

NATURE . WILDLIFE

WILD SRI LANKA

3 x 52', 90' (ENG, GER, SPA)



Sri Lanka – rising from the waves, this is a land where not one, but two monsoons mark the seasons each year. Nowhere else on earth does the power to create, shape and sustain life seem as dazzlingly evident as on this island off the south-eastern coast of India. It is being ruled by one unstoppable natural force: water.

Delve into a land of spectacular creatures – from the largest mammal on Earth, the Blue whale, to some of the smallest. A journey from tangled and evergreen mangrove forests, surrounding the mountainous heart of the island, to pristine white sand beaches. There are more than a hundred rivers, running from the mountains down to the sea, that are fed by the monsoon rains. Sri Lanka harbours an incredible variety of animals: it's home to the endemic and elusive Sri Lankan leopard, to sloth bears and painted storks, jackals and monkeys – and some of the greatest concentrations of both mugger crocodiles and elephants.

From the goliaths in its ocean depths to the little-known mysteries of its cloud-shrouded peaks, this series is a journey through an ecological lushness found nowhere else on earth.



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1. Land of Lakes

In the grasses of Sri Lanka's scrub forests, a leopard stalks his prey. Here, food is plentiful, as populations of deer feed on the grass sustained by thousands of man-made lakes. These pools of blue are the centre of life on the flat plains of Sri Lanka. Sloth bears and painted storks, jackals, monkeys and some of the greatest concentrations of both mugger crocodiles and elephants to be found anywhere on earth swarm to their cool embrace...

2. Forest of Clouds

The forests of Sri Lanka rise above the rest of the country like islands out of the sea. Here, species found nowhere else in the world have been marooned on high forest plateaus, isolated from the rest of Sri Lanka, as they are unable to cross from one patch of forest to another. This mountainous terrain is exposed to not just one, but two monsoons each year, creating a distinct microclimate among these cloud-cloaked trees. Blue magpies, red-slender loris and purple-faced monkeys inhabit this strange, colourful – and ever-diminishing – world.

3. Coast of Giants

As the sun rises over the blue waters off the southern coast of Sri Lanka, the largest mammal on earth breaks the surface. Beneath these waves lives a unique population of pygmy blue whales, which feed, mate and play close to the shore in greater numbers than any other blue whale population on the planet. From tangled mangrove forests to pristine white-sand beaches, Sri Lanka's coastal waters present a show of nature's most magnificent marine mammals. And out at sea, thriving coral reefs hide ancient wrecks filled with fish, while hundreds of dolphins race among the waves. This is an oceanic island where water, above all things, rules.