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A WORLD OF TRAVEL THROUGH AMAZING PHOTOGRAPHY - IT'S TIME TO GO EXPLORING AND ENTER

Travel Photographer of the Year opens its 24th annual award for entries

The annual search for the very best travel photographs has begun with the prestigious Travel Photographer of the Year awards (TPOTY) 2026 is now open. It's a chance for photographers around the globe to showcase their best and most inspiring images on an international stage. Travel encompasses many aspects of life so whether you photograph people, landscapes, wildlife, underwater, street-life or any other element of travel photography, now's your chance to make an impact and bring your photography to the world. Amateur and professional photographers of all ages and from anywhere in the world are invited to submit their very best work in one of the world's leading photographic competitions. Entries close on 12th October.

TPOTY 2026 has a range of [2026 categories](#) reflecting the breadth and diversity of travel photography, and entrants will be competing not only for a selection of prizes, but also for the international exposure and acclaim that comes from achieving success in these awards. TPOTY winners gain tremendous media exposure and feature in UK and international exhibitions.

The awards are judged by a 15 strong international judging panel of enormously respected and talented [judges](#), who give their time and expertise freely to judge the awards. To avoid any bias the judging is done blind and the names of the entrants and their images are not known until after the judging is complete. The awards are about photography so AI-generated images are not permitted.

Categories and prizes

TPOTY 2026 has four portfolio categories: 'Adventures & Journeys', 'Cultures, Traditions & Celebrations', 'Landscapes - Natural & Urban' and 'Wildlife, Sealife, Birdlife'. There are also four One Shot single-image categories: 'In Nature', 'People of the World', 'Street' and 'Travel in Black & White'.

The Overall Winner – the Travel Photographer of the Year 2026 – will be the entrant who submits the best two portfolios across any of the four portfolio categories, and entry to this is automatic and free. In addition for younger photographers, there is Young Travel Photographer of the Year, which is open to photographers aged 18 and under and has awards in two different age groups. The Young TPOTY theme is 'Discovering the World'.

Travel Image of the Year will be awarded to one of the winners of the four One Shot categories or one of the four Best Single Image in a Portfolio winners. And for anyone who fancies themselves as a judge, there will also be the People's Choice award - which attracts thousands of votes - for the general public to choose their favourite image from the finalists.

The winners of the last year's Rising Talent Award are about to head off to Sri Lanka for 9 days of intensive mentoring - courtesy of Sri Lanka Tourism and Jetwing Hotels. They will be mentored by leading American travel photographer Elia Locardi, fine art photographer and visual storyteller Krystal Chrissyomallis and travel photographer and mentor Chris Coe. They'll also be mentored by two of Sri Lanka's top wildlife photographers. It's a unique, not to be missed opportunity. This Rising Talent Award returns this year with another opportunity for the winning amateur or semi-professional photographers to be mentored as TPOTY support them with developing their photography.

With [support](#) also coming from Radiant Imaging Labs, Eye for the Light, Genesis Imaging (now Genesis Metro) and The PhotoCloser, as well as Sri Lanka Tourism and Jetwing Hotels, the awards offer some excellent prizes including nearly £10,000 in cash bursaries, photographic equipment, magnificent exhibition quality prints, portfolio reviews, photo tuition and mentoring.

Inspiration and information

23 years of award-winning travel photography can be found on the previous Winners' Galleries on tpoty.com and a further source of inspiration and information is Eye for the Light, the free online creative photography, adventure and travel magazine - with around 150 features on photography and travel and the &Coe podcast series plus the Newton & Coe series, including insights and chats with some of the TPOTY judges. It's a fabulous resource and source of knowledge and includes [interviews with renowned photographers, travellers and adventurers](#), including conservation photographer Charlie Hamilton James, Venezuelan visual story-teller Ana María Arévalo Gosen, marine photographer Cristina Mittermeier, former Deputy Director of Photography at National Geographic, Kathy Moran and the director of 'My Octopus Teacher' Pippa Ehrlich.

Since Travel Photographer of the Year was founded in 2003 entries have been received from 160 countries to date, with nearly 60 nationalities represented amongst the winners. Overall winners have come from Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Greece, Italy, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, the UK and USA.; with young winners also from Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, Germany, India, Ireland, the UK and USA. The 2025 young winner was just 10 years old.

Entry fees are still amongst the lowest for any major international photography award, starting at £14, but entry is FREE for young photographers aged 18 and under.

For early bird entrants there are two options: Enter before 1st July and you'll automatically receive an **EarlyBird** 10% discount*. There's also a special **TPOTY Pass** which gives unlimited entry up until 16th July. In addition, TPOTY is offering a number of multiple entry 'packages' with substantial savings of as much as 50% over individual category fees. Submissions must be made online at www.tpoty.com. *(EarlyBird discount does not apply to TPOTY Pass)

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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.

[DOWNLOAD A SELECTION OF IMAGES FROM THE 2025 WINNERS HERE](#). If you require print-resolution versions, please contact Chris Coe. Images are provided for editorial use only and must be used for news items, features or galleries about the Travel Photographer of the Year awards and/or its exhibitions. The photographers and tpoty.com must be credited. Please [view our image usage restrictions here](#) and confirm that you will adhere to them when you request pictures for publication.

About Travel Photographer of the Year:

Travel Photographer of the Year was founded in 2003 and rapidly became one of the world's leading travel photography awards. Next year it will be celebrating a quarter of a century of the best in travel photography internationally.

We accept entries from amateur, semi-pro and professional photographers of all ages and from all countries. We have received entries from photographers in more than 160 countries and, to date, our oldest entrant has been 88 years old, the youngest just five.



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