

CONTENTS

FEBRUARY 2017 • VOL. 231 • NO. 2 • OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

DEPARTMENTS

3 QUESTIONS

Sebastian Junger on the impacts of war

VISIONS

EXPLORE

What we eat, what we wish we could eat, and why eating bugs isn't so bad

STARTALK

From asteroids to zombies with Whoopi Goldberg and Neil deGrasse Tyson



On the Cover

Beer and other alcoholic beverages are "important to human culture" and have been for thousands of years, says biomolecular archaeologist Patrick McGovern. Photo by Brian Finkle

Corrections and Clarifications

Go to ngm.com/corrections.

FEATURES

54 | SAVING THE SEAS

President Barack Obama added more than 850,000 square miles of ocean to America's network of protected seas. There's more to do.

By Cynthia Barnett Photographs by Brian Skerry



A harbor seal floats in kelp at Cortes Bank, in the Pacific Ocean off the California coast.

104 | SHADOW CATS

Small cats—like the marbled cat below—are skilled at avoiding notice. But they're beginning to draw the attention of conservationists and researchers.

By Christine Dell'Amore
Photographs by Joel Sartore



30 | A 9,000-YEAR LOVE AFFAIR

Alcohol is one of the most universally produced and enjoyed substances in history, and it has helped shape who we are.

By Andrew Curry
Photographs by Brian Finkle

78 | LIFE AFTER LOSS

Societies can impose new burdens and limits on women after their husbands die.

By Cynthia Gorney
Photographs by Amy Toensing

120 | MODERN AMAZONIA

In the jungle today, real people face the clash of tribal lore and modern lure.

Story and Photographs by Yann Gross

CONTENTS

ELSEWHERE

TELEVISION

THE STORY OF GOD RETURNS WITH NEW EPISODES

What do we believe about heaven and hell, or the Chosen One? Morgan Freeman explores those questions and more in his popular National Geographic series, Mondays at 9/8c starting January 16.

BOOKS

SEE THE U.S.A. THROUGH OUR PHOTO ARCHIVES

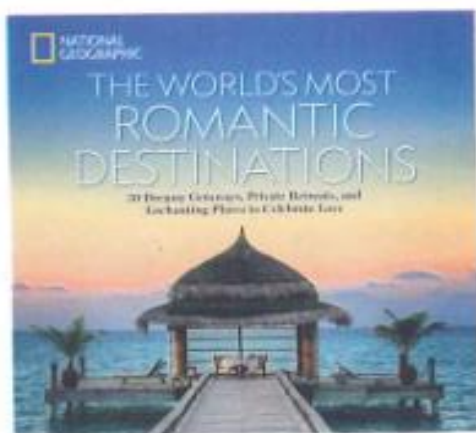


A skier gazes across the Rocky Mountains in a 1953 photo by Charles Grover. It's just one of dozens of archetypal photographs in the new book *The United States of America: A Pictorial History of the USA Through the National Geographic Archives*. Art book publisher Taschen mined the magazine's archives to create a one-of-a-kind portrait of the United States. The two-volume set is available at shopng.com or wherever books are sold.

BOOKS

GETAWAYS FOR VALENTINES

From beaches and spas to an ocean-view restaurant in Big Sur, California, 50 great escapes beckon from the pages of National Geographic's *The World's Most Romantic Destinations*. Full of photos and travel tips, it's available at shopng.com or wherever books are sold.



TELEVISION

DOCUMENTARY SHOWS 'HELL ON EARTH' IN SYRIA

Through the lens of his own experiences as a war reporter, Sebastian Junger examines the violence that has turned millions of Syrians into refugees. The documentary *Hell on Earth: The Fall of Syria and the Rise of ISIS* airs Sunday, March 12, at 9/8c on National Geographic.

NATGEO.COM INTERACTIVE

UNDERSEA 360° VIDEO

Plunge beneath the waves with National Geographic photographer Brian Skerry to explore Buck Island Reef National Monument in the Caribbean. Find the 360° video of this Virgin Islands reef and its remarkable creatures at natgeo.com/buckisland.

TELEVISION

THINK YOUR HOUSE CAT IS TAME? BETTER THINK AGAIN ...

Big Cat Week – celebrating wild beasts that are beautiful, strong, and facing extinction – kicks off February 20 on Nat Geo WILD. The fiercest big cats share lineage with today's domestic cats. See what else they have in common in *Soul of the Cat*, February 22 at 10/9c on Nat Geo WILD.

Subscriptions For subscriptions or changes of address, contact Customer Service at ngservice.com or call 1-800-647-6463. Outside the U.S. or Canada call +1-813-679-6845. We occasionally make our subscriber names available to companies whose products or services might be of interest to you. If you prefer not to be included, you may request that your name be removed from promotion lists by calling 1-800-NGS-LINE (647-5463). To prevent your name from being available to all direct mail companies, contact Mail Preferences Service, c/o Direct Marketing Association, P.O. Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008.

Contributions to the National Geographic Society are tax deductible under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. tax code. | Copyright © 2017 National Geographic Partners, LLC | All rights reserved. National Geographic and Yellow Border, registered Trademarks of Maroon Registerd. National Geographic assumes no responsibility for unsolicited materials. Printed in U.S.A.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC (ISSN 0027-9358) PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PARTNERS, LLC, 1145 17TH ST. NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20036. ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP: \$39.00 U.S. DELIVERY: \$44.00 TO CANADA, \$51.00 FOR INTERNATIONAL. ADDRESSES: SINGLE ISSUE: \$7.00 U.S. DELIVERY, \$9.00 CANADA, \$15.00 INTERNATIONAL. ALL PRICES IN U.S. DOLLARS, INCLUDES SHIPPING AND HANDLING. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT WASHINGTON, DC, AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, P.O. BOX 62108, TAMPA, FL 33662. IN CANADA, AGREEMENT NUMBER 40563549, RETURN UNDELIVERABLE ADDRESSES TO NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, P.O. BOX 4402, STN. A, TORONTO, ONTARIO M5W 3W2, UNITED KINGDOM: NEWSSTAND PRICE £3.99. REPR. EN FRANCE: EMD FRANCE SA, CP 1029, 78011 LILLE CEDEX, TEL. 320.300.302, CPPAP 07ENR9037, DIRECTEUR PUBLICATION: S. TASSHARD. OR. REPR. ITALY: RAPPIND-SRL, VIA G. DA VELATE 8, 20162 MILANO, AUT. TRIB. MI 205/2615/84. POSTE ITALIANE SRL, SPED. ASS. POST. DL 303/2003 (CONV. L. 27/02/2004 N. 46) ART. 1 C. 1. SICILIANO STAMPA QUADRIGRAPHICS, MARIENBURG, NY 25401. MEMBERS: IF THE POSTAL SERVICE ALERTS US THAT YOUR MAGAZINE IS UNDELIVERABLE, WE HAVE NO FURTHER OBLIGATION UNLESS WE RECEIVE A CORRECTED ADDRESS WITHIN TWO YEARS.