

12.2022

# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



## PICTURES of the YEAR

EXPLORING THE WORLD IN 118 PHOTOS



immersing you in that work.

Of course, these professionals have a much different relationship with photography than I do. Their work is creatively, intellectually, and logistically challenging in ways that most of us hobbyist photographers can hardly imagine. For them, it is an art and a science that they've perfected—a way to stop us in our tracks and make us pay attention to a story that needs to be told. At their best, photographers reveal what isn't readily seen.

For this special issue, our talented team has curated a collection of the best images from *National Geographic* photographers who were in the field over the past year. Some take you back to stories that have already appeared in our pages (if you missed any of those, head over to [nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com) to find them), and some are related to stories we'll be publishing in the months to come.

What they all have in common is the power to let you see something, and understand something, in an entirely

new way. And taken together, they are a portrait of our world and the wonder of it all in 2022.

In addition to showing you this stunning array of photos, we're letting you hear directly from a handful of our photographers, who share stories that take you deeper into some of their most interesting projects. You'll learn the extreme lengths to which our contributors have gone to capture some of these shots, and get a closer look at the gear that makes it all possible. And because photography is at the heart of what we do every day on Instagram—where more than 230 million people like and comment on the images we post—we've pulled in a selection of the photos our followers have loved best over the past year. If you're not already part of our community there, do check us out @natgeo for a daily dose of inspiration.

I hope you enjoy the issue.




Clad in protective gear, military emergency specialist Armando Salazar makes his way across sizzling rock as he helps scientists collect samples during the fall 2021 volcanic eruption on La Palma, one of the Spanish Canary Islands.

ARTURO RODRÍGUEZ

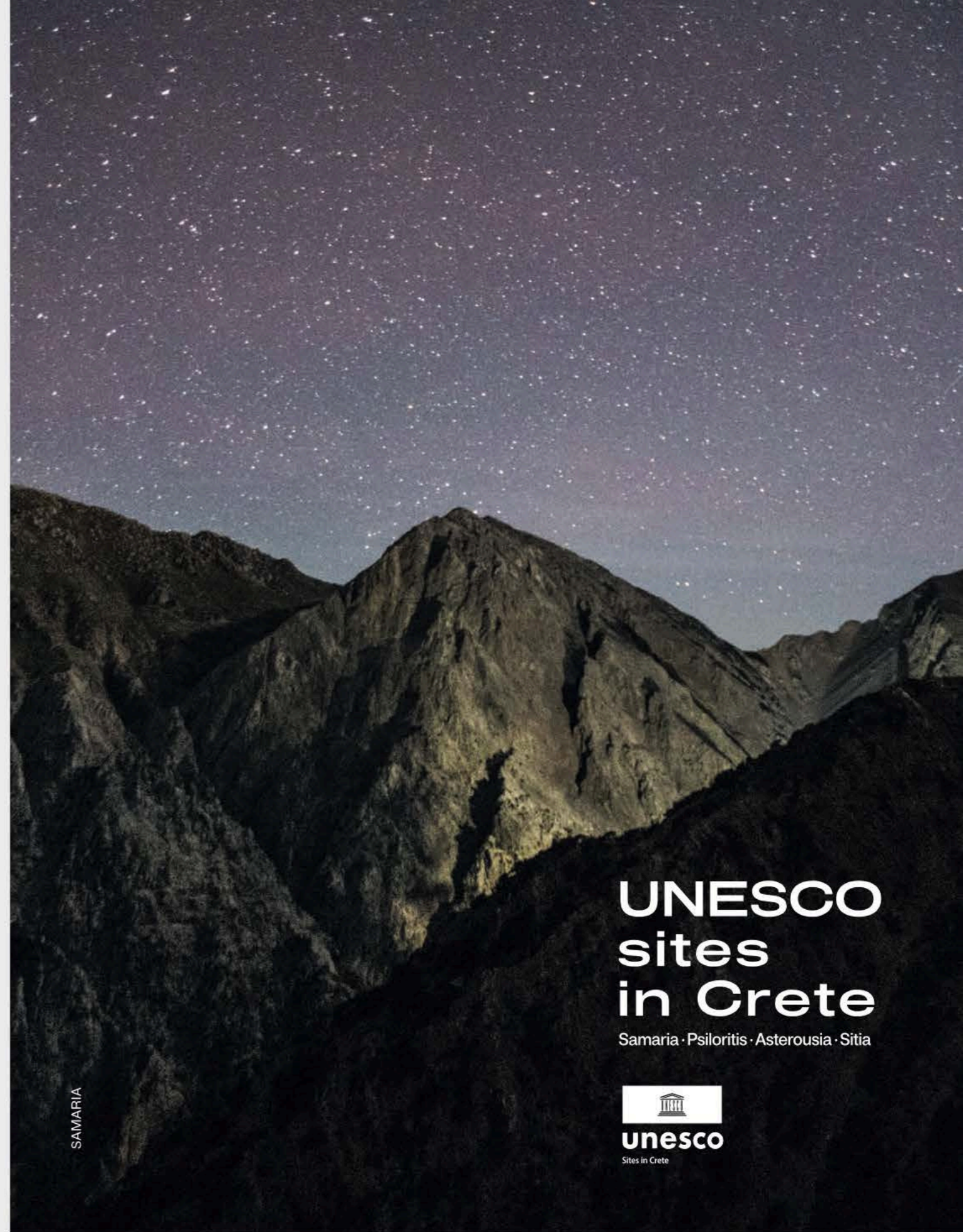


For the professionals whose images fill this issue, photography is an art and a science that they've perfected—a way to stop us in our tracks and make us pay attention to a story that needs to be told.



Viktor, a 39-year-old male bonobo, resides in Texas at the Fort Worth Zoo, where he's known for interacting with visitors. Veteran photographer Vince Musi is known for capturing animals' personalities in portraits such as this one.

VINCENT J. MUSI



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