

International Nature Photography Contest *Magical Nature*

The Nature Photography of the Year 2018

English translation is made only for the purpose of guidance. The organizer can not be held responsible for any misunderstanding, regardless what cause it. In case of doubt, please, contact us!

The aim of the competition is to show and promote great wonders and beauty of the Nature in order to be better understood and more appreciated by the people. It is one and the only we have on our planet and we crucially depend on it. With this contest we would also like to show, how powerful can nature photography be when reaching for those aims.

1. General information

The contest "Magical Nature" is hosted by Association of Slovenian Nature Photographers (ZNFS). The contest is open to amateur as well as professional photographers from around the world. Members of the jury, members of the competition management group and their nearest relatives are not eligible for participation. Every participant can submit up to 20 photographs. They can be distributed at her/his wish, but no more than 4 in each category. The same image can not be submitted to more than one category. Photographs which were sent to the contest in previous years, regardless if they were selected or not, will be disqualified.

2. Categories

There are 6 categories, acceptable are images from all corners of our planet:

1. Mammals
2. Birds
3. Other animals (*except mammals or birds*)
4. Plants including lichens, mushrooms, etc.
5. Natural Landscapes
6. Man and nature (*examples of positive or negative influence of man on nature*)

3. Guidelines

- photography must present nature without presence of human or human elements, except when this is part of the story (i.e. white stork nesting on chimney) and in case of entries for category 6.
- presence of elements used for scientific research (bird rings, transmitters, ...) is allowed
- presence of domestic animals or cultivated plants or artificially arranged scenes is not allowed
- digital techniques for adding, removing, moving or copying of objects on the photography (cloning) is not allowed
- cropping is allowed but the longest side of photography must have at least 3000 pixels
- digital techniques which improve photography without changing its content (i.e. sharpening, removal of lens aberrations, noise or sensor dust, managing highlights/shadows, changing white balance, contrast, colour saturation) are allowed, but jury might eliminate entries where editing was to extreme
- HDR and focus stacking is allowed if images were taken at the same location and within short period of time
- picture stitching is not allowed
- black & white and monochromatic images are allowed
- IR images are not allowed

4. Participation

The competition can be entered only online, over www.photonature.si

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First you upload pictures in JPG format with 1920 pixels on horizontal side (horizontal pictures) or 1080 pixels on vertical side (vertical pictures). A single file must not exceed 1Mb and it must contain original metadata added by camera.
Original files (RAW or original JPG) will be requested for entries reaching the final stage. Instructions will be send with the request. Pictures which original files will not arrived until original files dead-line will be disqualified from the contest.

5. Calendar

Entry start date: November 2018
Entry dead-line: 17th of February 2019
Judging: 10 - 20 March 2019
Request for original RAW files start date: 20 March 2019
Request for original files dead-line: 30 March 2019
Contest results: 05 April 2019
Award ceremony: scheduled for May 2019

6. Selection process and awards

Jury will select 180 images (30 from each category), which will be presented in public slide-show on award ceremony. Those will be officially accepted images of the contest.
The jury will select one winner in each category who will receive a prize money of 300€ and 9 runners-up, who will receive Highly Commended award. The winning photographers from each category will have to send a short description of circumstances in which she/he took the picture, to be included in book.
Among winning images jury will select one overall winning image and one winning image made by a Slovenian author, which will receive a title "Nature Photography of the Year" and/or "Slovenian Nature Photography of the Year".
Author of Nature Photography of the Year will receive a prize money of 500€ + 4 days Photo-Tour worth 800€ sponsored by [Slovenianbears](#).
Authors of all 60 winning images (winning and commended) will be asked to send full resolution (at least 3000 x 2000 pixels) images, which will be printed in book.
NEW: Special benefits for all the participants of Magical Nature contest: -10% off for Photo-tours and -10% off for Photo-hides.

7. Entry Fee

A one-off non-refundable entry fee of €30.00 is required from each entrant. Entries received without entry fee will not be judged.
The Entry Fee will be used exclusively for the production, printing and sending of a high quality hard covered book that will receive each participant of the contest. Payment must be made through PayPal system on address contact@photonature.si or directly on Bank Account: SI56192005013124710, Deželna Banka Slovenije d.d. Kolodvorska 9, Ljubljana

8. The Jury

Selection will be made by international jury of renown nature photographers:
Davorin Tome, Slovenia - Nature Photographer - Chairman of the Jury
Marjan Artnak, Slovenia - Nature Photographer
Pierluigi Rizzato, Italy - Nature Photographer

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All members of the jury will select pictures independently and separately for each of the category. Authors of the images will be anonymous during the judging process. In its work, jury will mostly focus on authenticity, aesthetic value and on the story photography tells, but also, but not in a first place, on technical quality of the photography.

9. Notification

All participants will receive a notification of their results via E-mail they will provide upon submission of the files, results will be available also on web-page of organizer.

10. Book

The organizer will print a high-quality book (250 mm x 210 mm, 100 pages, hard-cover) with all winning images. All participants of the contest will receive one copy free of charge.

11. Presentations

The contest will conclude with a final event with a projection of the best 180 photographs and a photographic exhibition of selected photographs. The final event will take place in May 2019 at the National Institute of Biology in Ljubljana.

12. Legal matters (copyright, etc.) and Privacy legal information

Participant must be the sole owner of the copyright of all photographs without third-party claims. Each participant agrees that organizer of the contest (ZNFS) can use her/his photographs for a promotion of the contest, for publication in book, for public presentation of the contest on internet, in printed publications in festivals and exhibitions without prior authorization and without claiming compensation of any kind. Personal data entered by the participant in the online form will be collected and processed electronically. These data are used to contact the winners of the jury vote, to identify the authors of the corresponding pictures, for all communications related to and for the International Nature Photography Contest Magical Nature.

13. Final statements

The risk of loss of the photographs during online transfer lies with participants. All submissions that will not be in accordance to rules will be excluded. All submissions that will be, according to decision of the jury to heavily processed will be excluded. Decision of the jury is final.

14. Organizer

The contest "Magical Nature" is organized under patronage of European project LIFE NATURAVIVA: Biodiversity – Art of life. It is organized by Association of Slovenian Nature Photographers (ZNFS) and National Institute of Biology (NIB).