

The Washington Post  
**TRAVEL**



### Second place 🏆

**Amy Garrick, Washington, D.C.**

This photo was taken our second day on land in Antarctica in December. We spent the afternoon on Paulet Island, an island overrun with penguins everywhere you look. They're cute but rather stinky. We saw baby penguins being fed by their parents. They also make weird honking noises — a bit like geese. On the way back to the ship, we took a zodiac around and came across this piece of ice and a penguin was climbing to the top. It felt like it was about to dive off, as if it were climbing a diving board. I snapped the photo thinking it was a National Geographic moment. Antarctica is unlike anywhere else — so remote, so untouched. It's beautiful and otherworldly. It's a day that will live in my memory.

## The Photo Contest

Travel can often feel like a spiritual experience — a time when we are able to unplug and connect with our world, our family and friends, and, most importantly, ourselves. This year's Washington Post photo contest winners represent both the togetherness and solitude we find in travel, with a lone penguin atop an iceberg, Wes Anderson-like symmetry in White Sands and more. ¶ We combed through hundreds of photos to find this year's best. Here are the three winners and nine honorable mentions, along with the photographers' stories in their own words.