

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,520

I'm here because there's a legend about Blackbeard in this island.

2

00:00:06,520 --> 00:00:07,520

Yes.

3

00:00:07,520 --> 00:00:12,880

Do you think that Blackbeard had a treasure?

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00:00:12,880 --> 00:00:14,560

That's a coin, man.

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00:00:14,560 --> 00:00:16,560

This treasure wasn't what you think it is.

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00:00:16,560 --> 00:00:19,560

Oh, looks like a city cave.

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00:00:19,560 --> 00:00:21,560

Look at this.

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00:00:21,560 --> 00:00:24,560

We got it.

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00:00:24,560 --> 00:00:27,560

We got it.

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00:00:27,560 --> 00:00:35,800

Every day, thousands of kids float through Disney's Pirates of the Caribbean ride, singing

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00:00:35,800 --> 00:00:41,640

along to that emblematic tune, Yoho, Yoho, a pirate's life for me.

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00:00:41,640 --> 00:00:43,840

But wait a minute.

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00:00:43,840 --> 00:00:47,760

Pirates are immoral, bloodthirsty murderers.

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00:00:47,760 --> 00:00:50,120

So why are we so obsessed with them?

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00:00:50,120 --> 00:00:54,200

Perhaps it's because we all secretly yearn to find their buried treasure.

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00:00:55,200 --> 00:01:00,520

Well, the most famous lost pirate treasure belongs to the world's most notorious pirate,

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00:01:00,520 --> 00:01:04,320

the one and only Blackbeard.

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00:01:04,320 --> 00:01:09,560

He was born Edward Teach and later became a successful privateer, commissioned by the

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00:01:09,560 --> 00:01:13,440

British Crown to protect their interests in the Caribbean.

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00:01:13,440 --> 00:01:18,640

Blackbeard's menacing appearance inspired countless authors and later made him Hollywood's

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00:01:18,640 --> 00:01:19,640

favorite pirate.

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00:01:20,440 --> 00:01:26,040

But it is his legendary lost fortune that has captivated explorers for hundreds of years.

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00:01:28,720 --> 00:01:34,400

Blackbeard boasted that only he and the Devil himself knew where the treasure was buried.

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00:01:34,400 --> 00:01:39,120

Now, after three centuries, there are groundbreaking new developments in the hunt.

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00:01:39,120 --> 00:01:44,240

Off the coast of North Carolina, an archaeological team has discovered Blackbeard's flagship

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00:01:44,240 --> 00:01:48,560

and they are meticulously bringing it to the surface.

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00:01:48,600 --> 00:01:53,160

Simultaneously, in the Outer Banks and in the Cayman Islands, treasure hunters believe

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00:01:53,160 --> 00:01:57,840

that new information is drawing them closer to Blackbeard's buried loot.

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00:01:57,840 --> 00:02:02,720

And one historian believes that he has solved the mystery once and for all.

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00:02:02,720 --> 00:02:09,960

So join me as I hit the high seas in search of the most sought-after pirate treasure in

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00:02:09,960 --> 00:02:11,120

history.

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00:02:14,840 --> 00:02:16,840

My name is Josh Gates.

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00:02:17,600 --> 00:02:23,680

With a degree in archaeology and a passion for exploration, I have a tendency to end

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00:02:23,680 --> 00:02:25,840

up in some very strange situations.

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00:02:25,840 --> 00:02:27,840

God, Lord!

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00:02:29,840 --> 00:02:34,560

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

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00:02:34,560 --> 00:02:35,560

in history.

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00:02:35,560 --> 00:02:37,320

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

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00:02:37,320 --> 00:02:39,840

This is Expedition Unknown.

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00:02:40,840 --> 00:02:50,680

The hunt begins here in Hampton, Virginia, located 700 miles north of the Caribbean.

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00:02:50,680 --> 00:02:54,360

This isn't exactly the first place that comes to mind when you think of Bucketneers.

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00:02:54,360 --> 00:02:57,840

But this weekend, it is the annual Hampton Blackbeard Festival.

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00:02:57,840 --> 00:03:09,840

The festival is more than just a cosplay free-for-all.

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00:03:09,840 --> 00:03:14,920

History is shared, authentic weapons are fired, and pirate traditions and craftsmanship are

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00:03:14,920 --> 00:03:20,840

brought back to life, obligatory Jack Sparrow sighting in 3, 2, 1.

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00:03:20,840 --> 00:03:21,840

Hi.

47

00:03:21,840 --> 00:03:23,840

Hi, how are you doing, mate?

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00:03:23,840 --> 00:03:25,840

Pretty good.

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00:03:28,840 --> 00:03:32,840

I'd like to apologize for being a Scallywag to everybody here.

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00:03:32,840 --> 00:03:34,840

What does Scallywag even mean?

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00:03:34,840 --> 00:03:39,840

If you want to find a pirate treasure, you've got to think like a pirate, and whenever possible,

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00:03:39,840 --> 00:03:40,840

look like one.

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00:03:40,840 --> 00:03:43,840

Time for a little wardrobe change.

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00:03:43,840 --> 00:03:44,840

Can you see?

55

00:03:44,840 --> 00:03:45,840

Yes.

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00:03:45,840 --> 00:03:49,840

I feel like I'm about to ratify a declaration of some sort.

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00:03:49,840 --> 00:03:51,840

Oh, hell yeah, that's it.

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00:03:51,840 --> 00:03:52,840

This is the one, I think.

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00:03:52,840 --> 00:03:54,840

I'm not worried about that fitting here anymore.

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00:03:54,840 --> 00:03:56,840

I am back, baby.

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00:03:58,840 --> 00:04:05,840

Not to worry, folks, all the pirate wigs are 100% human horror.

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00:04:07,840 --> 00:04:12,840

When it comes to Blackbeard, 300 years makes it difficult to separate fact from fiction.

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00:04:12,840 --> 00:04:14,840

So I'm meeting with John Colomore.

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00:04:14,840 --> 00:04:19,840

Don't let the hat and the outfit fool you, he's been studying the history of piracy for decades.

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00:04:19,840 --> 00:04:21,840

When does Blackbeard first appear on the scene?

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00:04:21,840 --> 00:04:29,840

Blackbeard first appears as a privateer in the Caribbean during the Queen Anne's War in 1715, 1716.

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00:04:29,840 --> 00:04:30,840

He's sort of a legal pirate.

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00:04:30,840 --> 00:04:32,840

He's a pirate with papers, absolutely.

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00:04:32,840 --> 00:04:36,840

The man who would become Blackbeard was born Edward Teach.

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00:04:36,840 --> 00:04:42,840

In the 18th century, Teach and others like him worked for the English crown to suppress enemy forces in the Caribbean.

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00:04:43,840 --> 00:04:46,840

But by 1714, privateering was outlawed.

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00:04:46,840 --> 00:04:51,840

Young sailors like Edward Teach had a violent set of skills and were suddenly thrown out of work.

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00:04:52,840 --> 00:04:57,840

So Teach went AWOL and became a pirate, the scourge of shipping lanes across the Atlantic.

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00:04:58,840 --> 00:05:02,840

Why does he have this reputation as being such a terrifying guy?

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00:05:03,840 --> 00:05:04,840

He's tall, he's over six feet.

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00:05:05,840 --> 00:05:09,840

He's broad-shouldered, he has a demanding presence, and he was a showman.

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00:05:11,840 --> 00:05:14,840

Blackbeard's success was due in part to his terrifying persona.

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00:05:15,840 --> 00:05:16,840

He dressed in all black.

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00:05:17,840 --> 00:05:23,840

Before combat, he was said to tie smoldering cannon fuses to his beard, which made smoke encircle his head.

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00:05:23,840 --> 00:05:27,840

He also carried a dozen pistols and a bandolier slung over his shoulders.

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00:05:28,840 --> 00:05:34,840

This is a guy whose flag was a devil stabbing a human heart, so intimidation was clearly the name of the game.

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00:05:34,840 --> 00:05:36,840

And Blackbeard was a master.

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00:05:36,840 --> 00:05:40,840

Most of his victims surrendered without him firing a single shot.

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00:05:44,840 --> 00:05:46,840

A lot has been said about Blackbeard's treasure.

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00:05:46,840 --> 00:05:47,840

Yes.

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00:05:47,840 --> 00:05:49,840

If I'm looking for that treasure, where do you think a good place would be to look?

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00:05:50,840 --> 00:05:55,840

Cayman Brack would be a very likely place if you pay attention to the legends and the folklore.

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00:05:55,840 --> 00:06:01,840

Rumor has it that he was sighted by the locals taking boats ashore and possibly burying treasure.

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00:06:02,840 --> 00:06:03,840

Cayman Brack.

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00:06:03,840 --> 00:06:04,840

Cayman Brack.

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00:06:04,840 --> 00:06:11,840

This corner of the Caribbean is considered a major target for the treasure, so I'm setting off to investigate by meeting two different treasure hunters there.

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00:06:15,840 --> 00:06:21,840

I'm flying 1,250 miles to the southeast to the crystalline waters of the Cayman Islands.

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00:06:24,840 --> 00:06:25,840

Paradise.

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00:06:25,840 --> 00:06:27,840

What else can you call it?

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00:06:27,840 --> 00:06:33,840

To most of us, the Caymans are a playground for the rich, an offshore tax haven and an all-around great place to park a yacht.

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00:06:33,840 --> 00:06:35,840

But that's Grand Cayman.

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00:06:35,840 --> 00:06:39,840

Just to the east is an island that most tourists have never heard of.

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00:06:39,840 --> 00:06:41,840

Cayman Brack.

99

00:06:42,840 --> 00:06:46,840

This is the Caribbean of another time and place.

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00:06:46,840 --> 00:06:49,840

No hard rock cafe, no five-star hotels.

101

00:06:49,840 --> 00:06:56,840

It's a sleepy, 12-mile-long strip of tropical wilderness that rises up 140 feet above the sea.

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00:06:56,840 --> 00:06:59,840

It's the type of place that screensavers are made of.

103

00:07:01,840 --> 00:07:04,840

Today, there's only about 2,000 residents on the island.

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00:07:04,840 --> 00:07:09,840

But if you're here looking for pirate riches, the one man to see is Tessin Scott,

105

00:07:09,840 --> 00:07:11,840

a lifelong treasure hunter and brakker.

106

00:07:11,840 --> 00:07:15,840

He may have come within inches of finding a pirate fortune.

107

00:07:17,840 --> 00:07:19,840

Hello there. Are you Tessin?

108

00:07:19,840 --> 00:07:20,840

Scott, yes, you're right.

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00:07:20,840 --> 00:07:23,840

So I've heard a story that Blackbeard may have come to this island.

110

00:07:23,840 --> 00:07:24,840

Do you think that pirates came to this island?

111

00:07:24,840 --> 00:07:25,840

No, yeah, they came.

112

00:07:25,840 --> 00:07:30,840

Blackbeard's name was mentioned amongst older folks. We know they came here.

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00:07:30,840 --> 00:07:34,840

Rumor has it that while Blackbeard was raiding ships in the Caribbean,

114

00:07:34,840 --> 00:07:38,840

he and other pirates used Cayman Brack as a place to deposit treasure.

115

00:07:39,840 --> 00:07:41,840

Even back then, the Caymans were a good place for banking.

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00:07:41,840 --> 00:07:46,840

And Tessin Scott is famous for almost finding some of that pirate loot.

117

00:07:47,840 --> 00:07:50,840

I heard a story that you came close to finding some sort of treasure.

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00:07:50,840 --> 00:07:53,840

As a 14-year-old boy, I went fishing on the south side of the island.

119

00:07:53,840 --> 00:07:54,840

It's a place called Slaughterhouse.

120

00:07:54,840 --> 00:07:55,840

Sounds lovely.

121

00:07:55,840 --> 00:07:58,840

And I started digging, and I found it easy to dig.

122

00:07:58,840 --> 00:07:59,840

That means because it was dig before.

123

00:08:00,840 --> 00:08:02,840

And it's something hard.

124

00:08:02,840 --> 00:08:04,840

And I thought it was the foundation of the beach.

125

00:08:04,840 --> 00:08:05,840

So what did you do?

126

00:08:05,840 --> 00:08:06,840

You came home.

127

00:08:06,840 --> 00:08:07,840

You gave up. And then what happened?

128

00:08:07,840 --> 00:08:09,840

Well, two guys from here.

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00:08:09,840 --> 00:08:12,840

They went to Florida and they bought one of your metal detectors.

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00:08:12,840 --> 00:08:17,840

They went to the spot and they put the machine in the hole and it went crazy.

131

00:08:19,840 --> 00:08:20,840

And they said, oh, God, something.

132

00:08:20,840 --> 00:08:22,840

And then they found the edge of the stone.

133

00:08:22,840 --> 00:08:23,840

And what was underneath the stone?

134

00:08:23,840 --> 00:08:26,840

The treasure. Big one. And a chest.

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00:08:27,840 --> 00:08:30,840

They had so much coins and silver of all description.

136

00:08:31,840 --> 00:08:33,840

The coins appeared to be from after Blackbeard's time.

137

00:08:33,840 --> 00:08:37,840

And the men who found it disappeared with the hole, leaving Tensen with nothing.

138

00:08:37,840 --> 00:08:39,840

He spent years scouring the island.

139

00:08:39,840 --> 00:08:42,840

He believes that Blackbeard's treasure is here.

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00:08:42,840 --> 00:08:44,840

And he thinks he knows where.

141

00:08:44,840 --> 00:08:46,840

So if I'm going to look for the treasure, where should I look?

142

00:08:46,840 --> 00:08:47,840

You've got to check out the caves.

143

00:08:47,840 --> 00:08:48,840

Caves. Okay.

144

00:08:49,840 --> 00:08:54,840

While Tensen's treasure hunting days may be behind him, his nephew Logan is continuing the search.

145

00:08:54,840 --> 00:08:55,840

The question is, do you know where it is?

146

00:08:55,840 --> 00:08:58,840

I don't know exactly where it is, but I know it's somewhere around here.

147

00:08:58,840 --> 00:08:59,840

You want to show me where you're looking?

148

00:08:59,840 --> 00:09:00,840

Yeah, sure.

149

00:09:00,840 --> 00:09:01,840

Let's do it. Come on.

150

00:09:03,840 --> 00:09:05,840

Tensen will be back soon with a big treasure chest.

151

00:09:05,840 --> 00:09:06,840

Woo!

152

00:09:06,840 --> 00:09:08,840

Yeah, that would be great, man. Really great.

153

00:09:10,840 --> 00:09:15,840

Logan is bringing me to Iron Shore, a remote beach where Blackbeard may have dropped anchor.

154

00:09:17,840 --> 00:09:18,840

Wow.

155

00:09:18,840 --> 00:09:20,840

That is a view.

156

00:09:20,840 --> 00:09:21,840

Yeah.

157

00:09:21,840 --> 00:09:22,840

That is awesome.

158

00:09:22,840 --> 00:09:33,840

What is this buff?

159

00:09:33,840 --> 00:09:35,840

The buff is actually a risen reef.

160

00:09:35,840 --> 00:09:37,840

Oh, it's like a coral reef that's been pushed up.

161

00:09:37,840 --> 00:09:38,840

Yeah.

162

00:09:38,840 --> 00:09:39,840

So really porous, lots of holes.

163

00:09:39,840 --> 00:09:40,840

Yeah.

164

00:09:40,840 --> 00:09:45,840

To reach the cave, we have to cross 1200 yards of jagged, razor sharp coral.

165

00:09:45,840 --> 00:09:49,840

The slightest misstep here can get you swallowed by the waves.

166

00:09:49,840 --> 00:09:51,840

Look out! Look out!

167

00:09:53,840 --> 00:09:57,840

Logan has systematically explored over 100 caves on the island.

168

00:09:57,840 --> 00:10:03,840

Today, he's leading me to a remote cavern he hasn't yet searched, a place accessible only at low tide.

169

00:10:03,840 --> 00:10:05,840

That looks like a pirate cave.

170

00:10:05,840 --> 00:10:11,840

We have only a short time to search the cave before the rising tide will cut us off from the beach.

171

00:10:13,840 --> 00:10:15,840

This is wild.

172

00:10:16,840 --> 00:10:18,840

This is pretty piratey, dude.

173

00:10:18,840 --> 00:10:21,840

If I was a pirate, this is where I would hide some treasure.

174

00:10:21,840 --> 00:10:23,840

Oh yeah, me too.

175

00:10:23,840 --> 00:10:29,840

What we're looking for here for is some soft sand or some sort of marker or something.

176

00:10:29,840 --> 00:10:32,840

Marker or some soft sand, okay?

177

00:10:33,840 --> 00:10:36,840

Well, I wish the humidity was a little bit higher in this cave.

178

00:10:36,840 --> 00:10:38,840

It's not quite at 100%.

179

00:10:38,840 --> 00:10:40,840

Little sweaty.

180

00:10:46,840 --> 00:10:48,840

Okay, Josh, here's what we're looking for.

181

00:10:48,840 --> 00:10:50,840

We're going to start digging here.

182

00:10:50,840 --> 00:10:52,840

Okay, we're right behind you.

183

00:10:53,840 --> 00:10:57,840

With the tide outside rising, we waste no time and dig in.

184

00:10:57,840 --> 00:10:59,840

I'll tell you what, treasure hunting is not easy work.

185

00:10:59,840 --> 00:11:00,840

No, it's not.

186

00:11:00,840 --> 00:11:02,840

Just imagine what they went through to try and hide it.

187

00:11:02,840 --> 00:11:05,840

Yeah, it would have been just as sweaty as we are.

188

00:11:05,840 --> 00:11:06,840

Yeah.

189

00:11:06,840 --> 00:11:08,840

I got a skull here. Look at this.

190

00:11:08,840 --> 00:11:10,840

A tiny skull.

191

00:11:10,840 --> 00:11:12,840

Part of an animal skull, maybe a bird.

192

00:11:12,840 --> 00:11:14,840

This could be the grave of Blackbeard's parrot.

193

00:11:14,840 --> 00:11:15,840

Yeah.

194

00:11:20,840 --> 00:11:22,840

What is that?

195

00:11:22,840 --> 00:11:24,840

Something hard.

196

00:11:28,840 --> 00:11:30,840

Oh, what's that? See that?

197

00:11:30,840 --> 00:11:31,840

What is that?

198

00:11:31,840 --> 00:11:32,840

I just saw something flash.

199

00:11:32,840 --> 00:11:33,840

Give me the light.

200

00:11:33,840 --> 00:11:34,840

There. See that?

201

00:11:34,840 --> 00:11:35,840

Yeah, I see it.

202

00:11:35,840 --> 00:11:36,840

That's a coin, man.

203

00:11:36,840 --> 00:11:38,840

That is a coin.

204

00:11:51,840 --> 00:11:55,840

I'm on the coast of the idyllic Caribbean island of Cayman Brack.

205

00:11:55,840 --> 00:11:58,840

A local treasure hunter and I have ventured into a remote cave

206

00:11:58,840 --> 00:12:01,840

where legend has it the infamous pirate Blackbeard

207

00:12:01,840 --> 00:12:03,840

may have hidden a massive fortune.

208

00:12:03,840 --> 00:12:04,840

Oh, what's that?

209

00:12:04,840 --> 00:12:05,840

You see that?

210

00:12:05,840 --> 00:12:06,840

I just saw something flash.

211

00:12:06,840 --> 00:12:07,840

Give me the light.

212

00:12:07,840 --> 00:12:08,840

There. You see that?

213

00:12:08,840 --> 00:12:09,840

Yeah, I see it.

214

00:12:09,840 --> 00:12:10,840

That's a coin, man.

215

00:12:10,840 --> 00:12:11,840

Oh, man.

216

00:12:11,840 --> 00:12:13,840

That is a coin.

217

00:12:13,840 --> 00:12:15,840

Let's see if we can clean it off.

218

00:12:15,840 --> 00:12:16,840

That looks like silver, dude.

219

00:12:16,840 --> 00:12:17,840

You don't see a date?

220

00:12:17,840 --> 00:12:18,840

No, I don't see a date.

221

00:12:18,840 --> 00:12:21,840

I can make out a little writing, but not much.

222

00:12:21,840 --> 00:12:25,840

Though heavily faded, the coin appears to be dated from the year 1800,

223

00:12:25,840 --> 00:12:28,840

82 years after Blackbeard's death.

224

00:12:29,840 --> 00:12:30,840

Sorry, I dig it, Josh.

225

00:12:30,840 --> 00:12:31,840

Let's go.

226

00:12:31,840 --> 00:12:33,840

You can get anything else.

227

00:12:33,840 --> 00:12:35,840

Lince, any more metal.

228

00:12:35,840 --> 00:12:37,840

Logan and I continue to excavate the pit.

229

00:12:37,840 --> 00:12:41,840

We find other small bones, but no other treasure.

230

00:12:43,840 --> 00:12:46,840

With the tide nearly high, we leave the cave

231

00:12:47,840 --> 00:12:49,840

and quickly hike back across the rocks

232

00:12:49,840 --> 00:12:51,840

before we end up trapped here.

233

00:12:51,840 --> 00:12:53,840

As for Logan and his uncle,

234

00:12:53,840 --> 00:12:56,840

they vow to continue searching the many caves on the island,

235

00:12:56,840 --> 00:13:00,840

convinced that the jackpot is just around the next corner.

236

00:13:04,840 --> 00:13:07,840

On the other side of the island is a man who believes

237

00:13:07,840 --> 00:13:10,840

that everyone is looking for Blackbeard's treasure in the wrong place.

238

00:13:10,840 --> 00:13:11,840

Are you Darwin?

239

00:13:11,840 --> 00:13:12,840

I am he.

240

00:13:12,840 --> 00:13:13,840

Meet Darwin E-Banks,

241

00:13:13,840 --> 00:13:15,840

a.k.a. Black Terrants.

242

00:13:15,840 --> 00:13:17,840

I hope you don't take this as an insult,

243

00:13:17,840 --> 00:13:19,840

but you look a little bit like a pirate.

244

00:13:19,840 --> 00:13:20,840

Yeah, I am.

245

00:13:20,840 --> 00:13:23,840

I am Captain Black Terrants, Captain of the Bloody Bay Buccaneers.

246

00:13:23,840 --> 00:13:25,840

What are the Bloody Bay Buccaneers?

247

00:13:25,840 --> 00:13:27,840

Well, the Bloody Bay Buccaneers is my crew.

248

00:13:27,840 --> 00:13:29,840

It's my Buccaneers crew.

249

00:13:29,840 --> 00:13:31,840

And do you guys actually steal stuff?

250

00:13:31,840 --> 00:13:32,840

Ah, well.

251

00:13:33,840 --> 00:13:34,840

I'm not gonna tell you that.

252

00:13:34,840 --> 00:13:36,840

Right, a pirate never tells.

253

00:13:37,840 --> 00:13:40,840

I'm here because there's a legend about Blackbeard in this island.

254

00:13:40,840 --> 00:13:42,840

So the big question is, where's the treasure?

255

00:13:42,840 --> 00:13:44,840

I think I know a place where people have not looked.

256

00:13:46,840 --> 00:13:47,840

The ocean.

257

00:13:47,840 --> 00:13:48,840

Yes.

258

00:13:48,840 --> 00:13:50,840

Right over there in the Caribbean Sea.

259

00:13:50,840 --> 00:13:51,840

Follow me.

260

00:13:51,840 --> 00:13:53,840

Darwin's explorations have confirmed

261

00:13:53,840 --> 00:13:56,840

that many of the limestone caves that Criss Cross came in black

262

00:13:56,840 --> 00:13:59,840

lead to flooded passages that connect to the sea.

263

00:13:59,840 --> 00:14:03,840

He believes the contents of these caves and perhaps hidden treasure

264

00:14:03,840 --> 00:14:06,840

may have been flushed out into the Caribbean.

265

00:14:07,840 --> 00:14:09,840

I'm going to put Darwin's theory to the test,

266

00:14:09,840 --> 00:14:12,840

so I'm joining him in his search for Blackbeard's treasure

267

00:14:12,840 --> 00:14:14,840

in the waters surrounding the island.

268

00:14:15,840 --> 00:14:17,840

After a short trip to our first location,

269

00:14:17,840 --> 00:14:20,840

it's time for us to gear up and dive in.

270

00:14:29,840 --> 00:14:31,840

We're descending now.

271

00:14:33,840 --> 00:14:35,840

This melody is perfect.

272

00:14:35,840 --> 00:14:37,840

Looks absolutely beautiful down here.

273

00:14:38,840 --> 00:14:40,840

The nice thing about treasure hunting in the Cayman Islands

274

00:14:40,840 --> 00:14:44,840

is this, some of the best diving on Earth.

275

00:14:44,840 --> 00:14:47,840

But even in these clear waters, there are secrets.

276

00:14:49,840 --> 00:14:51,840

Approaching a crevice to some sort.

277

00:14:53,840 --> 00:14:55,840

Whoa, looks like it's sea caves.

278

00:14:55,840 --> 00:14:57,840

Headed in.

279

00:14:58,840 --> 00:15:01,840

Something is jammed inside the cave here.

280

00:15:02,840 --> 00:15:04,840

Looks like a massive anchor.

281

00:15:04,840 --> 00:15:06,840

This is an anchor.

282

00:15:06,840 --> 00:15:08,840

It's an old, sound ship.

283

00:15:08,840 --> 00:15:11,840

Must have got caught up on these rocks many years ago.

284

00:15:12,840 --> 00:15:15,840

Beyond the anchor, I enter a world of shadow.

285

00:15:15,840 --> 00:15:18,840

The passage narrows and we sift the bottom to explore

286

00:15:18,840 --> 00:15:20,840

every nook and cranny we can find.

287

00:15:20,840 --> 00:15:24,840

Lots of small spaces here where something could be jammed.

288

00:15:24,840 --> 00:15:26,840

Tight corners in here.

289

00:15:26,840 --> 00:15:28,840

Have to be careful.

290

00:15:28,840 --> 00:15:32,840

Soon though, the dark cave gives way to ethereal light.

291

00:15:32,840 --> 00:15:34,840

I'm coming out the other side.

292

00:15:34,840 --> 00:15:36,840

It's a huge drop off.

293

00:15:38,840 --> 00:15:40,840

This is the Cayman Abyss.

294

00:15:40,840 --> 00:15:44,840

A sheer drop that plummets down to more than 20,000 feet.

295

00:15:44,840 --> 00:15:47,840

Diving here is like floating in outer space.

296

00:15:50,840 --> 00:15:54,840

I swim back toward the shallow caves to continue our underwater treasure hunt.

297

00:15:55,840 --> 00:15:57,840

These subsea canyons are spectacular.

298

00:15:57,840 --> 00:16:00,840

And soon, they give way to a massive surprise.

299

00:16:01,840 --> 00:16:03,840

Look at this.

300

00:16:05,840 --> 00:16:09,840

This hulking 330 foot Leviathan dates back to the Cold War.

301

00:16:10,840 --> 00:16:13,840

Absolutely massive.

302

00:16:14,840 --> 00:16:17,840

Once part of the Soviet Union's Atlantic fleet in Cuba,

303

00:16:17,840 --> 00:16:19,840

it was scuttled in 1996.

304

00:16:20,840 --> 00:16:23,840

There's an opening on any side now.

305

00:16:24,840 --> 00:16:27,840

The vessel rests in an eerie state of preservation.

306

00:16:27,840 --> 00:16:30,840

I pass cautiously through her dim hallways

307

00:16:30,840 --> 00:16:33,840

and survey her long silenced guns.

308

00:16:33,840 --> 00:16:37,840

It's ironic to see a modern ship of war in such a peaceful setting.

309

00:16:45,840 --> 00:16:47,840

Darwin and I leave the wreck behind

310

00:16:47,840 --> 00:16:51,840

and continue to explore the many flooded passages beneath Cayman Brack.

311

00:16:51,840 --> 00:16:55,840

But by afternoon, with our air running low, we have to call it a day.

312

00:16:58,840 --> 00:17:01,840

The wreck is incredible.

313

00:17:01,840 --> 00:17:03,840

Very, very nice. Very nice.

314

00:17:03,840 --> 00:17:05,840

No sign of the treasure.

315

00:17:05,840 --> 00:17:06,840

Nothing at all. Nothing.

316

00:17:06,840 --> 00:17:08,840

What's it going to take to find it?

317

00:17:08,840 --> 00:17:09,840

A lot more diving, they did.

318

00:17:09,840 --> 00:17:10,840

Yeah.

319

00:17:10,840 --> 00:17:11,840

Treasure hunt is not easy, you know.

320

00:17:11,840 --> 00:17:13,840

I should probably stay here on this island

321

00:17:13,840 --> 00:17:16,840

and continue to look for the treasure, maybe by a house.

322

00:17:19,840 --> 00:17:22,840

While there's no doubt that Cayman Brack was once a haven for pirates,

323

00:17:22,840 --> 00:17:26,840

there is no solid evidence that Blackbeard's treasure is here.

324

00:17:26,840 --> 00:17:29,840

Just legends fueled by the promise of riches.

325

00:17:31,840 --> 00:17:35,840

So I'm going to keep following his trail in search of hard facts.

326

00:17:36,840 --> 00:17:40,840

From Cayman Brack, I'm jetting back to the east coast of the United States

327

00:17:40,840 --> 00:17:43,840

and touching down in North Carolina.

328

00:17:47,840 --> 00:17:50,840

Here in the south, you're nothing without a truck.

329

00:17:50,840 --> 00:17:53,840

So I've picked up a hunk of American steel worthy of a pirate.

330

00:17:54,840 --> 00:17:57,840

What do you think of my sweet ride?

331

00:17:57,840 --> 00:18:04,840

It's a 1975 Ford F100 Ranger Super Cab in fire engine red with rust accents.

332

00:18:04,840 --> 00:18:08,840

Such features as steering wheel and gas pedal.

333

00:18:24,840 --> 00:18:27,840

My ride may be cool, but it's no match for Blackbeards.

334

00:18:29,840 --> 00:18:33,840

In late 1717, Blackbeard seized the French slave ship La Concorde

335

00:18:33,840 --> 00:18:35,840

off the island of Martinique.

336

00:18:35,840 --> 00:18:38,840

She was refitted with an overwhelming 40 cannons

337

00:18:38,840 --> 00:18:43,840

and in a nod to his life as a privateer, renamed the Queen Anne's Revenge.

338

00:18:45,840 --> 00:18:49,840

As for the slaves in the Concorde, history offers no record of what happened to them.

339

00:18:50,840 --> 00:18:53,840

Some believe that Blackbeard welcomed them as brothers in arms.

340

00:18:53,840 --> 00:18:58,840

Others, however, suggest that he had no compunction about buying and selling human beings.

341

00:18:59,840 --> 00:19:04,840

In either case, Blackbeard sailed to the American colonies to continue raiding ships.

342

00:19:05,840 --> 00:19:11,840

In May of 1718, he gets bold, blockading the port of Charleston.

343

00:19:12,840 --> 00:19:16,840

Desperate for order, the King of England offers Blackbeard a full pardon.

344

00:19:17,840 --> 00:19:21,840

All Blackbeard has to do is meet with a local governor and sign a treaty.

345

00:19:21,840 --> 00:19:28,840

But before he can get there, his ship runs aground off the coast.

346

00:19:32,840 --> 00:19:36,840

If you're looking for a pirate treasure, a really good place to look is inside a pirate ship.

347

00:19:36,840 --> 00:19:40,840

And lucky for us, Blackbeard's flagship has already been found.

348

00:19:41,840 --> 00:19:47,840

In 1998, nearly 300 years after her sink-in, explorers located the Queen Anne's Revenge

349

00:19:47,840 --> 00:19:50,840

off the coast of North Carolina.

350

00:19:51,840 --> 00:19:55,840

But it has taken decades to carefully haul her broken pieces to the surface.

351

00:19:57,840 --> 00:20:03,840

In a facility outside of Greenville, archaeologists are carefully sifting through this pirate time capsule.

352

00:20:05,840 --> 00:20:06,840

Hello.

353

00:20:06,840 --> 00:20:08,840

Hey, how are you doing today?

354

00:20:08,840 --> 00:20:09,840

Good, how you doing?

355

00:20:09,840 --> 00:20:11,840

Gosh, thanks a lot for coming by, man.

356

00:20:11,840 --> 00:20:13,840

Are you kidding? Thanks for having me. This place is amazing.

357

00:20:13,840 --> 00:20:18,840

This is where everything that we bring up off of the Queen Anne's Revenge shipwreck ends up.

358

00:20:18,840 --> 00:20:22,840

Everything from conserving large objects like cannons to pieces of the ship's hull

359

00:20:22,840 --> 00:20:27,840

to almost microscopic artifacts that are recovered from the sediment as we excavate.

360

00:20:27,840 --> 00:20:29,840

What was your first impression of it?

361

00:20:29,840 --> 00:20:34,840

It was a staggeringly cool site that belonged to one of the most famous pirates in the world.

362

00:20:34,840 --> 00:20:38,840

It's really cool. It's one of the neatest sites I've ever had the privilege of working on.

363

00:20:38,840 --> 00:20:40,840

How many artifacts have you pulled off the wreck at this point?

364

00:20:40,840 --> 00:20:42,840

Over 400,000 a day.

365

00:20:42,840 --> 00:20:46,840

400,000? Where are you keeping all of that?

366

00:20:48,840 --> 00:20:52,840

So how do you safely store nearly half a million priceless pirate artifacts?

367

00:20:52,840 --> 00:20:55,840

A staggering amount of Tupperware.

368

00:20:55,840 --> 00:20:58,840

This is like the biggest collection of leftovers I've ever seen.

369

00:20:58,840 --> 00:21:01,840

This is actually what my refrigerator looks like.

370

00:21:02,840 --> 00:21:07,840

While I'm impressed by the sheer amount of smaller items the team has managed to salvage,

371

00:21:07,840 --> 00:21:09,840

I'm ready to see the big guns.

372

00:21:09,840 --> 00:21:11,840

So this is the main event.

373

00:21:11,840 --> 00:21:15,840

This is the main event. This is where all the really neat stuff is.

374

00:21:25,840 --> 00:21:30,840

I'm in North Carolina on a hunt for the lost treasure of the pirate blackbeard.

375

00:21:31,840 --> 00:21:39,840

I've arrived at a research facility to examine some of the 400,000 artifacts salvaged from blackbeard's sunken flagship.

376

00:21:39,840 --> 00:21:41,840

Wow.

377

00:21:42,840 --> 00:21:45,840

This warehouse is like something out of Raiders of the Lost Ark.

378

00:21:45,840 --> 00:21:51,840

Tank after tank is filled with massive artifacts that are helping us to understand blackbeard and his ship.

379

00:21:52,840 --> 00:21:57,840

This is where the bigger artifacts are stored. They're kept wet.

380

00:21:57,840 --> 00:21:58,840

Wow.

381

00:22:00,840 --> 00:22:04,840

This is one of four anchors associated with this wreck.

382

00:22:04,840 --> 00:22:08,840

How do you ever get this off the ocean floor?

383

00:22:08,840 --> 00:22:16,840

We put lift bags on it, floated it to the surface, and then used a research vessel to pick it up and get it up here to the lab.

384

00:22:19,840 --> 00:22:22,840

The huge anchor was necessary for such a large vessel.

385

00:22:23,840 --> 00:22:29,840

Queen Anne's Revenge was over 103 feet long and weighed 300 tons.

386

00:22:29,840 --> 00:22:35,840

The 40 cannon on board meant that she could outgun pretty much anything else on the water.

387

00:22:35,840 --> 00:22:38,840

This boat was basically a floating tank.

388

00:22:39,840 --> 00:22:42,840

This, of course, one of the oldest items here in the lab.

389

00:22:44,840 --> 00:22:47,840

This is incredibly rare. This, of course, is a blackbeard's boom box.

390

00:22:47,840 --> 00:22:49,840

And just the state of preservation is amazing.

391

00:22:49,840 --> 00:22:56,840

Indeed. And when conservation is complete, we're probably going to be able to figure out what they were listening to.

392

00:22:56,840 --> 00:22:58,840

Yeah. Probably Nickelback.

393

00:22:58,840 --> 00:23:02,840

I would think blackbeard was a big Nickelback family.

394

00:23:02,840 --> 00:23:06,840

So a lot of incredible things that have been pulled off the wreck.

395

00:23:06,840 --> 00:23:07,840

Indeed.

396

00:23:07,840 --> 00:23:08,840

How much is left to be excavated?

397

00:23:08,840 --> 00:23:17,840

I think we've got over half of the ship still to go. The best stuff is yet to be seen, so I'd be tickled to take you down to see it.

398

00:23:17,840 --> 00:23:18,840

Really?

399

00:23:18,840 --> 00:23:19,840

Yeah, man.

400

00:23:19,840 --> 00:23:21,840

Are you kidding? I'm in. Let's do it.

401

00:23:21,840 --> 00:23:28,840

The relics in the lab are impressive, but with blackbeard's treasure still out there, I'm eager to examine the wreck for myself.

402

00:23:31,840 --> 00:23:36,840

From Greenville, we head about 85 miles southeast to the coastal Carolina town of Beaufort.

403

00:23:36,840 --> 00:23:41,840

On the docks, we meet the support team, critical to the massive recovery effort.

404

00:23:41,840 --> 00:23:42,840

Legit.

405

00:23:42,840 --> 00:23:43,840

Come on aboard, man.

406

00:23:48,840 --> 00:23:51,840

With our gear stowed aboard, we head out to dive the site.

407

00:23:54,840 --> 00:24:00,840

When the Queen Anne's Revenge ran aground, blackbeard hastily fled to another vessel in his fleet.

408

00:24:00,840 --> 00:24:04,840

The question is, did his legendary treasure go down with the ship?

409

00:24:05,840 --> 00:24:18,840

To investigate the remains that are still on the ocean floor, we'll be diving in the tough, exposed conditions of the Atlantic coast.

410

00:24:20,840 --> 00:24:26,840

I take it that diving here is not exactly the clarity of the waters of the Caribbean.

411

00:24:26,840 --> 00:24:27,840

Rarely.

412

00:24:27,840 --> 00:24:28,840

What do you think we're looking at down there?

413

00:24:28,840 --> 00:24:33,840

I think if we have a foot full of visibility, we're going to be lucky.

414

00:24:33,840 --> 00:24:36,840

That's one of the reasons that it's a difficult place to work.

415

00:24:38,840 --> 00:24:44,840

The weather here changes by the minute, and as we anchor up, conditions are already deteriorating.

416

00:24:44,840 --> 00:24:49,840

In a race against time and the elements, we strap on our gear and hit the water.

417

00:24:49,840 --> 00:24:54,840

The ship is going to be destroyed by the tide.

418

00:24:59,840 --> 00:25:00,840

It's ending now.

419

00:25:00,840 --> 00:25:03,840

In it down the line, the ability is okay.

420

00:25:03,840 --> 00:25:06,840

Here by the surface, but it's dropping off quick.

421

00:25:06,840 --> 00:25:08,840

It's getting real muddy down here.

422

00:25:08,840 --> 00:25:11,840

If it's going to get worse as you get down, stay on the line.

423

00:25:11,840 --> 00:25:16,840

Don't let go of it because if you get off of it with the bad visibility, I'm not real sure we'd find you.

424

00:25:16,840 --> 00:25:19,840

Coming in, believe me, I'm not letting go.

425

00:25:25,840 --> 00:25:30,840

Just a few feet below the surface, the visibility has dropped almost nothing.

426

00:25:30,840 --> 00:25:36,840

I can feel the current pulling me as I struggle to hang on to a guideline that leads down to the wreck.

427

00:25:36,840 --> 00:25:41,840

If I lose my grip, the current will pull me blindly into the murky waters.

428

00:25:41,840 --> 00:25:43,840

Whoa, look at that.

429

00:25:43,840 --> 00:25:45,840

That's incredible.

430

00:25:47,840 --> 00:25:54,840

I'm in North Carolina investigating Blackbeard's lost treasure.

431

00:25:54,840 --> 00:25:59,840

I'm diving on the remains of his flagship and the conditions are worsening by the minute.

432

00:25:59,840 --> 00:26:02,840

I can barely move me down here.

433

00:26:02,840 --> 00:26:06,840

Josh, be careful, you don't want to get seen at home.

434

00:26:06,840 --> 00:26:08,840

Coming out by here, I'm on the line.

435

00:26:08,840 --> 00:26:11,840

I'm clearing up a little bit here.

436

00:26:11,840 --> 00:26:14,840

Whoa, look at that.

437

00:26:15,840 --> 00:26:17,840

Incredible, look at that.

438

00:26:17,840 --> 00:26:19,840

Welcome to Anchor here.

439

00:26:21,840 --> 00:26:25,840

This is one of the four anchors that were carried on the Queen Anne's Revenge.

440

00:26:25,840 --> 00:26:32,840

I realize now that there is treasure here, but it's in the form of priceless artifacts, not gold coins.

441

00:26:32,840 --> 00:26:36,840

You can just underneath it, there's something else, you know?

442

00:26:36,840 --> 00:26:38,840

Yes, those are small cast.

443

00:26:38,840 --> 00:26:43,840

The ship was also packed with 40 cannons, which were there primarily for intimidation.

444

00:26:43,840 --> 00:26:49,840

As we explore, the visibility drops and we go from looking around to clutching around in the haze.

445

00:26:49,840 --> 00:26:51,840

No, I'm traveling.

446

00:26:51,840 --> 00:26:53,840

No sign of any treasure.

447

00:26:53,840 --> 00:26:55,840

A lot of work is still to be done.

448

00:26:55,840 --> 00:26:59,840

There's no indication of gold today, but I'm far from disappointed.

449

00:26:59,840 --> 00:27:06,840

And maybe if you come to the condition of the boat, I can't think of any quality beat down here on an actual pirate ship.

450

00:27:06,840 --> 00:27:12,840

Let's head back up the line, get back to the boat, head into the ferbent now.

451

00:27:14,840 --> 00:27:24,840

As we reach Topside, I'm impressed by the dedication Billy Ray and his team have shown in studying this incredible wreck.

452

00:27:26,840 --> 00:27:30,840

And with half the ship left to go, who knows what they'll find next.

453

00:27:37,840 --> 00:27:42,840

I'm back on the road tracing Blackbeard's movements during the final months of his life.

454

00:27:43,840 --> 00:27:47,840

After he wrecks his flagship, he travels somewhere very unexpected.

455

00:27:51,840 --> 00:27:57,840

So after Blackbeard wrecks the Queen Anne's Revenge, this is where his story continues.

456

00:27:57,840 --> 00:28:07,840

In June of 1718, aboard a vessel known as the Adventure, he sails here to the tiny postcard perfect town of Bath, North Carolina.

457

00:28:08,840 --> 00:28:12,840

Rather than plotting his next attack, he receives a royal pardon.

458

00:28:12,840 --> 00:28:16,840

And then the most feared pirate in history does something totally out of character.

459

00:28:16,840 --> 00:28:18,840

He settles down.

460

00:28:18,840 --> 00:28:22,840

With deep pockets, he and his crew buy up some land and go into retirement.

461

00:28:22,840 --> 00:28:24,840

Blackbeard even gets married.

462

00:28:26,840 --> 00:28:29,840

But once a pirate, always a pirate.

463

00:28:30,840 --> 00:28:37,840

After just a few months of playing it straight, Blackbeard is back to plundering on the high seas.

464

00:28:37,840 --> 00:28:40,840

The response is swift and severe.

465

00:28:40,840 --> 00:28:48,840

The governor of Virginia commissions Royal Navy Lieutenant Robert Maynard to bring Blackbeard in, or to simply kill him.

466

00:28:48,840 --> 00:28:56,840

He finds Blackbeard anchored off nearby Oak Creek Oak Island, which is now famous for being the location of Blackbeard's last stand.

467

00:29:00,840 --> 00:29:05,840

It's also where a well-known treasure hunter thinks Blackbeard's loot might be buried.

468

00:29:07,840 --> 00:29:11,840

To meet him, I'm traveling one of America's most scenic roadways.

469

00:29:11,840 --> 00:29:20,840

So these are the famed Outer Banks, at more than 200 miles of narrow roads and bridges that connect a series of barrier islands off the North Carolina coast.

470

00:29:20,840 --> 00:29:23,840

In the summertime, Big Tourist destination.

471

00:29:23,840 --> 00:29:30,840

It's one of those places that's super remote and yet is also filled with Dairy Queen's mini golf courses and nautical themed competing stores.

472

00:29:34,840 --> 00:29:37,840

The beauty of the Outer Banks is breathtaking.

473

00:29:37,840 --> 00:29:42,840

From the windswept dunes at Kitty Hawk, where two brothers first took to the air,

474

00:29:42,840 --> 00:29:48,840

to the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, which has been standing watch over the coast for over a century.

475

00:29:48,840 --> 00:29:52,840

Blackbeard start hanging out in a remote island off the coast of North Carolina,

476

00:29:52,840 --> 00:29:58,840

and many people think that this may be the strongest contender for the location of his buried treasure.

477

00:29:59,840 --> 00:30:05,840

While you can travel most of the Outer Banks by car, you do run out of road before you get to Oak Creek Oak Island.

478

00:30:05,840 --> 00:30:09,840

To reach this tiny spit of land, I need to take a ferry.

479

00:30:19,840 --> 00:30:23,840

This terrible dream that I was in a super pickup truck in the middle of the ocean.

480

00:30:25,840 --> 00:30:26,840

Oh wait.

481

00:30:35,840 --> 00:30:41,840

At last I arrive on Oak Creek Oak and seek shelter at, where else, Blackbeard's Lodge.

482

00:30:41,840 --> 00:30:45,840

I'm exhausted, but who knows, tomorrow could be the day I strike it rich.

483

00:30:49,840 --> 00:30:52,840

Morning on Oak Creek Oak Island off North Carolina.

484

00:30:52,840 --> 00:30:57,840

I've arranged to meet a treasure hunter who has a hot lead on what he hopes is Blackbeard's Lost Fortune.

485

00:31:09,840 --> 00:31:10,840

Are you ready?

486

00:31:10,840 --> 00:31:11,840

I'm ready.

487

00:31:11,840 --> 00:31:12,840

Sweet ride.

488

00:31:12,840 --> 00:31:13,840

Yeah, thank you.

489

00:31:13,840 --> 00:31:15,840

This is the official way to get around Oak Creek Oak.

490

00:31:15,840 --> 00:31:16,840

Alright man, let's go.

491

00:31:18,840 --> 00:31:19,840

So this is Oak Creek Oak?

492

00:31:19,840 --> 00:31:20,840

Yes sir.

493

00:31:20,840 --> 00:31:22,840

It's, uh, empty.

494

00:31:22,840 --> 00:31:25,840

It's pretty much a little strip and that's about it and a bunch of sand.

495

00:31:25,840 --> 00:31:28,840

Out here on the open roads I do see a lot of regular cars.

496

00:31:28,840 --> 00:31:29,840

Well I mean once I get in.

497

00:31:29,840 --> 00:31:30,840

I'm not knocking your golf cart out.

498

00:31:30,840 --> 00:31:33,840

Well I mean I'm just saying when we get to town you'll see a lot more golf cars.

499

00:31:33,840 --> 00:31:35,840

I mean people with cars, they gotta know where to park.

500

00:31:35,840 --> 00:31:37,840

It's true parking does look tight out here.

501

00:31:41,840 --> 00:31:44,840

And so you've been looking for the treasure now for how long?

502

00:31:44,840 --> 00:31:45,840

About five years.

503

00:31:45,840 --> 00:31:47,840

So what do you do when you're not treasure hunting?

504

00:31:47,840 --> 00:31:49,840

I'm a police officer in Virginia.

505

00:31:49,840 --> 00:31:50,840

A treasure hunting police officer?

506

00:31:50,840 --> 00:31:51,840

That's right.

507

00:31:51,840 --> 00:31:55,840

I mean well if you think about it, police officer's trying to solve mysteries, trying to figure

508

00:31:55,840 --> 00:31:56,840

things out.

509

00:31:56,840 --> 00:31:58,840

Okay so where are we headed?

510

00:31:58,840 --> 00:31:59,840

Well we're going to Springer's Point.

511

00:31:59,840 --> 00:32:03,840

But to understand Springer's Point you have to understand Blackbeard's Death.

512

00:32:03,840 --> 00:32:09,840

Blackbeard's Last Stand begins shortly after Lieutenant Maynard's ship sails into the bay.

513

00:32:09,840 --> 00:32:14,840

Blackbeard fires his cannons, but Maynard cleverly orders his men to hide below deck.

514

00:32:14,840 --> 00:32:18,840

Vencing Blackbeard the cannon fire has obliterated his crew.

515

00:32:18,840 --> 00:32:22,840

When the pirate stormed the ship, Maynard's men rush out of the hold, catching Blackbeard

516

00:32:22,840 --> 00:32:24,840

by surprise.

517

00:32:24,840 --> 00:32:28,840

Within minutes the infamous pirate is dead.

518

00:32:28,840 --> 00:32:33,840

Shot five times and stabbed twenty.

519

00:32:33,840 --> 00:32:38,840

When it's all over, Maynard returns to Virginia with Blackbeard's head swinging from the bow

520

00:32:38,840 --> 00:32:41,840

of his ship.

521

00:32:41,840 --> 00:32:45,840

Blackbeard had mistakenly believed that this area was a safe place to lay low.

522

00:32:45,840 --> 00:32:50,840

And there are many scholars who contend that this location at Springer's Point was the

523

00:32:50,840 --> 00:32:52,840

true hiding place of his treasure.

524

00:32:52,840 --> 00:32:55,840

So has everybody just dug up Springer's Point then?

525

00:32:55,840 --> 00:33:00,840

No, Springer's Point has never been any kind of permission to hunt, go on there with any

526

00:33:00,840 --> 00:33:02,840

kind of metal detector anything.

527

00:33:02,840 --> 00:33:06,840

But for the first time today I got special permission to go on here and do some detecting.

528

00:33:06,840 --> 00:33:07,840

Really?

529

00:33:07,840 --> 00:33:08,840

Yes.

530

00:33:08,840 --> 00:33:10,840

This is actually sounding more and more promising.

531

00:33:10,840 --> 00:33:11,840

It's a pretty big deal.

532

00:33:11,840 --> 00:33:12,840

It's a good chance.

533

00:33:12,840 --> 00:33:16,840

One of the biggest things I've heard is you're more likely to find a pirate treasure than

534

00:33:16,840 --> 00:33:17,840

you are to win the lottery.

535

00:33:17,840 --> 00:33:18,840

That's funny.

536

00:33:18,840 --> 00:33:19,840

It's a great point.

537

00:33:19,840 --> 00:33:21,840

Well it is easier to buy a lottery ticket.

538

00:33:21,840 --> 00:33:22,840

It's easier.

539

00:33:22,840 --> 00:33:24,840

You've got to put a little effort in it.

540

00:33:27,840 --> 00:33:29,840

Springer's Point.

541

00:33:29,840 --> 00:33:33,840

Thanks to Ed's badge and his persistence, he's been able to get us unique access to search

542

00:33:33,840 --> 00:33:36,840

this extremely restricted area.

543

00:33:36,840 --> 00:33:39,840

Okay, lead the way.

544

00:33:39,840 --> 00:33:41,840

Ed, there's obviously a lot of wilderness back here.

545

00:33:41,840 --> 00:33:44,840

How do you know where to hone in on the treasure?

546

00:33:44,840 --> 00:33:46,840

Well, follow me and I'll show you.

547

00:33:46,840 --> 00:33:48,840

I can do that.

548

00:33:52,840 --> 00:33:53,840

This is it.

549

00:33:53,840 --> 00:33:55,840

Springer's Point.

550

00:33:55,840 --> 00:33:57,840

So this is a map from 1733.

551

00:33:57,840 --> 00:33:59,840

This is a map of Oca Coke 1733?

552

00:33:59,840 --> 00:34:00,840

1733.

553

00:34:00,840 --> 00:34:04,840

As you can see, the island looks much different than it does on this map today.

554

00:34:04,840 --> 00:34:06,840

This is a present day map of Oca Coke.

555

00:34:06,840 --> 00:34:07,840

Satellite it.

556

00:34:07,840 --> 00:34:08,840

Got it.

557

00:34:08,840 --> 00:34:10,840

I can tell you how much the island has changed.

558

00:34:10,840 --> 00:34:15,840

And taking these two maps, 1733 and overlaying it on a current satellite image of the map,

559

00:34:15,840 --> 00:34:20,840

one thing that you can point out from this map of 1733 is that the well marked on this map

560

00:34:20,840 --> 00:34:23,840

falls on Springer Point where the current well is.

561

00:34:23,840 --> 00:34:24,840

So you think they're one and the same?

562

00:34:24,840 --> 00:34:25,840

I do.

563

00:34:25,840 --> 00:34:26,840

Alright, well let's get to it.

564

00:34:26,840 --> 00:34:27,840

Let's do it.

565

00:34:27,840 --> 00:34:32,840

Ed believes that Blackbeard frequented this spot because Springer's Point had the one thing

566

00:34:32,840 --> 00:34:34,840

he and his crew needed, fresh water.

567

00:34:34,840 --> 00:34:39,840

With the well identified on the map, Ed thinks the treasure must be close by.

568

00:34:39,840 --> 00:34:41,840

Here it is.

569

00:34:41,840 --> 00:34:44,840

This is the well.

570

00:34:44,840 --> 00:34:46,840

How long do you think this has been here for?

571

00:34:46,840 --> 00:34:51,840

Obviously the woods knew where the brick looks like it was laid later on, but the well itself,

572

00:34:51,840 --> 00:34:53,840

I'd say about 1700.

573

00:34:53,840 --> 00:34:54,840

So what's our strategy?

574

00:34:54,840 --> 00:34:56,840

I think it's right around this vicinity.

575

00:34:56,840 --> 00:35:00,840

I said we check around the well first and then we'll head down to the beach and scan around.

576

00:35:00,840 --> 00:35:01,840

Copy that.

577

00:35:01,840 --> 00:35:05,840

Finding this well means that we're likely in the exact spot that Blackbeard would have

578

00:35:05,840 --> 00:35:08,840

visited when he came ashore.

579

00:35:08,840 --> 00:35:12,840

Since we've only been granted a few hours to search the site, we break out the metal

580

00:35:12,840 --> 00:35:14,840

detectors and get to work.

581

00:35:20,840 --> 00:35:22,840

Here's how.

582

00:35:22,840 --> 00:35:27,840

Almost immediately, Ed starts getting hit after hit.

583

00:35:28,840 --> 00:35:30,840

It sounds like he's finding treasure all over the place.

584

00:35:30,840 --> 00:35:31,840

I got nothing.

585

00:35:31,840 --> 00:35:32,840

Is this thing even on?

586

00:35:32,840 --> 00:35:34,840

Ed, you didn't give me the broken one, did you?

587

00:35:34,840 --> 00:35:36,840

Your thing's going off like a smoke detector.

588

00:35:36,840 --> 00:35:37,840

Mine's dead.

589

00:35:37,840 --> 00:35:40,840

It might be user air.

590

00:35:42,840 --> 00:35:45,840

It's a classic pirate move.

591

00:35:46,840 --> 00:35:50,840

With Ed's metal detector blowing up, I move in to get a closer look at this beach-combing

592

00:35:50,840 --> 00:35:53,840

ninja at work.

593

00:35:53,840 --> 00:35:55,840

That is a beer can.

594

00:35:55,840 --> 00:35:57,840

I wonder if that was Blackbeard's brand.

595

00:35:57,840 --> 00:35:59,840

Blackbeard, a light beer drinker.

596

00:35:59,840 --> 00:36:01,840

I would not have guessed that actually.

597

00:36:01,840 --> 00:36:03,840

It's surprising.

598

00:36:03,840 --> 00:36:10,840

With our sites set considerably higher than a five cent deposit, we press on and soon

599

00:36:10,840 --> 00:36:13,840

Ed gets a major hit.

600

00:36:14,840 --> 00:36:16,840

Josh, I think I got something.

601

00:36:16,840 --> 00:36:17,840

You got something?

602

00:36:17,840 --> 00:36:18,840

Yeah.

603

00:36:18,840 --> 00:36:19,840

What do you got?

604

00:36:19,840 --> 00:36:21,840

Something really big.

605

00:36:22,840 --> 00:36:24,840

I've hand-undered on this side.

606

00:36:24,840 --> 00:36:25,840

That's metal.

607

00:36:25,840 --> 00:36:27,840

That is metal.

608

00:36:27,840 --> 00:36:29,840

Whatever it is, that is old.

609

00:36:29,840 --> 00:36:31,840

That's definitely metal.

610

00:36:31,840 --> 00:36:33,840

It's got wood wrapped around it.

611

00:36:33,840 --> 00:36:35,840

It's got some organic material around it.

612

00:36:35,840 --> 00:36:37,840

It looks like a spike of some kind.

613

00:36:37,840 --> 00:36:39,840

And there's more of it down there.

614

00:36:39,840 --> 00:36:41,840

Here, I'm going to grab the shovel.

615

00:36:42,840 --> 00:36:44,840

My two dudes about to strike it rich.

616

00:36:44,840 --> 00:36:45,840

You ready?

617

00:36:45,840 --> 00:36:46,840

Yeah.

618

00:36:46,840 --> 00:36:47,840

Hold on.

619

00:36:47,840 --> 00:36:48,840

Something big right there.

620

00:36:48,840 --> 00:36:50,840

Oh, we're under it.

621

00:36:50,840 --> 00:36:53,840

I mean, if I pull a pirate chest up out of here, Ed, I am going to f*** my pants.

622

00:36:54,840 --> 00:36:55,840

There we go.

623

00:36:55,840 --> 00:36:56,840

There we go.

624

00:36:56,840 --> 00:36:57,840

We got it.

625

00:36:57,840 --> 00:36:58,840

We got it.

626

00:37:05,840 --> 00:37:13,840

And I am no treasure hunting expert, but I believe that this is what is called a rock.

627

00:37:13,840 --> 00:37:14,840

Yep.

628

00:37:14,840 --> 00:37:15,840

It looks like a rock to me.

629

00:37:15,840 --> 00:37:17,840

We do have this very cool spike.

630

00:37:17,840 --> 00:37:19,840

Who knows, this could be part of Blackbeard Ship.

631

00:37:19,840 --> 00:37:21,840

This is true.

632

00:37:21,840 --> 00:37:23,840

But it's not a treasure.

633

00:37:23,840 --> 00:37:25,840

Boy, that was exciting there for a second.

634

00:37:25,840 --> 00:37:26,840

It is.

635

00:37:26,840 --> 00:37:27,840

It's always the thrill of the hunt.

636

00:37:27,840 --> 00:37:28,840

Yeah.

637

00:37:28,840 --> 00:37:29,840

And the agony of defeat.

638

00:37:29,840 --> 00:37:30,840

That's right.

639

00:37:30,840 --> 00:37:33,840

Well, you know, they say when treasure hunting, leave no stone unturned.

640

00:37:33,840 --> 00:37:35,840

I was just doing that literally.

641

00:37:36,840 --> 00:37:42,840

We'd need a dredge to get deeper in the flooded hole, and our short time at Springer's Point is up.

642

00:37:43,840 --> 00:37:48,840

It will take substantial time and money to completely canvas this protected area.

643

00:37:48,840 --> 00:37:54,840

There may be more here just waiting to be found, or it may be another in a long line of dead ends.

644

00:37:56,840 --> 00:38:01,840

I returned to the docks and catch a ferry back to the mainland where I have one last stop.

645

00:38:01,840 --> 00:38:09,840

A meeting with a renowned Blackbeard scholar who believes he's cracked the code to reveal the truth

behind the treasure.

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00:38:10,840 --> 00:38:12,840

Blackbeard's Treasure

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00:38:16,840 --> 00:38:19,840

Well, I've looked high and low for Blackbeard's treasure.

648

00:38:20,840 --> 00:38:26,840

Not in the Caimans, not on the Queen Anne's Revenge, and not in Okra Coat.

649

00:38:26,840 --> 00:38:28,840

But I do have one last lead.

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00:38:28,840 --> 00:38:33,840

There's a historian here in North Carolina who has a bold new theory about Blackbeard.

651

00:38:33,840 --> 00:38:36,840

In fact, he thinks he solved the mystery of Blackbeard's treasure.

652

00:38:40,840 --> 00:38:46,840

I've returned to Blackbeard's home of Bath to meet with noted historian and author Kevin Duffas.

653

00:38:46,840 --> 00:38:48,840

A lot of legends surrounding Blackbeard.

654

00:38:48,840 --> 00:38:49,840

There are.

655

00:38:49,840 --> 00:38:51,840

Maybe more than any other pirate.

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00:38:51,840 --> 00:38:54,840

Well, certainly, and because he's of course the best known pirate.

657

00:38:54,840 --> 00:39:03,840

Most things that people believe about Blackbeard are entirely myths that are based on the repetition of long-held beliefs.

658

00:39:03,840 --> 00:39:06,840

So do you think that Blackbeard had a treasure?

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00:39:06,840 --> 00:39:10,840

I do think he had a treasure, but his treasure wasn't what you think it is.

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00:39:10,840 --> 00:39:14,840

To fully understand the story, you have to do more than just research pirate history.

661

00:39:14,840 --> 00:39:20,840

You have to research political history and economic history of the colony of North Carolina.

662

00:39:20,840 --> 00:39:24,840

In the ten years before Blackbeard arrived here in the summer of 1718,

663

00:39:24,840 --> 00:39:28,840

North Carolina was at a great disadvantage compared to its neighboring colonies.

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00:39:28,840 --> 00:39:32,840

They had been on the brink of economic devastation.

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00:39:32,840 --> 00:39:33,840

There was no labor force here.

666

00:39:33,840 --> 00:39:43,840

In the summer of 1718, Blackbeard wrecked the Queen Anne's Revenge 132 miles away from here and sailed up here.

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00:39:43,840 --> 00:39:46,840

And all of a sudden, there's an economic boom.

668

00:39:46,840 --> 00:39:48,840

And let's talk about the economic boom.

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00:39:48,840 --> 00:39:49,840

What is he bringing on that slope?

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00:39:49,840 --> 00:39:56,840

Something else that turned out to be more valuable, more necessary for the economically depressed plantation society.

671

00:39:56,840 --> 00:39:59,840

It was more valuable than gold or silver.

672

00:39:59,840 --> 00:40:04,840

So if his treasure wasn't money, if it wasn't gold and silver, what was it?

673

00:40:04,840 --> 00:40:06,840

Blackbeard's treasure were slaves.

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00:40:06,840 --> 00:40:07,840

Slaves?

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00:40:07,840 --> 00:40:09,840

Absolutely.

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00:40:09,840 --> 00:40:14,840

The priceless commodity that Blackbeard traded wasn't gold or silver.

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00:40:14,840 --> 00:40:17,840

In an era when human life was available for a price,

678

00:40:17,840 --> 00:40:22,840

Blackbeard appears to have been a participant in the tragic legacy of the American slave trade.

679

00:40:22,840 --> 00:40:26,840

How do you come to this conclusion that it's really about human cargo?

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00:40:26,840 --> 00:40:33,840

There's very strong written evidence that shows that a number of men whose names appear on the records as having been with Blackbeard

681

00:40:33,840 --> 00:40:38,840

are buying land here in Bath for these slaves.

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00:40:38,840 --> 00:40:44,840

These slaves, of course, arrived on this pirate ship, not knowing where they were going, what their future held.

683

00:40:44,840 --> 00:40:50,840

And they were at the mercy of their pirate masters, but they come here to Bath and over time become

skilled tradesmen.

684

00:40:50,840 --> 00:40:55,840

And they helped to build America into the nation that it is today.

685

00:40:55,840 --> 00:41:01,840

Unfortunately, the history of those men has been eclipsed by Blackbeard's vast legend.

686

00:41:01,840 --> 00:41:06,840

It's this opaque legend before and even long after his death.

687

00:41:06,840 --> 00:41:09,840

It certainly puts Blackbeard and his legacy in a very different light.

688

00:41:09,840 --> 00:41:11,840

Yeah, I agree.

689

00:41:11,840 --> 00:41:17,840

In the end, it's easy to see why our fascination with Blackbeard has endured for centuries.

690

00:41:18,840 --> 00:41:25,840

The ocean was a stage and he was its consummate showman with a threatening flair for the dramatic.

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00:41:25,840 --> 00:41:29,840

But did he really hide loot on Cayman Brack as other pirates did?

692

00:41:29,840 --> 00:41:33,840

Or did he stash it off the Carolina coast before his last stand?

693

00:41:33,840 --> 00:41:38,840

Dogged archaeologists and historians are reconstructing the puzzle of Blackbeard's life.

694

00:41:38,840 --> 00:41:44,840

And the more we learn about it, the harder it is to hum a pirate's life for me.

695

00:41:44,840 --> 00:41:50,840

Blackbeard famously said that only he and the devil himself knew where the treasure was.

696

00:41:50,840 --> 00:41:58,840

With the revelation that he may have traded in human lives, perhaps it's more accurate to say that he and the devil were one and the same.