

Hidden Gem Photography Checklist

Research Phase

- Research local seasons and light conditions for photography
- Search using local language keywords for authentic locations
- Connect with regional photography communities online
- Check local tourism offices for under-the-radar photo spots
- Review regional photography guides for insight
- Understand cultural significance and sensitivity of locations

Planning Phase

- Determine optimal timing for golden/blue hour shots
- Plan transportation to remote photography locations
- Create shot list with flexibility built in
- Establish check-in protocol with someone at home
- Research photography permits or permissions needed
- Plan accommodation near prime shooting locations

Gear Preparation

- Camera body and backup (if possible)
- Lens selection appropriate for destination (wide-angle, telephoto, prime)
- Extra batteries and memory cards
- Lightweight, sturdy tripod
- Lens filters (polarizing, ND) appropriate for location
- Weather protection for gear
- Cleaning supplies for lenses and sensors
- Portable power solutions for extended shoots

Cultural & Environmental Respect

- Learn basic phrases to ask permission for photos
- Understand local customs about being photographed
- Prepare to pack out all waste
- Research wildlife guidelines for ethical photography
- Know drone regulations if applicable
- Plan low-impact photography practices

Technical Preparation

- Format memory cards
- Clean sensor and lenses
- Check and update firmware
- Prepare camera presets for different scenarios
- Backup previous work before trip
- Test all equipment before departure

Digital Tools

- Download offline maps to photography locations
- Install photography planning apps (PhotoPills, etc.)
- Save important contact information
- Research local emergency numbers
- Prepare backup storage solutions

