



◀ GRAND PRIZE

OLD SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO
Wilson Tsoi, Mukilteo, Washington

"I was in Puerto Rico with my family last May, and I found this quiet alley intersecting Calle de la Tranquilidad in the northeastern part of Old San Juan. The Mediterranean color palette, late-afternoon sky and 500-year-old bricks combined to create a wonderful, fantasy-like scene. After setting up my camera and taking various shots, I felt that it still needed something else. I waited while mosquitoes enjoyed me as an appetizer, hoping someone would walk down the alley and add life to the setting. Luckily, about 15 minutes later, a resident happened to pass by."

○ This photo was taken with a Canon PowerShot A620 using the built-in zoom lens at the widest focal length. The exposure was f/8 at 1/30. Tsoi substituted his tripod for two quarters stacked underneath his camera.

PRIZE: Three nights at the JW Marriott Ihilani Resort & Spa at Ko Olina and three nights at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa, both on Oahu. Airfare provided courtesy of Hawaiian Airlines.

ISLANDS' 18TH ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

Preserved moments. Evidence of past adventures. These flooded our mail slot for four months. We thank you for sharing your world with us. Here are the moments that we thought were spectacular. We wish we could have been there.



◀ FIRST PLACE ▶

MALDIVES SERIES Michael H. Lam, Anaheim, California

Clockwise, from left ◀ "My wife and I were on our honeymoon in the Maldives. I was walking along an empty beach on Kani-finholu Island at 7 a.m. when the sun was rising above the horizon, breaking through the morning clouds in an explosion of light rays. I noticed a ship coming from a distance and knew that I was going to have a very special photograph.

▶ We took a seaplane to Henefaru Island for a lobster lunch on the beach. The tree-skeleton photo was the perfect reflection of this island: untouched, unspoiled and undisturbed. ▶ We took a scenic flight through the Ari Atoll and saw hundreds of islands from the air. I was clicking away and, before we landed near the north Ari Atoll, the plane descended low enough for me to capture this resort island just south of Rasdhoo Island."

○ These images were taken using a Canon EOS 10D Digital SLR fitted with a Canon 17-40 mm f/4L lens. To capture the sunrise shot, he used an exposure of 1/4 second at f/2 with an ISO of 100. For the tree-skeleton shot, he used an exposure of 1/10 second at f/22 with an ISO of 100. The aerial was shot at 1/750 second at f/5.6 with the ISO set to 400. Lam used a polarizing filter to minimize the reflections in the water. For both the tree-skeleton shot and the sunrise shot Lam used a polarizing filter, a graduated filter and a tripod.

PRIZE: Five nights at the Pueblo Bonito Sunset Beach Resort & Spa in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.





◀ SECOND PLACE

FLORES, INDONESIA
Stephan Alberola, Maple Ridge, British Columbia, Canada

"I came across a group of villagers playing cards and chewing betel nut on the porch of a hut in the village of Bena near Bajawa town on Flores island. This man's friendly and expressive eyes struck me, and the light cast on his face made him stand out. It was my first time here; my partner and I were on our honeymoon, a 10-day cruise through the West Nusa Tenggara province on the *Ombak Putih* schooner. The Bena village is very spiritual; its inhabitants use megalithic structures to conduct rituals and build *ngadu* and *bhaga* shrines to preserve the spirits of their ancestors. The people loved being photographed. There were a few others taking pictures, and the villagers just went on as if nothing was happening. They are very friendly and always smiling."

○ This photo was taken with a Canon EOS Digital Rebel with a Canon 70-200 IS f/2.8 lens. It was shot at f/8 at 1/80.

PRIZE: Six nights at the Hilton Curaçao.



▲ THIRD PLACE

MIKONOS, GREECE Greg Sullivan, Irvine, California

"I was near Little Venice in Mikonos town. The water here comes right up to the edge of the buildings, often lightly splashing onto the passers-by and those sitting along the seawall in the cafes and restaurants. This particular evening the hues struck me as unique, and the sea was calm; it added a mysterious quality to the setting. My wife and I had been to Mikonos a year before on a cruise-ship stop, and one day wasn't enough, so we decided to return. We stayed 17 days in May 2006, and we could have spent the whole month there, settling in with the locals at the waterfront cafes at breakfast, watching more sunsets and taking more photos."

○ This photo was taken with a Nikon COOLPIX 4600, using the automatic landscape setting.

PRIZE: Six nights at the St. James's Club Resort on Antigua.



▲ ARTISTIC MERIT

BALI, INDONESIA Mark Allan Kempton, Lakewood, Colorado

"My job in wholesale imports takes me to Indonesia for two to four weeks per year. During a recent trip, I was standing on a footpath at 10 a.m. near the town of Gianyar and saw this Balinese man in the shade of a forested hill, preparing rice for planting. On Bali, men plant and women harvest. Rice is sacred to the Balinese — every detail of its production, harvest and consumption is intertwined with their Hindu religion. On this particular morning it was around 98 degrees, and the intense tropical sun filled part of the shady foreground area where the man was working, which made for an unusual lighting situation."

○ This photo was taken with a monopod-mounted Canon EOS A2 on Ilford XP2 black-and-white film. A 100-200 mm lens and a polarizing filter were used.

PRIZE: Three nights at the Peter Island Resort in the British Virgin Islands.

ARTISTIC MERIT ►

KANGAROO ISLAND,
AUSTRALIA

Ed and Nidia Battaglini,
Agoura Hills, California

"It was our first time to Australia, and we had designed an itinerary that included Kangaroo Island, off the south coast, because we wanted to see the nature reservation known for its kangaroos and wallabies.

Every evening at 5 o'clock sharp, John "the pelican man" arrived at the wharf in Kingscote in his truck, dressed appropriately and carrying a heavy bucket full of fish. John shared information about the wharf pelicans with visitors and — anticipating the end of his speech and the beginning of feeding time — the pelicans started slightly shaking their wings. It made us think of a young audience waiting for a rock concert to start. It was really amazing, like perfect choreography."

○ This photo was taken with a Nikon D70 digital SLR.

PRIZE: Weeklong workshop at the Maine Photographic Workshops in Rockport, Maine.





▼ HONORABLE MENTIONS

- A » ST. VINCENT Linda Campanelli, Sherman Oaks, Calif.
- B » MOOREA, TAHITI Jeffrey Lierman, Muskego, Wis.
- C » SHIRAIISHI ISLAND, JAPAN Dave Gallagher, Hilo, Hawaii
- D » ST. VINCENT Linda Campanelli, Sherman Oaks, Calif.
- E » KO PHI PHI, THAILAND Alex Rostocki, Glastonbury, Conn.
- F » GALAPAGOS ISLANDS Caroline E. Brown, San Diego, Calif.
- G » BALI, INDONESIA Mark Allan Kempton, Lakewood, Colo.
- H » MIKONOS, GREECE Greg Sullivan, Irvine, Calif.
- I » KAUAI, HAWAII Renee Sullivan, Mt. Pleasant, S.C.
- J » PALAU Dan Page, Soquel, Calif.
- K » SALT SPRING ISLAND, CANADA Bill Barber, Sugar Land, Texas
- L » KO LANTA, THAILAND Josee Velsen, Gabriola Island, Canada
- M » PAPUA NEW GUINEA Glenn Ostle, Charlotte, N.C.
- N » SANIBEL ISLAND, FLORIDA Glenn Ostle, Charlotte, N.C.
- O » LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK Lisa Wessely, Fresh Meadows, N.Y.

PRIZE: An ISLANDS' gift bag that includes Bull-Frog sunscreen with insect repellent, an Earworms "Musical Brain Trainer" language CD, a Globetrotters LogBook®, an ISLANDS' T-shirt and other gifts.

» FOR TIPS FROM OUR CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS, GO TO PG 96.

► See more winners on the web at islands.com/photocontest.

