

WEIRD CREATURES EPISODICS

Episode: Leafy Sea Dragon

Premieres Wednesday, October 28 at 9 PM

In the warm waters of South Australia, Nick meets a marine animal with a jewel-like body that resembles a brilliant plastic toy rather than a fish: the Leafy Sea Dragon. Such an extreme body form is all about camouflage and this creature displays one of the most complex and convincing disguises in the natural world. As with all Seahorses, it is the male Leafy Sea Dragon that is responsible for parental care. Arriving in Australia just after breeding time means that Nick could very well see juvenile/baby Leafy Sea Dragons; a rare sighting of an extremely endangered fish.

Episode: Mole Lizard

Premieres Wednesday, November 4 at 9 PM

Nick is on a road trip along Mexico's Highway Number 1, running the length of the weird and wonderful Baja peninsula. His aim: to track down the Mole Lizard, aka the Five-Toed Worm Lizard. Somewhere on its evolutionary journey this lizard has lost its rear limbs, leaving it looking like a strange chimera of a snake and a lizard with a bit of earthworm thrown in. It is only found at the southern tip of Baja, and to reach it Nick has to travel a thousand miles through one of the weirdest landscapes on the planet, where he finds everything from cacti to whales to help tell his story of bizarre and wonderful adaptation.

Episode 3: Axolotl

Premieres Wednesday, November 11 at 9 PM

The biggest city in the western hemisphere might seem an unlikely place to find one of nature's most extraordinary amphibians. But Mexico City is the home of the Axolotl, an almost magical salamander that Nick Baker has kept in captivity as a pet for two decades. This film is Nick's pilgrimage to the ancestral home of his favorite amphibian. He learns about the axolotl's unique biology that holds great promise for medical science, and discovers how the city's development has driven this mystical creature to the very edge of extinction.

Episode 4: Marsupial Mole

Premieres Wednesday, November 18 at 9 PM

Nick travels to Australia's Red Center on the trail of one of the world's weirdest desert diggers, the Marsupial Mole. To Nick's astonishment he discovers that what the scientific community knows about this Mole could be written on the back of an envelope. With Joe Benshemesh, the world's leading authority on this most elusive of moles Nick sets off on a desert odyssey. Even local Aboriginals have to admit that very few of them have seen the marsupial mole and the ones they are more familiar with are character in their creation stories. As daytime temperatures in the outback soar to 50 degrees Nick searches for clues, sniffs for scats, looks for tracks, using seismic sensing devices: this weird creature will see Nick at his most resourceful as a field scientist.

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Episode 5: Slow Loris

Premieres Wednesday, November 25 at 9 PM

Nick travels to the depths of the Bornean jungle to find the only poisonous primate in the world; the Slow Loris. It looks like a cuddly toy, but it carries a poison that can prove fatal, all delivered by large, powerful teeth; the Slow Loris is a weird creature with a lethal trick up its sleeve. Small, shy and nocturnal, it lives in the towering rainforest canopy. So to get closer Nick climbs 40m to spend a vertigo-riddled night from hell listening to the sounds of the jungle and wishing he was back on terra firma. Local tracker, Saimon, is on hand to share traditional techniques and build traps to lure the loris out of the trees. While Nick waits for the poisonous primate to bite, he meets some other astonishing forest dwellers including his all-time favorite frog, the Wallace flying frog. He has just seven days in Borneo and having tried every trick in the field guide.

Episode 6: Horseshoe Crab

Premieres Wednesday, December 2 at 9 PM

This weird creature may not be hard to find, but its story is truly remarkable. The horseshoe crab has been around for nearly half a billion years, making it one of the oldest creatures on the planet. Nick wants to find out what this living fossil has been doing right for so long, and why today this remarkable creature is in danger. The clues may lay in spectacular spawning events that, when the moons and tides are right, carpet whole beaches in Delaware Bay with mating crabs. It's here that Nick is heading, to witness one of nature's weirdest spectacles and to unpack the unique biology that has seen the horseshoe crab endure millions of years on earth.

Episode 7: Anteaters

Premieres Wednesday, December 9 at 9 PM

Luck is on Nick's side as he goes in search of the awkward middle child of anteaters, the tamandua. Borrowing characteristics from its brothers, the giant anteater and the silky anteater, the tamandua appears to have an identity crisis. But in an extraordinary moment, Nick witnesses a tamandua making the most of its adaptive abilities as it dines on the fruit of the forest - behavior never before witnessed in the wild. He also finds himself on the sharp end of a silky anteater and gets more than he bargained for when he stumbles across a battery of army ants.

Episode 8: Pygmy Sloth

Premieres Wednesday, December 16 at 9 PM

Nick heads to a group of desert islands in Panama where strange things have been happening to the animals. He hangs out with the pygmy sloth, a species only identified in 2001, and discovers a species of frog with an identity crisis.

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