Discovery channel, Animal Planet, National Geographic.

How can they get almost endless footage that astonishes the home viewing world?
At any elevated height and any depth (ocean), any temperature, just about really any place of the world? Who are these people
that go out to film in such difficulty there? How did they learn this greatly versatile and sought after skill of almost unequal patience, outdoor survival, complete detachment of modern convenience in many cases?

How do videographers, photographers, maintain detached upclose encounters with nature
without ever intervening moving or nurturing creatures for such prolonged periods?

They leave their families, warm protected homes, and head off to the unknown destinations in the wild to meet up with their film crew. They can stay put on location for days, sometimes even weeks, in silence, low activity mode, to capture the image that makes us live in awe of God's boundless creation and our blooming planet. Fast and Furious film actor, once hunter turned nature photographer, Paul Walker, said he
grew to love his camera and photo taking much more than hunting because he could take a picture again
and again, and watch the animal get to walk away alive. No oven heated sandwiches, hoagies conveniently located down

the corner, no local coffee shop late, sacrificing weeks and months out of the year to bring us top
quality footage from the convenience of warm lit building apartments, or family filled homes.
Watching animals survive, get injured, attacked, and going hungry, all the while resisting the
social conditioning of others to want to nurture or intervene. Whether it is elephant young, or lion cubs

facing an impending death, or severe thirst, because their mothers got poached or injured trying to forage. They have a unspoken code of never to interfere not to meddle or intervene. A code, very much like a fireman or a soldier, leave no man behind in a rescue, or put lives over your own if need be.

Why is it important to highlight these faceless footage heroes? Mostly because we just consume programming, watch and forget?

Are we as interconnected as nature or becoming seperate and getting further

disconnected? What makes Animal Planet and Discovery channel so universally popular? Are animals just

a modern spectacle to enjoy from tvt? Can we be making their lives harder after

watching them now for decades long. Even though they subconsciously follow and obey some primal force to serve habitats unendingly and all the webs of life? Is just having a dog, visiting a zoo, or keeping a pet snake, or an aquarium, all that

most of us really need to do? If humanity had a primal force how would you describe it? Ex. What if a pack of lions would devour everything in the

savannah 80 zebras at single time what would happen then? What if a school of sharks never stopped hunting or got full

Inside Being a Wildlife Photographer

Many of us are often enticed by footage and camera captures of wildlife. We sit on sofas, chairs, seats, ottomans watching programs or scrolling through nature videos, taking in animal features and dramatic interactions. But how many stop, to think of what it takes to actually capture those images?

The job of a wildlife photographer or videographer is not easy to compare with a cubicle worker. These professionals leave the warmth of their homes, their family dwelling, wait hours or even days in some of the harshest environments, waiting for the optimal video take or shot. Unlike urban professionals, no lunch breaks to sandwich shops or coffee rooms when they need food or to wind down.

However, many photographers and videographers find great satisfaction in the work.

Wildlife Therapy can be the Best Therapy

Marion Killian is a wildlife photographer who describes his experiences with wildlife as immersive therapy. He has to stay in specific areas for days, or longer to find the proper required shot. However, this practice has helped develop patience, timing, & heightened awareness.

He becomes deeply connected to his surroundings as he spends time in nature. The photographer gets in tune with the rhythm of nature and animals, maintaining a sense of stress-relieving mindfulness. He sees his work experience as a welcome break from electronic devices.

The true satisfaction comes when he finally gets his shot. He becomes so absorbed during his sessions that there have been times when he realizes he hasn't eaten for hours. The final product is a fulfilling reward that more than shows the fruits of his labor.

Other beneficial Aspects of Wildlife Photography

Many photographers describe wildlife photography and videography as therapeutic, but there is a dark side. Without the rationality of humans, animals can act vicious. They attack and die.

A German photographer, Jens Ludwig, describes seeing a mother deer running around frantically, displaying uncharacteristic behavior. He then spotted a dead fawn and knew the mother was traumatized by her veal calf's death. The photographer described the incident as "extremely saddening."

Keri Fisher of Canada describes the stress of a rigorous schedule. On a mission to capture a photo of an adult female leopard, she traveled to the Sabi Sands region of South Africa, a long and tiring journey. Once there, she had to wake up at dawn every single day for two weeks to search for wildlife. However, her photograph made it all worthwhile.

Senthil Kumaran, of India is a popular tiger enthusiast. Fascinated by these magnificent predators at the early age of ten, he finally encountered one while photographing elephants in the wild. He received word a tiger had entered a nearby village and rushed over to capture its unlikely detour.

By the time he had arrived, the tiger laid dead in the back of some house. Civilians and rangers had attacked it to save their village. Kumaran was deeply disappointed as he knew and understood the dark side of people.

Photographers also deal with the emotional toll of losing touch with friends and family, loneliness, and isolation of long trips.

Although wildlife photography can be deeply solemn and mundane, it comes with the territory. Professionals must develop a thick skin to survive the toll of traveling and its emotional draw. If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.

Emotional cost to Animals

Wildlife photography can take an emotional toll on photographers, but what about animals? How do they feel when nosy humans start to invade their habitats sometimes noticed or unnoticed? Research reveals that wildlife photographers benefit animals too although more research is needed to prove this existence.

Typically, wildlife photographers spend some time researching the ecosystem before setting out on photography expeditions. Doing so ensures they integrate well with their surroundings and won't cause much of a disturbance.

Additionally, photographers and videographers often raise awareness on animal issues like extinction, habitat loss, illegal trade, and invasive species. They encourage others to support the issues so animals can survive.

However, ethical concerns exist, including following not to:

• Feed Animals: Photographers often give animals food to attract them, make them draw closer, and get favorable shots. However, when animals get used to humans giving out food, they lose some survival instincts to forage and may be unable to survive as before in the wild.

• Gardening: This practice involves photographers removing twigs and grass from nests to take better shots of the birds. It disturbs the natural habitat and is considered unethical. Some organizations ban all nesting shots from competitions, understanding an implied preference and respect to be not disturbed.

The Physical Dangers of Photography

Animals are unpredictable and may attack even the most skilled photographers. And that's far from the only threat against a photographer's physical safety. Disease, weather incidents, and a lack of clean food and water pose other possible threats.

• Protecting Against Animal Attacks: Photographers are advised to use specialized equipment to capture shots from a

distance, obeying the principle need to 'never interfere or intervene.'They may also use equipment that responds to motion to capture shots when they are not around. This strategy requires careful calculation, ensuring they capture the best shot, but it could be the difference between injury or missed opportunity.

• Disease: Photographers may travel to remote locations,increasing the risk of viruses or malaria. They may consume unsafe food that may pose a threat of salmonella or typhoid fever. Professionals should talk to their doctors before setting off on their trip to ensure they are vaccinated and take other preventative measures. They should also make their own food if possible.

• Use Mapping Technology: Setting down a map may be nearly impossible if you are in a remote location. A smartphone with offline maps may be the best solution.

• Bring Emergency Supplies: Photographers should carry many tools alongside their cameras. Other equipment to bring along includes a kerosine lamp, a knife, first aid, and insect repellent.

• Know Local Regulations: Local regulations may limit how and what you photograph. Some locations may have laws that regulate the use of specific equipment. There may also be restrictions regarding areas you can access without a local guide.

• Staying Safe: Animals are not the biggest threat. People can also be dangerous, including poachers, and smugglers. Violence may occur in key remote areas. Avoid incidents by keeping your expensive equipment hidden and only removing it if necessary. Travel in groups if possible.

Is Wildlife Photography Worth It?

With all the stress of wildlife photography and videography, it makes one wonder, is it worth it? Could we not just sit at home

with our domestic pets, especially knowing
that wildlife can share no bounds of comfort? Likely, no.

There is a genuine fascination with wildlife that domestic pets could never replace, no matter how exotic. Their behaviors, honed by natural selection, intricate mating rituals, complex social structures, and unique survival skills, make them endlessly fascinating. Wild animals' unspoiled, diverse environments showcase beauty and frailty rarely found in other ecosystems. Their unpredictability and sense of mystery make them nothing short of captivating.

What's more, wildlife protects habitats that are essential also to human survival.

So, I tip my hat to those who bravely navigate the wilderness, risking life and limb to entitle us to unique worlds and raise awareness of environmental issues that might otherwise be unnoticed. It requires a unique skill few can possess or care to develop.

What could have come of our world had Aztec or Mayan society been kept unintruded and ravaged?

As Aztec and Mayan empires stand as two of the most prominent indigenous civilizations in

the Americas, their legacies unfolding long before the arrival of Spanish colonizers in the late

15th century. Each civilization emerged in unique ecological and cultural landscapes, yet both

reached impressive pinnacles of sophistication in a multitude of fields. During their respective

heydays, the Mayan civilization flourished in the lush jungles and varied terrain of the Yucatán

Peninsula and parts of Guatemala and Belize, while the Aztec Empire rose to prominence in the

highlands of central Mexico, centered in the bustling city of Tenochtitlán (modern-day Mexico

City). Through their notable achievements in agriculture, architecture, mathematics, astronomy,

and social organization, these civilizations laid the groundwork for dynamic communities—ones

that, if left undisturbed by European colonial influence, might have developed even more

complex cultural and scientific contributions over centuries.

The Mayan civilization, which reached its zenith between approximately 250 and 900 CE during

what is known as the Classic Period, demonstrated extraordinary proficiency in writing, art, and

science. They developed a hieroglyphic script that remains one of the most sophisticated and

intricate written languages of the ancient world, allowing them to record historical events,

astronomical observations, and mythological narratives. Their achievements in mathematics are

evidenced by their use of a base-20 (vigesimal) number system and the concept of zero, a

mathematical development that was extraordinarily advanced for its time. In parallel, Mayan

astronomers meticulously observed celestial events, crafting complex calendars that

harmonized ritual, divination, and astronomical cycles. Their knowledge of the cosmos enabled

them to create precise astronomical models—a practice that not only influenced their religious

and ceremonial life but also provided a structured framework for timekeeping and agricultural

planning.

In contrast, the Aztec Empire, which came to prominence from the 14th to the 16th century,

distinguished itself through its striking urban planning, monumental architecture, and a robust

social and political structure. At the heart of this empire lay Tenochtitlán, a city built ingeniously

on an island in the middle of Lake Texcoco. The city featured a network of canals and

causeways that efficiently facilitated trade, communication, and transportation—a precursor to

modern urban planning techniques that value connectivity and sustainable infrastructure. The

Aztecs engineered chinampas, also known as floating gardens, which allowed them to cultivate

crops on lake surfaces by creating highly productive agricultural plots. This innovation not only

provided a stable food supply but also demonstrated the Aztecs ’resourcefulness in adapting to

their challenging natural environment.

Both civilizations were also deeply committed to the arts and engaged their societies in rich

cultural traditions. Elaborate ceremonies and rituals were woven into the fabric of daily life, with

vibrant artistic expressions found in sculpture, painting, and ceramics. These artistic traditions

were not merely decorative; they served to communicate complex societal values, religious

beliefs, and historical narratives. Temples, pyramids, and palaces were constructed with a

precision and grandeur that underscored the civilizations ’reverence for cosmic order and social

hierarchy, while also providing centers for communal gathering, governance, and ritual

observance.

Imagining a scenario in which these empires survived the Spanish conquest—or perhaps were

never discovered by European powers at all—opens up an intriguing realm of alternate history

and speculative development. Had the Aztec and Mayan civilizations been allowed to flourish

uninterrupted for an additional 600 years or more, the evolution of agriculture in these regions

might have been extraordinary. In the Aztec realm, the already sophisticated chinampa system

could have been refined through centuries of cumulative innovation, integrating modern

scientific methodologies with ancestral ecological wisdom. Similarly, in the varied terrains of the

Mayan regions, terraced farming methods and advanced water management strategies might

have evolved into highly efficient agroecosystems, offering enduring food security for an even

denser and more interconnected populace.

Architecture, a field that flourished in both civilizations, would likely have experienced a dynamic

evolution. In places like Tenochtitlán, the legacy of monumental stone constructions might have

seamlessly blended with modern techniques—leading to the construction of sprawling

metropolises that honored ancient forms while incorporating green building practices, renewable

energy sources, and new materials developed through centuries of indigenous innovation.

Contemporary adaptations of pre-colonial designs could include an integration of natural

ventilation systems, solar energy harnessing rooftops, and integrated urban gardens, all

reflecting a conscious balance between heritage and progress. In regions that historically

belonged to the Mayan civilization, cities might have expanded in a manner that intertwined

vernacular architecture with modern urban planning principles, creating urban landscapes that

celebrated historical aesthetics even as they embraced technological and infrastructural

advances.

Social structures within these enduring civilizations would have likely evolved along paths

markedly different from those in colonized societies. Freed from the hierarchical systems

imposed during European colonial rule, indigenous governance models based on communal

decision-making and egalitarian principles may have deepened over time, potentially developing

into sophisticated democratic systems. Such continuous evolution in social organization might

have ensured a society that balanced tradition with innovation—a society where education,

public welfare, and healthcare systems were built upon centuries of indigenous knowledge and

practice. The community-centric approach intrinsic to these cultures could foster an environment

where citizens were active participants in political processes, prioritizing common good and

sustainability over centralized authoritarian structures.

Fashion, as an expression of cultural identity, would also have seen a symbiotic evolution

blending tradition with modernity. Traditional garments—rich with symbolism, vibrant colors, and

intricate designs passed down through generations—could have informed modern fashion

sensibilities to create a unique aesthetic that celebrated indigenous craftsmanship. Locally

sourced textiles, combined with contemporary designs and sustainable production methods,

might emerge as globally influential trends, reshaping the global fashion industry by

reintroducing indigenous patterns and materials into mainstream culture. Such a melding of old

and new would also serve to reinforce the pride of indigenous heritage in a modern context,

demonstrating that progress need not come at the expense of cultural identity.

The contributions of a continuously thriving Aztec and Mayan heritage to global knowledge

systems could have been monumental. Their deep understanding of astronomy might have

advanced navigation and space exploration technologies, with indigenous methods of celestial

observation influencing modern scientific instruments and theories. Mathematical innovations,

particularly those arising from the Mayan base-20 system and their nuanced concept of zero,

could have provided alternative viewpoints that influenced contemporary mathematical research

and computer science. Additionally, a dynamic and extensive trade network, advanced long

before European intervention, might have facilitated the exchange of innovative ideas,

technologies, and cultural practices with civilizations around the world—thus contributing to a

more richly interconnected global community.

Had these civilizations persevered without the disruption of European colonization, the modern

socio-economic landscape in regions like Mexico City and Guatemala might look strikingly

different today. Urban centers deeply rooted in indigenous heritage could feature cultural

institutions, educational systems, and economic frameworks built upon centuries of continuity.

With a strong emphasis on sustainable agriculture and indigenous resource management, these

regions might boast reduced poverty levels, greater food security, and robust community

resilience. The uninterrupted development of indigenous knowledge systems would imply a

society that not only preserved its cultural identity but also drove innovations in environmental

management, public health, and technological advancement that were both progressive and

rooted in ancient wisdom.

In conclusion, envisioning the survival and continual development of the Aztec and Mayan

civilizations offers a compelling alternate history—one where indigenous societies were allowed

to navigate the complexities of modernization on their own terms. The enduring legacy of these

civilizations would have fostered environments rich in cultural heritage, scientific inquiry, and

socio-economic creativity. Far from merely structures frozen in time, these societies could have

evolved into dynamic, multifaceted cultures that seamlessly blended ancient traditions with

modern innovations. In such a world, the contributions of indigenous voices would be central to

global civilization, reshaping everything from the built environment to the very fabric of our

technological and cultural progress.

Each type of professional would bring their unique lens to the project. It really depends on

whether you want a purely academic perspective, a creative narrative, or something in between.

What style are you thinking? Analytical, creative, or blended?

It's a fascinating thought experiment. If the Maya civilization had remained undisturbed from the

14th century to today, they might have developed in ways that could rival or even surpass other

societies. Their advanced knowledge in astronomy, mathematics, and architecture suggests

they had the potential for remarkable innovation.

they had the potential for remarkable innovation.

As for their perspective on societies that excluded them, it's hard to say. They might have been

impressed by technological advancements but repulsed by the environmental degradation and

social inequalities that often accompany them. The Maya had a deep connection to nature and

a strong sense of community, so they might have found some aspects of modern society

alienating.

What do you think they would say about the world today? Would they see it as progress or a

cautionary tale?

The Aztec and Mayan empires were two of the most prominent indigenous civilizations in the

Americas, flourishing before the arrival of Spanish colonizers in the late 15th century. At their

peaks, the Mayan civilization thrived in the Yucatán Peninsula and parts of Guatemala and

Belize, while the Aztec Empire, centered in Tenochtitlán (modern-day Mexico City), dominated

central Mexico. Both cultures made significant advancements in various fields, including

agriculture, architecture, mathematics, and astronomy, which laid the groundwork for complex

societies capable of producing cultural and scientific contributions that could have evolved

significantly over the centuries had they been untouched by European colonialism.

The Mayan civilization reached its zenith between 250 and 900 CE, displaying unparalleled

achievements in writing, art, and science. Their scientific knowledge included a sophisticated

understanding of astronomy, which allowed them to create intricate calendars still revered

today. They constructed impressive stone cities adorned with pyramids, temples, and palaces,

showcasing their architectural prowess. In contrast, the Aztec Empire, from the 14th to the 16th

century, became renowned for its extensive urban planning, monumental architecture, and

complex social structure. The capital city of Tenochtitlán was one of the largest urban centers in

the world, built on an island in Lake Texcoco with a vast network of canals and causeways that

facilitated trade and communication.

Imagining a scenario in which these empires survived the Spanish conquest or remained

undiscovered presents an intriguing vision for the development of these regions. If the Aztec

and Mayan civilizations were allowed to flourish for an additional 600 years, it is plausible that

their advancements in agriculture would have culminated in sustainable practices adapted to

their diverse environments. Techniques such as chinampas (floating gardens) in the Aztec

region or terraced farming in the Mayan landscapes could have evolved into highly efficient

agricultural systems that support a flourishing populace with improved food security.

Architecture would likely reflect a continued evolution of the pre-colonial styles, with grander and

more sophisticated constructions that incorporate indigenous building materials and techniques

while reflecting the changing societal needs. Cities like Tenochtitlán might have expanded into

sprawling metropolises with intricate infrastructure, featuring modern adaptations such as green

building techniques harnessing local materials and environmentally sustainable designs.

Guatemala’s cities would resonate with a mix of ancient grandeur and modern urban planning

principles, emphasizing harmony with nature.

Social structures within these civilizations would likely show advancement toward more inclusive

and egalitarian models. Without the imposition of European colonial hierarchies, indigenous

systems of governance might have evolved into democratic forms informed by communal

decision-making processes. Traditional knowledge systems regarding health, spirituality, and

education would continue to play vital roles, leading to societies that celebrate their cultural

heritage while progressively incorporating scientific advancements.

Fashion, deeply influenced by cultural identity, could blend traditional garments with modern

styles while emphasizing sustainable practices. Textiles produced from local materials may

reflect vivid patterns and colors reminiscent of ancient artistic traditions, showcasing local

artisanship while also adapting to contemporary aesthetics.

The contributions of these thriving indigenous civilizations to global knowledge systems could

have been monumental. Achievements in astronomy could have led to advancements in

navigation and understanding celestial phenomena, while mathematical concepts derived from

their base-20 system might influence modern mathematical disciplines. A thriving trade network

established long before European intervention could have facilitated a rich exchange of ideas,

technological advancements, and agricultural products with other global civilizations, potentially

reshaping the geopolitical landscape.

Had these empires been allowed to persist, the modern socio-economic landscape would likely

be considerably altered. Regions such as Mexico City and Guatemala, with thriving cultural

centers that embody a pride in indigenous heritage, could be characterized by reduced poverty

levels and increased self-sufficiency. Indigenous knowledge would result in robust systems of

agriculture and resource management, ensuring food security and community resilience.

In conclusion, the survival of the Aztec and Mayan civilizations would have fostered

environments rich in cultural heritage, scientific advances, and socio-economic cohesion. The

rich tapestry of life in these regions could reflect a harmonious blend of ancient wisdom and

modern innovation. This alternate history envisions not just prosperity for indigenous peoples

but also a world where indigenous voices and contributions would be integral to global