

Preflight Checklist

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Before Heading to the Airport

- Spare camera batteries charged
- Flash batteries charged
- Memory cards emptied and formatted
- Gloves packed in camera bag
- Neck warmer or facemask for cold climates
- Packed camera strap or tether to secure camera
- Polarizing filter
- Sunglasses
- Camera #1
- Camera #2 (optional)
- Medium zoom lens (24-105 or similar)
- Wide zoom (optional)
- Telephoto zoom (optional)
- Fisheye lens for aircraft interiors (optional)
- Speedlight (optional)
- Flight route researched and sun angles considered.

Prior to Flight

- Flight plan discussed with pilot
- Yaw / roll instructions discussed with pilot to ensure a clear view past the wing
- Full battery in camera
- Empty memory card in camera
- Camera secured to photographer
- Additional lenses removed from camera bag and close to hand for quick access in pocket or pouch in your lap
- Polarizing filter installed on lens (If using one. Refer to tutorial)
- Camera set to either manual exposure, or shutter speed priority. 1/1000 selected as shutter speed starting point

- ❑ Camera autofocus mode set to one-shot
- ❑ Camera set to RAW or RAW+JPEG
- ❑ If shooting through a window, window is cleaned.
- ❑ Bright coloured clothing removed or covered to prevent reflections on the windows
- ❑ Image stabilization turned on if present in your lens or camera body
- ❑ Gloves ready in your pocket or on your hands
- ❑ If going "doors off" - facemask/warm hat for cold climates
- ❑ All camera bag pockets are zipped to prevent small items falling out and rolling under seats and aircraft controls
- ❑ Lens hoods removed from lenses and safely stowed in camera bag

During Flight

- ❑ Photos in both portrait and landscape orientation
- ❑ Photos of the pilot/cockpit
- ❑ Photos of other people on your flight
- ❑ Search for interesting patterns on the ground
- ❑ Do not lean on the door or window - isolate yourself from vibrations!
- ❑ Keep an eye on your aperture setting if you are in shutter speed priority. Make sure camera is selecting between f/5 and f/11. Adjust ISO as necessary to achieve this.
- ❑ If using polarizer, don't forget to adjust it as the aircraft's heading changes, and when you switch from portrait to landscape orientation.

After Flight

- ❑ Take photos of airplane/helicopter
- ❑ High five your pilot
- ❑ Tweet me a link to some of your photos so I can see how you got on! @dancarrphoto