



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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If you are uncertain if an image adheres to the PT Definition, please make use of the PT Evaluation Service which members can access after login: <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?divisions-photo-travel>

### What does ‘characteristic feature’ mean?

A characteristic feature helps identify and distinguish a place. It can be natural or manmade. It could assist someone to determine the location of the area. The characteristic feature would provide clues as to where the image was taken. It might be a natural rock-formation, a manmade structure or even a plant/tree that is endemic to a region. A characteristic feature could provide information about a culture such as the Sheik Zayed Grand Mosque with its domed roofs, arches and minarets.

Is it not necessary for the judge to know where the place is. The characteristic feature/s would help someone recognize the scene if they were to visit the location they had seen in an image.

If the judge considers an image provides no characteristic features and/or culture of a land, they would score the image low.

Characteristic Features are explained in more detail in the document ‘**Characteristic Features Explained**’ available for download from the PT Education Resources page: <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?ptd-educational-resources>

### How we define a ***culture*** of a land that would satisfy the Photo Travel Definition?

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

A culture is a way of life. It is something that is handed down generation to generation. A culture is shared by a group of people. It could be defined by their beliefs, celebrations, pastimes, rituals, dress, cuisine, behaviors and even an architectural style. Culture could be a tradition practiced by a community.

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. **The culture should not be universal.**

Culture is explained in more detail in the document ‘**Culture in Photo Travel Explained**’ available for download from the PT Education Resources page: <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?ptd-educational-resources>

**What about light trails, blurry waterfalls, blurred water in seascapes, slight distortion on edges of the frame and blurring of people? None of these look natural.**

Many might say none of the above look natural to the eye. In the end, it would be up to an experienced judge to decide how these examples affect the definition when determining the image score. Judges will have different perspectives on each of these.

**Can I rearrange a few items in the scene?**

No. Photo Travel is about reality and if you change anything in the scene you would betray the truth.

**Is it OK to tip a subject?**

Yes, if the subject is doing what they would substantially be doing without being photographed, if it’s a small tip, and if the behaviour, dress or posture was not specifically managed for the primary purpose of obtaining a better photograph.

Photo Travellers are ambassadors to other people and cultures. We do not want to contribute significantly to the distortions that are taking place as a result of the business that is being made out of hiring or directing native people to act in unnatural ways for the purpose of tourist photography.

Above is an extract from ‘Clarification Concerning the Updated Photo Travel Definition’ written by Tom Tauber APSA MPSA in the PSA Journal November 2015.

**Can the subject look at the camera?**

Yes, as long as their posture, behaviour or surrounds was not managed for your photo. In the end it will be up to the judge to decide what score they give the image. The judge may feel the image looks staged and score it low. It is often better if the subject is looking at something they are doing (such as preparing food) rather than looking at the camera.

**Can I enter images taken at a show, dance or music performance?**

Yes. As long as the show, dance or music performance is not set up especially for photographers. The show, dance or music performance should portray a culture specific to a land. If there is no culture portrayed, then the image should have some identifiable features in the scene.

**Can I straighten buildings in an image?**

Yes, you can use post processing software to straighten buildings and/or correct distortion.

**Can images taken when attending a Photographic Tour be entered into Photo Travel?**

**YES** when the people in the scenes are not directed or hired for the photographers.

**NO** when people in a scene are being directed for the participating photographers, or objects have been rearranged or organized especially for a photo shoot

Participating in Photographic Tours is exciting and fun. You gain valuable experience and you are presented with opportunities to expand your photographic portfolio. Photographic Tour operators can take you to sites which provide excellent perspectives and it is this type of local knowledge that helps optimise the chance of capturing a great image. If you are part of a Photographic Tour and the tour operator takes you to sites to take images of a scene in which there are no people being directed and nothing in the scene has been re-arranged or

organized for you, then such images are appropriate for entry into Photo Travel. Likewise, if the tour operator takes you to a good photographic opportunity and you start to shoot images where you are not controlling the subjects then such shots are also valid Photo Travel images.

Sometimes on Photographic Tours you can take images of arranged/set-up scenes. When people in a scene are being directed for the participating photographers, or objects have been rearranged or organized especially for a photo shoot then such images do not meet the PSA Photo Travel definition. Photo Travel is a reality Division and Photo Travel images must show what we find naturally in our world. Images of arranged/set-up scenes, where people are being directed/hired can be entered into PID or PPD.

Please read the document 'Staged Images' available from the PT Educational Resources page: <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?ptd-educational-resources>

Please review the images on the PSA Gallery of Staged Images: <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?staged-travel-images>

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/>

### **How are images of animals treated 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.

Flamingos. There are 6 species and they are found on many continents. There is one species, the Andean flamingo, that is found only in the lakes and lagoons of the Andean Mountains. You could submit an image of the Andean flamingos to Photo Travel, but you would hope that the judges on the jury panel would identify this species and realise its habitat is restricted to a specific region.

Red-Crowned Cranes. While it is true that the population of Red-crowned cranes found in Hokkaido Japan do not migrate, there are larger populations that do. They can be found in Mongolia, Russia, China and Korea. The Red-Crowned Cranes are not isolated to a specific region. An image of Red-Crowned Cranes must provide some identifiable feature for it to be suitable for Photo Travel because their migrating patterns are too far-reaching. They are not a species specific to a confined region.

Emperor Penguins: These penguins are known to only habitat Antarctica where they breed on the sea ice off the continent. Images of Emperor penguins, which in effect would help identify a place, would be suitable for PT.

If you were considering entering an image into PT that is of an animal that was found in a very limited area, it would be prudent to check the experience of the judges. It would be advisable to have an understanding of what most judges might know about the subject in your image. Not all judges would have a specialized knowledge and you would want your image scored appropriately.

### Further information regarding animals in Photo Travel.

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).

### How does the PSA statement on the welfare of the subject apply to Photo Travel Images?

#### 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

This will be for the judge to decide if your image complies with looking after the welfare of the subject. Areas that might be of concern to judges and as a result your image could score low:

- Bull fighting
- Cock 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>

## **How does the use of Drones affect images in Photo Travel?**

Detailed information can be found on the PSA website:

<https://psa-photo.org/index.php?psa-policies#drone>

In summary:

- You cannot fly a drone over large crowds
- You cannot fly a drone above people for the purpose of photographing them, without getting written permission from each person **before** you take the image. Remember you cannot then direct them.
- Cannot use drones for the purpose of taking images of animals or birds
- Cannot fly drones in wilderness areas.
- You can use drones to take scenery/landscape images as long as you abide by all the laws and regulations of that land.