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DECEMBER 2010

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



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SEARCH FOR

King David

New Discoveries
in the Holy Land

BIG IDEA: Barcelona's Ingenious Church 24
Changing Lives of Afghan Women 28
A Serenade to Whooper Swans 54
The Milky Way's Greatest Feat 92
Alaska's Choice: Gold or Salmon? 100
Twilight for Bats 126

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TIFFANY & CO.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

DECEMBER 2010 • VOL. 218 • NO. 6

Veiled Rebellion

28 Afghan women are starting to fight for a just life.

By Elizabeth Rubin Photographs by Lynsey Addario

A Serenade to Swans

54 The whooper swan is a bird to inspire flights of fancy.

By Cathy Newman Photographs by Stefano Unterthiner

David and Solomon

66 Archaeologists dig up controversy as they dig into the kings.

By Robert Draper Photographs by Greg Girard

Heart of the Milky Way

92 The black hole at the galaxy's center is giving up its secrets.

By Ken Croswell

Alaska's Choice

100 In Bristol Bay, the debate is on: gold mine versus salmon runs.

By Edwin Dobb Photographs by Michael Melford

Bat Crash

126 A fungus has killed at least one million U.S. bats.

By David Quammen Photographs by Stephen Alvarez

In winter whoopers tend to get along, but fights do erupt—here in Hokkaido, Japan.

STEFANO UNTERTHINER

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

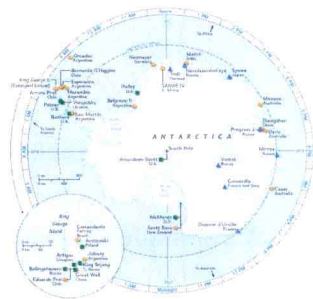
DEPARTMENTS

Editor's Note 4

Letters 8

Your Shot 11

Visions of Earth 12



GEOGRAPHY

Why a Watch Is Useless in Antarctica

The world's 24 time zones converge at the South Pole. That's a dilemma for visitors who want to set a clock.

CONSERVATION

Serengeti Road

A proposed highway could endanger great herds of wildebeests, zebras, and gazelles as they leave Tanzania each May for Kenya.

WILD

A Nest of Petals

A loner bee found in Turkey and Iran deconstructs flowers to build a shelter for its larvae. Once hardened, the nest is humid inside, strong outside—and absolutely beautiful.

THE BIG IDEA

Gaudi's Masterpiece 24

His brilliantly conceived church in Barcelona has been under construction for 128 years. And it's still far from done.

Explorers Journal 138

Inside Geographic 146

Index

Flashback

GeoPuzzle

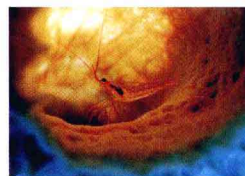
On the Cover

In this painting by Peter Paul Rubens, circa 1616, the biblical king-to-be is poised to wield the sword he took from Goliath.

Art: Norton Simon Foundation



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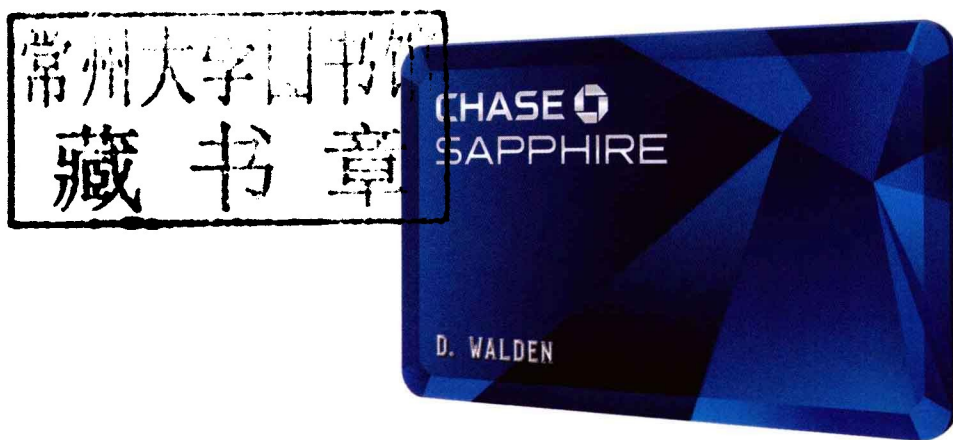


➤ **Your Pic Could Go Here**
November 30 is the cutoff for Photo Contest 2010. Topics: Nature, People, Places. Top prize: \$10,000. Above: In last year's nature winner, a peppermint shrimp stands in a sponge.

WILLIAM GOODWIN

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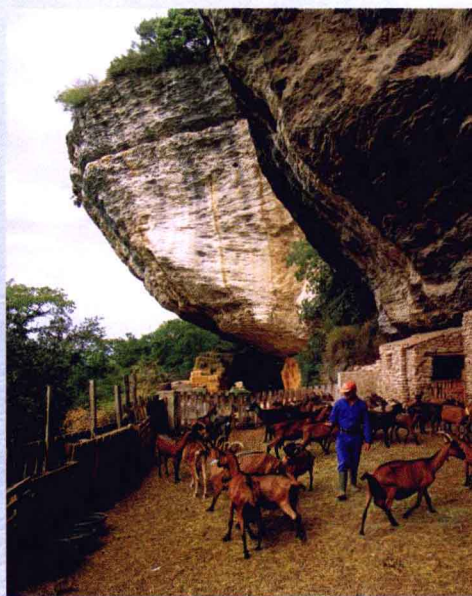


A National Geographic Photographer Shares Her Passion for Travel.

Catherine Karnow's passion for travel and photography have led her to cover Australian Aborigines, Bombay film stars, Vietnam victims of Agent Orange, Connecticut high society, Albanian farmers, and Britain's Prince Charles. Her vibrant, arresting images have appeared in *National Geographic*, *Smithsonian*, international publications, and numerous books.

"AS A PHOTOGRAPHER, I travel all over the world. But the thing that excites me most isn't going to an exotic place; it's getting to experience a place. When I slow down and stay at one street corner, café table, or scenic overlook it gives me a chance to open up all my senses. Not only feasting my eyes on details, but also tasting, listening, and feeling everything around me.

"As a traveler, with or without a camera, I find people to be welcoming. If you stop to talk and they sense your interest and enthusiasm, you may find yourself invited up to their farm, in for a drink, or over for Sunday lunch. Connecting with people and hearing their stories lets you experience a place as a traveler, not a tourist.



▲ Traveling in Provence, I knew I wanted to photograph a cheese maker. But imagine my delight when I found he lived in such an unusual, photogenic, and intriguing home built right into the rock. Lunch was tomatoes and basil we picked from the garden—served with his delicious homemade goat cheese of course!



▲ This train was slow and sweltering in the July heat of Vietnam. Then, as we came downhill and picked up speed, we finally felt a cool breeze. It was such a relief we all started laughing together. We shared no common language but made a complete connection in the joy of that moment.

"The reason I do what I do isn't to become famous, it's to have these experiences. It can be deeply emotional and profound, or just a special moment with someone who enhances the way you understand and remember your journey. And that can happen whether you're visiting a faraway land or the next town over."

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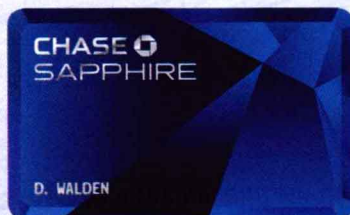
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Setnet fishermen on Bristol Bay trap salmon when the fish swim close to shore with the incoming tide.

From my vantage point in the single-engine plane above Bristol Bay, I see an epidemic of salmon fever as big as the state of Alaska. Hundreds of boats are in high gear, chasing the millions of ready-to-spawn sockeye returning to the bay, hauling in nets filled with fish. Many boats are so laden with salmon they ride precariously low in the water, dangerously close to swamping. I had heard about this fishery for years, but nothing prepared me for the enormity of it until I saw it for myself. I was also not prepared for its beauty and remoteness—no dams, development, or human footprint, just endless miles of pristine creeks, lakes, and rivers. This was the wild Alaska I had imagined. A tranquil landscape. Nature at its grandest.

Today, nearly 28 years later, photographer Michael Melford and writer Edwin Dobb see the same breathtaking landscape and find the salmon still running. But the Bristol Bay watershed is no longer tranquil. Instead, it's filled with tension provoked by the discovery of what may be the world's largest deposit of gold and one of the largest deposits of copper. The lode, worth hundreds of billions of dollars, has spawned ambitions for an immense mining complex with an open pit possibly two miles wide and a cavernous underground mine. It's a face-off between salmon and gold; the battle between those who support the mine and those who oppose it has reached a critical point. The risk, the values and priorities, the balancing of potential gains and losses all present uneasy and complicated questions. In this month's issue Melford and Dobb waded into the fight.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Jones".

Jeep

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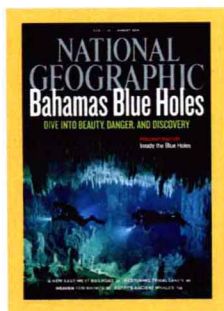
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August 2010

Bahamas Blue Holes

There could be no more fitting tribute to the memory of Wes Skiles than the spectacular cover and gatefold photo in your August issue. I dived with Wes on his first Bahamian blue hole dive more than 25 years ago. I watched him struggling to take photos in an unforgiving environment. We shared the goal of having a photo in *National Geographic*. He succeeded (and brought my dream along with him) when a photograph of his was eventually published. His determination and dedication led Wes to a career that included not only submerged-cave photography but also the conservation of caves and springs in Florida. Wes captured the essence of the beauty and mystery of the blue holes of the Bahamas. I am thankful for this lasting memory and for his sharing the importance of these submerged environments with the world.

JILL YAGER
Puerto Morelos, Mexico

I will never have the opportunity to visit the underwater caves, but the article and photographs by Wes Skiles really made me want to do what is needed to

protect these special places. On a sadder note, I was so sorry to read of Skiles's passing. He was truly an amazing photographer, and as an amateur photographer, I find his work very inspiring. He will forever be remembered through his wonderful photographs.

MATTHEW KARNS
Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania

This article brought back memories of a fun event. My wife and I were cruising with friends on our sailboat. We were approaching Rock Sound, Eleuthera Island, from the west when we noticed an obvious dark spot. We were in about ten feet of water at the time and perhaps ten miles from Rock Sound. As we approached the spot, we realized that it was a blue hole. It was probably a hundred feet in diameter. Visibility was perfect, and we lingered over it for perhaps an hour observing the large ocean fish in its depths. They seemed to disappear and reappear from under ledges. We considered diving into it but were afraid of currents we could not see. Your article does not include this hole in the text or on the map. I would be most grateful if you could provide some information about what we saw.

DAN EDDINS BELLINGER
Severna Park, Maryland

Based on your description, our experts cannot confirm a blue hole in that location, but there are many blue holes that aren't well documented or even named.

Kaziranga: India's Grassland Kingdom

I read this article with immense pride. I am from Assam, and whenever I go there to visit with

my relatives, I stop overnight at Kohora to view the animals from atop an elephant (as pictured on page 108). I have not yet been lucky enough to see a tiger in Kaziranga. When we drive on National Highway 37, we see poor families building thatched houses illegally all along the borders of the park. Government officials seem to ignore such settlement. I believe the land around Kaziranga should be freed for the survival of the animals and that National Highway 37 should be diverted. Recently, one night while driving on that road, my wife and her brother saw a tiger in front of their car, slowly crossing the highway near Kohora.

ARUN B. BARUA
Chicago, Illinois

Ecotourism is so vital to support the people who live near the national parks in India and other countries; it helps strike a balance between the animals that live in the parks and the humans who live outside the parks. I once asked my guide when I was visiting the Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary in West Bengal, India, "Are you mad at the elephants who occasionally cause harm to the villagers?" He replied, "Absolutely not, we owe our existence to these animals."

ASHIS ROY
Aldie, Virginia

Contact Us

Email ngsforum@ngm.com

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EDITORS' CHOICE

Tunc Yavuzdogan Istanbul, Turkey

While on a diving vacation in Indonesia, scuba instructor Yavuzdogan, 40, happened upon this foot-long larval eel in the waters of the Lembeh Strait. "It did move around frantically," he says. "It was very hard to get a decent shot. Its movements were very rhythmic and very fast."

Sharon Zobali New York, New York

Visiting Egypt, says the 23-year-old, "I was on the train traveling to Alexandria when another train passed by right next to me. I quickly took out my camera and captured this man." Zobali studies photography at Parsons the New School for Design in New York City.



READERS' CHOICE

For arthritis patients, it's simple physics:

A body in motion...tends to stay in motion.



Celebrex can help relieve arthritis pain... so you can keep moving

It's simple physics — a body in motion tends to stay in motion. Staying active can actually relieve arthritis symptoms. But if you have arthritis, staying active can be difficult.

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