

FIORDS

ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST IMPRESSIVE DEMONSTRATIONS
OF THE RAW POWER OF NATURE.

Despite the common association with Scandinavia and the Vikings, fiords can be found from the North to the South Pole, including the most unexpected corners of the globe.

We journey across the globe to discover these incredible landscapes and the communities, both animal and human, who call them home.

Fiords can be found across the planet – from the coldest regions (Greenland, Iceland, Arctic Canada, Alaska, Scandinavia, Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego, sub-Antarctic islands, Antarctica), to the more temperate areas (Scotland, Ireland, USA, Central Patagonia, South Island of New Zealand,

pical locations (Montenegro, Croatia, Italy and Papua New Guinea).

In association with:



SO WHAT MEDIA

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NATURAL HISTORY
Docuseries
3 x 60'

Episode 1 - Alaska

Fjords of the ABC islands (Admiralty, Baranof, and Chichagof), south-eastern Alaska, USA.

Tongass Forest, also known as the 'Amazon of North America', is both the largest and most remote forest in the United States. The island of Chichagof (120km by 80km) has the highest density of bears per square km in the world – two per square km. Comparably, two small Tlingit settlements represent the entire human presence on the island. The Tlingit live in close harmony with nature, connected deeply to the water of the surrounding fjords. It gives them life but they too respect Mother Nature, only taking from her what they need. During the last ice age, Alaska's glaciers went so far below current sea levels that, when they retreated, they left behind an enormous number of narrow valleys. These gigantic furrows were so numerous and deep that when the ocean poured into them, the water caused large masses of land to detach from the American continent – generating the Alexander Archipelago and the famous Inside Passage. Some of these fjords sink to a depth of 600m and are today among the deepest on Earth. Within them, humpback whales, killer whales, and porpoises can be seen every spring returning to invade the kingdom of seals, sea lions, and sea otters.

Episode 2 - Papua New Guinea

Cape Nelson fjords, province of Oro.

At 90m deep and up to 150m above sea level, these Papua New Guinean fjords do not fear comparison with those of the North. They are the only fjords in the world found at these latitudes, and their existence remains widely unknown. Indigenous people have long lived in the forests around these fjords, including the Yari Yari and Tevari tribes. Both peoples share the ancestral custom of tattoos and believe in witchcraft that is hidden in every shadow, behind every branch, and in every ritual gesture.

These fjords' steep walls rise high above the Solomon Sea, casting a wide shadow exactly like those of the Great North. The only difference is that these flooded valleys were not created by the erosion of glaciers, but by fast-flowing volcanic eruptions and the ancient rivers that followed in their path. For this reason, some geologists prefer to call these rias, structures exactly like fjords but not generated by the erosion of glaciers.

Episode 3 - New Zealand

Fiordland, Milford Sound, Doubtful Sound, south-west coast of the South Island.

The fjords of the South Island are the children of the Southern Alps. When the collision of tectonic plates caused these vertiginous, sharp mountains to rise from the ocean floor, they became covered with snow and ice, before glaciers began to make their way towards the sea, sliding with unprecedented power from their steep slopes. At first, they dug the basins of deep mountain lakes and then deeply wounded the coastline, creating deep and inaccessible valleys, now flooded by the ocean. The incredibly angular shape of these fjords combined with the dense vegetation made the area almost totally inaccessible. That is why today Fiordland can boast of being the only large expanse of unaltered vegetation in New Zealand, where the last remaining wild populations of endemic plants and endangered animals can be traced. The Maori people explored Fiordland 800 years ago, and while few lived there permanently, well-maintained paths allowed access to hunting areas and to sites where precious Pounamu, or New Zealand jade, was discovered.

