

Lifestyle

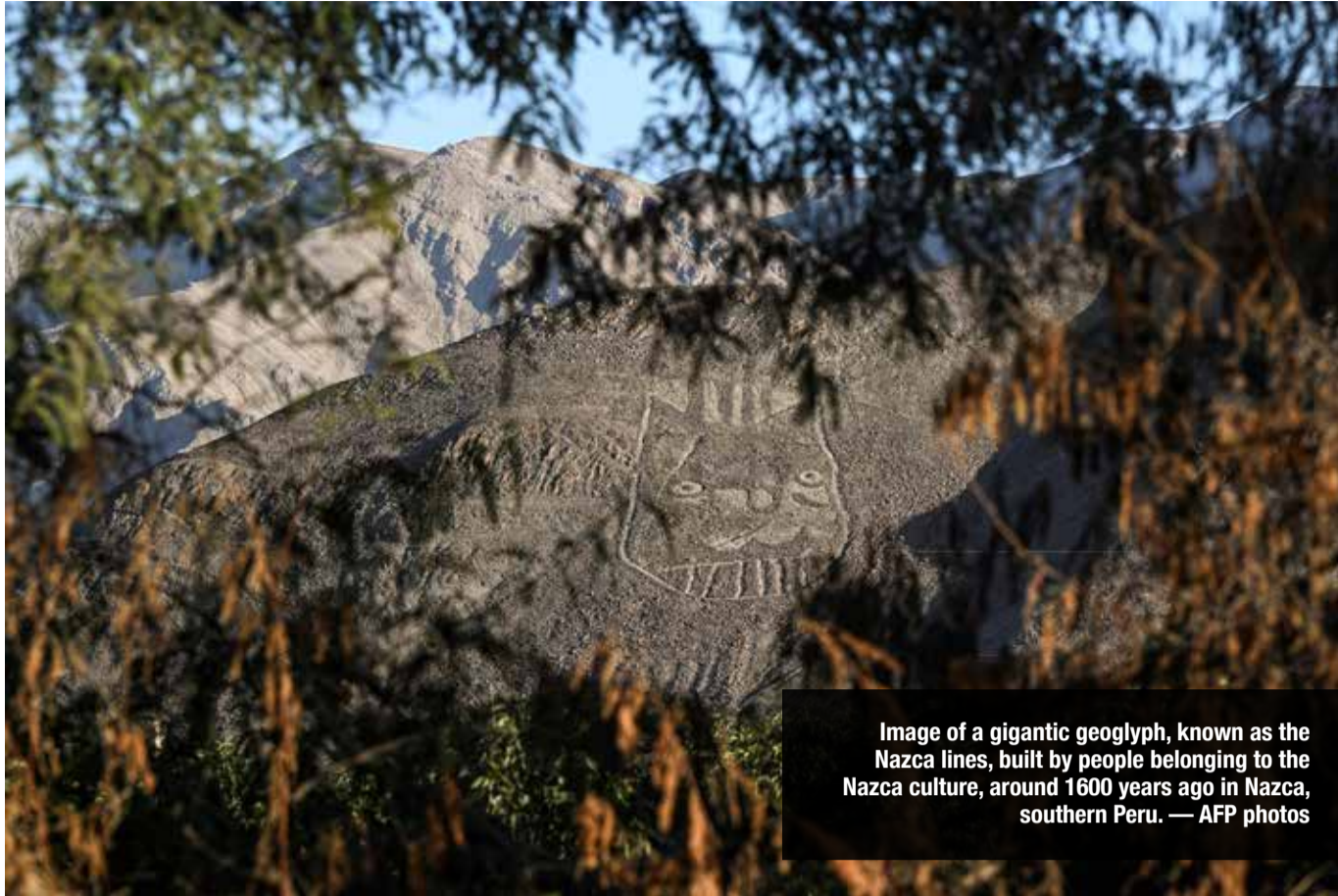


Image of a gigantic geoglyph, known as the Nazca lines, built by people belonging to the Nazca culture, around 1600 years ago in Nazca, southern Peru. — AFP photos



View of one of the Cantalallo aqueducts, built by people belonging to the Nazca culture, around 1600 years ago in Nazca, southern Peru.



A man walks inside one of the Cantalallo aqueducts, built by people belonging to the Nazca culture, around 1600 years ago in Nazca, southern Peru.

PRE-HISPANIC AQUEDUCTS IRRIGATE MODERN PERUVIAN CROPS

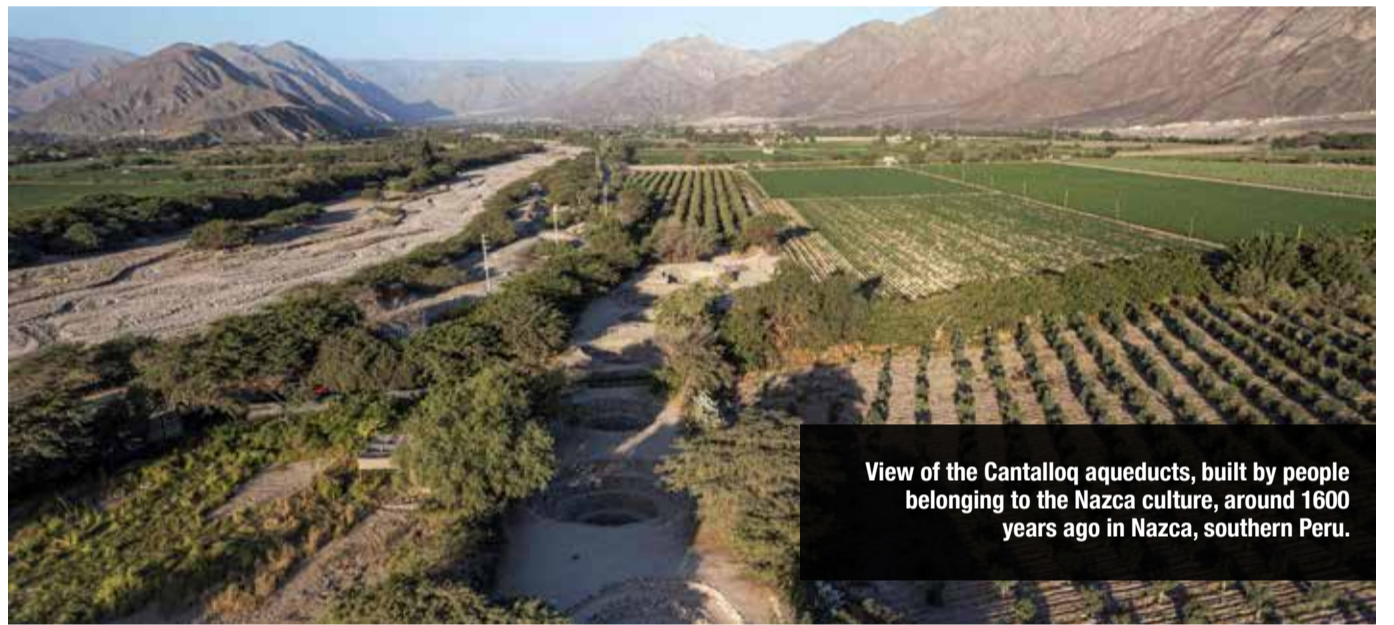


Image of gigantic geoglyphs, known as the Nazca lines, built by people belonging to the Nazca culture, around 1600 years ago in Nazca, southern Peru.

Built some 1,700 years ago by the pre-Hispanic Nazca people of Peru, an ingenious aqueduct system of wood and stone still provides farmers with water to this day. The complex labyrinth of channels and pits up to 15 meters (49 feet) deep brings critical drinking and irrigation water from far-away mountains and rivers to about 900 subsistence farming families in the Nazca desert in southern Peru.

In an otherwise arid landscape, they grow potatoes, cotton, vegetables and fruit trees. "It helps us to irrigate," said farmer Nicolas Quispe, 39, who waters his potatoes from the Nazca aqueduct system "thanks to the ancient farmers who had this advanced technology." Families like his pay a yearly fee equivalent to about \$32 for the supply. Often hailed as a marvel of ancient hydraulic engineering, the aqueducts have been submitted by Peru to UNESCO for listing as a cultural heritage.

According to the UN body, until the aqueducts were built, the shortage of water in the Peruvian desert hindered human settlement in an area where rivers are dry for most of the year. "The inhabitants of the Nazca culture managed to use the water from the underground water table through a technological innovation, formed by underground aqueducts that operated through a system of



View of the Cantalallo aqueducts, built by people belonging to the Nazca culture, around 1600 years ago in Nazca, southern Peru.

filtering galleries," the UNESCO website explains. "It is a simple system apparently, but at the same time it is sophisticated."

The system can transport some of 18 to 20 liters of water per second, according to Peruvian authorities. The aqueducts, 42 in total, are believed to have been built by the same people responsible for Peru's famous Nazca lines - a series of geometric and animal figures

carved into the desert which can only be appreciated from the sky. The function or meaning of the lines - a World Heritage Site since 1994 - remain unclear. Some believe they were for astronomical observation, others that they were part of a calendar.

As for the aqueducts, "we estimate that 29 are still in operation and thanks to this hydraulic system, as you can see, the entire valley is green," government

archaeologist Abdul Yalli told AFP. "This is a work of art, of architecture and of engineering," said Jorge Lopez-Doriga, a spokesman for the AJE Group multinational supporting local authorities in the upkeep of the aqueducts. "These stone channels, which had required the removal of millions of tons of sand to build, continue to function," he added. — AFP



Image of a Huarango tree (*Prosopis pallida*) of over 700 years old growing on top of rocks in Nazca, southern Peru.



View of the Cantalallo aqueducts, built by people belonging to the Nazca culture, around 1600 years ago in Nazca, southern Peru.



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Animal rights activists 'rescue' lambs from farm on royal estate

Animal rights campaigners said on Thursday they had "rescued" three lambs from slaughter on a farm on King Charles III's Sandringham estate in eastern England.

The Animal Rising activist group, which disrupted last month's Grand National steeplechase, said three of its members had entered the grounds of Appleton Farm on the royal estate late Wednesday and taken the lambs.

It posted footage on social media, arguing that the animals would have been sent for slaughter.

Three women - named as Rosa, Rose and Sarah - then turned themselves into police in Windsor, west of London, after posing for pictures outside the town's royal castle holding protest placards. One read: "I rescued the king's sheep". "They did this because rescuing animals from harm is the right thing to do," Animal Rising said on Twitter. "These women have acted out of compassion

and they stand by the belief that a jury of ordinary people will take the side of care and freedom.

"This is how we fix our broken relationship with animals." Police said they were investigating reports that three lambs had been stolen from a farm.

"Three women aged in their 20s and 30s voluntarily attended a police station... and were arrested on suspicion of theft," the force added. "They remain in custody."

Flower show targeted

Also on Thursday, police in London arrested three activists from the environmental pressure group Just Stop Oil, after they threw paint over a garden at the Chelsea Flower Show. The capital's Metropolitan Police said the trio were arrested on suspicion of criminal damage

and that its "enquiries are ongoing". The force released a picture showing orange paint splashed across an exhibit at the flower show, the highlight of the British horticultural year which opened to the public on Tuesday.

Just Stop Oil confirmed three women had thrown paint over a garden designed by Paul Hervey-Brookes, an award-winning plantsman, early on Thursday.

The group, which demands that the UK government stop all new fossil fuel projects, has staged a flurry of eye-catching direct-action protests in recent years. They include throwing tomato soup over Vincent van Gogh's "Sunflowers" painting and halting play at the World Snooker Championship after spraying orange powder on one of the tables. — AFP



This year's Eurovision reached 162 million viewers

Some 162 million viewers watched this year's Eurovision song competition held in Liverpool, the BBC said Friday also highlighting "record" engagement online.

The UK hosted the musical extravaganza on behalf of last year's winner Ukraine, due to the Russian invasion.

Sweden's Loreen secured a seventh victory for the Nordic country with the track "Tattoo" and made Eurovision history as the first woman to win the competition twice.

The contest "has never been more popular", said Noel Curran, director-general of the European Broadcasting Union that organized the competition. The figure counted viewers over the contest's three live shows - two semi-finals and the final - across 38 public service media markets.

In host country Britain around 9.9 million people tuned in for the Eurovision final on May 13, up 12 percent on last year.

Winner Sweden had an average audience of 2.3 million viewers, accounting for 82.3 percent of all TV viewers



in the country. Finland, which took second place, had 1.7 million viewers.

On TikTok, the three live shows were viewed 4.8 million times, while videos under the #Eurovision2023 hashtag garnered 4.8 billion views between April 30 and May 15.

Starting this year, viewers outside the 37 participating countries could take part in the voting process.

Votes were received from over 100 non-participating countries, including the United States, Canada, Turkey and New Zealand. — AFP