

MonZen



Born in Paris, I grew up in a lovely family and spent my childhood travelling a lot, exploring many continents and different cultures. All these journeys developed my long-time love for plastic arts, animals, foreign languages, nature and sciences... to the extent that I graduated with a PhD in Molecular Biology - Genetics - Biotechnology. After a few years in Medical Research, I turned to a career in Environment, Sustainable Development and Health, which are fields that can make one with nature.

Despite the achievements, I realized that my life was not as complete as I thought. "I have a dream", it is a dream deeply rooted in my passion to capture the beauty of nature. There is so very much beauty all around us to see, touch, and hear. Nature is so miraculous because it is always changing. No matter how many times you look at something, it is always different. I wandered the world with my camera in hands, searching for natural beauty, landscapes and animals to capture. What I really want to capture are genuine emotions at just the right moment. These great and rare moments are

for me «PRECIOUS MOMENTS».

Any horse passionate know that Arabian horse is the oldest of all horse breeds. Well known for his beauty, his majesty and his devotion to man, it has inspired poets and painters for centuries. According to Bedouin legend, Allah created the horse from the Southerly wind... This small desert-bred horse has long been the subject of legend and mystery, and yet those who have had the good fortune of knowing an Arabian horse, can attest that each of these legends ring true. Able to endure the harsh conditions of the desert, fleet of foot and courageous, Arabian horses are essential to the survival of the desert nomad tribes.

Before exploring the desert, I imagined it intensely hot. No shadow for miles. No place to hide from the sun. Just stones dusty, dry and empty with no possible life, except caravans of camels trekking across desert sand. At my surprise, I found that the desert was full of wonders that one can only witness if he shows patience for nature will reveal its unique and



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suggestive beauty. If one keeps thinking that the desert is empty, he may not know how to look at it.

Many come to the desert to commune with a higher power or the forces of nature. Others come to witness nature's spectacle at its finest – the forces of erosion, wind and water, thunderstorms, bitter cold and broiling heat. Deserts are very dry places of little rainfall. Because there is little water, very few plants grow. Lao Tseu once said that 'The courage of the water drop is to dare falling into the desert'. Across my trips to the Sahara and Gobi deserts, I experienced few minutes of rain throughout this dry landscape, and this left me focusing on the importance of water in life and how the latter must be used with caution. 'Aman Iman', a Touareg proverb meaning that water is life.

Nature is unpredictable, magical and alive. Who can envision that nature is a hive of activity in the middle of a harsh desert where we can spot a jackal hiding behind a rock staring at you, rodents, insects and reptiles partially covered

by stones, and raptors reigning supreme above your head. Although the soil looks dry, there is still some vegetation. Time to time some bunch of grass is growing there, small bush and exceptionally even a tree. The desert often invokes images of a vast expanse, a timeless space of beauty, wonder and longing. Enjoy sand dunes all around, making incredible landscape. In between all of that you can suddenly discover oasis, places full of green and water, small villages and people in between of the dry land. In this harsh environment, both humans and animals have made their homes in deserts across the globe. The people and the inhospitable but natural beauty are the desert's greatest assets, and this leads us to ponder over how insignificant we are. The desert is the place where we can forget about everything and let our soul rest in peace; a place where life clings and thrives, sometimes for only days, other times for centuries. It is an opened book showing us the value of all the natural resources that we possess in this world. These are the 'Desert Heritage'. We should learn from life in the desert that any single life is precious for it is our duty to preserve and respect it! □

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An oasis in the middle of the Sahara desert.....



Sahara desert



Oasis in the Gobi desert (Inner Mongolia, China)



Sahara desert

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Eagle.....



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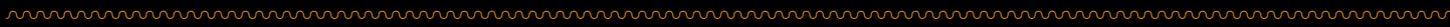
Arabic_horse_and_desert



Lizard



Hawk in the desert





Eagle in the desert



Olive trees in the desert



Arabian horse and sand dune



Hawk and Sand dune (Sahara)



Flower in an oasis (Sahara)



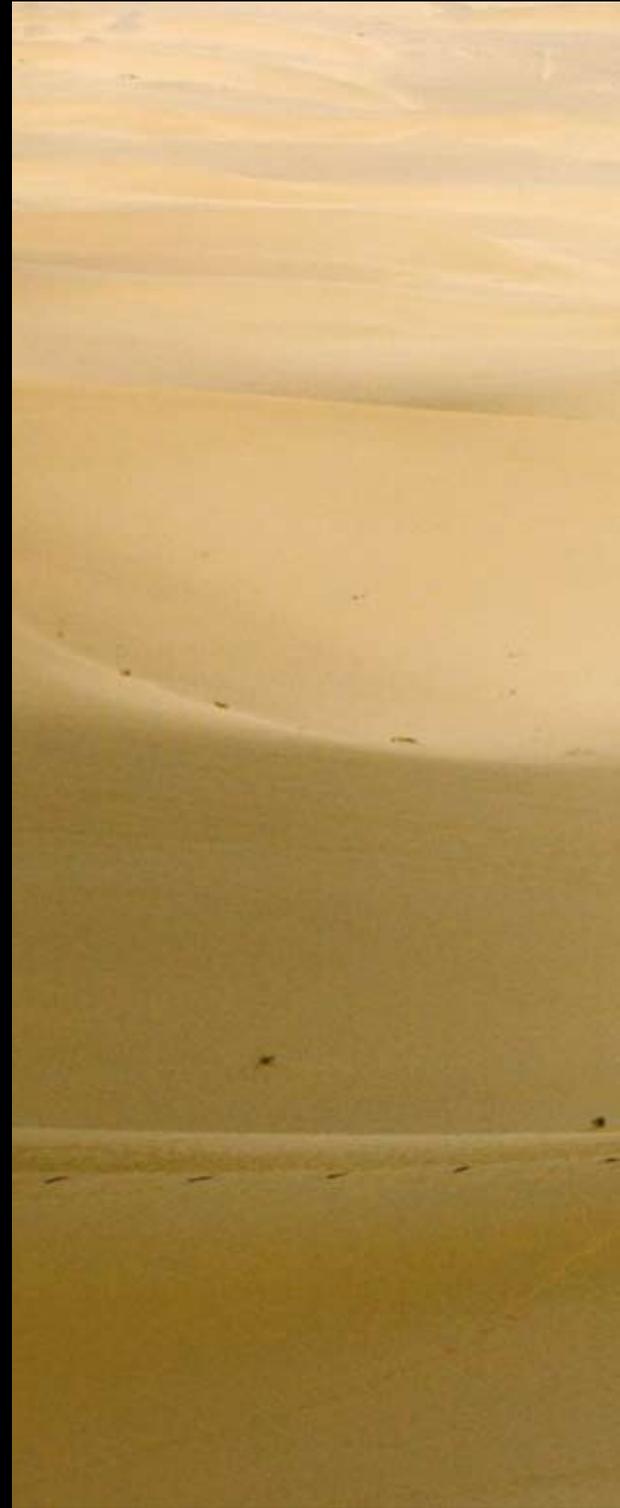
Sunset and camel in the Sahara (Tunisia)



Arabian horses in the Sahara Desert



Son of the desert (1 year old colt)





Gobi_desert_(China)