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BANDUNG STREET PHOTOGRAPHY JOURNEY

a chapter by

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Introduction

Bandung, the capital of West Java province in Indonesia, is brimming with historical allure, natural beauty, and arts scene. It is also a paradise for anyone who is passionate about photography because it provides a variety of subjects to photograph, ranging from breathtaking scenery and internationally recognized landmarks to intriguing street life and traditional Sundanese culture.



Figure 1: 300 Meter Altitude of Braga View. (Photograph by Mohamad Zaidi Sulaiman) c. 2023

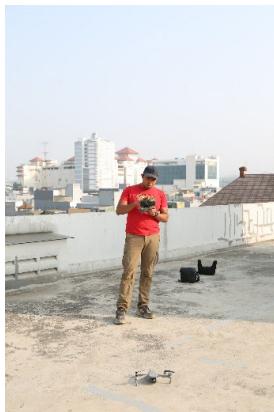


Figure 2: Setting the drone for aerial photography shot. (Photograph by Mohammad Firdaus Azman) c. 2023



Figure 3: Photographing around Bandung. (Photograph by Fahmi Samsudin) c. 2023

Definition of Street Photography

Kota_97 (2023) describes street photography as about "walking around." Street photography entails the artistic (Figure 3) endeavour of capturing unposed situations and conversations that occur in public settings. This genre spans a broad spectrum of techniques ranging from documentary realism to abstract and philosophical approaches. Street photographers frequently employ wide-angle lenses to capture the vibrant energy of metropolitan streets, seeking transitory instances which unveil the fundamental nature of city life. Notable street photographer such as Henri Cartier-Bresson popularizes the concept of decisive moment. It means catching an instantaneous or unplanned occurrence in view (Figure 4 & 5). The photograph captures the spirit of the occasion (Gupta, 2023). Cartier-Bresson plays a crucial role in shaping the genre and serves as a source of inspiration for successive generations of street photographers.



Figure 4: Berfotografilah bukan Hanya untuk Dirimu Saja.
 (Photograph by Mohammad Firdaus Azman) c. 2023



Figure 5: Bandung Street Food.
 (Photograph by Mohammad Firdaus Azman) c. 2023

Bandung Street Photography

Ekeupratama (2013) described the genuine and diverse street photography scenes in Bandung as “For everybody who loves to walk around and snap a picture, this is the right place for you!”. The welcoming locals, eclectic mix of old and new, and abundant cultural history make Bandung a perfect setting to capture city life. Sundanese culture is alive and well in Bandung, which is reflected in the city's art, music, cuisine, and clothing. The essence of Sundanese culture in the portraits of residents, traditional performances, and ordinary sights can be captured by street photographers. Bandung is home to a vibrant community of artists, musicians, and performers that are constantly pushing the boundaries of innovation and artistic expression. Murals, street performances, and art installations allow photographers to record the creative energy of the city. Urban and nature

settings coexist in Bandung in a way that no other city does. There is a wide range of street photography styles that can be captured in the city ranging from lively streets to quiet parks. Bahari (2021) recommended that Jalan Braga (Figure 1 & 2) to be included in itinerary in Bandung as shown in Figure 6-8. Situated in the city centre, this avenue serves as a popular gathering spot for young individuals and is considered as a prominent tourist attraction in Bandung. Jalan Braga with its architectural style reminiscent of the Dutch era is a popular location for street photographers seeking unique photographing opportunities. It is necessary to believe in your own creativeness (Hirsch, 2005) with the early preparation in selecting subject matter on site.

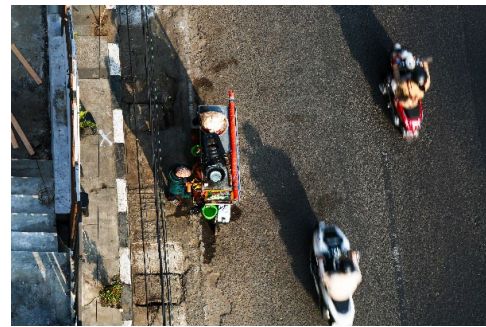


Figure 6: Bandung Street Hawker.
 (Photograph by Mohammad Firdaus Azman) c. 2023



Figure 7: The Stamp Van.
 (Photograph by Mohammad Firdaus Azman) c. 2023

Travel Photography

Being proficient in the fundamental technical components is important for realising creative goals. First, having a good grasp of the relationship between aperture and shutter speed and sharpness is essential for capturing key moments in fast-paced street situations. Second, even in low-light situations, one can capture the moment while keeping the image quality intact by learning how ISO affects noise. Third, to improve picture framing, which in turn enhances the narrative, it pays to be familiar with basic principles such as the Rule of Thirds and leading lines. The art of travel photography is characterised by its ability to capture the essence of a location, its inhabitants, and its culture. Documenting travels, preserving memories, and allowing others to experience the splendour of the world are all possible using this method. It is vital to combine technical talents with a strong eye for storytelling and a profound affection for the locations visited to achieve success in travel photography. In travel photography, it is not enough to simply shoot vistas or gorgeous monuments; rather, it is about crafting stories to other parts of the world and immerse them in the sights, sounds, and feelings of a particular location. Photographers that specialize in travel photography need to go beyond their technical expertise and embrace the art of narrative to attain this degree of storytelling. Furthermore, Barrett (2011) suggested that describing a photograph involves observing its details and articulating one's observations to others, either verbally or in written form.



Figure 8: Resting.
(Photograph by Fahmi Samsudin) c. 2023

Conclusion

Bandung is a superb site for street photography with a distinctive combination of cultural abundance, amiable individuals, and varied settings. Nevertheless, it is important to be aware of possible obstacles such as large gatherings, linguistic differences, and issues related to confidentiality. There must be respect towards the local culture and explicit consent prior to capturing the images of folks. By employing meticulous strategizing and displaying a keen awareness of cultural nuances, one can have a successful street photography in Bandung.

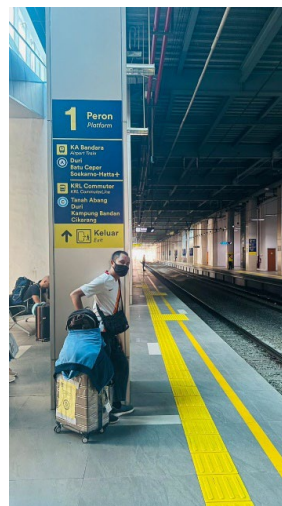



Figure 9: Peron 1.
(Photograph by Mohamad Zaidi Sulaiman) c. 2023

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