

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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My top two tips for better travel photos!

by Lynda Buske

It's that time of year when many folk go on road trips or fly to far away places. When travelling, you do not always have the ability to choose the time of day, type of light and weather to shoot your images as you would at home. But with two important tips, you can take good photos in all sorts of weather and time of day.

For me, the most important thing is to have my photos tell a story. This makes it fun to share them with friends/family without the need for captions plus it's a lovely story for you to relive some years down the road.

So, my top two tips are using the rule of thirds and emphasizing foreground to provide context and a fuller story.

Tip 1: Utilize the rule of thirds

I want my images to have a 3-dimensional effect so that you want to walk into them and through the scene. The easiest way to achieve this is with the use of foreground, middle ground and background. This is especially important if you are using a cell phone with a limited ability to zoom. Make use of what is close to you. The rule of thirds splits your image into nine squares and recommends placing objects of interest near one of the intersection points, not the middle. This applies to people too! In Figure 1 & 2, the boathouse and boat are points of interest so placed near an intersection point.

Figure 1

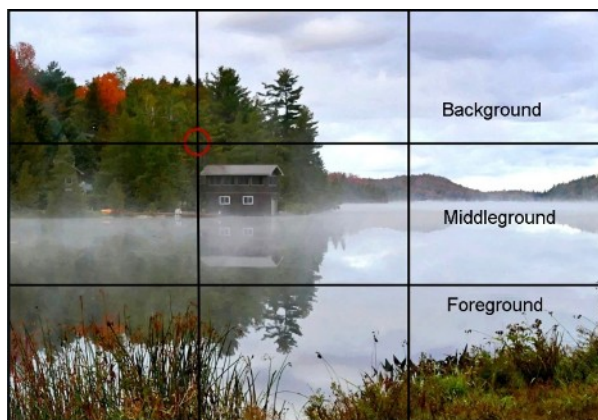
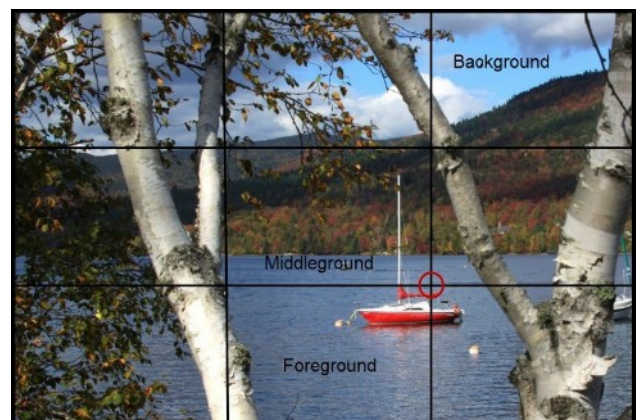


Figure 2



Tip 2: Use foreground to tell the tale

The examples below show images that would require a lot of explaining (or captions) as well as images that tell much more of the story simply with including foreground. These types of images are not typically what you would frame and put on your wall but they are great for travel photography. It is hard for most folk to know what Figure 3 is even if I said my trip was on the Danube River. Figure 4 makes it clearer that it's a lock and includes the excitement of fellow tourists as we went through the biggest lock on the river!

Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5 gives very little information beyond a canal in the distance and an ugly chip shop. Where am I shooting from? Figure 6 on the other hand shows you that I'm on a boat and about 100 feet off the ground. Now you are interested! Figure 7 of the Falkirk Wheel then shows how I got down from my lofty perch!

Figure 5 – no story



Figure 6 – shows context



Figure 7 – Final step



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