

- (1) **Part 1:** In 300 words (only!) describe your website (We will stop reading at 300 words, so please be concise).

I built a travel photography portfolio website that showcases some of my favorite travel experiences from around the world. I'm highlighting interesting travel experiences to inspire others to take trips and step outside of their comfort zones. Travel is the antidote to getting stuck in the same routine. Having traveled to 56 countries and all 50 states with my travel partner and wife, we've been able to dig deep into what makes a trip fun and interesting. It's a balance of learning, taking risks, and relaxation. Each travel experience has elements of each of these in varying degrees. Some trips are heavier on taking risks and lighter on relaxation. These experiences may be stressful in the moment but are more memorable than a more relaxed, easy-going trip. My target audience is anyone who has the travel bug or is looking to get it as well as anyone into photography. I had 5,790 photos to choose from and these are the ones that made the cut for one reason or another. With more time, I would add more pages and highlight more experiences.

- (2) **Part 2:** Use a bulleted list to describe how a user would interact with your website.

- Users can view photos in a photo grid.
  - Arrive on the first html page, index.html, and scroll down the page looking at the pictures of Antigua, Guatemala.
- Users can open any photo in full-size in a new tab.
  - Hover over any photo. Notice that the photo colors change to sepia-toned to indicate which photo you are on. The cursor also changes, indicating that you can click it.
  - Click the photo and it will open in a new tab in full-size.
- Users can interact with the embedded Spotify playlist.
  - I put together some favorite world music songs that I collected while traveling into a playlist.
  - Users can press play to listen to music while browsing photos.
  - Users can skip songs with the forward or back buttons.
  - Users can also open the playlist in the Spotify app by selecting the Spotify icon.
- Users can navigate using the hamburger menu.
  - Users can select the hamburger menu to navigate to other pages.
  - Each page highlights a different travel experience.
- Users can connect with me using links in the footer.
  - The link on the left is my LinkedIn profile.
  - The middle link is my Alamy stock photography portfolio.
- Users can access this website on a mobile device or a desktop computer.
  - The desktop sizing shows a photo grid layout that is unique from mobile.
  - On a desktop computer, open the Inspector and set the screen size to Iphone 12 Pro. The photo grid changes to a single column to optimize photo viewing.
- Users can read the details of the page's theme.
  - Open any of the pages and read through the paragraph on the top left of the screen to learn about the theme.

- Users can find an easter egg.
  - Hover over the 'Alex Holder Photography' for a fun effect.

(3) **Part 3:** Describe what external tool you used (JavaScript library, Web API, animations, or other).

- Masonry
  - I chose this because I wanted an engaging way to display my photos and tell a story.
  - I used the photo grid layout on each page on desktop and a single column layout on mobile.
  - It makes my website look much cleaner and more modern than other photo display alternatives like a carousel or a long scroll of 100% width photos for desktop.
- Bootstrap
  - I was already familiar with Bootstrap so when I wasn't happy with my navbar I chose to implement Bootstrap's hamburger menu with some style tweaks.
  - I used it to build a hamburger menu and navbar.
  - It allowed me to create a hamburger menu quickly and more elegantly than one built from scratch.
- Font awesome
  - I used font awesome for an external link icon.
  - I was already familiar with using this to get professional looking icons quickly.
  - I added an external link icon to a sentence to reiterate to users that clicking on an image would cause a new tab to open.
  - This icon adds more clarity about what users can expect their action to do. It is feedforward.
- Google fonts
  - I used this to bring 2 fonts to my website.
  - Google has a large range of fonts and it's easy to link to in the header.
  - I chose to use 'Roboto' for body text and 'Bebas Neue' for titles.
  - It adds a modern, clean style over using built-in fonts.

(4) **Part 4:** Describe how you iterated on your prototypes, if at all, including any changes you made to your original design while you were implementing your website. (4-8 sentences max)

I iterated several times on this website before settling on a style. I originally was using single images and a map to tell each travel story. This wasn't getting across as much information as I would have liked so I started using multiple images that felt related by a common theme. Most of the time the theme is location but there are a few exceptions. I did away with the map because it wasn't adding value and focused more on the layout. Each time I thought I was done I thought of something else to change. I went from allowing the user to download images to deciding to just open a full-size image in a new tab.

(5) **Part 5:** What challenges did you experience in implementing your website? (2-4 sentences max)

I was running into layout challenges before discovering Masonry. Masonry allowed me to build a photo grid quickly and is probably why I wound up with as many different pages as I did. I was having trouble with my made from scratch hamburger menu so I switched to a bootstrap version.