



## KERGUELEN ISLANDS

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### UTOPIA ISLANDS

Lost in the middle of the Antarctic Ocean, over 13000 km from the French coasts, Crozet, Kerguelen and Amsterdam are so isolated that they can only be reached by sea - even today. Noone has ever lived there on a permanent basis... if you don't count those who were shipwrecked or who came in chase of some wild dreams. However, the rugged shores became the backdrop to a true tale of adventure: the story of the Kerguelen knight who thought he'd found the new Eldorado; the land of seal and whale hunters, of explorers, of industrialists wanting to « colonise » otherwise barren islands. Ruins, shipwrecks and logbooks tell a story: that of an ever-lasting fascination for these islands that remain aloof to protect their mystery.

### SENTINEL ISLANDS

Halfway between Africa and Antarctica, the islands of French Polynesia are a huge natural laboratory where dozens of scientists take turns.

Millions of marine animals are participants of their studies, revealing extraordinary capacities of adaptation to extreme conditions. These territories are also at the heart of a gigantic police investigation into the role of man in the production of «greenhouse gases», responsible for global warming.

Through surprising encounters - «The Plankton E.T.», voracious bacteria or penguins, inventors of vocal locks - we discover these «southern sentinels» who, by alerting us about the consequences of our modern way of life, help us to think about the future of the planet.

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