

24SNAILS®

PRESENT: A TRAVEL DOCUMENTARY SERIES



TRAVELING AROUND

on the road

45x26 min.

HD

high definition

A travelogue series showcasing the most beautiful and interesting destinations of our planet...



A documentary travelogue focusing on attractive but less well-known localities, for example Indonesia, Russia, Morocco, Central China and many other places. The individual parts of this series bring descriptions of all the typical aspects natural, historical, cultural and social. However, stress is mainly laid on the lifestyles and traditions of the inhabitants, because it is they who create their environment.



1

Pinar del Río / Cuba

The westernmost tip of Cuba is famous especially for tobacco. It is harvested nearly all year long. The local varieties are used for packing the best smelling cigars which then darn holes in the leaky state treasury. Despite the fact that private farming is permitted in this fertile province, all profits belong to the government anyway. Fortunately, the old nature itself takes care of loaves of limestone called mogots. Perpendicular walls make access to the tops, where unique flora and fauna is preserved, more complicated.



2

Isle of Man / Great Britain

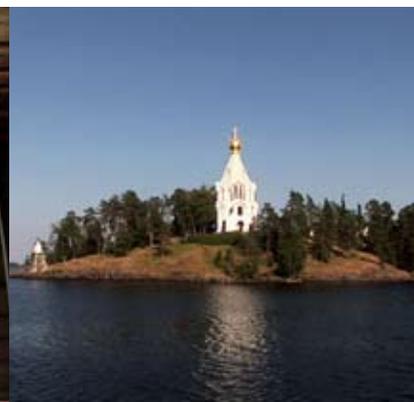
According to the legend, you can see five kingdoms - Man, Scottish, English, Irish, Welsh and the kingdom of heaven - while being on the top of the highest mountain in the Isle of Man. On the Tynwald hill, there is a Parliament meeting held once a year in the open air. It was founded in 979 which means that it is one of the longest continuously functioning legislature office in the world. As for motor sport fans, however, the island is primarily known through a prestigious motorcycle race with sad primacy - there have been 227 casualties during its more than a century lasting existence... Otherwise, the British Crown dependency territory is a pleasant and quiet place to live in. It provides tourists with plenty of various attractions.



3

Russian Karelia / Russia

This is the country of endless taiga which is full of brooks, rivers and lakes. There used to be the Karelians ruling here in the past times. They were culturally and linguistically close to the Finns and Estonians. But the Russian element prevailed over the centuries and the Soviet regime tore the country out of its roots. Despite that fact, you can still find typical Karelian villages, in very poor condition. On the contrary, the Orthodox Church is experiencing the times of Renaissance now. The White sea - Baltic Channel is also the unique piece of work, but it was built with blood and suffering of prisoners from the first gulags.



4

Berlin / Germany

Berlin is also known as New York of Europe. Not for its vastness, but mainly due to an atmosphere of total freedom. However, twenty years ago there was the concrete wall dividing the city into two parts, the wall which became a sad symbol of the so-called Cold War. Nowadays, there are thousands of people from all over the world moving to the German capital city every year. They create a multicultural pot in which living styles, habits and smells are mixed together. Then in the evening, there are many various clubs of all kinds offering entertainment. Simply, Berlin knows how to enjoy living!



5

Šariš / Slovakia

The region of north-eastern Slovakia brims over with unprecedented natural beauty. There is also the Šariš Castle located right in the middle of this region. Better said - its ruins. A group of volunteers slowly try to rebuild it to the form of the once-mighty residence. There are little wooden churches which belong to architecturally distinctive and precious sights of the region. One of the oldest churches is called Hervartov, it was built at the turn of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. A little later, there was the beginning of rock salt mining next to Prešov. The Solivar Mine was in full operation until the year of 1970 when it became the museum. The town called Sabinov has become famous thanks to Oscar-winning film „Shop in the Main Street“. Painter Andy Warhol made famous the town called Medzilaborce and the Second World War brought fame to the Dukla Pass.



6

Marrakech / Morocco

Marrakesh is one of the oldest and most famous places throughout North Africa. This is also the Morocco region in which the traditional Arab world meets life of the mountain Berber tribes. In addition to sheep and goats breeding or growing of maize and dates, they also deal with traditional crafts such as carpet weaving and production of unfired bricks.



7

Lipari Islands

In the depth of ages, hot magma broke the bottom of the Tyrrhenian Sea in the depths of two to three kilometres below the sea level and then the peaks of several volcanoes climbed up from the water after following millions of years. This is how the Lipari Islands appeared. Near the northern shore of Sicily, there is one of the most exotic places of the old continent - volcanic landscape with subtropical vegetation in the middle of blue sea. There is a myriad of mythical figures connected with the islands, such as the divine smith Hephaestus, God of the winds Eolos, one-eyed giant Polyphemus and even the destructive Scylla and Charybda in the Messina Strait. When you are there, you cannot miss visiting the island called Stromboli. Being at the safe distance, you can watch bluster of the second most active European volcano.



8

Central China / China

Central China is one of the most fertile and populated regions of the large country. It includes industrial cities as well as places with peaceful village life-style. Its southern part is dominated by Long River along which there are the major cities situated, including Nan-ting. Without exaggeration, it is possible to say that China's development in the 20th century actually occurred right here. Nan-ting massacre still clouds relations between China and Japan.



9

Dubai / UAE

Less than fifty years ago in the area of today's Emirate of Dubai stood palm huts and Beduin tents. Then oil fields were discovered and at the wake of this year, the World's tallest building was completed. In a single century, Dubai transcended from the middle ages straight into the 21st century. And not just that. From the desert sands emerged one of the most luxurious places of this planet that overwhelms the rest of the World by its incredible projects. In the episode of „On the road“ On the road – around Dubai“ we would like to document this extraordinary transition and at the same time discover the ancient and unique traditions that have survived this rapid development.



10

Karlovy Vary Region / Czech Republic

Historical background of Karlovy Vary region is rich and famous, and sometimes it is also really cruel. When a horse of Emperor Charles IV tripped in the hot mineral water pool, it was without any exaggeration the beginning of developing the famous spa which is known by the entire world today. First, being here in cloudy Klínovec, we will see the region guarding the western border of our country and then we will explore it in more details. In Jáchymov, we will find memorable source of Madame Curie's rays as well as a cradle of the U.S. dollar. In Loket, we can see an ancient guarding castle. In Cheb, we can see the place where Albrecht von Waldstein died. And finally in Bečov, there is a precious treasure of St. Maur. We will also go to see the mystery of health springing out from the depths.



11

Transylvania / Romania

When you mention Transylvania, everyone immediately thinks of the legend about the bloodthirsty Count Dracula. English writer Bram Stoker made up his „permanent residence“ in Bran Castle. The residents of surrounding villages and towns bless him today for it. Vampire legend attracts tourists from all over the world, the tourists who do not care that the local people serve them tomato juice under the name of Favourite Dracula's Drink. The world famous vampire is a welcomed source of income for the poor region. The picturesque village of Viscri could be happy thanks to the fortified church which the UNESCO included on the list of important monuments.



12

Lanzarote / Spain

The mystical island of Lanzarote is a relatively little-known cape of the northern Canary Islands. It is situated just 118 kilometres from the coast of southern Morocco, but more than 1000 kilometres from Europe. It forms a kind of geographical and cultural crossroad between the old continent, Africa and South America. Most of the island's landscape is covered by the desert of characteristic red colour formed by lava eruptive rocks. Of all the Canary Islands, Lanzarote was probably inhabited as the first one, the Phoenicians settled here already around the year of 1100 BC.



13

Buganda / Uganda

Buganda is the kingdom of fifty-two clans of the Baganda tribe. It is located in the South of Uganda. It was restored in 1993. However, it has no real power. However, Kabaka (King) tries to impose a federal structure here. People of Buganda do not rush in mutual communication. Politeness always precedes the practical part of conversation which is then accompanied by sounds with interesting intonation used as expressions of agreement and understanding. Here in this region, a man may have more wives. Although men often live in very poor conditions, it is almost a rarity to meet someone who is not dressed well. People are afraid the most that an evil spirit could be sent down to them. In this case they must search for a shaman who will take some natural money and drive the evil spirit off.



14

Sumba / Indonesia

Most tourists who travel to Indonesia end their tour in Bali, without any knowing that there is a forgotten territory located further to the eastern direction, the territory which has the culture that is as unique as the Balinese one. Sumba island, which is just half an hour flight distant from Bali, had been out of any interest of local rulers and colonizers for centuries. As a result, there are very distinct culture and religious traditions developed here which still resist the effects of modern civilization.



15

Western Götaland / Sweden

The name of Götaland comes from the times of the oldest spatial splitting of Scandinavia. The name was given to the region by the tribe of Gots. According to Norman mythology, there was the legendary hero Beowulf who belonged to the nation - the conqueror of the giant Grendel who was eating people of the Kingdom of Norway. We will begin the pilgrimage through Western Götaland in its administrative, cultural and industrial centre - in Göteborg, the second largest city of Sweden. However, the west coast also offers breathtaking sceneries of the nature and the atmosphere of picturesque fishing villages.



16

Venice / Italy

The pearl of medieval Europe is placed in dazzling brightness of the Lagoon and covers about 118 islands. A cynic would say that it is formed by something like an ancestor of a refugee camp. Inhabitants of the falling Roman Empire were driven to the muddy environment as early as in the year of about 421. A good businessman knows that a large portion of his earnings must be invested in promotion and advertising. Fortunately, people chose artworks as their advertising during the most prosperous times of Venezia. Thanks to their wealth, works of the greatest painters, sculptors and builders survived until the present times. Today, Venezia is a very beautiful town. There are several million visitors walking in the streets during the time of carnival. Mummery of masks having the strangest shapes and colours is mixed with languages from all over the world.



17

Almaty / Kazakhstan

Almaty is situated in the southeast of Kazakhstan, at the foot of the world's sixth largest mountain range, the Tian Shan. Well, it is confronted with impossibility to expand further. There were the times of building fever at the end of the ninetieth years of the last century. The president wanted to stop the fever so that the city could not get completely destroyed. This is why he founded the new capital city, Astana. Well, this is how Almaty lost its position of the brain of the State, but it still remains the largest Kazakhstan's city and cultural and business centre with the population of 1.3 million inhabitants.



18

Western Crete / Greece

Have you ever wondered what happens in the famous resort when the winter solstice shortens the days, hotels close their doors, beaches get empty and there are snowflakes falling on the mountains peaks instead of golden rays of the warm southern sun? If so, we are offering you a totally unique view on the largest Greek island in the middle of winter.



19

Southern Armenia / Armenia

The first mention about the Armenian nation was written by Herodotos. Their arrival to the Ararat valley and to surroundings of the Lake Van is dated back to the period between the 9th and 7th centuries BC. Although it was under constant pressure of the surrounding empires, Armenia became, thanks to the influence of St. Gregory in the year of 301, the first country in the world where Christianity was the state religion. At the present times, more than 90 percent of the population indorse the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church. Even Cyril and Methodius indorsed this unusual form of Christianity. In the mountainous country, there is a vast number of monasteries and religious buildings of all kinds.



20

Surat Thani / Thailand

There are influences of Buddhism and Islam mixing with each other in the largest province of southern Thailand. However, the people live here in harmony and mutual respect. No wonder that the King Vajiravudh gave the name of Surat Thani to the current capital city, which in translation means city of good people. The vast majority of life is held on the water here. The sea is the main source of livelihood, but the inland parts of the region are interwoven with a network of canals that serve as traffic and commercial arteries.



21

Golan Heights / Israel

Golan Heights are storied with a number of prejudices in the eyes of the Europeans. Even though they are inherently associated with the controversial military conflicts between Israel and Syria, it is still the place with rich history and beautiful nature. Many megalithic monuments show that the roots of human habitation reaches the times of far history. However, also the Romans, early Christians and Crusaders left their footprints here. Current Golan Heights, this is the ideal place for wines, agriculture and tourism. An integral part of the Golan Heights is formed by the Druzes - a peculiar ethnic group which forms a large part of the local population.



22

Ceuta a Melilla / Spain

Ceuta and Melilla are situated on the North African coast but they are an integral part of the Kingdom of Spain, which also largely complicates relations with the Muslim Morocco. In addition, in both the towns there are not only Spaniards, Arabs and Berbers from the Rif Mountains, but also numerous communities of Jews and the Spanish „Gitanos“. Coexistence of these four cultures theoretically creates a very explosive mixture. But only theoretically. As for the practical point of view, the local inhabitants get on very well with each other. They do not care about religion and origin too much, especially at the times when playing domino.



23

Vojvodina / Serbia

North-Serbian autonomous province of Vojvodina has been the proverbial apple of discord since the early years, due to the fact that it is simply the most fertile part of Serbia. The Romans were giving considerable importance to this region. They founded the famous town called Sirmium here (today Sremska Mitrovica) which gradually became the birthplace of ten Roman emperors. With the Slavs coming, there is the beginning of multi-ethnic goulash being boiled and also seasoned by domination of the Ottoman Empire.



24

Říčansko / Czech Republic

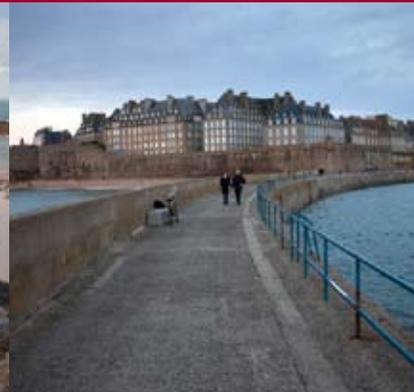
In the Middle Ages, there was a castle in Říčany. Hussites left the castle in ruins for the future generations. The same destiny fell to the entire prosperous town during the Thirty Years War. Today, the region of Říčany is especially a popular Prague satellite with a healthy environment and a renowned rugby team. And it is also located on the western outskirts of the tourist region called Ladův Kraj.



25

Brittany / France

The westernmost place of mainland France is famous especially for its mystical and mysterious Celtic monuments. Merlin, the magician, supposedly lived here and was buried in the forest called Brocéliande where King Arthur, along with the Knights sitting beside the round table, was looking for the lost Holy Grail. These are the legends. However, there are dolmens and menhirs all over the region which actually resemble the Celtic past very tangibly. The most famous megalithic monument is located in Carnac, there are three thousands of menhirs in balanced lines here and nobody can explain it with certainty.



26

Bamiyan / Afghanistan

Bamiyan is one of the thirty-four provinces of Afghanistan. It belongs to oases of relative calmness in the middle of the impoverished war-torn country. The region of Band-e-Amir is even a place for frequent trips of the residents of Kabul, the capital city which is not so far from here. At an altitude of 3000 metres above the sea level, there is the cascade of six turquoise lakes which are partially connected with each other by waterfalls. Bamiyan is inhabited mainly by the Hazars who are considered as descendants of Genghis Khan whose troops swept through the region at the beginning of the thirteenth century.



27

Santiago de Cuba / Cuba

The province of Santiago de Cuba is one of the most interesting parts of the island. There is mostly black population here, which is reflected on the nature of the local culture. The province played a large role in Cuba's history, both in the 19th century during national liberation struggling and at the times of Castro's revolution. In the province, there are the mountains called Sierra Maestra, where Fidel Castro's rebellions began. The Cuba's highest peak is called Pico Turquino. In the mountains, there are many memorable historical places commemorating partisan fights.



28

Pannonie / Hungary

Only few regions do combine so much of history, nature, traditions and modern life styles together as western Hungary does. The name of Pannonia was given to this region two thousand years ago when Roman garrisons began to deploy around the Danube shores. By the way, the foundations of stone houses and roads still recall those times. Pannonia is a good destination for ever-growing gastro tourism too. Who has not tasted halászlé does not know what a fish soup is really like. The local cuisine must naturally contain paprika. The secret of the famous Hungarian ingredient is definitely worth exploring.



29

Seychelles / Seychelles

The Republic of Seychelles is located on 115 islands in total. However, only 33 of them are inhabited. Less than one hundred thousands of permanent residents earn money for living mainly on luxury tourist clients, but also on export of fish and spices. The symbol of the country is a Seychelles palm tree with giant fruits that weighs up to 20 kilograms and which resembles women bottom. A typical local creature is a huge turtle. These three hundred kilograms weighing „mites“ found their harbour mainly on the Aldabra atoll. On the other hand, dense forests are home to a number of rare tropical plants.



30

Lake of Onega / Russia

There are 58 rivers merging to the second largest European lake which is decorated by 1 369 islands. There is the city of Petrozavodsk located on its shore, the capital city of the Republic of Karelia which was founded by Tsar Peter I. And two wooden brigantines resemble his times, the brigantines which sail on the waves of the lake just for pleasure of visitors to the city which has 300 000 inhabitants. However, the other parts of the local shipbuilding industry is in ruins. But the village of Kosmozero is alive enough. Smoking samovars, local beauties, folklore performances on the stage as well as rural games.



31

Gran Asunción / Paraguay

Asuncion - in full name La Muy Noble y Leal Ciudad de Nuestra Señora Santa María de la Asunción - was founded by Spaniards on the wet banks of the broad river called Paraguay in the year of 1537. Well, it is one of the oldest towns in the South American continent, it is even nicknamed as „mother of cities“ - similarly like our capital city. Thanks to the boom of commercial, industrial and tourist interests in powerful neighbours - Brazil and Argentina, Paraguay is standing somewhat outside.



32

Česká Kanada / Czech Republic

The region of Nová Bystřice highlands, in the southeast direction of Jindřichův Hradec, was almost depopulated during the post-war resettlement of Germans and subsequent establishment of border zones. Although the Iron Curtain fell down, the chilly weather and long winters caused very low density of population which you can see even at the present times. This might also be the reason why the region of so called Czech Canada still has its beautiful nature laced with a network of little winding roads and romantic narrow-gauge railways.



33

Sabu / Indonesia

Islands in the eastern part of Indonesia still successfully resist the influences of civilization thanks to their isolated location. Islanders of Sabu successfully resisted the influences of Christianity until the second half of the last century. The harvest is mainly assured by lontar palm trees whose juice has such nutritional values that three trees can feed the entire family without having to eat anything else. And when the palm reaches its life time, its wood is used for building houses. Leaves are used for making little baskets. And sometimes you can even make a fragrant cigarette spiced with clove. We will also discover the mystery of ritual dances which shall ensure rich harvest. We will visit an eccentric Mass of the Austrian missionary man. We will go to hunt octopuses. We will walk among the sacred altars of pagan deities.



34

Masurian Lakes / Poland

It is called „country of thousand lakes“, but in fact there are only about two thousands of them. The region in the north-east of Poland is a popular recreation area. It is said that every Pole was here at least once in life. Conditions for sailing or fishing are indeed ideal there even though the nature defenders have already prohibited entry to the countless islands. On the contrary, some nearly forgotten crafts are experiencing times of Renaissance. Of course, the reason lies in the vision of extra income during the times of economic crisis. The most common craft, which can be seen here, is weaving of carpets and fabrics. We will also visit one of two still functional pull-out bridges in Europe and Boyen fortress, the former Prussian base.



35

Mallorca / Spain

Although Mallorca has now the largest revenues from tourism and although it employs most of its inhabitants in this sector, many of original traditions and ways of living have still remained - fishing, growing oranges, almonds, wine and olives; then also production of ships, artificial pearls or traditional bags, belts, shoes and even slingshots made of palm leaves or agave. The end of the year is on the entire island primarily characterized by the traditional agricultural markets and olive harvest. This crop has the longest tradition here. Some olive trees still remember the times when the Arabs ruled Mallorca... In November last year, the island attracted the attention of world-wide media when it was inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List.



36

Vratna Valley / Slovakia

Vrátná Dolina is located in the North of Slovakia. It is considered as the most beautiful valley of Malá Fatra region. You will find virtually all of the beauties of the Slovakian mountains in one place of this small area. There is the beautiful narrow canyon with stone relieves, plains and hills, rich forests and gorges. Its most interesting village is called Terchová, the birthplace of Juro Jánošík. In addition to myths and legends, this area is known for traditional musical culture too. Every villager is a member of a choir/orchestra and every villager's wife is a folklore singer.



37

Shetland Islands / Great Britain

The northernmost area of Great Britain includes not only the northernmost British brewery, which prepares production for tiny island's population, but also wittily decorated bus stop. A young students painted it in order to make waiting-for-school-bus of his younger sister more comfortable. Eventually the station became a tourist attraction. Most people earn their money for living primarily from fishing industry. The European Union specified a limited period of time for the fishing vessels to spend in the sea. This is why many of them decide to unload their cargo right here in Shetland. In the rough Nordic conditions and with lack of wood, the Vikings have to solve problem with heating their homes. Local women knit the famous Shetland sweaters during long winter evenings.



38

Budapest / Hungary

Budapest is something like a stand with goodies where everyone can choose things according to own taste. The Hungarian capital city was created by merging two cities - Pest and Old Buda. While the Prague is considered as the most beautiful city in Europe, Budapest boasts with the title of most beautiful large city. It is dominated by the Hungarian Parliament building which was built in Neo-gothic style, partially inspired by its colleague in London. Budapest is not only open-air museum of beautiful sights, it is the living and vibrant metropolis with lots of theatres, cafes and restaurants. The most famous ones include Brasseria Karpatia where you can eat famous Hungarian delicacies while a genuine gypsy band plays aside.



39

Guelmim / Morocco

The province of Guelmim is located on the southern border of Morocco and its capital city, which has the same name, has always been nicknamed as „Sahara Gate“. The reason is that it has been located on a crossing of routes through which caravans of Moroccan towns in the north passed via the desert up to the equatorial countries of Africa. You can still see the caravans even in the 21st century. This is also the reason why there is still the largest camel market of the entire Morocco held in this town.



40

Fair Isle / Great Britain

Fair Isle lies half way between Orkneys and Shetland Islands - a little Scottish isle having size of a small town with less than a hundred residents. Even in the middle of the 19th century, there lived about 400 settlers, but the next generations gradually abandoned the island. George Waterson probably managed to protect this island from complete depopulation. He set up a bird observatory here. Fair Isle is also known for its beautiful woven decorations which are an important income of local women.



41

South Kivu / Africa

There has been war conflict in the Eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo lasting for more than ten years. This is one of the most forgotten wars in the world. Although it has been responsible for deaths of up to five million people, the world's media still ignore it. But there are ordinary people with their joys and sorrows living here too. How does life of the villagers in the shadow of a war zone look like? What are their traditions, customs? How does the nature in this part of Africa look like?



42

Auckland / New Zealand

Despite the fact that Auckland has a similar size as London, it is still the very poorly populated city in the world. There are several obvious „BEST THINGS“ in Auckland. Besides the already mentioned smallest density of population, we can talk about Auckland as about the biggest Polynesian city in the world, and especially as about the Easternmost city at all. This episodes explores as a relatively sleepy day in the capital of New Zealand which everyone recognizes but nobody really knows anything about it.



43

Cantabria / Spain

Cantabria belongs to the so-called „Green Spain“ - a smaller territory in the north of the country which is rich in rivers, forests and meadows. While the fishing craft is slightly dying in the coastal part of Cantabria and while the local former sailors get together in singing folk clubs with nostalgia, the mountain part still retains something of the old good times. Especially the tradition of so-called rural sports can be seen here frequently, the tradition with a lot of bizarre sport disciplines which for example include jumping on the bargepole, timed competition in grass mowing or pulling milk containers.



44

Netherlands / Netherlands

Despite the fact that Auckland has a similar size as London, it is still the very poorly populated city in the world. There are several obvious „BEST THINGS“ in Auckland. Besides the already mentioned smallest density of population, we can talk about Auckland as about the biggest Polynesian city in the world, and especially as about the Easternmost city at all. This episodes explores as a relatively sleepy day in the capital of New Zealand which everyone recognizes but nobody really knows anything about it.



45

Gran Canaria / Spain

The island of Gran Canaria is the most diverse one of the entire Canary Islands and this is why it is sometimes called an island of three continents. Sand dunes resembling those of the African Sahara alternate with green „European“ valleys and wild rocky canyons which are similar to the American Grand Canyon. The original inhabitants of the island were Guanchas who lived in caves. And this tradition remained alive until the present times. However, the interiors of rock-hill apartments do not resemble the caves at all.

