

NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

# SECRETS OF THE WHALES

Disney+

## BRIAN SKERRY BIO

### National Geographic Explorer and Photographer



**Brian Skerry** is a photojournalist specializing in marine wildlife and underwater environments. He is currently featured in the upcoming Disney+ original series **SECRETS OF THE WHALES**, where he traveled the world to chronicle the mysterious and beautiful world of whales.

Since 1998 he has been a contributing photographer for *National Geographic* magazine. In 2014 he was named a National Geographic Society Photography Fellow, and an NGS Storytelling Fellow in 2017, the same year he was

awarded the title of Rolex National Geographic Explorer of the Year.

For *National Geographic* magazine, Skerry has covered a wide range of stories, from the harp seal's struggle to survive in frozen waters to the alarming decrease in the world's fisheries to dolphin intelligence, all of which were cover stories. A fourth cover story, in February 2017, focused on protecting special underwater ecosystems. During this coverage Skerry produced the first images of a U.S. president underwater.

Skerry's work has also been featured in such publications as *Sports Illustrated*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Paris Match*, *Esquire* and *Audubon*. He is the author of 12 books, including the upcoming companion piece to the TV series "Secrets of the Whales," and the acclaimed monographs "Ocean Soul" and "SHARK." In 2020, for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day, Skerry teamed up with other National Geographic Explorers for the special event "Born Wild: The Next Generation," which gave viewers a revealing look at our planet's next generation of baby animals and their ecosystems.

His work in highlighting environmental issues has been effective in helping the public understand that their choices matter; it has also helped elected leaders make policy decisions, including placing protections for endangered species and creating marine protected areas.

An 11-time award winner in the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition, Skerry has also been recognized with awards from Pictures of the Year International, Nature's Best and Communication Arts, and he is the only photographer to win the coveted Peter Benchley Award for Excellence in Media. In 2010 *National Geographic* magazine named one of his images among its 50 Greatest Photographs of All Time; in 2016 he was awarded the National Geographic Photographer's Photographer Award, an honor bestowed by his colleagues. Skerry was awarded the 2019 NOGI Award for Arts by the Academy of Underwater Arts and Sciences, an award commonly referred to as the "Underwater Oscar."

He has had numerous solo exhibits, including "Portraits of Planet Ocean," a two-year exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. Other exhibits of his work have been held in Geneva, Barcelona, Lisbon, Shanghai and Perpignan, France.

Skerry frequently lectures on photography, exploration and conservation issues, having presented at venues such as the United Nations General Assembly; the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland; TED talks; the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.; the Royal Geographical Society in London; and the Sydney Opera House in Australia.