



the **MAGIC** of

NATURE

Worlds of the Animal Kingdom

HD

8 x 26 min



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CONCEPT

Explore the Earth and its key ecosystems through the amazing animals that inhabit them. These magical microworlds support incredible amounts of life. Every living creature has more than a few tricks up its sleeve. Their very existence is a testament to the evolutionary value of those tricks. This series demonstrates how they work in an intriguing and engaging way, showing us that nature is a land full of magic! This is the result of millions of years of evolution at work. These tricks are not to be taken lightly. They are driven by a primal urge: survival. This aspect will always be touched upon in every episode. The urgent need of conservation will also be central to the closing note of each episode. This eight-part series captures the beauty of the natural world in all its glory through ground-breaking filming techniques including drones, underwater filming and night-vision cameras.

EPISODE STRUCTURE

This is a nature show with a difference. Its USP is yes, you guessed it: Tricks of the Trade. Every episode will look at three creatures, one in each segment. Each creature will be diverse from the other keeping in mind the fabulous diversity of Mother Nature and, of course, audience attention span: A magic trick is made of three parts as in this example:

- 1. The Pledge: An animal is introduced and a promise made: Dolphins can see in the dark**
- 2. The Turn: We see the trick being performed: Dolphins swimming and hunting at night**
- 3. The Prestige: We now see how it's done: The Dolphin's sonar system is explained**

In each segment we feature what we are learning from the study of animals and the importance of their conservation. Live action visuals of animals showing off various skills will be interconnected with a graphic of a card deck. We start with a spinning card. It settles showing an Ace of Hearts. From it, live images burst forth. They then merge into a spinning card which is an Ace of Clubs, then the Ace of Diamonds and finally the Ace of Spades. From the ace of spades, the final text emerges...



GREAT GRASSLANDS

In our first episode we visit the great grasslands of the world. From the famous elephants, giraffes and zebra of the savannahs of eastern Africa we will travel to the steppes of Mongolia and see the strange Saiga antelopes which have inhabited its plains since prehistoric times. The grasslands of India support beautiful Blackbuck which fight for control of a harem during the hot summer months.



WATER WORLDS

The oceans contain a huge diversity of life. Some of these creatures are beautiful and bizarre. Exquisite and luminous crystal creatures swim in the depths of the Galapagos. During the night In the Great Barrier Reef of Australia, corals fight each other to secure a space. The oceans are where giants dwell and we will witness a feeding frenzy interrupted by a whale in the Atlantic ocean.



DRY DESERTS

Even this most extreme of environments supports life as animals find unique ways of finding water. Jerboas hop to safety in the deserts of the Arabian wilderness. Whilst in Namibia we follow a pride of lions living life on the edge of human settlements. Here, we will also follow a beetle as every morning it climbs to the top of a coasts sand-dune to catch the mist which comes in from the sea.



HIDDEN HIGHLANDS

The highest reaches of the animal kingdom support all kinds of wildlife which have managed to survive despite the onslaught of the elements. In the mountains of Tibet, strange and weird looking snub-nosed monkeys hide in the midst of snowy branches. In the volcanic Lake Bogoria within the Great Rift, flamingos withstand acidic waters which would kill any human. Also, in this area we witness the giant vultures as they drop bones from a great height to smash them in order reach the tasty marrow within.



RUSHING RIVERS

The great river systems of the world support huge amounts of life. In central Africa, the river Congo swells and floods the Okavango delta. Here giant hippos infest the river and spin their tails to scatter dung. In Alaska, we witness giant brown bears hunting for nutritious salmon as they travel upstream.



GIANT JUNGLES

Within the monsoon forests of India, tigers rear their young. In the deep jungles of Papua New Guinea, we witness the mating ritual of the Superb Bird of Paradise. From these beauties, we will see the scary sight of insects infested and killed by the cordyceps fungus.



WINGED WINDS

In the British Isles, huge flocks of starlings swarm in the sky forming the shapes of ghostly creatures. In Patagonia, tiny hummingbirds fight on the wing in order to reach precious nectar from rare blooming flowers. We shall be awestruck as we see bar-headed geese flying over the dizzying Himalayan heights.



WHITE WONDERLANDS

Winter turns Yellowstone National Park into a winter wonderland and American Bison travel towards warmer areas filled with underground geysers. Whilst this area changes with the seasons, winter remains a constant in the polar extremes. In the North Pole, Polar bears hunt for seals whilst in the South Pole, Emperor penguins huddle together to protect their young from the harshest of elements.



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