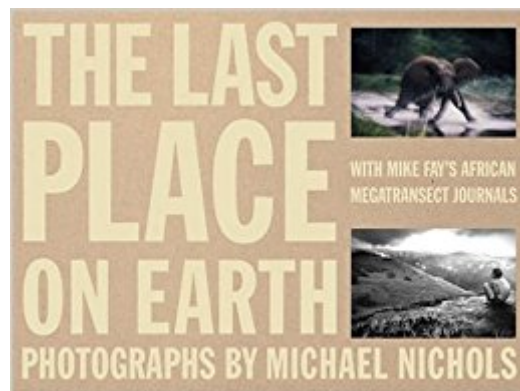


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The Last Place On Earth: With Mike Fay's African Megatransect Journals (v. 1&2)



Synopsis

The photographs in *The Last Place on Earth* are the best wildlife images in the world today. The groundbreaking photography in Volume I presents wildlife as if the viewer is on the scene and closeup. This is accomplished with gadgetry developed at National Geographic under the guidance of Michael Nichols. The new technology allows Nichols to set aside the usual telephoto lenses that magnify and flatten subjects, freeing him to use more normal lenses with special lighting. The resulting pictures come the closest to bridging the gap between wildlife and humanity than any photographs have ever done. Pictures cover the rough and amazing beauty of central Africa's wildlife and terrain-many images have never been seen-for example, surfing hippos and sun-bathing buffalo. Volume II highlights a facsimile of Mike Fay's original journal. It is real-life drama at its very best. Nichols' stunning black and white images of the arduous journey illustrate Fay's detailed entries. Together they construct a portrait of central African forests before their greatness succumbs to the inexorable nibble of humanity. Threats by armed-poachers, disease, and despair are offset by moments of utter astonishment: Fay befriends a gorilla, Ebobo, whom he first met seven years before. At one point along the trip the gorilla was seen waiting for Fay to catch up. As a result of Nichols' and Fay's work, the government of Gabon created 13 national parks protecting 11,294 square miles.

Book Information

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Photojournalism & Essays > Photojournalism #635 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Nature

Travel > Ecotourism

Customer Reviews

This two-volume boxed set is worth every penny for the travel and ecology-minded reader.

Together, the set lends graphic and poignant documentation to a spectacularly successful conservation drive by nature photographer Nichols and ecologist Fay. They spent 12 years enjoying and recording the pristine (and easily destructible) flora and fauna system in West Africa (their efforts resulted in the establishment of 13 national parks in the nation of Gabon). Volume 1 of this set showcases their wildlife photography, and the images are simply breathtaking on both subject matter and aesthetic levels. Volume 2 presents excerpts from Fay's handwritten journal during a specific 456-day, 2,000-mile trek he and Nichols took in the region, and his descriptions are every bit as thrilling as the photos. Give this to jaded armchair travelers tired of reading about rehabbing that Tuscan villa. Brad Hooper

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Michael Nichols is an award-winning photographer who became a staff photographer for the National Geographic Society in 1996. He has photographed more than 20 stories for National Geographic magazine. His work has appeared in several books, including *Keepers of the Kingdom*, a photographic essay about changes in US zoos; *The Year of the Tiger*, which focuses on the world's remaining tigers; and *Brutal Kinship*, a look at the timorous bond between man and chimpanzee with text by Jane Goodall. Nichols has been featured in *Rolling Stone*, *American Photographer*, and many other magazines. Mike Fay has spent his life as a naturalist "from the Sierra Nevadas and the Maine woods as a boy, to Alaska and Central America in college, to North Africa and the depths of the central African forest and savannas for the last 25 years. He has worked for the Wildlife Conservation Society of the Bronx since 1991. Fay is best known for his work on Megatransect, a project that had the objective of bringing to the world's attention the last pristine forest in central Africa and the need for its protection.

I've wanted to get *The Last Place on Earth* since it first came out... i was first getting really into photojournalism back when they were covering the Megatransect in the *Graphic*, and remember getting each issue and flipping out over them. I have wanted to buy this for years, but have never spent this much on a book (no i have not gone to college haha). Finally, i did it, and boy am i loving it. I just got the set today and just the little bit i've looked into it so far, i'm so happy.

STANDS ALONE. INCREDIBLE

This book is so beautiful you will not want to touch it for fear of leaving a mark... The journey into Gabon is near-insane and the photographs of the untouched beauty and the mire of nature leave the

reader desperately aware of the need to preserve this part of the earth that is not yet spoiled.

This book is amazing, in its presentation and its content. The photography is first rate for an expedition of which pictures were not their main objective. The journal entries in the second book of the set will make you feel as if you are part of the trip especially if you have been to Africa before. I highly recommend this book as a coffee table piece or as a fascinating read.

Bought this book for my mother-in-law as a birthday present. She has traveled to Africa many times so it was perfect for her. She was thrilled with the book. The book is spectacular. We would recommend highly.

AMAZING pictures.

As a photographer and a journalist who has a passion for intense travel and the natural world, I think this is one of the most amazing books published in the past 20 years. Passionate, heartbreaking, and beautiful the world and work of Nick Nichols and Mike Fay shown in this book was eye opening. Highly recommend. Only comment that maybe negative is the size a bulk of the book.

Mike Fay has done it again with this collection of amazing photos. Each picture tells a unique and compelling story that make you feel the real struggles in Gabon.

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