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A SPARKLINGLY DIVERSE SELECTION OF TRAVEL IMAGES LIGHT UP 2025 WINNERS
The world's most prestigious travel photography award - Travel Photographer of the Year (TPOTY) - transports you to every continent with the stunning 2025 winning images

- Overall Winner: the Travel Photographer of the Year 2025 – Athanasios Maloukos, Greece
 - Young Travel Photographer of the Year 2025 – Jamie Smart, UK (age 10)
 - Young TPOTY Winner, 15-18 years – Matei Mărcineanu, Romania (age 15)
 - Young TPOTY Winner, 14 years & under – Naomi Cech, Czech Republic/Czechia (age 11)
 - Portfolio Winner: Adventures & Experiences – Sara Bardotti, Italy
 - Portfolio Winner: Culture, Heritage & Beliefs – Mitchell Kanashkevich, Australia
 - Portfolio Winner: Landscape, Weather & Climate – Paul Sansome, UK
 - Portfolio Winner: Wildlife, Sealife, Birdlife – Mohammad Murad, Kuwait
 - One Shot Winner: Green Planet – John Edwards, USA
 - One Shot Winner: Slow Travel – Teo Chin Leong, Singapore
 - One Shot Winner: Travel in Monochrome – Dana Allen, USA
 - One Shot Winner: Travel Portraits – Rahsan Firtina, Turkey
 - Rising Talent Winners: Maruša Uranjek, Slovenia; Silke Hullmann, Germany; Christopher Harrison, UK; Liesel Geertsema, New Zealand; Sue O'Connell, UK
 - People's Choice Winner: Mark Julian Edwards, UK
 - NEW AWARD - Travel Image of the Year 2025 - Dana Allen, USA
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The [winning images](#) from the 2025 international Travel Photographer of the Year awards (TPOTY) have been revealed. These images are, as always, of the highest standard and they show the wide diversity of travel photography, both in subject matter and style. This shines through in photographs which ranges from intimate and amusing portraits to atmospheric landscapes and shots which capture earth's climate capture and its inhabitants, both large and small. In a divided world these winners bring together people from a range of cultures and religions, the collection complimented by some incredible wildlife moments. The result is an stunning visual journey around our planet, capturing its breathtaking moods and colours, supported by some fabulously strong black and white imagery.

2025 sees our first overall winner from Greece. **The Travel Photographer of the Year 2025**, Athanasios Maloukos, treats us to some extremely atmospheric and intense images of a whirling devotion in Konya, Turkey and the Night of Sorrows: The 'Yacente' Procession in Zamora, Spain. Athanasios is an amateur photographer with a passion for photographing people and culture.

TPOTY founder Chris Coe said: *"Shot in low light, these images require immense skill to get right. Shooting on the edge like this requires very careful use of shutter speed to selectively freeze and blur the movements in these two ceremonies. Here the hints of movement alongside the frozen elements enhance the atmosphere and drama in Athanasios's photographs. This is all achieved in camera without over-processing, and conveys the depth and intensity of each moment."*

Athanasios Maloukos expressed his delight at this TPOTY award, ***“Winning the prestigious Travel Photographer of the Year award is both an immense honour and a deeply humbling experience. TPOTY is one of the few platforms that not only celebrates visual storytelling at the highest level but also offers artists meaningful international exposure.***

This recognition encourages me to continue working quietly and respectfully, telling stories that explore the depth of belief, ritual, and human connection across cultures. In a world of fast images, TPOTY is a powerful reminder of the value of thoughtful, enduring photography.

Both of my awarded portfolios - on Anatolia’s Sufi rituals and the Yacente procession in Zamora - reflect my commitment to documenting spiritual traditions with sensitivity and depth. Working in environments shaped by silence, reverence, and low light demanded not only technical precision, but also emotional restraint.

In both cases, intentional motion blur became a visual metaphor for the inner intensity of devotion — a way to honour what cannot be fully seen or explained. These images are the result of patience, presence, and deep listening.”

In Young Travel Photographer of the Year the TPOTY awards celebrate the potential stars of the future. So it is especially satisfying to see this year’s overall young winner progressing with her photography. In 2024, 9 year old Jamie Smart was runner up in the 14yrs & under category. This year, now aged just 10 years old, she is the overall winner the winners. Placed photographers come from six different countries, with the awards’ first overall winner and **Young Travel Photographer of the Year 2025** for a highly accomplished portfolio showing fruit bats, or flying foxes, both being cared for in the Zoo hospital in Beerwah, Queensland, Australia and flying wild.

15-year-old Romanian photographer Matei Mărcineanu has taken the top honours in the Young TPOTY 15-18 years category with some beautiful shot birdlife images from Morii Lake, Bucharest, Romania. The Young TPOTY 14 years & Under category was won by 11-year-old Czech photographer Naomi Cech for her delicate and creative images of forest fungi near town of Kraliky, her native Czech Republic and on a trip to Africa.

Athanasios Maloukos’s prize includes a £1000 cash bursary from TPOTY, a 7 day trip to Sri Lanka courtesy of the Sri Lankan Tourist Board and Jetwing Hotels, Radiant Photo imaging software and a portfolio review from top New York agent Frank Meo. Young TPOTY winner Jamie Smart receives £500 from TPOTY, plus Radiant Photo imaging software. Naomi Cech and Matei Mărcineanu, receive £250 each. All three young winners will also win a place on an Eye for the Light photography workshop or a photo critique.

The 2025 international Travel Photographer of the Year awards showcase the talent of photographers from all around the globe and the organisers say it is both heartening and exciting to see so much talent amongst both female and male photographers, and so much young talent shining too.

Amateur and professional photographers from 160 countries submitted more than 20,000 images in TPOTY 2025. The winning and placed entries combine to form a truly outstanding collection of contemporary travel photography. The winning shots - which can all be viewed in [the Winners’ Gallery on tpoty.com](https://www.tpoty.com/winners) - will go on exhibition, with dates and details of the venues to be confirmed soon.

Individual categories and awards

Italian photographer Sara Bardotti won the **Adventures & Experiences** portfolio category with her beautifully atmospheric black and white images of Nenet fishermen in Yamal peninsula, Siberia, Russia. They truly convey the freezing temperatures. Brazilian photographer Frederico Figueiredo Cerdeiral's dramatic image of a surfer deep diving to dodge a wave at Cloudbreak Reef, Tavarua Island in Fiji won the Best Single Image award in this category.

The **Culture, Heritage & Beliefs** portfolio category gave us an insight into the culture of lesser known Mauritania. Australian Mitchell Kanashkevich won this category with a portfolio which took us into the a classroom inside a mahadara (Islamic education). Indian photographer Dashwater Bade, won the Best Single Image award with all the drama and movement of a a celebratory dance in Maharashtra, India.

The **Landscape, Weather & Climate** portfolio winners range from the subtle, almost zen, to the dramatic, offering different viewpoints and perspectives. The winner is Paul Sansome from the UK for his sublime minimalist landscapes of Árneshreppur, Iceland. While the Best Single Image award was won by Laetitia Guichard (France) with breathtaking image of a plane and funnel cloud amongst in the skies over France.

Our first winning Kuwaiti photographer, Mohammad Murad, was the judges' choice to win the **Wildlife, Sealife & Birdlife** category, with a colourful set of images of Arabian desert foxes juxtaposed with the urban lights of Kuwait City. The diversity of images and species in this category was remarkable - ranging from crabs and mud skippers, to reef life, butterflies and Komodo dragons. The Best Single Image award was won by Kevin You Shi (USA) for capturing a dramatic moment as a puma tries to take down a guanaco in another defining moment shot.

Portfolio category prizes included TPOTY cash bursaries, Genesis Imaging exhibition prints and Radiant Photo imaging software.

There were four One Shot categories in 2025, challenging photographers to capture each category theme in just a single photograph – which is a lot harder than it might seem! The winner of **One Shot: Green Planet** was John Edwards (USA) for his creative shot of the reflection of Sukhothai Historical Park in Thailand. Singapore photographer Teo Chin Leong was placed across several categories but also won **One Shot: Slow Travel** category with a simply but graphic shot of a man with an umbrella on a pedestrian crossing in Tokyo, Japan. American photographer Dana Allen is a worthy winner of the **One Shot: Travel in Monochrome** category with an unusual B&W image of an elephant covering itself in dust with just one eye peeping through - perfect moment. This image also won him TPOTY's for **Travel Image of the Year** award. And another mesmerising photograph won the **One Shot: Travel Portraits** category: Turkish photographer Rahsan Firtina's image of a somewhat bored elderly man contrasting with the table tennis match going on in the background. Rahasan also picked up a highly commended in the category with a joyous shot of an elderly basket weaver..

The winners of Green Planet; and Slow Travel and Travel in Monochrome all receive TPOTY cash bursaries. The winner Travel Portraits will receive a Lensbaby Special Edition kit worth £1000, courtesy of **SheClicks**. All four One Shot winners will also receive Radiant Photo imaging software.

The **Rising Talent** category, for amateur photographers and semi-pros only, was launched in 2024. For 2025 the five winners will be travelling to Sri Lanka for a week of mentoring, from TPOTY judges, Eye for the Light, by top pro photographers for the UK and USA. This mentoring will be in every aspects of travel photography and is designed to help them move to the next level or launch their photography careers. They'll also be tutored in wildlife photography by two of Sri Lanka's finest wildlife photographers. This fabulous and unusual prize is supported by the Sri Lanka Tourism Board and Jetwing Hotels. The winners - four women and one man - come from four different countries. They are in for the experience of a lifetime and they are: Maruša Uranjek (Slovenia); Silke Hullmann (Germany); Christopher Harrison (UK); Liesel Geertsema (New Zealand); Sue O'Connell (UK).

In addition, three photographers from the portfolio categories will receive an unusual opportunity to have their work reviewed by top New York photographers' agent, Frank Meo from The PhotoCloser. These photographers are: Katy Gomez Catalina, Spain; Thibault Gerbaldi, France ; and Suliman Alatiqi, Kuwait.

Previous winners of these reviews found them to be hugely beneficial to their photography. Turkish photographer F. Dilek Yurdakul enthused *"The meeting with Frank Meo was very important for my career. It gave me the key to doors I could not reach and was absolutely priceless. It was a great opportunity that I think was much more valuable than any cash prize."*

Thibault Gerbaldi was also a Rising Talent winner in 2024 and since being mentored his work has gone on to be placed in two categories in 2025.

Video categories

Over the years we've had some great entries in the video category, but the 2025 entries were disappointing, either lacking a clear impactful narrative or a polished or tight ending. Some entries were also branded or watermarked so could not be judged anonymously. As a result, two videos in the **Our World** category were awarded highly commended. These were by Christian Weiser (Germany) for his video about preserving the oceans and by Joy Saha (Bangladesh) for a drone view video of her country, but the judges felt no entry merited winning this award. In the **Shooting Travel** category none of the entries fulfilled the brief of showing how a photographer works, so the judges decided not to award a winner in this category.

The winner in one category was not chosen by the judges. The **People's Choice** award was decided by members of the public voting on the TPOTY website. The winning image, chosen from over 4000 public votes, was by Mark Julian Edwards (UK) for his shot of a young boy on a bus in Jafna, Sri Lanka.

The awards are judged anonymously by a 16-strong [international panel of imaging experts](#), who give their time and expertise freely to judge the awards. This year TPOTY welcomed two new judges to the panel: American travel and documentary photographer, Mark Edward Harris and fellow American photographer, Krystal Chryssomallis.

All judging is completed 'blind' – **the judges do not know the identity or nationality of any entrants** – until judging is complete. The finalists must provide both the RAW and original image

files for the final judging stage to both confirm the validity of their entries and certify that generative AI did not play a part in their creation.

Ends

For media enquiries and images please contact Chris Coe at Travel Photographer of the Year on +44(0) 7941 111430 or email chris@tpoty.com

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