Documentation of Gallery Site

Subtitle

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Concept

The main concept for this site, was to host some of my honeymoon pictures, with an index page, a gallery page and a FAQ page.

The index page would be a simple itinerary, the gallery page would host a number of pictures from the areas mention on the index page and then lastly a fax page with expanding/retracting sections.

Gallery page would be a collection on thumbnails, clicking on one would display an enlarged image entered on screen, overlaid on the thumbnails.

Javascript Functionality

I have included:

A simple menu, the the top left hand corner displayed on each page, which is fixed in position and is available if you scroll down each page. Javascript is used to show and hide the menu when you click on the “burger”.

For the Gallery:

Javascript to display picture thumbnails, based of interacting though an array which stores details of the pictures.

Javascript to take a licked thumbnail and enlarge, centre and overlay the image over the thumbnail gallery.

Javascript to close, go forward or go back though the displayed image. The Javascript iterates thought the array of picture details to display the next or previous picture on display and shows up the “note” for each picture.

For the FAQ section:

I have included Javascript to expand and retract the FAQ sections to show and hide the answers.

Challenges

With the Javascript for the gallery section: I decided early on that I would use an array to house the details of the pictures and the file paths.

The creation of an image gallery populated with thumbnails was relatively straight forward, the first challenge was to add event listeners to each picture thumb nail.
I came across a suggested solution which was to add an event listener to the container class of the pictures and then trigger a function if an element, other than the container itself, is clicked.

Once a thumbnail was clicked, the enlarged display of the picture was appended above the image gallery.

At this stage I decided to add an "Ident" entry for my array, this would act as the displayed image's class ID and as a unique identifier for searching and iterating through my array. (I had thought of using the source path, but the source specified in the array and the source retuned on the generated image were different (due to the source being the local path on my pc..).

I then added a close button and figured out how to remove the current image and return the gallery page back its default position.

I then created x3 functions to iterate through the displayed enlarged image on screen. A function to get the current position in the array for the corresponding picture and then two functions to cycle forward and back through the pictures displayed on screen. The "get current position" function was reused for the functions that cycle forward and back though the enlarged image on display.

Once I had this working, I worked on displaying the enlarged picture overlaid on the gallery thumbnails, using CSS and setting a high Z-Index value. This took me a little while to nail this down properly.

I then added an extra entry to my array, "notes" to provided some interesting facts about each picture and display these on screen for each picture.

Next I worked on the FAQ page: main issue I had with this page was getting the class list of the child nodes of the FAQ question containers, as I was attempting to read the class lists of elements that didn't have a calls assigned, which generated many errors is Java Script.

In the end I searched each of the childnodes looking for a codename of "DIV" and then toggling an active class to trigger the change is CSS is expand/retract the FAQ section. This section took a lot longer than expected, but it did remind me that Javascript (and all

languages) do exactly want to tell them to, which does not always line up with what you "think" you are telling it to do.

Last but not least: I the main index page pictures have given me the most trouble. While the parallax effect I am attempting, works well on wides screen PC displays, the pictures ado not scale correctly as I expected for smaller displays. I did attempt to use a media query to user small 640x640 images for the main page, but thesis are not displaying as expected.

My main mistake in testing was only using the built in reactive tools in Safari and Chrome and not checking my page on my own personal iPhone and iPad mini. This would a highlighted to me sooner, that I need to perform further CSS work on the images, which I only noticed at the very last minute and was unable to correct. Images are displaying zoomed in and do not scale as I would have hoped.