



WE ALWAYS GO AND LOOK AT THESE PLACES TO SEE HOW DIFFERENT WE ARE. WHAT WE ACTUALLY REALIZE IS HOW SIMILAR WE ARE.

| CHARLIE HAMILTON JAMES, PHOTOGRAPHER |

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PHOTOGRAPHER AND FILMMAKER

Charlie Hamilton James is a photojournalist who specializes in wildlife and conservation. His work requires specialized equipment, much of which he makes. Hamilton James has a particular interest in exposing “the brilliance of nature” in order to better document, understand, and save it. He has been obsessed with kingfishers—brightly plumed ambush hunters—since he was six, and with otters since he was ten. He has since become an authority on both, photographing kingfishers for *National Geographic* in 2009 and river otters in 2013.

Fiercely motivated to protect the rain forest habitat of Peru’s Manú National Park, a place where he has worked for the past 20 years, Hamilton James purchased a 100-acre plot of land adjoining the park, only to learn he had acquired an illegal coca plantation along with it. His misadventures are featured in both the June 2016 issue of *National Geographic* and a three-part series by the BBC entitled *I Bought a Rainforest*. In the series, Hamilton James went on a journey to discover the real Amazon—living with illegal loggers, working in a gold mine, taking mind-altering drugs with shaman, hunting the Machiguenga indians, and photographing uncontacted tribes. The result was dramatic and powerful—described by *The Guardian* as, “*Survivor* meets *The Mosquito Coast* meets *Apocalypse Now* meets *Breaking Bad*.” He has since returned to Manu National Park to cover its wildlife and people for *National Geographic*.

When not in the field photographing, Hamilton James shoots natural history films for clients including the BBC, and others, through his production company Halcyon Media LTD, which he runs with his wife Philippa Forrester. He also does on-air work as a TV presenter for various BBC programs, including *Halcyon River Diaries*, which documented the year he and his family spent living on the river outside their house. Hamilton James has been nominated for Emmy awards and twice won the Royal Television Society award for photography.

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