

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,000

The greatest conqueror in history, Genghis Khan.

2

00:00:05,000 --> 00:00:07,300

Where do you think Genghis Khan is buried?

3

00:00:07,300 --> 00:00:11,000

He moved heaven and earth to stay hidden for all eternity.

4

00:00:11,000 --> 00:00:11,920

Yeah, those are bricks.

5

00:00:11,920 --> 00:00:13,560

That is definitely man-made.

6

00:00:13,560 --> 00:00:15,440

But nobody can hide forever.

7

00:00:19,000 --> 00:00:21,920

So this forbidden zone is completely closed to form.

8

00:00:21,920 --> 00:00:22,760

Yes.

9

00:00:22,760 --> 00:00:24,360

Hang on, hang on!

10

00:00:24,360 --> 00:00:25,320

Ho, ho, ho!

11

00:00:25,320 --> 00:00:26,720

That is a spear point.

12

00:00:26,720 --> 00:00:27,560

That's cool.

13

00:00:27,560 --> 00:00:29,720

I've never seen a tomb open before.

14

00:00:29,720 --> 00:00:31,280

In my life, I've never seen this.

15

00:00:31,280 --> 00:00:33,600

This is history that's right underneath our feet.

16

00:00:33,600 --> 00:00:34,560

Look at that!

17

00:00:34,560 --> 00:00:36,040

That looks man-made.

18

00:00:43,360 --> 00:00:45,600

When it comes to history's greatest leaders,

19

00:00:45,600 --> 00:00:49,080

the phrase, larger than life, gets thrown around a lot.

20

00:00:49,080 --> 00:00:51,600

But there is one man who may actually deserve

21

00:00:51,600 --> 00:00:54,680

to be called larger than life, Genghis Khan.

22

00:00:55,680 --> 00:01:01,160

Over his 21-year rule, he conquers more territory

23

00:01:01,160 --> 00:01:03,120

than anyone in history.

24

00:01:03,120 --> 00:01:05,520

He travels further than Alexander the Great,

25

00:01:05,520 --> 00:01:08,000

lays waste to more cities than Caesar,

26

00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:10,600

and kills millions more than Stalin.

27

00:01:10,600 --> 00:01:13,480

His nomadic warriors ride like a wave of destruction

28

00:01:13,480 --> 00:01:17,560

across Asia, destroying empires, and reshaping the map

29

00:01:17,560 --> 00:01:19,280

of the world behind them.

30

00:01:19,280 --> 00:01:21,280

You would think a man who lived so large

31

00:01:21,280 --> 00:01:23,480

would have built an enormous tomb.

32

00:01:23,480 --> 00:01:26,760

But Khan wanted exactly the opposite.

33

00:01:26,760 --> 00:01:29,040

He commanded his followers to not only bury him

34

00:01:29,040 --> 00:01:32,000

in an unmarked grave, but to kill anyone who laid

35

00:01:32,000 --> 00:01:33,520

eyes on his funeral procession.

36

00:01:37,200 --> 00:01:41,520

Since his death in 1227, the location of Genghis Khan's tomb

37

00:01:41,520 --> 00:01:44,280

has been a complete and total unknown.

38

00:01:44,280 --> 00:01:47,040

But that may be about to change.

39

00:01:47,040 --> 00:01:50,720

A group of researchers recently did something very unorthodox.

40

00:01:50,720 --> 00:01:53,000

They asked the public for help.

41

00:01:53,000 --> 00:01:56,200

Using satellite images of Mongolia's desolate landscape,

42

00:01:56,200 --> 00:02:00,600

more than 10,000 volunteers have been scouring 84,000

43

00:02:00,600 --> 00:02:03,600

images for anomalous formations.

44

00:02:03,600 --> 00:02:06,120

One of those images shows a square shape

45

00:02:06,120 --> 00:02:08,920

that could be an ancient indicator of a nearby tomb.

46

00:02:11,720 --> 00:02:13,600

While there is just one catch, the site

47

00:02:13,600 --> 00:02:17,000

is located in an area known as the Forbidden Zone,

48

00:02:17,000 --> 00:02:19,960

a holy mountain strictly off limits to outsiders

49

00:02:19,960 --> 00:02:22,040

and tightly guarded by a local tribe.

50

00:02:23,680 --> 00:02:25,920

But a team of Mongolian archaeologists

51

00:02:25,920 --> 00:02:28,760

is launching an investigation of this new find.

52

00:02:28,760 --> 00:02:31,800

And I'm going to attempt to go with them.

53

00:02:31,800 --> 00:02:34,560

In some of the most remote wilderness on Earth,

54

00:02:34,560 --> 00:02:38,640

are we about to discover the long lost tomb of Genghis Khan?

55

00:02:43,240 --> 00:02:47,840

My name is Josh Gates, with a degree in archaeology

56

00:02:47,840 --> 00:02:51,160

and a passion for exploration.

57

00:02:51,160 --> 00:02:54,600

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

58

00:02:54,600 --> 00:02:58,320

God, Lord have mercy!

59

00:02:58,320 --> 00:03:01,080

My travels have taken me to the ends of the Earth

60

00:03:01,080 --> 00:03:04,000

as I investigate the greatest legends in history.

61

00:03:04,000 --> 00:03:04,680

We're good to try.

62

00:03:04,680 --> 00:03:05,640

Let's go.

63

00:03:05,640 --> 00:03:07,720

This is Expedition Unknown.

64

00:03:07,720 --> 00:03:20,480

Mongolia, an empire of empty space.

65

00:03:20,480 --> 00:03:25,680

Thousands of miles of grass, plains, and mountains.

66

00:03:25,680 --> 00:03:29,520

And at its heart, something out of place, a city.

67

00:03:32,040 --> 00:03:34,640

My quest to document the search for the tomb

68

00:03:34,680 --> 00:03:37,520

of Genghis Khan begins here, in the frontier capital

69

00:03:37,520 --> 00:03:41,400

of Ulaanbaatar, or Ulaanbaatar, or Ubi.

70

00:03:41,400 --> 00:03:44,520

Honestly, nobody here can agree on how to pronounce it.

71

00:03:44,520 --> 00:03:46,360

One thing people here can agree on

72

00:03:46,360 --> 00:03:49,560

is that it's pronounced Chingus, not Genghis.

73

00:03:49,560 --> 00:03:52,800

And so I land at Chingus Khan Airport.

74

00:03:52,800 --> 00:03:55,680

In the West, our image of Khan is of a warlord.

75

00:03:55,680 --> 00:03:58,160

But here, he's not just revered as a hero.

76

00:03:58,160 --> 00:03:59,600

He's practically worshipped.

77

00:03:59,600 --> 00:04:03,000

His name and formidable mug is the name of the king.

78

00:04:03,120 --> 00:04:06,000

His name and formidable mug can be seen on everything

79

00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:09,440

from hotels, to vodka, to energy drinks.

80

00:04:09,440 --> 00:04:11,760

He's got his own version of the Lincoln Memorial.

81

00:04:11,760 --> 00:04:13,640

And if that's not enough, his portrait

82

00:04:13,640 --> 00:04:15,560

is embedded on the side of a hill that

83

00:04:15,560 --> 00:04:17,200

overlooks the entire city.

84

00:04:20,560 --> 00:04:23,360

Ulaanbaatar is kind of a work in progress.

85

00:04:23,360 --> 00:04:25,120

It's a traffic jam metropolis where

86

00:04:25,120 --> 00:04:28,520

nomads coexist alongside tech entrepreneurs.

87

00:04:28,520 --> 00:04:31,680

But once a year, the city nearly doubles in size,

88

00:04:31,720 --> 00:04:35,120

as Mongolians flock to the capital in the name of Chingus

89

00:04:35,120 --> 00:04:35,620

Khan.

90

00:04:44,480 --> 00:04:47,920

This is not a festival that, according to legend,

91

00:04:47,920 --> 00:04:51,200

was actually started by Chingus Khan.

92

00:04:51,200 --> 00:04:54,440

Khan instituted the event as a way for his armies to train

93

00:04:54,440 --> 00:04:56,520

and to celebrate their victories.

94

00:04:56,520 --> 00:04:59,280

These days, though, it's less blood sport and more

95

00:04:59,280 --> 00:05:02,800

Mario and Luigi, not to mention the Mongolian Justin Bieber.

96

00:05:06,920 --> 00:05:09,160

The event is a total spectacle.

97

00:05:09,160 --> 00:05:10,920

And in a stall surrounding the stadium,

98

00:05:10,920 --> 00:05:13,560

there's local delicacies and collectibles,

99

00:05:13,560 --> 00:05:16,360

and absolutely no rules about the unqualified handling

100

00:05:16,360 --> 00:05:18,760

of predatory birds.

101

00:05:18,760 --> 00:05:20,480

Josh, how did you lose both of your eyes?

102

00:05:20,480 --> 00:05:21,880

That's a funny story, actually.

103

00:05:21,880 --> 00:05:25,040

I was in Mongolia.

104

00:05:25,040 --> 00:05:27,680

But there's more to Nautum than just celebrating.

105

00:05:27,720 --> 00:05:32,640

It's also called the Festival of the Three Games, archery,

106

00:05:32,640 --> 00:05:37,240

wrestling, and horseback riding, three activities that

107

00:05:37,240 --> 00:05:41,440

seem to be imprinted in Mongolian DNA.

108

00:05:41,440 --> 00:05:44,320

This is, after all, a country where horses outnumber people

109

00:05:44,320 --> 00:05:45,720

13 to 1.

110

00:05:45,720 --> 00:05:48,440

And Mongolians have long been considered the greatest

111

00:05:48,440 --> 00:05:51,040

equestrians on Earth.

112

00:05:51,040 --> 00:05:54,200

Khan was the first leader to train archers on horseback.

113

00:05:54,200 --> 00:05:56,800

And nearly 1,000 years later, their aim

114

00:05:56,840 --> 00:05:59,560

is still beyond belief.

115

00:05:59,560 --> 00:06:02,280

But the centerpiece of Nautum is the wrestling,

116

00:06:02,280 --> 00:06:04,840

where the true determination of Mongolian spirit

117

00:06:04,840 --> 00:06:06,120

is on full display.

118

00:06:15,560 --> 00:06:17,720

The rules of Mongolian wrestling are very simple.

119

00:06:17,720 --> 00:06:19,400

The only thing that is allowed to touch the ground

120

00:06:19,400 --> 00:06:23,600

are your feet or your hands, anything else, and you lose.

121

00:06:24,560 --> 00:06:25,560

Body slam.

122

00:06:28,560 --> 00:06:33,880

Today, 512 men will wrestle out here to find one champion.

123

00:06:33,880 --> 00:06:35,800

It's a lot of guys in underwear.

124

00:06:35,800 --> 00:06:38,400

To understand Khan, I need to understand the traditions

125

00:06:38,400 --> 00:06:41,560

he inspired, which means I'm going to do something totally

126

00:06:41,560 --> 00:06:42,060

stupid.

127

00:06:52,200 --> 00:06:53,080

OK, here we go.

128

00:06:53,080 --> 00:06:54,560

Sir, I don't want to hurt you.

129

00:06:54,560 --> 00:06:55,640

You, hospital.

130

00:06:55,640 --> 00:06:56,840

Me, to the hospital?

131

00:06:56,840 --> 00:06:58,840

Yes.

132

00:06:58,840 --> 00:07:00,160

That's funny.

133

00:07:00,160 --> 00:07:00,840

OK, you ready?

134

00:07:00,840 --> 00:07:01,340

OK.

135

00:07:04,040 --> 00:07:04,920

Guys like a wall.

136

00:07:07,920 --> 00:07:08,680

I'm in trouble.

137

00:07:08,680 --> 00:07:09,160

I'm in trouble.

138

00:07:17,120 --> 00:07:18,120

OK, warm it up.

139

00:07:24,080 --> 00:07:25,080

Guys, look out!

140

00:07:33,080 --> 00:07:36,080

OK, that hurt a little.

141

00:07:36,080 --> 00:07:40,080

Once my vision returns, I decide to quit while I'm behind.

142

00:07:40,080 --> 00:07:41,080

I give up.

143

00:07:41,080 --> 00:07:42,080

He wins.

144

00:07:42,080 --> 00:07:44,080

Champion.

145

00:07:44,080 --> 00:07:45,080

Oh, god.

146

00:07:45,080 --> 00:07:47,080

Tune in next week to see if I'm able to raise my right arm

147

00:07:47,080 --> 00:07:48,080

again.

148

00:07:54,080 --> 00:07:57,080

As impressive as Nadam is, the largest testament to Khan's

149

00:07:57,080 --> 00:08:01,080

enduring legacy is just outside of town, and it's hard to

150

00:08:01,080 --> 00:08:02,080

miss.

151

00:08:02,080 --> 00:08:04,080

The Sanjin Bulldog Monument.

152

00:08:08,080 --> 00:08:12,080

At 130 feet high, this is the largest equestrian statue

153

00:08:12,080 --> 00:08:13,080

in the world.

154

00:08:17,080 --> 00:08:20,080

So who was this man so revered by his people, yet

155

00:08:20,080 --> 00:08:22,080

reviled by others?

156

00:08:22,080 --> 00:08:25,080

Filling me in as an expert in Mongolian history, Dr. Batuk

157

00:08:25,080 --> 00:08:27,080

Ahtun Srenin.

158

00:08:27,080 --> 00:08:30,080

Genghis Khan ends up controlling this massive empire, but

159

00:08:30,080 --> 00:08:32,080

what's his story from an early age?

160

00:08:32,080 --> 00:08:36,080

What we know of him comes from a 14th century text called

161

00:08:36,080 --> 00:08:39,080

The Secret History of the Mongols.

162

00:08:39,080 --> 00:08:43,080

When Genghis Khan was young, a rival tribe killed his father,

163

00:08:43,080 --> 00:08:46,080

forcing him and his mother to survive on their own out on

164

00:08:46,080 --> 00:08:47,080

the harsh plains.

165

00:08:47,080 --> 00:08:51,080

This difficult childhood inspired the young Khan to unify

166

00:08:51,080 --> 00:08:54,080

the warring tribes of his native land, giving birth to the

167

00:08:54,080 --> 00:08:56,080

country of Mongolia.

168

00:09:02,080 --> 00:09:05,080

Over the next two decades, his fearless army thundered a

169

00:09:05,080 --> 00:09:08,080

bloody path across the continent to build what would

170

00:09:08,080 --> 00:09:11,080

become the largest empire in human history.

171

00:09:11,080 --> 00:09:14,080

At its height, the Mongols controlled an area from Japan

172

00:09:14,080 --> 00:09:18,080

to central Europe and from Siberia to the edge of

173

00:09:18,080 --> 00:09:19,080

Arabia.

174

00:09:21,080 --> 00:09:24,080

When conquering new territory, Khan notoriously refused to

175

00:09:24,080 --> 00:09:25,080

compromise.

176

00:09:25,080 --> 00:09:28,080

His message to local rulers was as simple as it was

177

00:09:28,080 --> 00:09:29,080

horrifying.

178

00:09:29,080 --> 00:09:32,080

Surrender immediately or everyone dies.

179

00:09:36,080 --> 00:09:40,080

In fact, he conquered so many nations and fathered so many

180

00:09:40,080 --> 00:09:44,080

children that it is now estimated that one in 200 men alive

181

00:09:44,080 --> 00:09:48,080

today is a direct descendant of Genghis Khan.

182

00:09:49,080 --> 00:09:53,080

In the west, we think of Genghis Khan as a pretty brutal guy,

183

00:09:53,080 --> 00:09:55,080

you know, as a warlord.

184

00:09:55,080 --> 00:09:58,080

But here, he's this larger-than-life figure, literally.

185

00:09:58,080 --> 00:09:59,080

So the question is which is he?

186

00:09:59,080 --> 00:10:01,080

Is he the good guy or is he the villain?

187

00:10:01,080 --> 00:10:03,080

Genghis Khan is a hero.

188

00:10:03,080 --> 00:10:06,080

He established the trade routes that connected Asia to Europe,

189

00:10:06,080 --> 00:10:09,080

which helped both continents flourish with new knowledge.

190

00:10:09,080 --> 00:10:13,080

The Mongol Empire also allowed complete religious freedom,

191

00:10:13,080 --> 00:10:15,080

which was unheard of at the time.

192

00:10:15,080 --> 00:10:19,080

There's been a lot of talk about Genghis Khan's burial place.

193

00:10:19,080 --> 00:10:21,080

You know, there's always been this great mystery about where

194

00:10:21,080 --> 00:10:23,080

he's buried, where his tomb is.

195

00:10:23,080 --> 00:10:25,080

So where do I start?

196

00:10:25,080 --> 00:10:27,080

The tomb is our greatest mystery.

197

00:10:27,080 --> 00:10:30,080

There is an archaeologist working in the west called

198

00:10:30,080 --> 00:10:34,080

Michi Doge, Inc. Bayer, that is part of a team searching for it.

199

00:10:34,080 --> 00:10:36,080

He's the man to talk to.

200

00:10:39,080 --> 00:10:41,080

Sounds straightforward enough?

201

00:10:41,080 --> 00:10:43,080

Find the archaeologist and perhaps find the most famous

202

00:10:43,080 --> 00:10:45,080

lost tomb in history.

203

00:10:45,080 --> 00:10:47,080

But nothing in Mongolia is easy,

204

00:10:47,080 --> 00:10:50,080

especially when it comes to road trips.

205

00:10:50,080 --> 00:10:53,080

I've enlisted the services of Dandi Dashambu,

206

00:10:53,080 --> 00:10:55,080

an experienced guide and translator.

207

00:10:55,080 --> 00:10:58,080

We've put together a convoy of all-terrain vehicles,

208

00:10:58,080 --> 00:11:03,080

local drivers, fuel canisters, and enough food to last a week.

209

00:11:04,080 --> 00:11:05,080

Hit it!

210

00:11:14,080 --> 00:11:16,080

An hour outside the capital,

211

00:11:16,080 --> 00:11:18,080

and we may as well be on another planet.

212

00:11:18,080 --> 00:11:20,080

Forget a gas station.

213

00:11:20,080 --> 00:11:22,080

It's hard enough to find an actual road out here.

214

00:11:26,080 --> 00:11:28,080

But once you get outside the city there,

215

00:11:28,080 --> 00:11:31,080

there's not a lot going on out here, is there?

216

00:11:31,080 --> 00:11:35,080

The first guy who opens a 7-eleven out here is going to make a fortune.

217

00:11:35,080 --> 00:11:38,080

I've been told that Professor Michi Doge is excavating at a site

218

00:11:38,080 --> 00:11:41,080

to the west, near the ancient city of Karakorum.

219

00:11:41,080 --> 00:11:43,080

And if we don't manage to flip a jeep,

220

00:11:43,080 --> 00:11:46,080

we should be able to get there in about nine bumpy hours.

221

00:11:47,080 --> 00:11:50,080

The definition of the word road is pretty loose here in Mongolia, Dandi.

222

00:11:50,080 --> 00:11:53,080

As soon as your car can go, then it's your road.

223

00:11:53,080 --> 00:11:55,080

Yeah, as long as your car can make it, right?

224

00:11:55,080 --> 00:11:56,080

Yeah.

225

00:11:56,080 --> 00:11:58,080

You could just choose your own road.

226

00:11:58,080 --> 00:12:01,080

Though our road trip started with little trouble,

227

00:12:01,080 --> 00:12:03,080

three-quarters of the way to Karakorum,

228

00:12:05,080 --> 00:12:08,080

Mother Nature decides to amp things up a little.

229

00:12:09,080 --> 00:12:12,080

Well, this rain does not look like it's letting up.

230

00:12:14,080 --> 00:12:19,080

After a few minutes, our dirt road looks more like a Mongolian monster truck course.

231

00:12:21,080 --> 00:12:24,080

Little...slippery in here.

232

00:12:25,080 --> 00:12:29,080

It's all fun and games until our friction coefficient hits zero.

233

00:12:32,080 --> 00:12:33,080

You got it?

234

00:12:33,080 --> 00:12:34,080

Hang on! Hang on!

235

00:12:39,080 --> 00:12:42,080

I'm driving across Mongolia to meet a prominent archaeologist,

236

00:12:42,080 --> 00:12:45,080

searching for the lost tool of Cengiz Khan.

237

00:12:46,080 --> 00:12:50,080

And my convoy is struggling to pass through a nasty thunderstorm.

238

00:12:50,080 --> 00:12:53,080

Little...slippery in here.

239

00:12:54,080 --> 00:12:55,080

You got it?

240

00:12:55,080 --> 00:12:56,080

Hang on! Hang on!

241

00:13:01,080 --> 00:13:04,080

There we go. It's fine. We're going to be fine.

242

00:13:04,080 --> 00:13:05,080

Good lord.

243

00:13:05,080 --> 00:13:07,080

Once we're all back facing in the same direction,

244

00:13:07,080 --> 00:13:10,080

we start again toward our meeting with Professor Midji George.

245

00:13:10,080 --> 00:13:15,080

Along the way, we're passing by a critical location in the hunt for Cengiz Khan,

246

00:13:15,080 --> 00:13:19,080

the now abandoned capital city he founded in the year 1220.

247

00:13:23,080 --> 00:13:26,080

This is the city of Karakorum, or what's left of it.

248

00:13:26,080 --> 00:13:31,080

Cengiz Khan actually established this city as a supply base and a military outpost.

249

00:13:31,080 --> 00:13:35,080

This is also the last place that Cengiz Khan's body was ever seen.

250

00:13:35,080 --> 00:13:37,080

After he died somewhere in what is today China,

251

00:13:37,080 --> 00:13:40,080

his funeral procession emanated from here.

252

00:13:40,080 --> 00:13:43,080

After that, well, that's what everybody's trying to figure out.

253

00:13:46,080 --> 00:13:49,080

Even by Mongol standards, Cengiz Khan went to great lengths

254

00:13:49,080 --> 00:13:53,080

to ensure that his burial site would remain a secret.

255

00:13:53,080 --> 00:13:57,080

According to one legend, his soldiers murdered his own son,

256

00:13:57,080 --> 00:14:00,080

and his funeral procession would remain a secret.

257

00:14:00,080 --> 00:14:05,080

According to one legend, his soldiers murdered anyone who witnessed the funeral procession.

258

00:14:05,080 --> 00:14:11,080

Another story says a stampede of horses was used to stomp out all signs of the grave.

259

00:14:11,080 --> 00:14:15,080

Some even say that an entire river was diverted to flow over the tomb.

260

00:14:19,080 --> 00:14:21,080

Thanks to Khan's extraordinary precautions,

261

00:14:21,080 --> 00:14:26,080

the pursuit that began with his death in 1227 still continues today.

262

00:14:27,080 --> 00:14:30,080

Riji George and Bayer of Ulan-Batar State University

263

00:14:30,080 --> 00:14:33,080

is one of the archaeologists leading the hunt for Cengiz Khan.

264

00:14:33,080 --> 00:14:37,080

I hope to join him. That is, if we can find him.

265

00:14:37,080 --> 00:14:39,080

Okay, so Danny, walk me through it. Where are we headed?

266

00:14:39,080 --> 00:14:40,080

Egg River.

267

00:14:40,080 --> 00:14:41,080

Egg River.

268

00:14:41,080 --> 00:14:42,080

Yep.

269

00:14:42,080 --> 00:14:46,080

Lots of archaeological tickings are happening there.

270

00:14:46,080 --> 00:14:48,080

They say that about 300 tombs has been found.

271

00:14:48,080 --> 00:14:51,080

Bronze Age, Stone Age, even the Hunnu Era.

272

00:14:51,080 --> 00:14:54,080

And the Hunnu Era is before the Mongols, right?

273

00:14:54,080 --> 00:14:55,080

Yep, before the Mongols.

274

00:14:55,080 --> 00:14:56,080

This is before Cengiz Khan.

275

00:14:56,080 --> 00:14:57,080

Before Cengiz Khan.

276

00:14:57,080 --> 00:14:59,080

Which is the Mongolian ancestors.

277

00:14:59,080 --> 00:15:00,080

Right.

278

00:15:02,080 --> 00:15:05,080

These Hunnu tombs may be the key to finding Cengiz Khan,

279

00:15:05,080 --> 00:15:09,080

since his tomb may be based on their general design.

280

00:15:10,080 --> 00:15:12,080

We're close to the dig site.

281

00:15:12,080 --> 00:15:16,080

Unfortunately, there's a river that threatens to make the last half mile take half a day.

282

00:15:16,080 --> 00:15:18,080

That is a big river.

283

00:15:22,080 --> 00:15:24,080

In the greatest equestrian nation in the world,

284

00:15:24,080 --> 00:15:29,080

getting across a river is simply a matter of borrowing a couple of ponies from a local rancher.

285

00:15:29,080 --> 00:15:30,080

Alright, let's do it.

286

00:15:33,080 --> 00:15:35,080

Big guy and a little horse. Here we go.

287

00:15:38,080 --> 00:15:40,080

This seems like a bad idea.

288

00:15:40,080 --> 00:15:41,080

Getting deep.

289

00:15:42,080 --> 00:15:43,080

I don't swim.

290

00:15:43,080 --> 00:15:44,080

You can't swim?

291

00:15:44,080 --> 00:15:46,080

What are you doing out here on a horse?

292

00:15:46,080 --> 00:15:49,080

No road, no ferry, no problem.

293

00:15:51,080 --> 00:15:52,080

No, he's getting better.

294

00:15:52,080 --> 00:15:53,080

Yeah, just push through it.

295

00:15:55,080 --> 00:16:00,080

Now on the right side of the river, we take off like a shot and make for the dig site.

296

00:16:11,080 --> 00:16:14,080

Soon, we arrive at Professor Midgee George's excavation,

297

00:16:14,080 --> 00:16:19,080

where he's discovered 300 Hunnu tombs that predate Cengiz Khan.

298

00:16:20,080 --> 00:16:22,080

So you're a hard man to find.

299

00:16:31,080 --> 00:16:33,080

We've arrived in time for a momentous occasion.

300

00:16:33,080 --> 00:16:37,080

Professor Midgee George and his team are about to open this ancient tomb.

301

00:16:43,080 --> 00:16:46,080

It's really thrilling. I've never seen a tomb open before in my life.

302

00:16:46,080 --> 00:16:47,080

I've never seen this.

303

00:16:47,080 --> 00:16:48,080

Anything I could do to help.

304

00:16:52,080 --> 00:16:56,080

Together, we start moving the hundreds of heavy rocks that hide the tomb below.

305

00:16:59,080 --> 00:17:00,080

So how is it? How is it feeling?

306

00:17:00,080 --> 00:17:01,080

Great. Are you kidding?

307

00:17:01,080 --> 00:17:02,080

It's exciting.

308

00:17:02,080 --> 00:17:08,080

Really incredibly rare opportunity to be able to open a tomb like this to see it happen in real time.

309

00:17:11,080 --> 00:17:16,080

We keep excavating, driven by the possibility of a find just a little further away.

310

00:17:17,080 --> 00:17:19,080

We go further below our brushes.

311

00:17:35,080 --> 00:17:40,080

Near Mongolia's ancient capital of Karakoram, archaeologist Midgee George and Bayar

312

00:17:40,080 --> 00:17:42,080

has just made an astounding discovery.

313

00:17:47,080 --> 00:17:48,080

Skull? Yeah?

314

00:17:48,080 --> 00:17:49,080

Oh my God.

315

00:17:51,080 --> 00:17:54,080

It's a male because of the shape of the eye.

316

00:17:54,080 --> 00:17:55,080

It's male.

317

00:17:56,080 --> 00:18:00,080

This tomb is 4,000 years old and the skull that we've uncovered

318

00:18:00,080 --> 00:18:03,080

could be a direct ancestor of Cengiz Khan himself.

319

00:18:03,080 --> 00:18:05,080

It's a remarkable find.

320

00:18:05,080 --> 00:18:09,080

Midgee George explains that most Hunnu tombs were originally round

321

00:18:09,080 --> 00:18:15,080

and later more square with the bodies pointed north at prominent locations like this hill.

322

00:18:16,080 --> 00:18:18,080

It's these clues that are helping Midgee George

323

00:18:18,080 --> 00:18:22,080

as he prepares to travel to the location where he thinks Khan is buried.

324

00:18:22,080 --> 00:18:26,080

I ask him about how he discovered the prospective burial site.

325

00:18:28,080 --> 00:18:34,080

We used satellite photos to look at a sacred mountain that was important to Cengiz Khan.

326

00:18:34,080 --> 00:18:38,080

We found a square of shape on the mountain that we think is a temple.

327

00:18:38,080 --> 00:18:42,080

I think that temple is a sign that Khan's tomb may be at the summit.

328

00:18:43,080 --> 00:18:45,080

There's just one problem.

329

00:18:45,080 --> 00:18:49,080

The mountain, known as Burhan Haldun, is considered sacred.

330

00:18:49,080 --> 00:18:52,080

While Midgee George has special permission to access the mountain,

331

00:18:52,080 --> 00:18:55,080

it is strictly off limits to outsiders.

332

00:18:55,080 --> 00:18:59,080

Is it possible to go there? Is it possible to visit the mountain?

333

00:18:59,080 --> 00:19:02,080

It is possible. You're going to need some help.

334

00:19:02,080 --> 00:19:03,080

Okay, who do we talk to?

335

00:19:05,080 --> 00:19:09,080

The only person who might be able to get you and your crew onto the mountain with us

336

00:19:09,080 --> 00:19:12,080

is my colleague, Professor Erdan Batar Di Majel.

337

00:19:12,080 --> 00:19:15,080

He and I have been working together to find Khan's tomb.

338

00:19:15,080 --> 00:19:17,080

It's very influential.

339

00:19:17,080 --> 00:19:20,080

If you want to try, I'm happy to make the introduction.

340

00:19:21,080 --> 00:19:23,080

Okay, how do we find this guy?

341

00:19:25,080 --> 00:19:28,080

And just like that, we're back on the muddy Mongolian highway.

342

00:19:30,080 --> 00:19:35,080

Our plan is to track northeast to intersect Midgee George's boss, Dr. Erdan Batar.

343

00:19:36,080 --> 00:19:41,080

From there, if unlucky, we'll all push even further to the holy mountain of Burhan Haldun,

344

00:19:41,080 --> 00:19:43,080

where Khan might be buried.

345

00:19:43,080 --> 00:19:47,080

Dr. Erdan Batar is something of a celebrity in Mongolia

346

00:19:47,080 --> 00:19:52,080

for discovering a horde of Hunu treasure dating back over a thousand years.

347

00:19:52,080 --> 00:19:56,080

We arrive to find Mongolia's most famous archaeologist,

348

00:19:56,080 --> 00:19:58,080

waiting for us by the side of the road.

349

00:19:59,080 --> 00:20:00,080

Hello.

350

00:20:00,080 --> 00:20:01,080

Hello.

351

00:20:01,080 --> 00:20:03,080

I'm Josh.

352

00:20:03,080 --> 00:20:04,080

Nice to meet you.

353

00:20:05,080 --> 00:20:06,080

Nice to meet you.

354

00:20:06,080 --> 00:20:11,080

Midgee George here tells me that you are the man to talk to about the holy mountain.

355

00:20:12,080 --> 00:20:15,080

I know this mountain is sacred, but why is it so restricted?

356

00:20:15,080 --> 00:20:17,080

Why is this such a difficult place to visit?

357

00:20:20,080 --> 00:20:22,080

Khan believed the mountain was his heavenly protector,

358

00:20:22,080 --> 00:20:26,080

and even during his life, it was considered a holy place.

359

00:20:27,080 --> 00:20:31,080

Many people have theorized that Khan's tomb could be on this mountain.

360

00:20:31,080 --> 00:20:33,080

Do you think it could be there?

361

00:20:35,080 --> 00:20:36,080

That's the question.

362

00:20:36,080 --> 00:20:40,080

There are three very old shrines called Ovo that mark the base,

363

00:20:40,080 --> 00:20:43,080

midpoint and summit of the mountain.

364

00:20:43,080 --> 00:20:47,080

The satellites have shown that the midpoint is a buried structure that could be a temple,

365

00:20:47,080 --> 00:20:51,080

and at the peak, a strange mound that could be man-made.

366

00:20:51,080 --> 00:20:55,080

Our goal is to reach both locations and survey them.

367

00:20:55,080 --> 00:20:57,080

With your help, we would love to visit the mountain.

368

00:20:57,080 --> 00:20:59,080

We would love to see the site.

369

00:20:59,080 --> 00:21:03,080

I know that it may not be possible for us to go, but we'd love to try.

370

00:21:04,080 --> 00:21:06,080

The area is very restricted.

371

00:21:06,080 --> 00:21:08,080

It is called the Forbidden Zone.

372

00:21:08,080 --> 00:21:12,080

I can't make any promises, but we'll do our best to bring you as far as we can.

373

00:21:12,080 --> 00:21:13,080

We'll follow you.

374

00:21:13,080 --> 00:21:14,080

Okay, good. Let's do it.

375

00:21:19,080 --> 00:21:23,080

I have to say, I am blown away by the hospitality of these guys,

376

00:21:23,080 --> 00:21:26,080

but if they can't get me onto the mountain, it's all for nothing.

377

00:21:28,080 --> 00:21:31,080

So this Forbidden Zone is completely closed to foreigners.

378

00:21:31,080 --> 00:21:34,080

Yes, especially around the mountain itself.

379

00:21:35,080 --> 00:21:38,080

And what happens if foreigners go there?

380

00:21:38,080 --> 00:21:43,080

Well, first of all, it's going to be almost impossible to go through the checkpoints.

381

00:21:43,080 --> 00:21:45,080

There's a risk to run into locals.

382

00:21:46,080 --> 00:21:47,080

Locals?

383

00:21:47,080 --> 00:21:48,080

Yeah.

384

00:21:48,080 --> 00:21:49,080

And who are the locals that are up here?

385

00:21:49,080 --> 00:21:56,080

The tribe from 13th century who received the order from Jingxan itself to guard the mountain.

386

00:21:56,080 --> 00:21:57,080

Is the descendants of that tribe?

387

00:21:57,080 --> 00:21:58,080

Descendants.

388

00:21:58,080 --> 00:22:00,080

And they're still following Chengdu's cons orders?

389

00:22:00,080 --> 00:22:01,080

Yep.

390

00:22:01,080 --> 00:22:02,080

That's incredible.

391

00:22:04,080 --> 00:22:07,080

The Dharhad tribe take their job very seriously.

392

00:22:07,080 --> 00:22:15,080

By order of Chengxan himself, a nearly 100 square mile perimeter was closed off around the Holy Mountain.

393

00:22:15,080 --> 00:22:19,080

It is known as the Great Taboo, or the Forbidden Zone.

394

00:22:20,080 --> 00:22:24,080

Until 20 years ago, trespassers here were killed on site.

395

00:22:24,080 --> 00:22:27,080

Today, they're merely beaten and then deported.

396

00:22:28,080 --> 00:22:34,080

We drive through lonely valleys and past abandoned Soviet-era military barracks.

397

00:22:34,080 --> 00:22:36,080

Frankly, it's a bit spooky out here.

398

00:22:40,080 --> 00:22:44,080

After hours, we finally arrive at the checkpoint to the Forbidden Zone.

399

00:22:44,080 --> 00:22:48,080

Let's hope we all make a good first impression, or this mission is over.

400

00:22:48,080 --> 00:22:49,080

Hello.

401

00:22:49,080 --> 00:22:50,080

Nice to meet you.

402

00:22:50,080 --> 00:22:51,080

Hi.

403

00:22:51,080 --> 00:22:52,080

Nice to meet you.

404

00:22:52,080 --> 00:22:53,080

Hi.

405

00:22:53,080 --> 00:22:54,080

Nice to meet you.

406

00:22:54,080 --> 00:22:55,080

Hi.

407

00:22:55,080 --> 00:22:56,080

Nice to meet you.

408

00:22:56,080 --> 00:22:58,080

This man is a senior member of the Dharhad tribe.

409

00:22:58,080 --> 00:23:03,080

He is quite literally the gatekeeper here, and his word is law.

410

00:23:03,080 --> 00:23:06,080

Professor Erdent Batar will have to plead our case to him.

411

00:23:17,080 --> 00:23:20,080

In case you don't speak Mongolian, this is not going well for us.

412

00:23:20,080 --> 00:23:26,080

I'm looking at thousands of dollars in nonrefundable airfare going up in the gatekeeper's pipe.

413

00:23:40,080 --> 00:23:43,080

We're being held up at the checkpoint to the Holy Mountain,

414

00:23:43,080 --> 00:23:46,080

where the tomb of Cengiz Khan might be hiding.

415

00:23:47,080 --> 00:23:50,080

Professor Erdent Batar is trying to convince the gatekeeper

416

00:23:50,080 --> 00:23:53,080

that our intentions are noble and to let us pass.

417

00:24:00,080 --> 00:24:02,080

The gatekeeper hasn't been convinced.

418

00:24:02,080 --> 00:24:06,080

He tells us that he wants to consider our request overnight,

419

00:24:06,080 --> 00:24:08,080

which means we aren't going anywhere.

420

00:24:09,080 --> 00:24:16,080

Okay, so the professor is continuing the conversation.

421

00:24:16,080 --> 00:24:19,080

We are not going to make it into the forbidden zone tonight.

422

00:24:19,080 --> 00:24:24,080

And so the good news is we're being allowed to stay here and to sleep here tonight.

423

00:24:24,080 --> 00:24:28,080

We're not being thrown out or beat up, so I'll take that as a positive.

424

00:24:29,080 --> 00:24:31,080

Now, time to camp.

425

00:24:38,080 --> 00:24:40,080

Oh!

426

00:24:44,080 --> 00:24:46,080

I feel like there's a lot of flies here.

427

00:24:46,080 --> 00:24:49,080

I mean a lot. Like they all congregated in this area.

428

00:24:49,080 --> 00:24:50,080

What's on the agenda for tonight?

429

00:24:50,080 --> 00:24:52,080

Closing the tent door.

430

00:24:52,080 --> 00:24:54,080

Be one with the flies.

431

00:25:03,080 --> 00:25:05,080

Evan, you're supposed to be helping me.

432

00:25:05,080 --> 00:25:07,080

I am! I'm doing a handstand.

433

00:25:07,080 --> 00:25:09,080

How is that helping exactly?

434

00:25:09,080 --> 00:25:11,080

Is there a manual with this thing?

435

00:25:11,080 --> 00:25:13,080

This is like the craziest hand I've ever seen.

436

00:25:14,080 --> 00:25:15,080

It's sundown.

437

00:25:15,080 --> 00:25:18,080

And though the gatekeeper isn't letting us through his checkpoint,

438

00:25:18,080 --> 00:25:19,080

for me?

439

00:25:19,080 --> 00:25:20,080

Oh boy.

440

00:25:20,080 --> 00:25:24,080

He politely invites us in for a custom that seems to transcend language.

441

00:25:26,080 --> 00:25:27,080

That's good.

442

00:25:27,080 --> 00:25:28,080

Happy hour.

443

00:25:28,080 --> 00:25:31,080

One drink turns to two, which turns to four.

444

00:25:31,080 --> 00:25:34,080

The locals even break out their best-nough tobacco.

445

00:25:35,080 --> 00:25:37,080

Very nice. Thank you.

446

00:25:37,080 --> 00:25:40,080

Soon, something unexpected is happening.

447

00:25:42,080 --> 00:25:44,080

They're warming up to us.

448

00:25:49,080 --> 00:25:52,080

In fact, the more we drink, the happier they are that we're here.

449

00:25:52,080 --> 00:25:54,080

It's a chingus con.

450

00:26:01,080 --> 00:26:02,080

Okay.

451

00:26:02,080 --> 00:26:05,080

The next morning, I'm facing a Mongolian hangover.

452

00:26:05,080 --> 00:26:08,080

However, our drinking session has paid off.

453

00:26:08,080 --> 00:26:11,080

The gatekeeper is convinced of our good intentions

454

00:26:11,080 --> 00:26:15,080

and has agreed to let us into the forbidden zone under one condition.

455

00:26:15,080 --> 00:26:18,080

He and his grandson insist on coming with us

456

00:26:18,080 --> 00:26:21,080

to make sure we don't compromise the sanctity of the site.

457

00:26:32,080 --> 00:26:33,080

We're in.

458

00:26:33,080 --> 00:26:34,080

Welcome to the forbidden zone.

459

00:26:34,080 --> 00:26:36,080

I feel like Charlton Heston right now.

460

00:26:41,080 --> 00:26:44,080

Are there stories about this mountain having great power?

461

00:26:44,080 --> 00:26:48,080

In my knowledge, I heard that the mountain hides itself

462

00:26:48,080 --> 00:26:51,080

with the help of the clouds and the fog,

463

00:26:51,080 --> 00:26:53,080

if the mountain doesn't want to show itself.

464

00:26:53,080 --> 00:26:54,080

Right.

465

00:26:54,080 --> 00:26:55,080

A place of mystery.

466

00:26:55,080 --> 00:26:56,080

Yeah.

467

00:26:58,080 --> 00:27:01,080

Also a mystery, how far we're going to be able to travel

468

00:27:01,080 --> 00:27:03,080

on this slippery one track road.

469

00:27:03,080 --> 00:27:04,080

Okay.

470

00:27:04,080 --> 00:27:06,080

He's getting bloody in here.

471

00:27:06,080 --> 00:27:09,080

I mean, you get stuck out here.

472

00:27:09,080 --> 00:27:11,080

Nobody's coming to get you.

473

00:27:14,080 --> 00:27:15,080

One car through.

474

00:27:15,080 --> 00:27:16,080

Three go.

475

00:27:19,080 --> 00:27:20,080

It's an easy girl.

476

00:27:25,080 --> 00:27:27,080

Oh, he's stuck.

477

00:27:27,080 --> 00:27:29,080

He might be able to get out of this.

478

00:27:29,080 --> 00:27:31,080

Okay, probably not now.

479

00:27:31,080 --> 00:27:34,080

Nothing an old strap and a few knots can't fix.

480

00:27:37,080 --> 00:27:38,080

Slowly, slowly.

481

00:27:38,080 --> 00:27:39,080

Here we go.

482

00:27:40,080 --> 00:27:41,080

Yeah.

483

00:27:41,080 --> 00:27:42,080

Yeah.

484

00:27:42,080 --> 00:27:43,080

Yeah.

485

00:27:43,080 --> 00:27:44,080

Yeah.

486

00:27:44,080 --> 00:27:45,080

Yeah.

487

00:27:45,080 --> 00:27:46,080

Yeah.

488

00:27:46,080 --> 00:27:47,080

Yeah.

489

00:27:47,080 --> 00:27:48,080

Yeah.

490

00:27:48,080 --> 00:27:49,080

Yeah.

491

00:27:49,080 --> 00:27:50,080

Yeah.

492

00:27:50,080 --> 00:27:51,080

Yeah.

493

00:27:51,080 --> 00:27:52,080

Yeah.

494

00:27:52,080 --> 00:27:53,080

Yeah.

495

00:27:53,080 --> 00:27:54,080

Yeah.

496

00:27:54,080 --> 00:27:55,080

Yeah.

497

00:27:55,080 --> 00:27:56,080

Yeah.

498

00:27:56,080 --> 00:27:57,080

Yeah.

499

00:27:57,080 --> 00:27:58,080

Yeah.

500

00:27:59,080 --> 00:28:00,080

Push up.

501

00:28:01,080 --> 00:28:04,080

Faster than an Ascar pit crew, we're back on the road.

502

00:28:09,080 --> 00:28:12,080

Five hours later, the sky above turns dark.

503

00:28:12,080 --> 00:28:13,080

A storm is coming.

504

00:28:17,080 --> 00:28:21,080

And we're clearly not making it to the base of the mountain today.

505

00:28:21,080 --> 00:28:22,080

Okay, look at these tents that are up.

506

00:28:22,080 --> 00:28:23,080

It is raining.

507

00:28:24,080 --> 00:28:27,080

Once again, it's time to make camp.

508

00:28:28,080 --> 00:28:30,080

It's time to make camp.

509

00:28:30,080 --> 00:28:32,080

It's time to make camp.

510

00:28:32,080 --> 00:28:37,080

It quickly becomes apparent that Mongolians do not screw around when it comes to camping.

511

00:28:37,080 --> 00:28:43,080

In the time it takes me to unroll my sleeping bag, they've put up a tent that's nicer than my first apartment.

512

00:28:45,080 --> 00:28:49,080

Forget your fancy store-bought REI three-season tent.

513

00:28:49,080 --> 00:28:52,080

Mongolian tents have a working fireplace.

514

00:28:53,080 --> 00:28:58,080

The stove is powered by animal droppings, which might not smell great, but it is warm.

515

00:28:58,080 --> 00:29:02,080

In no time at all, the locals whip up a delicious meal.

516

00:29:02,080 --> 00:29:04,080

Even the cutlery is homemade.

517

00:29:04,080 --> 00:29:06,080

Professor just made these chopsticks.

518

00:29:06,080 --> 00:29:07,080

How is it?

519

00:29:07,080 --> 00:29:08,080

They're perfect.

520

00:29:08,080 --> 00:29:11,080

These guys put my camping skills to shame.

521

00:29:13,080 --> 00:29:17,080

So, Professor, where do you think Chinggis Khan is buried?

522

00:29:18,080 --> 00:29:19,080

I'm not sure.

523

00:29:19,080 --> 00:29:23,080

The satellite photos are compelling, but we need to get a closer look.

524

00:29:26,080 --> 00:29:29,080

I'm more convinced he's buried at the summit.

525

00:29:31,080 --> 00:29:32,080

And what about your grandfather?

526

00:29:32,080 --> 00:29:34,080

Where do you think that Chinggis Khan is buried?

527

00:29:39,080 --> 00:29:45,080

During Chinggis Khan's time, he said it was forbidden to search for any tombs of the kings.

528

00:29:46,080 --> 00:29:50,080

Because it might be here, but it's forbidden. It's confidential, secret.

529

00:29:51,080 --> 00:29:54,080

This view is shared by many Mongolians.

530

00:29:54,080 --> 00:29:59,080

As much as they revere Khan, most are dead sad against digging him up if he's found.

531

00:29:59,080 --> 00:30:05,080

For this reason, the archaeologists are limited to surveying and using non-invasive methods here.

532

00:30:10,080 --> 00:30:14,080

So, right now, for example, if he finds the Chinggis Khan's tomb and starts to excavate it,

533

00:30:14,080 --> 00:30:16,080

Mr. Khursh Khan's cat is thrown.

534

00:30:20,080 --> 00:30:24,080

And this brings a swift end to the chit-chat portion of our evening.

535

00:30:28,080 --> 00:30:31,080

Every morning, we're a little slower getting out of the tents,

536

00:30:31,080 --> 00:30:36,080

but we keep going because the last leg of our journey is finally in sight.

537

00:30:42,080 --> 00:30:43,080

So, you think that's the mountain right there?

538

00:30:43,080 --> 00:30:44,080

Yep.

539

00:30:45,080 --> 00:30:49,080

After a few more bumpy hours, the convoy slows to a halt.

540

00:30:49,080 --> 00:30:50,080

Cars are stopping?

541

00:30:51,080 --> 00:30:52,080

Stay in the throat.

542

00:30:52,080 --> 00:30:55,080

We're here. Okay. Here we go, boys.

543

00:30:59,080 --> 00:31:05,080

At long last, we've arrived at the base of Chinggis Khan's holy mountain, Burhan Haldun.

544

00:31:06,080 --> 00:31:10,080

This is the lowest of the three shrines here, known as Ovos.

545

00:31:11,080 --> 00:31:15,080

Professor Erdan Batar may be a scientist, but he's also a Mongolian.

546

00:31:15,080 --> 00:31:19,080

Before continuing, he pays respect to the mountain and to Khan

547

00:31:19,080 --> 00:31:22,080

by making offerings of vodka and mares milk.

548

00:31:22,080 --> 00:31:25,080

He asks the gods for success on our journey.

549

00:31:32,080 --> 00:31:35,080

The mountain gets steeper from here, and we're out of roads.

550

00:31:35,080 --> 00:31:41,080

But Professor Erdan Batar has called ahead to a local tribesman to arrange horses for our team.

551

00:31:48,080 --> 00:31:49,080

Cavalry.

552

00:31:51,080 --> 00:31:56,080

We transfer our gear, but the animals seem skittish,

553

00:31:58,080 --> 00:32:02,080

assigned to the locals that there's something dangerous on the mountain.

554

00:32:06,080 --> 00:32:07,080

Professor!

555

00:32:13,080 --> 00:32:18,080

Climbing the sacred mountain of Burhan Haldun on the search for Chinggis Khan's hidden tomb,

556

00:32:18,080 --> 00:32:24,080

our team is traveling by horseback for the last leg of the journey, but not everyone stays that way.

557

00:32:25,080 --> 00:32:26,080

Professor!

558

00:32:27,080 --> 00:32:28,080

Yeah.

559

00:32:28,080 --> 00:32:30,080

You okay? Okay.

560

00:32:31,080 --> 00:32:32,080

Yeah.

561

00:32:32,080 --> 00:32:36,080

It's a nasty-looking fall, but it'll take more than that to slow down a Mongolian.

562

00:32:36,080 --> 00:32:39,080

The professor just gets right back on the horse.

563

00:32:46,080 --> 00:32:48,080

The cars definitely would not have made it through here.

564

00:32:48,080 --> 00:32:49,080

Nope.

565

00:32:49,080 --> 00:32:54,080

We're on our way up to the midpoint of the mountain, where the second shrine awaits us,

566

00:32:54,080 --> 00:33:00,080

and where satellite photos recently revealed ancient ruins that could be a marker for Khan's tomb.

567

00:33:00,080 --> 00:33:05,080

Very few non-Mongolians have made this journey up to this mountain,

568

00:33:05,080 --> 00:33:11,080

so to say for as hard as this trip has been, I'm feeling very lucky right now.

569

00:33:12,080 --> 00:33:15,080

Really steep in here and uneven.

570

00:33:15,080 --> 00:33:18,080

The horses are slipping all over the place.

571

00:33:23,080 --> 00:33:24,080

Pretty rough.

572

00:33:25,080 --> 00:33:26,080

Stop.

573

00:33:29,080 --> 00:33:34,080

Too muddy and steep in here to ride, so we're walking through this section.

574

00:33:35,080 --> 00:33:36,080

Big log here.

575

00:33:36,080 --> 00:33:37,080

You got it.

576

00:33:38,080 --> 00:33:43,080

After days in cars on horseback and foot, through checkpoints and shrines,

577

00:33:43,080 --> 00:33:46,080

we've made it to the midway point of the mountain.

578

00:33:50,080 --> 00:33:52,080

Huge shrine here.

579

00:33:53,080 --> 00:33:58,080

We fan out to search the area for signs of the buried structure that was spotted by satellites.

580

00:34:07,080 --> 00:34:11,080

So the real challenge up here is that we can't really use any archaeological equipment.

581

00:34:11,080 --> 00:34:13,080

Can't shovel into the ground.

582

00:34:13,080 --> 00:34:18,080

You know, this is a sacred mountain, and so really other than just moving things around with your hands a little bit,

583

00:34:18,080 --> 00:34:21,080

any major excavation totally forbidden.

584

00:34:22,080 --> 00:34:25,080

This is the place where we found the structure.

585

00:34:31,080 --> 00:34:32,080

Josh.

586

00:34:32,080 --> 00:34:33,080

Yeah?

587

00:34:33,080 --> 00:34:34,080

Come over here, please.

588

00:34:34,080 --> 00:34:35,080

What do you got?

589

00:34:35,080 --> 00:34:36,080

Well...

590

00:34:39,080 --> 00:34:40,080

What's going on?

591

00:34:41,080 --> 00:34:43,080

This is all buildings.

592

00:34:44,080 --> 00:34:45,080

This was...

593

00:34:45,080 --> 00:34:48,080

The professor has found the structure.

594

00:34:48,080 --> 00:34:49,080

There you can see.

595

00:34:49,080 --> 00:34:51,080

That is definitely man-made.

596

00:34:52,080 --> 00:34:54,080

Yeah, those are definitely bricks.

597

00:34:54,080 --> 00:34:55,080

You can see the seams.

598

00:34:55,080 --> 00:34:58,080

So this would have been part of what you think, a foundation, a bottom?

599

00:34:58,080 --> 00:34:59,080

This one's looking wall.

600

00:34:59,080 --> 00:35:01,080

So this is part of a wall?

601

00:35:06,080 --> 00:35:08,080

That's where we came from the roof.

602

00:35:08,080 --> 00:35:09,080

Look at that.

603

00:35:11,080 --> 00:35:13,080

That's ceramic from a roof, yes?

604

00:35:13,080 --> 00:35:15,080

What age do you think this is?

605

00:35:17,080 --> 00:35:18,080

16th century.

606

00:35:18,080 --> 00:35:20,080

Or a few hundred years after Chinggis Khan then.

607

00:35:20,080 --> 00:35:21,080

Yes.

608

00:35:21,080 --> 00:35:24,080

This is history that's right underneath our feet.

609

00:35:25,080 --> 00:35:28,080

The remains are likely from some sort of temple.

610

00:35:28,080 --> 00:35:32,080

The question is, was this temple built as a place to worship the mountain,

611

00:35:32,080 --> 00:35:34,080

or as a place to worship Khan?

612

00:35:34,080 --> 00:35:38,080

We continue looking for anything else that could connect us to Chinggis Khan.

613

00:35:38,080 --> 00:35:39,080

Oh, look at this.

614

00:35:39,080 --> 00:35:40,080

Come here, come here, come here.

615

00:35:40,080 --> 00:35:41,080

See that?

616

00:35:41,080 --> 00:35:42,080

See this?

617

00:35:46,080 --> 00:35:47,080

See this?

618

00:35:47,080 --> 00:35:48,080

Look at this.

619

00:35:52,080 --> 00:35:53,080

Piece of iron?

620

00:35:55,080 --> 00:35:57,080

Arrowpoint of some sort?

621

00:35:59,080 --> 00:36:00,080

Oh my God.

622

00:36:03,080 --> 00:36:04,080

That is a spear point.

623

00:36:05,080 --> 00:36:07,080

That is legit.

624

00:36:07,080 --> 00:36:09,080

Mitchy George, Dandy, come here.

625

00:36:10,080 --> 00:36:11,080

Look at this.

626

00:36:12,080 --> 00:36:13,080

Spear?

627

00:36:13,080 --> 00:36:14,080

So what do you do?

628

00:36:14,080 --> 00:36:15,080

Yeah?

629

00:36:15,080 --> 00:36:16,080

You're here, I'm all in here.

630

00:36:16,080 --> 00:36:18,080

It's all trapped inside the...

631

00:36:18,080 --> 00:36:19,080

The...

632

00:36:19,080 --> 00:36:21,080

It looks like when this tree fell,

633

00:36:21,080 --> 00:36:23,080

it took a bunch of material up with it.

634

00:36:23,080 --> 00:36:25,080

So you can see, I didn't want to dig too deep,

635

00:36:25,080 --> 00:36:26,080

but there's stuff all here.

636

00:36:26,080 --> 00:36:28,080

And it looks like all down in here as well.

637

00:36:30,080 --> 00:36:31,080

Oh, look.

638

00:36:31,080 --> 00:36:32,080

Big boy.

639

00:36:34,080 --> 00:36:36,080

Big boy, look at that.

640

00:36:38,080 --> 00:36:39,080

That's cool.

641

00:36:39,080 --> 00:36:41,080

These relics are a major find.

642

00:36:41,080 --> 00:36:44,080

These are museum quality ceremonial objects

643

00:36:44,080 --> 00:36:46,080

from almost six hundred years ago.

644

00:36:46,080 --> 00:36:49,080

And they are clear indicators that a significant temple

645

00:36:49,080 --> 00:36:50,080

was located here.

646

00:36:52,080 --> 00:36:53,080

So what do you think?

647

00:36:53,080 --> 00:36:54,080

Why is this temple here?

648

00:36:55,080 --> 00:36:56,080

I think it's because of the fact that

649

00:36:56,080 --> 00:36:58,080

the temple was built in the early days.

650

00:36:58,080 --> 00:37:00,080

Mitchy George confirms that in any other mountains,

651

00:37:00,080 --> 00:37:03,080

you wouldn't find any temples in Mongolia.

652

00:37:03,080 --> 00:37:04,080

Right.

653

00:37:04,080 --> 00:37:06,080

This is the place where the relics were built.

654

00:37:06,080 --> 00:37:08,080

It was built in the early days.

655

00:37:08,080 --> 00:37:11,080

So why does this temple have a lot of relics?

656

00:37:11,080 --> 00:37:13,080

It's because of the relics.

657

00:37:14,080 --> 00:37:17,080

So why does it build here?

658

00:37:17,080 --> 00:37:20,080

Maybe around here, the actual temple.

659

00:37:23,080 --> 00:37:25,080

How do you tell if the top is a tomb?

660

00:37:27,080 --> 00:37:30,080

There is no way to do the excavation or study

661

00:37:30,080 --> 00:37:31,080

at the top of the mountain.

662

00:37:31,080 --> 00:37:32,080

For anybody?

663

00:37:32,080 --> 00:37:33,080

For anybody.

664

00:37:33,080 --> 00:37:36,080

The only chance is to photograph the top of the mountain

665

00:37:36,080 --> 00:37:37,080

to see if it reveals anything.

666

00:37:37,080 --> 00:37:40,080

And hopefully, that gives us an answer.

667

00:37:41,080 --> 00:37:43,080

As valuable as these pieces are,

668

00:37:43,080 --> 00:37:46,080

Professor Mitchy George insists that we return the artifacts

669

00:37:46,080 --> 00:37:50,080

to where we found them, out of respect for the Holy Mountain.

670

00:37:51,080 --> 00:37:54,080

Now that we found this temple, the only place to go is up,

671

00:37:54,080 --> 00:37:57,080

to the shrine that Mitchy George thinks could mark

672

00:37:57,080 --> 00:37:59,080

Khan's actual tomb.

673

00:38:00,080 --> 00:38:02,080

We prepare to move on to the summit when we get an alert

674

00:38:02,080 --> 00:38:04,080

on our satellite phone.

675

00:38:06,080 --> 00:38:09,080

Another huge storm is moving towards us.

676

00:38:09,080 --> 00:38:11,080

If we attempt to climb any further,

677

00:38:11,080 --> 00:38:14,080

we risk getting caught in extreme conditions.

678

00:38:14,080 --> 00:38:17,080

But the professors aren't willing to turn back now.

679

00:38:17,080 --> 00:38:20,080

With less than a six-hour window in which to work,

680

00:38:20,080 --> 00:38:24,080

Professor Urdan Vitar calls a contact in the Mongolian military.

681

00:38:25,080 --> 00:38:28,080

Soon, a helicopter arrives,

682

00:38:28,080 --> 00:38:30,080

ready to whisk us to the summit.

683

00:38:31,080 --> 00:38:33,080

The professors are going to conduct a high-resolution

684

00:38:33,080 --> 00:38:36,080

photographic scan of the summit.

685

00:38:37,080 --> 00:38:39,080

Okay, let's fly!

686

00:38:44,080 --> 00:38:46,080

We're headed up to the peak. Here we go.

687

00:38:46,080 --> 00:38:49,080

Satellites have detected an unusual formation at the peak,

688

00:38:49,080 --> 00:38:52,080

and they hope to construct a topographic model

689

00:38:52,080 --> 00:38:55,080

to determine if there's something man-made hidden there.

690

00:38:58,080 --> 00:39:00,080

This is the mountain on the right side.

691

00:39:00,080 --> 00:39:02,080

You're on the right too.

692

00:39:02,080 --> 00:39:05,080

Okay, guys, we're answering the area where the satellite photos were taken.

693

00:39:06,080 --> 00:39:08,080

So there's the structure, yeah?

694

00:39:08,080 --> 00:39:11,080

Look at that! That looks man-made!

695

00:39:18,080 --> 00:39:21,080

I'm about to go where no foreigner is allowed,

696

00:39:21,080 --> 00:39:24,080

to the top of the holiest mountain in Mongolia,

697

00:39:24,080 --> 00:39:26,080

where Chinggis Khan may be buried.

698

00:39:27,080 --> 00:39:29,080

So there's the peak, yeah?

699

00:39:31,080 --> 00:39:33,080

That's the structure.

700

00:39:34,080 --> 00:39:36,080

It definitely doesn't look natural.

701

00:39:36,080 --> 00:39:38,080

It looks like it's been built up.

702

00:39:38,080 --> 00:39:40,080

Look, what's the...

703

00:39:41,080 --> 00:39:44,080

For these parts of here, it's been built,

704

00:39:44,080 --> 00:39:46,080

hand-made, human-made.

705

00:39:46,080 --> 00:39:48,080

A big start official, yeah.

706

00:39:49,080 --> 00:39:53,080

I have to admit, it does look like the Earth has been manipulated here.

707

00:39:53,080 --> 00:39:54,080

This could be it.

708

00:39:54,080 --> 00:39:57,080

We may very well be looking straight down on

709

00:39:57,080 --> 00:39:59,080

Chinggis Khan's secret grave.

710

00:40:00,080 --> 00:40:02,080

I'm going to try to circle the peak,

711

00:40:02,080 --> 00:40:05,080

take as many images as possible to create a 3D render.

712

00:40:06,080 --> 00:40:09,080

We scan the mountain by photographing and filming it

713

00:40:09,080 --> 00:40:11,080

in a 360-degree rotation,

714

00:40:11,080 --> 00:40:14,080

so that a detailed topographic map can be rendered.

715

00:40:17,080 --> 00:40:20,080

Okay, we're going to circle the peak one more time.

716

00:40:22,080 --> 00:40:25,080

After thoroughly scanning the summit and with weather moving in,

717

00:40:25,080 --> 00:40:27,080

we're forced to retreat.

718

00:40:27,080 --> 00:40:29,080

So we head back now.

719

00:40:29,080 --> 00:40:31,080

Right now, this is as close as we can.

720

00:40:31,080 --> 00:40:33,080

Yes, right now, this is as close as we can.

721

00:40:34,080 --> 00:40:36,080

The chopper turns around,

722

00:40:36,080 --> 00:40:39,080

and I say a final goodbye to Burhan Haldun.

723

00:40:45,080 --> 00:40:47,080

Back on Terraferma,

724

00:40:47,080 --> 00:40:50,080

we undertake the long journey to the capital.

725

00:40:50,080 --> 00:40:53,080

The trip turns out to be well worth the effort, though,

726

00:40:53,080 --> 00:40:56,080

since the scan brings a striking revelation.

727

00:40:57,080 --> 00:41:00,080

The data indicates that the strange bump atop the peak

728

00:41:00,080 --> 00:41:03,080

is almost certainly not natural.

729

00:41:03,080 --> 00:41:06,080

Its shape and structure are likely man-made.

730

00:41:08,080 --> 00:41:10,080

Just one month after our expedition,

731

00:41:10,080 --> 00:41:12,080

UNESCO declared the Forbidden Zone

732

00:41:12,080 --> 00:41:14,080

a protected World Heritage Site.

733

00:41:14,080 --> 00:41:17,080

So our trip to the mountain may be the closest look

734

00:41:17,080 --> 00:41:20,080

that anyone gets for a long time to come.

735

00:41:22,080 --> 00:41:24,080

The journey to find Khan's tomb

736

00:41:24,080 --> 00:41:26,080

has quite literally been an uphill battle.

737

00:41:26,080 --> 00:41:30,080

I've had to struggle against many elements here in Mongolia,

738

00:41:30,080 --> 00:41:33,080

but have been rewarded at every turn.

739

00:41:33,080 --> 00:41:36,080

The people here awe me with their hospitality

740

00:41:36,080 --> 00:41:39,080

and their resilience to not only survive,

741

00:41:39,080 --> 00:41:42,080

but to thrive on these harsh plains.

742

00:41:42,080 --> 00:41:45,080

And since the people of Mongolia continue to honor

743

00:41:45,080 --> 00:41:47,080

and protect their past,

744

00:41:47,080 --> 00:41:50,080

excavation on the mountain is impossible,

745

00:41:50,080 --> 00:41:53,080

meaning Chinggis Khan could get his dying wish

746

00:41:53,080 --> 00:41:57,080

to remain hidden for all of eternity.