Suggestions and directions for Chattanooga photo opportunities. A map will be helpful.

1. For areas near the Aquarium:
	1. You can drive up Broad Street all the way to the Aquarium and the river walk areas. Park in any one of the parking lots or garages near there. Or, drive over to the Chattanooga Choo Choo and park in that garage and catch the free electric shuttle to within one block of the Aquarium. A free shuttle should leave every 15-20 minutes and stop at many places for a ride that usually lasts about 20 minutes. After you stop at the Aquarium end of the shuttle, check outside to see if folks are climbing on the outside of High Point climbing and fitness center.
	2. This weekend at the Aquarium plaza, there will be the Chattanooga Market.
	3. Note: Between the Aquarium and the river is the Riverfront Parkway and walkway. This road parallels the river. Head east and it becomes Riverside Drive; continue and it becomes Amnicola Highway and will take you to the entrance to many river parks.
	4. Walk around the west side of the Aquarium and down towards the river and you will find some nice sculptures, (Railroad tunnel and Cherokee man) and views of the Aquarium and riverfront. At the east side of the Aquarium is the south end of the Market Street Bridge. The walkway between the east side of the Aquarium and Market Street Bridge will take you down to the riverfront. You will notice the Native American art work in the Passage area. Cross the street and to the right you will be on the walkway that takes you past the zig zag path up to the Hunter Museum.
	5. You can walk across the bridges and take pictures from the bridge sidewalks. Check out the sculptures as you start leaving the Aquarium area. Take pictures of the bridge architecture. Allow for 30 minutes if you walk over and take pictures along the way.
2. Art district and Hunter Museum:
	1. From the Aquarium area eastside, walk up hill on 1st Street, past the south end of the Walnut Street pedestrian bridge, and across the Holmberg glass bridge, up to the Hunter Museum. At the Hunter Museum and you will find a nice terrace on the left that offers a relaxing view of the North Shore and parks. Continue walking past the Hunter to the Bluff view art district. Note: No public bathrooms up here
	2. The Bluff View Art District has several restaurants and shops. However, many are off limits to photography without a permit. There is an overlook of the river downhill in the art district.
	3. At the south end of the Walnut Street Bridge are steps that will take you beneath the bridge and to the “zig zag” garden terrace and back up to the Hunter Museum. If you don’t want to traverse the “zig zag” you could turn left at the bottom of the steps and take the walkway back to below the aquarium.
3. North Shore:
	1. You can walk to the North Shore or drive over to the North Shore on the Market Street Bridge and turn right at the end of the bridge onto Frazier and then turn toward the river on Tremont and park along the roads in the parks. Pay at the nearest meter or kiosk.
	2. You could also drive across the Veterans Bridge from Georgia Avenue and turn left onto Frazier and then left onto Tremont, then right on River Street. River Street has several nice shops and restaurants.
	3. Frazier Avenue is the shopping area of the North Shore and has gone through recent renovations. You might encounter street artists near the north end of the Walnut Street Bridge.
	4. There are good sidewalks for shots across the river toward the downtown area and the art district bluffs along the river edge. Coolidge park also has a nice fountain and carousel. The park offers open areas for families to play. It covers the area from under Market Street Bridge to under the Walnut Street Bridge. Check out the architecture under these bridges.
	5. You can slowly drive on River Street under the Market Street Bridge to a parking lot on the west side of the bridge. This area is Renaissance Park. It is a wet lands park and may provide for good birding along the trails and sidewalks along the river. There are several ramps down to the river. Walk up to the top of one of the hills for a different view.
	6. Walk back to the Hunter museum area via the entrance to Walnut pedestrian bridge on Frazier. Give yourself another 30 minutes if you take pictures from the bridge.
	7. If you have more time, instead of walking back via the Walnut Street Bridge, continue up Frazier and walk across the Veterans Bridge. This view offers a good landscape of the waterfront area. You can turn right and take the stairs back up to the Art district and Hunter, or continue straight and you will be on Georgia Avenue.
	8. There are plenty of photo ops along the river walks. The Southern Belle boat, the Ducks (WWII Higgins boats), and the Aquarium River Gorge Explorer, may be travelling along the river.
4. Walking up Georgia Avenue:
	1. Park near the “Tomorrow building” (Patton Parkway) and pay at a meter. Look up and you will see the gold top of the Dome Building. In Patten Parkway are a USMC memorial, some colorful store fronts, and the site of the first Coca Cola bottling facility. North along Georgia Avenue you will see the lonely church steeple and public art and some more parking areas.
	2. Continue walking north along Georgia Ave., and you will see the Hamilton County Courthouse; the Fireman’s Fountain, an 1812 cannon, and the “big eyes” above the Universal Joint Restaurant. Continue walking north on Georgia Ave., and veer off to the left onto High Street. High Street will take you all the way to the Hunter Museum (three blocks). There may be parking available along High Street. From the Hunter, you can walk across the glass “Holmberg” Bridge then downhill to the Aquarium.
5. Middle of town:
	1. The Choo Choo has an old locomotive parked there. There are some water fountains with goldfish and some unique architectural designs. Good coffee shop. Expect to spend 1 hour here. Park in the garage.
	2. The Chattanooga Zoo ($10) Open from 9-5. Holtzclaw and 3rd Street.
	3. Sculpture field at Montague park at Polk Street. Take Main Street to Polk and turn right. Thirty-three-acre outdoor field of many large sculptures. You might want to stop here on the way to the National Cemetery.
	4. The National Cemetery opens at 7am. It has 121 acres and as of 2014, 50,000 interments. Buried there are many Medal of Honor (MOH) recipients. There is a monument to Andrews Raiders and the General. Some of those captured in the locomotive chase are buried there. Four are the first Medal of Honor recipients. Take Broad to Main to left on Holtzclaw. Entrance is on Holtzclaw.
	5. Orchard Knob battlefield park – 306 N. Orchard Knob. (One block off 3rd Street), offers a unique view of Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain. This was Grants HQ during the Union attack up Missionary ridge. There are a lot of monuments and plaques here. From 3rd Street, turn onto N. Orchard Knob to the park. Turn right on Ivy and park on the street. Note: From downtown, take 4th Street’s right lane until it becomes 3rd Street at UTC. You will pass Erlanger Hospital, and the Zoo.
6. South Side:
	1. The South Side is located on Main Street between Broad Streets and east to Rossville Avenue. This is another area of town that is going through renovation and features nice shops and restaurants. It is close to the Choo Choo.
7. North east of downtown:
	1. This area is along the river and has river parks and the TVA Chickamauga dam. Take Riverfront parkway (~2.5 miles) from the Aquarium to the “Curtain Pole” parking area north of the intersection of Wilcox and Amnicola. Take the Curtain Pole entrance that is across from the Mapco gas station. After you park, walk north east along the park way about 50 yards to the marsh area. You may find waterfowl and many other birds. Walk the opposite direction back toward downtown about a half a mile and you will see the downtown landscape and the country club golf course across the river. There is a bathroom at this park.
	2. Continue north from the Curtain Pole area (3.8 miles) on Amnicola past the Chattanooga State community college and you will notice the entrance to the Chickamauga Dam area on the left. Drive straight till you see the sign for the River Recreation area. Follow this to the parking along the river. You will have good views of the dam, railroad bridge, and maybe blue herons and osprey. There is a bathroom at this area.
8. Point Park is on top of Lookout Mountain Battlefield Park. Plan on 20 minutes to get up there. There are magnificent views of Lookout Valley, Chattanooga Valley, Chattanooga, and the Tennessee River.

From Chattanooga Christian School, turn left on Charger Rd., to right on W37, straight through the light to left on Broad and under the railroad trestle, veer right onto Cummings Hwy, go .7 miles and follow signs **past** Ruby Falls and at top of Scenic Hwy, take an immediate right and follow small signs to Point Park. Plan on 1 hour at Point Park. Please observe parking sign restrictions and speed limits. On the way back down, as soon as you pass over the Incline Railway, turn left at the Cravens House national park sign. There you will find an old reclaimed house and monuments where a civil war skirmish took place. Plan on 15 minutes at Cravens House. No stopping on the Scenic Hwy. Take a telephoto for landscapes.

1. The Tennessee Riverwalk extension and parking area is only one half of a mile from the school. There, you will walk past one of the old steel foundry areas. Take Broad Street north to 33rd Street. Turn left at the light and then right on St. Elmo Avenue. Turn left into the parking area across from the “Juice at the trail head” Café. There is a bathroom located at the ranger station. Beware of bicycles. The walk is about 1 mile. You will pass over a creek near railroad tracks and under the Wheeland Pass and continue till you walk parallel to the old abandoned Wheeland Foundry. There are interesting plaques to read along the way.
2. Railroad:
	1. The Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum is outdoors and free to photograph. It features old locomotives and rail cars. It is on the opposite corner of town. Take I-24 east to I-75 north to Hwy 153. Exit at Jersey Pike, turn left and follow the signs to the Tennessee Railroad Museum. Allow 25 to 30 minutes to get there.
	2. You can photograph the railroad yard that stretches between Wilcox and 3rd Street. You will have to photograph from the sidewalks on the overpass on 3rd Street between Erlanger hospital and the Zoo. You would park in the zoo parking lot and walk back to the overpass.
3. Missionary Ridge battlefield park (park only in the monument areas). South Crest and North Crest roads are very narrow! There are a lot of blind curves. There are some landscape opportunities, but difficult to park and access. The extreme south end of Missionary Ridge is in Georgia. Be very careful if you walk on the sidewalks.
4. Chickamauga Battlefield Military Park is in Georgia. If the Georgia parts of the metro area are allowed into the boundary of the contest, then this may be worth the drive for you. Take a left onto Charger, a right on W37, and left on Tennessee Avenue at the light. Be cautious at the intersection with Ochs highway. Do not get in the right lane unless you want to go up the mountain. Drive through St. Elmo (30mph) and continue going straight as this road becomes Georgia, Hwy 193. Turn left onto Highway 2, at the light. Continue in the right lane to the intersection of Lafayette road in Ft. Oglethorpe. Turn right and head straight to the battlefield visitors center. This will take at least 20-25 minutes to get there.
5. Events:
	1. There is a 5K race at 8:30-10am, “Cammy’s Cause” at Ross’s Landing Riverfront Parkway downtown, The Trail of Tears Remembrance Association motorcycle ride to Alabama leaves Finley Stadium, and the Tow Truck Museum is installing names on the Wall of the Fallen.
	2. Kick off for the UT-Chattanooga and UT-Martin NCAA football game is at 6PM at Finley Stadium

Note:

Public bathrooms are at the Choo Choo, Aquarium (west side), Coolidge Park on the North Shore, at Point Park, and at several of the riverwalk parking areas. I’m sure if you stopped in one of the many restaurants or coffee shops and purchased a drink and reviewed your pictures, they would let you use their bathrooms.

There is metered parking for two hours along most of the downtown streets and at Point Park (**take quarters**). Pay attention to the type of parking whether it is parallel or back in. Do not pull into parking spots that read “back in only”.

* Architecture – Above and below bridges, Riverfront, Aquarium, Hunter Museum, Older buildings along Georgia Avenue.
* Landscapes – Pt. Park, Missionary Ridge, Cravens House, Hunter Museum, Bridges, along the riverwalk
* Wetlands – Renaissance park, Curtain Pole riverwalk area
* Transportation – RR museum, RR yards, Tow Truck museum, Bridges
* Outdoor art is all over town.

Parking and Entrance fees –

* + Parking lots or garages near Aquarium ~$8
	+ Choo Choo garage $4
	+ At Coolidge and Renaissance parks, pay at the Kiosk for parking
	+ Chattanooga is a bike friendly city. **Please be aware of bikes in the bike lanes or on any of the city streets and riverwalks.**
	+ The Tow Truck museum $10.
	+ The Chattanooga Zoo $10

If by chance the interstate traffic is backed up or at a standstill in Chattanooga, on your way out:

To get to I-75 South exit 350 in Ringgold: Turn left on Charger and right on W37, then Turn left at the light and head south through St. Elmo on Tennessee Avenue (Hwy 17). Continue GA Hwy 193, until you reach Hwy 2. At the light, turn left and continue through Ft. Oglethorpe, on Hwy 2 (Battlefield Parkway) until you intersect I-75. This is about 12 miles

To get to I-24 West at exit 174: Turn left on Charger and right on W37. Go straight through the light until you intersect Broad. Turn left, go under the railroad trestle and veer right onto Cummings Hwy (Hwy 11/ 41/ 64) and straight until you intersect I-24 at exit 174. This is about six miles.

There is a Walgreens drug store one block from the school at 3550 Broad Street. CVS is one mile away at 3801 Tennessee Ave, up the hill in the Food City plaza. OOP’s cell phone repair is one block from the school at 3530 Broad Street.