

**Lenses - What Should You Take?**

To create travel photos with a difference, ensure you have an ultra wide-angle and a long telephoto. You can get both with just two lenses from Tamron - its AF 19-35mm f3.5-4.5 (this page) and AF 28-300mm f3.5-6.3 Aspherical XR LD [IF] (on the opposite page).



19mm



28mm



24mm



35mm

only use two or three of them. In one camera case is my medium format outfit, in the other my 35mm outfit. When travelling in Europe, I generally have a hire car, so I can leave equipment at a hotel or chained to the inside of the car (using a Lowepro stainless steel mesh bag with a padlock). Granted there are elements of risk with this approach - but then again, I could leave the cameras at home gathering dust and never use them.

In my 35mm camera bag, I have two camera bodies and a series of lenses. For my Italian trip I took a 14mm, 17-35mm, 24mm shift, 50mm f1, 100-400mm and a 1.4x teleconverter. In addition, I had a carbon fibre tripod (I took the Manfrotto CarbonOne) and a remote control. I didn't bother with flash at all.

Elsewhere in my luggage I had a laptop computer (I normally take a Sony Viao, but its small screen is restrictive for Photoshop and so I invested in a larger, but lightweight Fujitsu LifeBook) and a Wacom tablet.

If driving around looking for photos, I could take the entire outfit, but if I planned to do a walking trip, then I would leave most of my equipment behind and satisfy myself with two, maybe three lenses. Usually these were the 14mm and 100-400mm.

Both camera bags (made by Lowepro) have roller wheels, and the 35mm bag is a combination roller bag and backpack. However, it's really too heavy to use as a casual backpack even without any equipment in it, but it's great to roll this around the streets and airports and throw on your back when the situation demands it. My solution for day trips was to take a third, light-weight backpack.

There are other options to lots of lenses. In addition to the Canon EOS 1Ds I borrowed, Tamron lent me two of its lenses - a 19-35mm



28mm



70mm



35mm



100mm



50mm



135mm

and a 28-300mm. These tiny zooms gave me an incredible range of focal lengths and for the photographer wanting to travel light, they are a great way to go. Add in a lightweight SLR camera (such as the Nikon F60, Minolta Dynax 5 or Canon EOS 300V) and you have a really versatile outfit that will cover most situations.

So why didn't I just take Tamron lenses? Good question (my back is still asking it) and on many days I did just work with these two lenses. However, a 14mm is ultra-wide, the 24mm shift gave me perspective control for architecture, the 50mm is an f1 for really shallow depth-of-field, and the 100-400mm with the converter gave me a 560mm super-telephoto. The Tamron lenses aren't as fast as the other lenses (meaning they have smaller maximum apertures) and the 28-300mm doesn't have image stabilisation/vibration reduction which I find really useful. So, I rationalised taking the professional outfit! However, if space and weight was a problem or I was backpacking, these two lenses would be my first choice - their quality is excellent, even more so when you consider the price.

So what should you take? As wide a range of focal lengths as you can - and plenty of film or digital storage. ■



200mm



300mm

# Travel Bag

## WHAT TO TAKE WITH YOU

If you don't take it, you'll want it, but when you lift a fully laden camera bag, reality sets in. You can't take it all!

By Peter Eastway.

Travel photography covers a wide range of subjects, from intimate portraits to majestic landscapes, carefully composed architectural studies to off-the-hip photojournalism. To shoot it all, you need a pretty comprehensive camera outfit.

Some throw their hands in the air and just take a simple compact camera, relying on their eyes and self-discipline to capture interesting images. Others take several trunks full of equipment and spend more time carrying their gear than taking photos. The option I choose is to take one or two full camera bags and a small day pack. This means I have everything I need (well, almost), but can leave some of it behind in a hotel or apartment. Unfortunately, this latter approach may not be suitable if you're on a bus tour or don't have a 'base' to work from.

I believe a good range of lenses is the trick to exciting travel photography, so I take quite a few different lenses, although on any one day I might