

Selection

Fall / Winter 2025/26

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Pharaohs at War

Step into the heart of Ancient Egypt with a groundbreaking series that brings to life the epic wars of the pharaohs. In four gripping episodes, we take viewers on an immersive journey of discovery, recreating the battles that forged one of history's greatest civilisations. With expert testimony, breathtaking CGI, and dynamic imagery, each episode reveals archaeological finds at the very locations where history was made.

Relive the moment when the brilliant military strategist Thutmose III led 15,000 men into combat at Megiddo, and witness the tense stand-off at Kadesh fortress where Ramses II and Hittite king Muwatalli II each claimed victory. March with 100,000 men and hundreds of elephants at Raphia, where Ptolemy IV and Antiochos the Great clashed, and sail into the waters of Actium for the pivotal naval clash when Cleopatra faced Octavian that led to the end of the Egyptian empire.

History & Biographies
4 x 50' UHD
Produced by Pernel Media
in association with RMC Story,
Histoire TV and ZDF Studios

NEW



History & Biographies

The Story of the Oceans

“How strange to call this planet Earth, when it is above all an ocean.”

Sir Arthur C. Clarke, science fiction writer and physicist

The Story of the Oceans is a journey across the seas and through time. A surprising history of the world – told not from the land, but from the water from which all life emerged. Each ocean has its own character, shaped by unique geological, geophysical and climatological characteristics and extraordinary phenomena – from the maelstrom to deep-sea trenches, mangrove coasts, straits, monsoons, and tides. In doing so, each writes a different cultural history, carried by the salt water that flows in the veins of its neighbours.

The series delves into a world that is largely unexplored. Most of the seabed remains unmapped. It is often said that even the surface of the moon is better explored than the underwater world. In fact, just five per cent of the deep sea is known. At the same time, cultural-historical research is beginning to recognise the importance of the oceans as a historical marker.

History & Biographies

5 x 50'

Scheduled for 2026

Produced by Story House Productions
in association with ZDF,
Arte and ZDF Studios

IN PRODUCTION





Ancient Greece – The Dark Chronicles

Ancient Greece is known as the birthplace of democracy, science, and architecture, but a darker reality hides beyond the shiny marble façade. This five-part series shows another side of Greek history, including menacing gods, oppressive laws, and brutal wars.

Each episode throws light on an era of Greek history, from the seafaring traditions of the Bronze Age to the aggressive expansionism of the Archaic period, from the glorious Classical period to the Peloponnesian War that drives the Greek world to the brink of destruction. Finally, we delve

into the story behind Alexander the Great, and the chaos that results from his death.

The series uses a team of international experts to explain key events, breathtaking photography, and innovative graphics to open viewers' eyes to the sinister side of Greek history.

History & Biographies

5 x 50'
Produced by Gruppe 5 for ZDFinfo
in association with ZDF Studios

NEW

How the Romans Conquered the Alps

In 15 BC, Roman Emperor Augustus aimed to conquer Germania, but first, he had to secure the direct route north through the Alps. Despite its importance, little was known about this campaign until researchers uncovered an ancient battlefield – and the highest military camp of the Roman Empire – in the Swiss canton of Grisons.

A team of archaeologists worked with forensic and ballistics experts to reconstruct the campaign, revealing for the first time the route and the weapons used. A surprising discovery was the usage of lead sling-bullets to neutralise the enemy from a distance. The findings reveal how Roman soldiers overcame harsh mountain conditions in battle and in daily life. In a single summer, the

army annexed vast regions of the Alps that joined the new Raetia province, remaining part of the Roman Empire for 400 years.

History & Biographies

1 x 50'
Produced by Bilderfest
in association with ZDF, SRF,
ZDF Studios and Arte

NEW





Kerry: Tides of Time

An exquisite two-part series that tells the rich and multi-dimensional story of County Kerry in Ireland. The first episode explores the lives of humans in the region who struggled over centuries to make a living among the woods, mountains and valleys alongside the flora and fauna. Episode two follows the story of a single, magical year, as we explore the area's most charismatic wild inhabitants, including red deer and puffins.

With contributions from renowned biologists and zoologists, the series portrays endemic species, highlighting the plight

of the vulnerable hen harrier, and provides rare access to hidden worlds – from badger clans to puffin colonies. Combining rare, intimate wildlife footage with breathtaking landscapes, the series reveals the intricate life cycle of Kerry's ecosystems, and the environmental advocacy of those fighting to protect these delicate habitats.

History & Biographies

2 x 50'
Produced by Silver Branch Films
in association with RTE, ZDF,
Arte and ZDF Studios

NEW



Ancient Apocalypse | S03

Throughout history, empires have risen to unimaginable heights, only to end in chaos and ruin. This series explores three powerful civilisations – the Roman Empire, the Carthaginian Empire, and the Old Kingdom of Egypt – uncovering the wars, diseases, climate shifts, and political turmoil that led to their respective downfall.

At the height of its power, the Roman Empire fractured due to internal

discord, barbarian invasions, and deadly plagues. The Mediterranean superpower, Carthage, was annihilated by Rome, leaving little trace of its legacy, while in Egypt's Old Kingdom, environmental disasters and political fragmentation ended the era of the pyramids.

Using expert insights, archaeological evidence, and historical records, the series reveals the hidden fragility of even the mightiest of civilisations –

and the unexpected forces that sealed their fate.

History & Biographies

15 x 50'
S01 (6 EP), S02 (6 EP), S03 (3 EP)
Produced by World Media Rights
for ZDF Studios and ZDFinfo

NEW SEASON

Fatal Conflicts: The Rise and Fall of Civilisations

Four ancient leaders. Two epic wars. Civilisations clash in a battle for supremacy – rewriting history forever.

Fatal Conflicts is a two-part documentary exploring two defining ancient rivalries: Xerxes vs Themistocles in the Second Greco-Persian War, and Hannibal vs Scipio in the Second Punic War. In each, a dominant empire, Persia or Carthage, faces a rising force, Greece or Rome.

Episode one follows Xerxes' invasion of Greece and Themistocles' bold naval resistance. Episode two sees Hannibal's daring campaign in Italy and Scipio's rise to challenge him. Told through cinematic recreations, stylised graphics, and expert insights, this series reveals how ambition and ideology shaped the ancient world. Through the eyes of four extraordinary leaders, *Fatal Conflicts* traces the razor's edge between triumph and ruin.

History & Biographies

4 x 50' or 2 x 90'
Produced by WildBear Entertainment
in cooperation with ZDF,
Arte and ZDF Studios

NEW



Maps of Power

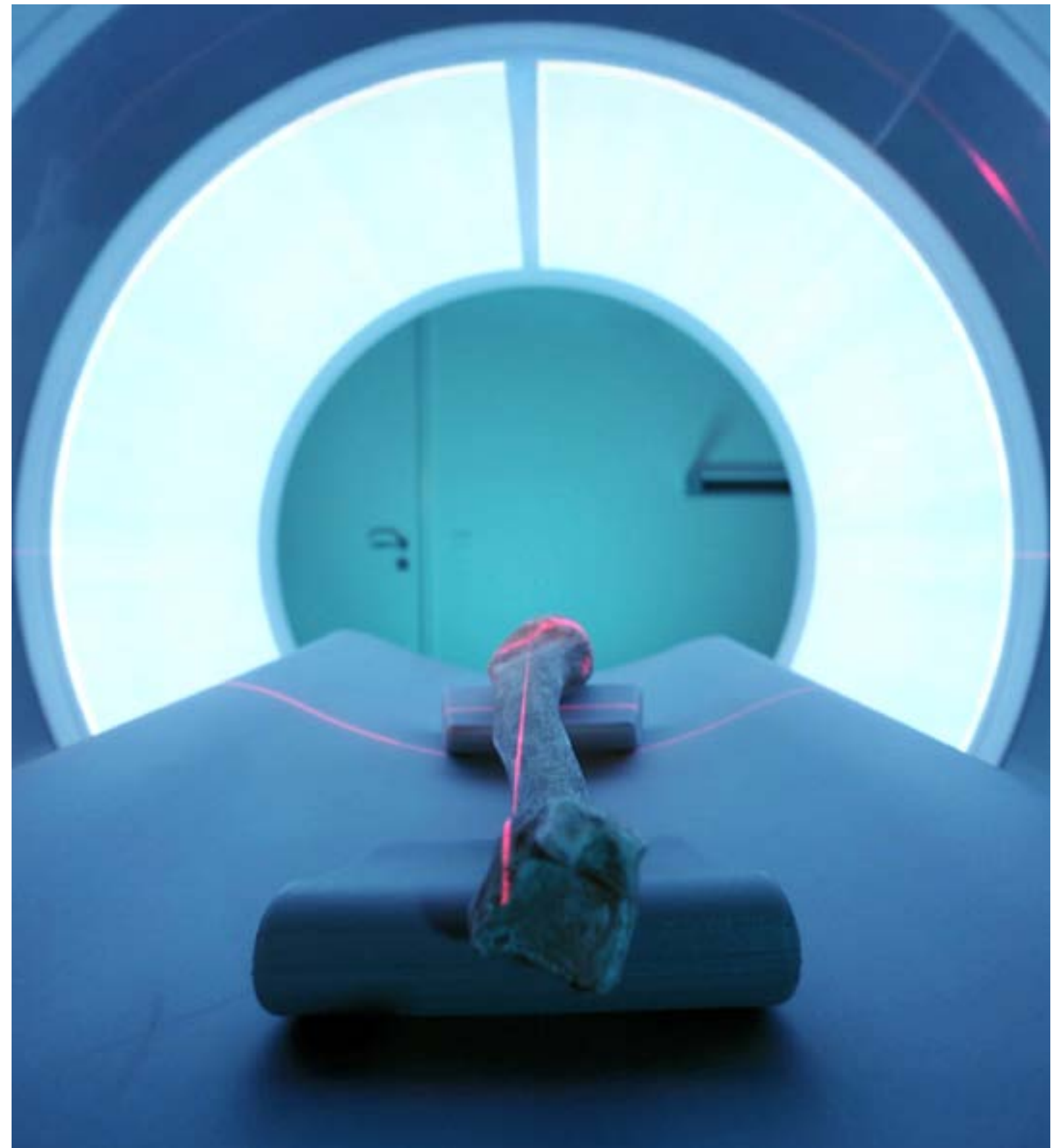
Since the dawn of time, geography has shaped the fate of nations. This three-part documentary explores how mountains, rivers, seas, and deserts have influenced the decisions of governments, as well as the rise of civilisations. Geography remains a constant force in history, from determining a nation's location on the world map to its access to natural resources.

While the USA's ascent as a global power was driven by its unique position between two oceans, Russia's history has been defined by its relentless search for warm-water ports. China's geopolitical importance stems from its historical position as the hub of Eurasian trade, from the ancient Silk Road to its current maritime dominance in the Pacific. Today's global powers owe their status and significance to natural forces. Geography is the ultimate creator of nations.

History & Biographies

3 x 50'
Produced by Storyhouse
in association with ZDF Studios for ZDF

NEW



Crime Scene: Antiquity

Crime is as old as humanity itself. And yet, some crimes continue to fascinate us to this day – often because they remain unsolved. Criss-crossing the globe, *Crime Scene: Antiquity* explores atrocities from across the centuries, including ones that changed the course

of history. From the mysterious death of a young Egyptian pharaoh to the murder of an infamous glacier mummy, and the sinister massacre in a Swedish castle, the perpetrators of these historical misdeeds have remained unknown. Until now.

With the use of modern forensics and experimental archaeological methods, a team of experts, including profilers,

weapons experts, geneticists, and historians, aim to solve these ancient cases and identify the perpetrators.

History & Biographies

5 x 50'
Produced by taglicht media Film- und Fernsehproduktion for ZDFinfo
in association with ZDF Studios

AVAILABLE



Hitler's Entourage

While Adolf Hitler was the face of National Socialism, he rose to power only with the cooperation and support of his closest accomplices. This six-part documentary series reveals the inner circle of power to portray the men and women who supported his ideology, enforced it, and ultimately benefitted from it.

Based on personal documents, historical footage, and the latest research, each episode sheds light on a central figure of the Nazi leadership – from the propagandist Joseph Goebbels to the power-hungry Hermann Göring, from the

fanatical Rudolph Hess to the ambitious Albert Speer, and from Hitler's manipulative secretary Martin Bormann to the disputed figure of his mistress, Eva Braun. The harrowing chronicle reveals that Hitler's rule was based not only on fear and force, but also on loyalty and the pursuit of influence.

History & Biographies

6 x 50'
Produced by Doclights for ZDFinfo
in associaton with ZDF Studios

NEW



Myths: The Greatest Mysteries of Humanity

Myths have captivated us for thousands of years. We puzzle over unexplained phenomena, mysterious places, and superhuman heroes. What if the legends are more than just fiction? Across the globe, researchers are working to solve the greatest mysteries of all time.

In each episode of the series *Myths: The Greatest Mysteries of Humanity*, scientists uncover ancient tombs, examine artefacts, and go on expeditions in search of the origins of historical legends and myths.

From biblical stories to ancient mysteries, historical figures to modern urban legends, the series explores phenomena such as The Lost Tribes of Israel, the search for El Dorado, one of the most prominent queens of antiquity, Cleopatra, Bigfoot and Yeti, and even zombies. Archaeologists, historians, and adventurers try to unravel the myths of inexplicable events and ancient legends.

History & Biographies

20 x 50' and 1 x 50' Special
S01 (5 EP), S02 (5 EP), S03 (10 EP)
Produced by Story House Productions
for ZDFinfo in association with ZDF Studios

AVAILABLE

Ancient Superstructures | S03

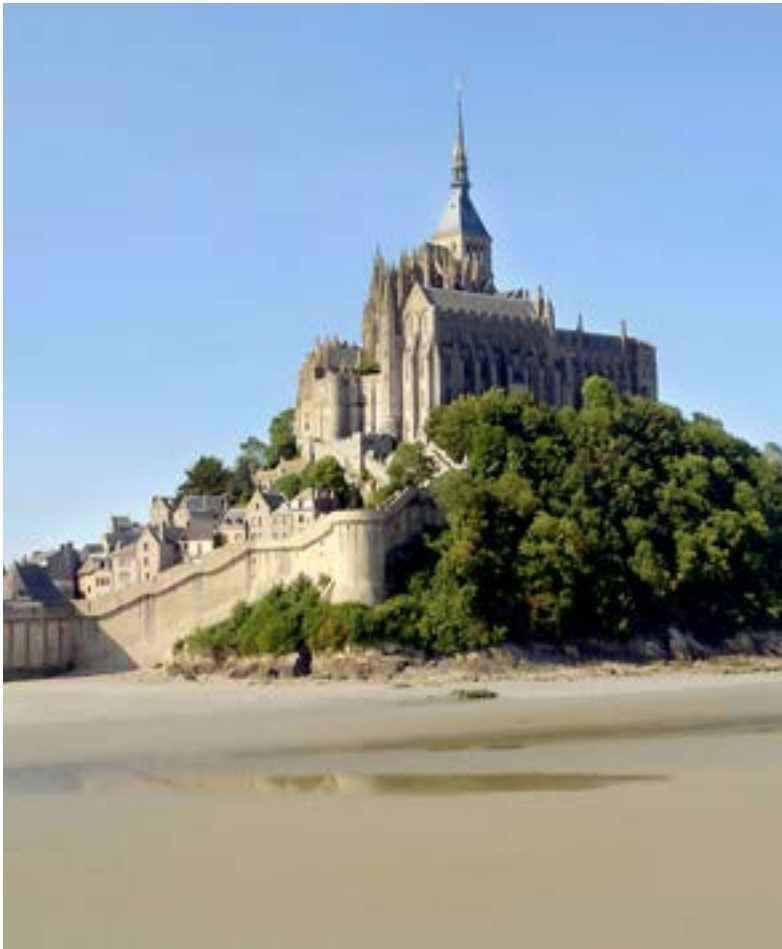
Ancient Superstructures reveals the secrets behind the world's most famous monuments. Some of the ancient marvels which are among the most studied and scrutinized monuments in the world still remain shrouded in mystery. What if the answers were right in front of us... but invisible to the human eye?

This ground-breaking series takes a unique approach in delving into engineering mysteries behind the world's most famous ancient structures, by observing them from different perspectives of scale. From satellite imagery and aerial views right down to macro and microscopic levels, each perspective reveals data that helps shed new light on historical and construction enigmas that have baffled historians for years.

History & Biographies

14 x 50' UHD
S01 (4 EP), S02 (4 EP), S03 (6 EP)
Produced by Pernel Media
in association with RMC Découverte,
Histoire and ZDF Studios

NEW SEASON



Truth and Lies

The history of humankind is also a history of the struggle between truth and lies. For centuries, lies have been used to achieve economic, political, and personal goals. This battle is fought with the pen, keyboard, and camera, but also with weapons, torture, and terror. And those most skilled in using the latest technology control the perception of truth.

The six-part documentary reveals how our understanding of history was shaped by the use of lies, and highlights the role of the media. We explore how faith is used to enforce secular interests, how lies are used in wartime to justify bloodshed, how conspiracy theories are used to corrupt and create stereotypes, and how money can decide which truth will prevail.

Powerful people will always try to spread their own truth, but when their lies are

revealed, the resulting scandal can not only stir up society, but also lead to social change.

History & Biographies

6 x 50'
Produced by Taglicht Media
and Rezolution Pictures
in association with ZDFinfo, TV Ontario,
Knowledge and ZDF Studios

AVAILABLE

Science & Knowledge

Into the Universe

Since humans first raised questioning eyes to the stars, each scientific discovery has unveiled new mysteries about the cosmos. *Into the Universe* delves into these astronomical enigmas, exploring the cycles that shape the sky, from the birth of spiral galaxies to the dramatic deaths of massive stars.

This series poses profound questions, such as whether the universe has a beginning and an end or if it is infinite. The answers may be found in the invisible forces that permeate 95% of space – dark energy and dark matter. Scientists use physics and quantum mechanics to solve these problems, but with phenomena such as black holes, their calculations don't always bring clarity. Closer to home, astronomers investigate whether, in a universe brimming with galaxies, life is unique to Earth or if aliens might exist elsewhere.

Science & Knowledge
8 x 50'
Produced by Go Button Media
in association with Super Channel
and ZDF Studios

NEW





Dino Birds

How did birds become the most diverse group of vertebrates, thriving in nearly every habitat on Earth? For centuries, this question baffled palaeontologists. The discovery of the Jurassic Archaeopteryx fossil in the 19th century provided an early clue, but it wasn't until the late 20th century, when feathered dinosaurs were found in China, that their evolutionary story became clear – birds are the sole surviving descendants of dinosaurs.

Yet, one mystery remained – how did birds survive the asteroid that wiped out their giant cousins? In 2019, the

discovery of a 67-million-year-old fossil in a Cambridge lab shed light on this mystery. Recent excavations, such as those in Las Hoyas in Spain, have added insights into the evolution of birds, revealing how they survived the catastrophe and rapidly diversified during the Cretaceous period.

Science & Knowledge

2 x 50'
Produced by Pernel Media
in association with France Télévision,
Ushuaia TV, WGBH/NOVA, Radio Canada,
NHK, CCTV9 and ZDF Studios

NEW

Mammals: Life before Dinosaurs

In 2023, palaeontologists Bruce Rubidge and Julien Benoit made a sensational discovery in South Africa's Karoo Basin. After 40 years of meticulous excavation, their team uncovered the oldest site of therapsids – the earliest known ancestors of mammals. In Pangaea, an unrecognisable world, where vast continents were joined as one, dinosaurs, mammals, birds, insects, and flowers had yet to

appear on Earth. How similar were these primeval animals to the diverse mammal family we know today? And how did they acquire the traits and behaviours that enabled mammals to conquer the world?

The palaeontological team meticulously reconstructs an ancient puzzle, unlocking the first chapter of the origins of complex life. Join them to explore the

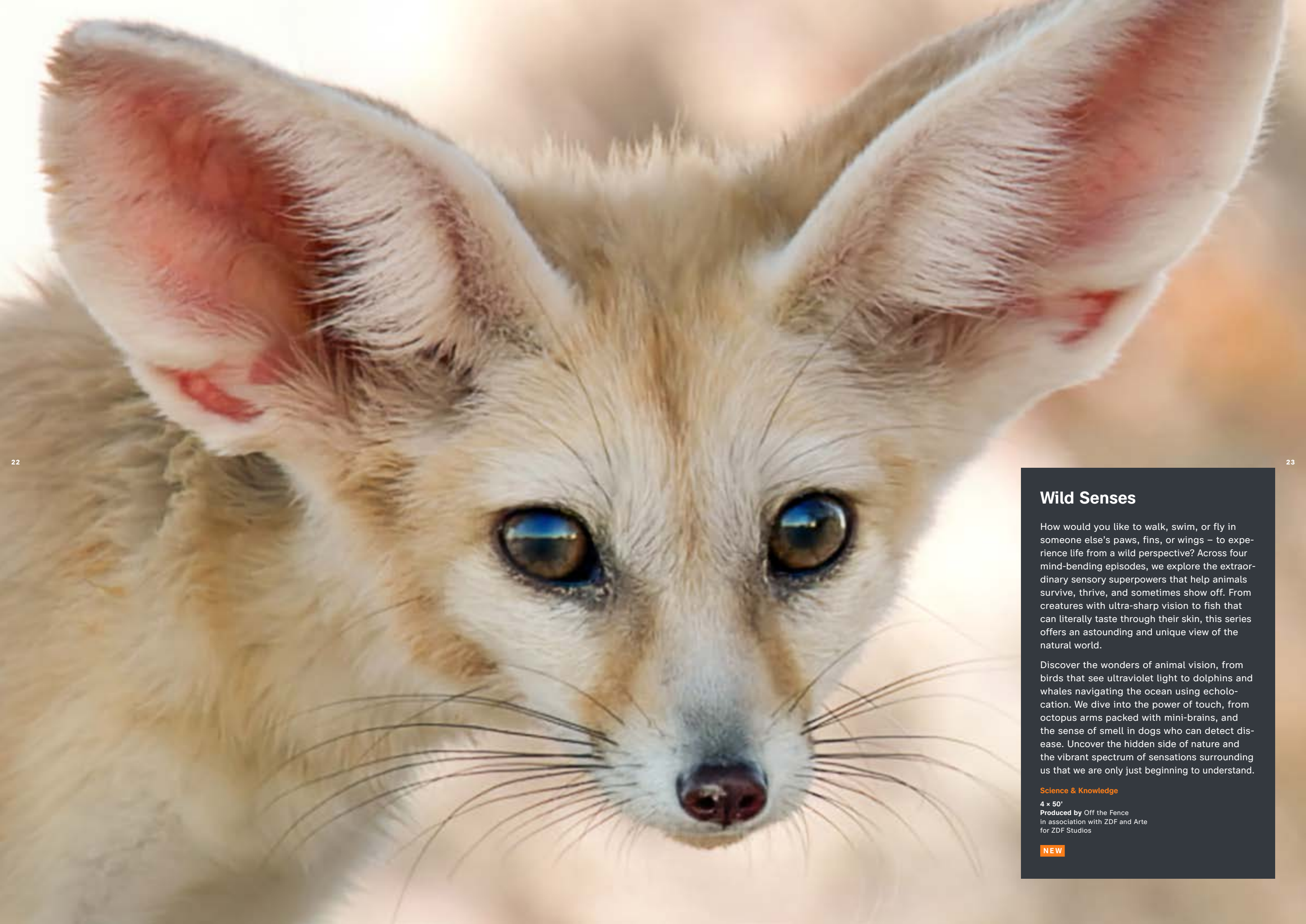
groundbreaking discovery that reshapes our understanding of how mammals began their story.

Science & Knowledge

2 x 50' UHD
Produced by Pernel Media
in association with France Télévision,
GBH/NOVA, Radio Canada,
NHK and ZDF Studios

NEW





Wild Senses

How would you like to walk, swim, or fly in someone else’s paws, fins, or wings – to experience life from a wild perspective? Across four mind-bending episodes, we explore the extraordinary sensory superpowers that help animals survive, thrive, and sometimes show off. From creatures with ultra-sharp vision to fish that can literally taste through their skin, this series offers an astounding and unique view of the natural world.

Discover the wonders of animal vision, from birds that see ultraviolet light to dolphins and whales navigating the ocean using echolocation. We dive into the power of touch, from octopus arms packed with mini-brains, and the sense of smell in dogs who can detect disease. Uncover the hidden side of nature and the vibrant spectrum of sensations surrounding us that we are only just beginning to understand.

Science & Knowledge

4 x 50'

Produced by Off the Fence
in association with ZDF and Arte
for ZDF Studios

NEW



The Vagus Nerve – How the Heart Speaks to the Brain

The vagus nerve is a central internal communicator between the head and the body. From its origins in the brainstem, it extends through the neck and chest to the intestines, regulating vital processes in our respiratory, cardiac, and digestive systems. Due to its extensive reach, it has a profound impact on our mental and physical health. Therapies that activate the vagus nerve – such as deep breathing, meditation, and electrical stimulation – are gaining traction, but do they work?

This documentary explores the latest research on the vagus nerve, and its potential role in treating chronic diseases such as epilepsy, long COVID, and depression. We investigate the social media hype surrounding nerve stimulation devices and exercises, uncovering new insights into a nerve that could transform our understanding of health and therapy.

Science & Knowledge

1 x 50'
Produced by doc.station for ZDF
in association with Arte

NEW



War Machine: Modern Warfare

This five-part series takes viewers deep into the high-stakes world of innovative military technology. Each episode highlights the immense power and precision of modern warfare, exploring the strategic dominance of military aircraft, the stealth prowess of submarines, the protection provided by defence systems, the evolution of armoured vehicles, and the might of the world's most formidable weapons.

Blending the history of weaponry with modern advancements, alongside expert analysis and gripping footage, the series places viewers at the forefront of the global defence system.

Each episode explores the evolution and impact of these systems on international security, showcasing the engineering marvels and operational requirements that have defined modern warfare

and continue to shape the future of military conflict.

Science & Knowledge

5 x 50'
Produced by WildBear Entertainment
in association with NTV/RTL
and ZDF Studios

AVAILABLE



The Mystery of Monster Waves

This documentary reveals the devastating power of freak ocean waves. Between 2011 and 2018, these unpredictable waves damaged over 50 vessels, with 24 ships sinking without a trace. The film tells the tale of the Caledonian Star cruise ship, which was hit by a 30-metre wave in 2001. Via 3D animation and re-enactments, viewers experience the collision and the dramatic consequences.

Scientists are exploring this natural phenomenon at seven worldwide hotspots, including the North Sea and the Bermuda Triangle. Researcher Amin Chabchoub explains his experiments that reveal how these rogue waves form and the dangers that they pose.

With a gripping mix of eyewitness accounts and scientific experiments, *The Mystery of Monster Waves* investigates the increased risk due to climate change and the lack of protective measures in the cruise ship industry.

Science & Knowledge

1 x 50'
Produced by Autentic Productions for ZDF,
Arte and ZDF Studios

NEW



Megabuilding Collection

Across five new episodes of the *Megabuilding Collection*, we explore the marvels of engineering and history – from the fortified castles built to protect noble owners and their households, to the citadels of the 16th century that defended towns and citizens behind towering walls.

In the 20th century, defensive megastructures moved from land to air and sea. From the aerobatic demonstration unit Patrouille de France, which combines precision engineering with skilled pilots to create breathtaking displays, to the aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle, capable of launching 20 fighter jets into the air in 20 minutes, and the commercial airliners that criss-cross the skies, transporting us across continents – the series immerses viewers in

engineering and architectural genius, from fortified buildings to aviation and naval wonders.

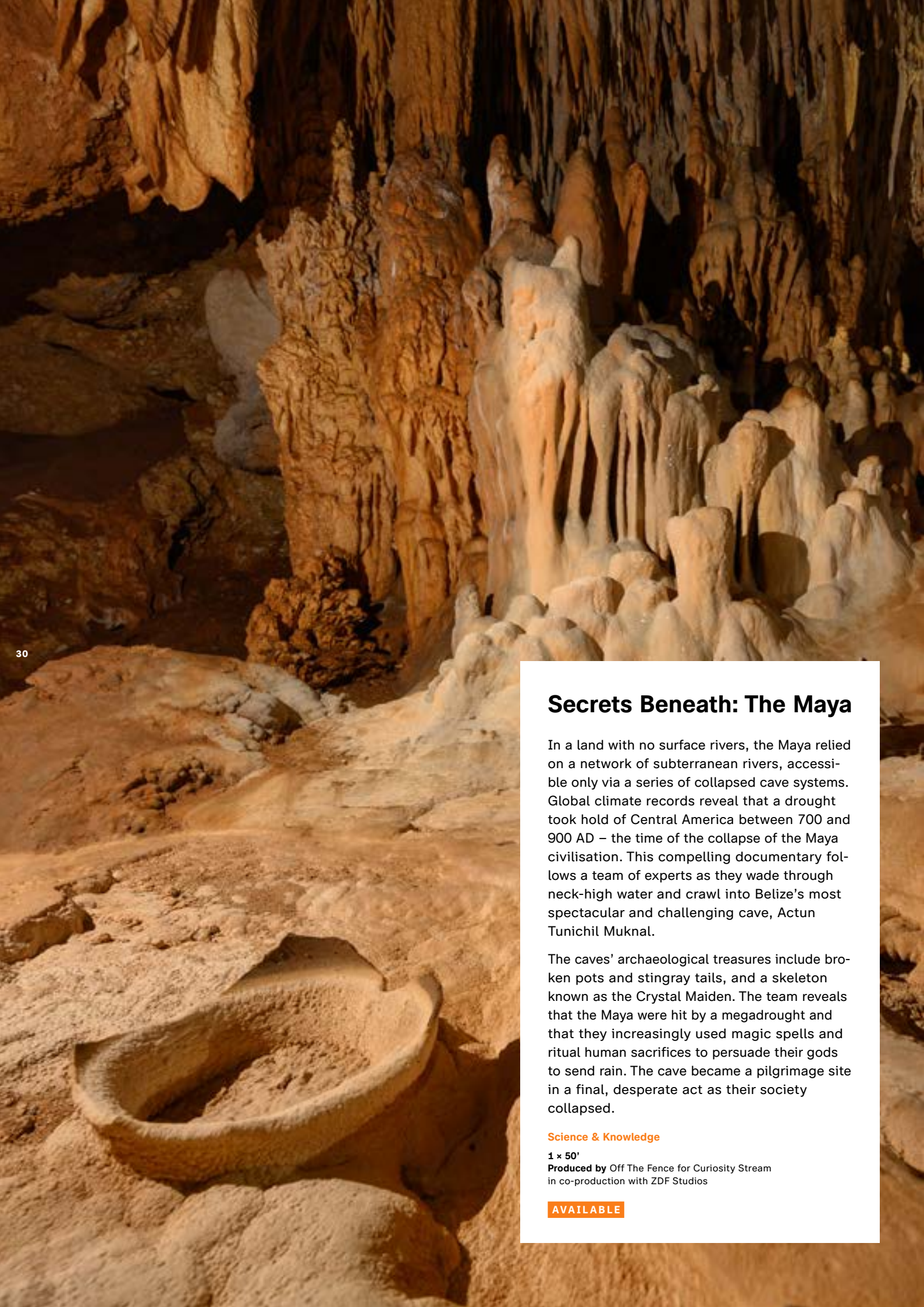
New episodes:

- *Record-Breaking Castles*
- *The Patrouille de France Fighter Jets*
- *The Charles de Gaulle Aircraft Carrier*
- *Record-Breaking Airliners*
- *The Genius of Citadel Engineering*

Science & Knowledge

20 x 50'
Produced by Pernel Media
in association with RMC Découverte
and ZDF Studios

5 NEW EPISODES



Secrets Beneath: The Maya

In a land with no surface rivers, the Maya relied on a network of subterranean rivers, accessible only via a series of collapsed cave systems. Global climate records reveal that a drought took hold of Central America between 700 and 900 AD – the time of the collapse of the Maya civilisation. This compelling documentary follows a team of experts as they waded through neck-high water and crawl into Belize's most spectacular and challenging cave, Actun Tunichil Muknal.

The caves' archaeological treasures include broken pots and stingray tails, and a skeleton known as the Crystal Maiden. The team reveals that the Maya were hit by a megadrought and that they increasingly used magic spells and ritual human sacrifices to persuade their gods to send rain. The cave became a pilgrimage site in a final, desperate act as their society collapsed.

Science & Knowledge

1 × 50'
Produced by Off The Fence for Curiosity Stream
in co-production with ZDF Studios

AVAILABLE



Underground Odyssey: Gibraltar

Gibraltar has one of the highest concentrations of caves in the world, and more man-made tunnels than roads. In *Underground Odyssey: Gibraltar*, the team head to the monolithic rock on the edge of the Mediterranean to learn more about its underground labyrinth. Looking out to sea at Gorham's Cave, thousands of years of history have been uncovered, from Neanderthal skulls to ancient Greek offerings, with more secrets waiting to be revealed.

Was this the last outpost of Neanderthals in Europe? Did Gorham's Cave hold significance to the Greeks, being at the edge of their known world? Deep inside the rock, the team examines the Silent Pool which may hold never-before-seen creatures waiting to be discovered, as well as a network of strategic war tunnels carved into the limestone, including a secret WWII bunker long forgotten by the outside world.

Science & Knowledge

1 × 50'
Produced by Off The Fence for Curiosity Stream
in co-production with ZDF Studios

AVAILABLE



Giant Caves: China

The South China Karst is one of the world's most spectacular examples of a subtropical karst landscape – a terrain formed when water dissolves bedrock, creating caverns, sinkholes, and underground rivers. In this thrilling documentary, experts descend into Cloud Ladder Hall, a chamber so vast it has its own weather system. After several days camping and exploring, the team maps the entrances and exits to pinpoint how the air flows through the chamber, revealing how the cave's unique shape enables clouds to form inside it.

The documentary features endangered, cave-dwelling monkeys, fearless climbers seeking their next thrill, the deepest and most dramatic sinkholes on the planet, and an expedition to explore, illuminate, and photograph the Miao Room, at over 10 million cubic metres, the largest known cave chamber on Earth.

Science & Knowledge

1 × 50'
Produced by Off The Fence for Curiosity Stream
in co-production with ZDF Studios

AVAILABLE

Wildlife & Nature

Indonesia's Volcanic Islands

At the heart of the Pacific Ring of Fire – a string of volcanoes around the edge of the Pacific Ocean – Indonesia's volcanic landscapes and tropical forests are home to some of the rarest species on Earth. This groundbreaking series features previously unseen moments in exceptional production quality, including the last refuge of the Sumatran rhino, pygmy elephants deep in Borneo's jungles, Komodo dragons overpowering buffalo, and intelligent orangutans using tools and natural remedies.

From the blue flames of the rare sulphur volcano Kawah Ijen to the misty summit of Mount Kinabalu, and the deep waters where whale sharks glide, this is a journey to a place of superlatives – a vanishing paradise. In a race against time to save endangered habitats and species, we reveal the urgent efforts underway to protect this extraordinary wilderness.

Wildlife & Nature

3 x 50'
Scheduled for End of 2025
Produced by Doclights
in association with NDR, Arte,
Terra Mater and NHK

COMING SOON





24 Hours in the Arctic Circle

At the top of a planet shaped by its relationship to the sun, the beauty of the Arctic Circle often deflects from the reality of life in an inhospitable region. We spend 24 hours observing the creatures struggling to get through the day. From the Greenland shark, which can survive in waters of -7°C and live up to 500 years, to the bioluminescent sea pens that glow in the depths of the icy waters, and the iconic reindeer that have survived another winter, life here is extraordinary.

Climate change is heating the Arctic faster than anywhere on Earth, with dramatic consequences. The sea ice reflects the sun's rays, helping to balance our climate. The melting ice not only threatens the Arctic but also accelerates global warming. A stark reminder of the need to make changes in our lives, and to rewrite the story of climate change.

Wildlife & Nature
1 x 50'
Produced by Doclights
in association with NDR

NEW



Mighty Monkeys

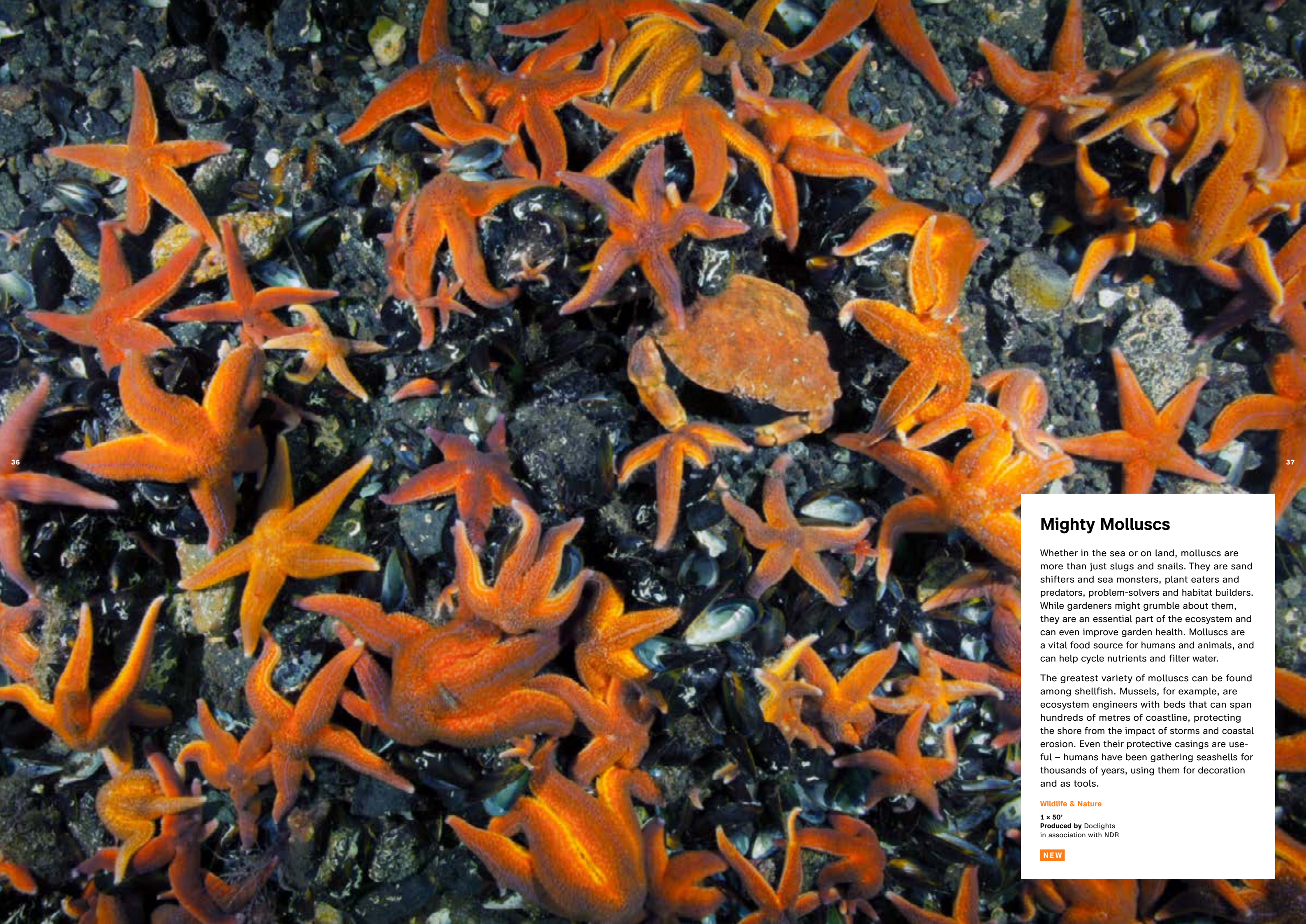
In Japan's Kamikochi Valley live monkeys unlike any other primate – the Japanese macaque. Known as the snow monkey, together these remarkable and adaptable creatures survive brutal winters and food-scarce summers. Each troop has its own food culture, passing knowledge through generations and adding new ideas when young males join the group.

As winter falls, they nibble on bark, roots, and bamboo – and sometimes even find insect larvae in rivers or seaweed along the coast. Summer turns the vegetation bitter and tough, forcing the macaques to travel for two months into the mountains, where a seasonal paradise of alpine fruits and pine cones awaits. The film captures not only their survival strategies in one of the planet's most unforgiving habitats but also their emotional

connections – a testament to their ingenuity, strength, and spirit.

Wildlife & Nature
1 x 50'
Produced by Doclights
in association with NDR

NEW



Mighty Molluscs

Whether in the sea or on land, molluscs are more than just slugs and snails. They are sand shifters and sea monsters, plant eaters and predators, problem-solvers and habitat builders. While gardeners might grumble about them, they are an essential part of the ecosystem and can even improve garden health. Molluscs are a vital food source for humans and animals, and can help cycle nutrients and filter water.

The greatest variety of molluscs can be found among shellfish. Mussels, for example, are ecosystem engineers with beds that can span hundreds of metres of coastline, protecting the shore from the impact of storms and coastal erosion. Even their protective casings are useful – humans have been gathering seashells for thousands of years, using them for decoration and as tools.

Wildlife & Nature

1 x 50'
Produced by Doclights
in association with NDR

NEW



Have You Ever Seen

Go beyond familiar wildlife to discover the obscure and overlooked creatures of the world. The hyrax, little-known cousins of the elephant, gather in large groups to warm themselves in the sun, while the endearing dik-dik antelopes mark their territory and communicate using secretions from scent glands located under their eyes. You have

probably never seen a fish as weird as the giant ocean sunfish, which can weigh up to 1,000 kg, and loves eating another strange species - the Portuguese man o' war jellyfish. We even take a look at unusual birds, such as the solitary shoebill, which uses its comical clog-shaped beak to catch fish and other prey.

Our world is full of biologically diverse creatures, each with their own role in

nature, and who add colour and curiosity to our planet. How many of them did you know already?

Wildlife & Nature

1 x 50'
Produced by Doclights
in association with NDR

NEW



The Wild Side of Opposites

In a celebration of the diversity of our planet, we explore the wonders of creatures and habitats on opposing sides of the spectrum of life – from scorching deserts to icy mountain peaks, and dense jungles.

We discover an incredible variety of creatures in all shapes and sizes, from elephants that dominate the landscape to tiny shrews hiding among the leaves. Their diets are just as varied, ranging from adventurous to selective – with omnivorous bears happy to rummage through bins for a

snack, while picky koalas feed only on eucalyptus leaves. Even their mating behaviour reflects opposing life models – from loyal albatrosses who bond for life to promiscuous crabs who prefer to trawl the waters for new partners. Across every habitat, species, and scale, we take a closer look at the extraordinary ways life adapts and survives.

Wildlife & Nature

1 x 50'
Produced by Doclights
in association with NDR

NEW



The Circle of Life

A new life brings the promise of a new beginning. In the natural world, when a young creature takes its first independent steps and learns its first lessons, it enters a world full of danger. Not all will survive – that’s the sometimes harsh, but unending circle of life.

The young elephant calf in Africa turns to the grandmother of the herd – the matriarch – to learn from generations of inherited wisdom. In Germany, the shimmering banded demoiselles skim over the waterways in search of a mate, though some female dragonflies will pay for the instinct to pass on their genes with their lives. Mother Nature may seem cruel, but for centuries, the circle of life has served to balance losses and bring renewal – until humans disrupted it. Yet, every new generation brings with it a stronger will to restore the circle and heal our planet.

Wildlife & Nature

1 x 50'
Produced by Doclights
in association with NDR

NEW



When Things Go Wildly Wrong

Life is full of difficulties and dangers. For things to go wildly wrong, all it takes is a lapse in concentration, a stumble, poor planning, or just plain bad luck. Predators and prey circle one another, waiting for a single mistake. Even the strongest instincts can lead to sudden, dangerous consequences.

The greatest risks come when animals are distracted by survival itself – drinking, feeding, or mating. A wildebeest drinks in crocodile-infested waters. A seal cub is left vulnerable to hyenas while its mother hunts offshore. Sea creatures live in the shadow of a volcano, risking molten rocks raining into the water. When you live in the wild, a moment can change everything, and nature can be unforgiving. By examining the moments before disaster, can we learn from animals’ missteps and apply those lessons to our own lives?

Wildlife & Nature

1 × 50'
Produced by Doclights
in association with NDR

NEW



Wild Mistakes

Whether it's a misstep, getting tangled in twigs, or falling from a tree, we all make mistakes – even animals. Some are just funny or embarrassing, but others can have dire consequences, leading to injury or death.

Many mistakes are light-hearted, like the elephant calf who struggles to climb the slippery banks of a muddy waterhole and is helped to safety by others in the herd, while others are deadly serious, such as the ant that steps onto the sticky goo of a carnivorous plant and is beyond help. From the seal pup that gets out of its depth with a large male bull, to the stag that loses its footing in an embarrassing slip, much of fate is shaped by accidents. When we take a tumble, we often say ‘we’re only human’, but perhaps that should be changed to ‘we’re only animals’ – because we are all united by our wild mistakes.

Wildlife & Nature

1 × 50'
Produced by Doclights
in association with NDR

NEW



Nature’s Secrets

Every day, we witness the miracles of Planet Earth, yet the natural world is full of hidden wonders as creatures fight to survive. Reproduction is the strongest natural instinct, and in the Congo, bonobo chimpanzees have chosen love, not war – anytime, anyplace, and with anyone! Meanwhile, in the Australian outback, dromedary camels store fat in their humps that can be turned into energy in harsh conditions. Even plants have secrets. The Victorian white lily, for example, traps scarab beetles inside its blossom for 24 hours, covering them in pollen before releasing them.

But perhaps the greatest secret is how life on Earth continues through Mother Nature’s power to create the oxygen we breathe. Oceans, trees, and plants quietly keep us alive, every moment of every day. Open your mind, as we lift the lid on nature’s secrets.

Wildlife & Nature

1 × 50'
Produced by Doclights
in association with NDR

NEW



Nature’s Social Networks

We often think of social networks as a modern invention, but we are not the first to use them. The instinct to connect with others is not unique to humans – the natural world is built on a complex web of connections. Mother Nature’s lonely hearts don’t use dating apps, but they still find ways to get noticed - with a poop rather than a post! Birds, fish, and animals form social groups to avoid predators, ‘like’ their wild friends, and ‘block’ their enemies.

As humans, we have an inherent need to connect with the natural world. But for a long time, we have exploited nature’s networks – from fishing techniques that take advantage of fish shoaling behaviour to farming that relies on livestock’s herding instincts. Maybe it’s time for a different approach, one where we don’t just take on but also reconnect with nature’s networks.

Wildlife & Nature

1 × 50'
Produced by Doclights
in association with NDR

NEW



Forest Fireworks

Welcome to the greatest show on Earth, as our woodlands undergo their annual transformation. The curtain rises in spring, when fresh leaves drench the forests in vibrant green, and a woodpecker drills for maple syrup, while insects feast on the bird's leftovers. In summer, flowers bloom, seeds and nuts ripen, and the forests buzz with life. In the third act, we witness a blaze of autumnal glory before the leaves fall. Luckily, the squirrels and jays have already stashed their nuts away. The final act sees cold

winds scatter carpets of colour, as the birds migrate to warmer climates, while the trees and other wildlife prepare for winter.

The performance is not yet over. The actors are ready for the new season, as winter lifts the curtain, and a stunning performance begins again in spring.

Wildlife & Nature
1 x 50'
Produced by Doclights
in association with NDR

NEW



Just Animals | S01–S03

Across three captivating seasons, we celebrate the incredible diversity of animals around the globe. Each of the 30 episodes zooms in on a single animal – from apes to antelopes, monkeys to marine mammals, and arachnids to amphibians – and every aspect of their life and behaviour. We accompany the animals on their journey through life, exploring their

physical attributes, how they communicate, navigate their world, and adapt to their environment – as well as what is being done to ensure their survival in the future.

The stunning, high-quality archive footage reveals rare behaviours, features intimate close-ups and fast-paced action scenes of animals in their natural habitats. A must-see for animal enthusiasts,

this comprehensive exploration of animal lives is an engaging and in-depth portrait of our planet's most beloved creatures.

Wildlife & Nature
30 x 50'
S01–S03 (each season 10 EP)
Produced by WildBear Entertainment
in association with ZDF Studios

AVAILABLE

