

COOL KIDS' PARTIES | FUN POTLUCK SUPPERS | BEST GRANOLA BARS

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Take a bite outta life!

September 2009

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♻️ RECYCLED PAPER

take better vacation photos

Get great shots from start to finish. All you need are **these tricks** and the right camera.

BY DAVID LAHUTA



1 FOOD
Make sure your plate is smudge-free and place it by the window. Food photographs best in soft natural light.

2 FROM THE PLANE
Avoid glare by turning off your flash and pressing your camera flush against the double-paned window.



3 LANDMARK
Keep the monument to the side of the lens, as opposed to the center, for a more artistic, less postcard-like composition.

4 SPORTS GAME
Stick to a sport with which you're familiar. That way, you can anticipate great scenes. For a crisp photo instead of a blurred one, press the "action" button.

5 SELF-PORTRAIT (COUPLE)
Reach out as far as you can so your two faces have a backdrop. Shoot from above to avoid double chins.



6 LANDSCAPE
Keep the sun behind you and aim to shoot during dawn and dusk—the first and last 60 minutes of the day are when the light is at its best.

8 SUNSET
Simply snapping a pic might result in a grainy photo. Let light in by increasing exposure, usually by pushing the shutter button halfway down, then clicking all the way. Never use a flash unless you're shooting someone in the foreground.

7 GROUP SHOT
Be sure that random objects (like tree branches) in the frame don't appear to be growing from your friends' heads. If you're shooting eight or more, stand on a chair.

Best Cameras

When in the market, check the always-current dpreview.com for reviews and a buying guide. Here are our picks:



AMATEUR GO-TO
Canon PowerShot SD880 IS (\$300)

Easily the best in show in this price range, with a 4X zoom lens (your camera can see four times farther than you!), a bright 3-inch screen and optical image stabilization (which blur-proofs your pics). The resulting images (reliably sharp) put other well-priced cameras to shame.



MIDRANGE MAESTRO
Panasonic Lumix DMC-ZS3 (\$400)

A big camera in a tiny package, the Lumix has 12X optical zoom. It also shoots 720-pixel high-definition video, good enough to watch on any HDTV.

PRO-WORTHY
Pentax K2000 Digital SLR (\$499, \$549 with flash)
Single-lens reflex cameras (or SLRs) are faster, have better image quality and accommodate interchangeable lenses. This one has a help button and scene modes that determine the best setting for your subject—not that a pro like you would need it.



WIN IT!

Post your best vacation shots: We'll publish our favorite and send the winner this camera! The 10 most popular pics will receive the digital frame on the next page. Enter (and vote) at rachaelraymag.com/september. No purchase necessary to enter or win contest. Purchase will not improve your chances of winning. Contest is open to legal residents age 18 or older of the U.S., its territories and possessions. Closing date is 11:59 p.m. (EST) on September 29, 2009. To enter and for official rules for this contest, visit rachaelraymag.com/september. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Your Best Vacation Photo Contest sponsored by Every Day with Rachael Ray.

now go ahead and share them!

Some popular **photo-sharing sites** delete your pictures unless you make a purchase. Use one of these instead.

FOR WANNABE PHOTOGRAPHERS

Flickr

With free accounts, drag-and-drop organizing and a bustling online photography community, Flickr makes first-time photo sharing a breeze. Sign up with your existing Yahoo! ID (if you don't have one, it's easy to enroll) and start uploading pictures immediately. You'll have 100MB of uploads each month—more than enough for weekend photographers—and access to user-friendly tools for creating calendars and cards.

FOR TECH GEEKS

Picasa

Picasa is Google's answer to photo sharing. Your free account will hold thousands of photos and offer one-click editing tools like red-eye reduction and image effects designed to turn gray skies blue or color pictures to black-and-white. You can map your photos, too: Tell Picasa where you snapped your pictures and it'll display them on a Google Earth satellite map.

FOR THE COLLEGE SET

Photobucket

Facebook addict? Meet Photobucket. With one click of the mouse, users can post images to popular social networking sites. Just troll for an image you'd like to share—or upload your own. Then click it, and watch as it's instantly posted to a networking site of your choice (Facebook, MySpace, Blogger, you name it). One-gigabyte accounts are free and include video-sharing capabilities.

FOR SEMIPROS

SmugMug

You'll have to pay \$40 for a one-year subscription, but you'll be rewarded with unlimited photo storage, advertising-free pages, full-screen Flash slideshows and personalized galleries created with themed templates (try it free with a 14-day trial). Your subscription includes customer service—a luxury virtually impossible to find on nonpaid services.

the album ace

Create a personalized coffee-table book by visiting mypublisher.com (\$30 to \$90 for a 20-page book, depending on size and binding). The drag-and-drop software makes it easy to grab pics from your computer. From there, you can choose from 10 themed templates—like wedding, travel and baby boy—and conceive each page using dozens of predesigned layouts. Hardcover albums are leather- or linen-bound, filled with pages made of high-quality stock.

A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

Suggestions are from CNET senior editor Joshua Goldman and professional photographers Joshua Cogan, Evan Kafka and Michael Turek.

the greatest gadgets

Use your camera in a WiFi network, and the **EYE-FI EXPLORE VIDEO CARD** (\$100, eyefi.com) transfers photos and videos to your computer and photo-sharing sites. It also tags images with locations, so you know exactly where they were shot.

Don't buy cheap digital picture frames that skimp on resolution. At 800 x 480 pixels, the **KODAK EASYSHARE M820** (\$130, kodak.com) will show off every lovingly combed hair on your pet's head.

GOPRO'S WRIST HERODIGITAL CAMERA (\$140, goprocamera.com) shoots nearly an hour of video and is waterproof when submerged up to 100 feet. Strap it on your wrist before setting out to snorkel, ski, sail—whatever floats your boat.

The portable **JOBY GORILLAPOD** (\$25, joby.com) can wrap around just about anything and keeps your camera as steady as a large tripod. Having one makes shooting anything and everything easier.

WIN IT!
Post vacation pics and rate your faves at rachaelraymag.com/september.

