

## Why You Should Use an Instax Camera

The camera is more than a tool — it's a *passport* that opens doors to the world. By integrating an Instax camera into my photography process, I've discovered it unlocks possibilities, both **literally and metaphorically**. To me, photography is an invitation, a way to see the world and share that gift with others. And Instax cameras make sharing immediate, tangible, and memorable.

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### Photography as the Excuse to See and Meet the World

*Photography grants permission to engage with life in all its forms.* With an Instax in hand, I'm equipped to meet new people, break the ice, and be present in my surroundings. **Photography is the excuse to step into new places, meet strangers, and observe without pretense.** It allows me to embrace curiosity, sparking interactions that might otherwise be impossible.

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### The Instax Mini Evo: A Compact Powerhouse

The **Instax Mini Evo** is a small but powerful camera. Its compact size and hybrid digital features offer flexibility in how I capture and share moments. Here are some of its standout benefits:

- **Portability** – It's easy to carry in a large pocket or wear around the neck, ready to pull out anytime.
- **LCD screen** – I can compose, adjust settings, and choose whether or not to print each shot.
- **Print options** – The Evo allows me to save images digitally as JPEGs, providing a digital "scan" of each print, and only print the photos I select.

*“At the end of the day, any Instax camera will do, but this one is my current go-to. Its compact size makes it a no-brainer.”*

While I used an Instax Wide before, I found it bulky for daily use. The Evo, on the other hand, fits my workflow seamlessly, giving me the freedom to move without feeling weighed down.

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## **Why Instax?**

Using an Instax camera is *liberating*. It's a way to bring joy into each shot and a chance to connect on a human level. **When I travel**, I carry it everywhere, using it as a social tool. When photographing a scene, I can give prints to people right on the spot. This gesture:

- *Breaks down tension* with new acquaintances.
- *Builds trust*, clarifying my intentions as a photographer.
- Makes the whole interaction feel genuine and memorable.

In any new place, people may feel wary or skeptical about a photographer's intentions. Offering an Instax print is a simple way to bridge that gap, making everyone feel at ease.

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## **Closer to Life with Each Click**

For me, photography is about more than capturing images — it's about *understanding life*. An Instax camera lets me immerse myself in new spaces, engage deeply with the world, and connect with people beyond surface level. Offering someone a portrait in the moment *creates a shared experience*, breaking barriers and opening doors.

*“When you offer to make a portrait and give it on the spot, it opens the door for you to dive deeper into communities.”*

This practice, something I picked up while traveling, has become a tool that I now recommend to anyone, even in their hometown. Whether I’m exploring far-off places or my own city, the Instax helps me *connect more genuinely* and document stories with honesty.

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### **The Camera is a Key**

I see the camera as a **key** to experiences that lie beyond everyday reach. When I traveled to Shu’Fat refugee camp in East Jerusalem, for example, my Instax camera was essential. By sharing prints with people I met, I was welcomed with open arms and invited to share tea. *Staying open, genuine, and playful with strangers opens doors to moments most photographers only dream of.*

Once I gain that trust, I’m free to use my primary camera setup and focus on the work itself. But the Instax often breaks the ice, paving the way for these experiences.

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### **Photography Isn’t That Serious**

One challenge photographers face is taking their work *too seriously*. My advice: **Be playful on the street** and stay open. If something about a scene or person pulls your attention, go with it. Instax cameras are viewed as fun and lighthearted, making them approachable and unassuming.

*“Don’t take yourself so seriously, and just be like a big kid with a camera.”*

The Instax camera has become a fundamental part of my process, time and time again proving its worth in my work. It's both a passport and a key, helping me connect to the world and reminding me of the joy in photography. *Keep it fun, stay curious, and enjoy the journey.*