

Germany's Wild Amazon

Film by: Sigurd Tesche, Natali Tesche-Ricciardi

Produced by: Tesche Documentary Filmproduktion, WDR

Length: 52'

Year of release: 2017

Format: HD

Language Versions: German, English

Genre: Nature, Wildlife

Long Synopsis

The Wupper has remained one of the greatest anomalies of all time. As one of Germany's beauties, the river was the gem of German landscape. But with industrialization it became the country's hardest working river and like everything that has been overworked, it lost its magnificence and charm. Due to tender love and care, the river is now a reigning example of one of the most successful and outstanding renaturation projects in the country. The film shows pictures of the river now pulsing with life that have never been shot before. We will show you the winding river bed, spawning salmon, mating crabs and still-growing anchor ice. You will see dipper birds searching for food under water, kingfishers catching fish, a family life of badgers, foxes and a wide variety of birds. Come and meet the resurrected river Wupper!

The Wupper has perked up again and offers so many surprises along her 116 kilometres. The untamed water does not only provide countless scenic views, there are so many varieties of flora and fauna to be discovered along the riverside - almost as many as with its South American relative the Amazon.

Under the Water

Water fleas and insect grubs, rare newts, graylings, river trout, lovelorn toads and enormous catfishes – they feel home again in the renatured Wupper. And perches, pikes, zander and salmon are finding the perfect conditions in these waters to take care of their offspring.

Along the Riverside

This richness also attracts other animals such as raccoons, nutrias, the very rare black storks and eagle owls.

Spring is most active time of the year for the Wupper – with the first mild temperatures the snow begins to melt and turns the peaceful river into a raging current. But soon the grass frogs and common toads will make their way to their spawning ground. The first flowers will start to bloom and the birds will start to perform their courtship, nest-building, breeding and rearing of the offspring. The

awakening of the river of the dreariness of winter is a glorious miracle of nature. Spring fever does not only affect frogs and dragon flies, the beginning of May is also the breeding season for grass snakes. Their snake wedding is a phenomenon rarely observed.

In the summer time the river is alive in all its might –many different sorts of plants and vegetation can now be found along the riverside. During the long dusk period one can observe the night active bats and other day-sleepers.

Fall will bring a variety of colors – and the scent of fresh mushrooms. Dramatic moods with storms and haze alternate with sun-soaked color explosions in the sparse tree crowns and one can see the colorful leaves floating on top of the water.

Before winter arrives the landscape will look very bleak and grey. Many animals will have moved already and the others will be preparing for the cold days. But then over night the meadow will be covered by a white blanket and we will be able to follow the trails in the fresh snow: wild boars, foxes and raccoons will give themselves away this way and we will stick to their heels.

This river is unique – 116 kilometres teeming with life. The untamed Wupper : the home of innumerable fantastic species, both in and around the water. This is a stage for all the facades nature has to offer, almost like its South American cousin: the Amazon. This is a special river in the Bergisch Land- the heart of the Western part of Germany.

The Wupper and the weather are a constant topic of conversation.

The Wupper - a popular river in Germany and one of the greatest anomalies of all time.

As one of Germany's beauties, the river was and still is the gem of German landscape. Along her 116 kilometres, the Wupper offers many surprises that are sure to kindle a spark between man and his natural environment. The untamed water does not only provide countless scenic views, but when coupled with the river's banks, it is home for numerous varieties of flora and fauna - almost as many as its South American relative, the Amazon.

Though many years ago industrialization almost tarnished this natural beauty, the country's former hardest working river managed to retain its magnificence and

charm. The breath-taking Wupper stands as tribute to restoration and rebirth and is a prime example of one of the most successful and outstanding renaturation projects in the country.

Germany's Wild Amazon shows never before seen pictures of the river pulsating with life. It features the winding river bed, spawning salmon, mating crabs and still-growing anchor ice. Live action shots of dipper birds searching for food under water, kingfishers catching fish, birds performing courtship and the frogs during their breeding season are some of the highlights of the film. Come and meet the resurrected river Wupper!