

12.2022

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



PICTURES of the YEAR

EXPLORING THE WORLD IN 118 PHOTOS





SPECIAL ISSUE

PICTURES OF THE YEAR

We sent our photographers around the globe to document our world and our times. In this special edition, we showcase their best photos and compelling stories.

FEATURING BEHIND-THE-SCENES ON FIVE ASSIGNMENTS

23

KILIII
YÜYAN
in Greenland

40

ERIKA
LARSEN
in the U.S.

78

AJI
STYAWAN
in Indonesia

94

WAYNE
LAWRENCE
in South Africa

110

LYNN
JOHNSON
in the U.S.



**KENNEDY
SPACE CENTER,
FLORIDA**

LUNAR DREAMS

With its Artemis I mission, NASA is kicking off an ambitious plan to return humans to the moon. When the rocket launches, this uncrewed trip's commander will be the "moonikin" Campos, named after a NASA engineer who helped save the lives of the Apollo 13 crew. During a trip around the moon

slated to last more than a month, Campos is sitting in for crew in the Orion capsule. Sensors in Campos's headrest and behind its seat track vibration and acceleration, expected to reach four times that of Earth's gravity. Campos wears radiation sensors and the survival suit that future missions'

flesh-and-blood passengers will use during launch, reentry, and other critical moments. NASA hopes a crew of four will make the next trek aboard Orion as early as May 2024, as part of Artemis II.

PHOTOGRAPH BY
DAN WINTERS





**KENNEDY
SPACE CENTER,
FLORIDA**

THE NEXT
RIDE TO
THE MOON

PHOTOGRAPH BY
DAN WINTERS

Shrouded in morning mist, NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) looms over Kennedy Space Center's Launch Complex 39B in March as the rocket awaits testing. The 322-foot-tall vehicle is the linchpin of NASA's Artemis program, which aims to land the first woman and the first person of color on the moon and use it as a stepping stone to Mars. With two boosters and four main engines, SLS can fling a crew capsule moonward with 8.8 million pounds of thrust—15 percent more oomph than the Apollo program's Saturn V rocket. Each SLS will be used only once. After this rocket's launch during an uncrewed test flight planned for this year, its pieces are expected to either fall into the ocean or enter orbit around the sun.



**BLUE
CYPRESS LAKE,
FLORIDA**

**MAGICAL
MISSION IN
THE SKY**

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, launched from Cape Canaveral in the early hours of June 19, streaks above a stand of bald cypress trees. This was the second time in less than a year that a SpaceX rocket appeared in photographer Mac Stone's frame while he was shooting at night in a remote swamp. Stone

says that the increased frequency of launches without fanfare "suggests that we have crossed over into a new era where cosmic missions are simply business as usual."

PHOTOGRAPH BY
MAC STONE