

## 2015 Photography Essay Winner

### **Justa Jeskova**

#### *Searching for Single-track, Guatemala*

*“This series of photographs was taken in Guatemala during a six week biking trip. Our main objective was to search out little known single-track and undiscovered riding scenes. On our journey we quickly realized how vast and diverse Guatemala was and the most memorable parts of the trip for me came in the interactions with the locals. Sometimes the best pictures are the ones you don't plan to take. While filming and taking photos, we were getting soaked in a storm and hid under a tree when a local woman invited us into her home. Her kids had little in the way of toys: their floor was made of dirt, and yet they were all smiles and giggles, excited and curious about every little thing around them. Many of the places we visited didn't see many travelers, if any, and certainly none with modern mountain bikes.”*

Justa Jeskova was born and raised in Slovakia, but in 1998 she decided to follow her dream and move to Canada rather than follow a career as a Wood Sciences and Technology Engineer. Not speaking English didn't help, and in the beginning, life in her dream country wasn't as easy as she had hoped. However, the tough times made her much stronger and a very hard worker. Several years later she moved to Whistler, where she began her photography career. It took a while to find her niche, but once she started to explore mountain biking and the great outdoors in the Coast Mountains, she knew her path would follow this new passion of photography. Justa's work has been published in numerous well-known publications worldwide.

<http://justajeskova.com>

#### **Jury Comments:**

*“This selection of images captures beauty of landscape, light and culture along an adventurous and fun filled bike trip.”*





