

INTO THE WILD: HUNDREDS OF ELEPHANTS ROAM TANZANIA'S NGORONGORO CRATER—THE PLANET'S LARGEST VOLCANIC CALDERA (PAGE 35).



World Of Wonders

Fiery volcanoes, 40-ton mammals, otherworldly caves—in this explorer's guide, we'll show you where to find the most mind-blowing backcountry features on the planet. *By Marcus Woolf*

Want to be inspired, humbled, scared, awed? Care to experience all four reactions simultaneously? The surest way to these thrills and more is to seek out the globe's most extravagant natural wonders (lion encounter, anyone?). Venture into the backcountry on foot, into places where

animals, plants, and terrain are measured by superlatives like wildest, biggest, highest, deepest, and fiercest, and your hike will be elevated to a life-list experience that you'll remember, well, for life. Need a reason to try a new trail this year? Here are 15 of them.