

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