

Computational Photography

Assignment #1: A Photograph is a Photograph

Ram Subramanian
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“Abra Salkantay”

Details of the Picture

Image Caption

"The first views of the Salkantay peak (~20,500 ft) on the trail to Machu Picchu"

Location, Date and Time

Soraypampa, Anta Province, Cusco Region, Peru

[13° 26' 5.382" S, 72° 33' 40.41" W]

Aug 6, 2016, 14:58:14 pacific time (i.e.) 17:58:14 local time

Context (ie. what is it?):

This is the first view of Salkantay peak, after hiking 7 hours on day 1, of the 5 day hike to Machu Picchu. The canal running beside the trail carries the water from the Salkantay glacier all the way down.

What was the goal?

What were you trying to capture?

It was a grueling uphill hike on day 1, and after 7 hours of it in the sun, good views throughout notwithstanding, it was such a relief to see the campgrounds at the base of the peak. I was simply trying to capture the scenery and somewhat unsuccessfully my feelings upon seeing it :)

Did you succeed?

Partially. There's obviously no way to capture and communicate the feeling (...yet!) and the whole mountains were covered in this haze, even to the naked eye. It would be nice to be able to use algorithms to remove it!

Discuss the shot

How did you plan the shot? Tell us about it.

I wanted to capture the peak as well as the canal and the valley. So I moved to what I thought was an appropriate position (on second thought, I should have been closer to the edge, to get more of the valley). I made sure to focus on the valley (and not the peak or the sky) so the picture doesn't get very dark.

How many pictures of the same general scene did you take? Why did you choose to share this one?

12 pictures, at different points along the trail. This picture showed best, the peak, the valley and the canal. Photos taken closer to the peak did not show as much of the valley and photos farther away were covered with too much haze.

Did you do any post-processing? (i.e. used a computer app to change the picture?)

Not yet... I'm hoping to use some of the things learned in this class to make it better.

Camera Settings

Make/Model: Apple iPhone 6S

Exposure: 1/2653

Aperture: 2.2

ISO: 25

What else can be done?

What else could you have done to make this picture better when the picture was taken?

I could have taken the picture close to the edge to capture more of the valley.

What computational photography process could you use to make it better or different? Name a CP process.

1. *Remove the haze – dehaze(?)*
2. *Bring out the colors of the shrubs more so it contrasts well with the trail – toning(?)*

Any other details.

Despite all the hardships, I absolutely would recommend the trail if you're planning a trip to Machu Picchu! The views are simply brilliant (think Jurassic Park!)