

## Nigel Marven's Wild Central America

4 x 60'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

### 1. Wild Honduras

Central America accounts for only 0.1 percent of the Earth's surface. But as part of the Mesoamerican hotspot, the tiny subcontinent boasts 7 percent of the world's biodiversity. With over 100 frog species, 700 types of birds, over 200 mammals and hundreds of reptiles, Honduras is one of the most species rich countries in Central America. Nigel Marven uncovers much of this incredible exotic abundance as he journeys through this spectacular country.

Nigel visits Mosquitia, Central America's equivalent to the Amazon rainforest, with President of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernandez. They explore the extraordinary White City that was lost for centuries and meet the wildlife in the president's own back garden, like the endemic emerald hummingbird.

Utila is part of the Meso-American reef, the second longest barrier reef in the world. We dive its spectacular corals with shoals of blue tang, Atlantic spadefish and hawksbill turtles. On land, the presenter crawls through thick mud to find "swamper" iguanas; there's only a few hundred left.

In Rio Santiago nature resort we meet a margay and see this beautiful cat climbing down trees head-first; the clouded leopard is the only other cat that can do this. A family of spectacled owls look on as the presenter encounters a deadly terciopelo viper.

Our host takes us on a magical trek through cloud forest to the nesting hole of a resplendent quetzal, a bird that inspired the Mayans. The male's tail feathers, once used as currency by the Mayans, are just too long to fit completely into the nest hole; time for some home improvement.

In lush forest, near the Guatemalan border, the presenter enters the ancient Mayan city of Copan. In this spectacular World Heritage site Nigel enters the catacombs beneath the acropolis and sees relief stone carvings of macaws and quetzals, symbols of the first King of Copan. We learn how scarlet macaws are making a remarkable comeback in the old Mayan city today.

This is Wild Honduras.

## 2. Wild Costa Rica

Join affable presenter Nigel Marven as he discovers the colourful and varied wildlife of Costa Rica. Meet Scarlet Macaws on the Osa Peninsula, playful Spotted Dolphins in the Gulf of Dulce, a 'Christmas Tree' Eyelash Palm Pitviper, baby Leatherback Turtles on Costa Rica's Caribbean coast and a group of colourful kings in the north of the country. All this and more as Nigel meets both locals and scientists keen to share their beautiful country and wildlife with him.

## 3. Wild Guatemala

Nigel Marven explores the stunningly beautiful country of Guatemala, uncovering a wealth of wildlife, dramatic scenery and ancient Maya history along the way. Join him to see the world's most beautiful lake, Central America's most colourful pitviper and incredible views from the 'top of the Maya world'. There are Quetzals, jays and orchids in the cloud forests and venomous lizards in the arid interior. Crocodiles keep watch in the rivers and rare turtles surprise our host.

## 4. Wild Panama

Join Nigel Marven as he searches Panama for its most iconic wildlife. Towering skyscrapers in the city are home to Turkey Vultures, waders feed in Panama Bay an important stopping point. Red-capped Manakin males dance the moonwalk to impress a mate and a swarm of army ants brings a host of followers with it. The world's most famous shortcut, the Panama Canal is home to sloths and bats and on the Caribbean coast we discover 'The Galapagos of Central America'. There are Harpies and snakes too!