



*pre-voyage*

# PHOTO TIPS



from Seabourn Quest Photographers  
Pat & Rosemarie Keough



**We look forward to sailing with you aboard Seabourn Quest to Antarctica, where majestic scenery and abundant wildlife provide unparalleled photographic opportunities.**

Throughout the voyage we will be sharing our passion for photography with the goal of helping you improve your own picture taking — no matter your camera or skill level. To assist with your pre-trip preparations specific to photography, we offer the following suggestions and tips. Be proactive! Once Seabourn Quest crosses the Drake Passage to Antarctica, there are no camera shops.

**1 What camera to bring?** Point-and-shoot, mirrorless, digital SLR, iPhone, iPad...all are good tools for different purposes. The best is a camera that you feel you will be able to master. The first question to consider is what you want to accomplish with your photographic efforts. Are you a “happy snapper” whose images are primarily shared via email and Facebook with family and friends? For you, a simple camera might be appropriate. If you are a serious photographer who wishes to come home with high-resolution, quality images, you’ll want a top-end mirrorless interchangeable-lens camera or a DSLR with a variety of lenses (see point #15). Whatever style your camera, be aware that LCD screens are hard to see in the bright-light conditions of Antarctica. You will find that having a viewfinder is a great advantage. A viewfinder becomes an extension of your eye, allowing you to precisely see what is framed in your photo. How about some creative control? We strongly suggest that your camera at least has “P” for “Program Auto” among the settings. For additional creativity look for aperture and speed settings. Whichever camera you bring with you, spend time practicing with it well before coming to Antarctica. The more familiarity, the more success and fun you will have taking your shots.

**2 Bring the manual for your camera!** You may need to look up something we teach you, such as exposure compensation. It’s quite possible that when you ask us questions specific to your camera, we may have to refer to your manual to find the answer. There are hundreds of camera models, and we can’t be up on all of them. So don’t forget the manual!



**3 Believe us, you will be taking more photos than you expect.** Those penguins are just so cute, and the Antarctic scenery is so spectacular. Bring extra memory cards, especially if you will not be downloading onto an iPad, laptop computer or external hard drive. If you are downloading, be certain to bring along the compatible cable and/or card reader.



**4 Bring two rechargeable batteries specific for your camera.** Triple-check that you also bring the matching battery charger! Battery power is consumed much faster in cold temperatures. Prior to going ashore, ensure that both batteries are fully charged; while ashore, keep the extra battery warm inside your parka and available as your back-up.

**5 Always use a wrist or neck strap attached to your camera.** You don’t want to drop your camera into the sea from the Zodiac, or see it shatter on the hard deck of the ship.

**6 For maximum dexterity, we find that fingerless gloves are useful while operating a camera.** A thin glove can be worn beneath to give additional warmth. These gloves do not replace larger, warmer, waterproof gloves for general use.

**7 While Zodiac cruising to and from the ship, there can be spray.** Stow a small camera in your pocket or on a strap around your neck protected inside your parka. If you are carrying a large camera with a variety of lenses, you will find that a dedicated camera bag, either shoulder or backpack style with compartments for accessories, is very useful. If you do use such a camera bag, check if there is a built-in rain-shield that you can draw over the bag when needed. If not, bring along several sturdy plastic bags (even garbage bags will do) in which to place your camera bag and keep your gear dry. Why several bags? Refer to point #11.



**8 If your camera lenses accept filters,** we highly recommend UV or skylight filters to protect each of your lenses from the potential of being scratched as you wipe away the inevitable smudges, dust, salt spray, etc. Far better to damage a replaceable filter than your expensive lens! These two filters do not affect the quality of your images. Aside from the protection factor, their former purpose from the days of film has been rendered obsolete. The sensor in your digital camera is already treated with multi-coatings that filter UV light.



**9 Take the time now to scrutinize your photos for spots.** Often these are caused by dust on the camera sensor. If your camera has a built-in lens and you have spots that concern you, visit your camera shop. This is likely the time to upgrade to the latest model, as the cost of cleaning your camera likely exceeds the price of a new one. If your camera supports interchangeable lenses, then the sensor can be inexpensively inspected and cleaned. If this is unfamiliar to you, ask for assistance at the camera shop rather than experimenting. A damaged sensor is costly to replace. Antarctica may be your “trip of a lifetime” and why risk blemished photos? And while at the camera shop, pick up a few lint-free “magic cloths” for wiping smears and dirt off lenses and filters. For the camera buff, we also recommend a camel-hair brush combined with a blower.

**10 Everyone needs to think about protecting cameras while taking photos ashore.** It’s possible while visiting a penguin rookery that it will be snowing, sleeting or even drizzling. To protect your camera when taking photos in such conditions, use a waterproof shroud available from camera shops. Or bring a Ziploc plastic bag or two. This bag needs to be large enough to put your camera and hand in the open end. Through a lens-sized hole that you cut at the opposite end, you can take your photos, confident that the camera is sheltered from the weather. If there is the ability to attach a hood onto your lens, do so. Hoods help shield the lens element from sun glare and also from snow and rain. If you do get moisture on your lens, wipe it off in a circular motion using an eyeglass/ lens-cleaning cloth. We suggest you have two cloths in your kit, so that as one gets moist, you can switch to the other.

**11 If you have a camera bag that requires you to set it down** to access equipment, consider bringing large, plastic bags. These are useful in the penguin rookeries to place beneath your camera bag to keep gear free of mud or penguin guano. Be attentive that the wind does not blow any bags away! Back on the ship, turn the used plastic bag inside out, seal it and toss it in the trash. You don’t want the smell of a rookery in your suite.

**12 For the serious photographer,** a polarizing filter can be of great benefit to enhance photographs. Just as polarizing sunglasses cut the glare on a sunny day, the polarizer also eliminates unwanted reflection on windows, water, leaves, etc. and improves contrast and color saturation. You likely won’t use the polarizer very often, but when light conditions are appropriate, you will really appreciate this filter.

**13** A tripod can be useful for the serious photographer while ashore. A tripod is not practical for use on board the ship, nor for shooting from the Zodiacs.



**14** A beanbag, while on the ship, will be a useful item for those serious photographers shooting with an SLR, especially those with longer lenses. It eliminates the fatigue associated with holding a hefty camera for extended periods while watching for that perfect composition. Depending on the size of your camera, a 6" to 12" square beanbag placed on the ship's rail also dampens vibration from the engine and provides stability from wind. For economy of weight, we fly with our beanbags empty and purchase popcorn kernels in the port where we embark the ship. Popcorn is superior to beans, as the angular kernels interlock to give solidity.

**15** Choice of lenses is a personal decision based upon how much weight you are willing to carry and how much money you are prepared to spend. With a point-and-shoot or iPad, you don't need to make such decisions, as the lens is built in. For the digital SLR with a full-frame sensor, we suggest a range of lenses from 24mm to 300mm. Should you be wondering about what is in our camera bag, we use a 16-35mm zoom, 24-105mm zoom, 70-200mm zoom and 300mm fixed lens with a "doubler" that transforms the lens to 600mm.



We trust these tips are of some help to you for your planning, and perhaps also serve to heighten your anticipation for what will be a memorable voyage. We look forward to meeting you. Should you wish to learn more about us, browse our website [www.keough-art.com](http://www.keough-art.com).



#### **PAT & ROSEMARIE KEOUGH — PHOTOGRAPHERS AND LECTURERS**

Pat and Rosemarie Keough are recipients of 31 prestigious awards for excellence, including World's Best Nature Photographers, World's Best Photography Book and Outstanding Bookarts Craftsmanship. This artistic couple is renowned for *ANTARCTICA*, an elegant, handcrafted tome described by *The Economist* as an heirloom comparable to a Patek Philippe watch. In addition to eight art books portraying their imagery, Pat and Rosemarie have presented lectures and exhibitions worldwide. Their story and images have been featured in television specials and in such periodicals as *Smithsonian*, *Forbes* and *Time*. They have been honored with Queen Elizabeth

II Diamond Jubilee Medals. Yale University maintains an extensive archive of the Keoughs' lengthy careers in the bookarts and photography. Fellows and medalists of The Explorers Club, Rosemarie and Pat are also Fellows of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society and medalists of Britain's Royal Geographical Society. After three decades photographing together, the Keoughs now enjoy sharing the art of photography with those interested in learning how to improve their picture taking and also with non-photographers curious about how to appreciate and evaluate a good photo.

