



Vjosa River, the last queen

Directed by: Luigi Cammarota

Produced by: SD Cinematografica

Duration: 43 min.

Versions: 

Format: HD

The Vjosa River is the last wild river in Europe. But not for long. It is feared that its irreplaceable environmental value will be sacrificed in the name of energy hunger and economic development. He was born in Greece, in the Pindo National Park, the mountain range that connects Greece and Macedonia, and after crossing southern Albania flows into the Otranto Canal, north of Valona. 280 kilometers long, it flows into a watershed of almost seven thousand square kilometers. The area crossed by the river is called "the Blue Heart of Europe" because it offers glimpses of extraordinary beauty and crosses some of the most beautiful and unspoiled territories of the Balkan Peninsula. This earthly paradise of water, rocks and forests could soon disappear. In the programmes of the Albanian Government there is the construction of as many as 36 dams, which would deface the protected areas that the Vjosa crosses, with irreparable damage to the life of the traditional communities that live in its course, as well as destroy a unique biodiversity, with several endangered species, such as the lynx, which could disappear. Wild salmon are still being fished here and if the waterways disappear, the last european population would disappear. This area is part of the list of Unesco Geoparks, for its unique natural and historical features, with vegetation that passes from Mediterranean to Alpine flora and where live 140 species of birds including vultures and eagles and all species of European mammals up to bears and wolves. Along the river there are mule along and where merchants once passed with mules loaded with goods bound for the north. Some are engineering masterpieces, such as the Vradetho Staircase or the three arches of the Plakida Bridge, where a bell warns you when the wind is strong enough to knock you down, in the rapids of the crystal clear river.



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