

off the fence.

Costa Rica: The Rise Of Nature

3 x 60' / 1 x 60'/3x43'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. Episode 001

2. Episode 002

3. Episode 003

1. The Dry Forest

The dry forest, which once covered the entire Pacific coast of Central America, now exists only as isolated "vestiges". In Costa Rica, however, it has been revived and even expanded thanks to the efforts of biologists and the local population. Here, the population of jaguars, a top predator, is increasing. This unique forest - dense, abundant and colorful during the rainy season, camouflaged and asleep during the dry season - is home to a splendid diversity of plants, trees and wildlife. The fauna and flora of this little-known biotope have adapted to the drought that afflicts it six months a year: toads take refuge underground to avoid dehydration; mammals such as spider monkeys patiently endure extreme heat and modify their diet according to the seasons; wasps, as well as certain birds, migrate to the humid forests that surround nearby volcanoes...

2. The Green Corridors

The tropical rainforests of Costa Rica provide an invaluable habitat to several emblematic species, such as jaguars, tapirs, white-lipped peccaries, spider monkeys, the very rare green macaw, amongst many others. Most of them are protected in national parks, reserves and wildlife refuges. However, the long-term survival of these ecosystems and of their biodiversity rely on the success of connecting wildlife populations throughout the country. From the Corcovado National Park, described by National Geographic as "the most biodiverse site on the planet", passing by the majestic volcanic cordilleras to the Caribbean coast, researchers and conservationists follow the so-called "green corridors" in search of key species.

3. The Marine Ecosystem

Costa Rica is home to some of the richest marine ecosystems in the world. The extension of its underwater zone is ten times greater than that of its terrestrial zone: humpback whales converge from the two hemispheres to give birth; Cocos Island, "the most beautiful island in the world" according to Commander Cousteau, offers the highest concentration of hammerhead sharks on the planet; the waters surrounding Caños Island comprise 19 species of corals, home to hundreds of species of fish and mollusks. Its coasts, bathed by the Pacific Ocean to the west and by the Caribbean Sea to the east shelters about 35.000 hectares of mangrove forests and one of only four tropical fjord-like estuaries in the whole world, the Golfo Dulce; four of the world's seven species of marine turtles nest on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, and three Costan Rican beaches are home to some of the largest "arribadas" on the planet. Biologists and conservationists have undertaken a real race against time to better understand marine ecosystems and protect them – one of the most important challenges in the fight against global warming.