

Below are the individual sections of the PT Definition *in blue*, illustrated Examples and comments:

**PT 1. Characteristic features.**

A Photo Travel image expresses the characteristic features or culture of a land as they are found naturally.

In the case of landscapes or buildings, it is not necessary to know ‘where the place is’. The image only needs to have identifiable features so that the place can be recognized by someone visiting it.

Further information on characteristic features in PT can be downloaded from the Photo Travel’s Education page: <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?ptd-educational-resources>



The characteristic features in the following images are generic and do not help to identify a land. None of the images are suitable for entry into Photo Travel.





## PT 2. Culture.

**A Photo Travel image expresses the characteristic features or culture of a land as they are found naturally.**

The culture presented in a Photo Travel image showcases how different people are in our world. The culture illustrated in the image should identify a people of a region or of a community and should be connected to a land. In a Photo Travel image, the culture portrayed should not be a culture that is found around the globe.

Further information on culture in PT is available for download from the Photo Travel's Education page: <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?ptd-educational-resources>

The activities portrayed in the following images are generic and do not help to identify a land or culture. None of the images are suitable for entry into Photo Travel.



**PT 3: No geographic limitations.**

**There are no geographic limitations.**

There are no restrictions as to where the image could be taken. A Photo Travel image can be captured from outside one's front door or on the other side of the world.

**PT 4. Staged or Set-up Images are not permitted in Photo Travel.**

**Images from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography are not permitted.**

PT is about images that show the truth of a culture and/or of the characteristic features of a land as they are found naturally. Images from arranged situations cannot be entered into PT. It is not always easy for a judge to ascertain whether an image has been staged but they should always ask themselves if the scene looks genuine.

During the scoring, if a judge or chairman is certain an image is staged then he/she should stop the proceedings and notify his fellow jury members.

Judges should do their best to keep staged images out of PT.

Set-ups can be identified when many images of the same or similar scenes are submitted to exhibitions, or when they depict unnatural actions or behavior by the people shown in the photo.



The photo below confirms that the picture of the boys throwing water is a “setup”, it is staged.



Determining whether a suspect image is staged is left to the discretion of the judge, based on their own opinions and experiences.

**These tell-tale signs are provided as a guideline only:**

- Unnaturally symmetric, regular, or lined up arrangements of objects or people performing tasks.
- Actions performed in unison or simultaneously by different people when simultaneity is clearly not required for the task.
- Selective lighting of parts of the scene that looks unnatural.
- Unnatural fog, especially in combination with sun rays.
- Workers/labourers all dressed in festive clothes while performing ordinary, everyday tasks. Be mindful, however, that women in India wear colorful saris even while performing menial tasks such as road construction, and that tribal women in southern China and Vietnam wear colorful costumes while working in the field or going to the market.

Images which are known to be staged or strongly suspected of having been staged should be scored low.

**The Photo Travel Division has a Gallery of ‘Staged Images’. Judges and chairmen should review this Gallery before scoring images:** <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?staged-travel-images>

**There is a document titled ‘Staged Images’ which is available for download from the PSA website:** <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?ptd-educational-resources>

**Important information on the ethics of Photo Travel photography:**  
<https://www.picsofasia.com/the-library-of-fake-travel-photos-in-asia/> (the images in this article should be reviewed)  
<https://www.picsofasia.com/stage-in-travel-photography/>

**PT 5. Close-up images.**

**Close-up images of people or objects must include features that provide information about the location.**

Close-up pictures of people or objects should contain some elements of the main subject's surroundings or environment that show the image was not a studio composition.

The following two images do not meet the requirement: Although the people portrayed in each image wear clothing that identifies them as being members of a particular culture, the images do not contain elements of the subjects' surroundings or environment.



By contrast, the following photographs meet that requirement to a much better degree: In each of the images below, there are some elements of the subjects' surroundings and environment that show the images are not studio compositions.

It is not necessary that elements be so specific that we know where the image was taken. It is only necessary that there are such elements in the photograph.



There is further reading on close-up images on the Photo Travel Education page: <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?ptd-educational-resources>

**PT 6. Editing techniques in Photo Travel.**

**Techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted. The only allowable adjustments are removal of dust or digital noise, restoration of the appearance of the original scene, and complete conversion to greyscale monochrome. Other derivations, including infrared, are not permitted. All images must look natural.**

Post processing of an image is restricted to only allowing the author to show, as closely as possible, what was actually seen when the shutter was pressed.

Further information on allowed and non-allowed editing techniques is available from the Photo Travel's Education page: <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?ptd-educational-resources>

There is a video on 'Editing Techniques' available for viewing on the Photo Travel Education page: <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?ptd-educational-resources>



**PT 6 a) Conversion to complete greyscale monochrome.**

Entries can be entered in Photo Travel in colour as in image 1 or converted to complete greyscale monochrome as in image 2. Images cannot have some sections of the image converted to monochrome as depicted in image 3. Neither can the image show partial desaturation as in image 4. The image cannot be presented in tones as per images 5 and 6. Only complete conversion to greyscale monochrome is permitted.

Image 1:



Image 2



Image 3



Image 4



Image 5



Image 6



**PT 6 b) Oversaturated images should be given lower scores.**



**PT 6 c) Over-sharpening where unnatural artifacts appear such as halos should be scored low.**



6 d) Techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove any element of the original image are not allowed.



PT 6 e) Noticeable vignettes are not allowed.



**PT 6 f) Darkening selected areas of the image is not allowed.**



**PT 6 g) Decorative/wide borders are not allowed.** A fine, single, stroke (max 5 pixels) is permitted if the Exhibition allows this in their 'Conditions of Entry'.



**PT 6 h) The addition of textures or use of filters is not allowed.**



Images with obvious signs of overprocessing should be scored low to ensure they stay out of the PT. Such images should be excluded from the Awards.

Image manipulation by removing, moving, or adding objects is often difficult to spot and to prove. When judges suspect a violation, it should be investigated.

**PT 7. All images must look natural.**

The Photo Travel image must look natural to the eye, therefore images taken with an extreme fisheye lens are not allowed in PT.



**PT 8. Images taken at shows, re-enactments, dance, or music performances.**

Images taken during performances, re-enactments or shows are suitable for entry into Photo Travel sections as long as the event was not arranged specifically for photographers.

The basic rule of content applies i.e., the image should express the characteristic features or a culture of a land as they are found naturally.



**PT 9. Themes in Photo Travel.**

Images in Photo Travel Themed section must be in compliance with the Photo Travel Definition. Firstly, the image must meet the Photo Travel definition and secondly the image should suit the Theme. The Theme should always be subservient to the Definition.

Further information on Themes in Photo Travel is available from the Photo Travel's Education page: <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?ptd-educational-resources>

### PT 10. Animals in Photo Travel

Normally images of animals would not be suitable for Photo Travel unless the animal's habitat is confined to a very specific region.

The following Text and Images are by Roy Killen APSA, GMPSA/B, EFIAP, APSEM

It is possible for an animal to be one of the characteristic features of a land. Here is an example:



The elephant on the left is obviously African (rather than Asian) but the image is not showing any other characteristic feature of Africa. The image on the right contains several elements (elephant, impala, typical house, typical river crossing) that collectively enable the image to show characteristic features of somewhere in Southern Africa).

### PT 11. People Traveling.

Images of people travelling do not necessarily mean that those images would be appropriate for Photo Travel. The image must adhere to the content requirement of the PT definition i.e., the image should express the characteristic features or a culture of a land.



Further information on this subject is available from the Photo Travel's Education page titled 'PTD Competition Corner 1': <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?ptd-educational-resources>

## PT 12. Drone Policy.

Please read the Drone Photography Rules (legal operation) available on the PSA website:  
<https://psa-photo.org/index.php?psa-policies>

*Judges of all PSA recognized exhibitions are urged to score down any image they feel was captured in a situation that does not follow the PSA Drone policy.*

Areas that might be of concern to judges:

- Images where there are people in the scene below. (a photographer must have the written permission from everyone in the scene **before** the shot is taken)
- Drones may not be flown over large groups of people, public events or populated stadiums within three nautical miles of the stadium or venue. (FAA USA law as of Aug 2019)
- Drones cannot be used to take an image of an animal or bird.
- Drones cannot be used in wilderness areas.

## PT 13. PSA Statement on Subject Matter.

### PSA Statement on Subject Matter

There is one hard and fast rule, whose spirit must be observed at all times and **applies to all sections** offered in PSA recognised exhibitions.

**The welfare of the subject is more important than the photograph.**

This means that practices such as baiting of subjects with a living creature and removal of birds from nests, for the purpose of obtaining a photograph, are highly unethical, and such photographs are not allowed in any PSA exhibitions.

There is also a PSA policy on the use of aerial photography - aircraft, helicopters and drones. This policy can be found at <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?psa-policies#drone>.

The purpose of this policy is to prevent any interference with other individuals or animals which will or may cause a disturbance in their normal activity or disrupt the way any individuals or animals interact with their environment. Entry in this exhibition requires exhibitors to agree to this and other PSA policies

*If a judge suspects that an image might have been taken where the welfare of the subject was abused, they are urged to score the image low.*

Areas that might be of concern to judges:

- Bull fighting
- Eagles in Kazakh belong to actual hunters that will return the eagle to the wild.  
<https://www.responsibletravel.com/holidays/mongolia/travel-guide/mongolias-golden-eagle-festivals>
- Tigers fed live pheasants in Hengdohezi Tiger Park, Habin, China.