

Tips for Street Photography **Author S.M.Kitchener 2012**

So, you want to take to the streets and do some photography, well here are a few tips and things to think about when you are out and about taking those off the cuff images.

Planning.

You need to plan where you go and what you are going to take, I would suggest that planning where and when is the most important part of this type of photography. If, for example, you know that there is going to be a parade or a demonstration or some dynamic action, you will have more success in getting something that is worth pursuing than a street that is virtually empty or contains more or less what we would have seen every day.

Planning will also inform you where the light will be at what time and to be able to catch those unusual moments. I would use google maps or even google earth to know in which direction the sun is. You can also use a sun-compass, this can help predict where the sun will be at certain times of the day.

Only take what you need.

You need to be able to work quickly, to be able to react to the surroundings. Take a camera DSLR with one lens, Perhaps a smaller one in your pocket, safe from dust in a plastic page. By travelling light, your thoughts will be more on the subject and not about the kit that you have on your back or whatever.

By travelling light, it will also enable you to be in places where you and your bag will not fit, it will also enable you to conceal the camera quickly should you have to, if your actions arouses more than friendly thoughts. This is obviously more easily done when the weather is colder, you I think you know what I mean. You could also have with you a bag or rucksack that isn't specifically a camera bag to help this.

Subject selection will dictate what lens you need to take with you, an zoom perhaps for people, to help distance you from them.

Another option for a camera is a compact camera, this way you defiantly look like a tourist and can probably get away with more than you would with a DSLR.

Use of a wide angle lens is useful as you can be seen to be looking to the side of your subject, but can include what you want to the side.

Go Native.

By this I mean, be as natural as you can, pretend you are a tourist, look to see what other photographers are doing in the area (if there are any). I try not to make eye contact, but if you get caught, smile, its surprising how many times this works to diffuse the situation.

Your clothes should be a neutral as possible, no day glow jackets! And standing out may gain you more attention than you wanted. Ie the police and so on.

Don't take standard shots.

It may be obvious to some, but standing and taking a picture at normal height will often produce a picture that is run of the mill. Change the height at what you take the picture from, look for angles where you can impart a different “angle” on things.

Choose your subjects well.

Shooting what every one else has taken images on, will not grab your viewers attention, you want to present a different set of objects to gain their interest, and gain you points as it were.

What if you cant find people ?

Make patterns out the objects that you find around.

Action and movement.

You might need to make your pictures more dynamic, this can be achieved by correct selection of aperture and shutter speed to enable you to emphasise the parts and objects in your image that you want to.