

"LOVED TO DEATH"

Episode 03 "Polar Circles"

Final Timecoded Script

INTRO:

001 00:00:00:04 00:00:03:05

We all long for another time... another place

002 00:00:04:19 00:00:06:04

For wonder and excitement

003 00:00:06:17 00:00:08:18

Foreign lands and different cultures

004 00:00:09:21 00:00:11:21

But what happens when we go too far?

005 00:00:13:08 00:00:16:01

When our desire to escape becomes destructive

006 00:00:17:11 00:00:19:24

When we turn what we treasure most into ruin

007 00:00:21:17 00:00:24:09

When our love comes at the ultimate price

EPISODE 03:

008 00:00:36:20 00:00:38:03

At the ends of the earth

009 00:00:38:18 00:00:40:21

Where summers grow cold and harsh

010 00:00:41:18 00:00:43:04

And winters may be lethal

011 00:00:44:17 00:00:47:15

We flock to experience the extremes of our planet

012 00:00:48:23 00:00:50:08

To see sights unseen

013 00:00:51:14 00:00:53:02

With everlasting days

014 00:00:53:14 00:00:55:21

And weeks of unending darkness alike

015 00:00:56:17 00:00:58:02

But when seeing is believing

016 00:00:58:23 00:01:00:04

Loving is ruining

017 00:01:00:24 00:01:04:03

As we clamor for a last glimpse of primordial nature

018 00:01:05:05 00:01:07:06

We risk destroying it by the second

019 00:01:08:05 00:01:10:16

Like clutching a shard of ice too tightly

020 00:01:11:11 00:01:13:03

Melting away into oblivion

021 00:01:13:21 00:01:17:13

So too do our ice caps with every foot set on it

022 00:01:32:23 00:01:34:14

Antarctica and the Arctic

023 00:01:35:24 00:01:40:06

Have both long been seen as the ultimate challenge for explorers worldwide

024 00:01:42:13 00:01:45:18

Polar expeditions synonymous with both danger and adventure

025 00:01:46:22 00:01:49:02

Where the sun barely sets during summer

026 00:01:50:04 00:01:52:16

And rarely peeks over the horizon in winter

027 00:01:55:16 00:02:00:06

Both have now become two of the most highly regarded tourist destinations in the world

028 00:02:01:19 00:02:10:01

A litmus test of bravery over the elements, rivalled only by the steepest mountain climbing expeditions and the deepest cave explorations

029 00:02:12:02 00:02:16:15

Expeditions now streamlined to carry passengers safely from start to finish

030 00:02:16:24 00:02:22:21

Thanks to innovations in modern shipping and aircraft access to even the most remote areas of the planet

031 00:02:23:09 00:02:27:11

And an increasing thirst for new experiences, unlike any other

032 00:02:28:02 00:02:30:17

North Pole expeditions being the most common

033 00:02:30:24 00:02:34:22

With more than 300 cruise ships yearly trafficking the Arctic waters

034 00:02:35:14 00:02:39:01

6 times the number of ships used just 4 years earlier

035 00:02:39:16 00:02:44:13

Tourists now constituting the single largest human presence in much of the Arctic

036 00:02:47:02 00:02:55:13

Far exceeding their host populations of indigenous people, the Inuit, and the few colonial human settlements above the Arctic circle

037 00:02:57:20 00:03:04:12

While in Antarctica, tourism has experienced the largest growth of any part of the world over the past few decades

038 00:03:06:08 00:03:15:01

With cruises and privately chartered ships increasing the number of tourists visiting Antarctica by over 300 percent over the past 10 years

039 00:03:18:17 00:03:23:15

With land-based tourism reported to have expanded tenfold over the same period

040 00:03:26:08 00:03:32:20

Tourists far outnumbering the roughly four to five thousand Antarctic scientists and base staff stationed there

041 00:03:34:08 00:03:37:22

Making up the only permanent human population of the continent

042 00:03:39:05 00:03:43:16

A situation further aided by muddled lines of national ownership

043 00:03:46:00 00:03:51:17

The Arctic roughly divided into areas of territorial waters with non-existent border control

044 00:03:54:01 00:04:01:18

While Antarctica is generally considered neutral ground where all nationalities have claim to establish bases to conduct research

045 00:04:03:10 00:04:11:04

Enabling tourists worldwide to be able to travel to either location with minimal concern for visa requirements and documentation

046 00:04:13:02 00:04:18:08

All are drawn to the Polar regions for their extraordinary nature and wildlife, found nowhere else

047 00:04:19:08 00:04:23:09

From the Arctic whales, wolves, polar bears and seals

048 00:04:24:05 00:04:26:16

To the Antarctic penguins and birds

049 00:04:27:12 00:04:35:07

Each species present having specifically evolved to withstand the unique environmental conditions found only in the Polar regions

050 00:04:36:03 00:04:38:06

With the coldest temperatures on the planet

051 00:04:38:17 00:04:45:13

Dipping as low as minus 68 degrees Celsius in the Arctic and minus 89 degrees in Antarctica

052 00:04:46:10 00:04:49:15

Encompassing unique terrain not found anywhere else

053 00:04:50:18 00:04:56:02

From free-floating sea ice to 6000 feet thick inland ice shelves

054 00:04:56:24 00:05:01:03

As well as tundra, glaciers and flat coastal plains

055 00:05:01:22 00:05:03:02

Lakes and rivers

056 00:05:04:01 00:05:05:24

Mountains and rolling hills

057 00:05:06:12 00:05:12:16

The mighty taiga, a vast expanse of coniferous forests of pines, spruces and larches

058 00:05:13:05 00:05:17:21

And the open ocean, alluring for both casual tourists as well as fishermen

059 00:05:18:12 00:05:25:23

Other activities including historical sightseeing, with the pioneer encampments of the Polar explorers often still in place

060 00:05:27:04 00:05:30:16

As well as dog-sledding, mountaineering and skiing

061 00:05:33:03 00:05:38:05

But wherever the tourists go, questions arise of the sustainability of the industry

062 00:05:39:16 00:05:49:01

Many cruise ships and tourist settlements so often associated with a reduction of sea ice, pollution, littering, hunting and fishing

063 00:05:50:22 00:05:58:05

The question becomes not what right we have to visit and admire the greatness of the once beautiful, pristine polar wilderness

064 00:05:58:16 00:06:00:04

Pure as untouched snow

065 00:06:00:22 00:06:02:09

But what will remain of it

066 00:06:14:12 00:06:19:06

The history of human involvement in the Arctic region dates back to prehistoric times

067 00:06:20:13 00:06:27:02

The first indigenous settlers entering the central and eastern Arctic region around 4500 years ago

068 00:06:28:12 00:06:31:17

Evolving into the Dorset culture 2000 years later

069 00:06:31:24 00:06:34:23

Specializing in hunting sea mammals such as seals

070 00:06:35:14 00:06:39:09

As opposed to later traditions of whale and polar bear hunting

071 00:06:42:00 00:06:47:07

But as the climate changed during the European Medieval period, the sea ice began to melt

072 00:06:47:19 00:06:51:20

The highly specialized lifestyle of the Dorset people led to their downfall

073 00:06:53:03 00:07:00:16

The Dorset culture vanished, to be replaced with the Thule people spreading from Alaska, giving rise to modern Inuit culture

074 00:07:01:02 00:07:03:22

Taking over Northern Canada and Greenland

075 00:07:05:18 00:07:10:14

Facing newly emerged Norse settlements along the southern coastlines of Greenland

076 00:07:11:15 00:07:14:24

Which had then been newly colonized by Danish Vikings

077 00:07:15:18 00:07:19:23

Later sharing Alaska with the Inupiat and Yupik peoples

078 00:07:20:12 00:07:28:12

While in the east, across Northern Scandinavia and Russia, a variety of indigenous cultures coming from the south emerged around the same time

079 00:07:30:11 00:07:39:12

Such as the Buryat, Chukchi, Evenks, Khanty, Koryaks, Nenets, Sami and Yukaghir

080 00:07:40:19 00:07:44:09

Mainly being indigenous Russian and Mongolian in descent

081 00:07:45:09 00:07:49:20

None having a centralized hierarchy of order, instead being tribal

082 00:07:50:16 00:07:57:17

The first wave of modern Europeans to travel to the Arctic with the purpose of colonizing the area began in the 15th century

083 00:07:58:20 00:08:06:16

During which time, the Scandinavian countries Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland began expanding their official territories toward the largely unexplored north and west

084 00:08:07:01 00:08:10:17

While Russia expanded into what is now known as Siberia

085 00:08:12:10 00:08:20:02

The British and French colonists only following suit in the centuries that followed, travelling north in search of gold and mineral ore

086 00:08:21:03 00:08:24:11

Staying for the extensive fur trade that later developed

087 00:08:25:03 00:08:34:15

In 1867, Russia sold the territory of Alaska, then considered a near uninhabitable patch of mountainous region and dense forests, to the US

088 00:08:36:03 00:08:43:15

Leading the American and Canadian governments to first attempt to assimilate the Inuit peoples by creating reservations in the region

089 00:08:44:12 00:08:50:13

Forcing them from their traditional lands and into cities and townships emerging around mining operations

090 00:08:52:04 00:09:00:04

Mirroring similar developments in Russia as tsarist control over the northern areas intensified, displacing many indigenous people

091 00:09:01:20 00:09:12:08

People from throughout continental United States additionally moved north with the discovery of significant gold deposits in Alaska and Northwestern Canada in the 1890s

092 00:09:14:24 00:09:21:00

Logging and mining remaining the two biggest industries in Northern North America since then

093 00:09:22:17 00:09:27:15

Briefly facing competition only from whale hunting across the entire Arctic region

094 00:09:29:05 00:09:36:04

As whaling for meat, blubber and above all oil became a major business in the 19th century

095 00:09:38:01 00:09:47:11

Whalers throughout Canada, Alaska and Northern Scandinavia hunting all manners of whales seldom seen elsewhere but abundant in the Arctic waters

096 00:09:51:00 00:09:57:05

Whaling turned into a full blown industry to supply oil for lighting as well as to make soap and margarine

097 00:10:00:01 00:10:06:00

While earnest exploration of the Arctic region continued, the search for the North Pole remained elusive

098 00:10:07:04 00:10:17:02

Culminating in the two expeditions of Frederick Cook and Robert Peary, who both claimed to have reached the geographical North Pole in 1908 and 1909 respectively

099 00:10:19:00 00:10:23:19

The Arctic soon also became a popular target for tourists throughout the 19th century

100 00:10:24:08 00:10:28:11

bolstered by new means of travel and technology to enable them to survive

101 00:10:30:08 00:10:37:23

The earliest tourists being individual anglers, mountaineers and adventurers, often looking to claim a part of the Arctic in the name of their country

102 00:10:39:03 00:10:41:23

Or to profit from fishing and hunting recreationally

103 00:10:43:05 00:10:49:17

While the Arctic has been known to western societies for centuries, Antarctica was only discovered in the 19th century

104 00:10:49:19 00:10:54:17

The first explorers setting foot on the icy and rocky shores of the unknown continent in 1821

105 00:10:55:08 00:10:58:24

After which, whaling similarly became a major industry

106 00:10:59:22 00:11:03:06

As well as penguin and seal hunting for oil and meat

107 00:11:03:14 00:11:08:05

While the land itself became the subject of significant territorial dispute

108 00:11:09:04 00:11:14:21

Multiple ambitious expeditions to find the geographical south pole being seen as the deciding factor

109 00:11:15:24 00:11:21:11

Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen first reaching the South Pole in 1911

110 00:11:22:08 00:11:28:03

Though Antarctica as a whole was declared neutral ground in the 1959 Antarctic treaty

111 00:11:29:10 00:11:34:03

Setting it aside as a scientific reserve with no military activity allowed

112 00:11:34:17 00:11:43:12

Later on also prohibiting all forms of mining on the continent out of fears of damaging the already fragile ecosystem of Antarctica

113 00:11:45:00 00:11:52:11

Tourism in Antarctica as well has grown significantly with lessened restrictions on civilian traffic in the region and improved means of travel

114 00:11:53:08 00:11:57:01

Often seen as the last frontier of human endeavor on earth

115 00:11:57:14 00:12:00:14

The most distant continent and the least exploited

116 00:12:02:04 00:12:09:07

While the Arctic is often seen as a more appropriate area for extreme sports and appreciation of its scenic nature

117 00:12:22:01 00:12:25:07

The Polar regions are today significantly threatened

118 00:12:27:00 00:12:30:14

Both by changes from within the region and outside of it

119 00:12:31:04 00:12:38:21

By the sudden influx of tourism causing significant disruptions in the local ecologies and practices of indigenous peoples

120 00:12:41:04 00:12:48:01

With indirect support of local industries that depend on deforestation for logging, whaling and overfishing

121 00:12:50:16 00:12:56:05

While the biggest threat to the Polar regions remains however the worldwide and local climate change

122 00:12:57:09 00:13:04:23

Causes attributed ranging from global warming to localized pollution and erosion by the massive increase in tourist traffic

123 00:13:07:15 00:13:15:00

With the amount of sea ice in the Arctic having been reduced by over 11 percent per decade over the past 30 years

124 00:13:16:05 00:13:21:05

Amounting to over 28 000 square miles of sea ice lost per year

125 00:13:23:24 00:13:26:13

The largest decline being in the Greenland Sea

126 00:13:27:00 00:13:30:12

One of the most significant expanses of sea ice in the region

127 00:13:32:09 00:13:35:13

Leading directly to changes in the Arctic ecosystem

128 00:13:35:20 00:13:41:14

As many core Arctic species rely on the ice platforms for their primary or secondary habitat

129 00:13:43:01 00:13:45:21

Polar bears wandering the ice shelves for miles

130 00:13:46:24 00:13:51:23

Walrus, ringed and bearded seals using the ice shelves for mating and resting

131 00:13:53:20 00:13:59:05

The temperature changes also affecting the migration patterns of many species of fish

132 00:14:02:09 00:14:10:14

Which, though it may lead to a surge of commercial fishing activity in the region, will undoubtedly impact the predatory population of the Arctic

133 00:14:13:14 00:14:19:05

The quality of sea ice itself is also considerably impacted, growing thinner every year

134 00:14:22:06 00:14:31:00

As seasonal ice, which melts and freezes every year as opposed to the thicker permanent ice, now making up 70 percent of the total winter sea ice

135 00:14:33:13 00:14:37:07

An increase of 50 percent to sea ice in the 1990s

136 00:14:39:15 00:14:43:15

As it becomes thinner, the melting rate of the ice increases exponentially

137 00:14:44:14 00:14:48:22

With newly exposed surface water adding to the absorption of solar heat

138 00:14:50:06 00:14:53:24

Further increasing water and air temperatures and melting more ice

139 00:14:55:07 00:14:59:10

Leading to a sharp increase in fresh water altering the currents below

140 00:15:01:07 00:15:06:13

With additional warm currents coming from the Pacific and Atlantic oceans exacerbating the issue

141 00:15:09:14 00:15:15:10

Threatening a total shift of the Arctic currents and a potentially catastrophic climate change

142 00:15:18:15 00:15:22:22

As sea levels worldwide threaten to rise with the melting of the ice caps

143 00:15:23:15 00:15:26:18

Possibly drowning many coastal areas around the globe

144 00:15:31:11 00:15:37:19

The increase in water temperature also reportedly thawing out the permafrost beneath the Arctic seafloor

145 00:15:41:21 00:15:44:21

Said to set off a geological domino effect

146 00:15:45:10 00:15:51:18

Releasing massive quantities of highly volatile methane gas into the water and subsequently into the air

147 00:15:53:23 00:15:57:08

Methane gas being a significant greenhouse gas

148 00:15:59:09 00:16:04:04

The release of which having been linked to several past abrupt temperature changes

149 00:16:05:05 00:16:09:16

Further speculated to worsen the loss of sea ice and permafrost

150 00:16:12:05 00:16:19:01

While experts of the International Polar Year program concluded that the changes occurring are likely to be irreversible

151 00:16:22:09 00:16:29:10

The acidification of the oceans themselves, are also a main concern for the marine life in both Antarctica and the Arctic

152 00:16:32:01 00:16:39:16

The waters themselves having rapidly absorbed carbon dioxide from fossil-fuel emissions both globally and in the area

153 00:16:42:19 00:16:46:00

With cold water more likely to absorb it than warm

154 00:16:47:14 00:16:50:09

Putting the polar regions in particular at risk

155 00:16:52:18 00:16:57:15

The sea water itself becoming increasingly corrosive and harmful to marine animals

156 00:17:01:11 00:17:07:10

With the Polar waters reported as being 30 percent more acidic than the early 1900s

157 00:17:11:09 00:17:19:00

Reducing the availability of carbonate ions used in the formation of shells for crustaceans and the skeletons of boned fish

158 00:17:24:22 00:17:30:24

Current estimates indicating a 150 percent increase of acidity by the year 2100

159 00:17:33:06 00:17:35:11

Marking an irreversible change

160 00:17:43:05 00:17:49:11

The increase in tourism in the region has also directly led to significant deforestation in the north

161 00:17:50:13 00:17:52:21

To make room for ski slopes and lodges

162 00:17:55:13 00:18:01:00

As well as the burning of wood for fuel to save on transport costs of other fossil fuels

163 00:18:04:06 00:18:11:21

And an increase in local oil drilling, particularly off the coast of Alaska, contributing to a worldwide increase in pollution

164 00:18:28:24 00:18:32:10

While the indigenous people have been continuously pushed aside

165 00:18:32:22 00:18:35:18

Receiving little support from local governments

166 00:18:36:04 00:18:44:22

And increased hostility in the areas where they are legally protected for perceived favoritism for being allowed to continue their native practices of hunting

167 00:18:47:05 00:18:49:19

While restrictions are posed against tourists

168 00:18:50:21 00:19:00:15

Inuit cultures significantly threatened as the climate changes and political shifts due to tourism have led to shrinking habitable areas for them and their cattle

169 00:19:02:04 00:19:06:10

As many are dependent on northern reindeer and cattle for sustenance

170 00:19:07:04 00:19:12:24

As well as polar bear and seal hunting, both of which are now endangered due to the expanding tourism

171 00:19:15:12 00:19:18:03

Their practices seen as archaic and obsolete

172 00:19:19:24 00:19:25:23

Many only continuing forms of their native traditions to produce souvenirs and trinkets for tourists

173 00:19:28:00 00:19:32:14

While abandoning their traditional lifestyles in favor of modernized western living

174 00:19:33:22 00:19:36:08

Losing their culture and language along the way

175 00:19:37:04 00:19:42:08

With many tribes of native peoples already gone and others numbered only in the hundreds

176 00:19:43:05 00:19:48:19

Confined to designated reserves and often reported to be treated as second-class citizens

177 00:19:50:03 00:19:54:03

Their interests rarely represented either in media or in politics

178 00:19:55:22 00:19:58:14

Their causes and crises hardly publicized

179 00:19:59:04 00:20:01:03

Their legacy largely forgotten

180 00:20:02:22 00:20:08:21

With many native peoples reportedly turning suspicious of a society that by large rejects them

181 00:20:10:15 00:20:17:01

While tourism has almost exclusively focused on nature and adventure as opposed to native traditions

182 00:20:19:01 00:20:27:07

Extreme sports of diving, skiing, snowboarding and sky diving appreciated over spending time with indigenous tribes

183 00:20:28:00 00:20:40:08

Further encouraged by local governments of non-indigenous people in the Northern provinces looking to lure western travelers in and offset widespread financial issues with the decrease of oil, fish and mining

184 00:20:42:21 00:20:50:08

The ecological changes have directly been implicated in the rapidly decreasing populations of Arctic and Antarctic wildlife

185 00:20:51:03 00:20:58:13

With direct losses of habitat as well as disastrous oil spills affecting marine life and sea birds throughout the Polar regions

186 00:20:59:09 00:21:03:22

Though legal sanctions are constantly put forward to protect the environment

187 00:21:05:01 00:21:13:11

They are equally repeatedly ignored due to lacking supervision, as well as issues of political sovereignty over the affected regions

188 00:21:15:13 00:21:19:24

Posing notable challenges to law-enforcement and wildlife protection agencies

189 00:21:21:05 00:21:24:13

Lacking infrastructure additionally making it harder to govern

190 00:21:26:05 00:21:33:17

With tourists often going off-road in the vast expanses of wilderness with little chance of being monitored by a third party

191 00:21:35:21 00:21:44:15

Fossil fuel-burning tourist cruises, substandard ecological precautions by tourist lodges and illegal hunting all remain widespread

192 00:21:47:00 00:21:52:21

Many Arctic tourists specifically travelling north for what is seen as prestigious hunting adventures

193 00:21:54:16 00:21:59:19

The additional introduction of non-native species of rodents, cats and dogs

194 00:22:02:15 00:22:07:14

Have also led to decreasing populations of smaller Arctic and Antarctic animals

195 00:22:10:01 00:22:18:04

All symptoms of a larger issue of tourism and industry directly shown to negatively affect the last true wilderness on earth

196 00:22:20:08 00:22:25:07

While governments and corporations focus on sightseeing and recreational activities

197 00:22:26:24 00:22:30:15

The indigenous people are dying and nature along with it

198 00:22:32:07 00:22:36:13

While the famed hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica may have healed

199 00:22:36:22 00:22:38:09

Much is left to be done

200 00:22:43:11 00:22:48:12

And while southern travel agencies and tourism bureaus may be ostensibly in charge

201 00:22:49:11 00:22:51:21

It is our consumer demand that guides them

202 00:22:53:03 00:22:57:17

Instead of contributing to fossil fuel-burning industries and deforestation

203 00:22:58:02 00:23:02:04

We should focus on saving the species we have endangered in the process

204 00:23:03:24 00:23:08:06

And instead of enabling the tourist lodges and ski resorts to expand

205 00:23:10:00 00:23:13:15

We should focus on saving our forgotten indigenous peoples

206 00:23:19:03 00:23:20:02

And above all

207 00:23:21:18 00:23:23:17

We should focus on saving our Earth

208 00:23:27:00 00:23:28:05

The only one we have

209 00:23:31:24 00:23:33:05

Before it's too late

210 00:23:35:19 00:23:36:17

Little by little

211 00:23:39:19 00:23:40:22

Loving it to death