

Amazing Animal Journeys

Waddle We Do?

The mating journey of the Emperor Penguin, might be described quite rightly as the most difficult of all. This majestic bird (in name and nature) usually lives and feeds near the sea and mates during the deepest Antarctic winter.

To protect its young, the Emperor Penguin will walk up to 200km inland in temperatures as low as -50 degrees centigrade with winds of over 200kmph in order to lay its egg.

The Salmon Run

Salmon's most amazing journey is also their last. Coming back from the ocean, the salmon swim upstream to the gravel beds where they were born to spawn before dying.

To get there, the salmon must swim hundreds of miles upstream against rapids and strong currents. Incredibly, they leap UP waterfalls to reach their destination. Salmon have been recorded jumping over 3.5 metres high! Unbelievably, the salmon don't eat whilst returning up the river.

Amazingly, experts believe salmon use their sense of smell to return to the exact gravel bed where they were born. That's an impressive nose! As if all that weren't difficult enough, the salmon must also avoid bears, bald eagles and human fishermen, all of who are waiting for them on the way!

Tern Out for the Books

The Arctic tern holds a pretty solid claim to being the furthest-travelled living creature on Earth.

This astonishing bird will travel up to 40,000km per year, between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres in order to maintain it's need to survive in summertime conditions. Because an Arctic tern can live up to 25 years, it's estimated that one of these birds could travel up to 1 million kilometres in it's lifetime. That's to the moon and back...twice.



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A Turtle Success!

Sea turtles have an amazing but dangerous journey from the moment they hatch out of their shells.

It's estimated only 1 in 1000 sea turtles make it to adulthood. Due to predators, loss of environment and pollution. But those who do can live to up to 50-100 years and even older! Sea turtles migrate up to 10,000 miles each year, but always go back to the same beach they were born on to lay their eggs. They basically have their own compass built inside their brain. Amazing!

Danger! Turtles mistake plastic waste such as plastic bags and balloons for jellyfish and eat them.

This Journey Tends to Dragon a Bit

Did you know that some insects migrate? Well there's a Dragon fly that does it in some spectacular style. Asian Dragonflies will travel from the north to the very southern part of Asia during winter and can cover up to 17,000km in a year.

But unfortunately no dragon fly can do this alone. It will take 4 generations to complete the journey, which they navigate using guidance by the Earth's magnetic field.

That's innate DNA programming in practice right there.

