

2014 Travel Pictorial Group AAA Comments

1. Approach to Queenstown

I find the overall image to be nicely cropped, and the colors soft and pleasing. However, there appears to be something off with either the sharpness or noise.

2. Archipelago Houses in Stockholm

A very tranquil and inviting scene with rich color. A pleasing image to view. I feel it could be cropped a little on the left about halfway to the small red cottage.

3. Bryggen in Bergen Norway

A nicely composed image showing a distinct culture. Overcast skies offer soft, but rich pleasing colors. Taken from this vantage point, the scene captures, and pulls you in. The haphazard design of the tires is nice also.

4. Chapel of The Holy Cross, Sedona

Bold southwest color, very true to what the eye sees. Centering of the Chapel seems alright, but I may have lowered the camera angle a little, as this would allow for more foreground, a little less sky, and the feeling of the Chapel being even higher. The dark shadows could be opened a little also.

5. Cypress Tree in Allan Memorial Grove

An excellent capture of a beautiful moment. The composition is strong. The old stone stairs lead me up, and the water patterns below lead me back in. The shadow areas fit the time of dusk and setting sun. Good exposure. It is unfortunate the white guard rope intrudes so prominently in the image. For future submissions darken or clone it out, when allowed.

6. Evening at Cathedral Rock, Sedona

The sky, being so bright, and without color, commands to much attention. I feel that cropping down to halfway above the rock formation, and also in on both sides will help. Also, slightly lighten the foliage.

7. Ferry Tour on San Francisco Bay

I would open the shadowed area of the ferry just a little. Placement is fine.

8. Florentine Bridges

The zig-zag of the foreground building with the receding bridges behind offer an interesting view. Crop in a little on the right, (white area) and perhaps add a tinge more brightness.

9. Golden Gate Bridge

Nice focal length choice, and focus selection. Black & white is an option too.

10. Humpback Whale and Sea Lions

Very nice composition, good color, good shutter speed for capture, and allowing for the distant mountains to go soft is nice. The temperature of image works well. I would eliminate the small black bird on the right at water's edge. Distracts me.

11. Japanese Bridge

For some reason I want to see a Geisha or two on the bridge. A very pretty, idealized scene, with good color.

12. Lagoon, Whidbey Island

Very nice composition, with foreground leading into image and onto bridge. Distant boat leads viewer back in. I feel there could be less sky, and/or the sky should be just a little darker, with the trees on the left being just a little lighter.

13. Marti Gras at Sydney

Nice compilation of photographs, but it is somewhat confusing, and busy.

14. Milford Sound-New Zealand

Nice composition, and interesting effect, but unfortunately not in the criteria.

15. Moon Rise Over Queenstown

It appears that the sharpness is off, and the contrast seems a bit much. I like it as a black & white. Nice composition.

16. Plantation Servant's Quarters

It is cropped too tightly. Open it up on the left of image, and let it breathe. Nice subject matter and would look very good as a black and white as well.

17. Road to Nowhere, Death Valley

Good rule of thirds composition. It evokes emptiness, and aloneness. In my opinion, because of its monochrome aspects, it would be a stronger black & white image.

18. Sailing On San Francisco Bay

Nice, simple, good placement, and pleasing color. Overall a good image.

19. San Francisco Cable Car

Lower the camera angle to show more of the train tracks coming at you (drama!) Also eliminate some foliage at the top (about 1/4th of image), and open the cropping on the left. This would be a strong and interesting black & white image.

20. Santorini Steps

A very nice, well composed image. Good tone in the whites considering the brightness at the time. The cropping could 'possibly' be tightened, and I wish there were some flowers on the right foreground white ledge, but! A well exposed image.

21. Shawarma Chef

The Chef has an curious expression, but the cropping is to tight on the Chef. Back off a little, or move the camera angle to open it up. Might be a better black & white.

22. Signing California Constitution

Nice to see a still life, but your lighting could/should be better, and more dramatic. The composition of various articles in the image needs refinement.

23. Surfer at Hookipa Beach, Maui

Good placement of subject in image. Good shutter speed, capture, and action. Exposure and color seem accurate.

24. The Nyhaven Scene in Copenhagen

The harbor scene is composed well. From this view the sailboats may be prominent, but the buildings, tents and people add to, support, and balance the composition as a whole. The color is natural for an overcast day, and the scene looks inviting. I may have added a 'tad' of brightness, maybe not! A slight crop to the right side.

25. Wandering The Streets of Florence

At first glance, the cropping looks to tight, but it probably addresses how close the buildings are in this image. I would like to see the buildings straight, with no distortion at all. Shifting the camera angle to the left would allow for more color from the interesting yellow wall, as well as eliminate the drainage pipe and the needless, non descriptive dark stone wall on the right.

Winning Images:

- 1st Place Winner: Cypress Tree in Alan Memorial
2nd Place Winner: Humpback Whale in Monterey Bay
3rd Place Winner: Bryggen in Bergen, Norway

- Honorable Mention: Golden Gate Bridge
Honorable Mention: Santorini Steps
Honorable Mention: Sailing on San Francisco Bay
Honorable Mention: The Nyhaven Scene in Copenhagen
Honorable Mention: Japanese Bridge
Honorable Mention: Archipeligo Houses in Stockholm