

Location Scouting Fundamentals

Location scouting plays a major role in the pre-production and production stages of filmmaking. When scouting for a location, here are a few things to consider:

Recommended Tools:

- 1) Good quality digital camera
- 2) Thomas Guides and other relevant maps
- 3) Pocket-size notebook and pen
- 4) Your business cards

Essential Data: (for locations that are a filming possibility)

- 1) Is the location affordable?
- 2) Confirm with owner or site manager that the location is a possibility for filming.
- 3) Get contact information of primary location contact; name, address, phone, email.
- 4) Are there sound issues (traffic, airplane flight patterns, trains, factories)?
- 5) Is this location on public or private property? Will the location require a permit?
- 6) Will this location require the hiring of police officers for traffic control or foot traffic?
- 7) Is there electrical access?
- 8) Consider access to the location; is there an elevator, big hills, tough corners?
- 9) Get an idea of where you would handle equipment staging, extras holding, catering, tech truck parking, crew parking, restroom facilities.
- 10) What effect will production have on nearby businesses or neighborhoods? Will there be a need to canvas the area?

Photography Tips:

- 1) Shoot everything at the location even if you are only looking at specific portions of the location; interiors, exteriors.
- 2) Whenever possible, shoot location in order as if you were on a tour.
- 3) Take a photo of the owner's or site manager's business card. If you do not get a business card, take a picture of your notebook when you write down the contact information.

Organizing Photos:

- 1) Give each location a unique name or location owner's name and include some aspect of the geography when appropriate.
- 2) Organize photos in folders labeled with that location name.