

PTCC - 2015 — TRAVEL — GROUP A

30 images from ten members

01 - 7,569-foot El Capitan, Yosemite, CA, in full moonlight
Nice composition, and stars and exposure. Making a faraway landscape image look interesting is a challenge. Night photography offers new possibilities. This image is two dimensional, some silhouetted trees against the rock face, or the headlamp spot of a climber would give this image another element/ dimension.

02 - Family Washday, Guatemala
Nice colors, looks like there are some highlight issues, the busy background could be eliminated with a wider aperture and or longer lens combo. Travel photography is at it's most challenging time in history, everyone has a camera and or the same camera. For moments like this image, seeing the photograph before they happen and being ready is essential. Having this family walking towards the lens rather than away might have given greater opportunities.

03 - 1937 Chevy Coupe — “Ghost Rider” — Bodie, CA
Great colors, composition and mystery. Well executed, the building in the background really brings it all together. Visually stunning.

04 - After-the-Rain Rainbow, Ghost Town of Bodie Hotel & Bar
Rainbows are great opportunities, visualize this image without the rainbow, it would not be visually interesting, composing a great photograph and then having the rainbow as an element as well would be a home run.

Possibly more contrast and, darkening the sky so the building stands out would bring the image more power. There is good information here and some basic adjustments could make it jump.

05 - afternoon chat
Nice colors and light. This is a great opportunity to get closer. A longer lens, and fixed wide aperture could add more depth.
Getting up close and personal is one of the greatest barriers and challenges of a travel photographer, do that one thing and do it humbly without intruding or taking advantage of subjects and you will execute travel imagery on another level.

06 - Autumn in Ken, Connecticut

Nice colors and incredible location. The possibilities for images in this location are endless. Lighting is essential to all photographs. The best lighting is early morning and late eve and sunset. This image would be more striking with early or late light.

Looks like the blue sky is bleeding into the hills, it's a little heavy and the technique could be improved. The foreground could be cropped up a bit as well.

07 - Battery Point Lighthouse, Crescent City, CA

The subject is getting a little lost. Composition is essential, as well as level horizon. Show more of what is so beautiful about this location. Pan the image to the right show more sea and less beach, bring down the sky/ darken it. Nice light and time of day. A long exposure can only add to a well composed image but doesn't make the image alone.

08 - BMW World, Munich, Germany

Waiting for the light outside to get a bit darker and interior lights to have more contrast would help this image. This is an opportunity for a tripod, and super long exposure, large f-stop-F22-F64 and exposure times ranging from 60 seconds to 10 minutes would give more visual interest. The people could disappear, and lines of motion outside and inside could be striking. Good exposure though.

09 - Bodie Tourist

Good photography is a product of endless practice, success, failure and research. The message of this image is lost. If the subject was doing something other than taking a picture with their Iphone, and the tourists in the background were gone, and the composition cropped tighter, better results might be achieved.

10 - Casting Fishing Net

Excellent timing, great light and composition. Some photos don't need improvement, great shot.

11 - Ceremonial Candles

Great opportunity, nice light. Using a fixed aperture lens with an aperture of F1.2 to F1.4 could throw everything but her face out of focus and give this image more visual appeal. A slight adjustment of her expression possible eye contact might be more powerful. Bringing down the brightness in the foreground will draw more attention to the subjects face.

12 - Château Frontenac Boardwalk at Sunset, Québec City, Canada
The subject of this image is lost. Powerful images tend to have about three dimensions. This image has two, foreground and horizon. This needs a subject, something to go with the lines on the ground. Good time of day and good lighting. A brighter exposure would help.

13 - Checkpoint Charlie, Berlin, Germany
This image is struggling with over processing. The high dynamic range of this image is pushed too far creating halos around the edges and lacking midtone contrast and blacks. A longer exposure would eliminate the vehicles, and add more clarity.

14 - Clouds over the Golden Gate
Good location and lighting. Experimenting with a wider aperture and letting the flowers fall completely out of focus and having the bridge be sharp could make this image more striking. More contrast and basic adjustments could be improved to give the image more power. Needs midtone contrast.

15 - Going-to-the-Sun Road, Glacier National Park
This image is lacking midtone contrast. The message or the point of this image is lost. It's a great time of day and the lighting is nice. Maybe if the subjects turned around and we saw their faces would this have more visual appeal.

16 - IHM Chapel, Santa Fe, NM
Composition is essential. Cropping everything out around the building so it is just the building and clouds would give this image more power. The road can be cropped completely out.

17 - Irish Lass with her Ass
Longer lenses and wider apertures help eliminate busy backgrounds. If the subjects faces are the only thing in sharp focus this gives the viewer more direction. Travel photography is all about timing, pre visualization, hard work and a bit of luck. If the subject was looking past the camera, or to her left, this image could be more striking.

18 - Kings Canyon National Park — Yosemite without all those people
Looks like there are some processing issues, very grainy sky. The pine needles interrupt the image and takaway from the photograph. There is no vial subject, or element of focus in this image. Composition, subject and lighting are the most important elements in a great photograph.

19 - Little Bighorn Battlefield

Nice use of shallow depth of field. Nice tones and contrast. The subject of this image is a little lost. The focus point of the image isn't clear. Maybe getting closer and focusing on a name or letter, or the dead plant would help.

20 - Ministry of Culture, Warsaw, Poland

Nice composition and sky. Well exposed with good tonalities.

21 - Monk and Buddha

Great light and subjects. Good exposure and contrast. The composition could be brought down to bring more attention to the monk. A wider aperture and setting focus on the monk's face and letting the Buddha fall a bit out of focus could make this image more striking.

22 - Public Transportation for Rent, Montréal, Canada

Lines and angles are fun to play with. This image needs another element. Like a lady in a big red hat trying to pull her dress out of the spokes.

23 - St. Louis from the Arch, with Busch Stadium and State Capitol

Neat clouds. The composition of the image is leaning to the right. A long exposure at dusk with the clouds moving and lights twinkling and motion of the cars could be more dramatic.

24 - Totem — Sitka National Historical Park, Alaska

Having a lens with shallower depth of field could make this less busy, by making the background and foreground have less focus. The dead tree interrupts the image and blocks the subject.

25 - Triangular Building in Gastown, Vancouver, BC, Canada

The blur of the vehicle gives the image more appeal, longer exposure might have added more clarity. There is a lot going on in this photo. The building, lamp pole and car and fighting to be the main subject.

26 - Vancouver Harbor

A longer lens and shallower depth of field might give this image more drama. The plane landing and taking off, right at the point of touching or leaving the water would make the subject more understandable.

27 - Water Taxi and Canuck Arena

Fun composition. Nice placement of the water taxi. Good exposure.

28 - Lost in the Woods — Phone Uber. Carsaig, Isle of Mull, Scotland
Fun location. If the tree and background were less sharp the attention to the booth might be stronger. Waiting for the light to get darker, and having the telephone booth illuminated from inside might be more dramatic.

29. Sharing the Road, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, Scotland
Great time of day and nice light. Having the subjects walking towards the lens might be more striking than away from it.

30. Sunset at Castle Ruin, St. Andrews, Scotland
Cropping out the white sky, and trying to isolate the person if they are the subject would have possibly helped this image. Nice lighting and colors.

Winners:

Honorable Mention: Ceremonial Candles, Doug Steakley

Honorable Mention: 7,569-foot El Capitan, Yosemite, CA, in full moonlight, Jeff Hobbs

Third Place: Monk and Buddha, Doug Steakley

Second Place: Casting Fishing Net, Doug Steakley

First Place: 1937 Chevy Coupe "Ghost Rider", Bhodie, CA, Jeff Hobbs