



Date: December 2007
To: All our groovy cool traveling friends
From: Teresa Beall Expeditions
Re: First Annual Winter TBE Photography Contest!

We asked you to hit us with your best shot for our first annual TBE Photography Contest and you responded. Wow, how you responded! Perhaps we should have named it the "Seven Continents Photography Contest" since the photos were taken on all seven continents – Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe and Australia/Oceania. TBE travelers really know how to get around. Well okay, so Antarctica is not technically represented here in this contest (Brenda Barr and Hal and Gail McGrath, where are you?), but Patagonia, Chile is, and that is about as close as you can get to the South Pole.

We are privileged that many of these photographs were taken while on TBE Group Expeditions.

That said, most of the photographs submitted were marvelous. Don't get us wrong – we also received several shots of families frolicking at the park, dogs lounging in the sun, flowers waving in the breeze, and even some out-of-focus or uninteresting shots that did not make the cut. Yes, we know "uninteresting" is subjective – remember our rules about decisions not being subject to appeal? No offense, but we narrowed them down to 60 standouts. After a few days of sweating and debating – we took creativity, composition and travel content relevance into account – it became apparent to the TBE staff that the judging would be too difficult to narrow to five in our small administrative offices on Pillsbury without the help of YOU, our dedicated readers, clients and friends. Therefore we need YOUR help to choose the top five (and, of course, the winner).

For all 60 photos, link: <http://picasaweb.google.com/TeresaBeall/TeresaBeallExpeditionsTravelPhotoContestWinter2007>

Click on the link above (or copy and paste it to your browser) and let the voting begin. You can view the photographs as a slide show (and adjust the speed in which they change) or pause the show and manually advance them one by one, which provides you ample time to read the photographer's caption. Many of you purists may choose to vote strictly on the photograph itself – this is, after all, a "photo" contest, not a blog contest (*the TBE travel blog contest was held earlier this year – log onto www.teresabeall.com/blog-off.html to read our three winners*). Others might want to learn the surrounding details of the photograph to better understand the mood when it was captured. Either way, you decide your voting method.

Please e-mail us with your TOP FIVE PHOTO PICKS! Each voting person is granted five votes. Yes, you can vote for your own, but you cannot vote for any one photo more than once. The polls will be open tonight through midnight December 20, 2007. **E-mail your name and the labeled photograph numbers of your top five choices to: TABeall@aol.com.**

The five photographs with the most number of votes (one winning entry per traveler/photographer) will win a \$50 Gift Certificate on a future Teresa Beall Expedition. And the winning photograph – the one that receives the most comments and/or votes – will win an additional \$100 TBE Gift Certificate. **We are even rewarding YOU, our voting readers, by drawing one name from those participating for a similar \$50 TBE Gift Certificate.** So vote!!

Thanks again to everyone who participated. We hope the opportunity provided you with (at the very least) a trip down memory lane through photographs you hadn't seen in a while or even those you hoped to forget (a special wink to Izzy). If these photographs don't get you in the mood to pack your bags and travel somewhere (yes, call me, I can help), perhaps you should check your pulse. Keep your camera handy for the 2nd annual TBE Photo Contest slated for Winter 2008.

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Merry Winter Solstice, Teresa

...Traveling makes people feel younger. It should be administered periodically, like medicine.