

CONTENTS

On the Cover

Since 2007 Alex Honnold had made “free-solo” ascents—alone, without a rope—of other daunting routes in Yosemite. But none compared to his June 2017 climb up El Capitan.

JIMMY CHIN

PROOF



8

South Africa's Majorettes

For girls and young women in South Africa, being a “drummy” requires dedication—and pays dividends in confidence and pride.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALICE MANN

EMBARK

17

THE BIG IDEA

How Ketchup Made Food Safer

Henry Heinz’s view of wholesome food and preservatives still resonates today.

BY DEBORAH BLUM

GENIUS

Memories Remade
This neuroscientist is working on suppressing bad memories.

BY RACHEL HARTIGAN SHEA



ALSO

Beetle Jaws
Zoo Mothers’ Milk
Immigrant Economy

EXPLORE



36

THROUGH THE LENS

The Shots That Almost Got Away

His camera captured polar bear close-ups—and then it sank. But the photographer refused to give up.

BY AUDUN RIKARSEN

BASIC INSTINCTS

Puffed-Up Appeal

Frigatebirds woo mates by inflating a body part and drumming on it. What’s not to love?

BY PATRICIA EDMONDS

ALSO

Vegetation Threats
Beekeeper’s Tools



HOW DATA DIFFER



FEATURES

Solo

Alex Honnold is famous for climbing formidable rock faces without using ropes. But El Capitan?

BY MARK SYNNOTT
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
JIMMY CHIN P. 42

Unthinkable Sacrifice

Mystery shrouds child killings some 500 years ago in what's now Peru.

BY KRISTIN ROMEY
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
ROBERT CLARK
..... P. 54

The White Gold Rush

Lithium is key to making batteries. Bolivia has it in abundance.

BY ROBERT DRAPER
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
CÉDRIC GERBEHAYE
..... P. 78

Silicon Valley Grows Up (Sort Of)

The tech mecca looks at the costs of success.

BY MICHELLE QUINN
PHOTOGRAPHS
BY LAURA MORTON
..... P. 104

A National Symbol —But Also a Pest?

Australia grapples with a kangaroo issue.

BY JEREMY BERLIN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
STEFANO UNTERTHINER
..... P. 126

ON TV

Valley of the Boom

This docudrama about the internet's early days airs Sunday nights through January 27 at 9/8c, on National Geographic.