

09.2022

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

America the Beautiful

NEW IDEAS
FOR PROTECTING
LAND, WATER,
AND WILDLIFE

WATCH 'AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL'
STREAMING NOW



SINCE 1888,
THE MAGAZINE
HAS HAD
11 EDITORS IN
CHIEF.

Meet the New Editor in Chief

BY NATHAN LUMP PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK THIESSEN

WHEN I WAS A KID growing up in a small town in Wisconsin, I was a voracious reader with eclectic tastes. One week I'd get into comets. Then whales. Herculaneum. Tectonic plates. Senegal. I'd read something that would pique my interest, and head to the library to find books from which I could learn more.

I was lucky that my grandmother—someone who taught me a lot about the benefit of remaining curious throughout life—gave our family a subscription to *National Geographic* when I was eight or nine years old. More often than not, the catalyst for my new obsession was an article in the magazine that exposed me to something I hardly knew existed or that I thought I knew but didn't really understand.

As I grew older, it was *National Geographic* that opened my eyes to the wonder of our world. What I discovered in its pages helped me build a more complete and nuanced picture of our planet—the glory, the challenges, and above all, the thrilling diversity of people, places, and things.

It was also *National Geographic* that ultimately inspired me to get out there and do my own exploring. Experiencing more of our world not only increased my knowledge; it reinforced the importance and urgency of preserving and protecting our planet.

Although this issue is my first as *National Geographic's* editor in chief, our incredibly talented team produced it mostly before my arrival. As a reader, I'd particularly recommend our fascinating cover story, "America in a New Light," which explores the frontiers of American conservation as we look to protect 30 percent of our land and water by 2030.

I'm delighted to be able to introduce myself here, and honored to be



associated with an organization that has had such outside influence on my life. In the coming months, we'll be formulating plans for *National Geographic's* future, in our effort to remain as essential, relevant, and authoritative as ever. I'm excited about what we have ahead for you, and I hope you'll join us on the journey.

At National Geographic's Washington, D.C., headquarters, the magazine archive is full of issues I remember from my youth, including this May 1986 edition with a cover story about the Serengeti.

UNESCO sites in Crete

Samaria · Psiloritis · Asterousia · Sitia



SITIA



www.unescositesincrete.gr