

NATURE . WILDLIFE

WILD CANADA

4 x 52' (ENG, GER, SPA)



Fabulous landscapes and spectacular wildlife: O Canada!

This vast wild country, boasting the longest coastline in the world with shores on three oceans, has the greatest north-south latitude range of any nation in the world. Countless generations of humans have shaped Canada's nature for their own purposes and their own survival, ever since the kilometre-thick ice began to melt and the land beneath was exposed. Over time, next to humans an array of plants and animals invaded these regions as well – mammoths, moose, and musk ox were common sights in the vast plains of what now is Canada.

In this stunning documentary, a journey of exploration is at hand – to re-discover this remarkable and beautiful land with its fabulous landscapes and wildlife, seen through fresh eyes. Filming inside a beaver's lodge, following the track of bears, swimming deep underwater alongside whales, or taking a macro-look at ice crystals: this production has it all.



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 Produced by: River Road Films, Brian Leith, CBC, Radio Canada, CMF-FMC, Film Incentive BC, The Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit, Terra Mater Factual Studios, National Geographic Channels

1. The Eternal Frontier

Each year, the Atlantic Coast off Newfoundland sees one of Canada's greatest natural spectacles: humpback whales arrive here in spring, to feed on huge swarms of capelin. But the lushness of nature reaches way beyond the shores: the Iroquoian and Algonquian people created a rich and fertile homeland of oak forests and grasslands where wildlife thrived. At the edge of Canada's vast boreal forest, we meet polar bear cubs and in Canada's west coast province of British Columbia, we explore the world's largest intact temperate rainforest.

2. The Wild West

This episode features the region between the Western Canadian Pacific coastline and the Rocky Mountains - and it reveals the secrets of this lush land. The salmon run is one of our planet's greatest migrations. This sudden abundance of food attracts thousands of black bears. The mountain ranges further inland are the home of the Golden eagle. This bird can pick up double its bodyweight: in a dramatic sequence, a golden eagle grabs a dall sheep lamb and carries its prey away - for the benefit of its own chicks.

3. The Heartland

The heartland of Canada presents different landscapes and distinctive habitats: vast forests, countless lakes, and rolling grasslands. The prairie First Nations were great hunters, and they had been changing this landscape for thousands of years: from time to time, these people set fire to the prairie to clear the landscape and keep it open. The wide grass plains offered the perfect habitat for what is probably the most iconic animal of North America - the bison. The Canadian heartland is also studded with countless lakes which became a crucial resource for water birds on their long migration south. Snow geese are drawn there in large numbers, as well as sandhill cranes and huge flocks of ducks.

4. Ice Edge

Ice defines the Canadian Arctic, and it suits one creature more than any other - the polar bear. We follow a family as they travel to the ice edge - the hunting ground of these top predators of the Arctic. Once the temperatures begin to rise again, life starts to flourish. The Arctic summer is short but intense - during these months, more than half of the sea ice melts away. This largest annual transformation on our planet has fundamental effects on nature and wildlife. Yet, meanwhile scientists see a dramatic change: rising temperatures cause a larger sea ice melt. In summer, the Arctic sea ice cover has already reached a record low - wide areas of the Polar Sea are now ice-free for the first time.