

BIO

Sarah Marquis

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER



*« If you add up all her expeditions in the past 25 years,
she has circumnavigated the planet once ...
on foot and alone »*

Above all else, Adventure is a state of mind, a way to see things. It's often a solitary process that awakens people's fundamental principles, choices and curiosity. Setting off on an adventure is going beyond your limits; it's feeling through your body, your senses and your spirit the foundations of your being, your very nature.

SARAH PREPARES FOR A LIFETIME OF ADVENTURE

She enjoyed a wild childhood in the countryside, climbing trees and watching birds for hours. As a child, she burned with an intense curiosity. This inner thrill for discovery would shape her, make her flexible but strong. She emerged from childhood ready for the next step.

SHE STARTS HUNTING ...

With no pocket money, Sarah started the thankless task of slug hunting in the family vegetable garden at the age of seven. She earned 1 franc for every 100 slugs. No matter the weather, she worked and saved to have the 8 francs she needed for a copy of her dream magazine, the National Geographic.

FIRST EXPLORATION STEPS

This isn't her first attempt. When she was eight years old she took off with her dog to spend the night in a cave and didn't tell anyone where she was going. Her taste for travelling brought her to Australia, but it was in New Zealand where she encountered the full experience of walking during a year of hiking and made her decision: she would walk to fulfill her desire for discovery and her need to try and understand Life.

She spent time in Patagonia, where kilometer after kilometer she explored the land. She lived in Moorea (French Polynesia) where she was attracted to the beauty of the islands and their inhabitants. She explored Canada by canoe and in 2000 she crossed on foot the United States, from the Canadian to the Mexican border: 4'260 kilometers in four months and six days, a path full of obstacles on the famous Pacific Crest Trail.

She then thought she had reached the limit of her abilities. Until the Australian bush beckoned her once again - over the years she has regularly returned there to rejuvenate. From up in her snowy mountains in Switzerland, she thought up a wild plan: crossing the Australian deserts alone on foot...

- ➤ 2000 - Sarah walked the Pacific Crest Trail from the Canadian border to the Mexican border in 4 months and 6 days
- ➤ 2002 / 2003 - Sarah walked alone 14'000 km in the Australian outback in 17 months and spent five hundred and ten (510) days wandering through

the Australian continent alone. The thought of abandoning her mission never even crossed her mind. Faced with Mother Nature's unforgiveness, she humbly confronted her destiny by pushing beyond both her physical and her mental limits. Her basis for survival was her experience. She used her flair, her tricks and some leading-edge survival techniques borrowed from the US Army. Most of the time the animals she preyed on were faster than her. Sometimes nature pitied her and allowed her to satisfy her appetite. Her only points of reference were her precious topographic maps and a compass that never left her side.

- ➤ 2006 - Sarah walked on the land of the Incas, from Chile to Peru via Bolivia. Her footsteps followed the top of the Andes ranges for eight months: 7000 kilometres and food drops has been carefully planned by her brother.
- ➤ 2010 - 2013 – For 3 years Sarah walked alone from Siberia to Australia meeting the wisdom of Central Asia, the tale-telling forces of the winds of the Mongolian Plains, and the moodiness of the administration in China, to finally arrive on May 17th, 2013 in South Australia (Nullarbor plain). Exactly where she promised her little tree many years ago to return.
- ➤ 2013 - AWARD - Sarah win the European Adventurer of the year
- ➤ 2014 - AWARD - NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC – Nominated Adventurer of the year
- ➤ 2014 - MILESTONE - With her 4th book « Wild by Nature » Sarah became a bestseller foreign author with 180'000 copies sold in the french market only. This book will be translated in Russian, Italian, German, and English
- ➤ 2015 - National Geographic Explorer Sarah Marquis completed her solo surviving Expedition of the Kimberley's in Western Australia. Over a course of 3 months starting on June 6, she walked through while living off the land and arrived at her finish point on September 6. Sarah survived the harsh conditions of the drought, close calls with saltwater crocodiles, bushfires and other dangers of the WILD Australian bush. She is one of the rare white persons who's able to survive meanwhile living off the land. This expedition has been 20 years in the making ... all her knowledge came from the aboriginal people, her experiences...but trial & error is still part of the game...

“ Taking risk is gaining knowledge about yourself and knowing your real place on this planet ”

- > 2018 - the Quest of the Tasmanian Tiger - Sarah always dreamed of finding him... So she set up an expedition and all alone she faced the unforgettable weather system coming directly from Antarctica, during 3 long months she moved on the ground of the untouched dense rainforest. Below the canopy it was dark, humid and it turned out death would be part of this expedition. Sarah Marquis played with her destiny when these giant ancient trees decided to fall with her in the vicinity – with nowhere to run, she felt trapped and powerless. She set up a camera trap every night, without losing hope... Until that day in a slippery mudslide descent she smelled his unforgettable body odour ... the tiger was here ! But her journey took another turn.

In the middle of a lost land she felt deep inside a ravine, regained consciousness on the bottom only to realise the left side of her body was no longer responding. She would then crawl out of the gorge during 3 long epic days before she could be rescued. An ordeal full of pain and wisdom. The explorer has been forced into immobilisation for two weeks, her broken shoulder would need six weeks for a full recovery but restless she took off after fifteen days...and started walking again...she was then only three weeks away from her arriving point. Her shoulder broke again during that time but one thing she was not ready to do was “giving up”.

It was more than an expedition. Sarah fought for her survival. And as she said: she was never really alone...

> 2018 - During the next six months she regained strength from her broken shoulder, she refused to do physiotherapy instead Sarah decided to build a tiny house on the top of a mountain in the Swiss Alps with her little brother Joel... It was one of her many dreams to live in a tiny space in the forest faraway from everything.

> 2018 – Wintertime : They finished just before the first snow, she wrote her 7th book inside the tiny house near the fireplace, surrounded by deep snow. Her last book “ J’ai réveillé le tigre “ (I woke up the tiger) hit the market in 2019 thanks to her loyal publishing house - Michel Lafon Paris

> 2020 - For the joy of her many readers she is writing a new book - a fiction - and a new expedition awaits.