



GOLDEN DAYS ON GREEN MEADOWS



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PASTURES IN THE SKY

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1x50 min., 4K, 5.1



Spending a summer on an alpine pasture is a profoundly unique experience – one that forges a deep connection between people, nature and centuries-old tradition. High in the mountains, these pastures offer panoramic views, crisp alpine air and a peaceful retreat far removed from the demands and noise of everyday life.

Yet beyond the appeal for short-term visitors lies the demanding, time-honoured work of traditional alpine farming. Each summer, farmers lead their livestock – cows, sheep, and goats – up into the highlands to graze on lush, nutrient-rich mountain grasses. This form of extensive, sustainable agriculture not only provides high-quality forage but also plays a vital role in maintaining the biodiversity and ecological balance of the alpine environment. Grazing animals roam freely, naturally fertilising the soil and managing plant growth – keeping the ecosystem healthy and thriving.

For 100 days each year, nature flourishes in a vibrant symphony of biodiversity. Alpine meadows burst into bloom with colourful wildflowers, attracting pollinators such as bees and butterflies. Early spring and summer blossoms light up the green with vivid hues, and – alongside mountain grasses and herbs – form a rich buffet for both livestock and wildlife. These grazing traditions help preserve a delicate balance, preventing overgrowth and supporting resilient, species-rich meadows.

Specialised alpine species like arnica, gentian, the rare mountain Apollo butterfly and the alpine salamander thrive in the mosaic of mountain pastures, forest edges, slopes, and alpine streams. Above the tree line, this tapestry of habitats supports a wide range of wildlife, from nesting birds to shy mammals like deer, ibex, chamois and marmots. As the snow melts in early summer, crystal-clear

streams meander through the valleys, nourishing aquatic life and sustaining the broader ecosystem.

Richly vegetated alpine meadows also retain more water, preventing soil erosion. These healthy pastures reach into the highest elevations, where sheep and goats – light-footed and agile – graze terrain too steep for cattle, which remain in the lower regions. Scattered alpine ponds and lakes form miniature ecosystems, offering sanctuary for bog plants and

tiny aquatic creatures. On sunlit slopes, rock piles become crucial refuges and nesting sites for snakes. In these high-altitude zones, every element plays an essential role in a finely tuned web of life.

Yet, this beauty comes with risk. The alpine terrain poses real challenges: avalanches, thunderstorms, rockfalls and the increasingly evident effects of climate change all impact the fragile balance – and those who work and live in it.

The Alpine summer is more than just a season – it is a living tradition, a test of endurance and a celebration of the enduring relationship between humankind and the land.

A Terra Mater Studios production

