

# Kamchatka Bears

THE BEGINNING OF LIFE

LESFILM



KAMCHATKA BEARS. THE BEGINNING OF LIFE (6+)  
Russia, 2017, color, 60 min  
Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/191999021>

South Kamchatka Federal Sanctuary is often called bear paradise. A production team lead by Igor Shpilenok headed there to film a documentary about the real lives of brown bear families. We spent seven months observing and unveiling secrets of the newborn bear cubs' daily life: how they adapt to the world of wild nature, learn to find food, avoid dangers and experience adventures. The documentary team captured amazing images of the daily lives of animals, including a touching case of motherly love.

Existing documentaries on bears were all filmed over a short period of time. The disadvantage of such projects is that the plot is set by humans, not by nature. Russia has about 110,000 brown bears, and populations have been relatively stable in recent years, though over-hunting remains a serious problem in some regions. Russia is called the kingdom of bears, but we know so little about the real personality of our symbol. How do bears grow, how do they study, how do they interact socially? Kurilskoye Lake, a Unesco World Heritage site, is the biggest in Eurasia for the breeding of salmon, with the bears attracted to the waters. There can be up to 200 bears at a time on the shore where the movie was filmed.

The Lesfilm team comprises a number of skilled professional experts in their fields, among them ecologist Dr. Valentin Pazhetnov, who is dubbed «uncle bear».

Kamchatka Bears was filmed over a seven-month period and turned into a 60-minute production for release in 2017. This film will showcase the world of nature that lives in line with its laws – one that is friendly to those who enter it with respect and an open heart.



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