



the big picture

São Tomé silhouette
by Don Pinnock

Tip



There's a general rule at *Getaway*: prepare your photos carefully, always use a tripod, think about light, don't forget the rule of thirds for composition. It pays off – that's why the magazine looks the way it does. But there are times when all that goes out the window.

I was on the tropical island of São Tomé, sitting next to a driver who was manoeuvring out of the hotel grounds on the way to the airport. The sky was what it always is around midday in the tropics – muggy grey and too bright.

I saw the women first, then, out the corner of my eye, I noticed the cyclist approaching. It occurred to me to use fill-in flash, but there wasn't time. I hung out the window and snapped one shot as the cyclist was about to pass the walkers. Everything was moving, even me.

Only back home, when I opened the photo on my computer screen, did I realise what I'd got: a text-book silhouette and a perfect balance between the people and palm trees.

There's only one rule with these sort of shots. Have your camera with you at all times and, whatever's happening around you, grab the shot. And trust your instincts.