



The art of planning

You can quickly see when someone makes the effort to plan a picture. It looks more balanced and it tells a story, like this picture of the well-known Hole-in-the-Wall on the Wild Coast.



Get perspective

Gina Wearne

Fuji FinePix S1800 (settings: F7.1, 1/125 sec, ISO 64)

"I love depth and perspective in a picture. The beautifully smooth tree trunk looked as if it had been painted with wax and could almost have made a picture in itself. But

how much better is it with the impressive Hole-in-the-Wall in the background?

"The direction in which the tree points is also perfect. I come from an art background and there you learn the importance of balancing objects in a picture correctly. With the piece of wood pointing

towards the centre of the frame, it leads your eye to the rock structure.

"Since I was sitting close to the trunk, I got further perspective and at the same time got a peaceful feeling of distance and isolation which nicely pulls you into the holiday spirit of the Wild Coast."



Picture of the month

Villiers responds:

Gina went to a lot of trouble to take this beautiful picture at the Wild Coast. Let's take a quick look at the steps she took:

Plan before you shoot

I was very impressed with the amount of planning Gina put into this picture. She spotted the beautiful tree trunk, but realised that a picture of that on its own

wouldn't be as impressive as one that captures the trunk in its surroundings. By including Hole-in-the-Wall in the background, she doubled the impact of the picture.

Balance is important

Gina is 100% correct – balance is extremely important in photography. Long, horizontal objects, such as Hole-in-the-Wall from this familiar angle, are difficult

to photograph without wasting space. If you had placed the ridge near the bottom, you'd end up with a vast expanse of empty blue sky above, and if you decided to place the ridge at the top, you'd have had the dull beach in the foreground. Gina managed to avoid these problems.

She balanced the picture well by placing the prominent tree trunk at a low angle. What you

use for balance in the foreground is up to you, but the more it fits in with the environment and the picture you're trying to tell, the better.

If I were Gina, I would have just stepped back by one metre to leave a little more blue sky above the rock.



Love lines

Except for good balance, I'm particularly impressed with the lines Gina captured in this picture. There are four altogether: the stump itself, the small wave, the line where the water and the ridge come together and the separation between the rock and the grass on top of it.

All these lines lead the viewer to the two holidaymakers lying down and relaxing in the sun.

Lines don't only lead you to a certain part of the picture, but also create calmness and a feeling of desertedness as Gina rightly says... whether it's on a beach, in the Drakensberg or the dunes of Sossusvlei.



*Load your picture on www.driveoutcampfire.co.za under the section *Show and Tell* and get in line to have your picture discussed.