



TOP OF THE ROCKS

*A 360° journey across the planet around five iconic source stones:
Granite, Limestone, Sandstone, Basalt, Clay,
which have shaped our planet and have inspired human
civilizations. An ambitious 4K series to reveal the secret life that hides within
the mineral world and the way it connects cultures together and still impacts our environment today.*

*Each of these stories will show us to what extent Rocks and the living world are interconnected, and
how greatly we depend on the mineral world.*

Rocks and soils shape the life of our landscapes. They influence the flora and fauna of all ecosystems. The materials used for our homes, the color our horizons and the representations of our divinities are all made of rocks.

At the crossroad between science and discovery, exploring our planet's landscapes deciphering how our Earth was shaped, we share the stories of those who have a passion for the mineral world. The series offers a fresh take on geology and takes us on a spectacular journey across the globe over five episodes. Each episode explores the properties and fascinating relationships that rocks have with their environments.

Travelling from North America to Namibia, from Western Europe to India through Egypt and Iceland, crossing the driest deserts and humid forests, this series takes us for on a fascinating mineral journey using spectacular 4K imagery.

Rocks will transport us through time and space within the planet's most breathtaking landscapes. between the infinitely large and the infinitely small, exploring a diversity of cultures and traditions,

A co-production:

Petit Dragon/ Haut et Court/ Arte/ Ushuaïa

Directors:

Christophe Cousin



5x52'

THE SECRETS OF GRANITE



GRANITE is considered the bedrock of the terrestrial world nearly indestructible, it constitutes a large part of the crust of our continents and the interior of our mountains.

Traveling to the United States researchers are trying to understand how a rock this hard influences the life of plants. In Namibia, we'll meet a curious animal who lives on the mineral world and explore how in Brittany (France) this source rock impacts the traditional beliefs and how it has left its mark on History. In the wine yards of Alsace, the land determines the flavor of some of the world's best wines.

Granite and the living world are interconnected. Amidst the Alps, a professional climber passionate about the Mont-Blanc peaks will share its fascination when climbing on Granite terrain.

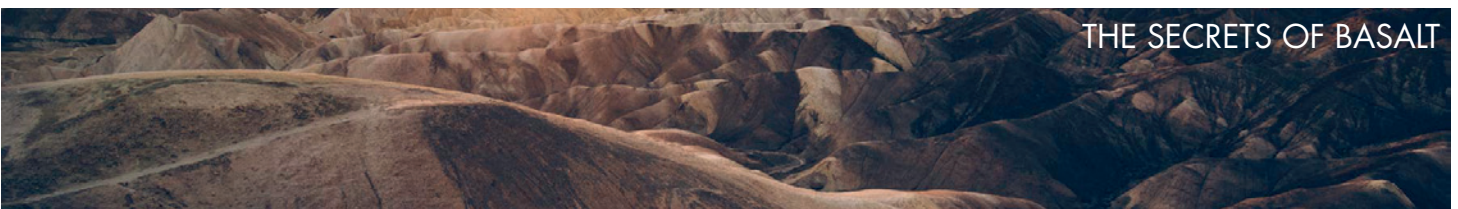
THE SECRETS OF LIMESTONE



Some of our most beautiful cliffs, atolls and mountains are limestone landmarks. Commonly used in the construction of Historical sites and recognizable by its white color this rock stems from the sea and covers over half the surface of the Earth.

We will reach the cliffs of the Seven Sisters in England and visit Vancouver in Canada, exploring the ecosystems hiding within its galleries and caves. We will wander in Paris undergrounds and walk in the footsteps of our ancestors in Namibia and those of the ghostly white prince of Etosha, to reveal what role Limestone has played in their fate. On the coast of Florida, we will take a closer look at a curious animal made of flesh and rock. Limestone reflects like no other rock this tight interconnection between the mineral and the living world. In this episode our journey begins out at sea off of the coast of Normandy.

THE SECRETS OF BASALT



Lying in the bowels of the Earth, born out of the fury of volcanoes, Basalt is the youngest source rock on the geological time scale. It is the foundation of iconic landscapes which have fueled human imagination. Researchers set off to France and Germany to seek the early life forms which have developed in contact with this soil. In the Galapagos Islands and in Namibia, we will examine the lava heron and a very odd rodent which have adapted to their basaltic environment. In India, we will see how plants and precious stones have made their home in its heart. Visiting the early human settlements in the volcanic region of Auvergne and travelling to the US to understand how native Indians maintained extremely close relationships with this rock. Starting our journey in Ireland in an exceptional setting where millions of inhabitants gather yearly to pay tribute and contemplate Basalt.

THE SECRETS OF SANDSTONE

Like crystalized sugar made of all the grains of sand that comprise it, this rock is both porous and resilient. It nourishes an organic relationship with the living world. A marine biologist and a bee discoverer shed a different light on the legendary US Western. We will meet the last builders that extract and cut this stone using ancestral methods in India and France. In Namibia, we will understand how much the landscape shapes the wildlife. Each of these stories will show us how greatly sandstone and the living world are interconnected, and how we depend on the mineral world. But for the time being, our journey begins on a beach in Southern England, a natural birth place for sandstone.

THE SECRETS OF CLAY

Ancestral and yet timeless Clay has been on man's side ever since the birth of Humanity as attested by flint and cut stone. Tender and fragile in its dry state, it is malleable in the presence of water and can freeze irreversibly when exposed to fire. Thanks to these unique properties it has accompanied each of Humanity's major developments, from writing to sedentary living, from agriculture to space exploration!

Our journey begins in clay's birthplace ...in a delta. In India meeting potters and brick makers we will discover surprising facts about Clay. In the United States, geologists will reveal to us how clay was instrumental in the survival of the planet's ecosystems. In Namibia, we will accompany dust hunters and termite specialists.

PRODUCTION TEAM

WRITER/ DIRECTOR: Christophe Cousin

Award winning and experienced director he has worked on numerous acclaimed series and prime time one offs produced for all major French Channels France Télévisions Group, Canal+ and Arte and sold internationally.

- Le climat, les hommes et la Mer (110') - France 3
- Il était une fois l'Arctique (110') - France 3
- Mission Exploration (19x52') - Canal +

PRODUCER: Emma Lepers - HAUT ET COURT

Respected producer with a long track record in producing TV and feature length Docs with French and international partners:

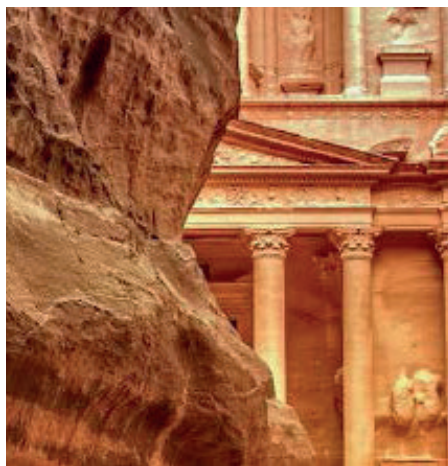
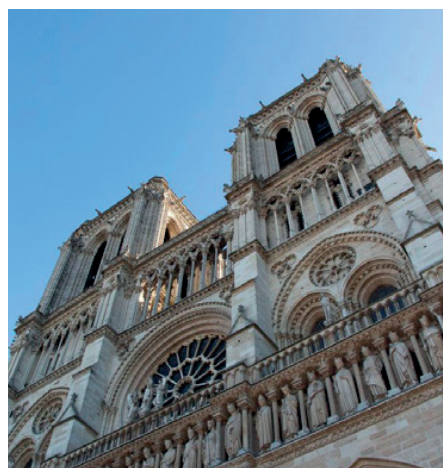
- Maria by Callas by Tom Volf
- Danger Dave (about professional skateboarder David Martelleur) by Philippe Petit
- The Building of Arnold Schwarzenegger by Jérôme Momcilovic and Camille Juza
- Abderrahmane Sissako: Beyond Territories by Valérie Osouf
- San Francisco: the City that knows how by Laureline Amanieux
- Family Goldmine by Robbie Fraser
- Happiness is in the plate by Philippe Allante and written by Camille Labro and Nathalie Cuman

PLANNING

Development and scriptwriting: Fall 2018 - Spring 2019
Principal Photography: December 2019 - September 2020
Editing: October - December 2020
Post Production: January 2021

Delivery : April 2021

BUDGET: 1.4 Millions



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