



# UK Photography Tips & Issues

An Outlandish Extra PDF

[OutlandishScotland.com](http://OutlandishScotland.com)

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

# Outlandish Scotland Journey

## UK Photography Tips & Issues

### **Rick Steves' Travel Photography Tips**

At one time, Steves provided terrific travel tips related to photography equipment, as well as techniques for snapping the most interesting pix. Unfortunately, the link that once led to his Travel Photography tips no longer works, and a similar page on his website doesn't exist.

Happily, we captured the information once posted on Steves' website in January of 2012. When discovering that it was no longer available (in 2016), we created a **Rick Steves' Lost Travel Photography Tips** PDF, and posted it on our website.

<http://OutlandishScotland.com/StevesLostPhotographyTips.pdf>

### **A Great Picture is Worth a Thousand Travel Miles, By Reid Bramblett**

[http://www.reidsguides.com/t\\_ss/t\\_ss\\_photo.html](http://www.reidsguides.com/t_ss/t_ss_photo.html)

Bramblett still provides insightful photography equipment and technique tips, along with his trademark sense of humor: *"It's called a postcard!"*

### **For Bramblett's Excellent Video Tips, go to:**

[http://www.reidsguides.com/t\\_ss/t\\_ss\\_videos.html](http://www.reidsguides.com/t_ss/t_ss_videos.html)

## Extra Tips for Outlanderites

What follows is our collection of UK Photography Tips and Suggestions. Some are derived from the sources above, some were generated by the experiences of A Novel Holiday writers and contributors.

### **What Kind of Camera Should I Carry?**

That question's answer will significantly vary depending on how camera-savvy you are. Both Bramblett and Steves provide great suggestions. Here are our thoughts.

These days, smart phones take pretty phenomenal photos. Many folks, however, find transferring pix from their phone to a computer somewhat daunting. Even though we know how to transfer pix from phone to laptop/desktop, we prefer using an actual camera to snap vacation pix.

Travelers who aren't particularly camera-savvy will have terrific success with a **small digital camera**—with at least **ten megapixel capacity**. Be sure that it's programmed at a reasonably high resolution setting, and that you're completely familiar with using it before leaving on holiday.

### **About Disposable Cameras**

In the **Site #5, Gringotts Bank** chapter of *Harry Potter Places* Book One we suggested:

"Whenever you need to ask a stranger to take a photo for you from a distance, giving her or him a disposable camera minimizes the risk that she/he will abscond with your camera. Remember to ask the photographer to take at least three shots, so that you'll be sure to get at least one good shot."

**Since then, we've decided that Reid Bramblett's idea is better:**

"Invest in at least [one] low-end pocket camera; **don't bother with disposable cameras**, which take, at best, passable pictures and even then only under full, bright sunlight. The only useful disposable cameras are, if you think you'll need one, the ones that work underwater."

[http://www.reidsguides.com/t\\_ss/t\\_ss\\_photo.html](http://www.reidsguides.com/t_ss/t_ss_photo.html)

When traveling with a party of Outlanderites, you'll only need **one** camera to pass to a stranger for obtaining group photos. Thus, the cost of a cheap pocket camera can be shared between you.

One kind of disposable camera that still deserves consideration is a **digital panoramic camera**—one with a very wide-angle lens that takes 180-degree shots. Especially when visiting places with amazing vistas like the highlands of Scotland (several *Outlandish Scotland Journey* sites), panoramic pix can be gorgeous.

**DC Carson tip:**

"Travelers who don't pack a panoramic camera can use panoramic features in their photo editing programs to *create* panoramas after returning home—but, only if you remember to take photos across a wide vista that can be stitched together."

## Pack Plenty of Power and Memory

It is far cheaper to buy camera accessories in the US or Canada, especially items like batteries and memory chips. If something untoward happens and you need to purchase camera (or computer) supplies while in the UK, go to a department store—such as **TESCO** or **ASDA** (the UK's equivalent of Walmart)—or a camera shop. Supplies sold at souvenir stands may be of questionable quality and will likely cost far more than they're worth.

## Disposable Camera Batteries

**Yes, it is ecologically evil to use disposable batteries.** But, to use rechargeable batteries during your holiday your battery charger must have an input voltage range that includes 220 volts, and you may need an extra UK electrical socket adapter for it. We travel with two UK adapters: one for charging the phone, one for charging the laptop—both of which are in use every night. Vow to redouble your recycling habits when you return home, then pack disposable camera batteries for your vacation.

**Double-A batteries can cost as much as 90 US cents each in the UK**, even when purchased in a multi-pack at an ASDA store. In the US, AA batteries cost approximately 30 cents each when purchased in a 34-battery multi-pack. So, buy a bunch of whatever batteries your camera uses and bring them with you. (Ditto for your other battery-powered devices.) The negligible amount of weight the extra batteries add to your luggage will diminish as time goes by.

According to Transportation Security Administration (TSA) rules, **you may travel with dry batteries (AA, AAA, C, and D) in your carryon or checked baggage.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), however, **prohibits loose lithium batteries from being transported in checked baggage.**

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Basically, it is best to pack all batteries—and all battery-powered devices—in your carryon so that you and the flight crew can have quick access to them if they cause a fire.



**For safety and convenience, buy some tiny zip-lock bags**—available at any craft or hobby store for around \$5 per package of 100 bags. As seen above, the 2"x3" zip-lock bags are perfect for two AA batteries; three AAA batteries; or one small, lithium ion camera battery.

Furthermore, the practice of zip-bagging backup batteries also meets the FAA's safety suggestion for flying with batteries:

“Battery terminals (usually the ends) must be protected from short circuit (i.e., the terminals must not come in contact with other metal). Methods include: leaving the batteries in their retail packaging, covering battery terminals with tape, using a battery case, using a battery sleeve in a camera bag, or putting them snugly in a plastic bag or protective pouch.

[https://www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/hazmat\\_safety/more\\_info/?hazmat=7](https://www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/hazmat_safety/more_info/?hazmat=7)

**Please Note:** The rest of our battery tips are based on your camera and other battery-powered devices using two AA batteries. If you need different batteries, adjust our tips to meet your spare battery needs.

**Open the multi-pack you bought and load several tiny zip-lock bags with two AA batteries.**

Put all your tiny-bagged sets of spare batteries into one Quart-sized zip-lock bag and pack it in your carryon. After arriving in the UK, the Quart-sized bag o' spare battery sets can be left in your lodgings, or the boot of your rental car.

**Always carry at least one bag of backup batteries for each device you use while Outlandering.**

When your device signals a “low battery” notice, properly dispose of the old batteries in a rubbish bin and install your backup set. Put the empty backup battery zip-lock bag in your pocket or purse to remind you to restock your travel bag with a new set of backups at the end of the day.

**Humorous Extra Tip:**

If you travel with an electronic or battery-powered toothbrush, be sure to *disassemble it* and stow the parts in a Quart-sized zip-lock bag before tucking it in your carryon.

CD Miller once accidentally activated her (fully assembled) electric toothbrush when shoving her carryon bag under the seat in front of her. The sound was incredibly loud and significantly embarrassing. It was so embarrassing that she felt compelled to stand up—holding the offending

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device aloft—announcing, “*It’s a TOOTHBRUSH!*,” lest some might think it was *another* form of battery-operated device.

### Memory Cards

If you’ll be traveling with a laptop, you’ll need only 1 or 2 high-capacity camera memory cards, because you can empty them by transferring each day’s pix to your laptop every night.

If you cannot transfer photos from your camera memory cards to a laptop each evening, it’s a good idea to purchase and pack *several* camera memory cards—at least one for each day of your trip. Fortunately, high-capacity memory cards have become relatively inexpensive. Protect your camera cards by purchasing a small memory card wallet, or pack each card in a tiny zip-lock bag.

Backing up transferred photos from your laptop to an Internet storage site each evening is also a great idea. There are WiFi-enabled memory cards that make the job easy. Backing up photos from your **phone** to an Internet storage site, however, can quickly chew up your data allotment.

If you’ll be traveling with a laptop but cannot backup your photos to an Internet storage site, consider packing some blank CDs. After emptying your camera cards onto your laptop, save each day’s photos to a CD. A few CDs (one for each day of your trip), packed in paper sleeves or a small CD wallet, don’t weigh much and take up very little room in your luggage. Best of all, there’s peace of mind knowing that your vacation photos are protected from digital mischief—like accidental memory card or computer erasure due to strong magnetic signals.

### Additional Important Photography Tips

#### Photography in UK Railway and Underground Stations

In recent years, the UK’s National Rail and London Underground authorities have relaxed their ban on photography within railway and underground stations. **The *!!!Flash OFF!!!* rule, however, remains in effect.**

“Flash photography on platforms is not allowed as it may distract the attention of train drivers and train dispatch staff and is therefore a potential safety hazard. You are also not allowed to take photographs of security related equipment such as CCTV cameras.”

[http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations\\_destinations/51952.aspx](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations_destinations/51952.aspx)

Even with your flash off, if station personnel feel that you’re obstructing the flow of passenger traffic, you may be asked to stop snapping. Be as polite as possible and move along without argument. You can return and resume snapping when traffic is lighter.

#### Avoid Taking Pix of Native Scots

Some people are offended by strangers taking photos while they’re in camera range. Their concerns may be cultural or personal. Do your best to avoid shots that include the faces of people you don’t know—especially children. If a stranger’s face appears in your photos, blur their facial features before sharing your pix with friends, especially if you’ll be posting them on any form of Internet social media.

If you happen upon an Outlander-character look-alike, **ask permission** before snapping her/his photo. Who knows? The look-alike may enjoy the attention and even be willing to pose with you.

### **The Rule of Three**

The likelihood of getting at least **one great shot** is vastly improved if you make it a habit to take at least **three shots** of every site or subject you wish to capture. Thanks to digital photography, this practice is no longer expensive! While it may make each group photo session slightly longer, two people taking three shots with each person's camera *guarantees* that your entire party will get plenty of great Outlandish pix.

### **Rotate Photographers**

Become familiar with the cameras carried by your companions so that each person can operate **all cameras**. If everyone in your party takes a turn being the photographer, each person will be featured in pix on their own camera. Additionally, it will rarely take more than **two** posing sessions at each site to capture screenshot reproduction pix or group photos that include **everyone**.

Send your companions ahead to pose while you snap 3 group shots each with everyone's camera. Then switch with one other person, so that you can pose while another Outlanderite snaps 3 group shots each with everyone's cameras.

If you have another group of Outlanderites to cooperate with, you'll only need ONE posing session to capture 3 group shots with each person's camera!

### **Participate with Other Outlanderites**

When traveling to Outlandish sites in Scotland you'll likely encounter *other* Outlanderites. It's easy to recognize other Outlanderites because they'll be taking the same kinds of photos that you are, in the same places.

Outlander fans from all over the world tend to be friendly people! Don't be squeamish about approaching other Outlanderites and inviting them to join you so that all can accomplish the best possible group pix. Consider carrying cards containing your name and Email address so that you can exchange contact info with other Outlanderites and eventually share photos.