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See How the Arctic's Most Enigmatic Species Survive a Warming World in *Nature—Walrus: Life on Thin Ice*

Season 44 premieres Wednesday, October 22 at 8/7c on PBS ([check local listings](#)), pbs.org/nature, [YouTube](#) and the [PBS App](#)

In the Arctic seas between Alaska and Russia, about 250,000 walrus congregates. In spring, when the sea ice begins to melt, females and their calves migrate north on floating ice platforms, while the males head to nearby beaches. Follow a paleontologist on an Arctic adventure to uncover the hidden lives of walrus and the threats they face as climate change shrinks the sea ice. ***Nature—Walrus: Life on Thin Ice*** premieres and streams Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 8/7c on PBS ([check local listings](#)), pbs.org/nature, [YouTube](#) and the [PBS App](#).

Kirk Johnson, Sant Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, follows his passion for these lumbering giants all the way to the coast of Nome, Alaska, where he encounters a female herd nursing their newborn pups on drifting sea ice. The reduction in sea ice means more crowds onshore, and sometimes babies get separated from their mothers. Johnson follows the plight of one orphan found alone on a beach in northern Alaska and taken into rehabilitation at the Alaska SeaLife Center. Johnson then travels to Round Island, the oldest wildlife sanctuary in Alaska, where male walrus come to warm up after the strenuous winter breeding season.

"With their long tusks and droopy moustaches, everyone knows and loves the walrus, but few actually get to see them in the wild," said Kirk Johnson. "I feel very fortunate to have gotten this rare opportunity to track them. The challenges they are facing due to a changing planet threaten their very survival. But they are resilient creatures, and I hope this film brings awareness to their plight."

Nature—Walrus: Life on Thin Ice is a Windfall Films production in association with PBS and The WNET Group. The documentary is directed and produced by David Dugan and Alex Tate. Presented by Kirk Johnson. For Windfall Films, Allison Todd is Managing Director, and David Dugan is Executive Producer. For ***Nature***, Fred Kaufman is Executive Producer, Bill Murphy is Series Producer and Janet Hess is Series Editor. ***Nature*** is a production of The WNET Group.

Support for ***Nature—Walrus: Life on Thin Ice*** is provided in part by the George D. Smith Fund, Inc., Dr. Coralyn W. Whitney Program Fund for Science and Nature, and Bradley L. Goldberg Family Foundation. Series funding for ***Nature*** is made possible in part by The Arnhold Family in memory of Henry and Clarisse Arnhold, Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III, The Fairweather Foundation, Charles Rosenblum, Kathy Chiao and Ken Hao, Sarah and Sandra Lyu in memory of Seung and Dorothy Lyu, The Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust, Dr. George Stanley and Sandra Caruso, Kate W. Cassidy Foundation, Filomen M. D'Agostino Foundation, Gregg Peters Monsees Foundation, Koo and Patricia Yuen, Seton J. Melvin, Sandra Atlas Bass, and public television viewers.

Since 1982, ***Nature*** has pioneered a television genre that is now widely emulated in the broadcast industry, bringing the natural world to millions of viewers. The series has won more than 800 honors from the television industry, the international wildlife film communities and environmental organizations, including 21 Emmys and three Peabodys. ***Nature*** is available for streaming concurrently with broadcast on all station-branded PBS platforms, including [PBS.org](https://www.pbs.org) and the [PBS App](#), available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO. Classic episodes are available on various [FAST channel platforms](#) and on [PBS Passport](#).

Websites:

[pbs.org/nature](https://www.pbs.org/nature); [facebook.com/PBSNature](https://www.facebook.com/PBSNature); [instagram.com/pbsnature](https://www.instagram.com/pbsnature); [youtube.com/naturepbs](https://www.youtube.com/naturepbs), [tiktok.com/@pbsnature](https://www.tiktok.com/@pbsnature), #NaturePBS

About The WNET Group

[The WNET Group](#) creates inspiring media content and meaningful experiences for diverse audiences nationwide. It is the community-supported home of New York's [THIRTEEN](#) – America's flagship PBS station – [WLIW21](#), THIRTEEN PBSKids, WLIW World and Create; [NJ PBS](#), New Jersey's statewide public television network; Long Island's only NPR station WLIW-FM; [ALL ARTS](#), the arts and culture media provider; newsroom [NJ Spotlight News](#); and FAST channel PBS Nature. Through these channels and streaming platforms, The WNET Group brings arts, culture, education, news, documentary, entertainment and DIY programming to more than five million viewers each month. The WNET Group's award-winning productions include signature PBS series ***Nature***, ***Great Performances***, ***American Masters*** and ***Amanpour and Company*** and trusted local news program ***NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vannozzi***. Inspiring curiosity and nurturing dreams, The WNET Group's award-winning Kids' Media and Education team produces the PBS KIDS series ***Cyberchase***, interactive ***Mission US*** history games, and resources for families, teachers and caregivers. A leading nonprofit public media producer for more than 60 years, The WNET Group presents and distributes content that fosters lifelong learning, including multiplatform initiatives addressing poverty, jobs, economic opportunity, social justice, understanding and the environment. Through Passport, station members can stream new and archival programming anytime, anywhere. The WNET Group represents the best in public media. Join us.

About PBS

[PBS](#), with more than 330 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and digital content. Each month, PBS reaches over 36 million adults on linear primetime television, more than 16 million users on PBS-owned streaming platforms, 53 million viewers on YouTube, and 60 million people view PBS content on social media, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature, and public affairs and to take front-row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS's broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry's most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to [PBS LearningMedia](#) for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. As the number one educational media brand, [PBS KIDS](#) helps children 2-8 build critical skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. Delivered through member stations, PBS KIDS offers high-quality content on TV — including a PBS KIDS channel — and streaming free on [pbskids.org](#) and the [PBS KIDS Video app](#), games on the [PBS KIDS Games app](#), and in communities across America. More information about PBS is available at [PBS.org](#), one of the leading dot-org websites on the internet, [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or through our [apps for mobile and connected devices](#). Specific program information and updates for press are available at [pbs.org/pressroom](#) or by following [PBS Communications on X](#).

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