
CONTENTS

6 OUR WORLD | 12 IN FOCUS

18

LOST & FOUND

Off the Croatian coast, a mystery surrounds a Byzantine shipwreck carrying gold coins and priceless jewelry. Unraveling it has some historians rethinking the arc of one of history's mightiest empires.

40

YOUR CHIA PET'S ROOTS GO DEEPER THAN YOU THINK

The kitschy planters, enjoying a TikTok-driven resurgence, put a pop-culture spin on a Mexican tradition.

46

HOW NATIONAL PARKGOERS LEARNED TO LOVE MODERNIST ARCHITECTURE

Decades after a makeover of the U.S. parks system, visitors are at last warming up to bold mid-century design.

54

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 33

Our annual tribute to 33 adventurers, creators, icons, and visionaries, from all across the globe, who are finding solutions to urgent problems, making extraordinary discoveries, and inspiring us along the way.

98

NATURE'S ULTIMATE GLOW-UP

One photographer's fascination with fluorescent critters is shedding new light on why so many tiny creatures glow.

106

LIVING HISTORY

In Abu Dhabi, curators behind the world's newest major natural history museum have gone to incredible lengths to obtain eye-popping specimens—and send a powerful message about our modern need for nature.

134 FROM THE VAULT

ON THE COVER A bejeweled belt buckle is among the finds from a shipwreck that's challenging notions of travel and trade during the Byzantine period.

Photograph by ARNE HODALIČ and KATJA BIDOVEC