the subject is clearly visible, get closer or zoom if that will help. Are there any landmarks that could be included in the photo? Faces, action and perspective all help with the interest of the image. Color can be also an great focal point. Most images will not be viewed larger than 4x5 so stay close to your subject if possible.

Composition: Avoid having the subject in the very center of the image. Use perspective to give depth to the image, fence, wall, etc.. Experiment with angles and perspectives. Chose an angle to make the composition less cluttered if possible and think about the background. Remember to use the zoom when necessary, but the more zoomed in the more light you'll need due to camera shake, especially in low light.

Lighting: Make sure your subject is illuminated evenly, unless you want dramatic lighting to enhance the image. Flash, know how to turn it off and on. Fill flash is for making sure there is light on your subject if natural “ambient” light is not sufficient. Early morning and late day sun is best for photography, clouds are good for even illumination but avoid too much sky in the image. Flash will only go 10-20 feet. If the background is distant the subject will be over exposed with a black background, avoid this scenario if possible.

Manual vs Auto: Experiment with manual to understand more about the basics of photography. Depth of field, f/stop, mm of lenses

ISO, the higher numbers are for lower light. Use the lower ISO for better IQ in bright light, higher can cause digital noise, 1600+.

Shutter speed: The length of time that the shutter stays open affects the clarity of the image, thru motion blur and camera shake.

Focus: Make sure the camera has a chance to focus. When in manual mode focus and then change the composition.

Note if there are photo policies at specific locations? Museums, etc.

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