



# Twilight Travel Tips: Photography & Packing Pointers

<http://TourTheTwilightSaga.com>

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

# *Tour the Twilight Saga*

## **Photography & Packing Pointers**

Our **Photography and Packing Pointers** PDF is intended for the thousands of Twilighters and Twihards who are hobbyist photographers simply wishing to record images of their Twilicious travels for themselves, family and friends.

This Twi Travel Tips PDF is *not* intended for professional photographers—Twilighters who'll be traveling with high-tech cameras, multiple lenses, full-sized tripods, and the like. The only tips we can offer you are these:

- Insure all of your expensive camera equipment against theft or damage before Twilighting.
- Pack all of your expensive camera equipment—apart from large tripods—in your **carryon**.

Hmmm. Come to think of it, the two tips above are good for hobbyist photographers, as well!



### **Photography and Videography on the Road**

Begin by reading **Reid Bramblett**'s excellent photography equipment packing and travel tips. As usual, he provides savvy insight, along with his trademark sense of humor: "*It's called a postcard!*"

*A Great Picture is worth a Thousand Travel Miles*

[http://www.reidsguides.com/t\\_ss/t\\_ss\\_photo.html](http://www.reidsguides.com/t_ss/t_ss_photo.html)

*Releasing Your Inner Scorsese*

**Travel videos: How to Make 'Em, and the Best of YouTube**

[http://www.reidsguides.com/t\\_ss/t\\_ss\\_videos.html](http://www.reidsguides.com/t_ss/t_ss_videos.html)

Two other particularly helpful Internet resources for photography packing tips are the **About.com** articles written by **Kyle Schurman**.

*Ten Travel Photography Tips*

**Protect Your Digital Camera with These Travel Photography Tips**

[http://cameras.about.com/od/photographytips/a/photography\\_traveling\\_tips.htm](http://cameras.about.com/od/photographytips/a/photography_traveling_tips.htm)

*Pack a Camera*

**When Traveling, It's Important to Pack Photography Equipment Safely**

[http://cameras.about.com/od/Traveling\\_with\\_a\\_camera/a/pack-a-camera.htm](http://cameras.about.com/od/Traveling_with_a_camera/a/pack-a-camera.htm)

One of our favorite Kyle Schurman tips:

"It's not a bad idea to travel with the battery and memory card removed from the camera. If the battery is removed, you won't have the worry of the camera inadvertently powering on while you travel, draining the battery before you arrive. However, keep the battery handy, as you may be asked by airport screening personnel to prove that the camera is a working piece of equipment."

On the next four pages, we provide other photography packing tips snagged from the articles above—practices we thought were particularly important—and some generic photo-snapping tips that A Novel Holiday contributors have learned over the years.

## What Kind of Camera Should I Bring?

### Do Not Rely on Your Phone's Camera

These days, almost everyone has a cell phone (mobile) with a built-in camera. Some of them—especially the smartphones—take excellent photos. While many may think that phone-photos are sufficient for holiday photography, we disagree. After all the time and money spent planning it, your Twication deserves the best possible photo record.



### At the Very Least, Bring a Small, Point-and-Shoot Digital Camera

A Novel Holiday author CD Miller uses a relatively inexpensive *Canon* point-and-shoot camera (above) when reconning Twilight sites. While not the most accomplished photographer, most of her photos turn out quite well—you'll see them in all *Tour the Twilight Saga* travel guidebooks.

Whatever model you use, spend some time becoming familiar with the camera's photo and video functions before embarking on your holiday. Most importantly, ensure that the camera is programmed with a **high resolution setting**—at least **three megapixels**.

[http://cameras.about.com/od/commoncameraquestions/a/image\\_quality\\_settings.htm](http://cameras.about.com/od/commoncameraquestions/a/image_quality_settings.htm)

Upon returning home, you can always down-size a pic's resolution for online posting. If you didn't use a high resolution setting when snapping the original pix, however, no photo-editing software will improve a low-res photo's clarity.

### Consider Buying a Spare, Super-Cheap, Digital Camera

Once upon a time (in the Gringotts Bank chapter of *Harry Potter Places* Book One), we recommended bringing a **disposable camera** on holiday. When you need to ask a stranger to take a photo for you, giving her or him a disposable camera minimizes the risk that she/he will abscond with your camera. Since then, we've decided that **Reid Bramblett's** idea is better:

"Invest in ... a low-end pocket camera; **don't bother with a disposable camera**, which take, at best, passable pictures and even then only under full, bright sunlight."

You can actually Google "digital cameras under \$20" to find a number of leads. Or, go to Amazon.com and search for "cheap digital camera."

If Twilighting with two or more people, you'll only need **one** super cheap, spare digital camera to give a stranger for group-pic-snapping, and the cost can be shared between you.

One kind of disposable camera that continues to deserve consideration, however, is a disposable **panoramic camera**—one with a very wide-angle lens that takes 180-degree shots. Especially when

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visiting places with amazing vistas, such as **First Beach** (TTTS Book One) or **Sasamat Lake** (TTTS Book Two), panoramic pix are a gorgeous addition to your holiday photo collection.

### **A Novel Holiday DC Carson's Tips:**

"Here's where your cell phone camera *might* come in handy. Many of the upper end smartphones have cameras with panoramic features.

Twilighters traveling without smartphones or a disposable panoramic camera, however, can create panoramas by taking several photos across a wide vista and using a photo editing program to stitch the images together."

## **Pack Plenty of Power and Memory**

When purchased at a local convenience store while Twilighting abroad, common camera accessories—such as batteries and memory chips—will cost far more than what you'd pay at a large discount store, and may be of questionable quality. Since these items take up very little carryon room, buy plenty of them at home and bring them with you.

Twilighters from countries other than the US or Canada, however, should explore the price of camera accessories purchased at a US or Canadian discount store prior to buying extras at home—they may be cheaper here. UK Twilighters, for instance, can save a few pounds by buying batteries in the US, while the cost of camera memory cards is about the same.

- **ASDA UK Prices in March of 2014:**

Duracell Plus Power AA Batteries, 20 Pack: £8 (\$13)

Samsung Standard 8GB camera memory card: £5.00 (\$8)

- **Walmart US Prices in March of 2014:**

Duracell Coppertop AA Batteries, 24 Count: \$10 (£6)

SanDisk 8GB camera memory card: \$8 (£5)

Web addresses for US and Canadian discount stores are provided in our

**Supplies to Purchase After Arrival** Twi Travel Tips PDF:

<http://www.TourTheTwilightSaga.com/TipsB2/B2ShoppingList.pdf>

## **Rechargeable vs Disposable Batteries**

Yes, it is ecologically evil to use disposable batteries. But, using rechargeable batteries while on holiday requires you to pack a battery charger—for each kind of battery. If Twilighting from a country other than the US or Canada, you also may need to purchase and pack an *extra electrical socket adapter* so you can recharge these batteries, along with your cell phone and laptop, each evening.

Instead, we suggest packing disposable batteries for all battery-operated devices you'll be traveling with.

- **Buy a bunch of whatever disposable batteries your devices require.**
- **Buy some tiny, plastic zip-lock bags.**

Available at any craft or hobby store for less than \$5 (£3) per package of 100 bags, the 2"x3" size is perfect for two AA batteries, four AAA batteries, one 9 volt battery, or one small-device-specific extra battery.

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- Put all your tiny bags of batteries into one Quart-sized zip-lock bag and pack it in your carry-on bag.  
<http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/safe-travel-batteries-and-devices>  
<http://www.catsa.gc.ca/guidelines-batteries>
- Before setting out each morning, be sure to have at least one set of spare camera batteries in your touring bag so they'll be handy when you need them.

### Camera Memory Cards

Purchase and pack *several* of them. That way, you can have at least one extra card in your touring bag (tucked into a tiny zip-lock bag!), in case the card you are using becomes full or damaged.

If you cannot upload photos from your camera's memory card to a laptop or the Internet each evening, you may need several memory cards to preserve the pix you take while Twilighting.

According to **Reid Bramblett**:

"I suggest bringing a bare **minimum of 1 gig (gigabyte) of memory for every two days of your trip**. Myself, I routinely shoot about a gig a day—more if a festival breaks out—so I travel with enough [memory cards] to total about **2 gigs per day to be safe**."

[http://www.reidsguides.com/t\\_ss/t\\_ss\\_photo.html](http://www.reidsguides.com/t_ss/t_ss_photo.html)

One of our favorite A Novel Holiday contributors, **Janet Duggan**, likes to ensure preservation of her vacation pix by saving *all* her memory cards:

"I *never* download and erase a camera memory card. When one card comes close to being full, I simply take it out and plop in a new one. They're so cheap these days, it's really not that expensive to use camera memory cards for archiving holiday photos."

### The Rule of Three

Whenever snapping a pic of something particularly Twilicious, take at least **three shots**. That way, you'll be sure to get at least **one** good photo. Similarly, when passing a camera to someone else so they can snap pix for you, ask her/him to take at least three shots. Thanks to digital photography, this practice is no longer expensive.

### Avoid Taking Pix of People You Don't Know

Some people are offended by strangers taking photos while they're within camera range. Their concerns may be cultural or personal.

- Do your best to avoid snapping shots that include the faces of people you don't know—especially *children*.

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- If an unknown individual's face appears in your photos, use your photo editing program to *blur* the facial features before sharing a pic with friends, especially when posting pix on the Internet.
- If you happen upon a **Twilight Saga character look-alike**, however, **ask permission** to snap her or his photo. Who knows? The look-alike may enjoy the attention and even be willing to pose with you.

### Rotate Photographers When Snapping Group Photos

When touring with other Twilighters, each should become familiar with the cameras carried by others, so that **all cameras** can be operated by each person in the group. If everyone takes a turn being the photographer, each Twilighter will be featured in group pix on their own camera.

Additionally, it will rarely take more than **two photo sessions** at each site to capture group pix that include everyone but the photographer.

- Send your companions ahead to pose while you snap group shots with everyone's cameras.
- Then switch with one of the others, so that you can pose with the group while that Twilighter snaps shots with everyone's cameras.
- For large groups, designate 2 cameras as group cameras, with the understanding that the photos will be posted on Dropbox or some other file sharing app when the group returns home.

### Don't Forget the Rule of Three

While it may make each group photo session slightly longer, taking three shots with each person's camera *guarantees* that you'll get plenty of great Twilight Saga group pix.