

# ESCAPE

FIVE PAGES OF THE BEST TRAVEL IN THE WORLD



COAST WITH THE MOST: FAMILY FUN IN WEXFORD

# The bigger picture

Belfast-based travel and fine art photographer Conor MacNeill flies around the world getting the best shots. **Eugene Costello** caught up with him and persuaded him to share some of his favourite pics...

**C**ONOR MacNeill, 38, may be Belfast born and bred, but his skill with a camera has seen him travel the world. Though he is largely self-taught, his work is in sufficient demand that he has travelled on assignment not only for newspapers and magazines, but also for brands such as car makers.

“For me, the essence of good photography is all about being in the right place at the right time. If that means having to get up at 3am for a three-hour hike to catch a sunrise from the edge of a volcano, so be it,” says Conor.

“That is the key to it – the technical side can be learnt. Having the eye and the motivation is what is crucial...”

## *Yangshuo cyclist, Guilin, China*

Deep in Guilin in southern China, I was photographing a river when this man cycled past through the rice paddy fields. I ran after him snapping away like a lunatic. →

HAPPY SNAPPER:  
Conor at work



ON THE ROAD:  
A cyclist cuts through  
a rice paddy in China



# Escape



NIGHT VISION:  
Petra in Jordan

## Petra by night, Jordan

Shooting at Petra in Jordan was one of the most tiring shoots I've done. I ran all the way along the 1.5km canyon to get here, so I'd have a few minutes to myself without all the tourists!

## Fushimi Inari, Kyoto, Japan

This photo at Fushimi Inari in Kyoto, Japan, happened quite by chance. I was leaving after taking photos for a few hours, and this religious figure was just arriving.



Fushimi Inari, Kyoto, Japan

## Crooked Timber, Kolmanskop, Namibia

I had to be very careful not to step on any deadly snakes as I explored this abandoned mining town in Namibia. I don't normally take photos in harsh sunlight, but this time it really brought out the colours of the faded paintwork.

## Kirkjufellsfoss mountain and waterfall, Iceland

Travelling around Iceland when the sun never sets is quite an experience. For a photographer, having a "golden hour" that lasts for six hours is a dream come true...



WILD WOOD: An abandoned mining town in Namibia



All of the pictures on these two pages were shot using a Nikon D810



Bagan sunset, Burma

## Bagan sunset, Burma

The temple-strewn plains of Bagan in Burma are stunning at the best of times, but throw in an amazing sunset and you end up with quite the scene.



HIDDEN TREASURE:  
The waterfall at Glenoe, Co Antrim

## Glenoe waterfall, Co Antrim

This waterfall is my favourite in Northern Ireland. I had to roll up my trousers and climb into the water to get the viewpoint I really wanted. People out walking their dogs thought I was crazy – and I suppose I must be...

## Arctic tide, Lofoten Islands, Norway

Long exposures on the coast are some of my favourite types of photos and these rocks in Lofoten were the perfect shapes to capture.

## A morning in Lofoten, Lofoten Islands, Norway

One of my favourite parts of



New York City sunset



Arctic tide, Lofoten, Norway



LYING DORMANT:  
A distant volcano in Borobudur, Indonesia



IN THE MOOD:  
Iceland's Skogafoss waterfall

## Distant volcano, Indonesia

Borobudur in Indonesia is not only amazing because of the 72-stone stupa (bells), but also the fact that it's surrounded by volcanoes.

## New York City sunset, New York, USA

This evening was actually my very first photography shoot in New York. The weather was looking promising, so I headed to Brooklyn Bridge Park to see if I could get a good angle for sunset.

## Skogafoss waterfall, Iceland

I love photographing waterfalls in black and white, as it really enhances their moodiness. This huge waterfall in Iceland was perfect for this. +

Photographer Conor MacNeill has 195,000 followers on his regularly updated Instagram account @thefella or log on to his website thefella.com



A morning in Lofoten, Norway

NATURAL BEAUTY:  
Kirkjufellsfoss mountain and waterfall, Iceland