

iPHOTOGRAPHY+ Kitbag checklist

Struggling to know what to carry in your bag? Let us help you with this essential photography packing list.

Camera

Check every time you use your camera that your sensor is clean, and lenses are free from dust. Never leave a memory card in your camera after shooting. It is more likely to get damaged/ corrupted in camera. Take it out and store it safely.



Lenses

Keep front and rear lens caps on at all times when you're not using them. Invest in a UV filter for all your lenses just as basic protection from damage.

Kit Tip – If you hear a grinding noise when you autofocus, get it checked out.

Kit Tip – If you are heading out into cold weather, don't keep your camera under your coat. Lenses will mist up and rapid changes in temperature can damage electronics. Keep it on the outside.

Battery

Never leave your battery in your camera after shooting. Get in the habit of re-charging it as soon as you get home.

Never just take 1 battery with you. Always carry a spare.

Batteries lose up to 50% of their power in cold weather.

Kit Tip - Replace your camera battery every 2-3 years depending upon use.



Use a tripod with a built-in spirit level if your camera doesn't have a built-in horizon feature.

Kit Tip – Get a tripod that matches your height, so you don't have to bend down to the camera straining your back.

Tripod

Flash

Invest in a flash diffuser to soften the light or use a bounce card when shooting indoors.

Always put in/ carry a set of fresh batteries when using flash. They are notorious power sappers!

Kit Tip – Try cleaning the connectors on the hot shoe and flash if the unit is acting faulty.



Filter

Polarising filters help darken skies and suppress glare/ reflections. [Read more...](#)

There are dedicated filters to aid shooting in black & white. Check your lenses thread size before you buy.

Kit Tip – A thread size is the diameter of the lens. It may be marked on the front of your lens and expressed in 'mm'.

Don't confuse this with focal length. Not all lenses will accept filters being attached.



Lens Cloth

A small and cheap addition to your kit bag, lens cloths are handy wipes to free your lenses and screens from dust and smears. Look for microfibre based cloths.

Remove blemishes gently in a circular motion.

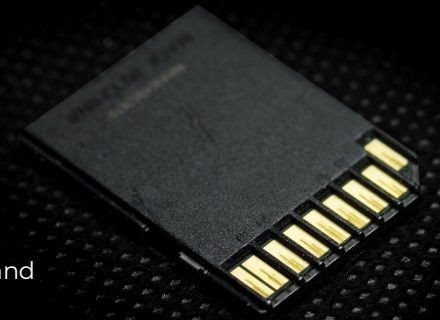
Kit Tip – Remember to clean lenses, screens and filters with a cloth before every use.

Never clean your camera sensor with a lens cloth. Sensors require specific cleaning equipment.

Memory Cards

Instead of purchasing on large i.e. 64gb memory card. Buy 4 x 16gb cards instead. There is a bigger risk if one card fails. Change cards regularly when shooting and never leave one in the camera when you've finished.

Kit Tip – All SD cards have speed ratings assigned to them known as classes. Class 10 cards are currently the highest rated. Higher rated cards will write (camera to card) and read (card to computer) faster. Ideal for sports or wedding photographers.



Reflector

Reflectors can be gold, white, silver or black. Gold ones make shots warmer. Silver ones make shots cooler. White ones brighten and black are used to stop light bouncing off a surface onto a subject. Commonly called a 'kill' – because it kills the light.

Kit Tip – You can purchase travel size reflectors which fold up. Handy for portraits or adding a light to a small area. You can make your own with a roll of tin foil.

Flip Cards

Every kit bag needs our 24 rugged and waterproof photo field guides. Packed with handy photography hints from camera settings, dial functions, exposure triangle, composition tips and so much more!

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