Guests Across The Globe: Six Months of 2013 NG Weekend Interviews

We’re halfway through the year and what better way to map our progress than to, well, map the many guests we’ve had on National Geographic Weekend since the ball dropped back in January?

The interactive map (above) has pinpoints for all 167 of our 2013 guests at the mid-point. With pins on every continent, there is a broad array of people to be featured on the show including National Geographic Explorers, grantees, photographers and writers, as well as non-NG affiliated authors, adventurers, conservationists … and the list goes on.

Collectively, our globe-trotting guests have gone to both poles, crossed continents, and even landed on the moon (which, unfortunately, would not fit on the map).

They have journeyed for thousands of miles via walking, running, surfing, skiing, swimming, cycling, hang gliding, rowing – and practically any of the other verbs available to describe forms of transportation.

But to break it down further, here are some highlights of the most – and least – populated places among our guests:

The Asian continent holds the title for “Most Popular” with 32 pins ranging from the most remote Siberian island, to the densest areas of India. Zoom in on the border of Nepal and China and you’ll see there are four guests who climbed Mt. Everest, including the first American to stand on the world’s tallest point, Jim Whittaker. He says technology has come a long way since he reached the top of Everest in 1963 and a lot of luck was needed to reach the summit in those days. His interview from the June 9 show:

Scroll over to Africa, which gets the silver medal for its 28 interviewees. Archaeological dig sites in the Sahara, daring and dangerous wildlife projects in the Congo and journeys to surf among sharks, prove why Africa is a special place for many friends of the show. National Geographic Television film producers J.J. Kelley and John

newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2013/07/09/ng-weekend-map/
Continuing our quest across the globe of guests, there are even pins placed into the white, icy abyss of Antarctica. Though few, these explorers have proven their grit and determination by braving some of the coldest places on Earth. Sir Ranulph Fiennes is one who even lost part of his fingers from frostbite. Ranulph’s Coldest Journey team attempted to make the first crossing of the continent – crevasses and unpredictable weather forced them to abandon their pursuit. He discusses polar exploration and the unique way in which he treated his own frostbite during our May 19 show.

Here’s the first half of Sir Ran’s interview:

And here’s the second half, which details the odd diet the Coldest Journey team has to eat to stay alive in the Antarctic:

Going back to some warmer climates on the map, there are a few pins in South America. One fascinating tale came from our first guest of the year, filmmaker Ryan Killacky who spent four straight months living in Ecuador’s Yasuni Man Biosphere Reserve. He explained the surprising critters that stowed away inside of him from the trip on our January 13 Show:

Of course, there are many other tales told on the map, so keep exploring it to to discover your favorite places and adventurers! And listen to National Geographic Weekend with host Boyd Matson every week to hear more tales from around our planet.

Keywords: adventure, Africa, Antarctica, Asia, authors, Battle for the Elephants, Congo, conservation, Ecuador, elephants, exploration, frostbite, Google Maps, grantees, guests, ivory, ivory trade, J.J. Kelley, Jim Whittaker, John Heminway, map, maps, Mt. Everest, national geographic explorers, National Geographic Television, photographers, Radio Show, Ryan Killacky, Sahara, Sir Ranulph Fiennes, South America, Tanzania, The Coldest Journey, Yasuni Man Biosphere Reserve

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