

## Why Travel Matters for Street Photography: My Essential Advice from a Life on the Road

What's poppin', people? It's Dante.

Right now I'm sitting in the airport waiting to fly to Tokyo, and I figured this is the perfect moment to talk about something that has shaped my entire life as a photographer: **travel**.

I've photographed all over the world — Israel and Palestine, Mumbai, Mexico City, Hanoi, Rome — and even lived off the grid in a Zambian village during my Peace Corps days. I've slept on the floors of mosques in Jericho, volunteered on a kibbutz, prayed in churches across continents, documented baptisms in lakes, and wandered streets from dawn until midnight.

All of that has given me a philosophy of travel that is *simple, minimalist*, and grounded in *presence*. Today I want to share that philosophy with you — not as a list of “travel hacks,” but as a lived way of being, a way of seeing.

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### Keep It Simple: One Backpack, One Camera, One Lens

I'm traveling right now with a single Peak Design 45L backpack and my Ricoh GR. That's it.

No overthinking. No gear lists. No “what if” lenses.

***Travel is about eliminating friction.***

***The simpler your setup, the more awake you are to life.***

Decision fatigue kills your flow. The fewer choices you have to make, the better you see.

Pack one camera. One lens. One outfit system. Minimal clothing. Packing cubes.  
Done.

Slip the Ricoh in your pocket and walk.

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### **You Don't Need to Travel Far**

One of the best photos I made recently was on Coney Island — I literally just got on a train.

Travel is not about exotic destinations.

Travel is about **novelty, chaos, and the unknown**.  
It's about entering a space where your senses turn back on.

You can find that by taking a bus to a different neighborhood.

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### **The Ideal Length: One Month**

I'm going to Tokyo for two weeks — a fast sprint — but the sweet spot is a month.

A month lets you *immerse* yourself.  
A month lets you *become* part of the place.

Mumbai was like that for me.  
One of the best cities in the world for street photography — friendly people, endless markets, chaos, color, movement. A full sensory overload. I've never had a higher keeper-to-miss ratio anywhere.

If you're looking for one city to push you to your limits, Mumbai is the place.

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## Travel Breaks Patterns and Forces Evolution

When you shoot in the same place for too long, routine takes over. You stop seeing.

Throwing yourself into a new environment shocks your senses awake.

Travel forces you to shoot differently.

Walk differently.

See differently.

When I travel, my goal is simple:

***Shoot sunrise to sunset –  
push myself into flow, speed, intensity, presence.***

But the pictures are not the point.

The *experience* is.

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## Don't Plan Anything – Wander

I don't research "best places to shoot in Tokyo."

I don't look up street photography guides.

I don't have a checklist.

The only thing I plan is the hotel – and even that is just picking a spot on the map that feels central.

Everything else is wandering.

***Let curiosity guide you.***

***Let the city pull you.***

***Discover the place like a child exploring a new world.***

That's the joy of travel.

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## **Stay Put and Walk Everywhere**

My preferred method of travel is simple:

**Stay in one neighborhood the entire trip.**

Walk everywhere.

In Rome, I stayed in the center and walked the entire city for days. Same plan for Tokyo — I'll stay in Shinjuku and work outward.

No day trips.

No big agendas.

Just drifting.

Walking is the core of street photography.

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## **Bring Curiosity and Courage**

The two most important things you pack are:

- **Curiosity**
- **Courage**

Courage means:

- Get physically closer.
- Get emotionally closer.
- Talk to people.
- Engage with strangers.
- Break out of your comfort zone.
- Say yes to spontaneous moments.

Travel gives you permission to reinvent yourself.

Lean into that.

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## **Work the Scene – Be Patient**

When something is unfolding, **don't rush.**

Don't snap one frame and walk away.

***Don't leave the scene until the scene leaves you.***

Work it.

Sculpt it.

Refine it.

Stay present.

Many of my strongest photographs came from patience – from exhausting every possible angle.

If you're in a place you may never return to, why rush?

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## **Follow Light, Rhythm, and Energy**

When I travel, my practice becomes meditative.

I wake up early.

I follow the light.

I follow movement.

I follow the rhythm of the street.

Not the “top 10 places to shoot.”

Not the hotspots someone else discovered.

Life itself becomes your guide.

Some of my most unexpected photographs came from exploring outskirts, alleys, mountains, and places I had zero expectations of.

Intuition is a compass.

Follow it.

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## **Travel as Spiritual Practice**

Travel takes you out of your language, out of your routine, out of your identity.

In that raw space, you become awake again.

You become alive.

I’ve prayed in mosques in Jericho.

Sat in quiet churches in Europe.

Witnessed baptisms in Zambia.

Walked lakesides in Hanoi.  
Prayed in deserts and mountains and villages.

Those moments stay with you forever.

***Photography becomes gratitude.***  
***Every shutter click becomes a prayer.***  
***A “yes” to life.***

Detach from outcomes.  
Detach from “good” or “bad” photos.  
Let the trip change you.

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## **Embrace the Unknown**

Travel expands who you are, not just your portfolio.

It opens you to new culture, new people, new ways of seeing.  
It shakes you awake from your patterns.

There is more in this world than anyone could experience in 120 years of life.

That’s beautiful.

That’s energizing.

That’s why you travel.

Because the world is infinite.  
And curiosity is your guide.

## Final Thoughts

I don't know if this travel advice helps or not — I just felt like sharing these ideas while I'm sitting here waiting for my flight.

But if there's one message I believe in, it's this:

***Treat life like an adventure.***

***Use your camera as an excuse to explore the unknown.***

***Let curiosity lead you to places you never expected.***

I'll see you in the next one.

Peace.