

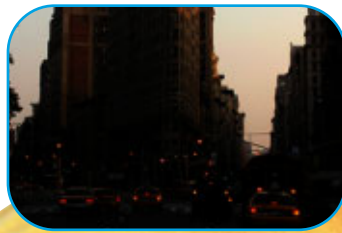
top tips



for your precious moments



Blurred image



Dark subject

Cityscapes

When visiting a new town or city there are always lots of exciting things to see and record. With such a wide variety of unfamiliar locations presenting themselves to you, there is a lot to consider when taking photographs. Avoiding these common problems will help to keep hold of the memory once you are safely back home.

o Blurred pictures

When in an urban setting, chances are you will have a lot of hustle and bustle going on around you. Things rarely stand still in the city meaning that when you are taking photos, you must aim to keep the camera as still as you possibly can, otherwise you are going to have too much general movement and unsatisfactory pictures. So, to avoid camera shake, either use a tripod or steady the camera against a sturdy object.

However, on occasion, such is the subject movement within your shot, blurred photographs cannot be avoided by merely keeping the camera still. To avoid hazy images in these situations, try and use faster film or sensitivity. You may also want to set a faster shutter speed to make sure your camera records the subject as quickly as possible, thus limiting the impact of the overall movement within the frame.



Tip: To avoid blurred images in the fast paced surroundings of the city, make sure that you keep the camera as steady as possible by using solid objects to support it. The impact of subject movement can also be minimised by using faster film and sensitivity and by increasing the shutter speed.

o Dark subjects

There is always lots going on outdoors, not least in cities and towns. It's always advisable, therefore, that you have a camera on hand to record the unexpected. However, being outside brings with it issues of lighting and subject range. Often at night the subject you are capturing is out of flash range and will therefore come out darker than it should. To solve this, turn the flash off and steady the camera against a solid object. With the flash being switched off, the camera will naturally adjust to the darker conditions, increasing the exposure and allowing more light in through the lens. With increased exposure, however, comes the imperative need to keep the camera still.

Images with dark subjects may also arise from backlight; that is, a bright source of light emanating from behind a subject. With tall building and landmarks in cities often leading to great contrasts in lighting, take time to observe whether your subject has a natural or unnatural backlight behind them. If they have, you can either turn your camera's backlight setting on, or, if this is not a function available to you, move positions so that you have the backlight behind you.



Tip: To avoid gloomy subjects in town and city shots, consider the position of the sun to avoid backlight silhouettes.



Now we've banished those city problems try these suggestions to turn your holiday snaps into objects of desire.

Suggestion 1: Zoom into the detail as a busy city can produce a busy picture. To keep things simple and to make sure you focus on what's important, zoom into the frame so that you pick out the interesting details that will hold the interest.

Suggestion 2: A matter of perspective. If a camera is pointed upwards from the horizon at a building, vertical lines will appear to converge in the distance. To emphasise this effect, and to give your picture more of a creative edge, get closer to the subject and then tilt the camera further up. Simply stepping back and tilting the camera back towards the horizon can then reduce this effect.

Suggestion 3: Consider the light. As the sun naturally moves across the sky during the day, so too do the shadows that it casts. The shadows and colours produced by the early morning and evening sun give a very different effect to the midday glare. Consider this as it may be worth re-visiting a subject when the light is at its best.