



TMAC SCORING CRITERIA / MATRIX

Category: Best Sense of Place Photo

Type: Photography

Description: This category celebrates photographs that evoke a strong sense of place, from serene deserts to vibrant sunsets, bustling cityscapes, or dynamic wildlife captures. Images should tell a compelling story of their environment.

Judging Considerations: Submissions should include a brief description to help provide context to each image. Post-production is allowed (basic adjustments to exposure, colour, cropping and sharpness) provided it does not change the integrity and subject matter of the photo. Any post-production using photo editing software must have been done manually by the photographer. Judges should assign a score for each criterion (e.g., 0–5 or 0–10 points per category, with no half-points). The total possible score is 35 points. The entry with the highest cumulative score will be deemed the winner. In the event of a tie, the final decision will be determined through discussion among the judges during the final deliberation meeting.

Criteria	Points
<p>Style & Creativity This criterion assesses the photographer's unique artistic vision and how they interpret the natural world or a specific location.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refinement: Does the image present an original visual perspective of the scene? Consider the use of unconventional framing or the integration of human-made elements (if present) in a creative way.• Aesthetics: Has the photographer made effective use of natural light (e.g., golden hour, blue hour, dramatic shadows) to set the mood? Is there a deliberate, effective use of colour palette, texture, and contrast to convey atmosphere?• Technique as Art: Is there a creative use of techniques like long exposure (to blur water or clouds) or intentional shallow depth of field (to isolate a natural element) that enhances the scene without looking unnatural?	10
<p>Quality of Content This criterion evaluates the technical mastery and professional execution required to capture a stunning scene.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lighting & Exposure: Is the exposure meticulously controlled to manage the often vast difference between light and shadow (dynamic range)? Is	10

<p>the light used to reveal the texture and three-dimensionality of the terrain or natural subject?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composition: Does the composition (e.g., leading lines of rivers/roads, effective use of foreground elements, or placement of the horizon) successfully guide the viewer's eye through the entire scene, from front to back? • Sharpness & Focus: Is the image tack sharp across its entire depth where intended (often from foreground to infinity, requiring careful aperture selection)? Are details in the nature subject or landscape crisp, avoiding distracting noise? 	
<p>Impact This criterion judges the photograph's ability to connect with the viewer and convey a deeper sense of place or natural wonder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capture of the Moment: How successfully does the image capture a fleeting or unique natural phenomenon (e.g., specific weather, light conditions, or animal behaviour)? Does it convey a sense of timing? • Emotional Evocation: Does the image evoke a strong feeling related to the location—such as awe, tranquillity, desolation, or ruggedness? • Visual Storytelling / Evocation of Place: How effectively does the photograph tell the story of a specific place or natural process? Does it convey the feeling of being there, providing insight into the geography, climate, or ecology of the scene? 	10
<p>Overall excellence This final criterion is a holistic assessment of the photograph's combined impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refinement: Is this image unforgettable? Does it transcend a simple scenic photo to become a truly iconic representation of the location or the natural subject? • Cohesion: Do all elements (technical quality, creative vision, and evocative power) work together seamlessly to create a powerful and lasting overall impression of the natural world or the represented place? 	5
Total	35