

Through The Lens

*A guide to digital photography for computer enthusiasts.
After the click of your camera, you're only half done!*

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Don't miss the road shots!

by Lynda Buske

It's unfortunate that bus drivers, train conductors and pilots refuse to stop every time I see a photo op! Luckily, there are tricks for taking good photos while stuck inside a moving object.

The best positions in a car, of course, is riding shotgun since shooting from the driver's seat would likely get you a ticket. With a pre-cleaned windshield and a bright day, you should have no trouble getting a fast enough shutter speed to compensate for the moving car. You can also rest your camera (or phone) on the dashboard for greater stability. Don't avoid the actual pavement since it gives you a true sense of the "road ahead".



The trickiest shots are from inside a moving bus where perhaps you only have access to a side window (perhaps tinted). To prevent reflection and glare, you can put your camera/phone right up against the glass since the actual glass lens is recessed.

If your camera has aperture-priority exposure control (usually A or Av on the dial) you can open the aperture wide (small number) and let in as much light as possible. It doesn't matter if the foreground blurs a bit with movement as long as the rest of the image is in focus. Try not to zoom too much as that just means you have to hold the camera even steadier. Crop later either with a photo editing software or right within your phone.



Tour buses have to slow down for villages and that is a golden opportunity to grab a shot with less movement. If you are lucky they will have to come to a full stop due to traffic or lights.

For shots from an airplane, I like to frame it with either a window or a propeller if that's available. Otherwise, shots (even clouds) look very far away and rather flat since you cannot build in foreground, middle ground and background as you could with on-land scene. I was able to take the night shot with my cell phone. Note how I had enough light for a fast shutter speed during the day to freeze the propeller blades. It was not a motor malfunction!

