



# NEWS

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC DEBUTS *OCEANXPLOERS* TRAILER IN CELEBRATION OF WORLD OCEANS DAY**

**THE EPIC SIX-PART UNDERWATER ADVENTURE SERIES PREMIERES AUG. 18 ON NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC AND STREAMS NEXT DAY ON DISNEY+ AND HULU**

**OCEANXPLOERS Is Executive Produced and Narrated by National Geographic Explorer at Large James Cameron and In Partnership With BBC Studios Natural History Unit ('Blue Planet II') and OceanX**



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**(WASHINGTON, D.C. – June 5, 2024)** In celebration of World Oceans Day later this week, National Geographic revealed the trailer and key art for its epic six-part underwater discovery series **OCEANXPLOERS**. The breathtaking series will premiere Aug. 18 on National Geographic and all episodes will stream the next day on Disney+ and Hulu.

*CONTINUES...*

*PAGE 2 / NAT GEO DEBUTS OCEANXPLOERS TRAILER AHEAD OF WORLD OCEANS DAY*

From **National Geographic Explorer at Large James Cameron** (“Avatar”), BBC Studios Natural History Unit (“Blue Planet II”) and OceanX comes the most ambitious ocean adventure ever filmed.

The National Geographic series takes audiences aboard the OceanXplorer, OceanX’s state-of-the-art scientific research and exploration vessel, to investigate the farthest frontiers of the world’s oceans, 80% of which are entirely unknown. Armed with advanced technology, a hand-picked team of intrepid explorers and scientists, National Geographic Explorers and other ocean experts embark on a global odyssey to solve some of the ocean’s greatest mysteries through the lives of its animals and their ecosystems. The ship sets sail on a grand adventure – traveling to the depths of the Atlantic in the Azores, diving into the shallows of the Bahamas and warm waters of the Caribbean before embarking north to the frigid arctic shores of Svalbard, Norway. **OCEANXPLOERS** provides an immersive look at an underwater world of wonder with incredible discoveries that push the boundaries of exploration and our understanding of the ocean like never before.

“My true passion lies in deep ocean science and in exploration,” says Cameron. “In **OCEANXPLOERS**, we take viewers on an unparalleled ocean science adventure, introducing them to a group of principled, passionate people on a sometimes dangerous mission of ocean discovery in real time. We present the stakes, and firsts, and tell a visually spectacular and dramatic story — a story that inspires the next generation of explorers and adventurers committed to protecting and preserving our oceans.”

OceanXplorer, which was purpose-built by the global science, media and exploration nonprofit OceanX, is a technological marvel with the power to explore the depths of the world’s oceans. The ship is equipped with two submersibles — Neptune and Nadir — which can dive to 1,000 meters, or 3,280 feet, for up to 72 hours. There is a helicopter aboard alongside multiple marine science laboratories, as well as a media studio that captures new science and real-time discoveries for the screen. The OceanXplorer is a full-scale research vessel that can span the Earth’s oceans and shed light on even the most inaccessible depths of the sea.

**OCEANXPLOERS** combines a high-end, science-driven documentary with jaw-dropping sequences to capture the drama and thrill of exploration. With so much unknown to explore, the elite team onboard combines their expertise and curiosities to gather information and capture never-before-seen imagery of life below the surface using groundbreaking technology and equipment. The following members make up the all-star team:

- **Zoleka Filander – National Geographic Explorer and Deep-Sea Researcher** ([@Zoleka Filander](#)) – As a leader in the South African ocean research community, Zoleka is a government scientist and expedition leader who has served on countless research cruises off the South Africa, Mozambique and Tanzania coasts. She has garnered several awards for her contributions to marine science and opened doors for other Black women to enter the field.

*CONTINUES...*

*PAGE 3 / NAT GEO DEBUTS OCEANXPLOERS TRAILER AHEAD OF WORLD OCEANS DAY*

- **Melissa Cristina Márquez – Shark Biologist ([@MelissaCristinaMarquez](#))** – Melissa is a marine science education expert based in Australia who holds a Master of Science in marine biology from Victoria University of Wellington. Originally from Puerto Rico and raised in Mexico, she's dedicated over a decade to advancing marine science education and communication. She has completed more than 100 dives and is called the “Mother of Sharks.” She is the founder of the Fins United Initiative, a shark conservation and information platform and a published children's book author.
- **Eric Stackpole – Ocean Technology Innovator ([@Eerrp](#))** – With a background at NASA, a master's in mechanical engineering, and serving as a lead engineer and ROV pilot on a three-month Antarctic exploration, Stackpole pushes the limits of robotics and drone technology.
- **Aldo Kane – Ex-Royal Marine, Special Ops ([@AldoKane](#))** – As a trained Royal Marine Commando, where he became one of the youngest elite Commando snipers ever, and an expert in survival and operations in all environments — jungle, desert, arctic, ocean and mountains — Kane has led countless water-based expeditions with some of the world's elite.

The six-part series includes the following episodes and premiere dates:

**“Realm of the Humpbacks” premieres Aug. 18 at 9/8c**

The team travels to the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean to reveal the greatest secrets in the lives of the North Atlantic humpback whale: Why do thousands gather in one tiny patch of ocean every year, and what lengths do they go to in choosing a mate? While exploring the humpbacks' hidden world, they witness a mother defend her calf in the ultimate ocean battle with a pack of orcas.

**“Giants of the Deep” premieres Aug. 18 at 10/9c**

In the Azores, the team follows the elusive sperm whales to their hunting grounds a mile beneath the surface, where they discover the secret lives of these deep-diving whales. State-of-the-art camera systems and the OceanXplorer's submersibles explore this world of eternal darkness, discovering the whale's prey: an enormous squid, never filmed before in these Atlantic waters.

**“Jurassic Shark” premieres Aug. 25 at 9/8c**

The team is in the Azores to tag a deep sea giant — the sixgill shark — and learn more about its nightly patterns hunting for food in the abyss. For the first time ever, the team tags and retrieves valuable data, uncovering the secrets of why this prehistoric shark undertakes its epic journey from the depths at night.

**“Hammerhead Highway” premieres Aug. 25 at 10/9c**

The team is in the crystal-clear waters of Bimini in the Bahamas to witness the incredible journey of the great hammerhead shark. As the team follows the shark's return migration to warm waters in winter, they discover the secrets of how these animals navigate the vast ocean, using incredible senses to exploit riches hidden in the shallows.

*CONTINUES...*

*PAGE 4 / NAT GEO DEBUTS OCEANXPLORERS TRAILER AHEAD OF WORLD OCEANS DAY*

### **“Kingdom of the Polar Bear” premieres Sept. 1 at 9/8c**

The team brings the OceanXplorer to Svalbard, Norway. This ice world is changing faster than anywhere else on Earth. The team’s mission is to figure out if Svalbard’s polar bears are adapting to their environment. To do so, they come face-to-face with this giant of the Arctic Ocean and scale a glacier to learn how much time is left for one of the most critical habitats for polar bears.

### **“Ice Giants” premieres Sept. 1 at 10/9c**

The team brings the OceanXplorer as far north as possible, to the edge of the Arctic ice cap. There, they learn how a population of bowhead whales, once hunted almost to extinction, is faring today. They are also the first to observe the feeding strategies of the deep-sea Greenland shark, an animal that can live for more than 400 years.

**OCEANXPLOERS** is co-produced by BBC Studios Natural History Unit and OceanX for National Geographic. For Lightstorm Earth, James Cameron and Maria Wilhelm are executive producers. Roger Webb and Orla Doherty are executive producers for BBC Studios. Ray Dalio, Mark Dalio, Vincent Pieribone and Joe Ruffolo are executive producers for OceanX. For National Geographic, Kevin Tao Mohs is executive producer, and Tom McDonald is executive vice president of Global Factual and Unscripted Content. The series was created in partnership with the National Geographic Society with a mission to use the power of science, exploration, education, and storytelling to illuminate and protect the wonder of our world.

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### **About BBC Studios Natural History**

BBC Studios Natural History Unit produces the world’s most iconic natural history programmes, such as Planet Earth III, Planet Earth II, Frozen Planet II and Blue Planet II, which have been watched by more than a billion people globally. Ranging from super-landmarks and technically challenging live shows to long-running series and children’s content, the Natural History Unit’s programmes include Seven Worlds, One Planet and The Green Planet presented by Sir David Attenborough, Springwatch and Andy’s Global Adventures, and third-party commissions for Discovery, Apple TV+, NBCU, National Geographic, and BBC America. The Natural History Unit is part of BBC Studios.

### **About**

### **OceanX**

OceanX is on a mission to support scientists to explore the ocean and to bring it back to the world through captivating media. Uniting leading media, science, and philanthropy partners, OceanX utilizes next-gen technology, fearless science, compelling storytelling, and immersive experiences to educate, inspire, and connect the world with the ocean and build a global community deeply engaged with understanding, enjoying, and protecting our oceans. OceanX is an operating program of Dalio Philanthropies, which furthers the diverse philanthropic interests of Dalio family members. For more information, visit [www.oceanx.org](http://www.oceanx.org) and follow OceanX on [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), [X](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

CONTINUES...

PAGE 5 / NAT GEO DEBUTS OCEANXPLOERS TRAILER AHEAD OF WORLD OCEANS DAY

### **About James Cameron**

James Cameron - Executive Producer, Narrator, National Geographic Explorer-at-Large ([@jamescameronofficial](https://www.instagram.com/jamescameronofficial)) - James Cameron is an acclaimed filmmaker, explorer, inventor and environmentalist. A National Geographic Explorer-at-Large, Cameron has led eight deep ocean expeditions and has developed unprecedented robotic and submersible vehicles, lighting and 3D camera equipment for deep ocean exploration. Among his 75 deep submersible dives, he has dived to the Titanic wreck site 33 times and dived solo to the Challenger Deep, the deepest place on Earth, in a sub of his own design in 2012, setting a world record. He is the recipient of National Geographic's prestigious Hubbard Medal and the Explorer's Club medal for Explorer of the Year.

### **About National Geographic Content**

Award-winning and critically acclaimed National Geographic Content, part of a joint venture between The Walt Disney Company and the National Geographic Society, creates and delivers riveting stories and experiences in natural history, science, adventure and exploration. The brand is the largest on social media with over three quarters of a billion followers across all major platforms that generate over one billion impressions each month. Inspiring a deeper connection to the world, National Geographic Content reaches 300 million people worldwide in 180 countries and 33 languages as a digital, social and print publisher and across the global National Geographic channels (National Geographic Channel, Nat Geo WILD, Nat Geo MUNDO), National Geographic Documentary Films, and direct-to-consumer platforms Disney+ and Hulu. Its diverse content includes Emmy® Award-winning franchise *Genius*, series *Life Below Zero* and *Secrets of the Whales*, and Oscar®- and BAFTA award-winning film *Free Solo*. In 2022, National Geographic Content was awarded eight News and Documentary Emmys, in addition to *Life Below Zero*'s Emmy win for Outstanding Cinematography for a Reality Program, its sixth Emmy overall. For more information, visit [natgeotv.com](https://www.natgeotv.com) or [nationalgeographic.com](https://www.nationalgeographic.com), or follow Nat Geo on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/natgeo), [X](https://www.x.com/natgeo), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/natgeo), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/natgeo) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/natgeo).

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