

Photography Tips with Adventure Canada

We recommend familiarizing yourself with your camera and understanding some of the challenges prior to capturing photographs in some of the most remote destinations in the world. We understand that successful photography can be a major component of your trip and we want to make sure you take home memories you can cherish and proudly show your friends and family.

Packing the right equipment

Bring the camera that you are most familiar with, or one you have practiced on and are ready to use out in the field. Whether it's an iPhone, a compact point & shoot or a bulky DSLR—every camera has its strengths. Our trips are packed with adventures in which you will be exploring different areas in different weather conditions, presenting new challenges. You will have the option to embark on hikes, sightseeing tours, museum visits and you can even shoot stunning views (and wildlife!) from the ship. Being proficient with your equipment will allow you more time to enjoy the experience and less time being frustrated trying to understand your camera.

Adventure Canada will have a professional photographer on board every expedition who will host presentations and provide you with tips and tricks. However, familiarizing yourself with your camera's user manual and fundamentals such as terminology and commands will help you gain a better understanding.

What to pack:

1. Camera
2. Lenses
3. Extra Batteries
4. Charger
5. International Adapter
6. Memory Cards (multiple) and Card Holder
7. USB sticks and/or compact external hard drive
8. Small Towel/Microfiber Cloth
9. Camera Bag with Rain Cover
10. Dry Bags
11. Filter

How will I charge my batteries?

You can charge batteries overnight or during downtimes and between landings. The ship uses 220-volt AC current, with recessed outlets of the round, 2-pronged European type. If you bring any electrical devices be sure to bring both an international adaptor and converter. Some new devices have dual voltage (110 or 220), so an adapter is sufficient. However, older ones will not have this option and therefore a converter will be needed. We always recommend bringing spare batteries as they tend to drain faster in the cold. If your camera has a viewfinder, we recommend using the viewfinder instead of your camera's screen to capture photos to prolong battery life.

How do I safely store my images?

You will be taking a lot of photos, they sure add up quick! Refer to your camera's user manual for the maximum memory card size it can handle. It's best to bring multiple smaller cards than fewer, larger-sized cards to reduce the risk of loss or damage. To find out the capacity of your memory card based on your image quality, you can check the chart with approximate numbers below:

MEGAPIXELS								
	36MP	24MP	18MP	16MP	14MP	12MP	10MP	8MP
2GB	90	150	190	250	400	500	580	700
4GB	180	300	380	500	800	1,000	1,160	1,400
8GB	360	600	760	1,000	1,600	2,000	2,320	2,800
16GB	720	1,200	1,520	2,000	3,200	4,000	4,640	5,600
32GB	1,440	2,400	3,040	4,000	6,400	8,000	9,280	11,200
64GB	2,800	4,800	6,080	8,000	12,800	16,000	18,560	22,400
128GB	5,760	9,600	12,160	16,000	25,600	32,000	44,800	70,400

Should I bring a laptop?

We highly recommend backing up your files to avoid accidental loss of your images. You can bring your personal computer if you wish to edit your images while on the trip. If you are not bringing your personal computer, we recommend bringing a compact external hard drive or a very large USB to copy your files to as you go. This way you will have them in multiple places in the event one is misplaced or damaged. If your camera has two memory card slots, we recommend using two cards (one in each slot) and setting one to "Backup".

Additional Tips

1. **Image Size:** Be sure to learn about your camera's image sizes and formats prior to using it on a trip. We recommend shooting in JPG if you do not have software to process RAW files. JPG images are already processed in your camera and are widely recognized in all editing software and social media sites. Shooting in RAW (NEF for Nikon) will require you to install the correct RAW CODEC onto your computer depending on your camera model and RAW files will take up more memory space.
2. **Lenses:** We recommend covering a wide range of focal lengths with as few lenses as possible. Wildlife and landscapes will be your focus. A compact camera with good zoom is ideal for many travellers trying to carry a lightweight camera. If you are looking for a convenient lens for your crop-sensor DSLR, 18-300mm lenses are very versatile and lightweight. For full-frame DSLR cameras, you will need to carry more lenses as the zoom ranges decrease. You may find yourself using a 24-120mm and a separate zoom lens such as an 80-400mm or 200-500mm.
3. **Focusing:** There is nothing more frustrating than missing a photo opportunity because your camera chose to focus on the wrong part of the frame. To avoid this, it is important to learn your camera's focus areas by reading up on the available modes and practicing them ahead of time. Most cameras provide auto-area focus where the camera chooses what it wants based on contrast and colour info it gathers from the environment you are shooting in. However, this is not always ideal for all situations. We recommend also experimenting with all focus modes and finding your comfort zone. What works best for landscapes may not work for wildlife. At home, you can try using your camera on still subjects and on moving subjects, such as a pet.
4. **Filters:** You may want to use a neutral density or polarizing filter to increase detail in landscapes and protect your lens.
5. **Flash:** Learn how to turn off your camera flash. We will not be using flash anywhere near wildlife.
6. **Sounds:** Learn how to turn off any audio/sound effects (beep!) on your camera to minimize disturbance to wildlife.
7. **Tripod:** You can pack a compact tripod or monopod if you are bringing a very large telephoto lens or plan to shoot video but otherwise it is not necessary.

How do I care for my camera in extreme weather?

Much of our shooting will be done from zodiacs in different sea conditions. Make sure your camera strap is tied tightly and correctly as per your camera's user manual to prevent it from falling off. Dry bags are recommended to protect your equipment from splashes in wet weather conditions.

Water, especially salt water is very corrosive to electronics and in many cases results in damage that is uneconomical to repair. We recommend purchasing a dry bag and bringing a water-resistant camera bag (a camera bag with a rain cover) to safely carry your equipment. You may also experience moisture (fog) in your lens when taking your equipment from a heated environment out into the cold too quickly. To prevent this, put your camera equipment in big sealable plastic bags to prevent condensation from building up due to the temperature change. If you have exposed your camera to water, you should first remove the battery, memory card and lens and dry it as much as possible with a soft towel or cloth. A hairdryer is not recommended as it may cause extra damage to plastic or rubber parts or superheat internal components. If you have access to silica gel packets or uncooked rice, you can add them to a sealable plastic bag with your camera to help absorb moisture. Take every measure possible to avoid this scenario as the damage is often irreversible and can worsen over time.