

05.2021

WATCH 'SECRETS OF THE WHALES' STREAMING APRIL 22 ON

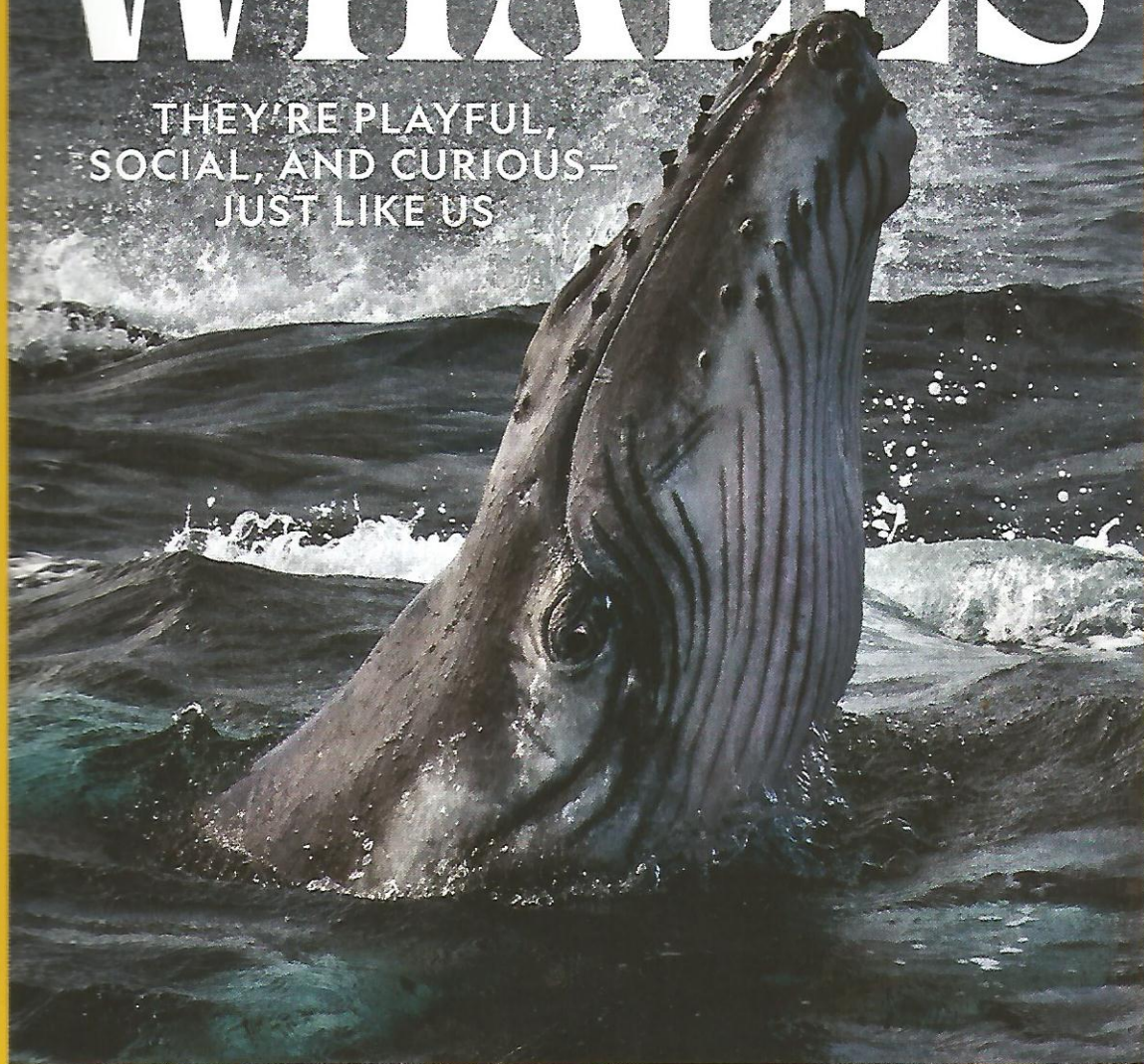


# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

THE OCEAN ISSUE

# Secrets of the WHALES

THEY'RE PLAYFUL,  
SOCIAL, AND CURIOUS—  
JUST LIKE US





# CONTENTS

## On the Cover

In South Pacific waters, a humpback whale calf focuses on photographer Brian Skerry, and vice versa. Skerry has spent years observing the distinctive behaviors and traditions of many cetacean species.

BRIAN SKERRY

## EARTH DAY | SPECIAL REPORT



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### PROOF

## Mining Marks a Landscape

Viewing mines from above, a photographer captures the results of extracting coal to fuel electric power plants.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
TOM HEGEN

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### THE BIG IDEA

**Conservation's Popularity Contest**  
Wildlife funding and advocacy focus most on charismatic species. Is it time to rethink that approach?

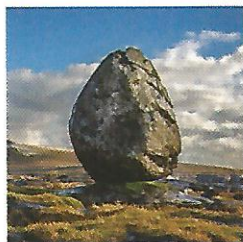
BY CHRISTINE DELL'AMORE

### ATLAS

## Ice Odyssey

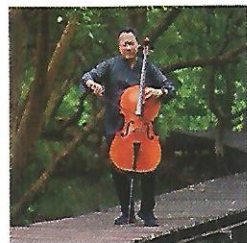
A huge Antarctic iceberg posed a risk to an island wildlife preserve.

BY MARTIN GAMACHE  
AND SARAH GIBBENS



### ALSO

Wandering Rocks  
Earth Day Inspirations



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### EARTH DAY

## Bridging Cultures, Causes With Music

Cellist Yo-Yo Ma pairs concerts with activist events on environmental and other issues.

BY CLAUDIA KALB

### THROUGH THE LENS

## Fleeing the Flood

As waters threatened rare giraffes' habitat, former enemies joined forces to move them via a modern-day ark.

BY ANNIE ROTH

### ALSO

Green Chandelier  
Ink From Pollution