

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:13,000

Oh my god.

2

00:00:13,000 --> 00:00:15,000

That was like some power of god.

3

00:00:15,000 --> 00:00:16,000

F***.

4

00:00:16,000 --> 00:00:18,000

Oh my god.

5

00:00:18,000 --> 00:00:20,000

Look at this.

6

00:00:21,000 --> 00:00:22,000

Oh my god.

7

00:00:22,000 --> 00:00:24,000

Look at this.

8

00:00:32,000 --> 00:00:38,000

I recently read a report about the discovery of a lost city deep in the jungles of Cambodia,

9

00:00:38,000 --> 00:00:41,000

and I jumped at the chance to investigate.

10

00:00:41,000 --> 00:00:46,000

I want to tell you a story that begins over a thousand years ago.

11

00:00:46,000 --> 00:00:49,000

It's 802 AD in Southeast Asia,

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00:00:49,000 --> 00:00:53,000

and a mysterious ruler named Jayavarman II appears on the scene.

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00:00:53,000 --> 00:00:59,000

Inscriptions say he founded a city in the mountains where he conducted a strange ritual.

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00:00:59,000 --> 00:01:05,000

Supposedly, a mystical priest used spells and powerful magic to give a sacred stone artifact

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00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:09,000

known as a linga, the divine powers of the Hindu god Shiva.

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00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:18,000

The king, or anyone else who controlled the stone, would have the ability to incinerate his enemies.

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00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:24,000

You remember the Shankara stones from Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom?

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00:01:24,000 --> 00:01:28,000

Yep, those were lingas, and I think we all remember how that turned out.

19

00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:32,000

So, it all sounds crazy, right?

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00:01:32,000 --> 00:01:36,000

But here's the thing, this ritual might just have worked.

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00:01:36,000 --> 00:01:41,000

Because the so-called God King succeeded in kick-starting a dynasty that went on to become

22

00:01:41,000 --> 00:01:44,000

one of the most advanced civilizations in the ancient world.

23

00:01:44,000 --> 00:01:47,000

Oh, and his lost city? It just got found.

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00:01:47,000 --> 00:01:54,000

Using high-tech laser scanners known as Lidar, archeologists have stripped back the jungle and pinpointed the ruins.

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00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:59,000

So I'm setting off for Southeast Asia to see the lost city for myself.

26

00:01:59,000 --> 00:02:05,000

My ultimate goal? Immersing myself in Cambodia's past to discover if the legend of the linga is real.

27

00:02:05,000 --> 00:02:09,000

More importantly, could it hold a potentially lethal power?

28

00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:21,000

My name is Josh Gates, with a degree in archeology and a passion for exploration.

29

00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:26,000

I have a tendency to end up in some very strange situations.

30

00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:29,000

There has gotta be a better way to make a living.

31

00:02:30,000 --> 00:02:35,000

My travels have taken me to the ends of the earth as I investigate the greatest legends in history.

32

00:02:35,000 --> 00:02:37,000

We're going to fly, let's go.

33

00:02:37,000 --> 00:02:39,000

This is Expedition Unknown.

34

00:02:48,000 --> 00:02:51,000

Early afternoon in the city of Panam Pen.

35

00:02:51,000 --> 00:02:57,000

Shouldering the banks of the mighty Mekong River, it is a confusing and beautiful assault on the senses.

36

00:02:58,000 --> 00:03:06,000

I'm here to begin my journey to reach the lost city, but with a few hours to kill before meeting my first contact, I've got time to soak up the capital.

37

00:03:06,000 --> 00:03:10,000

Southeast Asian markets are kind of a one-stop shop for anything.

38

00:03:10,000 --> 00:03:16,000

We've got fruit, we've got flowers, we've got religious offerings, dodgy stacks of foreign currency, you name it.

39

00:03:17,000 --> 00:03:20,000

The seafood couldn't get any fresher.

40

00:03:20,000 --> 00:03:22,000

Big mud? Like what are those?

41

00:03:22,000 --> 00:03:24,000

Try to escape.

42

00:03:24,000 --> 00:03:27,000

But the appetizers here can be a challenge.

43

00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:37,000

What in the holy hell is this thing?

44

00:03:38,000 --> 00:03:41,000

I mean, this is from another planet.

45

00:03:41,000 --> 00:03:45,000

A water cockroach, of course, delicious in the hot afternoon sun.

46

00:03:45,000 --> 00:03:48,000

There's a lot of protein, a lot of protein in this.

47

00:03:52,000 --> 00:03:55,000

And if the city doesn't overwhelm you, there's always the heat.

48

00:03:56,000 --> 00:03:58,000

Let's talk about the temperature for a second.

49

00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:00,000

I wish there was a way for me to communicate this.

50

00:04:00,000 --> 00:04:06,000

Picture being inside a wood-burning oven that is inside a volcano that is on the surface of the sun.

51

00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:09,000

That's roughly where we're at right now in terms of temperature.

52

00:04:09,000 --> 00:04:11,000

It's warm.

53

00:04:13,000 --> 00:04:17,000

There have been many landlords here, and most did little to impress their tenants.

54

00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:21,000

In the past 100 years alone, this has been French Indochina,

55

00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:26,000

a Japanese-occupied territory, and a kingdom torn apart by civil war.

56

00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:31,000

In the middle of town sits Tuol Svei Prey High School,

57

00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:34,000

which was turned into a detention center.

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00:04:34,000 --> 00:04:39,000

From 1975 to 1979, Cambodia fell under the thumb of the Khmer Rouge,

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00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:44,000

a radical Communist party that longed to return to the glory of the Khmer Empire

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00:04:44,000 --> 00:04:47,000

and to exercise their own god-like powers.

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00:04:47,000 --> 00:04:50,000

They tried, in a sense, to turn back time,

62

00:04:50,000 --> 00:04:53,000

by emptying the cities and forcing the population

63

00:04:53,000 --> 00:04:55,000

into primitive cities.

64

00:04:55,000 --> 00:04:57,000

They tried to turn back time,

65

00:04:57,000 --> 00:04:59,000

and they tried to turn back time,

66

00:04:59,000 --> 00:05:01,000

and they tried to turn back time,

67

00:05:01,000 --> 00:05:06,000

by emptying the cities and forcing the population into primitive agricultural slavery.

68

00:05:06,000 --> 00:05:11,000

The sick, the educated, anyone who spoke out, was killed.

69

00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:21,000

When it was all over, more than 2 million people died in the Cambodian genocide.

70

00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:27,000

Today, they stare back at visitors in a stunned, collective silence.

71

00:05:28,000 --> 00:05:33,000

A lot of these people knew when the photo was taken that they were going to be executed.

72

00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:39,000

This young kid, they got a chain around his neck, and he's about to be killed.

73

00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:55,000

Apologies. Some things are just too insane to make sense of.

74

00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:03,000

But against the odds, hope has proved irrepressible in Cambodia,

75

00:06:03,000 --> 00:06:06,000

and today, life goes on.

76

00:06:06,000 --> 00:06:08,000

So, today, bye. What are these guys?

77

00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:10,000

I need some good luck.

78

00:06:10,000 --> 00:06:14,000

Cambodia's tarnished capital is today in the midst of a rebirth.

79

00:06:14,000 --> 00:06:16,000

You ready for this? Here we go.

80

00:06:19,000 --> 00:06:23,000

Everywhere you look, life is returning to normal.

81

00:06:28,000 --> 00:06:31,000

This I can get used to. Seriously.

82

00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:40,000

My first mission is to sit down with my old friend Nick Ray,

83

00:06:40,000 --> 00:06:43,000

one of the first journalists to jump on the story of the lost city,

84

00:06:43,000 --> 00:06:45,000

whose name I can barely pronounce.

85

00:06:45,000 --> 00:06:47,000

It's called Mahindra Parvada.

86

00:06:47,000 --> 00:06:48,000

Exactly.

87

00:06:48,000 --> 00:06:50,000

And basically, using this new technology called LiDAR,

88

00:06:50,000 --> 00:06:52,000

this sort of military grade,

89

00:06:52,000 --> 00:06:55,000

high technology that can pierce through the earth and the jungle canopy,

90

00:06:55,000 --> 00:06:58,000

they suddenly found out that this was a much bigger city,

91

00:06:58,000 --> 00:07:01,000

a vast, vast complex, up on this jungle plateau.

92

00:07:01,000 --> 00:07:04,000

It's the birthplace of the Khmer Empire.

93

00:07:04,000 --> 00:07:10,000

It's where, in 802, Jai Vaman II, he invoked the power of the Hindu god Shiva.

94

00:07:11,000 --> 00:07:15,000

So how does one become a god king? What's the move?

95

00:07:15,000 --> 00:07:18,000

He takes a linger, linger in Hindu temples,

96

00:07:18,000 --> 00:07:23,000

and this holy priest uses these magic rituals to bring this power of Shiva down into this object,

97

00:07:23,000 --> 00:07:26,000

which is then put into a yoni or a female fertility symbol.

98

00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:32,000

And this gives Jai Vaman II the power of Shiva on earth

99

00:07:32,000 --> 00:07:35,000

to make him the most powerful king Southeast Asia would ever see.

100

00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:41,000

These are a lot of local lore and legend about the mountain itself.

101

00:07:41,000 --> 00:07:44,000

It's a very, very important thing to remember about the temple.

102

00:07:45,000 --> 00:07:48,000

Is there a lot of local lore and legend about the mountain itself?

103

00:07:48,000 --> 00:07:49,000

Definitely so.

104

00:07:49,000 --> 00:07:52,000

It's certainly belief that there could be the ghost of the god king himself.

105

00:07:52,000 --> 00:07:56,000

It's a place, you know, of real, real mystery.

106

00:07:56,000 --> 00:07:59,000

From here, the ruins are 200 miles away.

107

00:07:59,000 --> 00:08:04,000

Nick suggests I travel from Panampen by 4x4 through the city of Badambang

108

00:08:04,000 --> 00:08:09,000

and then to the ancient capital of Siam Reep, which is just 30 miles from the dig site.

109

00:08:09,000 --> 00:08:13,000

Once you're in Siam Reep, you're okay to go up by dirt bike or four-wheel drive

110

00:08:13,000 --> 00:08:15,000

to get to the main part of the mountain.

111

00:08:15,000 --> 00:08:17,000

But then your problem's star.

112

00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:20,000

The roads are going to be a big issue because, well, there aren't any roads.

113

00:08:21,000 --> 00:08:23,000

And then there's the land mines.

114

00:08:25,000 --> 00:08:26,000

Why is it so mine?

115

00:08:26,000 --> 00:08:31,000

Because the Khmer Rouge, they were overthrown pretty much from 79 until the late 1990s.

116

00:08:31,000 --> 00:08:35,000

They hid up there and to defend it against the government, they planted mines everywhere.

117

00:08:35,000 --> 00:08:37,000

And how much of that mountain do you think has been cleared?

118

00:08:37,000 --> 00:08:39,000

None of them have been demounted.

119

00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:41,000

Do not stray from the path.

120

00:08:41,000 --> 00:08:42,000

Josh, can I give you a top-up?

121

00:08:42,000 --> 00:08:43,000

Oh, yeah.

122

00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:46,000

Say one thing, I'm never going to find this lost city if we keep drinking.

123

00:08:51,000 --> 00:08:56,000

By the light of a new day, I'm leaving Panampen and following Nick's directions to the north.

124

00:08:56,000 --> 00:09:01,000

So it should be about an eight-hour drive up to Siam Reep through the city of Badambang.

125

00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:06,000

In Badambang, I plan to meet with an expert who knows more about the legendary power of the linga.

126

00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:12,000

Driving here is not for the faint of heart, as lanes are merely suggestions,

127

00:09:12,000 --> 00:09:16,000

and other drivers crowd the road with slightly oversized loads.

128

00:09:21,000 --> 00:09:27,000

But beyond the grip of the city, the traffic things, and my Cambodian road trip is finally getting underway.

129

00:09:27,000 --> 00:09:33,000

It's a bit like driving in a time machine, with each passing mile the trappings of the modern world fade

130

00:09:33,000 --> 00:09:39,000

and give way to a landscape and ways of life that haven't changed much in the last thousand years.

131

00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:50,000

As soon as you get outside of the cities, it all just drops away.

132

00:09:50,000 --> 00:09:54,000

Tons of rice paddies, a lot of agriculture, very rural.

133

00:09:55,000 --> 00:09:59,000

Nearly six hours into the drive, however, it's back to reality.

134

00:10:00,000 --> 00:10:03,000

Well, I was making really good time.

135

00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:08,000

And now, I am driving in a field.

136

00:10:12,000 --> 00:10:14,000

Okay, this is not good.

137

00:10:15,000 --> 00:10:20,000

With the construction backed up for miles and no other road, I'm going to have to find another way to get to Badambang.

138

00:10:21,000 --> 00:10:23,000

Next, luckily, there's a train here.

139

00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:25,000

Sort of.

140

00:10:26,000 --> 00:10:28,000

All aboard the bamboo railroad.

141

00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:38,000

A bullet train, it is not, but it gets the job done.

142

00:10:38,000 --> 00:10:45,000

When the French abandoned their stake in Cambodia in 1953, they took their trains, but left behind the tracks.

143

00:10:45,000 --> 00:10:46,000

They're a bath, they're on their...

144

00:10:46,000 --> 00:10:54,000

So the enterprising locals made their own locomotives, also known as a creaking wooden platform powered by a rubber belt and an outboard motor.

145

00:10:54,000 --> 00:10:58,000

The tracks are barely aligned, and the bridges aren't exactly up to code.

146

00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:00,000

Dodgey bridge.

147

00:11:02,000 --> 00:11:08,000

Generally, the whole thing feels like an open-air death trap, which is to say, it's pretty awesome.

148

00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:15,000

For me?

149

00:11:16,000 --> 00:11:17,000

Oh, thank you very much.

150

00:11:18,000 --> 00:11:25,000

Yes, I look like a middle-aged woman on an Eat Pray Love tour, but considering the 115 degree heat, I'm cool with that.

151

00:11:26,000 --> 00:11:29,000

The bamboo railroad is an ingenious system.

152

00:11:29,000 --> 00:11:34,000

That is, until you realize that these tracks are used to travel in both directions.

153

00:11:34,000 --> 00:11:35,000

Uh-oh.

154

00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:38,000

We're going to die.

155

00:11:46,000 --> 00:11:50,000

I'm crossing Cambodia to reach a lost city deep in the jungle.

156

00:11:51,000 --> 00:12:01,000

I was headed to interview an expert, who I hope can give me more information on the supernatural artifact that could be hiding in the ruins, when suddenly I encounter an oncoming train.

157

00:12:04,000 --> 00:12:05,000

Uh-oh.

158

00:12:05,000 --> 00:12:06,000

We're going to die.

159

00:12:14,000 --> 00:12:15,000

Hi.

160

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:22,000

One, two, three, four, five, six versus one, two, three, four, five.

161

00:12:23,000 --> 00:12:24,000

Okay, we lose.

162

00:12:24,000 --> 00:12:27,000

Standoffs along the bamboo railroad are solved without argument.

163

00:12:27,000 --> 00:12:28,000

The arbiter?

164

00:12:28,000 --> 00:12:29,000

Simple math.

165

00:12:29,000 --> 00:12:31,000

The train with more passengers wins.

166

00:12:33,000 --> 00:12:38,000

And the losers have to disassemble their locomotive and move the whole contraption further down the line.

167

00:12:39,000 --> 00:12:40,000

Okay.

168

00:12:43,000 --> 00:12:44,000

Good.

169

00:12:45,000 --> 00:12:46,000

Okay, we're back.

170

00:12:46,000 --> 00:12:47,000

All aboard.

171

00:12:49,000 --> 00:12:51,000

Next stop, Batam Bang.

172

00:12:51,000 --> 00:12:57,000

After several more kilometers of ass-busting travel, we sputter our way into Batam Bang.

173

00:12:59,000 --> 00:13:05,000

Though the rail yards here have seen better days, this is in many ways the heart and soul of the country.

174

00:13:06,000 --> 00:13:09,000

It is a patchwork quilt of history.

175

00:13:09,000 --> 00:13:11,000

Remnants of war.

176

00:13:11,000 --> 00:13:13,000

Signs of peace.

177

00:13:13,000 --> 00:13:16,000

Just another confusing day in Cambodia.

178

00:13:23,000 --> 00:13:30,000

I have a few hours before my meeting with an antiquities expert, so I hike up to the edge of a remote mountain for a glimpse of something magical.

179

00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:36,000

Every night at sunset, about a million bats supposedly shoot out of this cave going out to feed for the night.

180

00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:39,000

There should be quite a show.

181

00:14:00,000 --> 00:14:07,000

As the sun sets, I sit down with the expert who has insider information about the lost city.

182

00:14:07,000 --> 00:14:14,000

He has agreed to be interviewed only if we hide his identity, since the ruins could be targeted by tomb raiders.

183

00:14:14,000 --> 00:14:19,000

Not the hot girl from the video game, but actual, real life tomb raiders.

184

00:14:19,000 --> 00:14:21,000

It is a real problem. It is a very big problem.

185

00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:27,000

So if I want to buy a relic, I want to buy a sandstone, small sandstone statue from a dig. How much

do you think?

186

00:14:27,000 --> 00:14:33,000

The one in the good condition, it costs more than 10,000 US dollars.

187

00:14:33,000 --> 00:14:34,000

Wow.

188

00:14:34,000 --> 00:14:35,000

Yeah.

189

00:14:35,000 --> 00:14:38,000

And so what about this lost city? Is this a place that looters have to go?

190

00:14:38,000 --> 00:14:40,000

Well, it's a place that looters have to go.

191

00:14:40,000 --> 00:14:42,000

It's a place that looters have to go.

192

00:14:42,000 --> 00:14:44,000

It's a place that looters have to go.

193

00:14:44,000 --> 00:14:46,000

It's a place that looters have to go.

194

00:14:46,000 --> 00:14:50,000

And so what about this lost city? Is this a place that looters are targeting?

195

00:14:50,000 --> 00:14:51,000

Yes.

196

00:14:51,000 --> 00:14:53,000

What do they hope to find there?

197

00:14:53,000 --> 00:14:59,000

Sandstone statues and especially the linga.

198

00:14:59,000 --> 00:15:03,000

They believe that the linga has the immense power.

199

00:15:03,000 --> 00:15:06,000

Do the looters know where the dig site is yet?

200

00:15:06,000 --> 00:15:07,000

I think they know.

201

00:15:07,000 --> 00:15:08,000

You think they do know?

202

00:15:08,000 --> 00:15:09,000

It is their business.

203

00:15:09,000 --> 00:15:10,000

Yeah.

204

00:15:10,000 --> 00:15:13,000

So they always keep their ears open.

205

00:15:14,000 --> 00:15:22,000

If these artifacts fall in the hands of the bad people, we are not only losing the artifacts,

206

00:15:22,000 --> 00:15:27,000

but we are losing the identity of our country.

207

00:15:32,000 --> 00:15:37,000

Early the next morning, I'm renewing my efforts to reach CMR, the gateway to the lost city.

208

00:15:37,000 --> 00:15:43,000

I've taken the bamboo railroad to its last stop, so I'm switching to Cambodia's original highway system.

209

00:15:43,000 --> 00:15:49,000

It's a six hour steam from Baton Bong to CMR, with my route taking me across the great Tan Le Sap lake.

210

00:15:49,000 --> 00:15:56,000

It was once the lifeblood of the ancient Khmer Empire, and for countless modern Cambodians, it still is.

211

00:15:56,000 --> 00:15:59,000

So this is the floating village.

212

00:15:59,000 --> 00:16:05,000

You've got 5,000, 10,000 people living out here in hundreds of these floating homes.

213

00:16:05,000 --> 00:16:08,000

Basically a totally self-sufficient ecosystem.

214

00:16:08,000 --> 00:16:15,000

They've got markets, gas stations, restaurants, schools, churches, you name it.

215

00:16:17,000 --> 00:16:18,000

Pretty amazing.

216

00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:23,000

It even has its own version of a 7-Eleven.

217

00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:25,000

Hey, I want something to drink.

218

00:16:25,000 --> 00:16:26,000

Do you have beer?

219

00:16:26,000 --> 00:16:27,000

What's that?

220

00:16:27,000 --> 00:16:28,000

One.

221

00:16:30,000 --> 00:16:34,000

I mean, you know, I get used to this.

222

00:16:38,000 --> 00:16:50,000

New day, new city.

223

00:16:50,000 --> 00:16:56,000

I finally made it to the edge of CMR, but now I have to face the biggest threat to my journey.

224

00:16:56,000 --> 00:16:57,000

Landmines.

225

00:16:57,000 --> 00:17:04,000

I'm at the nearby Cambodian Landmine Museum to meet with Akirad, one of the world's foremost authorities on their disposal.

226

00:17:04,000 --> 00:17:05,000

Akirad.

227

00:17:05,000 --> 00:17:06,000

Hi.

228

00:17:06,000 --> 00:17:07,000

Hello.

229

00:17:07,000 --> 00:17:08,000

Nice to see you.

230

00:17:08,000 --> 00:17:09,000

Nice to see you too.

231

00:17:09,000 --> 00:17:11,000

Thank you very much for talking with me.

232

00:17:11,000 --> 00:17:12,000

I appreciate it.

233

00:17:12,000 --> 00:17:14,000

How long have you been clearing landmines?

234

00:17:14,000 --> 00:17:16,000

For 20 years.

235

00:17:16,000 --> 00:17:19,000

How many landmines are left in Cambodia?

236

00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:22,000

Still, four or five million left.

237

00:17:22,000 --> 00:17:23,000

Four or five million?

238

00:17:23,000 --> 00:17:24,000

Yeah.

239

00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:25,000

Active landmines?

240

00:17:25,000 --> 00:17:26,000

Yeah.

241

00:17:26,000 --> 00:17:28,000

And how old were you when you became Khmer Rouge?

242

00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:30,000

About 10 years old.

243

00:17:30,000 --> 00:17:36,000

Akirad was recruited as a child soldier after the Khmer Rouge murdered both of his parents.

244

00:17:36,000 --> 00:17:40,000

Under their command, he personally laid thousands of mines.

245

00:17:40,000 --> 00:17:45,000

Now, he's on a mission of redemption, personally removing every explosive he can find.

246

00:17:45,000 --> 00:17:47,000

How many do you think that you've cleared?

247

00:17:47,000 --> 00:17:50,000

I cleared almost 50,000 landmines.

248

00:17:50,000 --> 00:17:52,000

And will you show me how to spot them?

249

00:17:52,000 --> 00:17:54,000

Yeah, I can show you.

250

00:17:54,000 --> 00:17:55,000

Will it be safe?

251

00:17:55,000 --> 00:17:57,000

Safe, yeah.

252

00:17:57,000 --> 00:18:05,000

Akirad agrees to teach me how to avoid mines by taking me along for a firsthand look at the terrifying reality that all Cambodians have to live.

253

00:18:05,000 --> 00:18:07,000

This is not a good sign.

254

00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:12,000

This minefield was discovered right next to a village and has not been fully cleared.

255

00:18:12,000 --> 00:18:14,000

What is this going to do?

256

00:18:14,000 --> 00:18:18,000

The protective suits aren't exactly out of the hurt locker.

257

00:18:18,000 --> 00:18:19,000

Great.

258

00:18:19,000 --> 00:18:21,000

Okay, follow me, please.

259

00:18:31,000 --> 00:18:32,000

Not safe.

260

00:18:32,000 --> 00:18:34,000

Not safe.

261

00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:35,000

Not safe.

262

00:18:35,000 --> 00:18:36,000

Safe.

263

00:18:44,000 --> 00:18:46,000

I'm going to pick up the minefield.

264

00:18:46,000 --> 00:18:47,000

No.

265

00:18:47,000 --> 00:18:49,000

Did he find something?

266

00:18:49,000 --> 00:18:50,000

Yeah, yeah.

267

00:18:50,000 --> 00:18:51,000

You found a mine?

268

00:18:51,000 --> 00:18:52,000

Yeah.

269

00:18:53,000 --> 00:18:58,000

This is about three feet from where I'd been walking, not five minutes ago.

270

00:18:58,000 --> 00:19:03,000

So he's just found a landmine back there.

271

00:19:03,000 --> 00:19:08,000

He's going to reveal it a little bit and then they're going to get ready to detonate it.

272

00:19:08,000 --> 00:19:10,000

If you stepped on that, it would take off your leg.

273

00:19:10,000 --> 00:19:11,000

Yeah.

274

00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:14,000

Are there any other things I should avoid?

275

00:19:14,000 --> 00:19:16,000

Places I should not go?

276

00:19:16,000 --> 00:19:17,000

Many leaves like this.

277

00:19:17,000 --> 00:19:18,000

Be careful.

278

00:19:18,000 --> 00:19:19,000

There's a leaf cover, huh?

279

00:19:19,000 --> 00:19:20,000

Yeah.

280

00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:21,000

And what else?

281

00:19:21,000 --> 00:19:23,000

Like this, you can step on.

282

00:19:23,000 --> 00:19:24,000

Uh-huh.

283

00:19:24,000 --> 00:19:27,000

But when the tree grow up like this, you can step on.

284

00:19:27,000 --> 00:19:28,000

Uh-huh.

285

00:19:28,000 --> 00:19:31,000

So anywhere there's a tree right there is pretty safe?

286

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:32,000

Yeah.

287

00:19:33,000 --> 00:19:39,000

Having spent some time learning critical skills on where to step in these booby trap jungles,

288

00:19:39,000 --> 00:19:42,000

it's time to detonate this mine from a safe distance.

289

00:19:42,000 --> 00:19:48,000

Mine is transported by hand to a safe detonation place, which seems insane.

290

00:19:50,000 --> 00:19:51,000

And so now what happens?

291

00:19:51,000 --> 00:19:53,000

You're going to blow it up here?

292

00:19:53,000 --> 00:19:55,000

Yeah, I'll just throw it here.

293

00:19:55,000 --> 00:19:57,000

Sounds sketchy.

294

00:19:57,000 --> 00:19:59,000

Let's do it.

295

00:19:59,000 --> 00:20:02,000

Think you have a tough job?

296

00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:04,000

This is a dangerous job.

297

00:20:04,000 --> 00:20:08,000

You sit down like this, there, because the inflows you.

298

00:20:08,000 --> 00:20:10,000

It will come like this.

299

00:20:10,000 --> 00:20:12,000

You protect only in front.

300

00:20:12,000 --> 00:20:13,000

Get this in place?

301

00:20:13,000 --> 00:20:14,000

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

302

00:20:14,000 --> 00:20:18,000

You have to close your neck because a lot of fragments come.

303

00:20:18,000 --> 00:20:19,000

Yeah.

304

00:20:19,000 --> 00:20:20,000

Okay, so this goes up here, yes?

305

00:20:20,000 --> 00:20:21,000

Okay, and then straight.

306

00:20:21,000 --> 00:20:22,000

Got it.

307

00:20:22,000 --> 00:20:25,000

Okay, the device is armed.

308

00:20:25,000 --> 00:20:26,000

Stand by.

309

00:20:26,000 --> 00:20:27,000

Stand by.

310

00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:30,000

And fire now.

311

00:20:35,000 --> 00:20:38,000

While investigating an active minefield in Cambodia,

312

00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:42,000

a powerful explosive has been discovered just a few feet away.

313

00:20:42,000 --> 00:20:45,000

Disposing of these mines requires moving them by hand

314

00:20:45,000 --> 00:20:47,000

before rigging them with a detonator.

315

00:20:47,000 --> 00:20:49,000

Stand by.

316

00:20:52,000 --> 00:20:56,000

And fire now.

317

00:20:57,000 --> 00:21:00,000

Fire now.

318

00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:09,000

Unbelievable, 30 foot by 60 foot explosion,

319

00:21:09,000 --> 00:21:12,000

just from this one little device.

320

00:21:12,000 --> 00:21:15,000

One more down, four or five million to go.

321

00:21:15,000 --> 00:21:16,000

Thank you, Appiarat.

322

00:21:16,000 --> 00:21:18,000

Thank you.

323

00:21:18,000 --> 00:21:23,000

After seeing what one mine is capable of,

324

00:21:23,000 --> 00:21:25,000

I'm heading into the city of Siam Reap

325

00:21:25,000 --> 00:21:28,000

with a new appreciation for the dangers beneath my feet.

326

00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:32,000

Legend says that on a nearby mountain,

327

00:21:32,000 --> 00:21:35,000

King Jai of Armin II used powerful magic,

328

00:21:35,000 --> 00:21:38,000

placing a sacred stone relic known as a linga

329

00:21:38,000 --> 00:21:40,000

into a pedestal called a yani,

330

00:21:40,000 --> 00:21:43,000

allowing him to tap into the power of the gods.

331

00:21:44,000 --> 00:21:46,000

And down here in Siam Reap,

332

00:21:46,000 --> 00:21:49,000

there is compelling evidence of that power.

333

00:21:49,000 --> 00:21:52,000

This town was little more than a provincial outpost

334

00:21:52,000 --> 00:21:55,000

when French explorers pushed through the dense jungles

335

00:21:55,000 --> 00:21:59,000

in the 19th century on a mission to rediscover lost temples.

336

00:21:59,000 --> 00:22:01,000

What they found was far beyond anything

337

00:22:01,000 --> 00:22:04,000

they could have ever imagined.

338

00:22:08,000 --> 00:22:10,000

Nearly 50 years ago,

339

00:22:11,000 --> 00:22:14,000

nearly 50 years after taking power,

340

00:22:14,000 --> 00:22:16,000

Jai of Armin II passed away,

341

00:22:16,000 --> 00:22:19,000

his city swallowed by the jungle,

342

00:22:19,000 --> 00:22:22,000

but the empire he started only grew.

343

00:22:22,000 --> 00:22:24,000

Future kings moved down the mountain

344

00:22:24,000 --> 00:22:27,000

and used the same magic and rituals,

345

00:22:27,000 --> 00:22:30,000

and what they built here does seem beyond the ability

346

00:22:30,000 --> 00:22:31,000

of mortal men.

347

00:22:31,000 --> 00:22:34,000

From the overgrown ruins of Tapram,

348

00:22:34,000 --> 00:22:37,000

to the majestic stone gates of Angkor Thom,

349

00:22:37,000 --> 00:22:40,000

each king attempted to outdo his predecessor

350

00:22:40,000 --> 00:22:43,000

on a scale that's almost unimaginable.

351

00:22:44,000 --> 00:22:47,000

One god king constructs a sandstone temple,

352

00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:51,000

another installs a 2,000-foot-long royal bathtub,

353

00:22:51,000 --> 00:22:56,000

one even plastered 216 massive carvings of his own face

354

00:22:56,000 --> 00:22:58,000

on the soaring Bayon Temple,

355

00:22:58,000 --> 00:23:01,000

and at the center of it all sits Angkor Wat,

356

00:23:01,000 --> 00:23:04,000

the largest religious structure in the world.

357

00:23:04,000 --> 00:23:07,000

A 600-foot-wide hand-dug moat

358

00:23:07,000 --> 00:23:09,000

kept back the cloying vines of the jungle,

359

00:23:09,000 --> 00:23:12,000

preserving the mother of all temples.

360

00:23:12,000 --> 00:23:14,000

It is quite literally heaven on earth,

361

00:23:14,000 --> 00:23:17,000

a representation of the home of the Hindu gods,

362

00:23:17,000 --> 00:23:19,000

and of course, the king.

363

00:23:20,000 --> 00:23:23,000

John Mixick is an expert on the Khmer Empire

364

00:23:23,000 --> 00:23:25,000

and knows the exact coordinates of the ruins,

365

00:23:25,000 --> 00:23:27,000

but I also want his opinion on the linga

366

00:23:27,000 --> 00:23:30,000

before risking my life on a wild goose chase.

367

00:23:30,000 --> 00:23:33,000

Tell me about Panamkulin, the holy mountain.

368

00:23:33,000 --> 00:23:36,000

This is where Jayavarman II became a god king?

369

00:23:36,000 --> 00:23:38,000

Yes, for hundreds of years thereafter,

370

00:23:38,000 --> 00:23:40,000

they always refer to that ritual.

371

00:23:41,000 --> 00:23:43,000

Makes it a pretty potent object, I would say.

372

00:23:43,000 --> 00:23:46,000

That's right, it could instantly turn you into ashes.

373

00:23:46,000 --> 00:23:49,000

So what do you think happened to Jayavarman II's linga?

374

00:23:49,000 --> 00:23:51,000

What do you think happened to this potent image of Shiva?

375

00:23:51,000 --> 00:23:53,000

Could it still be up there in the jungle?

376

00:23:53,000 --> 00:23:54,000

It could well be.

377

00:23:54,000 --> 00:23:56,000

I would not put it out of the range of possibility.

378

00:23:56,000 --> 00:23:58,000

It's only now being cleared off.

379

00:23:58,000 --> 00:24:00,000

Anxious to reach the remote dig site,

380

00:24:00,000 --> 00:24:03,000

I decide to take a direct route to the mountain.

381

00:24:07,000 --> 00:24:11,000

John agrees to drop me off as close as possible to the lost city.

382

00:24:12,000 --> 00:24:15,000

Our flight plan will take us 30 miles north of Siem Reap

383

00:24:15,000 --> 00:24:17,000

to a remote village on the mountain.

384

00:24:17,000 --> 00:24:19,000

From there, I'll use John's coordinates

385

00:24:19,000 --> 00:24:21,000

to reach the dig site by motorbike.

386

00:24:23,000 --> 00:24:24,000

In terms of these dig sites,

387

00:24:24,000 --> 00:24:27,000

what are they actively digging up right now?

388

00:24:27,000 --> 00:24:30,000

What we're looking at now is Jayavarman II's palace.

389

00:24:30,000 --> 00:24:31,000

That's incredible.

390

00:24:31,000 --> 00:24:34,000

For the 10 Williams to find Jayavarman II's palace

391

00:24:34,000 --> 00:24:37,000

would be one of the major discoveries of all time.

392

00:24:38,000 --> 00:24:40,000

Soaring high above the jungles,

393

00:24:40,000 --> 00:24:43,000

the country seems to unfold like an endless green map.

394

00:24:44,000 --> 00:24:48,000

And soon, the ground rises up as we approach our destination.

395

00:24:49,000 --> 00:24:51,000

That's Panopulan straight ahead of us now.

396

00:24:51,000 --> 00:24:53,000

There it is. There's Panopulan.

397

00:24:53,000 --> 00:24:54,000

The holy mountain.

398

00:24:54,000 --> 00:24:56,000

There's any red road up there,

399

00:24:56,000 --> 00:24:59,000

and there's the rest of our footpaths through the forest.

400

00:24:59,000 --> 00:25:02,000

So it's still heavily forested, still landmines?

401

00:25:02,000 --> 00:25:03,000

Still landmines, I'm afraid.

402

00:25:03,000 --> 00:25:05,000

There's still not too well land or is it there too?

403

00:25:09,000 --> 00:25:10,000

Beautiful.

404

00:25:10,000 --> 00:25:14,000

Okay, I can see a nice place to put it down.

405

00:25:25,000 --> 00:25:28,000

I'm on my way to find a lost Cambodian city

406

00:25:28,000 --> 00:25:31,000

that's rumored to hold a mystical and powerful artifact

407

00:25:31,000 --> 00:25:34,000

that has the power to turn men into gods.

408

00:25:38,000 --> 00:25:41,000

The pilot descends onto a clearing in a mountain village.

409

00:25:42,000 --> 00:25:45,000

John has given me the coordinates to find the lost city

410

00:25:45,000 --> 00:25:48,000

and has dropped me as close as possible to the dig site.

411

00:25:49,000 --> 00:25:52,000

I've finally reached the holy mountain of the God King.

412

00:25:54,000 --> 00:25:57,000

Granted, it wasn't my most subtle entrance.

413

00:25:57,000 --> 00:25:58,000

Sosaday!

414

00:25:58,000 --> 00:25:59,000

Sosaday!

415

00:25:59,000 --> 00:26:00,000

Sosaday!

416

00:26:00,000 --> 00:26:01,000

The village turned out.

417

00:26:05,000 --> 00:26:06,000

Now it gets really hard.

418

00:26:08,000 --> 00:26:11,000

This is the village of Preah Ang Tham.

419

00:26:12,000 --> 00:26:14,000

It's the absolute end of the line for most

420

00:26:14,000 --> 00:26:18,000

since it's impossible to drive a 4x4 any deeper into the interior.

421

00:26:19,000 --> 00:26:21,000

It's also home to a mystical temple

422

00:26:21,000 --> 00:26:24,000

where visitors come to stock up on spiritual protection

423

00:26:24,000 --> 00:26:25,000

for the journey ahead.

424

00:26:30,000 --> 00:26:32,000

It's hot and that's a lot of stairs.

425

00:26:33,000 --> 00:26:34,000

Okay.

426

00:26:40,000 --> 00:26:44,000

Amidst the smoke, the monks and their religious relics is this.

427

00:26:47,000 --> 00:26:49,000

A stone linga and yanni pedestal

428

00:26:49,000 --> 00:26:52,000

and they're still being used in sacred rituals.

429

00:26:53,000 --> 00:26:56,000

It's essentially a modern version of what has evolved

430

00:26:56,000 --> 00:27:00,000

from the original ceremony that Jai Bharmana II did in 802 AD.

431

00:27:07,000 --> 00:27:10,000

A Hindu priest blesses supplicants with water,

432

00:27:10,000 --> 00:27:13,000

which is made holy by flowing around the linga

433

00:27:16,000 --> 00:27:17,000

and through the yanni.

434

00:27:17,000 --> 00:27:19,000

And while I'm not sure this particular rock

435

00:27:19,000 --> 00:27:21,000

is going to turn me into a god king,

436

00:27:21,000 --> 00:27:24,000

considering I'm about to go into a deadly jungle,

437

00:27:24,000 --> 00:27:26,000

I'll take all the help I can get.

438

00:27:29,000 --> 00:27:33,000

At a bare minimum, it's the first shower I've had in three days.

439

00:27:38,000 --> 00:27:41,000

I head back into the village for the most challenging part of my trip.

440

00:27:41,000 --> 00:27:43,000

To reach the archaeologists at the dig site,

441

00:27:43,000 --> 00:27:46,000

I'll have to navigate through a heavily landmine jungle.

442

00:27:46,000 --> 00:27:48,000

To do that, I need some wheels.

443

00:28:03,000 --> 00:28:07,000

And then I saw her, the marginally least crappy bike in the fleet.

444

00:28:08,000 --> 00:28:10,000

This, you're hiding the good bike. This is the good one, yeah?

445

00:28:10,000 --> 00:28:11,000

This is number one.

446

00:28:11,000 --> 00:28:13,000

Okay, I'll take this one.

447

00:28:13,000 --> 00:28:18,000

A momentary pit stop in the rural Cambodian version of the gas station for a quick fill-up.

448

00:28:18,000 --> 00:28:20,000

Give me the high-out tank, give me the phantom.

449

00:28:20,000 --> 00:28:22,000

That's the high-test stuff, right?

450

00:28:23,000 --> 00:28:27,000

The Cambodian gas station fuel is in a old soda bottle.

451

00:28:27,000 --> 00:28:31,000

Feels like there's a little bit of potential for some dangerous confusion there, but hey, it works.

452

00:28:31,000 --> 00:28:34,000

And then it's time to head into the unknown.

453

00:28:38,000 --> 00:28:41,000

My goal is close at hand.

454

00:28:41,000 --> 00:28:44,000

To be one of the first outsiders to document the Lost City

455

00:28:44,000 --> 00:28:49,000

and look for evidence that the story of Jayavarman's ceremony is more than just a myth.

456

00:28:49,000 --> 00:28:52,000

Lost City? Here I come.

457

00:28:53,000 --> 00:28:57,000

On either side of these narrow trails, the mountain is littered with deadly explosives

458

00:28:57,000 --> 00:29:00,000

and staying upright is something of a challenge.

459

00:29:02,000 --> 00:29:04,000

This is some **** road.

460

00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:07,000

This is some **** road.

461

00:29:07,000 --> 00:29:08,000

Whoa!

462

00:29:08,000 --> 00:29:10,000

That was way down there.

463

00:29:13,000 --> 00:29:16,000

Oh, can somebody get a machete back here, please?

464

00:29:19,000 --> 00:29:23,000

After a punishing ride, I spot a clearing and pulled a bike over.

465

00:29:23,000 --> 00:29:26,000

What I see next takes my breath away.

466

00:29:29,000 --> 00:29:31,000

Look at this!

467

00:29:32,000 --> 00:29:36,000

I have finally reached the edge of the Lost City of Mahendra Parvada.

468

00:29:37,000 --> 00:29:39,000

No tourists, no people.

469

00:29:39,000 --> 00:29:44,000

If you want to talk about real discovery, real adventure, this is it.

470

00:29:44,000 --> 00:29:46,000

There's nobody up here. Nobody comes up here.

471

00:29:46,000 --> 00:29:49,000

These stone temples are a thousand years old

472

00:29:49,000 --> 00:29:53,000

and were first spotted by French archaeologists in the 1930s.

473

00:29:53,000 --> 00:29:54,000

Amazing.

474

00:29:54,000 --> 00:29:58,000

However, the full extent of the ruins remained elusive until just recently.

475

00:29:58,000 --> 00:30:00,000

Unbelievable. Look at that.

476

00:30:00,000 --> 00:30:02,000

So cool.

477

00:30:02,000 --> 00:30:06,000

Nearby, there's more evidence that I'm headed toward the heart of the Lost City.

478

00:30:10,000 --> 00:30:14,000

So at one time, this is a road that would have gone all the way down to the valley below

479

00:30:14,000 --> 00:30:17,000

down to where Angkor Wat is today.

480

00:30:17,000 --> 00:30:20,000

And people would have made pilgrimage up here to the holy mountain.

481

00:30:21,000 --> 00:30:24,000

And they carved these incredible stone animals up here.

482

00:30:31,000 --> 00:30:33,000

Over the hill, I discover something else.

483

00:30:33,000 --> 00:30:34,000

People.

484

00:30:35,000 --> 00:30:40,000

Here, far from the outside world, an army of excavators is living and working deep in the jungle

485

00:30:40,000 --> 00:30:43,000

to reveal a city buried for centuries.

486

00:30:44,000 --> 00:30:48,000

With the threat of looters, few outsiders are allowed to see the site.

487

00:30:48,000 --> 00:30:51,000

And I'm lucky that John called ahead and secured permission.

488

00:30:51,000 --> 00:30:52,000

Richen?

489

00:30:52,000 --> 00:30:53,000

Welcome.

490

00:30:53,000 --> 00:30:54,000

Nice to meet you.

491

00:30:54,000 --> 00:30:55,000

Nice to meet you.

492

00:30:55,000 --> 00:30:56,000

Yes, nice to meet you.

493

00:30:56,000 --> 00:30:57,000

This is my good friend, Daryf.

494

00:30:57,000 --> 00:30:58,000

Nice to meet you.

495

00:31:00,000 --> 00:31:01,000

Let's start with this.

496

00:31:01,000 --> 00:31:03,000

Why did you choose to hone in on this area?

497

00:31:03,000 --> 00:31:10,000

Well, we suspect that this was the royal compound for the very first king of the Angkorid Empire.

498

00:31:12,000 --> 00:31:17,000

So you think that this area we're in now was part of Jai-Avarm in the 2nd's royal enclosure?

499

00:31:17,000 --> 00:31:23,000

To the best of our knowledge, to the best of the information that we have today, we believe it's a society.

500

00:31:26,000 --> 00:31:28,000

Tell me a little bit about what the Lidar showed up here.

501

00:31:28,000 --> 00:31:29,000

Oh, okay.

502

00:31:29,000 --> 00:31:34,000

Well, Lidar's brand new technology where they send this light through various levels of the canopy.

503

00:31:34,000 --> 00:31:35,000

This is a bit like radar.

504

00:31:35,000 --> 00:31:37,000

Literally, it shows you the outline.

505

00:31:38,000 --> 00:31:42,000

Lidar works by firing bursts of lasers from above.

506

00:31:42,000 --> 00:31:49,000

The beams allow archaeologists to virtually strip back the jungle canopy and see not only ruins, but objects hidden underground.

507

00:31:49,000 --> 00:31:57,000

In this case, the Lidar revealed the lost city of Mahendra Parvada, a huge network of roads, structures and habitations.

508

00:31:59,000 --> 00:32:04,000

All of this was jungle over here and it just stripped away and you can see a perfect outline of the site.

509

00:32:04,000 --> 00:32:07,000

When the data came out, all of us was blown away.

510

00:32:07,000 --> 00:32:09,000

Look at those lines, are those roads?

511

00:32:09,000 --> 00:32:13,000

So like 1200 years ago, there were highways cutting through this plateau.

512

00:32:13,000 --> 00:32:14,000

It's amazing.

513

00:32:14,000 --> 00:32:16,000

We're right here, at this little square.

514

00:32:20,000 --> 00:32:21,000

What would you like to find up here?

515

00:32:21,000 --> 00:32:24,000

I think it would be great if we can find the signature of the king, isn't it?

516

00:32:24,000 --> 00:32:27,000

Perhaps you find Jai-Avarm in the 2nd's linga.

517

00:32:27,000 --> 00:32:28,000

No, it would be great.

518

00:32:33,000 --> 00:32:38,000

Just up the trail was Jean-Baptiste Chivance, the leading archaeologist at the lost city.

519

00:32:38,000 --> 00:32:39,000

Are you JB?

520

00:32:39,000 --> 00:32:41,000

Who showed me another major find.

521

00:32:43,000 --> 00:32:44,000

So you see this block here?

522

00:32:44,000 --> 00:32:45,000

Yes.

523

00:32:45,000 --> 00:32:46,000

It's a laterite block.

524

00:32:46,000 --> 00:32:48,000

This is typical of an archaeological feature.

525

00:32:48,000 --> 00:32:49,000

So you started with just this?

526

00:32:49,000 --> 00:32:50,000

Yeah.

527

00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:51,000

And then, well, let's see.

528

00:32:51,000 --> 00:32:52,000

Yeah, show me.

529

00:32:52,000 --> 00:32:57,000

Before the lidar, JB spent years up here excavating individual pieces of the city.

530

00:32:57,000 --> 00:33:01,000

This one stone was a clue that something was nearby.

531

00:33:02,000 --> 00:33:07,000

But it took the lidar to reveal that this may have been the edge of a massive monastery.

532

00:33:10,000 --> 00:33:12,000

There are pretty many scales with the building.

533

00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:16,000

Then they start the wall, which is the best preserved section we have here.

534

00:33:16,000 --> 00:33:21,000

These stone walls and delicate roof tiles haven't been seen by anyone for a millennium.

535

00:33:23,000 --> 00:33:26,000

And it turns because it continues on this way?

536

00:33:26,000 --> 00:33:28,000

Well, that's just the west.

537

00:33:28,000 --> 00:33:29,000

Whoa, scorpion!

538

00:33:36,000 --> 00:33:42,000

My long journey to find the lost city of the God King has brought me deep into the jungles of Cambodia.

539

00:33:42,000 --> 00:33:48,000

I've found spectacular ruins of the city, as well as the archaeologists who are revealing it brick by brick.

540

00:33:48,000 --> 00:33:52,000

I'm also learning that this is a place brimming with danger.

541

00:33:52,000 --> 00:33:55,000

Whoa, scorpion! Back up! Back up! Back up! Back up!

542

00:33:57,000 --> 00:33:59,000

JB, I just saved your life.

543

00:33:59,000 --> 00:34:00,000

Thanks. Thanks, man.

544

00:34:00,000 --> 00:34:02,000

You get a lot of these here?

545

00:34:02,000 --> 00:34:04,000

Yeah, yeah. Basically, the trench is a very good trap.

546

00:34:04,000 --> 00:34:05,000

You look pissed off, too.

547

00:34:05,000 --> 00:34:06,000

Yeah, he's not happy. He's probably hungry.

548

00:34:06,000 --> 00:34:08,000

And then how do you get them out of there?

549

00:34:08,000 --> 00:34:10,000

We ask my crazy assistant to pick them up.

550

00:34:10,000 --> 00:34:11,000

Hey!

551

00:34:11,000 --> 00:34:12,000

What's it?

552

00:34:12,000 --> 00:34:13,000

You're a pick?

553

00:34:13,000 --> 00:34:14,000

Yeah.

554

00:34:14,000 --> 00:34:15,000

He just said that you were crazy.

555

00:34:15,000 --> 00:34:16,000

No, no, no.

556

00:34:16,000 --> 00:34:17,000

Yeah, half-crazy.

557

00:34:17,000 --> 00:34:18,000

Half-crazy?

558

00:34:18,000 --> 00:34:19,000

Completely crazy.

559

00:34:19,000 --> 00:34:20,000

What's up?

560

00:34:20,000 --> 00:34:21,000

F***!

561

00:34:21,000 --> 00:34:22,000

Well, you won that.

562

00:34:22,000 --> 00:34:23,000

No, I don't want it.

563

00:34:23,000 --> 00:34:25,000

Just don't get bitten.

564

00:34:34,000 --> 00:34:35,000

Pick!

565

00:34:35,000 --> 00:34:37,000

You are legitimately an insane person.

566

00:34:37,000 --> 00:34:39,000

You need to be evaluated professionally.

567

00:34:41,000 --> 00:34:43,000

You really do have a crazy assistant.

568

00:34:43,000 --> 00:34:44,000

Yeah, yeah.

569

00:34:44,000 --> 00:34:46,000

The trenches that I'd seen were amazing,

570

00:34:46,000 --> 00:34:48,000

but neither seemed to be the right fit

571

00:34:48,000 --> 00:34:50,000

for Jayavarman's ceremony site.

572

00:34:50,000 --> 00:34:51,000

To connect with the gods,

573

00:34:51,000 --> 00:34:54,000

he probably used the top of the mountain.

574

00:34:54,000 --> 00:34:56,000

So that's where I needed to get to.

575

00:34:57,000 --> 00:34:59,000

With night falling in a storm on the horizon,

576

00:34:59,000 --> 00:35:01,000

I was about to pack it in

577

00:35:01,000 --> 00:35:03,000

when I received a surprising offer.

578

00:35:03,000 --> 00:35:06,000

I can take you to a place nobody knows about.

579

00:35:06,000 --> 00:35:07,000

Like a secret place?

580

00:35:07,000 --> 00:35:08,000

Yeah, like a secret place.

581

00:35:08,000 --> 00:35:09,000

A new place?

582

00:35:09,000 --> 00:35:10,000

Yeah.

583

00:35:10,000 --> 00:35:11,000

This is what I came for.

584

00:35:11,000 --> 00:35:13,000

Pick has agreed to take me to a location

585

00:35:13,000 --> 00:35:16,000

that archaeologists are only just beginning to explore.

586

00:35:16,000 --> 00:35:18,000

And we can get there in the dark?

587

00:35:18,000 --> 00:35:20,000

Yeah, we can get there in the dark.

588

00:35:20,000 --> 00:35:21,000

Very bad.

589

00:35:21,000 --> 00:35:22,000

Very bad.

590

00:35:22,000 --> 00:35:23,000

Let's go for it.

591

00:35:23,000 --> 00:35:24,000

Come on.

592

00:35:24,000 --> 00:35:25,000

Let's go.

593

00:35:25,000 --> 00:35:26,000

Lead the way.

594

00:35:26,000 --> 00:35:27,000

I'm behind you.

595

00:35:29,000 --> 00:35:32,000

With night upon us and a thunderstorm on the horizon,

596

00:35:32,000 --> 00:35:34,000

this could be a huge mistake.

597

00:35:34,000 --> 00:35:36,000

But Pick drives on, leading me to an area

598

00:35:36,000 --> 00:35:38,000

that is seldom seen by outsiders.

599

00:35:38,000 --> 00:35:39,000

Here?

600

00:35:39,000 --> 00:35:41,000

All right, yeah, here.

601

00:35:45,000 --> 00:35:47,000

We're near the top of the mountain.

602

00:35:47,000 --> 00:35:50,000

This is ground zero for the legend of Jaya Vaman.

603

00:35:52,000 --> 00:35:56,000

Could this be the spot where he conducted his mystical ceremony?

604

00:35:58,000 --> 00:36:00,000

With a storm fast approaching,

605

00:36:00,000 --> 00:36:03,000

we immediately begin to search for evidence.

606

00:36:04,000 --> 00:36:06,000

Oh, back up, back up, back up, back up.

607

00:36:06,000 --> 00:36:08,000

Oh, oh, back up, back up, back up, back up.

608

00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:12,000

Snake, snake, snake, snake.

609

00:36:13,000 --> 00:36:14,000

Green snake?

610

00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:15,000

Green snake, yeah.

611

00:36:17,000 --> 00:36:18,000

It's poisonous, yeah?

612

00:36:18,000 --> 00:36:19,000

It's very poisonous.

613

00:36:19,000 --> 00:36:20,000

Deadly poisonous.

614

00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:21,000

Deadly poisonous?

615

00:36:21,000 --> 00:36:22,000

Yeah, deadly poisonous.

616

00:36:22,000 --> 00:36:23,000

That bites us? What happens?

617

00:36:23,000 --> 00:36:24,000

Oh, you're dead, man.

618

00:36:25,000 --> 00:36:27,000

You may be crazy, but you've got a good eye.

619

00:36:28,000 --> 00:36:29,000

Holy s***.

620

00:36:36,000 --> 00:36:37,000

Look at this.

621

00:36:37,000 --> 00:36:38,000

Big overhang, yeah?

622

00:36:50,000 --> 00:36:52,000

Oh, my God, look at this.

623

00:36:53,000 --> 00:36:54,000

Oh, my God.

624

00:36:56,000 --> 00:36:59,000

These carvings look to be about 1200 years old

625

00:36:59,000 --> 00:37:01,000

and are beautifully preserved.

626

00:37:01,000 --> 00:37:03,000

This is an incredible find

627

00:37:03,000 --> 00:37:05,000

and has been seen by few outsiders.

628

00:37:06,000 --> 00:37:08,000

And the inscriptions indicate that this site

629

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:10,000

was likely used for rituals.

630

00:37:14,000 --> 00:37:15,000

Look at this.

631

00:37:15,000 --> 00:37:16,000

Here.

632

00:37:16,000 --> 00:37:18,000

This is the world's worst bridge.

633

00:37:19,000 --> 00:37:20,000

It looks very safe.

634

00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:24,000

I've seen a lot of bad bridges before.

635

00:37:25,000 --> 00:37:26,000

This may be the worst.

636

00:37:29,000 --> 00:37:30,000

The worst one ever.

637

00:37:36,000 --> 00:37:37,000

Oh, my God.

638

00:37:38,000 --> 00:37:39,000

Okay, Alacross.

639

00:37:40,000 --> 00:37:41,000

Are you coming over?

640

00:37:41,000 --> 00:37:42,000

I weigh twice as much as you.

641

00:37:42,000 --> 00:37:43,000

If it didn't collapse for me,

642

00:37:43,000 --> 00:37:44,000

you should be fine.

643

00:37:44,000 --> 00:37:45,000

Oh, look at this.

644

00:37:45,000 --> 00:37:46,000

Huge, Johnny.

645

00:37:46,000 --> 00:37:49,000

Pick has led us to a perfectly preserved bridge.

646

00:37:49,000 --> 00:37:51,000

And we haven't caught aKeys.

647

00:37:51,000 --> 00:37:52,000

Here we go.

648

00:37:52,000 --> 00:37:53,000

Let's go.

649

00:37:55,000 --> 00:37:57,000

I've confirmed our ■■,

650

00:37:57,000 --> 00:38:00,000

we've both nee diplomatic duties.

651

00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:03,000

That also shows that

652

00:38:03,000 --> 00:38:05,000

these three-storey bridge

653

00:38:05,000 --> 00:38:07,000

do a lot of great things and usefulness

654

00:38:07,000 --> 00:38:08,000

with some great valuables,

655

00:38:08,000 --> 00:38:09,000

but they move around.

656

00:38:10,000 --> 00:38:12,000

Maybe they are spreading information

657

00:38:12,000 --> 00:38:15,280

Pic has led us to a perfectly preserved stone yani.

658

00:38:17,280 --> 00:38:19,080

Look at the size of this thing.

659

00:38:19,080 --> 00:38:23,120

Want to go around the lingua, coming up swimming the yuni.

660

00:38:23,120 --> 00:38:26,080

Yeah, it's just like the one I saw at the temple in Franca,

661

00:38:26,080 --> 00:38:28,240

except 1200 years old.

662

00:38:28,240 --> 00:38:31,760

This ancient sandstone vessel once held a linga.

663

00:38:31,760 --> 00:38:33,120

Though the relic is missing,

664

00:38:33,120 --> 00:38:35,600

the yoni is further evidence that this mountain

665

00:38:35,600 --> 00:38:38,400

was once the site of mystical ceremonies

666

00:38:38,400 --> 00:38:40,320

and could even have been the location

667

00:38:40,400 --> 00:38:42,640

where Jayavarman became a living god.

668

00:38:44,720 --> 00:38:46,480

I've seen more than enough to convince me

669

00:38:46,480 --> 00:38:49,440

that Jayavarman's ceremony actually took place,

670

00:38:49,440 --> 00:38:51,280

though his magic is still a mystery.

671

00:38:52,160 --> 00:38:56,080

We decide to push on, and ominously, the weather pushes back.

672

00:38:56,800 --> 00:38:59,840

Even I'm starting to get wrapped up in the legend of the god king.

673

00:39:00,880 --> 00:39:03,600

Locals think this whole mountain is basically haunted.

674

00:39:03,600 --> 00:39:06,960

They say that the spirit of Jayavarman is up here.

675

00:39:07,840 --> 00:39:09,760

I have to say with the rain and the thunder and the lightning,

676

00:39:10,080 --> 00:39:13,360

it is a very freaky place.

677

00:39:16,880 --> 00:39:18,480

Looks like old quick holes.

678

00:39:20,160 --> 00:39:20,880

Old steps.

679

00:39:33,120 --> 00:39:35,680

That was the craziest bolt of lightning I've ever seen.

680

00:39:36,400 --> 00:39:38,240

That was like some power of god.

681

00:39:40,720 --> 00:39:44,240

Finally, the lightning strikes and thunder claps

682

00:39:44,240 --> 00:39:45,760

feel like they're right on top of us.

683

00:39:48,240 --> 00:39:51,120

We quickly head back to the bikes to end our investigation

684

00:39:51,120 --> 00:39:52,240

and escape the storm.

685

00:39:58,160 --> 00:40:01,040

Unfortunately, the rain has turned the trails to mud,

686

00:40:01,040 --> 00:40:03,120

and it is now dangerous going on the mountain.

687

00:40:04,960 --> 00:40:06,720

We make it down as far as the village,

688

00:40:06,720 --> 00:40:08,640

but with the rain coming down in sheets,

689

00:40:08,640 --> 00:40:10,560

we take shelter in Picks jungle home.

690

00:40:11,600 --> 00:40:13,280

So we're about halfway down the mountain.

691

00:40:13,280 --> 00:40:13,760

Yeah.

692

00:40:13,760 --> 00:40:14,160

Now what?

693

00:40:15,600 --> 00:40:16,320

Be your time.

694

00:40:16,320 --> 00:40:17,200

Be your time, yeah.

695

00:40:20,240 --> 00:40:21,520

Okay, let's take a load off.

696

00:40:21,520 --> 00:40:24,000

I can reassess my life decisions at this point.

697

00:40:24,880 --> 00:40:28,320

Though my drinking companions are mostly former Khmer Rouge soldiers

698

00:40:28,320 --> 00:40:30,240

and one crazy local guide,

699

00:40:30,240 --> 00:40:32,080

I am happy to have a roof over my head

700

00:40:32,080 --> 00:40:34,880

and a bit of light in an otherwise imposing jungle.

701

00:40:34,880 --> 00:40:36,560

Picks, is this light on a generator?

702

00:40:36,560 --> 00:40:38,240

Is all the power on the generator?

703

00:40:38,240 --> 00:40:39,040

What time does it go off?

704

00:40:50,000 --> 00:40:51,200

By the light of a new day,

705

00:40:51,200 --> 00:40:54,240

I head down the mountain and back towards civilization.

706

00:40:54,240 --> 00:40:56,160

There's obviously more to be found here,

707

00:40:56,160 --> 00:40:58,800

but it will take years to fully excavate the city.

708

00:40:58,800 --> 00:40:59,760

I gotta get some coffee.

709

00:41:02,080 --> 00:41:04,880

History tells us that the quest for absolute power

710

00:41:04,880 --> 00:41:06,160

is a dangerous desire.

711

00:41:06,800 --> 00:41:08,960

For the god kings of the Khmer Empire,

712

00:41:08,960 --> 00:41:10,480

the power of the linga,

713

00:41:10,480 --> 00:41:12,800

or at least the perception of that power,

714

00:41:12,800 --> 00:41:15,840

allowed them to build artistic achievements without equal.

715

00:41:16,880 --> 00:41:18,160

For the Khmer Rouge,

716

00:41:18,160 --> 00:41:20,800

absolute power gave rise to the very darkest

717

00:41:20,800 --> 00:41:23,040

and most deadly aspects of human nature.

718

00:41:24,800 --> 00:41:27,920

In truth, this country has always been a puzzle to me.

719

00:41:28,560 --> 00:41:29,920

Not because of the history,

720

00:41:29,920 --> 00:41:33,360

but because of the people who keep picking themselves up

721

00:41:33,360 --> 00:41:34,640

and dusting themselves off.

722

00:41:35,600 --> 00:41:38,160

They have adapted, they have endured,

723

00:41:38,160 --> 00:41:40,160

and they are, despite everything,

724

00:41:40,160 --> 00:41:41,920

filled with hope for the future.

725

00:41:43,040 --> 00:41:45,680

The story of Cambodia is still being written

726

00:41:45,680 --> 00:41:47,040

from both ends of the book.

727

00:41:47,760 --> 00:41:50,720

At this very moment, on a heavily landmine mountain,

728

00:41:50,720 --> 00:41:54,080

daring archaeologists are discovering the very first chapter.

729

00:41:55,680 --> 00:41:58,880

We now know that the story of Jayavarman is more than a myth.

730

00:42:00,160 --> 00:42:04,160

His city has been revealed by 21st century technology,

731

00:42:04,160 --> 00:42:07,040

and the jungle is giving up his long-held secrets.

732

00:42:08,080 --> 00:42:10,000

Having found a ceremonial yoni,

733

00:42:10,000 --> 00:42:11,760

there may well be a linga here too.

734

00:42:12,400 --> 00:42:15,040

But does it wield the fearsome power of the gods?

735

00:42:15,840 --> 00:42:19,600

As archaeologists continue to shift this ancient soil,

736

00:42:19,600 --> 00:42:21,440

new discoveries will be made,

737

00:42:21,440 --> 00:42:24,640

and the lost artifact of power could be next,

738

00:42:24,640 --> 00:42:29,120

waiting just beneath our feet.