



Best Cultural & Historical Feature

A cultural and historical feature may focus on an art form or event, a local custom, or any travel experience that shares historical perspective or sheds light on a specific culture, whether you've written about a First Nations powwow, a funeral ceremony in Bali or a story about the Klondike gold rush.





Honourable Mention


Nancy Wigston


Buenos Aires: Drama, Diversity and Dancing

Judges Comments: Feeling hectic like a South American metropolis, this vivid account of life in Buenos Aires leaves the reader breathless. We join the usual realms of Argentinian tango and beef, but we also discover the pleasant, simple aspects of daily life that make Buenos Aires one the most fascinating cities to visit.


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 **East-West News Service**
Travel, History, Culture





BUENOS AIRES: DRAMA, DIVERSITY AND DANCING



Built in 1936 to mark the quadricentennial of the city's founding, The Obelisk is located at the intersection at 9th of July and Corrientes Avenue in the Plaza de la Republica in central Buenos Aires.

By Nancy Wigston

Imagine a chunk of 19th-century Europe breaking off and floating to South America where it lands at the mouth of the Rio de la Plata, the widest river in the world. Though anchored to a continent filled with Amerindians and the mestizo descendants of Spanish and Portuguese conquistadores, people in this settlement of Buenos Aires look Italian, French and German. Even stranger, these South Americans, who call themselves Porteños, admire Britain, with whom they share a love of polo, soccer and the glories of succulent, marbled beef. As the old saying goes, "An Argentine is an Italian who speaks Spanish, thinks he's French, but would like to be English."

With an exchange rate that favors visitors from more stable economies (1 USD=81.5 AR Pesos), Buenos Aires seduces tourists with its sophisticated lifestyle, green space, architecture, excellent steaks and Malbec wine.

Honourable Mention

Liz Campbell

Daughter of Burma discovers her past amid the Buddhist charms of modern Myanmar

Judges Comments: An intensely personal story allows the reader to capture the history and spirit of Myanmar. From the former British colonial past to the ever-present Buddhist faith and monuments, the enigmatic charms of former Burma are described with skillful precision and heartfelt emotions.

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DAUGHTER OF BURMA DISCOVERS HER PAST AMID THE BUDDHIST CHARMS OF MODERN MYANMAR



Myanmar is poor in terms of per capita income but abundant in natural resources and human talents.

By Liz Campbell

It's still a handsome house, but it must once have been quite beautiful. Its large ornate portico would have provided protection from the Burmese rains and the tree-shaded verandahs would have been a cool refuge during hot Rangoon summers. In this, my grandfather's house, I was born in 1946, and here I might have died while still a baby.

I lived because of Clement Attlee, Prime Minister of Great Britain (1945-51).

In 1946, General Aung San, a fervid nationalist, had been appointed leader of Burma by the ruling British. The following year, he travelled to Britain to petition for Burmese independence.

Fortunately, Attlee agreed. According to the BBC documentary titled *Who Really Killed Aung San?* had he refused, Aung San had a contingency plan – an armed rebellion with the killing of all the British and their families in the country at the time. My father, a British officer, was helping with the post-war reconstruction in Burma. He, my mother, and I would undoubtedly have been among the slaughtered.

Third Place

Jessica Lockhart

Sleeping overnight in the Dunedin Museum of Natural Mystery

Judges Comments: Simplicity is a form of refinement. The story simply takes the reader by the hand into a scary, yet funny world of curiosities. The quotes fit and flow perfectly, while no practical information is forgotten despite the quirky spirit of this unforgettable overnight stay.

 HOME

nzherald.co.nz

voyager
Media Awards

Website of the Year

TRAVEL

PREMIUM

Sleeping overnight in the Dunedin Museum of Natural Mystery

12 Jul, 2020 01:00 AM

© 5 minutes to read



Inside Dunedin's Museum of Natural Mystery, where guests can sleep overnight. Photo / DunedinNZ

NZ Herald
By: Jessica Wynne Lockhart



Lying in bed at my Dunedin Airbnb, I'm faced with a dilemma that I haven't grappled with


Second Place

Heather Greenwood Davis

Here's how travelers of color are smashing stereotypes

Judges Comments: Well-researched data reveals it is possible to move towards a more diverse and inclusive tourism. The relevance of the references, the choice of quoted experts in the field, and the overall accuracy of the story makes for a most powerful and informative article about diversity and inclusion of tourists of colour in the travel industry.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



Sarah Greaves-Gabbadon is a Miami-based Caribbean travel expert, award-winning journalist, and TV host who shares stories about the islands' diverse culture, lifestyle, and people.
PHOTOGRAPH BY SARAH GREAVES-GABBADON

| TRAVEL |

Here's how travelers of color are smashing stereotypes

The travel industry hasn't always welcomed everyone. These people want to change that.

And the Winner is...

Jennifer Bain

The incarcerated artists who carve to support their families

Judges Comments: Nunavut is a mystery for most of us. And an Iqaluit jail is normally a forbidden territory. The story procures a fascinating foray into Inuit art made by inmates. We meet the tourists who interact with them through purchases made on the premises. In the hands of a gifted writer, this extraordinary premise is turned into art.





Best Family & Partner Feature

Whether your story is about facets of the travel experience that feature family-based activities – from multigenerational travels to kid-friendly resorts and attractions to shared memories no matter how you define “family” – this category is for you. As long as the focus is opportunities for sharing with the significant others in your life, we want to see your submissions.

CHELSEA
Hotel
TORONTO



Honourable Mention

Joanne Elves

How One Family's Ski Habit Turned into a Growth Chart

Judges Comments: Planning a family vacation can be a feat; packing can seem like running a marathon and anticipating the dynamics of children on the ski slopes can give any parent a headache. Here, the article shows us how our children can surprise us, both with their exploits and with the detailed and humorous analysis of the situation. This article is a joy to read and reminds us why every year we try to get everyone together for a family vacation.



HOME DESTINATIONS TYPE DEALS TIPS

How One Family's Ski Habit Turned Into a Growth Chart at Kicking Horse Mountain Resort



Charting the kids growth at Euphoria. Photos Joanne Elves

Euphoria Isn't a State of Mind, It's a Tradition...

The run is called Euphoria but when many people stand at the top of it, the last emotion is that of intense happiness or self-confidence. It's a typical black diamond run at [Kicking Horse Mountain Resort](#) overlooking the town of Golden B.C. But it's bumpy and steep and like many runs, it's intimidating. And that's why for almost an entire season, either my husband or I would ski past it as we followed our youngest on her quest to learn to ski. We were stuck in the ruts on the ten-kilometre-long green run that meanders from the top to the bottom.

Honourable Mention

Jennifer Bain

Whatever floats your Le Boat

Judges Comments: The article takes us through the Rideau Canal at the same pace as the water flows. For anyone who thought that driving a boat on vacation was out of reach, even for non-swimmers, this article cleverly proves otherwise. The author skillfully describes the various scenarios that unfold before their eyes with an accurate choice of words and images. This story makes us discover a region that we are used to see from the land and not from a nautical point of view.



Third Place

Helen Earley

Combining Luxury with Local Flavour in Mazatlan

Judges Comments: Whether you discover the destination on foot, by cab or by bus, Mazatlan seems determined to charm us with its rich culture, its music-loving cabs and its gastronomy worthy of considering being on the UNESCO World Heritage list. The article presents a deep understanding of the history of this destination and is enhanced with references that provide interesting additions to the facts presented. Landscape and architectural details are well illustrated down to the palpable feeling of safety and the pleasant rhythm of staying in Mazatlan among the locals and tourists, who by the way seem to mix wonderfully.



[HOME](#) [DESTINATIONS](#) [TYPE](#) [DEALS](#) [TIPS](#)

Combining Luxury with Local Flavour in Mazatlan



I don't know what it was about Mazatlan that re-ignited my inner backpacker. You would think that, a decade after relegating my dusty Canadian-flag emblazoned backpack to the far reaches of the closet in the spare bedroom, the new me – a 44-year-old mother of two – would be perfectly happy to lounge by a pool in Mexico, sipping cocktails, waiting for the all-inclusive dinner bell to ring.

But, with fond memories of backpacking through Bolivia and Peru in the late 1990's, and the quest for a holiday with slightly more depth than a simple beach vacation, I recognized the Pacific port of Mazatlan as a city with a story to tell.

Second Place

Heather Greenwood Davis

Pride of Place

Judges Comments: The story shows the ultimate goal of a family getaway: kids coming back home with memories and connecting the dots. Pride of Place reminds us that our educational system has left out crucial elements of our country's history, but that a simple family getaway can fill in the missing pieces. Well written, tangible emotion and well balanced with the description on the location and historical facts.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Travel+Leisure India | November 2020

Southern Ontario played an important, though little-known, role in the lives of Canada's Black citizens. HEATHER GREENWOOD DAVIS travels to the small-town museums, churches, and monuments paying tribute to those who came before.

HEATHER GREENWOOD DAVIS

OKAY, CAMERON, CLIMB into the box," says our tour guide.

My 15-year-old son, tall, Black, and curious, leaves my side and climbs into a six-by-two-by-two-foot suspended wooden bunk. I momentarily look away.

We're three hours south of Toronto in the Buxton National Historic Site & Museum, staring at a display that re-creates the cargo space of the ships that transported Africans into slavery. Our host, curator Shannon Prince, is a sixth-generation Canadian and the descendant of American slaves who fled Virginia and Tennessee to live as free people on this plot of land where we stand. She is asking Cameron to help her make a point. He and his 18-year-old brother can barely fit in the space, but it would have housed as many as six men and women, naked, sick, and hungry, on a 35-to-60-day voyage to generational bondage.

Watching Cameron climb into this box is more painful than I anticipated. But for my boys, touching the yokes and chains of slavery and hearing the stories of resilience marks a turning point. What we discover on this mini road trip from our home in Toronto—stopping at churches, museums, and monuments dedicated to Black stories — is a history of Black Canada that most Canadians don't know. "I had heard about it, but this time I felt it," Cameron said.

And the Winner is...

Lisa Kadane

Traveling on the Spectrum

Judges Comments: We all have the right to travel and build memories with our children. Too often families with special needs children are forgotten. Here we have a story that describes the joy of a mother and the wonder of a child in a place that has thought about all the details, the most important of which is putting the child at the center.

Recovering a sense of normalcy is what is felt most in this article but without forgetting the reality of this family. Considering a person and not ignoring it is vital. Ignoring to write about this reality is a mistake and here we have the privilege to discover a perfect destination for this family. Everything is in this article, from the impeccable structure of the text, to the precision of the facts and especially the palpable emotion that is the happiness of a mother on vacation with her child.



Best Food & Drink Feature

This is about culinary travel whether it be about a road trip on the Texas BBQ Trail, munching your way along Collingwood's Apple Pie route, sipping through the breweries of Ireland or attending a food festival in Hawaii. Your food and drink feature article could be about a city's walking and eating tour, dining at Europe's Michelin starred restaurants, a visit to a stunning new distillery or a wine soaked week in Napa. If you're the Anthony Bourdain of the written word in travel, this category is for you.



Honourable Mention

Carolyn Heller

How a Canadian Brewer Is Helping Open Rwanda's First Craft Brewery

Judges Comments: An original story, very refreshing. Solid reporting and research, context and breezy narrative. Strong characters, and even a little suspense. Nice to see a well-crafted article with a social responsibility angle. Very nicely done.



October Magazine: How a Canadian Brewer Is Helping Open
Rwanda's First Craft Brewery

Honourable Mention

Darcy Rhyno

Gin Making is an Art

Judges Comments: A lesson in gin with good description, narrative structure and deft use of quotation. A nice blend of fact, history, character and contemporary context. Makes you thirsty and travel-ready.



Third Place

Linda Barnard

John Bishop: Godfather of Pacific Cuisine

Judges Comments: A well-crafted profile of a deserving restaurateur. The structure is sound, the narrative moves effortlessly forward, and this is packed with detail. It's topical too. The writer reveals solid knowledge and uses this to inform the reader while painting a picture of Bishop himself and putting his accomplishments into proper context.



Second Place

Cinda Chavich

The Great Irish Bake Off

Judges Comments: The focus is on baking, but the story and characters supporting this theme make for a great read. There's utility and entertainment here. Stylish writing, good quotes, and just enough of the writer's interjections. Good fun.



And the Winner is...

Darcy Rhyno

Down red lanes and over green fields: The hidden hooch makers of PEI

Judges Comments: Efficient writing, nice turns of phrase, well-rendered characters. This is superlative writing that encapsulates place, people, terroir and the food and drink they produce. The writer weaves a compelling narrative. This is a fun read that's packed with information useful to anyone who would visit





Best Outdoors, Wildlife or Environmental & Responsible Tourism Feature

This category focuses mainly on the outdoors – particularly wildlife, eco-tourism and the environment. Stories topics can range from conservation, ‘voluntourism’ (think: rescuing puffins) or travel from a green point-of-view and/or travel’s impact on the environment. Paddling, hiking, biking or birdwatching along an amazing trail, also belong in this category.



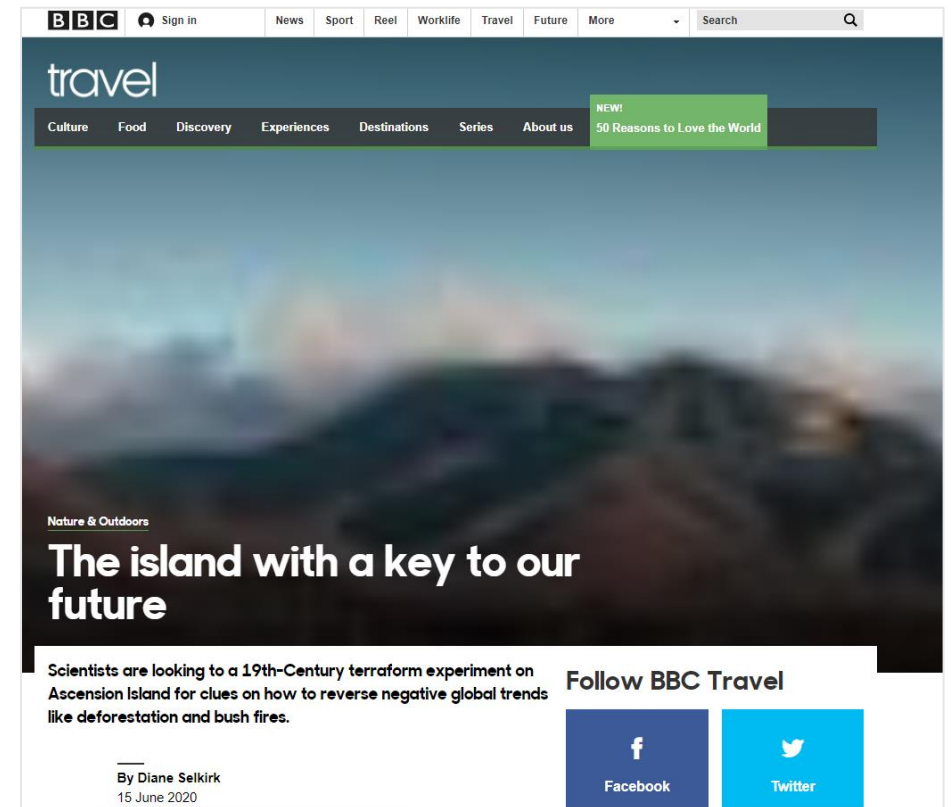
DESTINATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA™

Honourable Mention

Diane Selkirk

The Island With a Key to Our Future

Judges Comments: This article is rich in color and in information that allows us not only to discover a tourist destination but also to understand the impact that humans can leave on the environment and shape our future. This story shows that nature, like humanity, knows how to adapt and be enriched by the presence of other species in order to become a unique place. Strong, extensive research



Honourable Mention

Carolyn Heller

Why You Should Drink Beer Made From 'Recycled' Water

Judges Comments: Surprising story angle, original and well written. Educational. We've read so many stories on microbreweries but this one stands-out. Impeccable structure, great rhythm



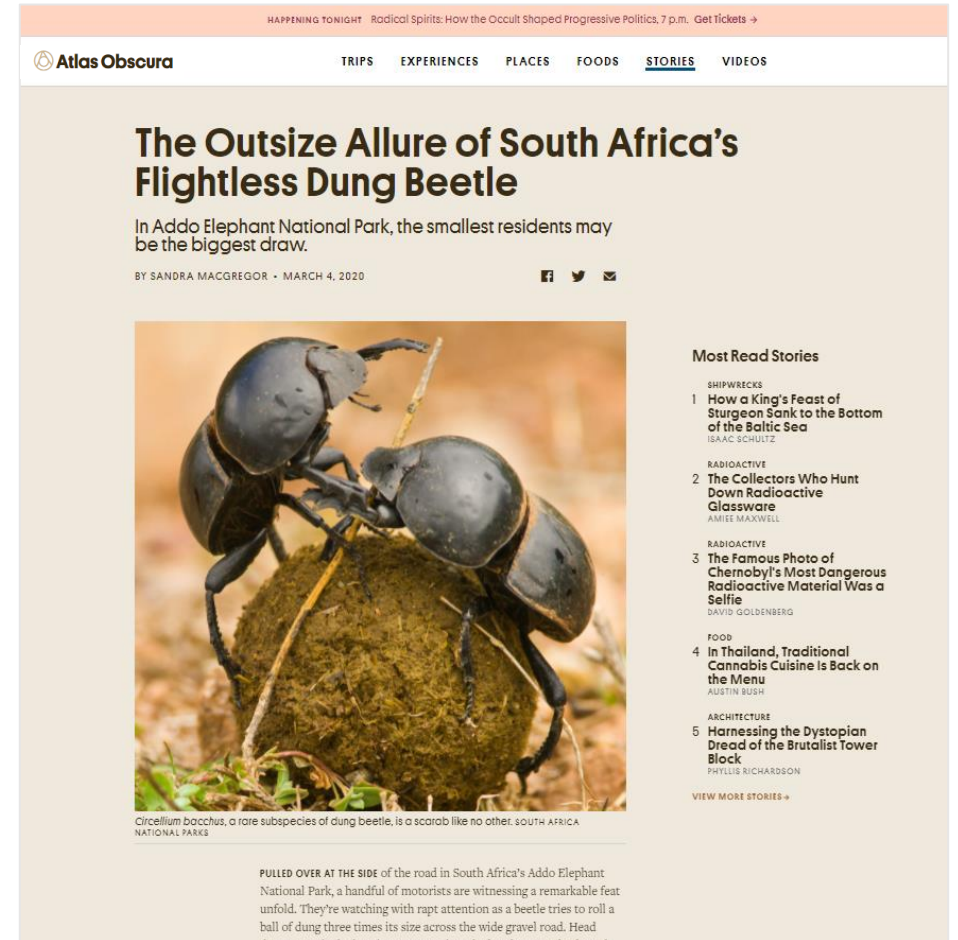
October Magazine: Why You Should Drink Beer Made From 'Recycled' Water

Third Place

Sandra MacGregor

The Outsize Allure of South Africa's Flightless Dung Beetle

Judges Comments: This article brilliantly juggles the grandeur of elephants and this intriguing tiny insect. Both are kings in their own different worlds from their own perspective. This article is humorous, brilliantly written and makes me realize that for the first time in my life, I might be attracted to discovering an insect while visiting a destination.




Second Place


Jennifer Bain




How to hike to the iconic Hollywood sign

Judges Comments: How can a simple gigantic sign become the reason to jump on a plane and execute a long urban (not so urban) hike under the sun? The answer is simple, the iconic Hollywood hike. This story allows us to discover the importance of 9 letters that each have a slice of history of this mythical destination while exploring a winding terrain, steep and full of surprise and story. Brilliant.




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How to hike to the iconic Hollywood sign

Jennifer Bain
Jan 29, 2020 • January 29, 2020 • 7 minute read • [Join the conversation](#)



Bikes and Hikes LA guide Elizabeth Conway at the quintessential spot to photograph the Hollywood sign. PHOTO BY JENNIFER BAIN

To hike to the Hollywood sign via the Wisdom Tree involves strolling by a gauntlet of intimidating signs, some official, some handmade. “Warning hikers. You are in mountain lion country. Hike in groups and make noise so lions will not be surprised.” “Danger! Rattlesnakes!” “Stop. Dead end. No turnaround.” “Attention: Your GPS is wrong. Turn back now.”

And the Winner is...

Jessica Lockhart

History of Polynesian explorers celebrated in Tairāwhiti

Judges Comments: Who would have thought that being connected to your phone in Polynesia could end up being a lesson in humility, respect and education throughout a trip. This article teaches us with every step the author takes how important it is to leave behind our preconceived notions and open our minds to the new information a trip can instill in us. This article brilliantly bridges the gap between the history that is told to us in books and the one that is discovered in front of each monument we visit. This article is a perfect balance between introspection, the quest for truth and the respect for the environment.

 nzherald.com

 Website of the Year

TRAVEL

History of Polynesian explorers celebrated in Tairāwhiti

10 Oct, 2020 06:00 PM 5 minutes to read



Gisborne's Tolaga Bay Wharf spans 600m into the Pacific Ocean. Photo / Vaughan Gillard, Tourism Eastland

NZ Herald
By: Jessica Wynne Lockhart

Produced with support of 

Even though it's early Monday morning, the beach in front of New Zealand's longest wharf at Oawa (Tolaga Bay) is surprisingly busy. Cars are parked on the sand among the driftwood, windows rolled down while their occupants swap stories from the weekend past. Sunshine bounces off the white sandstone cliffs — the East Cape being the first place in the world to greet the sunrise each day — while waves gently fold in towards shore.



Best Adventure, Sport or Recreation Feature

A soft or hard adventure, sport or recreation feature that brings the reader along as the writer heads into the great outdoors or putts along a world-class golf course, or perhaps puts a new spin on a popular pastime. From sporting events to canoe trips, sky-diving to dogsledding, this category should draw stories that come to life, and maybe even get one's adrenaline pumping.

DISCOVER
Surrey

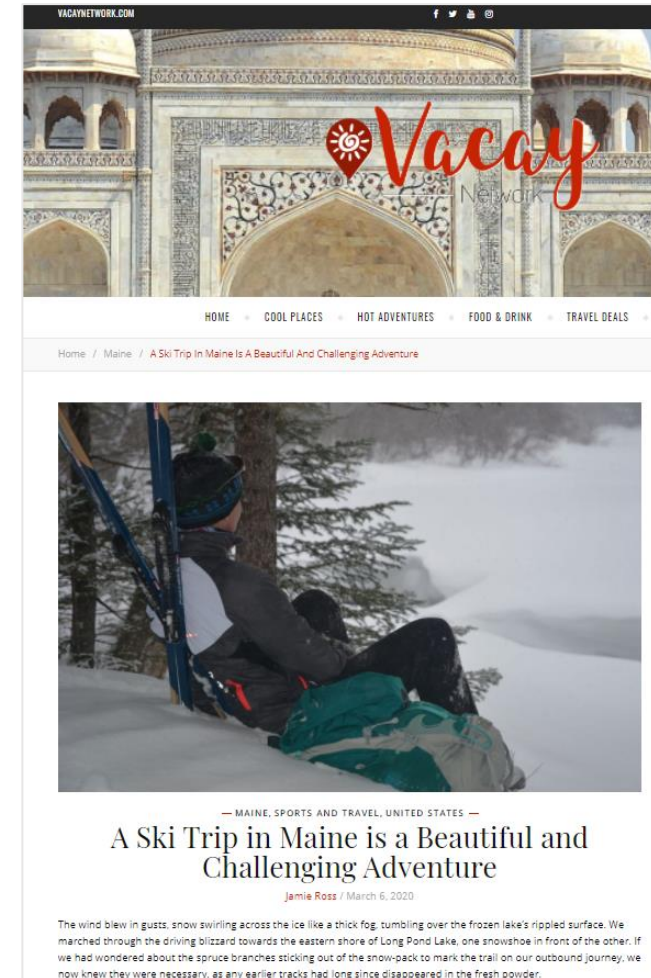


Honourable Mention

James Ross

A Ski in the Maine Woods

Judges Comments: We would all love the chance to hop in a car to the destination of our choice for a short stay. This simple story deftly demonstrates the ease of such a getaway. From the winding, snowy road to the well marked ski slopes, this article guides us through the beauty of Maine in winter with ease.




Honourable Mention

Zack Metcalfe

On The Peak, On The Edge

Judges Comments: In this article, nature is king and the author goes to meet a species that despite its size can be in danger if we do not make efforts to preserve their habitat. We witness a close encounter with the caribou and even our breath slows down while reading the lines that describe this successful encounter so well.

exploreArticles Podcast Gear Box M



On the Peak, On the Edge: My Hike in Search of Critically Endangered Atlantic Caribou

Aug 11, 2020

By Zack Metcalfe

The straps of a 70-litre pack can be especially cruel, punishing the wearer for every article of clothing, every scrap of food and every gulp of water deemed essential for three days of mountainous adoration. Add to this the pitiless load of the photographer (Canon 6D Mark ii, Tamron SP 150-600mm, Canon EF 17-40mm) and you're left with a meditation-in-motion, refusing the pain just long enough to keep hiking, keep climbing and keep searching for something nearly extinct: the very last of the Atlantic caribou.

Third Place

Gerry Feehan

These Boots Were Made For Wadin'

Judges Comments: How many fly fishing stories have you read? Usually we get into an almost hypnotic enumeration of technical elements that are essential to the sport. This time, the author makes us discover the importance of knowing where to put your boots by following your instincts in order to find the magic place that will allow you to make a great catch.

The screenshot shows the Todayville website interface. At the top, the logo "todayville Red Deer" is visible, along with the location "RED DEER, ALBERTA" and a "6+" rating. A navigation bar includes links for "TOPICS", "RED DEER", "ALBERTA", "ENERGY", "CENTRAL ALBERTA", "EVENTS", "REGISTER", "CONTACT", "ADVERTISE", and "LOGIN". A search icon is on the right. Below the navigation bar, a green banner reads "ALBERTA". The main article headline is "Can you tell me if there's a good spot to fish around here?". The article is by "Todayville", published 11 months ago, with a 9-minute read time. The article image shows a pair of brown leather boots on a log in a river, with the text "These boots WERE MADE FOR WADIN'". Below the image, there is a "Skills for LIFE" logo and a "REGISTER FOR FALL St. Joseph's Ball Academy" banner. The article text begins with "I remember the first time I played golf. It was a beautiful summer evening. That first shot flew out over the blue Edmonton sky and settled in the middle of the fairway. I was 12 years old and, from that moment on, addicted to golf. My appetite for fly fishing began many years later, but was also sparked by a single, memorable event – when, in a classic example of beginner's luck, I landed a big brown trout on the Bow River." To the right of the article, there are several smaller articles under the heading "MOST POPULAR THIS WEEK": "Why aren't more doctors treating covid? Doctor testifies early treatment saves lives", "Province changes rules on isolation and quarantine for people who are vaccinated", "Gerry Feehan Receives the Legendary Invitation, A World Famous Newfoundland Tradition", and "My European Favourites – Rome, Italy". At the bottom right, there is a "Search Events" bar.

Second Place

Jayme Moye Chinese Puzzle

Judges Comments: Who would have thought that in order to find the origins of skiing, we would have before our eyes, a story that takes place in China. This pilgrimage takes us away from the classic and adored destinations of European and American skiing. The angle of this article is different and transports us to meet characters more intriguing than the others but all authentic.



Chinese Puzzle

WAS SKIING INVENTED IN ASIA? A SEARCH FOR ITS ORIGINS FOLLOWS THE FAINT TRACKS OF HISTORY

BY JAYME MOYE

After hours of ascending a ridgepole, my ski-touring companions and I gained the singular view we'd been seeking—the convergence of four countries. Looking east, the village of Khom in China, where we'd started, appeared in miniature, set against the dark, forested foothills of the Altai Mountains. Behind it loomed snow-shrouded ten-thousand-foot peaks marking the Mongolian border. To the west, row after row of jaggedly craggy mountains marched away into Kazakhstan. Closing north, through a frothy sea of toothy white mountainsides and soft blue sky, I peered into Russia. In the world of ski culture, we were standing on hallowed ground—a little-known region that's recently emerged as the possible birthplace of skiing.

I first learned of the Altai Mountains through the work of American ski instructor and designer Hila Lerner, who produced the 2008 documentary *Skiing in the Shadow of Genghis Khan*. The film portrays a thrilling ski culture indigenous to this starkly beautiful corner of the world, where people still travel and hunt using wooden skis with thick lambskin stretched across the bottom. From tip to tail, just as they have for thousands of years. My traveling companions and I, all avid backcountry skiers from Canada, the United States, and New Zealand, had each in our own way become charmed with the idea of being among the first westerners to visit this cradle of skiing. I came seeking connection to another side to skiing, more utilitarian and, perhaps, more authentic than the snowboard sport I know and love. For me, it was a pilgrimage to skiing's living roots, the hopes of which may be lodged not in Scandinavia as it's always assumed, but in the mountains of Central Asia.

We headed northwest in Khom, a hamlet deep in northern China's Altay Prefecture. The people there are ethnic Kazakhs, heirs to Central Asia's nomadic horse culture, and Tatars, hailing from semi-nomadic herding clans that roamed into China from Russia and Mongolia. A single paved road threads a mountain pass to connect Khom to the rest of China. In the winter, the area gets so much snow that the easiest way to get around is by horse, a horse-drawn wooden sled, or sled, horsehair skis. Until a few years ago, traditional methods of transport were the only way—there weren't maintained vehicles, let alone attempts to clear the roads. There wasn't even electricity when Lerner first visited in 2005.

Thirteen years later, we found two Khoms. One, set along a river, consisted mostly of single-story wooden houses heated by coal-burning stoves, hewn in by goat and beam beams strung to create a house or two. The houses, I'd later learn, were built in the ancient Tibetan tradition, with stacked log walls and steep wooden roofs.

The other Khom was built near a cluster of structures built in a smooth, modern facade of the same Tibetan style, with a rainbow-colored hot air balloon loomed about fifty feet above the valley floor. I remarked on the incongruity, and our translator Zhiel Chen, a twenty-something Chinese skier now living in New Zealand, turned forward and exchanged a flurry of Mandarin with the driver. "The new town, he appeared, is 'the museum.'"

We stayed in the old village, at a guesthouse known simply as Mr. Wang's. There, in the establishment's riverside cafe, I encountered a young family from Sichuan, southwestern China. The father was keen to talk, using an app. He typed Mandarin into his phone and it spoke English out to me. I spoke English back into the phone and it translated my speech into Mandarin on his screen. He'd brought his kids to Khom—he said the town's Han Chinese name, Homs—no one knew for the first time. They were about to take a short ride up the hillside overlooking the river. I said I was here to ski, and his eyes widened. He said something excitedly to his wife, then turned back to me with a huge smile. He held up his phone and murmured me closer, indicating I should pin him in a selfie. I grinned and stuck my head in the frame as he snapped a photo.

Our quest began with a visit to a traditional horsehair ski maker. From Mr. Wang's, we crossed one modern ski-touring rig and climbed across the frozen Khom River, then followed a hand-packed snow trail—a chana path—into a lucky forest. To my left, through pine and aspen trees, I caught glimpses of the brightest white foothills and so blue sky. To my right, registers of the frozen riverbed. Underfoot, I dodged an occasional pile of horse dung.

The ski maker's humdrum consisted of several log dwellings and horse in a clearing at the base of a hill. Two axes regulated our entry with a slow swing of their heads. It appeared secure else was home. Chen went to sort logs and returned with a man in his forties, the ski maker's son. The man explained, through Chen, that his father's health was failing. He'd been in the hospital for some time, and the time of the conversation left some doubt as to whether he'd ever return. The son said he never learned how to make skis, but he offered to show us around.

He led us to a small hut framed by a porch, which, judging

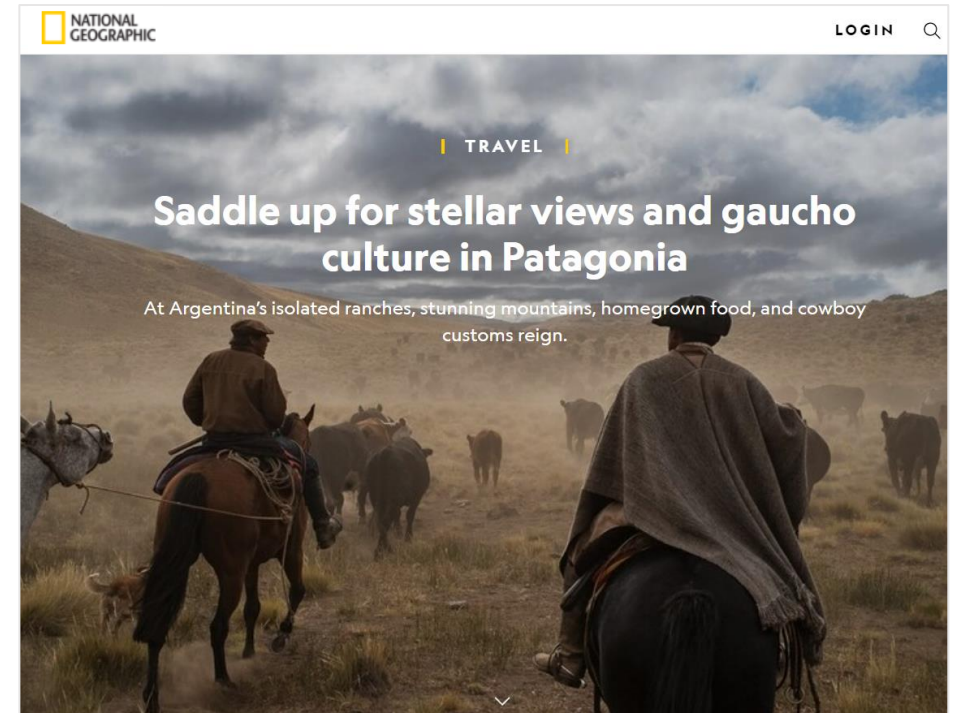
A man in northern China's Altay region makes his records on traditional skis covered in horsehair. Previous: The origins of skiing won't be found on the slopes, but the future will be.

And the Winner is...

Liz Beatty

Saddle Up for Stellar Views and Gaucho Culture in Patagonia

Judges Comments: This article introduces us to a world that even a movie could not describe so well in images. The rhythm at which the activities seem to take place, the hosts who are the soul of the place, make that every tourist who stays there live a unique experience. The article makes us discover a unique place in the north of Patagonia, from the landscape to the strong connection the tourists develop with the animals of the ranch. Details are nicely woven into the narrative, anchor images in our heart and stir our passion for travel.



Best Spirit of Canada

This category is devoted to those articles that bring Canada, its landscape, its culture and its people alive on the page. These inspirational stories will scream “This is Canada!”



Yukon

LARGER THAN LIFE
PLUS GRAND QUE NATURE

Honourable Mention

Darcy Rhyno

Rich with Nova Scotia history, Sherbrooke Village turns 50

Judges Comments: From it's first lines, this story immediately sets us up to understand the life, sounds, and atmosphere that could be found in this prison. The two guides Jacks and Flemmings enrich the story and bring relevant elements to the story and the life in Sherbrooke Village. In addition to discovering particular facts of history, the author allows us to live the experience with a precise and pictorial description of the interpretation activity visitor can do.



Honourable Mention

Matthew Bailey

The World's Largest Pond Hockey Tournament

Judges Comments: If we were looking for a single article to explain the hockey frenzy, this would be it. It's all there. The team spirit, the hospitality, the food and the scenery. This article leaves us with a smile on our face and the desire to put on our skates.



Playing Hockey at the World Pond Hockey Championship 2020

By Matthew G. Bailey — [Leave a Comment](#)

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Last updated: April 7th, 2020


When it comes to massive world-renown pond hockey tournaments, you probably wouldn't think of New Brunswick, little lone the small town of Plaster Rock. Yet, it's here, in this super


Third Place


Liz Campbell

Bizarre, beautiful and beyond the pale, Dawson is the most colorful city you'll probably never visit


Judges Comments: No one could think adding Dawson City on its bucket list, but after reading this story, I feel that I'm missing out on an important city of the country. For its history, its people and the large range of activities offered. If you're looking for connecting with locals. Dawson city is your place and you might find a best friend from Australia.

 Buy One Fare, Get One Free! Hurry offer ends soon! [Learn More >](#)

 **East-West News Service**
Travel, History, Culture



**BIZARRE, BEAUTIFUL AND BEYOND THE PALE,
DAWSON IS THE MOST COLORFUL CITY YOU'LL
PROBABLY NEVER VISIT**



The Greatest Show on Earth may be the Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights, as seen from the hills around Dawson during the winter.

I'm sitting in the Sourdough Saloon at the Downtown Hotel, in Dawson City, Yukon, about to drink neat gin containing a preserved human toe!

No, I haven't stumbled into a crazy community of cannibals. But, perhaps crazy isn't an entirely unapt description of a town that not only embraces the Sourtoe Cocktail, but also offers a Dog Ball High Ball (ingredients obvious) each year in March. This canine cocktail (key component courtesy of the local vet) celebrates the beginning of the spring thaw and is sold to raise funds for – you guessed it – the Yukon Humane Society.

Second Place

Arlene Karpan

Waterton Resumes its Place as a Prime Destination

Judges Comments: Through these lines, we can understand how this park owns its place in the 'must see parks' of the country. The writer brings us kilometre by kilometre through the scenery with clear descriptions of terrain and of the colours surrounding avid or beginner hikers. The information shared in this story constitute a little hiking bible for this park. It is well written, specific and filled with tangible images.



And the Winner is...

Liz Fleming

Bison, Bones and Buttes: Rediscovering Saskatchewan

Judges Comments: If a story makes you sink in your sofa when you read about quicksand, there's probably a captivating angle to it. The scenery described is clear and bright. No beige in the horizon, only the pure beauty of a misjudged part of our country and it's wildlife. This park's nature is now embedded in my imagination and I must make room in my travel agenda to discover it. We can feel through this story the breeze of the wind in the fields and we have a clear understanding of how rich the history is Saskatchewan.

Destinations Experiences

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Traveller

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Bison, Bones and Buttes: Rediscovering Saskatchewan

by Liz Fleming / Sep 17, 2020

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Barren and beige; that's how LIZ FLEMING remembers Saskatchewan being portrayed in her elementary school geography textbook. With a visit to Grasslands National Park, she re-writes what those authors failed to see.

THE ONLY WAY TO BE SURE OF WHAT you've found," said Brenda, our über knowledgeable Parks Canada guide, "is to lick your finger and tap. If your finger doesn't stick, it's a rock. If it does, it's bone."

Best On-line Travel Column & Blog

This category is for those who write a travel column or travel blog on a regular basis. Minimum frequency must be once a month and minimum word count 300 words per posting. Writings need not be a series, but must be regularly occurring under the author's name on-line and must be travel focused. If this category fits your work, three examples of the column or blog from the same year must be submitted.

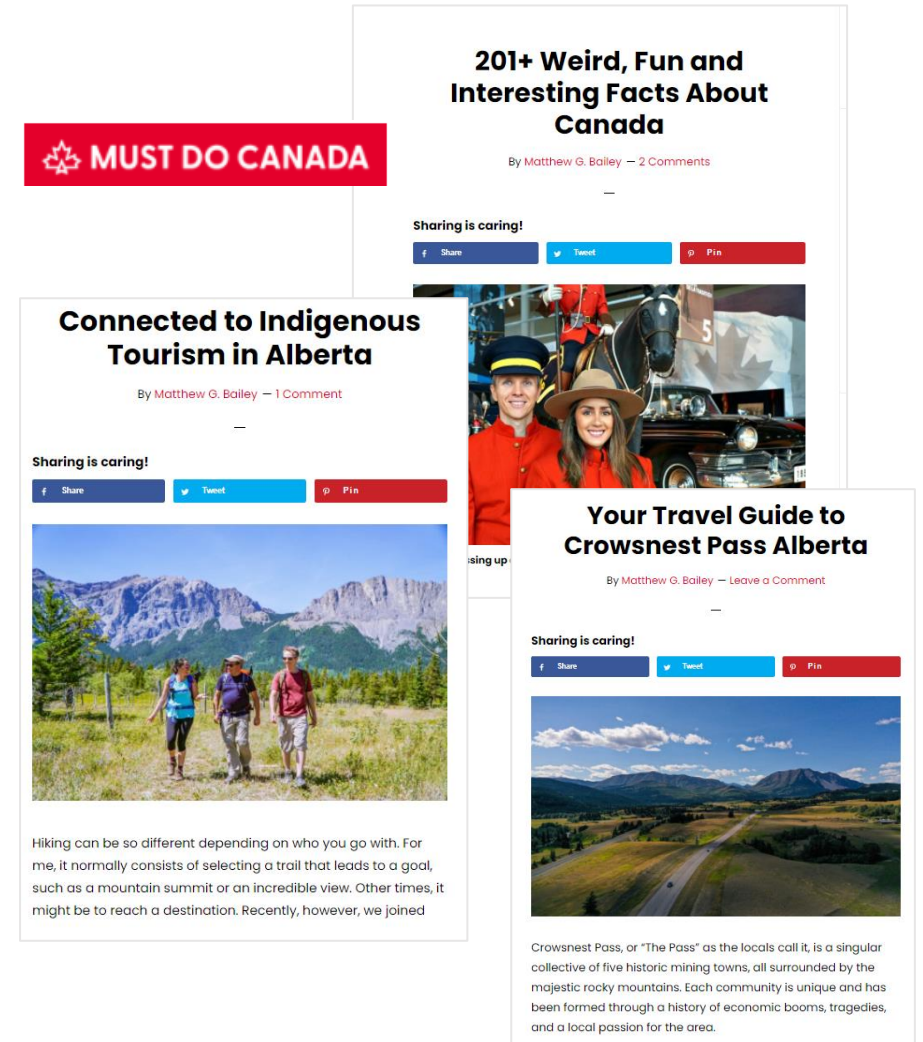


Honourable Mention

Matthew Bailey

Must Do Canada

Judges Comments: Iconic, like a postcard of our country. Difficult not to like what makes our destination so unique and recognizable from many countries. This blog understood the power of the Oh Canada without falling into the cliché. Great structure.



Honourable Mention

Tamara Elliott

Globe Guide

Judges Comments: The art of the perfect blog. Each details of this blog presents great research, it's masters the art of blogging in terms of SEO, clicks, pictures and format. However, we would like to have a better understanding of how the blogger experiences the destination. There's a tangible distance that we would like to reduce between the essential information, details and the writers impressions.



The best places to visit in Jordan: A 7 day itinerary

BY TAMARA ELLIOTT · APRIL 15, 2020



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Dramatic red rock canyons, endless stretches of desert, camels, and hummus: if you're looking for a foray into the Middle East, spend the boxes when it comes to culture, scenery and adventure.

Despite bordering the likes of Syria, Israel and Egypt, Jordan has no conflicts seen by its neighbours, making it one of the region's safest. Inner Indiana Jones by exploring the lost city of Petra, sleep under the stars and listen to the enchanting call to prayer while navigating the busy streets of Amman.

10 best day trips from Calgary for fun outdoor adventures

BY TAMARA ELLIOTT · MAY 20, 2020

While there are plenty of fun [things to do in Calgary](#), sometimes you just want a break from the big city. With its enviable location of wide open prairies to the east and the majestic Rocky Mountains out west, Calgary is the gateway to some of the best outdoor activities in Alberta like hiking, rafting, skiing, horseback riding, dog sledding, [ice climbing](#) and even fossil hunting.



Comment

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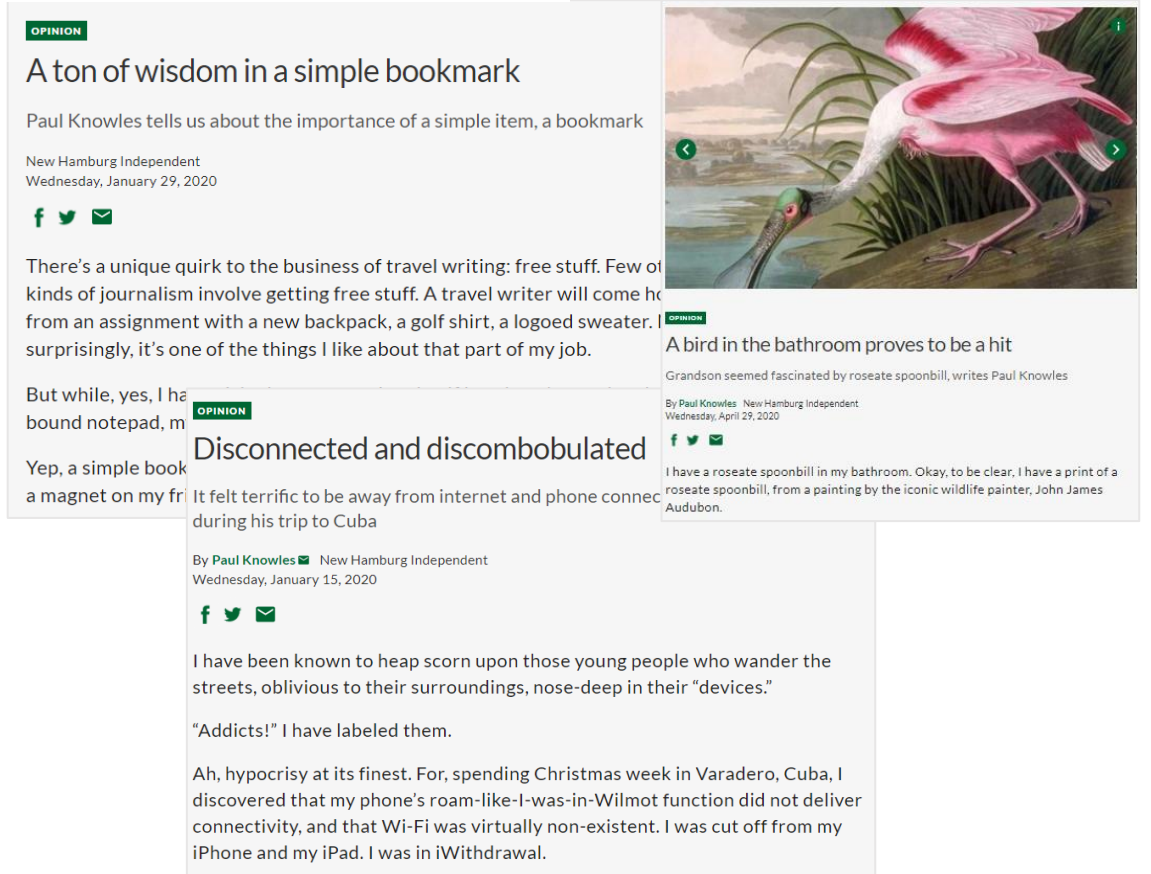
In less time than it takes to finish your double-double (yes, Tim Horton's coffee is a must on any [Canadian road trip](#)), you can find yourself hitting the hills alongside Olympic cross-country skiers, relaxing in a nordic spa, enjoying a helicopter tour over soaring alpine peaks and being mesmerized by the Northern Lights dancing across the night sky.

Third Place

Paul Knowles

Opinion

Judges Comments: Short, sweet, efficient. We would like to read more small blog posts like this. However, just too short to be ranked on top but strong, informative and so well written to come before longer blogs.



Second Place

Kevin Wager

Wandering Wagars - Adventure Family Travel

Judges Comments: Family travel can be an adventure in itself. Challenges are numerous and risk are honestly higher. This blog presents every aspect of it, but also is making sure to understand what a family should do to live a positive experience. Each story is filled with pertinent details and with just enough information to take notes, but to read attentively the story and follow the journey.



What I Learned While Trying To Get My Family Home During The Travel Lockdown

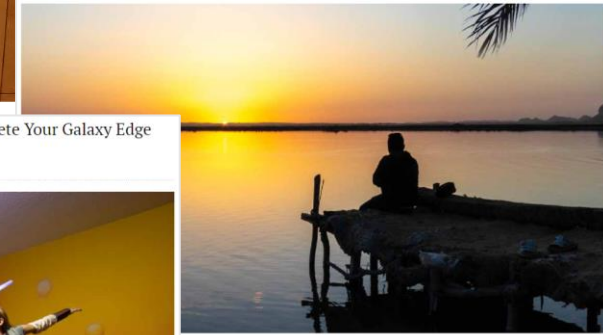
March 25, 2020 By Kevin Wager 7 Comments



The Siwa Oasis in Egypt: Everything You Need to Know Before You Go

May 3, 2020 By Kevin Wager 10 Comments

From the mystical Temple of the Oracle to the incredible Shali Fortress, discover all of the amazing things to do in Siwa Oasis.



This Star Wars-Themed Airbnb in Florida Will Complete Your Galaxy Edge Experience

January 12, 2020 By Kevin Wager 3 Comments

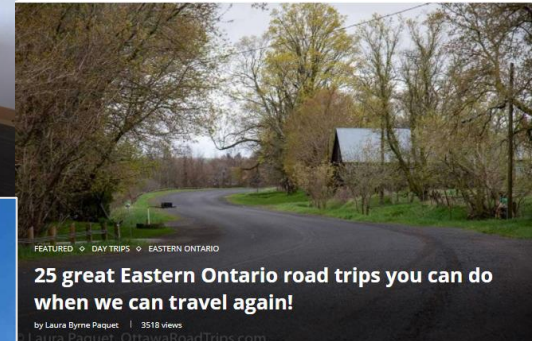
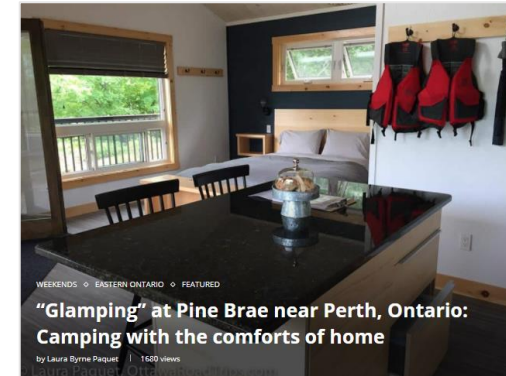


And the Winner is...

Laura Paquet

OttawaRoadTrips.com

Judges Comments: Here we feel we are at the front seats of her journey. We feel that we can tag along with her 'amis voyageurs.' The precision of the location, the fauna and the environment description are impeccable and goes straight to our imagination. We can feel, we can smell, we can listen. This blog makes us travel not far from home, but far from the routine.



Best Illustrated Feature

This category features the best of both worlds with articles that include writing and photography by the same person/journalist.

Entries can be from articles published in print newspaper or magazine, digital magazine or other online publication, such as a travel blog or journalism/publication website.



Parks
Canada

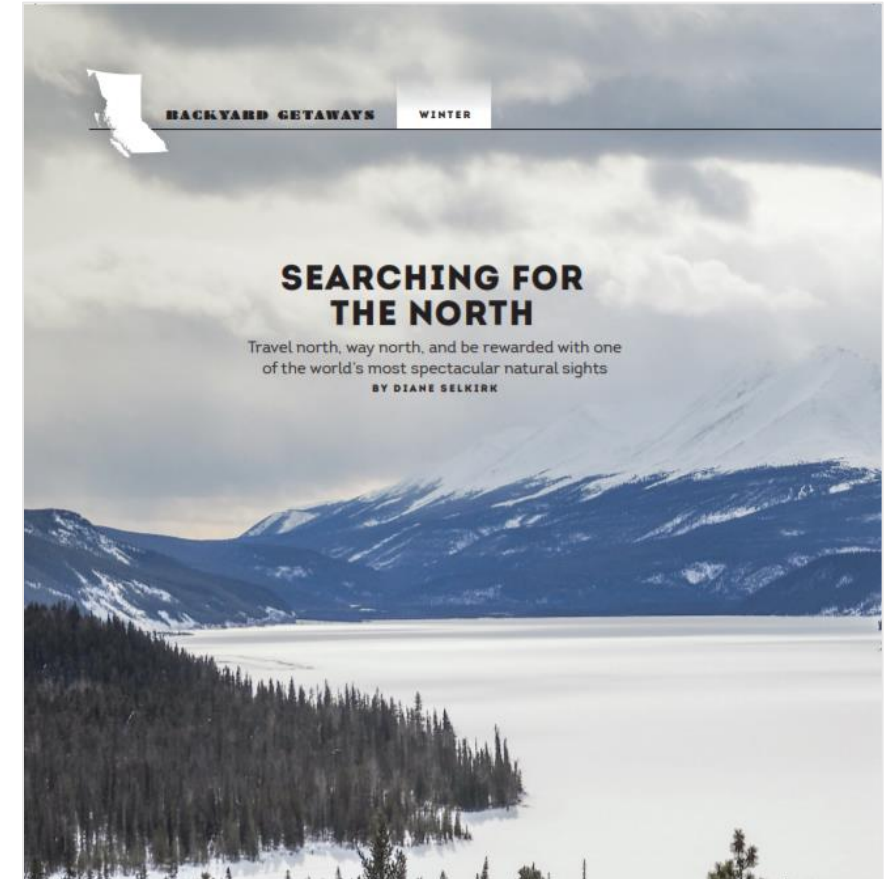
Parcs
Canada

Honourable Mention

Diane Selkirk

Searching For the North

Judges Comments: Travel is not just about ticking the boxes on a bucket list. It is about exploring, experiencing and learning in order to expand our understanding of the world we live in. Winter stories are often daunting when we try to do this, but the writer/photographer has captured the wonder of the winter landscape and spiritual experience of wintertime BC in this piece. The creator shows a range of abilities from making complicated time exposure of the Borealis to finding interesting subject matter in the commonplace. This story carefully walks the divide between the natural world and the people who chose to inhabit it.



Honourable Mention

Liz Beatty

A wild ride through northern Patagonia

Judges Comments: Capturing the essence of an adventure like this requires both skill with the pen and the camera. The writer/photographer has done both. The images are produced at the highest level of technical considerations and the words inspire the reader to undertake their own journey to the southern tip of the world.

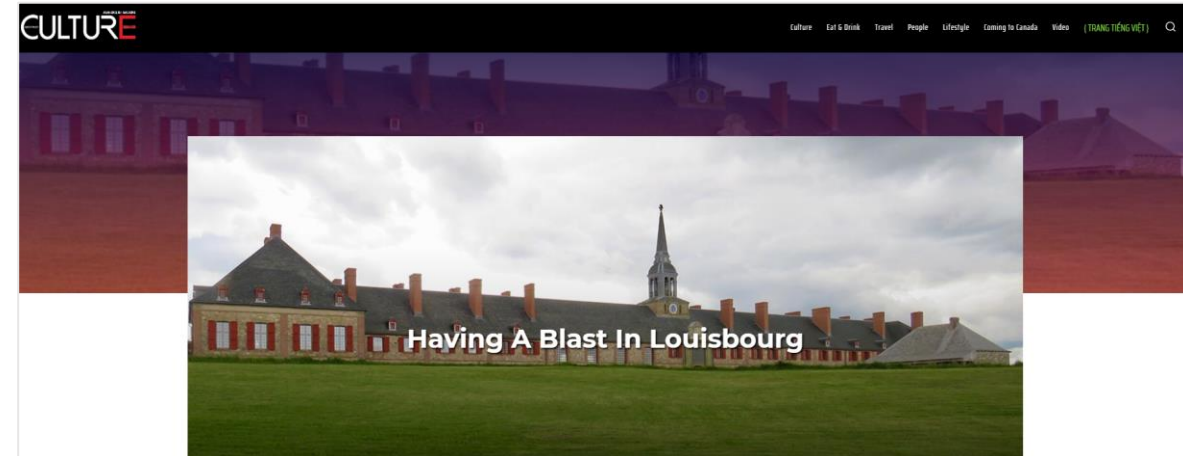


Third Place

Maureen Littlejohn

Having a Blast in Louisbourg

Judges Comments: This is a delightful photo essay about Louisbourg in Cape Breton. It covers not only the architecture, but the daily life of the residences of the fort. The beautifully shot portraits of the two ladies of the fort and the march of the guards with their embarrassed prisoner serve to put a very human face on this travel story. It works well with the written material.



Second Place

Arlene Karpan

Take a Springtime Wildlife Photo Safari

Judges Comments: This is a wonderful photo essay combined with a carefully written feature. The images are all crisp in focus, precise in their exposure and work to tell the tale. Interestingly a lot of that story is told through the use of extended caption information which points out the quality of the image and conveys the information the writer/photographer wants to impart.



And the Winner is...

Carol Patterson

Skiing Behind a Galloping Horse in Retro Neon - Is this the Most Outrageous Race in Winter Sports?

Judges Comments: The write/photographer tells both a compelling story and captures the action. The photos illustrating this piece are highly accomplished with excellent focus, precise cropping and relevant to the storyline. The photographer accomplishes the difficult task of conveying the excitement of this "skiing" event to the reader. The photographs would make an excellent stand-alone photo essay as well. The writing introduces the reader to a fun event that has not been overexposed and which would entertain anyone with a bit of a pulse.



Best Landscape or Evocation of Place

Whether it's an interior shot of an intimate bistro, a roaring fireplace in a mountain lodge, a pristine landscape or a bustling cityscape, the perfect image always creates a sense of location – it is an evocation of place. Whatever your criteria for this category, we invite you to submit your best photo that evokes a sense of place – wherever or whatever that place may be.

Honourable Mention

Taryn Eyton

View from the Eva Lake Cabin

Judges Comments: There is a precision to both the interior and exteriors of this image that places the viewer in the room of this cabin. Technically, the exposure dealing with the light/shadow dichotomy is excellent and does not sacrifice one for the other. The subject matter is alluring and will support good feature writing about mountain subjects.



Honourable Mention

Kevin Wagar

Amun Temple through the doors of a
Mosque

Judges Comments: A remarkable metaphor for the passage of time with the door of history opening onto the remnants of an ancient mosque. It puts the viewer in mind of Shelley's poem "Ozymandias." The photographer balanced the lighting and focus while maintaining excellent colour balance in both the shadows and highlight areas.



Third Place

Hans Tammemagi

Totems in Thunderbird Park

Judges Comments: The sense of balance and proportion creates an impressive image of these carved poles. The photographer handled a tricky tonal palette with great skill. Sharpness and clarity allow the image to reveal the chisel cuts letting the discerning viewer in on what the carver was thinking in his handling of medium and cultural meaning of these mythical creatures.



Second Place

Rhonda Krause

Antarctica Ice

Judges Comments: Good images are destined to tell stories and this photograph tells the story of one of the world's most extreme environments. Its monochromatic rendition (although in full colour) and the scale of the penguins dotting the midground ice flow gives this image its narrative quality. The image is crisp and clean in terms of focus, but I might have cropped it slightly differently to reduce some of the foreground.



And the Winner is...

Sue Slaght

Wadi Rum at dusk

Judges Comments: Both an outstanding landscape graced by the sensual transitions in the colour palette and a cultural portrait of the Bedouin, this image is outstanding for its technical skill. The photograph is crisp throughout until the mountains in the background recede into the dusk. Meanwhile the photographer makes a human statement with the men making tea and lounging on the rough ground that is their home.



Best People Photo

People photographs depict an aspect of culture, life or society, as perceived through the image of an individual or group. The person or people shown should clearly relate to a travel destination. The background should help “place” the subject, but not overpower the human aspect of an image.



Honourable Mention

Gerry Feehan

Hindu pilgrims meditating in the sacred city of Varanasi, India

Judges Comments: This is such a great storytelling portrait - but one that leaves something to the imagination - and one can only ponder the journey of these two holy men. There is a sense of tiredness in their expression and a feeling of the frugality of their lives that is perfectly captured by the photographer, here. This is a simple but powerful portrait.



Honourable Mention

Liz Campbell

Daughter of Burma

Judges Comments: This image really caught our eyes as it mixed both modern and traditional elements of society, with a great juxtaposition of the woman on the cell phone contrasted with an overall setting that has likely remained unchanged for decades upon decades. The colours are vibrant, and the mix of expressions captured superb.



Third Place

Sandra Phinney

Treasure Beach Jamaica story. Girl at beach

Judges Comments: This image shows simplistic innocence - captured perfectly - and allows the viewer to imagine the care and love in her life, as you can see the detail of her braids, crowned with hearts. It's a haunting yet beautiful glimpse of a young girl's life.



Second Place

Greg Olsen

Releasing a Rehabilitated Red-Tailed Hawk

Judges Comments: The humanitarian labour of this lady is clear in this photo. Her happiness and sense of accomplishment is on full display, and it's evident she knows there is another opportunity for the life of this hawk as she releases him into the wild. This image is very well-focused and composed, and there's such a great feeling of "story" in this photographic effort.



And the Winner is...

Gerry Feehan

A family on the streets of India's sacred city of Varanasi

Judges Comments: The photograph powerfully encapsulates the realness of urban and street life in India. The approach the photographer employs on this image gives an interesting and appealing “vintage” look to the composition, which really adds to it’s overall appeal. The faces of the individuals precisely illustrate a sort of “mixed emotion”, as you can see both the hardness of their life situation, yet the beauty of their togetherness. A stunning photo.



Best Nature Photo

This category invites images that both celebrate nature and help translate your story of travel through the beauty or action you've encountered along the way. From a macro close-up of frost on a tree or a glorious light-filled rainforest to a well-timed capture of wildlife in action or the chance moment when you locked eyes with a mutually curious living species. Show us your connection to nature and images that have played a pivotal role in telling your story.

VISIT
PHOENIX



Honourable Mention

Robin Karpan

Harp Seal

Judges Comments: Although the subject matter of baby seals has become almost cliched in the world of nature photography, the photographer has handled this image very well. The white-on-white separation between the pup's fur and the surrounding ice is nearly perfect with a splendid transition from fur to ice making this a dynamic and editorially interesting photograph.



Honourable Mention

Zack Metcalfe

Puffin

Judges Comments: Portraits are not the exclusive domain of the human form as proven by this stunning image of a Puffin. The photographer has managed to capture the subtlety of colour gradation throughout the beak that Puffins are justly famous for. A slight dodging of the bird's iris to bring out the eye's pupil would enhance this image which is already stunning.



Third Place

Rhonda Krause

King Chicks

Judges Comments: Standing like two buffalo-robed Mounties at the corner of Portage and Main, these two penguin chicks defy the cold and harsh environment they must survive in. This photo is technically excellent with back story being told in the background. Its subjects are crisp and the colour is a true rendition of the dun camouflage nature provides its children with to avoid the perils of predators.

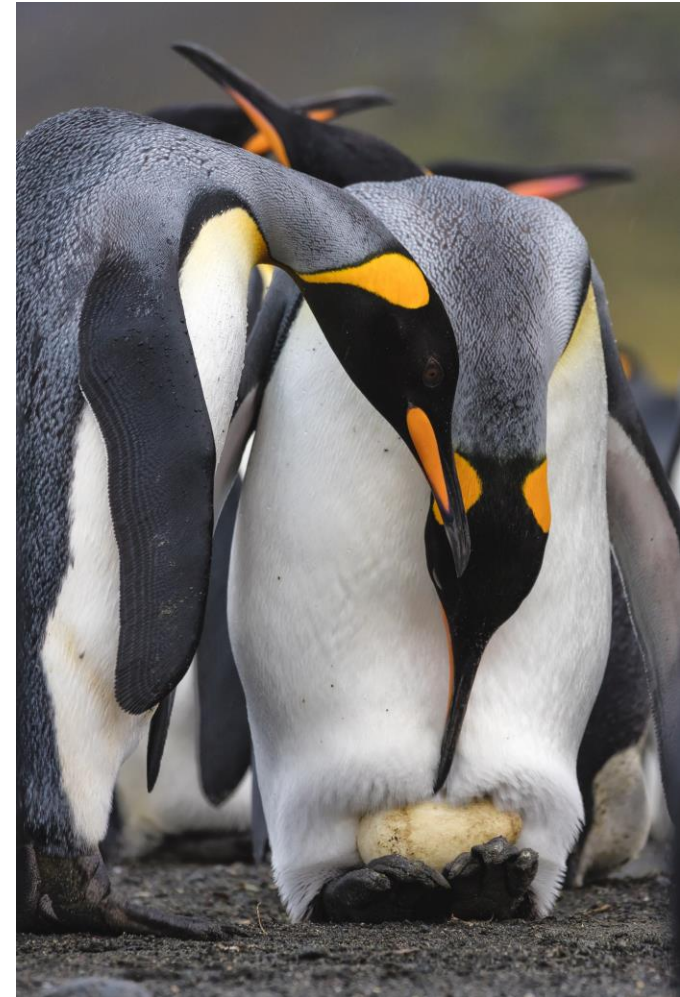


Second Place

Rhonda Krause

Awaiting a New Arrival

Judges Comments: These Emperor penguins define the natural family. The photographer has produced a superb commentary on his subject - that being the sense of family that pervades all life on earth. The position of the parent birds is almost as though an Italian Renaissance paint had posed them. Technically the subjects are sharp and the cropping is tight. The picture may benefit from some slight dodging in Photoshop around the eye of the bird on the left.



And the Winner is...

Carol Patterson

Longtime dreaming and road-tripping in
Southeast Alberta

Judges Comments: Long time dreaming and road tripping in Southern Alberta is an exquisite photograph capturing the best of both the technical and aesthetic sides of photography. The sharpness of the image combined with the bokeh brought about by tight cropping brings the image to life. Aesthetically, the photographer has given the eagle a personality that transcends mere documentation. The bird is independent and resilient with a sense of intelligent purpose.



People's Choice Award

Do you think that photo you snapped catches the essence of travel, will wow the masses and is an image that fills you with pride and satisfaction? Do you think the rest of us will agree? Then give it your best shot – literally – and submit it in this category. TMAC members will get a chance to agree or disagree in our newest photography category: the People's Choice Award.



And the Winner is...

Carol Patterson

Skijordue: Cowboy Culture, Winter, &
Fondue Mash-up



Volunteer of the Year Award

This award is presented to an outstanding TMAC member, in good standing, who has demonstrated an instrumental role as a volunteer, including dedication, leadership and commitment to service and support of the association.

The award will be presented annually and the volunteer can be nominated by members of TMAC, with the final selection being made by the National Board, upon review of all the nominees.



And the Winner is...

Jerry Grymek

Nominator Comments: "Jerry is always upbeat and willing to pitch in. Always helpful (to the point of entertaining the children of one volunteer so they could take part in a press trip), willing to tackle anything and generous with his time. Jerry has boundless energy and has always stepped up to help TMAC. He is the very definition of a great volunteer."

"Over the years Jerry has worked tirelessly on both the National and Ontario boards and has contributed in several roles, including sponsorship. But it's his work with the Ontario Chapter board over the past 18 months during the pandemic. specifically with our Munch N' Mingles (M&Ms), where Jerry has truly shined and is where I would like to focus. These events are more than parties. They create business opportunities, build relationships and provide a platform for friends to stay in touch. Staying in touch became a challenge during the pandemic but because of our M&Ms we continue to meet virtually and thrive. We have even invited TMAC members from outside the province to participate."

Industry Member of the Year Award

Based on TMAC's Mission Statement, this recognition goes to an industry member showing through their work with the media members that their is a trusted resource who cultivates positive relationships, who is highly respected in the travel industry and is a true professional and productive expert in the field of travel. This person must also demonstrate that they have contributed to the organization.

The award will be presented annually and the volunteer can be nominated by members of TMAC, with the final selection being made by the National Board, upon review of all the nominees.



And the Winner is...

Guy Thériault

Nominator Comments: “Guy Thériault personifies all that is best about travel industry. Not only is he passionate about Parks Canada, but he is also equally passionate about Canada, and helping his fellow Canadians to promote our beautiful country. Guy is a gracious, well-informed guide and host who is always eager to showcase Canada's National Parks and the areas in which they're found. He is the spark of fun that animates TMAC gatherings and the voice of reason that helps to guide our membership through stormy waters. I can think of no other industry member who would be more deserving of this award and I have no doubt mine will be just one of many nominations.”