

# *Twelve Exposures, That's All You Need ...*

By *Danny Kalkhoven*

**A**s an avid pinhole photographer, taking along some cameras on a holiday trip is sort of second nature, and the family is getting used to me suddenly pulling out the camera, kneeling down with the pocket-tripod, and making an exposure. My wife and children are still somewhat embarrassed, but they have learned to live with it; and when you step away a few meters, who will know that it's your dad? They simply walk on while I stay behind for the several-second exposure.

However, I accept the tension between "take a family trip" and "get out to shoot pictures" and try to separate the two. When on a family trip, don't take the cameras along. When on a picture trip, don't bring your family! But when you are on holiday in Italy and getting ready for a day trip to Venice, compromise is what you are looking for. When I faced this challenge last summer, I made the worst possible decision. I took a pinhole camera along, but with only one roll of 120 film. "Let's not bother the family too much" was the reasoning. Oops! To spend a day in Venice with only 12 exposures, now that's stupid! The city is very beautiful and tourists take millions of pictures there every year.


I found myself taking the first few exposures and then frantically looking for a shop to buy some extra film, except you'd be lucky to find a shopkeeper who even knows what 120 film is. And what's Italian for "120





medium format roll film”? Plenty of memory cards and 35mm film available, but no roll film anywhere. Okay, then I had to make do with that one roll. This proved to be a blessing in disguise. No snapping away, but a careful selection of scenes. As in the old days when I had less money, I walked by several scenes that were possibly worth taking. But I had to tell myself, “No, don’t take this picture! Wait for the really good opportunities!” and it was quite relaxing. When the roll was full, I could still enjoy Venice by looking around me, without wondering whether to load another roll or not. The family was happy too, since there wasn’t that much of dad lagging behind that day!

The lesson learned from that day? Twelve exposures is all you need. Sometimes. 📷



*Danny Kalleboven lives in Utrecht, the Netherlands,  
and toys with a pinhole camera.*