

Stimulating Side Trips: Unfamiliar Excursions from Familiar Destinations. Get off the beaten track to make intriguing and original photos! This program will show you lesser-known places you can visit after you have spent time in well-known photo sites, such as traveling fifteen minutes to an hour to outlying parts of famous cities, or an hour or two from a popular area to someplace quite different and just as interesting. If you're on your own with an ordinary guidebook or on an ordinary sightseeing tour of an area, you are likely to photograph only the familiar places

But if you are there with a good photo tour leader or do good research or get good ideas from Google or friends or camera clubs, you may find very photogenic places that are easy to get to within fifteen minutes to two hours that most tourists don't see. I found most of these places with the help of photo tour leaders, sometimes when they deviated from their normal routines. You can get to some by taxi or public transit, some require a drive or a train ride. So I thought I'd share the ones I've found with you. In each case I say how to get there. I've described five of them in more detail in PSA Journal articles, and list them here. If no article, a brief summary of what you'll find to photograph.

Familiar place: Carmel California

Side trip: Point Lobos State Natural reserve

Drive 4 miles south on Hwy 1

"Photographing Point Lobos" January 2006

Go there early on a weekday morning to be able get parking, avoid the weekend

Some discussion of starting a reservation system. No dogs allowed.

Familiar place: Carmel California

Side trip: Moss Landing

Drive 22 miles north on Hwy 1

Very good place to photograph seals, sea otters, and seabirds from shore, kayak or tour boat

Take a boat to Elkhorn Slough: Whisper Charters if available, otherwise Elkhorn Slough Safari.

Familiar place: San Francisco

Side trip: Fort Point

Get there by taxi

"An Inside Look at Fort Point" July, 2012

Also check out "Photographing California, Volume 1, North" by Gary Crabbe

Familiar place: Vancouver, B.C.

Side trip, Finn Slough

Drive 14 miles South on Hwy 99 from center of Vancouver.

Funky decaying residences, boats and vehicles. Worth a couple of hours.

May encounter interesting people.'

My friend Mike Sinclair took me here,

Familiar place: San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

Side trip: Guanajuato

Between San Miguel and the Leon airport, where one flies to get to San Miguel. About an hour by taxi from San Miguel.

“Don’t miss Guanajuato” March 2008

Also see “Mexico’s Colonial Heartland” by Cyril Mazansky, MPSA, BPSA, May 2017

Worth spending a couple of nights there. Suggest stopping on the way to or from the airport.

Taxis are cheap.

Familiar (more or less) place: Walled city of Cartagena, Colombia

Side trip: Getsemani district

15 minute walk SE from arch in clock tower or taxi ride from commercial center.

Many colorful funky buildings and people; nice murals

On a photo tour with Within the Frame

Possible side trip: Island of Santa Cruz del Islote

Not easy to get to.

Two-hour motorboat ride from Cartagena harbor; other bus plus boat routes

I got there by spending two nights at a nearby island resort.

Said to be the most densely populated island in the world.

Wonderful funkier colorful buildings and people

Familiar place: Paris

Side trip: Belleville district

At the Belleville stop on the Metro

I found many people in very interesting costumes. Wikipedia says: The demographics of the neighbourhood have undergone many changes throughout the decades. While Armenians, Greeks, and Ashkenazi Jews were once the predominant ethnic groups, North Africans, and more recently, sub-Saharan Africans have been displacing these others.

I was there on a Sunday and the people may have been dressed for worship rather than in ordinary clothing.

Familiar place: Loire Valley

Side trip : **Museum of Maurice Dufresne**

6 km from Azay le Rideau via D57 and D120 Route de Marnay

31 km from Tours via D751, D 57, D120

I was with John Baker of Travel Images

Wikipedia says: The **Museum of Maurice Dufresne** (in [French](#): **Musée Maurice-Dufresne**) is a technological history museum located in the mill at [Marnay](#), near the [Château of Azay-le-Rideau, France](#). It has acquired numerous important objects displayed in vast buildings containing some 25 rooms. The museum pieces are presented thematically: agricultural machines, silk and textile industries, musketry, hydraulic power, etc. There are more than 3000 items there

Familiar place: Paris

Side trip: Alsace

Two hours by train from Gare d'Este or CDG airport to Strasbourg

"Appreciating Alsace" October 2016

Well worth a week. Rent a car. Try to stay in Colmar.

I think there aren't many photo tours there because the weather is not as good as in Provence, and so British travel writers tend to ignore it.

I went with my friend Georges Pelpel, who did all the research.

Familiar place: Provence ("A visit to the Luberon" October 2012)

Side trip: Etang de Thau

90 minutes SW of Avignon on Hwy A9

Pleasant harbors and boats. Drive around the bay stopping at towns. Great seafood.

Spend a couple of nights in Sete.

Gene Turner found it for me after the Luberon trip.

Familiar place: Venice

Side trip: Burano

Vaporetto #12 from San Zaccaria near St. Mark's Square or Fondamento Nove on the other side.

Wonderful colorful buildings and reflections. My favorite photo place in the world.

If you're on a photo tour you will be taken there, if on a conventional tour they may go only to Murano, the glassblowing place, on the same vaporetto line. Worth at least one full day.

I first went there with Richard Martin.

Familiar place, Florence

Side trip, Lucca

90 minutes on a commuter train. Easy walk to train from centers of each city

Nice colorful buildings and pleasant people, great walk around the top of the wall.

If you're on a photo tour of Tuscany you'll probably be taken there. Worth one or two days.

I went with Photo Workshop Adventures.

Familiar place: Istanbul

Side trip: Fener and Balat district

10 minute taxi ride from the center of Istanbul

"Istanbul without the tourists" August 2014

Worth most of a day, but I was told not to go there at night.

Steve Outram found it while we were in Istanbul.