

PRESS RELEASE

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“National Geographic Photo Ark” exhibition opens April 20 at Woodland Park Zoo

*Outdoor exhibition showcases photographer Joel Sartore’s work to
document every species in zoos, aquariums and animal rescue centers*

SEATTLE—Woodland Park Zoo will host the traveling National Geographic exhibition, “National Geographic Photo Ark,” from April 20 through October 7. The National Geographic Photo Ark is an ambitious project committed to documenting every species in zoos, aquariums, and animal rescue centers—inspiring people not just to care, but also to help protect these animals for future generations.



Featuring the work of National Geographic photographer and Fellow Joel Sartore, National Geographic is showcasing this important project through multiple platforms. This exhibition is organized by the National Geographic Society and Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium.

A compelling and visually powerful project, the National Geographic Photo Ark aims to photograph species before it is too late. In addition to creating an archival record for generations to come, this project is a hopeful platform for conservation and shines a light on individuals and organizations working to preserve species around the world. Learn more at NatGeoPhotoArk.org.

The National Geographic Photo Ark exhibition at Woodland Park Zoo will highlight 56 of Sartore’s more than 50 most compelling images and provide guests with the extraordinary opportunity to come face to face with animals from the National Geographic Photo Ark. The 8’ tall x 6’ wide portraits will be displayed across the zoo’s 92 botanical acres. A diversity of mammal, reptile, and bird species will be represented including animals currently living at the zoo such as Matschie’s tree kangaroo, Western pond turtle, Sumatran orangutan, snow leopard, Humboldt penguin and greater one-horned rhino (new species coming in May). Guests will learn about the project, its mission, and Woodland Park Zoo’s conservation initiatives in the Pacific Northwest and around the world.

Sartore has worked in more than 250 zoos, aquariums and animal rescue centers around the world. He estimates the completed National Geographic Photo Ark will include portraits of more than 12,000 species representing several animal classes, including birds, fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. In what will be the largest single archive of studio-quality photographs of biodiversity ever, the National Geographic Photo Ark continues to move toward its goal of documenting these 12,000 species, thanks in part to Sartore’s enduring relationships with many of the world’s zoos and aquariums. These iconic portraits have captured the imagination of people around the world and have even been projected on the Empire State Building and St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome.

“The National Geographic Photo Ark has already inspired millions around the world with the message that it is not too late to save some of the world’s most endangered species,” said Kathryn Keane, vice president of Exhibitions, National Geographic Society. “Joel Sartore has demonstrated what one man can do using the power of photography—and now National Geographic wants to inspire people all over the country to contribute to this global challenge.”

“We are very excited to present the National Geographic Photo Ark to our community. This exhibition, along with the marvelous animals in our care at the zoo, is another powerful reminder there is a real urgency to unite all our choices and all our voices to help save every animal remaining on our planet. Through this extraordinary experience, our 1.3 million guests can come to understand there is hope for collective impact by empowering ourselves to ignite

a broad movement for conservation,” said Woodland Park Zoo President and CEO Alejandro Grajal.

The National Geographic Photo Ark exhibition at Woodland Park Zoo is free with zoo admission. Visit www.zoo.org for information about hours, admission fees and membership.

National Geographic Photo Ark exhibitions have appeared at venues around the world, including Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, Dallas Zoo and Cincinnati Zoo. Additional venues may be announced soon. The exhibitions accompany a new National Geographic book, *Birds of the Photo Ark* (National Geographic Books; on sale March 6; \$30.00). National Geographic Photo Ark fans are also invited to join the conversation on social media with #SaveTogether and learn more about how to get involved with the project at NatGeoPhotoArk.org.

About the National Geographic Society

The National Geographic Society is a leading nonprofit that invests in bold people and transformative ideas in the fields of exploration, scientific research, storytelling and education. We support educators to ensure that the next generation is armed with geographic knowledge and global understanding. We aspire to create a community of change, advancing key insights about our planet and probing some of the most pressing scientific questions of our time. Our goal is measurable impact: furthering exploration and educating people around the world to inspire solutions for the greater good. For more information, visit www.nationalgeographic.org.

Woodland Park Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums and certified by the rigorous American Humane Conservation program. The Humane Certified™ seal of approval is another important validation of the zoo’s long-standing tradition of meeting the highest standards in animal welfare. Woodland Park Zoo is helping to save animals and their habitats through more than 35 field projects in the Pacific Northwest and around the world. By saving wildlife and inspiring everyone to make conservation a priority in their lives, Woodland Park Zoo is making a difference in our planet’s future ecological health and sustainability. Visit www.zoo.org and follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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