




Denali
National
Park and
Preserve

Alaska
Protection of the
Dall sheep was one
reason Denali was
named a national
park in 1917.

LUONG JOURNEY

The perspective and photography of Quang-Tuan Luong

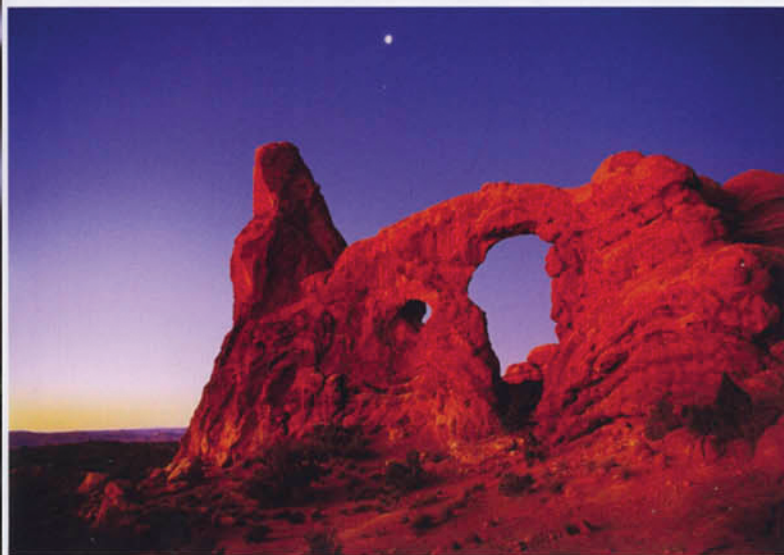
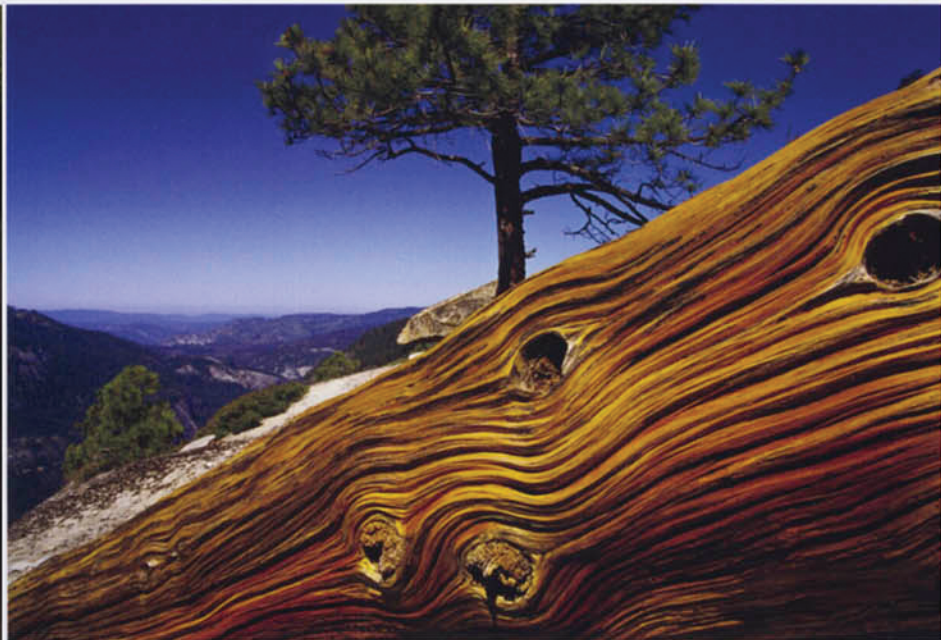


"INSTEAD OF FLEEING, THE SHEEP STARTED
WALKING TOWARD ME. THEN THEY STOPPED TO
HAVE A GOOD LOOK AT THEIR UNUSUAL VISITOR."

Each year, thousands of visitors travel to Yosemite National Park and witness the majesty of Cathedral Peak, the reflection of Half Dome in Merced River and the carpet of wildflowers in Cook's Meadow. These visitors depart with new perspective on life and revived love of nature and our parks.

In 1993, Quang-Tuan Luong made such a visit. Not only did it change his life, but it also changed his life's work (from scientist to photographer) and set him upon an ambitious undertaking: to photograph all 58 U.S. national parks with a large-format camera. Nine years and more than 6,000 images later, Luong completed the project. Here, he shares some of his favorite photos.

"I SET MY BACKPACK ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER
AND GINGERLY HOPPED BETWEEN THE SLIPPERY
BOULDERS TO GET A VIEWPOINT MORE
CENTRAL TO THE FLOW OF THE WATER."



Yosemite National Park

California
On top of El Capitan
(above)—Luong's
favorite spot in
the park.

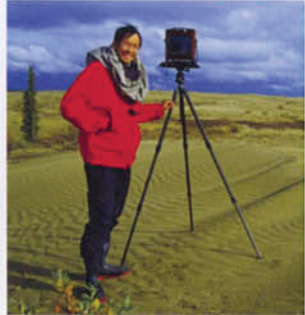
Arches National Park

Utah
Turret Arch (left), one
of more than 2,000
natural sandstone
arches in the park.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Tennessee/North
Carolina
Mossy rocks rise
from the mist as two
forks in the Little
Pigeon River
converge (far left).

"A JUMPING CACTUS BIT ME IN THE BEHIND,
BUT I WAITED UNTIL SUNRISE WAS OVER TO RETURN
TO MY CAR AND EXTRACT IT WITH PLIERS."



➤ Luong appeared in Ken Burns' film *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, and many of his images were included in the companion book by Dayton Duncan and Burns. To view more of his amazing photographs, go to terragalleria.com.

Joshua Tree National Park

California

The teddy bear cholla cactus is also known as the jumping cholla cactus due to its loose joints, which allow the plant's sharp spines to readily attach to creatures—especially curious photographers—as they pass by.