



@NATGEO

THE MOST POPULAR  *Instagram* PHOTOS



WASHINGTON, D.C.







12 @STEWINTERPHOTO *A supersize portrait of Bruce Lee on exhibit at the Hong Kong airport*



@SHONEPHOTO *Swarming bats fly by an uncanny likeness of Abe Lincoln at the entrance to Deer Cave in Borneo.* 13



FOREWORD | CORY RICHARDS
National Geographic Photography Fellow

Thousands of years ago, the only evening light was fire, and the words and stories of our ancestors were illuminated by its subtle glow. It guarded us from darkness and guided us in the stories told in those moments. We have always been driven by illuminating stories and held captive by the dark. Since those early days, the flame has remained a constant, but how we fan it has transformed.

I remember sitting in a boardroom at National Geographic headquarters in 2012 before my second assignment for the magazine. En route to Everest, my climbing partner and I eagerly asked, “Do you have an Instagram account?” If National Geographic is a campfire, that was the day our community of photographers started an inferno. Today, at the tap of a screen, pictures become an instantaneous call to action, a voice in the silence, a catalyst for change. For me, @natgeo transcends the hurdle of moments captured and makes them into moments shared. It has become an invitation for all to participate, to be informed, and to change for the better. While the glow of campfires may have been replaced by the glow of screens, our desire for storytelling persists. This is the campfire of our human family. May our stories guide us through the nights ahead.



INTRODUCTION | KEN GEIGER

Former Deputy Director of Photography, *National Geographic Magazine*

I believe in the power of photography to change the world. That's not just one person's opinion. Rather, it's a belief shared by the world's most renowned photographers—all of whom have an uncompromising passion for visual narrative. We share a resounding, cumulative voice screaming: Visual journalism creates transparency, educates, illuminates, and can even change the course of history!

Only a few years ago, the chemical process of producing a photograph was a mystery to most and mastered by only a dedicated few. Now, with the proliferation of smartphones, more than a trillion photographs are made every year—and that's a conservative estimate. As we drown in digital images, it's not surprising that the unfiltered collective voice of the National Geographic photographers continues to rise above all. On Instagram, @natgeo has created something very rare, a photographic global community that, like a vintage wine, delivers complexity with every sip and with every post.

In these pages, you will experience the cumulative voice of the National Geographic photographers and their dedication to the visual narrative. The image juxtapositions will take you on a visual journey through life on this planet. I'm sure it will leave a smile on your face.

#WAND ERLUST

WÄN-DÖR-LÖST

*noun: a strong longing for
or impulse toward wandering*



24 ©EDKASHI *These candy-colored homes in Port-au-Prince exemplify both the vibrancy and poverty of Haiti.*



©LADZINSKI *A hiker turns a celebratory cartwheel over placid Yellowstone Lake in Yellowstone National Park.*



@DAVIDALANHARVEY Speeding alongside an endurance horse race through the desert of Dubai
OPPOSITE: @DAVIDALANHARVEY A farmer's horse parked on his front porch in Trinidad, Cuba

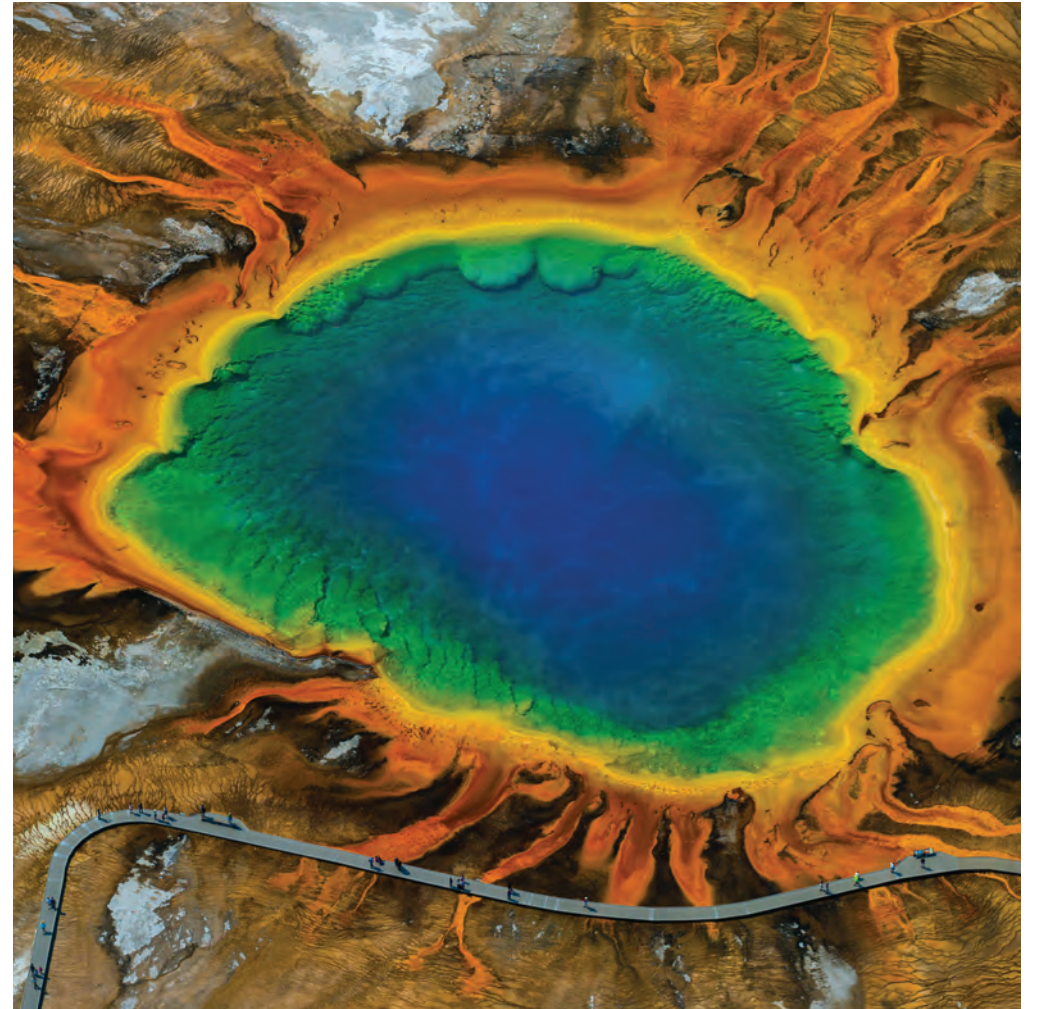


@FAZ3 Fog envelops Dubai. A guest post by Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





36 @AMIVITALE Inspiring rangers are hand-raising three baby rhinos at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya.



@YAMASHITAPHOTO The largest hot spring in the United States seen from a helicopter over Yellowstone National Park



40 @JIMMY_CHIN An ice climber scales a rarely formed tunnel in the Ghost River Wilderness Area in Alberta.



@PAULNICKLEN A giant ocean sunfish and a diver perform a blue-water ballet off the coast of British Columbia. 41



©CHIEN_CHI_CHANG The photographer's collection of "Do Not Disturb" signs from around the world
OPPOSITE: ©ARGONAUTPHOTO At a bar in Sturgis, South Dakota. Sometimes the greatest journey is in your backyard.



©GEOSTEINMETZ *Volcanic Mount Bagana spews gas above Billy Mitchell Crater Lake in remote New Guinea.*



48 ©JR French street artist JR motorbikes through Havana, Cuba, a city that boasts several of his murals.



@DGUTTENFELDER North Korean men ride a Pyongyang airport bus headed for a flight bound for Beijing.



@DAVIDALANHARVEY *A roadside stop to capture a farmhouse in the Outer Banks, North Carolina*

OPPOSITE: @GEOSTEINMETZ *Salt crystals and stalactites line a cave on the Jordanian shore of the Dead Sea.*



52 ©PEDROMBRIDE *Flying through the last weeks of summer on the banks of the Colorado River near Fruita, Colorado*



©CORYRICHARDS *Two San men work as tourism guides on the Makgadikgadi salt flats in Botswana.* 53



@PALEYPHOTO

An indigenous Hadza from Tanzania, Isak takes a break on a hunt to survey the rolling grasslands that are both his home and pantry. The Hadza people are full-time hunter-gatherers. When the Hadza get up in the morning, there is nothing to eat in camp, so they head to the savanna and feed from nature. They are fearless hunters who at night traverse the bush—the territory of lions, leopards, and hyenas. It is a lifestyle we all had thousands of years ago. The Hadza have been living in this area for approximately 40,000 years and have left no impact on their environment.





@IRABLOCKPHOTO *The largest moon of 2013 rises over Lower Manhattan, New York City.*
OPPOSITE: @YAMASHITAPHOTO *Sunset inflames the tiled dome of the Jame Mosque in Yazd, Iran.*





♥129k+ Likes

484+ comments

smokey.friday: This tradition lives on during carnival celebrations on my island Dominica.

whereisthemisterparsons: Spectacular

sparker2014: Great how the composition of this photo is able to stay so powerful in the smaller Instagram size. While I'm sure it was not on purpose (maybe it was), it definitely shows the importance of being conscious of your work being shown on social media where there is such a large audience.



72 @CHAMILTONJAMES A veteran mariner navigates his boat around the island of Vaila in Shetland, Scotland.



@PAULNICKLEN A curious female polar bear noses into the photographer's cabin in Svalbard, Norway.



@IVANKPHOTO *Lone man on a beach in Los Angeles*

OPPOSITE: @PETERESSICK *A gentle aurora graces a stand of snow-burdened spruce in Oulanka National Park, Finland.*





@MELISSAFARLOW Spirited wild mustangs caught by the photographer's planted camera in Nevada

OPPOSITE: @TIMLAMAM The photographer's children leave snow angels at the foot of the Teton Range in Wyoming.



©CHIEN_CHI_CHANG Graceful fishermen on Myanmar's Inle Lake row with their legs to keep their hands free.



82 ©DAVEYODER A boy jumps over a hot walkway in Lido di Camaiore, a beach town near Pisa, Italy.



83 ©DAVIDALANHARVEY Hot summer nights beckon beachgoers to Rio de Janeiro's Ipanema waterfront at all hours.

@KATIEORLINSKY

Dogs that have been dropped from their teams, either as a result of injury or as part of a musher's strategy, wait to fly out of Eagle, Alaska. Bags keep the dogs calm in flight. These resilient husky mixed breeds, unique to the region, are competitors in the Yukon Quest, the world's toughest sled-dog race. Crossing 1,000 bone-freezing miles (1,600 km) of northern Canada through some of the wildest backcountry in the world, teams commonly face high winds and whiteouts. At minus 50°F (-45°C), mushers face daunting sleep deprivation and fear while staving off frostbite and dehydration. But most often the dogs trot into the next checkpoint with tails wagging, smiling wide dog smiles.





♥152k+ Likes

899+ comments

gdolidze: @argonautphoto Love the Svaneti shot. I am flying to Georgia tomorrow. Any suggestions for a fellow adventurer?

argonautphoto: Good timing! Head to the mountains for great colors!

abee02: I can't stop looking at this picture.

marila0: My beautiful homeland. My soul belongs to God and my heart belongs to Sakartvelo.

dawa_lhamo: Fantastic shot. The colors remind me of a renaissance painting.

mothermitch: I can almost smell the candles.



#CU RIOSITY

KYUR-Ē-Ä-S(Θ-)TĒ

noun: *the desire to learn or know more about something or someone;
something that is interesting because it is unusual*



@MICHAELCHRISTOPHERBROWN *Bouncing on her trampoline gives a young girl a static-electricity hairdo.*
OPPOSITE: @PAULNICKLEN *A southern elephant seal bull keeps cool in the sand of South Georgia Island, Chile.*



106 ©DGUTTENFELDER At a kindergarten in Pyongyang, North Korea, taxidermed animals are used to teach zoology.



©JOHNSTANMEYER A canteen in a Chinese electronics factory feeds more than 600 workers three meals a day. 107





@PETERESSICK *Three generations of Native American women weave reed baskets at Tolley Lake near San Francisco.*
OPPOSITE: @MIKE_HETTWER *Temporary sculpture at Burning Man in Nevada's Black Rock Desert*



©SHONEPHOTO Explorers in France's Gouffre Berger cave cross Lake Cadoux in a dinghy.



126 ©ROBERTCLARKPHOTO A taxidermist touches up a brown bear in New York City's Museum of Natural History.



©AMIVITALE Costumes prevent pandas from becoming attached to their caretakers at a conservation center in China. 127



@STEFANOUNTERTHINER *In winter, large flocks of whooper swans gather in Hokkaido, Japan.*

OPPOSITE: @JOELSARTORE *Ruffed lemur at the Plzeň Zoo in the Czech Republic*





@TIMLAMAM

These baby orangutans are wards of the International Animal Rescue center in Ketapang, Indonesia. They are transported by wheelbarrow from their night cages to a forest play area, where they spend the day learning skills to survive in the wild. Orangutans have an uncommonly long childhood. Our primate cousins cling to their mother's body for the first years of their life and will remain close to her for 7 to 11 years. Unfortunately, many baby orangutans are kept illegally as pets; they're obtained by killing their mothers in the wild. When confiscated, the babies end up at centers like this. Successful release is challenging, but some do make it back to the wild.



136 ©THOMASPESCHAK *A prototype shark-detering surfboard gets a test run in South Africa.*



©PAULNICKLEN *A large, friendly female leopard seal in Antarctica.* 137



©JOEMCNALLYPHOTO A photo class encounters a fund-raiser for breast cancer research in Grand Central Terminal.



150 ©ROBERTCLARKPHOTO *Two mummies of the pre-Inca Chachapoya civilization discovered in the Peruvian Andes*



©ROBERTCLARKPHOTO *Skeletons of a giraffe and an orangutan at the Oxford Museum of Natural History, England* 151



@ARGONAUTPHOTO *The photographer's son, at age two, grins on a mock-up cover.*

OPPOSITE: @GEOSTEINMETZ *Post-party Mardi Gras float*



@CHAMILTONJAMES

Even Darwin called them “disgusting,” but vultures are more vital than vile. They clean up carcasses that would otherwise rot and spread pestilence. A group of birds can strip the carcass of a zebra—nose to tail—in 30 minutes. Naturally gifted morticians, they have beaks built for scavenging, and their bald heads are easy to wipe clean of gore. Revolting? Perhaps, but the grandiose vultures of the Serengeti are hardly without other redeeming values. They don’t (often) kill other animals, they probably form monogamous pairs, and we know they share parental care of chicks. Most important, though, is their massively underrated ecosystem service of rapidly cleaning up and recycling dead animals. Without vultures, insect populations would boom, and diseases would spread—to people, livestock, and other wild animals.



164 @BRIANSKERRY A bottlenose dolphin in the Bahamas uses echolocation to find fish hidden beneath the sand.



@KENGEIGER A bold grasshopper in the South Florida Everglades crosses the road. 165



♥38.7k+ Likes

343+ comments

poquita: A wonderful picture indeed but let us remember that this is NOT what a healthy lake looks like. Less an issue of what we're eating as what we're dumping.

maxato: Yup, algae bloom isn't good in these proportions. It's choking life underneath.

bottle_nose: Why do we call them algae blooms and not nitrogen runoffs? I did the research and found that it is nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizer from farming which runs off into the water and makes algae bloom. That's what fertilizers do! And in turn kills marine life.

christielouoxo: It's very sad. I have a summer home in the Upper Peninsula of MI and the lake is starting to look like this.

@PAULNICKLEN *Pod of male narwhals surrounded by Arctic sea ice*



#B EAUTY

'BYÜ-TĒ

noun: *the qualities in a person or a thing that give
pleasure to the senses or the mind*



180 @IVANKPHOTO *Patterns collide when a book of photography is placed on a woven mat from Mexico.*



@AMIVITALE *This Kenyan woman is of the Samburu people, called "butterflies" for their colorful jewelry.* 181



@ROBERTCLARKPHOTO *The fist of a lowland gorilla anesthetized for an operation*
OPPOSITE: @ARGONAUTPHOTO *The blessing of 90 years of life*





@PALEYPHOTO

No, it's not makeup, and it's not retouched. Her cheeks burned by the bitter cold, Marbet, a seven-year-old Kyrgyz girl, just returned from gathering the yak herd in her camp in the middle of winter. Life is harsh at 14,000 (4,200 m) feet in the Pamir Mountains of Afghanistan, where there is an estimated 50 percent child mortality rate. Though largely unaffected by war, the region contends with a lack of health facilities, opium addiction, and poverty. The Kyrgyz survive in this remote, bewitching landscape as nomads by necessity. As men handle herding and trading, much of the hard labor of daily life falls to the women. On the roof of the world, they live suspended in time.



©LADZINSKI In Glacier National Park, sunlight slices through smoke blown in from neighboring fires.



♥437k+ Likes
2,796+ comments

[lollyknowsbest](#): This is such a beautiful photo.
It almost looks mythic.

[the_indifferent_drifter](#): I've seen a lot of photos of the
Mundari tribe recently and this has to be the best so far.
Kudos to you Marco Grob.

[cami.art.photo](#): This looks like a painting.







200 ©ROBERTCLARKPHOTO *A primped shih tzu backstage at the Westminster Dog Show*



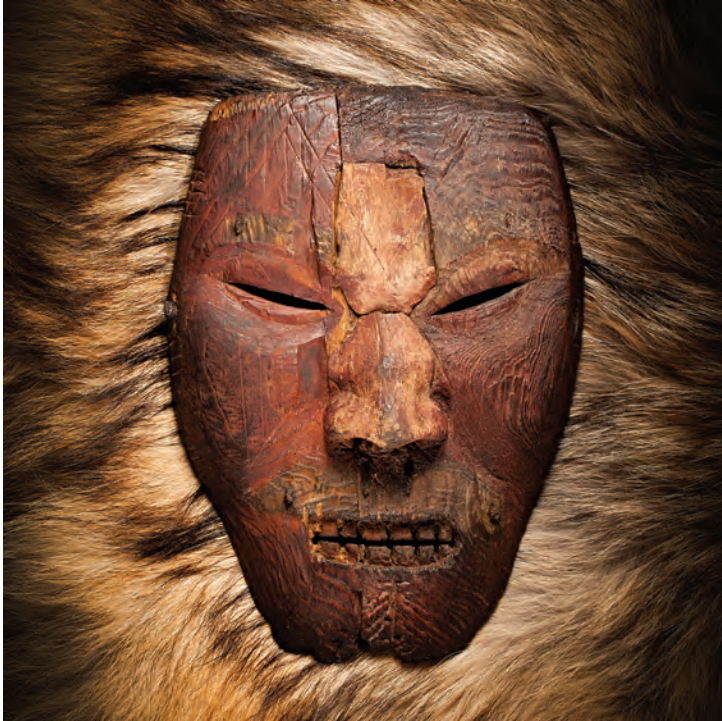
©PAULNICKLEN *Late season salmon runs draw grizzly bears to Ni'iinlii Njik Territorial Park in the Yukon.* 201



204 ©CORYRICHARDS *Walruses off Hooker Island in Franz Josef Land, Russia*



@JIMMY_CHIN *The sun sets on Howser Towers, a trio of granite peaks in Canada favored by rock climbers.* 205



@DAVIDCOVENTRY Ancient Paleo-Eskimo people in northern Canada used this mask for shamanic rituals.

OPPOSITE: @PAULNICKLEN Arctic breeze teases the faux-fur parka of a nautical cadet in Svalbard, Norway.



@MARKLEONGPHOTOGRAPHY

Despite rapid modernization in China's Guangxi region, Dong minority women still often have blue hands from dyeing their traditional fabrics in vats of indigo. When I first visited China in the summer of 1989, I came to see the place that my family had left for California a century before. I spent three weeks in the sleepy backpacker town of Sanjiang. I captured its rural residents on rolls of black-and-white film well suited to the monochromatic socialist palette. Returning 25 years later, I arrived by high-speed train rather than dirt road. In the Sanjiang of 2015, I found a neon night scene that wouldn't be out of place in Hong Kong. Sanjiang was not the only thing to change over the years—I shot on an iPhone 6.



212 ©AMIVITALE *This Montana girl and her horse started riding together when she was five months old.*



©STEFANUNTERTHINER *Endangered European bison in Białowieża, Poland*





©NATGEO A Haitian girl dons hibiscus, the unofficial national flower, for student photographer Myrmara Prophète.

OPPOSITE: @ROBERTCLARKPHOTO An elegant flamingo preens during a photo shoot.



220 @STEVMCCURRYOFFICIAL Celebrating the Hindu festival Holi, a man finds himself showered in colored powder.



@ROBERTCLARKPHOTO Sticky nectar in the Sabot de Venus orchid ensures that visiting bees leave with precious pollen.



226 ©ROBERTCLARKPHOTO *Jellyfish are the most ancient multi-organ animal on Earth. These live at an aquarium in Toronto.*



©HAARBERGPHOTO *Water horsetails mirrored in a Norwegian lake make for an elegant abstraction.* 227



♥503k+ Likes
10,947+ comments

crissycabral: Awww! He is so curious

_lace_of_base_: I loved seeing that this is at the Great Bend zoo! Thanks for visiting my hometown, @natgeo.

zukazula: I can't believe people wear clothes made out of their fur. It's so sad.

kolesin: How can anyone resist that face!



@ROBERTCLARKPHOTO *The lustrous Allotopus rosenbergi beetle at the Montreal Insectarium*
OPPOSITE: @TYRONEFOTO *A New Orleans high school student's graduation day finery*



@ROBERTCLARKPHOTO *Wirehaired pointing griffons have a coat bred for hunting in thick undergrowth.*
OPPOSITE: @ROBERTCLARKPHOTO *Waves of marsh grass in Northumberland, England*





240 @ARGONAUTPHOTO *An ensemble of Svaneti youths in the republic of Georgia revives traditional folk dances.*



@DAVIDALANHARVEY *Away from the skyscrapers, old Dubai retains its historic character.* 241

@PAULNICKLEN

The indefatigable Ha'a Keaulana runs across the ocean floor with a 50-pound (23 kg) boulder. Her father, legendary waterman Brian Keaulana, pioneered this technique to train lifeguards. Building endurance prepares Ha'a for one of surfing's great dangers—a wipeout on a massive wave that holds you underwater. She visits these waters almost every day to refresh both body and spirit, like generations of Hawaiians before her have done. On assignment in Makaha on the west coast of Honolulu, I was very humbled to learn from the Hawaiians, who have saltwater running through their veins. To you, I say thank you very much, mahalo nui loa.





244 ©AMIVITALE *A Bulgarian teen poses for a double-exposure shot along the banks of the Danube River.*



©STEVWINTERPHOTO *Smasher the tiger peers through rustling bamboo in India's Bandhavgarh National Park.*



@ROBERTCLARKPHOTO

This is a Silkie, a breed of domestic chicken. The first documented appearance of a Silkie appears in the written accounts of Marco Polo's journeys through Asia in the 13th century. He declared them strange birds but "very good to eat." Their plumage is not "fur," as he claimed. The semi-plume feathers lack barbules, the little hooks that keep other contour feathers stuck together, creating a loose down that is as soft as silk. Feathers are a particularly curious effect of evolution. Archaeologists determined that they were probably around for millions of years before a single dinosaur began to take flight. They hypothesize many other purposes, such as insulation, sheltering young, or attracting mates. Though Silkies are now domesticated animals bred by humans, their fashionable shag may still serve them in this way.





252 ©PAULNICKLEN A member of Hawaii's surfing elite displays tattoos that epitomize Islander pride.



©HAMMOND_ROBIN A 16-year-old in Lagos, Nigeria, prepares to fish for crabs. 253

#M ARVEL

'MÄRVØL

noun: *one that causes wonder or astonishment;*
intense surprise or interest



258 ©GEOSTEINMETZ *Water sports reach new heights with Aquajet jetpack escapades in Miami Harbor.*



©STEVMCCURRYOFFICIAL *Monks at the Shaolin Monastery in China find serenity in physical strength and dexterity.* 259



262 ©STEFANOUNTERTHINER *A newborn Hanuman langur monkey in India is protectively enveloped by its mother.*



©IRABLOCKPHOTO *Holding his golden whip, a stainless-steel Genghis Khan overlooks Mongolia from Tsonjin Boldog.* 263



266 @PAULNICKLEN Prepping for a lengthy assignment means double- and triple-checking equipment.



@ARGONAUTPHOTO The photographer's son with a sculpted mountain of chairs at Lo Fi Arts Festival in Washington State 267



©GEOSTEINMETZ *Volcanic vapor ejected from a steam vent in Antarctica gradually freezes into an ice tower.*



270 ©ARGONAUTPHOTO *A stream of the northern lights flows over an abandoned building in western Iceland.*



©ROBERTCLARKPHOTO *The wing of a superb starling appears brownish, but in light it shines an iridescent emerald.* 271

♥272k+ Likes
3,377+ comments

marieorama: Great photo of a great woman.

servinghumanity: None of the Pakistanis commenting hate for Malala speak for me. She makes me proud to be a Pakistani.
Truly an inspiration for all women

pray_for_peshawar: @servinghumanity She makes me proud to be a Pakistani too.

whitjones1: She shows girls that their voices matter.

@DAVIDCOVENTRY Malala Yousafzai, pictured at age 17, defied Taliban rule in Pakistan with her calls for girls' education. The youngest Nobel laureate in history, Yousafzai is a dauntless humanitarian and activist.





OPPOSITE: @SHONEPHOTO *A cave-dwelling spider weaves a subterranean web in Malaysia's Deer Cave.*
@NICKCOBBING *The Lance research vessel, a floating laboratory, frozen into the Arctic Ocean*





278 ©PAULNICKLEN *A plucky chinstrap penguin skates the grooves of an overturned iceberg.*



©JIMMY_CHIN *A rock climber walks across Thank God Ledge, a sliver of granite on Yosemite's Half Dome.* 279



282 @YAMASHITAPHOTO *In the predawn hours, Singapore rehearses its 50th anniversary celebration while the city sleeps.*



@MICHAELCHRISTOPHERBROWN *An immersive art installation at the Park Avenue Armory in New York City* 283



@ARGONAUTPHOTO

This is how it works sometimes: Phone rings. Photo editor says, "Can you leave for Everest Base Camp tomorrow or the next day?" You, of course, say yes and cancel all other plans. To be honest, I'm a little out of my element on Everest. I'm a rock climber, and I love heights and exposure, but this kind of ice-covered pain was new to me. I happened to arrive just before the Indian cyclone, a tropical storm that triggered blizzards in the Himalaya. Lots of people were stranded, some were killed, and many mountains were deemed unclimbable. The places I was supposed to visit were covered in ten feet (3 m) of dangerous fresh snow. But I knew what shots I needed and where to find them, and so I walked into the belly of this white whale. I caught this magnificent view from Ama Dablam on my last day.



292 ©JOELSARTORE A brown-throated sloth at the Panamerican Conservation Association in Gamboa, Panama



©ROBERTCLARKPHOTO A diminutive cover model for National Geographic magazine's 2013 story on longevity



296 ©THOMASPESCHAK *A male mudskipper launches into the air to attract a mate on Kuwait's mudflats.*



©PAULNICKLEN *A diver weaves through a curtain of liquid sunshine in a cenote in Mexico.* 297

