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Press Materials: [pbs.org/pressroom](http://pbs.org/pressroom) or [thirteen.org/pressroom](http://thirteen.org/pressroom)

## ***Nature—Wild Ireland: Kingdom of Stone***

*Premieres Wednesday, May 22 at 8/7c on PBS ([check local listings](#)), [pbs.org/nature](http://pbs.org/nature), [YouTube](#) and the [PBS App](#)*

### **Synopsis:**

Ireland is renowned worldwide for its lush green hills and wild Atlantic coast, but one of its greatest natural treasures is a landscape of grey stone called the Burren, which is home to some of Ireland's most enchanting wildlife. Featuring striking wildlife sequences set in this fantastical otherworld, the documentary follows its lead character, the elusive but charming pine marten, as her story takes us on a delightful journey through this incredible habitat and the lives of its wild birds and animals.

**Long TV Listing:** Follow the story of a pine marten as she takes us on a journey through a landscape of grey stone called the Burren, home to some of Ireland's most enchanting wildlife.

**Short TV Listing:** See the spectacular wildlife of The Burren in Ireland through the eyes of a pine marten.

### **Featured Creatures:**

- Pine Martens
- Basking Sharks
- Daubenton's Bat
- Crab Spiders
- Slow Worm
- Three-spined Stickleback
- Jackdaws
- Kestrels
- Marsh Fritillary butterfly
- Fin Whales
- Whooper Swans

### **Noteworthy Facts & Moments:**

- One of Ireland's greatest national treasures is a grey stone desert called the Burren. From the Irish word *Boireann*, meaning "rocky place," the Burren is characterized by its landscape of silvery limestone plains and mountains, punctuated by fissures and underground caves. Many believe this mystical terrain inspired J.R.R. Tolkien's "Middle-Earth."
- Pine Martens in Ireland were nearly extinct in the 20th Century. One of the very last places to find them was in the Burren, but their population has recovered due to legal protection and conservation efforts.
- Basking sharks are the second biggest fish on the planet, up to 40 feet long and four tons in weight. They filter 2,000 tons of water an hour through their giant gills to feed on plankton. Occasionally seen with a companion or two, Basking sharks are usually alone; however there have recently been mass gatherings spotted on the western edge of Ireland. Scientists are trying to understand this change of behavior.
- Crab Spiders do not use webs to capture insects but sneak up on their prey to hunt, using their powerful front legs to hold onto the prey while paralyzing it with a venomous bite.

- Off the coast of the Burren is a group of three islands called the Aran Islands, which contains 21 different kinds of butterflies. Ireland's rarest butterfly, the Marsh Fritillary, is the only butterfly in Ireland with legal protection.

#### **Series Overview:**

Since 1982, **Nature** has brought the natural world to millions of viewers, pioneering a television genre that is now widely emulated in the broadcast industry. The series has won more than 700 honors from the television industry, the international wildlife film communities and environmental organizations, including 21 Emmys and three Peabodys. Consistently among the most-watched primetime series on PBS, **Nature** continues to innovate through original digital programming, such as the Anthem Award-winning podcast [Going Wild with Dr. Rae Wynn-Grant](#) and digital series [Animal IQ](#) and [Untold Earth](#). **Nature's** award-winning website, [pbs.org/nature](https://pbs.org/nature), features full episodes, short films, digital series, behind-the-scenes content, news articles, educational resources and more.

**Nature** is available for streaming concurrent with broadcast on all station-branded PBS platforms, including [PBS.org](https://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](#).

#### **Production Credits:**

**Nature—Wild Ireland: Kingdom of Stone** is a production of Crossing the Line Productions Ltd, Skyland Productions GmbH and The WNET Group in coproduction with ARTE, ORF, WDR and TG4 in association with SVT. The documentary is directed and written by John Murray. Produced by Ceca Giblin and John Murray. Narrated by Colin Stafford-Johnson. For **Nature**, Fred Kaufman is Executive Producer. Bill Murphy is Series Producer. Janet Hess is Series Editor. Danielle Broza is Digital Content & Strategy Lead. **Nature** is a production of The WNET Group.

#### **Underwriters:**

**Wild Ireland: Kingdom of Stone** is produced with the support of Creative Europe – Media Programme of the European Union, Incentives for the Irish Film Industry provided by the Government of Ireland, and Tourism Island. Series funding for **Nature** is made possible in part by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, The Arnhold Family in memory of Henry and Clarisse Arnhold, The Fairweather Foundation, Kate W. Cassidy Foundation, Charles Rosenblum, Kathy Chiao and Ken Hao, Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III, Filomen M. D'Agostino Foundation, Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust, Gregg Peters Monsees Foundation, Koo and Patricia Yuen, Sandra Atlas Bass, and public television viewers.

#### **Websites:**

[pbs.org/nature](https://pbs.org/nature); [facebook.com/PBSNature](https://facebook.com/PBSNature); [twitter.com/PBSNature](https://twitter.com/PBSNature); [instagram.com/pbsnature](https://instagram.com/pbsnature); [youtube.com/naturepbs](https://youtube.com/naturepbs), [tiktok.com/@pbsnature](https://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 PBS KIDS, 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 programs like **NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vannozi**. 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 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.

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