

# The NIKON Challenge V:

## On Location in Anguilla



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## CAPTURING GREAT TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHS ON VACATION

Every time that you open your family album, or glance at a favorite picture, displayed for everyone to see on the wall of your living room, you have a chance to relive a favorite moment in your life. And, since vacations are among the happiest times, we'd like to share a few tips with you about how to make your vacation pictures some of your best.

We recently traveled to the beautiful island of Anguilla, where, together with our models Caroline and David, we had a chance to make some great pictures with some of Nikon's most advanced equipment. Not their top-of-the-line F4S professional SLR, the one that we usually use as our everyday working tool, but rather, we decided to try out their cameras made for amateurs.

**N8008S, 60mm AF-Micro Nikkor, 2 SB-24s**



Because all of Nikon's SLR cameras have the same F-lens mount, we were able to use the same lenses we normally use, plus some of the newest AF-Nikkor lenses, all available for this event.

Let's get started with our ideas about what you should expect from your SLR camera. First of all, because it has interchangeable lenses, you can choose from a wide assortment—from wide-angle to telephoto, close-up lenses and zooms for extra versatility.

Whenever we're shooting a travel assignment, we always bring an assortment of wide-angle lenses for the scenics—and they're also perfect for getting interesting perspectives of architecture and even for an unusual portrait—that's



**Typical Anguillan sunset; Nikon N6006 and 75-300mm AF-Zoom Nikkor**

right, a portrait! Use the wide-angle lens to emphasize the foreground and give you extra coverage in tight places.

The telephoto lenses are great for candid shots of the local people and for an informal portrait. We like to keep everyone looking natural and unposed. That natural, unposed look really makes a difference in the overall look of our pictures. This action shot of David shooting up out of the water is a perfect example of an informal portrait.

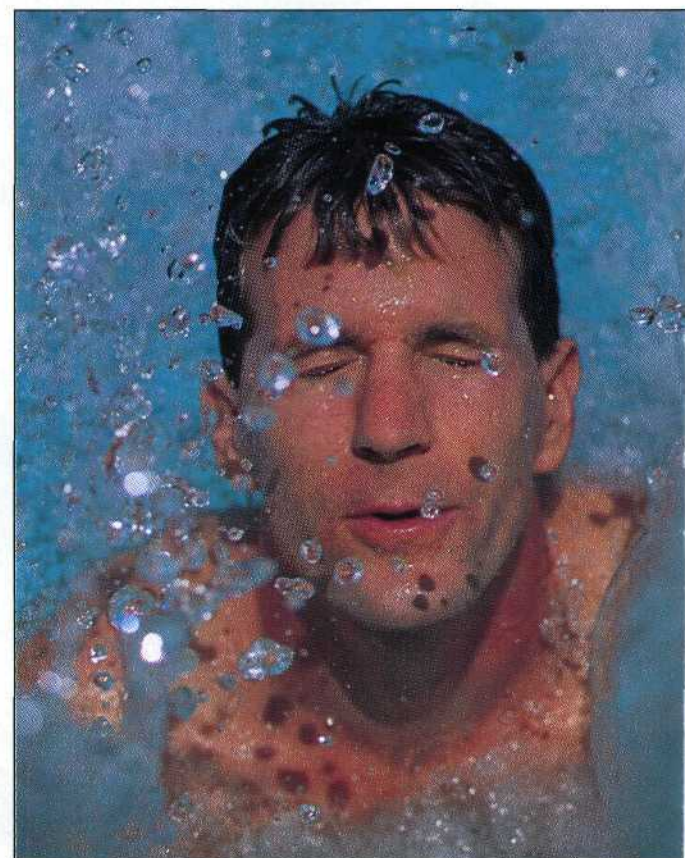
Special lenses like the 60mm f/2.8 AF-Micro Nikkor are great for nature photography and for capturing details that are not normally visible to the casual viewer. Close-up shots add interest to your picture collection and are great conversation pieces. Get closer and you'll see what we're talking about. By the way, the AF-Micro Nikkor is really great for portraits, too. Super sharp, it really shows the details. More about the AF-Micro Nikkor later.

As for how much equipment you should take with you: Take as much as you can handle, the more lenses the better. It's a shame if you see a beautiful scene, perfect for your 24mm lens, and you left the lens at home!

Don't forget your electronic flash, too! The N6006 has a built-in flash which perfectly matches most Nikon

lenses, beginning with 28mm focal length. That's because it's a wide-angle-coverage flash. The N6006 also has a flash shoe for an accessory flash, like Nikon's SB-24 AF Speedlight. That way you can shoot off-camera flash pictures, too. Another interesting feature is

**N4004S with Auto Balanced Fill-Flash**



the N6006's ability to do Matrix Automatic Balanced Fill-Flash—a technique which is perfect for making portraits look better, whether taken on a cloudy day or in bright sunshine. We used the built-in flash to brighten the shot of David shooting up from below the water. Notice the overall brightness of the shot.

Informal portraits are the perfect way to make your people pictures when on vacation. Don't try to make everyone stand rigidly and look posed! Like the pictures in this article, capture your subjects in a more natural setting—with them comfortable and smiling, naturally, playing or just relaxing. Shoot them doing something that puts them in a natural environment—

like a fisherman standing in a boat, preparing his lines for the day's fishing—a slice of life. Pictures like that will bring your album to life.

For pictures of greater interest, you should vary your point of view. The pictures throughout this article were taken with different focal length lenses. Varying the focal length can help change the perspective for the viewer and add a dramatic angle—like the close-up of David, the swimmer, taken with the telephoto portion of the 35–70mm f/2.8 AF-Nikkor lens. With the Nikon system you have a choice of fixed-focal-length lenses like the 28mm f/2.8, 35mm f/2.0, or the wider 24mm and 20mm f/2.8 AF-Nikkor lenses. For

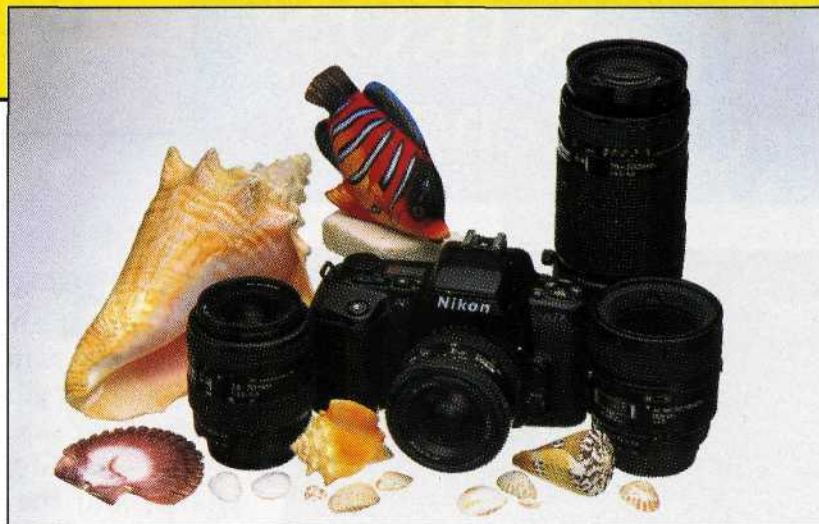
telephoto shots, you can choose lenses from 85mm to 300mm AF-Nikkor lenses, and there are lots more AI Nikkors, too. Or, you can choose one of the AF-Zoom Nikkor lenses. The 28–70mm and 35–70mm lenses are a perfect match for the Nikon N6006 and its built-in flash. For a perfect portrait of our model Caroline (below right), we chose the 85mm f/1.8 AF-Nikkor. Both of the zoom lenses reach 70mm, so they're also perfect for portraits, as well as wide-angle scenics.

Make lots of pictures, just for the fun of it. Take pictures of your travel mates and friends enjoying their activities. But don't be too intrusive by making a pest of yourself. Remember, that lots of people get annoyed if you try to make them pose too much or you're always looking over their shoulders with the camera. The best shots are when everyone is comfortable and relaxed. Keep it that way and get better pictures.

So, what's a good ensemble of equipment to have on your vacation? Here's one idea. Take a 20mm or 24mm lens for wide vista shots and for your indoor available-light photography. Take a

35–70mm or a 28–70mm zoom for general outdoor shots. Choose a 70–210mm or a 75–300mm zoom for outdoor candid and action photography. Three lenses for perfect coverage of almost any situation. Top it off with a Micro Nikkor and you've got the perfect system for almost any picture. Any AF-Nikkor lens will work perfectly with the N6006.

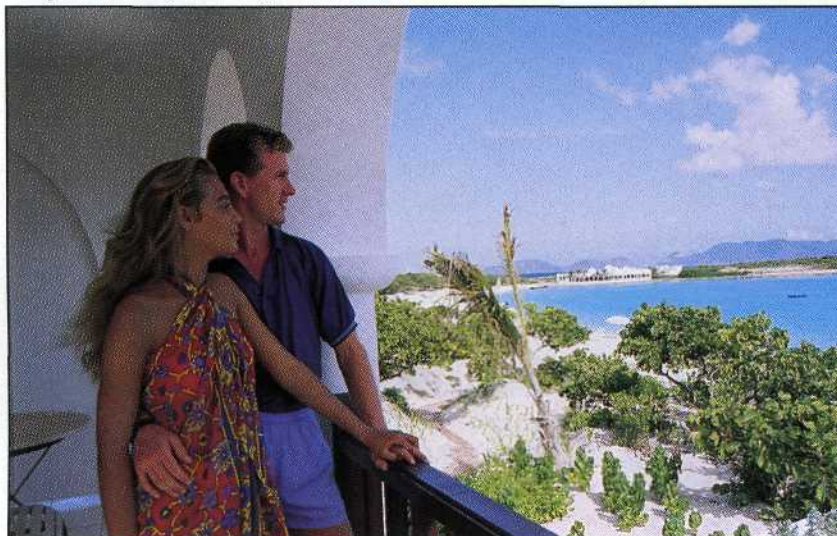
*For further information about Anguilla, contact the Anguilla Tourist and Reservation Office, c/o Medhurst & Assoc. Inc.; telephone 1-800-553-4939.*



**Malliouhana; N6006, 28–85mm AF-Zoom Nikkor, auto fill-flash**

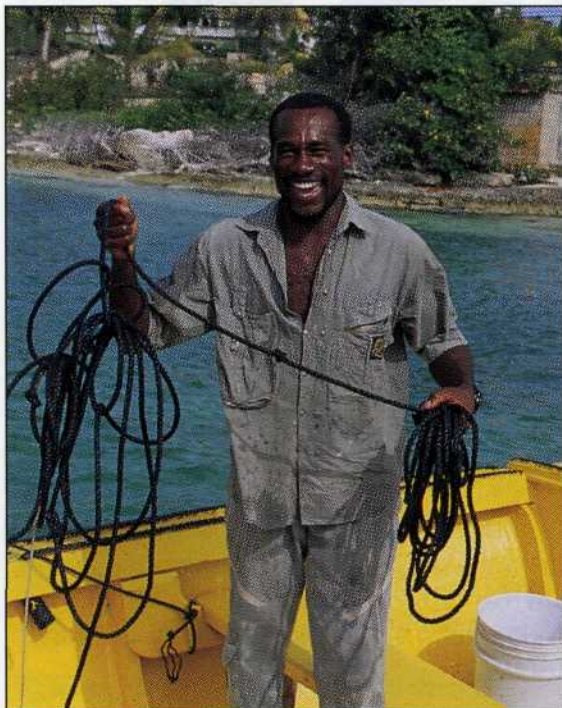


**Cap Juluca; N6006, 28–85mm AF-Zoom Nikkor, auto fill-flash**



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## CAPTURING THE LOCAL COLOR OF THE TROPICS



**A**nguilla abounds with color. Almost anywhere you look, the sun is saturating the scene with light, and the vibrant colors of the tropical flowers, sky, and water seem more vibrant than life. Nikon's lenses are so sharp, and their special Integrated Coating ensures that your pictures are filled with that color.

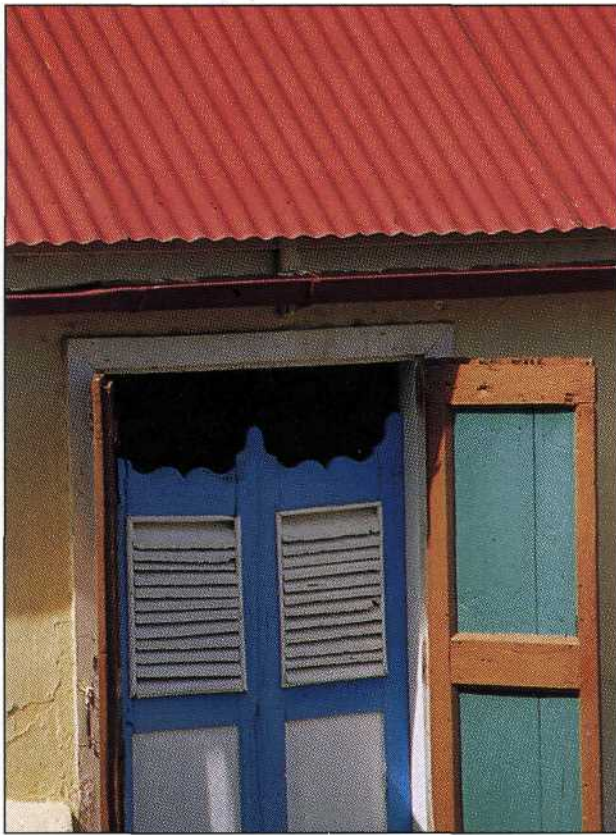
The pictures on these pages were shot

using various lenses: the 20mm f/2.8 AF-Nikkor for a superwide-angle view, the 28-85mm f/3.5-4.5 AF-Zoom Nikkor, and the 75-300mm f/4.5-5.6 AF-Zoom Nikkor all provide superb optical performance, as well as quick and precise autofocus operation with all of today's Nikon Autofocus SLR models.

For these pictures we used the Nikon N4004S. Nikon says this model is per-



Local fisherman, sailfish, and boat close-up at Island Harbor, 75-300mm AF-Zoom Nikkor. Boat in water at Sandy Ground, 35-70mm f/2.8 AF-Zoom Nikkor. All photos made with Nikon N4004S camera; auto fill-flash used on fisherman.



**N4004S, 75–300mm AF-Zoom Nikkor**

fect for the beginner because of its fully automatic Programmed Exposure control. But, it's also good for someone who is ready to advance to greater pictures, because it also has manual control and two other automatic modes, too.

With its built-in automatic flash, the N4004S is a perfect vacationer's camera. Put on any AF Nikkor lens and you have a complete camera, ready to make pictures, whether indoors or out!

Make that lens a 35–70mm f/3.3–4.5 AF-Zoom Nikkor, and you're pretty much able to fill your photo album with great pictures.

Getting back to the tropics, the colors you'll see cover such a tremendous range that you might want to narrow your shooting by adapting a color theme; for example, a single color or complementary colors. This yellow Anguilla fishing boat is an example. Continuing the search for yellow, we found this fisherman in his yellow boat. Here, the N4004S with a built-in TTL flash provided just the right amount of automatic fill-flash for a perfect portrait of a man in his environment—nice shots to fill your album.

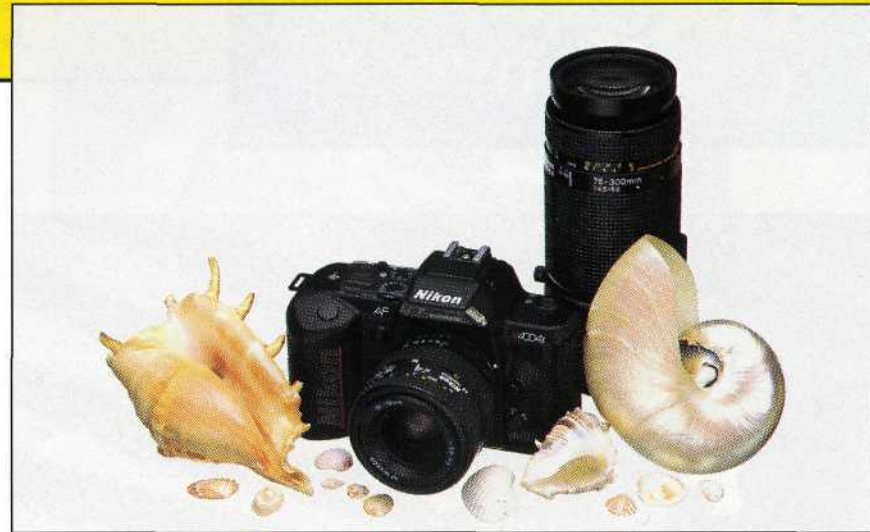
Tropical color can also be subtle, as in the photo of the boy playing in the sand. The crystal water and the clear sand say tropics, and the N4004S with its fill-flash gives you a perfect shot, once again.

Interchangeable lenses can help you in your search for tropical color. You can use the telephoto portion of the zoom to isolate different parts of a

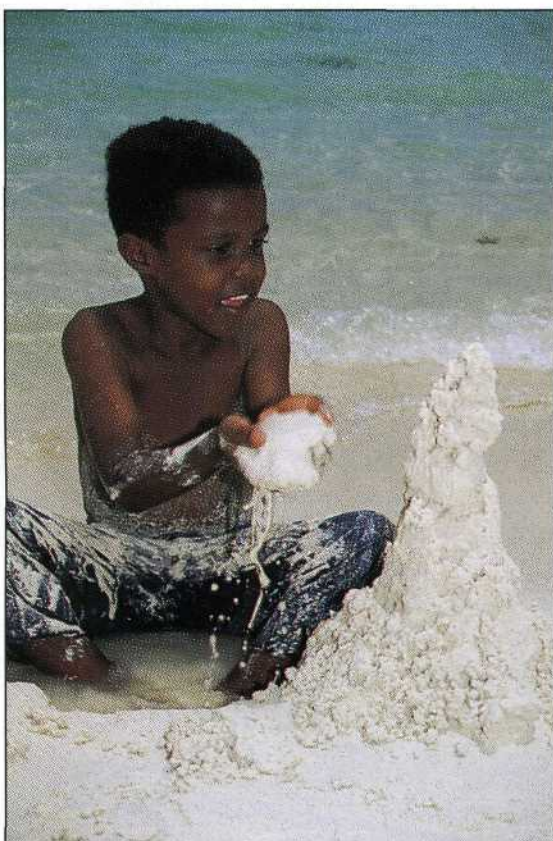
scene, as with the shot of the yellow-rimmed boat in the sea, and the shot of the portion of the building—filled with red, yellow, blue, and green.

You can also shoot tropical color by subject: colorful native costumes, flowers, sails, and anything that is vibrant with color. But don't just think color—look for contrast, too. In the shot of the sailfish, the primary-colored (yellow and blue) sail against the blue of the water is a natural contrast—vivid and eye-catching. The versatile 75–300mm AF-Zoom Nikkor allowed us to carefully frame the subject, while the camera's autofocus system ensured sharp results.

Capturing vacation color should be easy. That's because the simplicity of operating the N4004S lets you concentrate on seeing the picture, not operating the camera.



**Island Harbor; N4004S, 75–300mm AF-Zoom Nikkor lens**



**Island Harbor; N4004S, 35–70mm f/2.8 AF-Zoom Nikkor**



# The NIKON Challenge V

## SHOOTING FLOWER & NATURE CLOSE-UPS WITH FLASH



Palm leaf, Cocoloba; N8008S, 60mm AF-Micro Nikkor, SB-24

The Nikon N8008S and the SB-24 AF Speedlight are a dynamite combination for producing tack-sharp, flash-and-daylight-balanced macro photographs. The Matrix-Balanced Fill-Flash function of the flash unit allows you to precisely blend flash illumination with existing light for the perfect mix to convey your artistic impression of the scene.

One of the trickiest aspects of close-up photography is producing the right

exposure on the film. The N8008S/SB-24 combination provides TTL flash metering, which reads the light—both existing and flash—transmitted by the lens, so you don't have to perform any calculations at all. You get perfectly exposed macro shots with point-and-shoot simplicity.

Besides the Matrix-Ba-

lanced Fill-Flash, which automatically balances a flash-exposed foreground subject with an existing-light background, the N8008S/SB-24 combination provides standard TTL flash, in which the flashlit subject is automatically exposed correctly, while you control background exposure yourself. You can even adjust the flash exposure from +1 EV to -3 EV relative to the existing-light exposure. There's also spot fill-flash, in which flash output is automatically set  $\frac{2}{3}$  EV lower than standard flash output, with spot metering of the subject.

The optional TTL Remote Cord SC-17 lets you move the SB-24 unit off-camera for precise control of lighting direction relative to the subject, while retaining full



Cocoloba; N8008S, 60mm AF-Micro Nikkor, SB-24

TTL exposure control. The TTL Multi-Flash sync cords SC-18 and SC-19 allow you to link additional SB-24s into the lighting loop for even more-professionally lit multiple-flash photographs, with full automatic TTL control of flash exposure.

With exposure for close-up subjects no longer problematic, you are left free to concentrate your energies on creative aspects, such as finding good subjects, and composing them attractively. The 60mm f/2.8 AF-Micro Nikkor lens makes composing images much easier because its fast f/2.8 maximum aperture, coupled with a superb optical design, provides a nice, bright, contrasty viewfinder image for easy viewing, even in dim light—even at a 1:1 (life-size) reproduction ratio. A versatile lens that will autofocus from infinity down to life-size, with no need for an extension tube, the 60mm AF-Micro Nikkor stops down to f/32, providing increased depth of field for those many living macro subjects that aren't flat.

A deeply recessed front lens element helps minimize internal reflections, and a built-in focus limiter limits autofocus scanning to either close-up or normal



N8008S, 60mm AF-Micro Nikkor, SB-24



**Cocoloba; N8008S, 60mm AF-Micro Nikkor**

range, for much quicker autofocus.

Most close-up photographers set the lens focus for the desired magnification,

cally fire when the subject comes into focus.

All of the close-up photographs

**Cocoloba; N8008, 60mm AF-Micro Nikkor, 2 SB-24 AF Speedlights**



then move the whole camera in on their subject until it comes into focus—this is generally easier than trying to focus using the lens's focusing ring, which also changes the magnification. Add the Nikon Multi-Control Back MF-21 to the N8008S camera, and you gain a great feature called Freeze Focus, with which you can preset the desired magnification, then move in on the subject, and the camera will automati-

shown here were taken at Cocoloba, Anguilla, with the N8008S and 60mm f/2.8 AF-Micro Nikkor lens. The delicate pattern of the palm leaf was photographed at a 1:4 magnification ( $\frac{1}{4}$  life size) with one SB-24 Speedlight mounted on the camera.

Two SB-24s were used for the yellow-and-white flowers below and on page 2: one underneath to provide detail there, and one to the side, to provide directional lighting. The backlit hibiscus was shot with the sun directly behind the flower, and the SB-24 was used on-camera to precisely balance the sun. The result looks like studio flash had been used.

For the silhouetted flower, the 60mm AF-Micro Nikkor lens was stopped down to f/32 to precisely shape the image of the sun in the background, and no flash was used, in order to maintain the silhouetted subject. Note the lack of flare in the photo.

The lizard was shot backlit, with the SB-24 flash providing fill. The really tight shot of the yellow-and-white flower was illuminated with two SB-24s in a setup similar to that used for the wider shot of these blooms on page 2 of this article—one beneath for detail, and one to the side for direction. Again, the result looks like it was done in a photographer's studio.

Anguilla is a beautiful place to shoot nature close-ups, and Nikon's N8008S camera, 60mm AF-Micro Nikkor lens, and SB-24 flash make it simple and satisfying to shoot close-up images you'll enjoy long after you've returned home.