

SYNOPSIS



Virgin Forests in the Heart of Europe

Urwälder im Herzen Europas

Today there are only tiny remnants of former natural forest colonies left: a high-lying virgin oak forest in Switzerland, a virgin beech and linden forest in the south east of Poland, a virgin beech and white pine forest and a primeval riverine forest in the Czech Republic. The forests have a very different appearance because of the trees typical for each of them. One thing they have in common, however, is their vigorous beauty: the picturesque play of light and shadow and the bizarre interchange of mighty giant trees and differently shaped rotting wood. The difference between these and the forests we know, that is, planted forests with trees growing in straight rows mostly of only one species, is apparent with every step. In addition to pictures of the strikingly beautiful wilderness, the film also shows what intensive forestry can lead to when it is taken too far. On the slopes of the Riesengebirge, a mountain chain in the Czech Republic, the forest planted by man has not withstood the harmful emissions present there. There is also a form of forestry that is close to nature and that even allows for using the timber, but it requires an understanding of the cycles of nature. There are examples of this in the Cracow area in Poland and in Slovenia.

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