

TAKING PICTURES FROM AIRLINERS

AC-29

You can best record and remember your vacation and travel fun with color pictures. If you are traveling by plane, you will have the opportunity to record your trip from an unusual point of view. This pamphlet explains simple techniques for making pictures of your trip.

Various Subjects to Photograph

Here are some suggestions of subjects you may want to capture on color film the next time you fly.

1. Unique features of the airport, such as unusual architecture and mosaic murals.
2. Members of your family standing near the plane steps, ready to board.
3. The airport and its surroundings from the air. You'll get the best pictures of subjects on the ground right after takeoff and right before landing, because these subjects will produce images large enough to be clearly recognizable in your pictures. If you are too high, buildings and other subjects on the ground will look like small dots.

You can make good pictures of airports, large cities, and complex highway patterns just after takeoff and just before landing.



4. Expansive city skylines, intricate highway patterns, checkerboard farmlands, and snowcapped mountain ranges.

5. Colorful sunsets and delicate or stormy cloud formations. Include the plane's wing in the foreground when making pictures of these subjects to add depth and interest.

Helpful Hints

The following suggestions will help you make good pictures from the plane, no matter what camera and film you are using.

1. Try to be near the front of the boarding line so you will be able to choose the "right" seat for making pictures. The "right" seat is next to a window, in front of or behind the wing (if you sit directly over the wing, your view of the ground will be obstructed), and on the shady side of the plane during flight. If the sun shines in the window next to you, dirt and scratches on the window may cause flare in your pictures. The stewardess will gladly tell you which will be the shady side.

2. Hold your camera steady. Don't let it touch the window and don't brace your hands or arms against any part of the plane, because vibrations can cause blurry pictures. Squeeze the shutter release gently.

3. Carefully aim your camera so that no part of the window frame will spoil the picture.

4. Before takeoff, load your camera and set any necessary adjustments for low-altitude pictures. (See **Adjusting Your Camera**, on the following page, for an explanation of these adjustments.)

Including part of the plane's wing adds to the composition of your picture and helps to tell the story.



Adjusting Your Camera

If your camera does not have any manual adjustments, just aim and gently squeeze the shutter release. If you have an adjustable or semi-automatic camera, set it according to these recommendations.

1. *Shutter speed.* Use 1/250 second (or as close to this as possible).

2. *Focus.* Set the focus at 50 feet. At 50 feet, the plane wing and everything beyond it will be in focus. Any dirt or scratches on the window will be out of focus.

3. *Lens opening.* Read the exposure recommendations printed on the film instruction sheet packaged with your film. Select the pertinent lighting condition in the daylight exposure table—bright or hazy sun, cloudy bright, etc. At low altitudes, use the same f /number that you would on the ground. At high altitudes, where things look brighter, use one stop less exposure than you would on the ground for similar weather conditions, for example, $f/11$ instead of $f/8$. An automatic camera will make this adjustment for you.



Residential areas are good subject matter while the plane is flying close to the ground.

Movies

If you have a movie camera, be sure to make movies of your air travels. Some movie cameras allow you to select the speed — the number of frames per second. If your movie camera does, set it at 24 or 32 frames per second for movies during takeoff and landing. At high altitudes and on the ground, use the normal 16 or 18 frames per second. If your movie camera has only one speed, fine. Use it. If your camera has an adjustable lens opening, at low altitudes follow the recommendation for daylight pictures on the ground. At high altitudes, use one stop less exposure.

Haze

The higher you are flying, the more haze there will be between you and the ground. Haze makes color slides and movies look bluish because of ultraviolet radiation. If you want to reduce this effect, use a skylight filter over your lens. This filter requires *no* exposure compensation.

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