



Mennonite boy

Zooming in on Travel

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Travel around the world or just across the street? To a dedicated sightseer, a covered bridge freak, a lover of festivals, fairs and carnivals, are backpacking, traveling by snowshoe, dog sled, train, or car preferred? Is sleeping in a tent or a fancy hotel selected? No matter how or where one travels, photography allows bringing home memories and moments that can be looked back on with pleasure.

In general, *a travel photo needs to be identified with a place, a culture, a land and a people, in its natural state.* A good image should make the feet itch; the viewer should want to leave immediately for the area or at least learn more about the subject. Show the viewer or judge images that convey; this is an interesting place to visit.

Travel is much more than landscapes, architecture, churches and museums. Present something of interest about a place or country: its history, culture, people and the way of life. Use

arches, doorways, and windows for framing the scene.

For exhibitions, it is the judge's responsibility to select the best of the works submitted. To do this, the judge must recognize that the photo is a form of communication and evaluate that it presents its message clearly and effectively. The photographer must make the intent of the photo very clear. Zero in on the subject and capture detail. Choose a subject that leaves no doubt as to what the photographic intentions are. Keep it simple, and show one idea at a time. Get up close and look at the beautiful details. Close-ups may have more impact than the entire building. Don't be glued to the spot, simply move those feet and always walk around the subject: take it from all angles and different distances so the viewer or judge won't say, "I've seen that a million times." The judge won't know or care that a better angle may have caused an accident. Be alert for the one

that isn't the obvious shot. Inside looking out is more exciting than outside looking in. Go up—and shoot down, go down—and shoot up.

Travel affords great opportunities to meet fascinating people and people bring the story to life. Don't be afraid to ask if a photograph may be taken. Most will beam with pleasure. For some it will be a thrill to be singled out and be the center of attention for a brief moment. One form of communication that is understood by every culture and every country is a smile. It will get you further than anything else.

When taking photos of children, flowers, mushrooms, etc. get down to eye level. You will get a better picture and it's good exercise. Don't look down on a child. Be alert and ready for that once in a lifetime image. The great one can be gone in the blink of an eye. Look for the unexpected and the surprise, be ready, and keep those eyes open. Fumble for a moment and that gem will be lost.

Market places often are the centers of activity. Show people leading their lives, in colorful costumes and reveal how individuals work and play. To be less conspicuous, use a longer lens. Show what is made, the dress, the food and the transportation used to get to market. Get people doing activities, working with animals or fishing, be alert for ceremonial and sporting events. Look for quiet moments and the unusual. Include people to show scale of what you are shooting. Try to



Moroccan mat maker



Fire starter

Fancy feet



avoid pictures that contain friends with cameras. Most tourists will not serve the purpose, and neither will someone who is obviously posed. Wait for someone in appropriate dress to walk into the area. Anything standing vertical (people, flowers, trees, etc.) should probably be taken that way.

A scene must not be too busy. More pictures are lost to clutter than any other flaw. Chip away at anything that does not belong till you get that work of art. Always check the backgrounds.

A traveler must take the weather and lighting as it's found but the judge only wants to see the best that was taken. Acquire plenty of pictures: there may never be this chance again. Nothing can give more added impact than proper and dramatic

lighting. Lighting is everything and great lighting makes great pictures. Side lighting gives texture and modeling. Shoot in the morning or evening and in the middle of the day go shopping. A nice curve helps lead the eye into the composition. Photography is a waiting game. Learn to wait for someone to get out of the way, the sun to come out or the subject to move into the correct position.

Digitally speaking, the image should be a faithful representation and the truth should not

Nepal water girls



Moroccan jug seller



Julia Belle

be altered. No element should be removed or added. Cropping and sharpening is allowed and the cloning tool may be used to remove dust or scratches, only.



Morning chill



Old friends

If possible travel with other photographers, as commercially conducted tours are not planned for photographers. PSA has volunteers all over the globe who are willing to assist with photographic travel plans. These members provide information as to where, what, and when to photograph in the planned areas. Contact the *Travel Aide Director*, **Ellie Webster, FPSA**, and give the destination that's planned. Ellie will provide the names, addresses, phone numbers and E-mail addresses of the volunteers for these areas.

Another idea would be to join a group of PSA travelers. Travel and have fun!

In closing please consider entering local, national and international competitions. Then evaluate the judge's comments, and scores—listen and learn. ■

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