

NATURE ENVIRONMENT

DOCUMENTARY
30 MIN.

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The Great Outdoors: Our National Parks

All around the globe, national parks play a key role in maintaining the ecological balance and biodiversity of our world. As nature reserves, they promote the natural and long-term development of extensive habitats and their species and ecosystems. National parks provide people with the scope and space for scientific research and education, as well as for leisure and tourism. This series takes a fascinating look at national parks all over the world. Using breathtaking footage, we show the unique character of these biospheres.

01 Vast Expanse – Grand Canyon National Park, USA [VoD](#) [HD](#)

Over millions of years, the Colorado River carved out a path up to 1,800 meters deep into the rock of the eponymous plateau, creating what is probably the most famous canyon in the world. It is a UNESCO world heritage site and the most popular national park in the USA, drawing some five million visitors every year.

02 Extraordinary Fauna – Humboldt National Park, Cuba [HD](#)

Cuba is an island with a wide variety of landscapes and is home to unique species of flora and fauna. The Alexander von Humboldt National Park ensures the continuance of one of the most extensive diversity of species in the world, while at the same time providing a place for scientific research and the sheer appreciation of the natural world.

03 Peaceful Coexistence – Pyrenees National Park, France [VoD](#) [HD](#)

With towering peaks of up to 3,000 meters, the mighty Pyrenean mountain range separates the Iberian Peninsula from the rest of Europe. The Pyrenees national park provides ample space for traditional agriculture in harmony with the seasons, and it offers protection to rare species of animals such as the griffon vulture, brown bear and Pyrenean chamois.

04 Unspoiled Coastal Forests – Slitere National Park, Latvia [HD](#)

Dense mixed forest covers the sand dunes at Cape Kolka on the Baltic coast and is home to lynxes, elks, beavers and many other animals. We document the cycle of seasons at Slitere National Park, which is also popular with hikers and mountain bikers.

05 Underwater Treasure Hunt – Cocos Island National Park, Costa Rica [VoD](#) [HD](#)

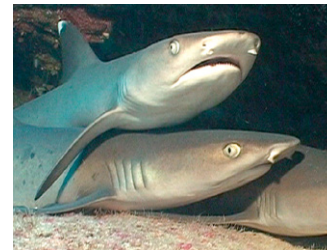
Cocos Island in the Pacific Ocean is the subject of many legends telling of pirate treasure. But the uninhabited tropical island's greatest treasure has to be its biodiversity, particularly underwater: This is undoubtedly one of the most spectacular places to dive in the world.

06 Alpine Beauty – Hohe Tauern National Park, Austria [VoD](#) [HD](#)

The Hohe Tauern National Park in the Austrian Alps encompasses mighty glaciers as well as the country's highest peak, the Grossglockner. This fascinating habitat has been shared by animals and people for millenia.

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- 07 No-Limits Eco-Tourism – Krüger National Park and Environs, South Africa** [VoD](#) [HD](#)
Krüger National Park is one of the largest game reserves in Africa. But during the dry season, the larger animals often leave the park and enter privately owned nature reserves that specialize in sustainable tourism. Maintaining the animals' freedom of movement is the first step towards enlarging the national park.
- 08 Protected Paradise – Tubbataha Reefs Natural Marine Park, The Philippines** [VoD](#) [HD](#)
Close to the center of the Sulu Sea in The Philippines is the world's most remote national park station. Nine rangers are on duty here protecting the Tubbataha Reef from illegal fishing and damage against the environment. The area, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site, is one of world's most spectacular diving regions and is regarded as a key breeding ground for many threatened species in the largely depleted waters of The Philippines.
- 09 The "Green Roof" of Europe – Šumava National Park, Czech Republic** [HD](#)
Along with the adjacent Bavarian Forest National Park in Germany, the Czech Šumava National Park forms central Europe's largest continuous forested area. Mountain plateaus and upland moors are characteristic features of the landscape. Along what used to be the heavily fortified "Iron Curtain", nature was left to flourish undisturbed. Animals here still avoid the area along the old border even though it is long gone.
- 10 Guardians of the Holy Mountain – Mount Kenya National Park, Kenya** [VoD](#) [HD](#)
At 5,200 meters, Mount Kenya is Africa's second tallest mountain. It straddles the equator and is the heart of the Mount Kenya National Park. The mountain is considered holy by the communities living near it. The unique fauna of the Mount Kenya National Park attracts poachers. Rangers protect the wildlife and assist visitors from around the world who come to climb the peaks.
- 11 A Desert By the Sea – Lençóis Maranhenses National Park, Brazil** [HD](#)
The dunes of Brazil's only desert, which extends from the Atlantic through the federal state of Maranhão 40 kilometers inland, call to mind enormous bed sheets. This is in fact the name of this National Park, which protects the bizarrely beautiful landscape of wind-swept dunes and crystal clear, deep blue freshwater lakes. Rangers ensure that tourists only enter the park on specially guided expeditions.
- 12 Conservation as Opportunity – Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park, Vietnam** [VoD](#) [HD](#)
Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the world's largest karst regions, with hundreds of caves and grottoes. There are also mountains and extensive tropical forests, home to a wide range of species. Tourism is flourishing, and that provides local people with a source of income. But even forty years after the end of the Vietnam War, Phong Nha-Ke Bang is still riddled with unexploded mines and bombs, which pose a serious risk to humans and animals.
- 13 Surrounded by Ice – Glacier Bay National Park, USA** [VoD](#) [HD](#)
The Glacier Bay National Park in southwest Alaska comprises more than 50 glaciers. The calving of the glaciers in the bay is a show-stopping natural spectacle. Receding ice levels have resulted in the development of an ecosystem that is just 200 years old, which also provides scientists with exciting research opportunities.
- 14 Rebuilding a Reserve – Bouba Ndjida National Park, Cameroon** [VoD](#) [HD](#)
The national park in northern Cameroon was established in 1968. After many years of neglect, it is once again being actively managed, thanks to close cooperation between the park authority and people living there. Bouba Ndjida is a refuge for eland antelopes, primates, wild cats, elephants and many other species.

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15 Nature Conservation Out at Sea – The Strait of Bonifacio International Marine Park, France and Italy [VoD](#) [HD](#)

This international marine park comprises a nature reserve on the French island of Corsica, a national park on the Italian island of Sardinia and the stretch of sea in-between, the Strait of Bonifacio. It is both a busy waterway and a protected ecosystem, frequented by supertankers and by rare animal and bird species. That presents conservationists with ecological and economic challenges.

16 Newfoundland's Raw Beauty – Gros Morne National Park, Canada [HD](#)

Canadians simply refer to the island of Newfoundland, situated to the east of the mainland, as "The Rock". The harsh climate of the North Atlantic defines the isolated rocky island and its fauna, with several species unique to the area. The national park plays a key role in the protection of the natural environment and the cultural legacy of the Newfoundlanders, preserving them for future generations.

17 Underwater World in Need of Protection – Western Pomerania Lagoon Area National Park, Germany [VoD](#) [HD](#)

The park serves to protect a unique landscape both beside and in the Baltic Sea in north-eastern Germany. Research divers are documenting the little-known underwater world, thereby drawing attention to both the beauty of and the threat facing the fragile ecosystem there. A night dive provides marine biologists and photographers with new insights.

18 Spectacular Mountainscapes – Rocky Mountain National Park, USA [VoD](#) [HD](#)

Visitors to the state of Colorado in the heart of the United States are greeted by a pristine environment of mountains and animal habitats with breathtaking views. There are more than 60 peaks over 4,000 meters here, in one of the highest national parks in the country. Adventurers can explore the wilderness on horseback.

19 Habitat for People and Animals – National Park of Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise, Italy [HD](#)

There are only a few dozen Marsican brown bears left in the wild. They are native to the rugged mountains and forests in and around the national park in the Apennines east of Rome. Wildlife photographer Bruno D'Amicis promotes conservation and sustainable tourism here in the wild heart of Italy, where you can observe bears, wolves, deer and chamois in their natural surroundings.