

Tips for Photography Safety



Compiled by Bob Spalding

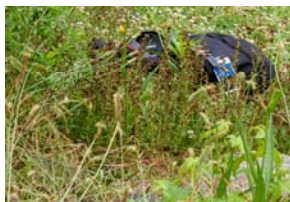
As a photographer, you should never put yourself in a dangerous situation just to get a photograph. Walking out on slippery rocks near the top of a waterfall is not worth the risk. Climbing down a steep hill to get a picture and not being to get back up is not worth the risk. Always put safety ahead of photography. Below are several safety tips to consider.



First do inventory of all your camera gear and decide what you would have to replace if something drastic happen. If you are going on a photography travel trip, take out insurance just in case something happens not only to your person, but also your equipment.



Be aware of your surroundings, especially if you are walking around a city. Be vigilant of what and who is around you. Carry your equipment bag and/or camera around your neck, not over your shoulder. If possible take someone with you or go with a group



Don't leave your equipment unattended. Needless to say leaving anything unattended in the world is a risk. This includes putting your camera bag down in a crowded area when taking a picture.

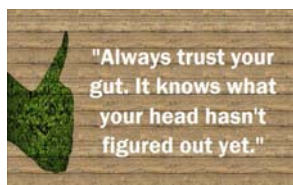
Washington – The Palouse

- Taking a 400mm lens on a 400mm lens is not a good idea.
- Parking in a lot from Friday and driving to Phoenix, AZ.
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Leave an itinerary with someone whether you are on a local trip or traveling to a remote location. The itinerary should include not only the location, but also the time you think you return. If your schedule changes, let the person know who has your schedule.



Other things to consider; wear appropriate clothing, take some water with you, carry a multipurpose tool in your camera bag. Have a plan B. Research the location you will be traveling to. Backup your photos everyday.



Trust Your Gut – things like “gut feeling”, and a “woman’s intuition” do actually exist and more often than not, are spot on. Trust your instincts. At the end of the day, missing photo opportunity is not as critical as being safe. Don't do anything that you are not comfortable doing.