INTERNATIONAL JURY REPORT
2012
Wiki Loves Monuments has been organized for the third time this year, and even more successful than in the previous years! More than 350,000 pictures have been submitted by more than 15,000 people. Similarly to last year, the contest was organized through numerous national contests, organized by local volunteers. The national juries would then submit up to 10 pictures to the international finale. 33 countries have submitted their nominations, resulting in a total of 324 nominations for the international jury to consider.

Wiki Loves Monuments invited people to submit pictures of the listed monuments in the participating countries during the month September. All countries had participation possible 1-30 September, with the exception of Slovakia, that joined late, and Israel, that had a shifted time schedule of 2 weeks.

We are very proud to see that the contest has grown to so many different participating countries - which is clearly reflected in the diversity amongst the finalists. While the contest kicked off in 2010 in the Netherlands and in 2011 a total of 18 countries participated throughout Europe, this year the participating countries were all over the world. It is great that besides the European countries, also several Asian, African and American countries are participating.

In this report we want to give insight in the judging process and outcomes. The report includes a summary of the process steps and announces the winning pictures. We have also included the finalists that did make it to the final selection of 42 images, but did not win a prize. Also, we have included the reasons why the jury members have selected these 15 images as their top ranking winners.
Stephen Alvarez is a professional photographer with National Geographic since 1995 and has won multiple awards with his photos, including in Pictures of the Year International and Communication Arts.

Barbara Köstner studied archaeology and has a strong affinity for social media. She is in charge for the Tag des offenen Denkmals (Heritage Day) at Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz (German Foundation for Monument Protection), Germany’s largest private initiative for monument protection. Among the foundation’s activities, a photo competition called “Fokus Denkmal” organised by Ms. Köstner.

Muhammad Mahdi Karim is a Tanzanian student currently studying computer sciences in India. He has over 5 years experience in digital photography, specializing in nature shots, particularly macros. His work can be found on Wikipedia with some of the latest ones being shared via Facebook and 61 of his images have received the status Featured Picture at Wikimedia Commons.

Guillaume Paumier came to photography through Wikipedia and Wikimedia Commons. He likes to heavily document the places he visits with photos, as well as illustrating Wikipedia articles with hard-to-get pictures, taken at events like the 2011 G8 Summit or pop culture conventions. He has shared thousands of pictures on Wikimedia Commons, a ridiculous amount compared to those still to be uploaded.

Sneska Quaedvlieg-Mihailovic is Secretary-General at Europa Nostra, a pan-organization with over 400 member organizations that are defending cultural heritage through the European continent.
325 nominations were submitted to the non-voting jury moderator by the national juries of 33 participating countries. One image was disqualified because it was deleted from Wikimedia Commons as a copyright violation, leaving a total of 324 nominations. This number is a bit lower than the expected 330 because some countries were not able to decide on their 10th nomination before the deadline. Two countries (Belgium and Luxembourg, participating as a single national competition) did organize the contest, but did not submit any nominations.

The nominations were collected in a judging tool, where each jury member independently rated all images 1 (poor) to 5 (very good) stars over a period of one week. The jury moderator collected the images with the highest average rating: 42 images received 3.0 stars or more in this first round. Next, jury members were invited to comment on these 42 images, and if three jury members would together decide that an image definitely doesn’t belong in the top-15, they could veto it. No images were removed on this basis.

Finally, jury members were asked to submit their ranked top-15 from this selection over the span of a week, giving 15 points to the best picture, 14 to the second and so forth to 1 point for the 15th best picture. These points were added together, and a combined jury ranking was produced.

Unfortunately the photographer of the highest ranking photo did not leave his contact details behind, and will therefore not win a prize.
Photographer: Pranav Singh
Monument: Safdarjung’s Tomb
Location: New Delhi, India

Safdarjung’s Tomb, a garden tomb with a marble mausoleum in New Delhi, India. It was built in 1754 in the late Mughal Empire style, and was described as “the last flicker in the lamp of Mughal architecture”. [English]

The strong light contrast between the lighted tomb and the darkness of the room emphasizes the monument, and gives it a dramatic component. The tomb is sharp and detailed, and free of visual distractions; with gravity and a perfect sense for the angle of view and light this picture presents the object – the architecture and light forming a stage for the tomb, focusing on the details of the stone carving. All in all a nicely framed and executed picture that seems to speak of the significance of this tomb.

[English]

सफदरजुंग का मकबरा दिल्ली की प्रसिद्ध ऐतिहासिक इमारतों में से एक है। यह मकबरा दक्षिण दिल्ली में थी और उसकी मार्ग पर लोधी मार्ग के पश्चिमी छोर के ठीक सामने स्थित है। सफदरजुंग का मकबरा अंतिम मुगल बादशाह मुहम्मद शाह (1719-1748) के शक्तिशाली व कुशल प्रधान शाही सफदरजुंग की मृत्यु में नवाब शुजाउद्दील्लाह ने 1754 ई. में बनवाया था। [Hindi]
Photographer: David Corral Gadea
Monument: Aqueduct of Segovia
Location: Segovia, Castilla y León, Spain

The Aqueduct of Segovia (or more precisely, the aqueduct bridge) is one of the most significant and best-preserved monuments left by the Romans on the Iberian Peninsula. It is probably the most important symbol of Segovia, as is evidenced by its presence on the city’s coat of arms. [English]

El Acueducto de Segovia (en realidad el puente del acueducto) es uno de los monumentos más significativos y mejor conservados de los que dejaron los romanos en la península ibérica. Se trata probablemente del símbolo más importante para los habitantes de Segovia, hasta el punto de figurar en su escudo. [Spanish]

Jury comments
This aqueduct is photographed with a tilt-up angle which gives justice to the monument’s majesty, that you can almost hear, boldly defying time as it stands there. The image is sharp and makes good use of contrast and shadows, but the complementarity of the warm colors of the bridge and the colder colors of the blue sky give something extra. The composition and smart use of the aqueduct’s arks make the sky part of the subject instead of just a dull accessory. The shadows make the picture dynamic, while still being soft enough not to hide the stones, whose incredibly sharp details (the individual bricks seem almost possible to reach through and touch) are valuable to provide a faithful representation for encyclopedic use.
Photographer: Captaincid
Monument: Ifugao Rice Terraces
Location: Batad, Ifugao, Philippines

Built over 2,000 years ago, the Rice Terraces of Batad is one of the four clusters of rice terraces in Ifugao province that is identified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. [English]

Ginawa may 2,000 taon na ang nakararaan, and Payo ng Batad ay isa sa apat na kumpol ng mga payo sa lalawigan ng Ifugao na kinikilala bilang UNESCO World Heritage Site. [Filipino]

Jury comments
This picture of the rice terraces of Ifugao in Batad shows a perfect blend of aesthetics and encyclopedic value. Not only does the image illustrate the terraces, it also shows the environment where terrace farming is practiced and the community that formed them with a long tradition of adapting the landscape to their needs. The lighting places focus on the terraces and the rainbow is an added visual bonus giving a dimension of time.
A château, developed from the original castle, situated in the commune of Maintenon in the Eure-et-Loir département of France. It is best known as being the private residence of the second spouse of Louis XIV, Madame de Maintenon. [English]

Ce château, adapté d’une construction existante, est situé dans la ville de Maintenon, en Eure-et-Loire. Il est notamment connu pour être la résidence de la seconde épouse de Louis XIV, Madame de Maintenon. [French]

**Jury comments**

This interior shot shows what you expect from the majesty and luxury of the palace. Despite a few overexposed areas, this is an excellent illustration of the interior of the monument, giving impressive detail of what it contains. The lines and perspective are masterfully aligned, and the axial symmetry adds to the harmony of the location.
Rotonda Foschini, the internal court of the Teatro Comunale (city theatre) in Ferrara was built at the end of the 18th century. The court was accessible by carriages and, entering from Corso Martiri della Libertà in front of the Estense castle, allowed to reach Corso della Giovecca. [English]

La Rotonda Foschini, il cortile elittico interno al Teatro Comunale di Ferrara, costruito alla fine del XVIII secolo. Il cortile era accessibile dalle carrozze ed, entrando da Corso Martiri della Libertà di fronte al Castello Estense, permetteva di raggiungere Corso della Giovecca. [Italian]

**Jury comments**

Placing the “void” at the center of the picture draws attention to the walls and windows that surround it, turning what could have been a dull image into a highly dramatic photo. The ominous clouds add to the dramatic aspect as well. The other main feature of the picture is its perfect symmetry, which highlights the old building’s imperfections. It compels the viewer to scrutinize the super-sharp photo, looking for details and variations of color in all the shades of orange. A few minor color artifacts are visible when magnifying, and the photo doesn’t give an exhaustive view of the monument; it complements other, more classic depictions of the Teatro.
The Taj Mahal, is a mausoleum located in Agra, India, that was built under Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. It is one of the most famous Indian buildings and considered a symbol for love world wide. [English]

ताजमहल, भारत के आगरा शहर में स्थित एक विश्व धरोहर मक़बरा है। इसका निर्माण मुगल सम्राट शाहजहाँ ने, अपनी पत्नी मुम्ताज महल की याद में करवाया था। इसके साथ ही इसे विश्व धरोहर के सर्वोत्तम प्रशंसा पाने वाला, अत्युत्तम मानवी कृतियों में से एक बताया गया। ताजमहल की भारत की इस्लामी कला का रत्न भी घोषित किया गया है। [Hindi]

Jury comments

The Taj Mahal is probably one of the most photographed monuments in the world — and definitely in this competition. This particular image gives an impressive view of the silhouette, showing also the adjoining buildings. The complex seems to wake up, out of the mist. It gives context and mystery at the same time showing just a bit more than on most pictures.
Photographer: Jiuguang Wang  
Monument: Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar  
Location: Zaragoza, Aragon, Spain

The Basilica-Cathedral of Our Lady of the Pillar is a Baroque-style basilica celebrating the first apparition of Mary, before her assumption, to Hispanic people. This would have happened upon a pillar around which later a chapel was constructed to preserve it and give witness of her apparition. [English]

La Basílica-Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Pilar es una basílica de estilo barroco que celebra la primera aparición de María, antes de su Asunción, al pueblo español. Apareció supuestamente sobre un pilar, alrededor del cual luego se construyó una capilla para preservarlo y que diera testimonio de la aparición de María. [Spanish]

**Jury comments**

There was some discussion in the jury on the tone mapping of this image. Whether it was tone mapped or that the photographer shot it just at the right time of day, it is a beautiful image which tells a lot about the context that the Basilica exists in. The composition is very good and quite magical.
Photographer: Tomás Terroba
Monument: Argentine Cemetery
Location: Port Darwin, Falkland Islands/ Islas Malvinas, from the Argentinean competition

The Argentine cemetery holds the remains of 237 Argentinian soldiers fallen in the Falklands War, of which 123 are not yet identified. Their graves stating “Argentinian soldier known only by God” are a memorial of one of the most tragic moments in the modern history of Argentina.

En el cementerio Argentino yacen 237 soldados fallecidos durante la Guerra de las Malvinas, de los cuales 123 no han sido identificados. Sus tumbas marcadas con “Soldado argentino sólo conocido por Dios” recuerdan uno de los momentos más tristes de la historia argentina reciente.

Jury comments

This image has context, mood and information. All the elements of the photo lead to a very dramatic scene: the choice of using black and white, the immense but ominous sky that seems to threaten to crush the cemetery, the contrast between the white crosses and the dark background, the axial symmetry of the lower part. Because the subject is a cemetery, the dramatic setting reinforces the monument’s identity instead of distracting from it, making it a very good illustration for a Wikipedia article. The photo’s only default is the heavy grain, but it could almost be seen as a feature, adding to the dramatic effect by giving it the look of an old photograph. While the photo seems simple at first, there is also a flair of mystery to it.
Photographer: Zentsik
Monument: Hermann Castle
Location: Narva, Estonia

Hermann Castle in Narva stands on the Estonian border, looking across the river at its Russian twin, Ivangorod. Parts of current castle originate from ca 1300 AD. It suffered a lot in WWII and was restored after that. [English]

Narva Hermanni kindlus seisab Eesti piiril, otse üle jõe jääva Ivangorodi kindluse vastas. Praeguse kindluse vanimad osad rajati umbes 1300. aastal. Kindlus sai Teises maailmasõjas kannatada ning restaureeriti hiljem. [Estonian]

Jury comments
The picture places this Estonian castle in its context, not only geographically, but also from a climate perspective with mist rising from the river in morning light; the timing seems to have been sensitive. The vignetting (reduced brightness at the borders) isn’t too strong and draws attention to the monument, as well as the balance of warm and cold colors. All in all a useful picture to be used in Wikipedia.
Photographer: Raymon Sutedjo-The
Monument: Balaban and Katz Chicago Theatre
Location: Chicago, United States of America

The Chicago Theatre is built in 1921 and a landmark theater located on North State Street in the Loop area of Chicago. Along with the other B&K theaters, from 1925 to 1945 the Chicago Theatre was a dominant movie theatre enterprise. [English]

Jury comments
This picture clearly stands out from the rest of the selection: at night, with neon lights, and people passing in front of the theatre, it seems emblematic of the place and its historical use. It grabs your attention and tells you the story of the building.
The famous windmills nearby Kinderdijk are well known and recognized by UNESCO as world heritage. The mills were part of a system that was responsible for keeping the land dry. The mills are a symbol for the Dutch fight against the water. [English]

De beroemde molens bij Kinderdijk zijn beroemd en erkend door UNESCO als werelderfgoed. De rij molens was onderdeel van een systeem dat verantwoordelijk was voor het drooghouden van de polders. De molens zijn een symbool voor het Nederlandse gevecht tegen het water. [Dutch]

**Photographer:** Tarod  
**Monument:** The windmills of Kinderdijk:  
Windmill no. 4 of the Overwaard  
**Location:** Kinderdijk, the Netherlands

*Jury comments*

The composition (framing and use of reflection) adds context to the monument. The rule of thirds balances focus between the windmills and the plants, perhaps a bit too much: much of the detail on the windmills is lost due to the distance. The photo shows the system of windmills that is forming this cultural landscape. The soft breeze in the grass is repeating the theme of wind. The mills are well lit and the light blue sky provides a soothing mood made more interesting by the thready clouds and the vibrant green plants.
Photographer: Zetem

Monument: Former vodka distillery at Komorniki Estate

Location: Komorniki, Polkowice, Poland

Komorniki estate, a nobleman estate established in 15th century, and modernised in 19th century, inscribed in the registry of monuments of the Lower Silesian voivodeship since 2003.

[English]

Jury comments

This is a brilliant catch of an abandoned manor house. The picture shows the dullness of the site that seems to have no future and documents a building that needs help to be preserved. Showing the red bricks and the damaged roof, the composition brings the colors forward despite a noisy sky and the shadows.

[Polish]
**Photographer:** Rha009  
**Monument:** Kjeungskjær fyr (lighthouse)  
**Location:** Bjugnfjorden, Sør-Trøndelag, Norway

The Kjeungskjær Lighthouse was built in 1880 and is sited in a bird reserve. It contains a dwelling that sleeps 6 and a boathouse. The landing is connected to the lighthouse by a bridge and a concrete walkway.  

Fyrtårnet ble bygget i 1880 og ligger i et fuglefuglelivsfredet område. Fyret har blant annet en leilighet med seks sovekabiner og et naust. Landingen er forbundet med fyrtårnet via en bro og en støpt vei.  

**Jury comments**

The composition emphasizes the solitary nature of the lighthouse, lost alone in the sea, stuck at the interface of air and water. It shows the isolated situation in which people have been working here. The symmetry and use of reflection further increase this feeling. Clouds add interestingness to an otherwise featureless sky. The picture is a bit small, which limits the amount of detail, but still provides a nice illustration for a Wikipedia article.  

[English]
Crypt of the baroque Altenburg Abbey in Lower Austria with mural paintings by students of Paul Troger. The buildings and the paintings of the monastery were renovated and restored in the 1950s and 1960s. [English]

Krypta des barocken Stift Altenburg in Niederösterreich mit Wandmalerein von Schülern Paul Trogers. In den 50er und 60er Jahren wurden Gebäude und Malereien des Klosters renoviert und restauriert. [German]

Jury comments

The perspective helps to show the ambiance of this monument; the painted ceiling of the so called crypt is leading as an axis to the central point. Despite the vaulted underground-architecture the picture gives a spacious impression. It does justice to the incredibly complex shapes in the paint, but also depicts the rest of the room.
Interior view of Baptistery of St. Peter in the architectural complex of the church of San Pietro in Consavia. The Baptistery was built in 1100, inspired by the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem with in the middle a baptismal font from 1500.

[English]

Photographer: Dan Vaquerizo Molina
Monument: Historical city center of Toledo
Location: Toledo, Spain

Photographer: Choniron
Monument: Temple of Debod in Madrid
Location: Madrid, Spain

Photographer: Mikipons
Monument: Medieval fortified village of Besalú
Location: Besalú, Spain

Photographer: China Crisis
Monument: The cabin Konstantinovka
Location: Gåshamna, Spitsbergen, Norway.
Photographer: Marcelo Zalazar
Monument: Mill of San José de Jáchal
Location: Jáchal, Argentina

Photographer: Kay-africa
Monument: The base of the Donkin Memorial
Location: Port Elizabeth, South Africa

Photographer: Peter Rinder
Monument: Dolmen chamber at Troldkirken
Location: Troldkirken, Denmark
Photographer: Betogoico58  
Monument: The old temple of Veracruz  
Location: Medellín, Colombia.

Photographer: Christa Kramer  
Monument: Catholic church in Buchberg  
Location: Buchberg, Austria

Photographer: William Zimmerly  
Monument: Cabot Tower in St.Johns  
Location: Newfoundland, Canada
Photographer: Jazmin Million
Monument: Our-Lady-of-good-help church
Location: Montréal, Canada.

Photographer: Yonah baby
Monument: Tower of David
Location: Jeruzalem, Israel

Photographer: Choniron
Monument: The city wall of Ávila
Location: Ávila, Spain

Photographer: Etaohc
Monument: St. Alexander Nevsky Chapel
Location: Akutan, Alaska, United States of America
Photographer: MichaelThoeny  
Monument: Orpheum Theatre  
Location: Vancouver, Canada

Photographer: fusion-of-horizons  
Monument: Romanian Athenaeum  
Location: Bucharest, Romania

Photographer: Martinduquea  
Monument: Capilla de Siecha  
Location: Cundinamarca, Colombia
Photographer: Dada.cudla  
Monument: Ruins of Brahehus Castle outside Gränna  
Location: Småland, Sweden

Photographer: Sfabarafe  
Monument: Monument to native people  
Location: Boyacá, Colombia

Photographer: Bernardo Marchetti  
Monument: Galleria Alberto Sordi  
Location: Rome, Italy

Photographer: Michael Vesia  
Monument: The Clock Tower at the Old Port  
Location: Montréal, Canada
Photographer: Naga Praveena Sharma P
Monument: The Belum caves
Location: Andhra Pradesh, India

Photographer: Pline
Monument: The castle of Martainville
Location: Seine-Maritime, France.

Photographer: Gstamenko
Monument: Ruins of the medieval Catholic church of Arač
Location: near Novi Bečej, Serbia
Photographer: Rahulpurushot
Monument: Bhutanatha temples in Badami
Location: Karnataka, India

Photographer: Ori97
Monument: Bahá’í Terraces
Location: Haifa, Israel

Photographer: Aubry Françon
Monument: Castle of Chenonceau
Location: Indre-et-Loire, France
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