

FIRST PLACE ►

Taj Mahal / BY WILLIAM J. CHESSEY, REDLANDS, CA

*Will Chessy took a day out of his business trip in India to study the light on the Taj Mahal walls. "It's always a combination of planning and serendipity that makes the best of my photos," he says. "The girl in the photo emerged almost out of nowhere, and I was ready with my camera and snapped the one frame." Chessy wins a sensational seven-day cruise of the Hawaiian Islands. **United Cruises** (united.com/cruises) will fly him and a guest to Honolulu to sail **NCL America** to Maui, Kaua'i, and the Big Island. He also receives a **High Sierra** carry-on.*

HEMISPHERES' 14th Annual Travel Photo Contest

The Winners

Every day presents a thousand wonders. Sometimes we're in too much of a hurry to notice, sometimes we're blinded by familiarity, sometimes we're focused so intently on our own interior landscapes that we fail to see the world in front of our eyes. But there are other moments—wonderful moments—when we find ourselves at the right place at the right time with our eyes wide open. That's when we really see that infectious smile, that dazzling slant of sun, that private gesture captured in the frame of a window. And if we're *really* fortunate, as fortunate as the winners of this year's annual Travel Photo Contest, we'll have our camera with us. ¶ HEMISPHERES is grateful to those of you who have shared those moments. As you traverse the world, you pause to let us delight with you in the silhouette of a pensive giraffe, the eagerness of two little girls in Indonesia, the quiet presence of a horse in Brazil. Every year we look forward to seeing what you'll come up with. And in return, we promise to keep paying attention. Every image that has moved you to snap the shutter sharpens our own capacity for wonder. Every sight that has struck you with its fleeting beauty makes us more mindful of the beauty in our own lives. In the end, it's those small moments that make the world bigger for all of us. ▮—Margaret Moore





SECOND PLACE ▲

St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican / BY FRED ZIMNY, LAKE PLACID, NY

Fred Zimny, the team leader for the 2006 U.S. Olympic luge team, was touring the games facilities in Torino when he visited Vatican City. "It was impossible to miss the three striking, vivid sunbeams streaming through the huge glass dome in the ceiling," he says. He set his camera on a railing, zoomed out, and set the self timer so he would not jostle the image. "I wasn't sure if the strength of the beams would be as vivid in a photo as they were in person. I was very pleased with the result." Zimny wins two roundtrip tickets to anywhere in the world **United** flies. And to enhance his trip, he receives a **High Sierra** carry-on.

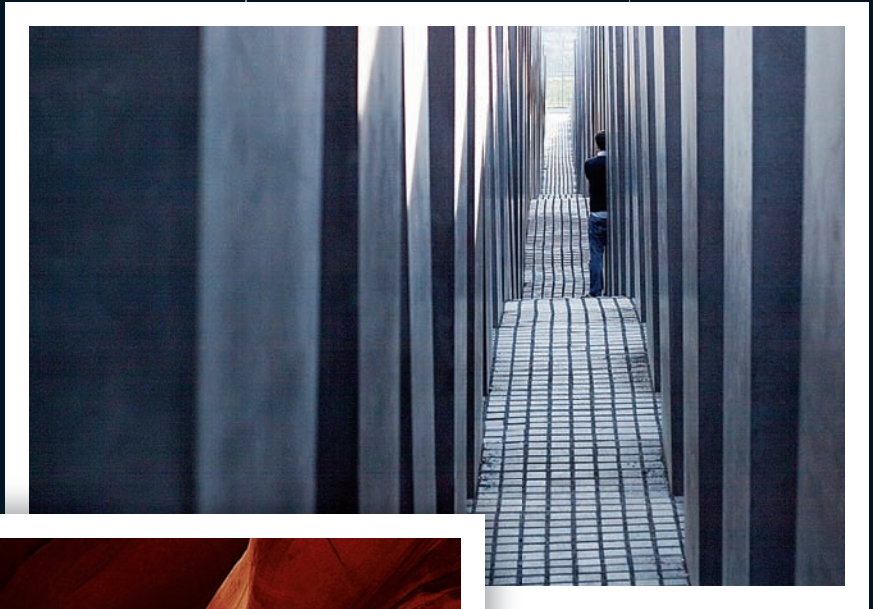
THIRD PLACE ▼

Horse in Brazil / BY JOHN WATSON, OAKLAND, CA

John Watson, a graphic designer and artist, spent three months touring Brazil. A horse by the side of the road outside São Paulo caught his eye: "There was something about the spots on the horse that were almost the reverse of the spots of the flowers on the ground," he says. "I walked up really slowly so as not to disturb him and was able to get just this one picture before he trotted off elsewhere."

*Watson wins two roundtrip tickets to anywhere **United** flies in the continental U.S. and a **High Sierra Carry-On Wheeled Upright**.*





HONORABLE MENTION *(clockwise from above)*

Antelope Canyon, Page, AZ / TIM STEELE, SANTA CLARA, CA

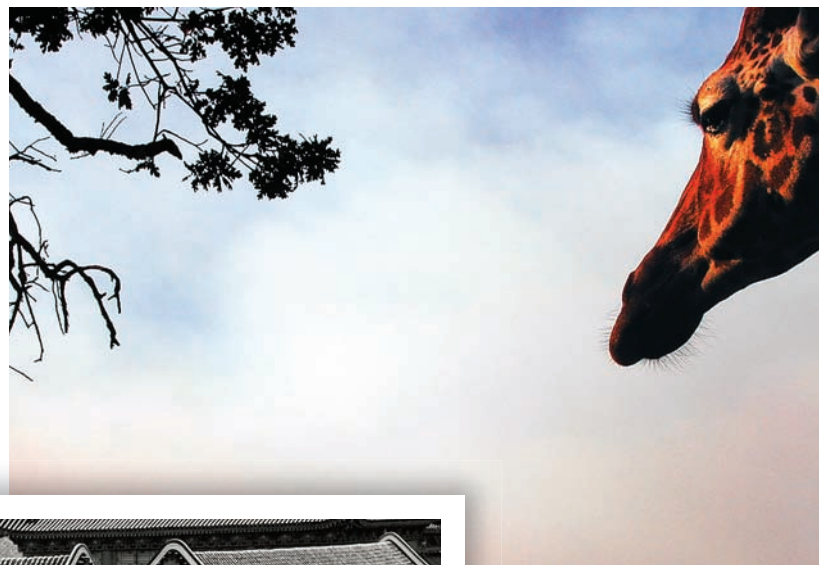
Berlin, Germany / MARK REICHERT, BOCA RATON, FL

Safari West, Santa Rosa, CA / DARRELL CHAN, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Chengde, China / HUNG TSENG, VILLANOVA, PA

Yasaka Shrine, Kyoto, Japan / PERRY MAROVITCH, OSAKA, JAPAN

*All honorable mentions receive a **High Sierra Carry-On Wheeled Upright** (hssc.com), a lightweight, 22-inch suitcase. With clean lines and a solid structure, this expandable carry-on is perfect for wherever your travels take you.*



HONORABLE MENTION *(clockwise from top right)*

Ponte Vecchio, Florence, Italy / LOU RAIZIN, LINCOLNSHIRE, IL

Vilnius, Lithuania / SETH GOODWIN, THETFORD CENTER, VT

West Coast of Aceh, Indonesia / GARY NORTON, WAITSFIELD, VT

Ramen Restaurant, Tokyo, Japan / BRYAN RIES, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

La Mancha, Spain / MICHAEL WHITTON, PASADENA, CA



