

WILDLIFE LOVERS

Creative couple swims with whales and hikes in bear country

- **These two Austrians travel to the most remote places on Earth to see animals in the wild: From Alaska's massive mountains to tiny islands in Tonga.**
- **They've encountered an illusive Tapir baby, have dived with curious bull sharks and have listened to the songs of humpback whales while being in the water with them.**
- **Their message on Instagram & YouTube: Travelers should help protect animals by finding them in the wild, not in captivity.**

More than 10 years ago, Doris & Matthias (both 29) met at high school in Austria and fell in love on a school trip to Spain. The two graphic designers have been travelling to the other side of the world ever since. „As big nature and wildlife lovers, our journeys were always focussed on animals and the right place and season to spot them.“

Right now, they've just returned to their home country Austria after one full year of adventure. To swim with humpback whales and observe grizzly bears hunting for salmon – with these goals they both paused their jobs a year ago to travel the world full-time. A journey, that led them through three continents, into the tropical rainforest, to calving glaciers, the edge of active volcanoes and into the depths of the ocean.

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Alaska with its Big Five (bears, wolves, moose, caribou, dall sheep) is by far their favourite destination, but not only because of the land mammals. „We saw a pod of orcas on the left side of the boat and a humpback whale on the right. The ocean, the glaciers, the National Parks – a huge playground for us to explore.“

„We've been driving through regions with a higher population of moose than of humans and travelled to islands, where not that long ago, shells were still accepted as a way of payment.“



Grizzly bear hunting for salmon in Haines, Alaska
Photo: @bugsandbears



Humpback whale with its calf in Ha'apai, Tonga
Photo: @mammalswithgills



Matthias & Doris looking for wildlife in Alaska
Photo: @bugsandbears

The two strive to find remote and wild places few people ever get to see. Therefore they take their time: „We’re slow travellers. When we visit a country, we’re dedicating enough time to really dive in and experience the true nature of a place.“

„We as humans are a bigger threat to the wildlife, than it is to us.“

Among their most beautiful wildlife encounters were meeting a herd of wood bison in Canada, swimming with wild crocodiles in the cenotes of Yucatan and diving with bull sharks in the Pacific Ocean – completely without cage. „Wherever we go on this planet, we’ve learned, that we as humans are a bigger threat to the wildlife, than it is to us.“

During their encounters, they’re observing the animals with respect and enough distance. Places, where animals live in captivity, are an absolute no-go for them. „Nobody ever needs to ride elephants, take selfies with drugged tigers or get kissed by a dolphin in a swimming pool. Instead we opt for finding them in their natural habitat.“

Their journeys turned the creative couple into filmmakers. As „Bugs & Bears“ they’re sharing their adventurous stories on YouTube and Instagram with an enthusiastic wildlife travel community. „We want to share our wildlife encounters in a fun and engaging way. And thereby contribute to protecting our little and big friends on this planet.“

The short movies, that the couple is publishing regularly, are not only about their adventures, but also about plastic pollution, endangered animals and people, who are dedicating their lives to protecting nature and wildlife. „Even though, we’re always flattered by the beauty of nature, we’re shocked over and over again to find human traces in the remotest places. Miles away from the next beach there are plastic bags floating in the ocean. This has to change. Every single person can make a difference.“

Back home they are already planning their next adventures. „Wolves are returning to Austria after their extermination in the middle of the 19th century. We’d love to get to see these social predators and contribute to an informed debate.“

Follow the wildlife adventures of Doris & Matthias at:
[youtube.com/BugsAndBears](https://www.youtube.com/BugsAndBears)
[instagram.com/BugsAndBears](https://www.instagram.com/BugsAndBears)

Kontakt

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Bugs & Bears

Doris Wimmer and Matthias Jungwirth (both 29), a creative Austrian travel couple, share short films about their wildlife encounters and adventures at the most remote places on Earth.



Female orangutan in Borneo’s rainforest
Photo: @bugsandbears



On a bamboo raft through dense forest in Bohol, Philippines. Photo: @bugsandbears



Tarsier, the smallest primate on Earth in Bohol, Philippines. Photo: @bugsandbears



Doris & Matthias at the Horseshoe Bend in Arizona, USA Photo: @bugsandbears



Diving with Bull Sharks in Cabo Pulmo, Mexico
Photo: @bugsandbears