

# CONTENTS

6 *IN FOCUS* / 15 *CONTRIBUTORS*

16

**THE CURIOUS CASE  
OF THE TIGERS THAT  
CHANGED  
THEIR STRIPES**

India's rebounding tiger population is a cause for hope. But a genetic abnormality is prompting a high-stakes effort to bring isolated tigers together.

36

**SHOULD WE RESCUE  
SPACE RELICS?**

A scheme to retrieve the oldest orbiting satellite raises questions about what's history and what's just space junk.

40

**OLDER, BETTER,  
FASTER, STRONGER**

Today's older athletes are thriving longer than ever—and teaching us which habits matter. Plus, NFL star Jerry Rice, Olympic icon Nadia Comăneci, and others on how to age like a legend.

80

**HOW JACKIE  
KENNEDY  
SAVED AN EGYPTIAN  
TREASURE**

The unlikely story of the first lady's role in rescuing the ancient temples of Abu Simbel.

86

**THE WORLD'S  
TALLEST MOUNTAIN?  
IT MIGHT NOT BE  
WHAT YOU THINK**

A new way of looking at mountain majesty has revived old debates about summit supremacy. Have we been measuring the great peaks all wrong?

100

**ICE HOCKEY  
IS FLOURISHING  
IN ... NAIROBI**

The Kenya Ice Lions are equatorial Africa's only ice hockey team—and, in a stratified city, an egalitarian bastion.

108

**WHAT WE GET WRONG  
ABOUT HISTORY'S  
MOST MALIGNED MAP**

Gerardus Mercator took an unusual view of the world. But there's good reason it's so widely shared.

112

**OUR PLANET FROM  
ABOVE & BELOW**

National Geographic photographer Babak Tafreshi and NASA astronaut Don Pettit teamed up to photograph some of Earth's most breathtaking places. Pettit's vantage point: the International Space Station.

134 *NEW FROM NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC*

**ON THE COVER** A tiger with an unusual coat prowls India's Similipal Tiger Reserve. About half of Similipal's roughly 30 tigers carry a mutation that widens their black stripes.

*Photograph by* PRASENJEET YADAV