



## STAGED IMAGES

updated June 2022

The Photo Travel Division has a [Gallery of Staged Images](https://psa-photo.org/page/mo-ptd-staged-images) that judges and chairmen should review before scoring images: <https://psa-photo.org/page/mo-ptd-staged-images>

The following images are staged. They can be entered into PID or PPD but are not permitted in Photo Travel because they are a result of organized set-ups. Photo Travel is a reality division and images should be of scenes **that are found naturally**. Images taken when the scene has been arranged or the subjects are being directed are not showing our world as we find it naturally.

Photography tours make photography fun, help expand a photographer's portfolio and provide different and wonderful opportunities.



These horse riders perform for the photographers. These are taken in Xinjiang, China.



Fisherman with his cormorant. A very small number might still practice this type of fishing for self-sufficiency, but this particular scene is staged. There are photography guides in Guilin that will arrange these shots for photographers. Sometimes it will involve fake smoke/fog.



The above scene of the farmer with his ox is a scene that is set-up for photographers in Guilin, China.



You will find many versions of the above scene, which is taken in the Yang JiaXi village in Xiapu, China. It can sometimes involve a lot of sunlight coming through the trees.



The other organized photoshoot at Yang JiaXi is of the famous 'Drying of the Hanging Nets'. These beautiful images of an old-time practice are perfect for PID and PPD but this particular scene is arranged solely for photographers (see scene on right) and therefore not permitted in PTD.



This scene of a farmer walking across this bridge is organized for photographers. There are many variations of this set up shot. This scene is taken at the Lishui Xiandu bridge in China.



Be on the lookout for aerial shots of women in red carrying yellow buckets across their shoulders. These similar shots can be taken at Dong Bi or at Xiao Hao in Xiapu, China and are arranged for photographers.



Inle fishermen will sometimes pose for photographers and are paid for their time. Even if a judge did not realize this, they might be suspicious of the image with the three fishermen, all with their baskets facing the same way and posing in perfect unison. You will also find shots of fishermen throwing their fishing cage onto the water in perfect unison, creating perfectly timed splashes. Such scenes do not show our world as we find it naturally. Set-ups can be identified when many images of the same or similar scenes are submitted to exhibitions, or when they depict unnatural actions or behavior by the people shown in the photo.



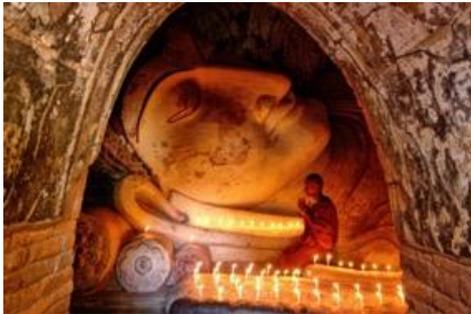
The above images were taken at an organized Photoshoot in Inner Mongolia. Even if the judge did not realize this, one would question why would two elaborately dressed men be racing camels down a sand dune in perfect light. You will sometimes find dogs running beside the camels. This scene is staged for photographers.



This setup scene is at Tukad Unda dam in Bali. The images are not always of boys and their bright buckets, they sometimes feature adults in costume. Usually the group will be performing in unison.



This is a very famous spot in Myanmar, the walkway of the Shwezigon Pagoda in Bagan. Monks do come here to receive food very early in the morning. You will find many staged images of monks in this colonnade. You will sometimes find a monk posing or a few monks walking in unison. Monks could be holding umbrellas or pots in the same way/position for more impact.



These images of Monks with candles in ancient temples were set-ups organized in Bagan and Inle Myanmar. They show an arrangement of candles in neat patterns which is unusual in normal daily life. Entries in Photo Travel sections must show our world as it is found naturally.



The real monks walk up to the Myatheindan Pagoda in Mingun, Myanmar under a specially built covered path. This image of monks that are jumping on the wave stones is staged. Even if a judge did not realize this, he/she should question if this appears to be something that would happen naturally in our world.



Fishermen walking on stilts carrying nets is a feature of the old days and it is not a common practice now. These days fishermen seldom use this kind of fishing net to catch fish as it is not efficient.



You have to pay a photographer's fee to photograph inside the teahouse. The performance is for the photographers. You will find images of water sprays in 'Z' shapes and 'O' shapes etc. If photographers miss the shot the performer can be paid to redo the water spray. These images are not permitted in PTD.



This is a famous site in China. With no doubt, scenes here are organized for photographers and the models are paid. The owner of this property charges an entrance fee for photographers to enter this area. To the right of these raised banks are colorful circle crab nets. The boatmen are paid and directed to weave their way through these circle crab nets for photographers.



Circle Crab Nets in China. Some property owners use colored nets for a better visual appeal for the paying photographers.



The performances of these horses galloping are staged for photographers and occur in all seasons. The organizer of this shoot is herding the horses especially to the area where hundreds of photographers are waiting. This area is called 'Ba Shang Pasture' and is located between Inner Mongolia and Beijing. In PTD, images from staged, organized photoshoots are not permitted.



The Hui'an women in Quanzhou, China, are being directed for photographers in the above scenes to mimic their traditional work. These images were taken at an organized photography tour. Images taken when the subjects are directed especially for photographers are not allowed into PTD.



Both the above images were taken in Africa where a photography tour organized the scenes. Such images can be entered into PID or PPD but cannot be entered into PTD. Set-ups can be identified when they depict unnatural actions or behavior by the people shown in the photo.



In both of the above scenes, which were organized in Vietnam, the objects (incense sticks and umbrellas) have been arranged neatly which is not what would happen in real life. The worker's outfit in the incense stick image was chosen specifically to maximize the impact of color. The umbrellas, in the image on the right, would normally be spread out to dry in the sun and not placed in such a close and neat arrangement. Photo Travel is a reality division and entrants are obligated to show our world as we would find it naturally. Such images can be entered into PID and PPD but not into PTD.



Staged winter scenes in Northeast China of models in various set-ups do not show our world as we find it naturally. Such images can be submitted into PID or PPD but not into PTD.



The above scenes were taken at an organized photography shoot in China. Puppet shows still happen in China but if the scene was arranged for photographers, then the images cannot be entered into Photo Travel sections. Set-ups can be identified when many images of the same or similar scenes are submitted to exhibitions.



You will find many adaptations of this scene. Sometimes the shot is taken with a birdcage as a frame. The locals do not dress up so elaborately when making these cages.

**Here are further examples of setup/staged images:**









Photo Travel is a reality division, and images taken of set-up scenes or subjects that have been directed or hired are not allowed in Photo Travel sections. **Set-up images can be entered into PID and PPD.** In Photo Travel, entrants are obligated to show the world as it is found naturally.

**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/>

If you are able to contribute any images to this document please contact the Photo Travel Exhibition Standards Director [ptd-esd@psa-photo.org](mailto:ptd-esd@psa-photo.org)

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