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This is the eighth year in which Wiki Loves Monuments has been organised. In 2017, over 246,090 photos were submitted by 10,022 users. As was the case throughout the history of the competition, the contest was organized through a number of national contests coordinated by local volunteers. Each national jury then submitted up to 10 photos to the international stage of the contest. In this year’s edition 54 national competitions have submitted their nominations, resulting in a total of 489 entries for the international jury to consider.

As in previous years, Wiki Loves Monuments 2017 invited people to submit photos of monuments listed within their respective national competitions throughout the month of September. It is heartening to see Wiki Loves Monuments maintain and expand its popularity over the years. Although there was a slight decrease in the total number of submissions, the number of participating countries increased to 54 with 6 national competitions participating for the first time.

In this report we provide some insights in the judging process and outcomes. The report includes a summary of the process steps and announces the winning photos. We have also included the finalists that did make it to the final selection of 61 photos, but did not win a prize. The reasons why the jury members have selected these 15 photos as their top ranking winners are included in this report as well.
WIKI LOVES MONUMENTS

is the largest photography competition in the world, and reaching this finale is an accomplishment in itself. We congratulate all photographers who have submitted photos that reached this level. We hope you will enjoy the collection of wonderful heritage photographs as much as we did through the jury process and in preparing this report.

https://www.wikilovesmonuments.org
How Did The Jury Work?

National competitions, which took place throughout the month of September, submitted their nominated photos by early November. At this time, a total of 489 were submitted to the non-voting jury coordinator by the national juries of 51 national competitions. Each national competition was allowed to submit up to 10 photos. Certain countries elected to submit fewer photos. The international jury was tasked to come up with a final ranking of the top photos over a three-round jury process.

The nominations were collected in the jury tool ‘Montage’, where all 7 jury members independently rated all photos from 1 (poor) to 5 (very good) stars over a period of 1 week. The jury coordinator collected the photos with the highest average rating: 65 photos received an average score of 3.25 or more.

Jury members were invited to comment via email on these 65 photos and the selection in general, and if any three jury members agreed through a ‘veto’ process that a photo does not belong to the top 25, it would be removed from the selection for the third round. Through this process, four photos were removed, and therefore 61 photos remained on the ‘long list’ for the third round.

In the third and final round, the jury members used the jury tool to rank their top-25 from the remaining photos. They each selected 25 photos, and submitted them in order. A first place ranking by a jury member was worth 25 points, a second place 24 points, all the way to 1 point for a 25th place. These points were added together, resulting in a combined jury ranking. Ties were resolved by the highest rank the photos received.

The jury members had the opportunity both in the second and the third round to give a reasoning for their vote, which was used as a basis for the jury comments in this report.
What Did The Jury Do?

The international jury was made up by a group of seven experts with varying backgrounds in photography, heritage, editing and Wikimedia, as well as with a diverse range of cultural backgrounds doing justice to the diversity of Wiki Loves Monuments’ participating photos. Members of the international jury did not participate in the national juries, and were excluded from consideration for the international finale. The international team would like to thank them for their service.

The jury members based their judgement on three main criteria:

TECHNICAL QUALITY

The first criterion is about the quality of the photo itself. This includes considerations such as the sharpness and resolution, the use of light, and the perspective of the photo. A good rule of thumb is that a winning photo should fulfill the Wikimedia Commons technical criteria for ‘featured picture’ status.

OVERALL ORIGINALITY

This criterion takes into account the general originality or innovation of the competing photo. The jury looked into whether the subject had been photographed in a similar way before. Jury members were looking for that little ‘extra’ that your photo may contain.

IMAGE USEFULNESS

One of the main goals of this competition is to collect good-quality photographs of monuments to be used on Wikipedia. This criteria reflects this consideration. Does the photo represent the monument clearly and can it be used in an encyclopedic context? Is it misrepresenting the monument in any way, or are there any distracting details?
Who Was On The Jury?

**Benjamin Benita** is the international coordinator for #MuseumWeek & project manager at Unite4Heritage, UNESCO.

**Wolter Braamhorst** is a historian, journalist, television producer and director as well as a communication advisor. He is the editor of Heritage in Action magazine for Europa Nostra.

**Katie Chan** is a long time Wikipedia and Wikimedia Commons contributor. She is the Chair of the Wikimedia Foundation elections committee, and former Chair of Wikimedia UK.

**David Iliff** is a photographer and Wikimedian who has been contributing to Wikimedia Commons for over 10 years and has participated on the WLM UK jury twice in previous years. His photographic interests are broad, however much of his work is panoramic and stitched architectural photography.

**Daniel Schwen** is staff scientist at the Idaho National Laboratory (USA) and is an experienced amateur photographer with numerous high-quality contributions to Wikimedia Commons.

**Manit Sriwanichpoom** is one of Thailand’s leading photographers, and best known in the international art world, having exhibited his work worldwide.

**Tala Vahabzadeh** is a photographer based in Tehran. Her photography and video works have been exhibited in several exhibitions in Iran and around the world. She is currently working at UNESCO in Tehran.
This shot depicts the temple dedicated to Khanderao, also known as Khandoba, located in Jejuri, Pune, Maharashtra, India. One of the places of prime religious importance for Marathi-speaking people, and a State Protected Monument of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Khandoba is worshipped with turmeric (Bhandar), bel fruit-leaves, onions and other plant offerings. Devotees shower turmeric powder (Bhandar) on each other.

“The very dynamic shot pulls the viewer in and embeds him in the crowd of devotees. You can almost smell the Turmeric.”
The Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park, the first coastal national park in Thailand covers an area of 98km². This photo depicts the Khuha Kharuehat pavilion (also known as the Royal pavilion) in Phraya Nakhon Cave within the park.

“Extraordinary photograph which perfectly combines the natural environment with the built heritage, revealing through it high resolution details which at first escape you”
This photo presents a unique perspective of the Baitul Mukarram Mosque, the national mosque of Bangladesh and the 10th largest mosque in the world, with a capacity of 30,000 people. This photo shows devoted worshipers engaged in Friday prayer.

“A moment of collective celebration immortalized.”
The Baron Empain Palace, more commonly referred to as Le Palais Hindou, is a distinctive and historic Indian-inspired mansion in Heliopolis, a suburb northeast of central Cairo, Egypt. This photo depicts the internal spiral staircase as it winds down the various floors of the Palace.

“The wide angle view captures this tight interior space and helps the viewer comprehend the interconnected spiral stairs and landings.”
This photograph depicts the Verrucole Castle basking in the light of the San Romano in Garfagnana valleys. This Medieval fortress has recently undergone restoration and is serving as an exhibit for the Medieval way of life.

“The light rains down on the heritage site and shows the relationship between the surrounding landscape and the monument beautifully.”
Following from the fifth-placed photo, we are presented with a different perspective of the Verrucole Castle with this striking shot of its interior. The meticulous display, barely illuminated by the light pouring in through window, shows various everyday items pertaining to the Medieval period during which the castle was constructed.

“The photographer achieved a[n] almost Rembrandt like look fitting for the medieval room. The neatly arranged set pieces look sculpted under the oblique illumination of natural light provided by the single window at the center of the frame.”
The second photo of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque to place amongst the top ten, this photograph shows a lone seated figure framed against the majestic white archways of the mosque.

“This light and positive atmosphere of the mosque’s exterior is enhanced by the restful pose of a lone visitor.”
Notre-Dame Basilica is a basilica in the historic district of Old Montreal, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Constructed in a Gothic Revival style, the basilica was built between 1824 and 1830, however the ornate interior was only completed in 1879.

“At first this altar piece almost looks like an abstract computer image. It is beautifully framed and captures the grandeur of the church in all its colorful details.”
Wat Benchamabophit Dusitvanaram, frequently referred to as the marble temple, is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Thailand, with its ornate decor, marble courtyard, and gold and lacquer crossbeams.

“Taken at just the right time of day the perfect light brings out the vivid colors of the subject. The composition nicely frames the central subject with foreground details that at the same time give the reader additional information on the texture of the building.”
The Sydney Opera House, one of the world’s most distinctive and iconic buildings hosts over 1,500 performances annually, attracting over 8 million visitors. This nighttime shot shows the illuminated building lying on the Bennelong Point on Sydney Harbour.

“This photo shows the magnificent architecture of the operahouse in all its splendour.”
The West Pier in Brighton opened in 1866 as one of the city’s main tourist attractions. Its popularity declined following World War II and it subsequently closed in 1975. It has since fallen into disrepair, with major sections of the original structure collapsing.

“The lonely, rusty remnants of this seaside heritage site are enhanced by the fog-like sea and the misty features of the details.”
This building in Wiesbaden, historically known as a spa town, was opened in 1907 in order to accommodate the increasing number of spa visitors to the town and has since served as a prime venue for leisure and entertainment activities. This photograph shows the building’s casino, which is housed in the former wine hall.

“A classical composition. Very nicely framed with good natural symmetry of the converging lines in the balcony rails.”
These imposing towers dominate the landscape of Mestia, a small townlet in northern Georgia. Known as the “Svan towers”, they are a distinctive part of the skyline in a region that is renowned for its mountaineer tourism and alpinism.

“This photograph is beautifully atmospheric and alive, with enough detail to discover new things everytime you look at it.”
The Tabātabāeis’ House, once home to the affluent Tabātabāeis’ family, was built in the early 1880s. It covers an area of over 5,000m², consisting of 40 rooms, 4 courtyards, and 3 wind towers. The house was designed by Ustad Ali Maryam, a prominent Persian architect working in the Kashan area in the 19th Century.

“I love the simplicity of this image. The eye is drawn to the geometry and the low key, natural vignette gives it a great ambience.”
The lagoon town of Comacchio, situated in the Emilia Romagna region in the North-East of Italy, consists of 13 different islets joined together by a series of bridges. Aside from the ecological importance of its wetlands, Comacchio is known for the picturesque charm of its bridges, as aptly captured in this photo.

“FIFTEENTH PLACE
Photographer: Francesco Cavallari
Location: Comacchio, Italy

“I love the simplicity of this image. The eye is drawn to the geometry and the low key, natural vignette gives it a great ambience.”
SIXTEENTH PLACE
Photographer:  Dmytro Balkhovitin
Monument: Resurrection Church
Location: Sloviansk, Ukraine

Slovianks, a city in Northern Ukraine is a city of regional significance (also known as a city of oblast significance) within the Ukrainian region of Donetsk. This photo captures the city’s Resurrection Church, with its distinctive pink facade reflected in the river.

““This photo effectively captures the heritage site and its place in the landscape, enhanced by the bare trees against a white and light blue background where sky and land almost flow into one another.”

SEVENTEENTH PLACE
Photographer: Reinhold Möller
Monument: St. Veit of the Ansberg Church
Location: Upper Franconia, Germany

This photo of the Catholic branch and pilgrimage Church dedicated to St. Veit on the Ansberg near Ebensfeld in Upper Franconia shows the Church in the stark, snow-covered landscape of the Ansberg hill near Dittersbrunn in Germany.

“I love the color and mood. Picture perfect reflection in the water.”
**EIGHTEENTH PLACE**
Photographer: Mohammad Tarem
Monument: Imam Mosque
Location: Isfahan, Iran

Also known as the Shah Mosque, the Imam Mosque is one of the gems of Persian architecture and is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Construction on the mosque began in 1611, ordered by Abbas I of Persia, one of the strongest rulers of the Safavid dynasty.

“A lone castle under a starry sky, in an unchanged, eternal landscape.”

**NINETEENTH PLACE**
Photographer: Philippe Contal
Monument: Château de Quéribus
Location: Cucugnan, France

Originally one of five castles built to protect the French border from Spanish invaders, the Château de Quéribus lay in ruins for many years after it lost much of its strategic importance when France's national borders were changed 1659. It was eventually restored and opened to visitors in 2002.
The Castello di Avigliana is one of the oldest castles in the Piedmont region of Italy. It was constructed in the year 924 on the orders of Arduino il Giabro, a Marquis and nobleman based in nearby Turin. The castle served as one of the region’s main sites of command for over three centuries.

Located just a few hundred metres from the Ukrainian border with Romania, Bila Krynytsia is a small town founded in 1784. It served as the first hierarch within the Orthodox Old-Rite Church’s Belokrinitskaya Hierarchy until 1940.

“A great shot [that] celebrates heritage in a nice way.”
TWENTY-SECOND PLACE
Photographer: Erez Ashkenazi
Monument: Ancient Synagogue in Bar'am National Park
Location: Israel

This photo depicts the Talmudic synagogue within the Bar'am National Park, close to the Lebanese border. Although the synagogue and its surroundings lie in ruins, it’s existence is seen as an indication of there being an established Jewish community living in the area during the Talmudic period.

“Surprisingly detailed image which combines artistic quality with solid heritage site photography.”

Namo Buddha stupa, also known as Boudhanath, is one of the largest stupas in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1979. It lies on an ancient trade route connecting Tibet and Nepal through the Kathmandu valley. Boudhanath is said to contain the remains of Kassapa Buddha, one of the ancient named Buddhas of the faith.

TWENTY-THIRD PLACE
Photographer: Creepanta
Monument: Namo Buddha Stupa
Location: Kathmandu, Nepal

“This spontaneous photograph makes the viewer into an observer looking through a window while it captures the natural interaction between a religious heritage site and the local population.”
TWENTY-FOURTH PLACE
Photographer: Poconaco
Monument: Church of St. Andrew
Location: Trzebieszowice, Poland

Trzebieszowice, a small village in Lower Silesia, close to the region’s capital of Wroclaw is home to the Church of St. Andrew, photographed in this picturesque nighttime photo.

“...the serenity of an ancient site within its man-made ‘natural’ surroundings.”

TWENTY-FIFTH PLACE
Photographer: Nicklas Larsson
Monument: Brakelund Burial Ground
Location: Hasslösa, Sweden

The Brakelund burial site, close to the town of Hasslösa in the Lidköping municipality is photographed at dusk in this photo, with some of the Iron-Age burial stones standing proudly in the foreground.
The following images were part of the long list for the final round, but did not make the top-25.

**Photographer:** Preecha.MJ  
**Monument:** Wat Arun Ratchawararam  
**Location:** Bangkok Yai District, Bangkok, Thailand

**Photographer:** Thaler Tamas  
**Monument:** Cathedral of St. Lawrence  
**Location:** Trogir, Croatia

**Photographer:** Pattiveth.M  
**Monument:** Wat Arun  
**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Photographer:** Gilad Topaz  
**Monument:** Afek/Tzedek Castle  
**Location:** Rosh HaAyin, Israel

**Photographer:** George Formosa  
**Monument:** Medieval fortified city with its bastions  
**Location:** Gorzo, Malta

**Photographer:** Davidh820  
**Monument:** Church of Our Lady of the Castle  
**Location:** Rhodes, Greece

**Photographer:** Dmytro Balkhovitin  
**Monument:** Overwaard Mill no.4  
**Location:** Kinderdijk, The Netherlands
Photographer: Jean Paul Formosa
Monument: St. Mary Magdalene Chapel
Location: Dingli, Malta

Photographer: Ayman F. Khalil
Monument: Al-Max Old Lighthouse
Location: Alexandria, Egypt

Photographer: Alexrk2
Monument: La Vieille Charité
Location: Marseille, France

Photographer: Dmytro Balkhovitin
Monument: Overwaard Mill
Location: The Netherlands

Photographer: Anna Boeva
Monument: Shipka Memorial
Location: Bulgarka Nature Park, Bulgaria
Photographer: Sampo Kiviniemi  
Monument: Boathouses  
Location: Kerimäki, Finland

Photographer: Mohamed Abdelrahim  
Monument: One of Giza's pyramids  
Location: Cairo, Egypt

Photographer: Ranssom  
Monument: Acropolis, Temple of Athena Nike  
Location: Athens, Greece

Photographer: Mohammed Beddarin  
Monument: Ancient Monastery of Mar Saba  
Location: Palestine

Photographer: Shawn M. Kent  
Monument: Peggy's Cove Lighthouse  
Location: Nova Scotia, Canada

Photographer: Ryzhkov Sergey  
Monument: Olesko Castle  
Location: Busk Raion, Ukraine

Photographer: Ariff Shah Sopian  
Monument: Putra Mosque  
Location: Putrajaya, Malaysia

Photographer: Dmytro Balkhovitin  
Monument: Holy Mountains Monastery  
Location: Sviatohirsk, Ukraine
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<td>“Siebers Hus” Farmhouse</td>
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<td>T’Ghammar Hill</td>
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Acknowledgements

This competition would not have been possible without the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm of hundreds of volunteers across all participating national competitions, thousands of participants, affiliates, organizing teams, the Wikimedia Foundation and our partners. Through affiliates or organized groups and in collaboration with local heritage organizations and volunteers, Wikimedians managed to put together this network of competitions resulting in the 489 images that were considered for the international finale.

We would also like to thank our partners in this international effort. Europa Nostra and UNESCO (through its program Unite4heritage) and Flickr were valuable partners in putting together the international competition.

For more information on the 2017 competition, please visit:

www.wikilovesmonuments.org
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