

1

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

October 12th, 1492.

2

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

The New World.

3

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

It looks like paradise, and perhaps it is.

4

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

A virgin land protected on all sides by vast oceans.

5

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

Its people blissfully unaware of life beyond their shores.

6

00:00:22,000 --> 00:00:29,000

But in just a moment, all of that will change.

7

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

In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue.

8

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

We all know the rhyme.

9

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

But what else do you know about Christopher Columbus?

10

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

What do you really know?

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

When it comes to explorers, none are more famous, and yet less understood.

12

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

Some people are taught that he discovered America, yet he never set foot here.

13

00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:08,000

His nationality is in dispute, his early years are a total mystery.

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00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:12,000

Even his own journals are filled with misdirection.

15

00:01:13,000 --> 00:01:15,000

To some, he is an epic hero.

16

00:01:15,000 --> 00:01:18,000

To others, a bloodthirsty conqueror.

17

00:01:18,000 --> 00:01:20,000

But who was he really?

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00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:26,000

There are two huge mysteries surrounding Columbus that may shed light on the true nature of his character.

19

00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:30,000

And both might be on the verge of being solved.

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00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:37,000

The first involves the fate of his flagship, the Santa Maria.

21

00:01:37,000 --> 00:01:43,000

Which hasn't been seen since she ran aground on Christmas Day of 1492 off the coast of Haiti.

22

00:01:43,000 --> 00:01:48,000

One explorer claims he's found what is one of the most important ships in history.

23

00:01:48,000 --> 00:01:51,000

But local authorities aren't so sure.

24

00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:55,000

And would you believe we can't even agree on where Columbus is buried?

25

00:01:55,000 --> 00:01:59,000

Two nations have been locked in a dispute over which has the explorer's bones.

26

00:01:59,000 --> 00:02:03,000

But now, DNA evidence may finally unlock the answer.

27

00:02:04,000 --> 00:02:08,000

This is an expedition that will take me to the Old World and the New.

28

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

Through four countries and 500 years of history.

29

00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:16,000

All to discover what is the true story of Christopher Columbus.

30

00:02:23,000 --> 00:02:25,000

My name is Josh Gates.

31

00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:30,000

With a degree in archaeology and a passion for exploration.

32

00:02:31,000 --> 00:02:35,000

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

33

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

God Lord!

34

00:02:39,000 --> 00:02:41,000

My travels have taken me to the ends of the earth.

35

00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:44,000

As I investigate the greatest legends in history.

36

00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:49,000

This is Expedition Unknown.

37

00:02:52,000 --> 00:02:55,000

To begin my expedition into the mysteries of Columbus.

38

00:02:55,000 --> 00:03:00,000

I'm bound for Madeira, a small island off the coast of Portugal in the North Atlantic Ocean.

39

00:03:01,000 --> 00:03:06,000

It's also where a young Christopher Columbus honed his navigational skills.

40

00:03:10,000 --> 00:03:14,000

We have cliffs on one side and just water on the other in a very narrow runway.

41

00:03:14,000 --> 00:03:16,000

Not a lot of room to negotiate.

42

00:03:16,000 --> 00:03:20,000

The runway at Madeira Airport is one of the shortest and most dangerous in the world.

43

00:03:20,000 --> 00:03:23,000

A series of deadly crashes prompted the government to lengthen it.

44

00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:29,000

But with no additional land, they built 180 concrete columns and hung the runway over the sea.

45

00:03:43,000 --> 00:03:46,000

That is the joyous sound of not falling into the ocean.

46

00:03:46,000 --> 00:03:49,000

Welcome to Funchal. This is the largest city here in Madeira.

47

00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:52,000

A place that has long been associated with exploration.

48

00:03:52,000 --> 00:03:57,000

It was founded by the Portuguese in 1420, part of their golden age of discovery.

49

00:03:57,000 --> 00:04:00,000

About 40 years later, it became home to Christopher Columbus.

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00:04:02,000 --> 00:04:06,000

Little is known for certain about the early life of Columbus.

51

00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:10,000

It was founded by the Portuguese in 1420, part of their golden age of discovery.

52

00:04:11,000 --> 00:04:15,000

Little is known for certain about the early life of Columbus.

53

00:04:15,000 --> 00:04:20,000

He seems to appear in history fully formed, a self-made Gatsby for the age of explorers.

54

00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:24,000

Most scholars think he was born in Genoa, Italy, the son of a weaver.

55

00:04:24,000 --> 00:04:30,000

However, some historians have identified Columbus as Portuguese, Spanish, and even Jewish to boot.

56

00:04:30,000 --> 00:04:33,000

His arrival in Portugal is mysterious.

57

00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:37,000

He supposedly washes ashore in a shipwreck in 1476,

58

00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:41,000

and four years later, he arrives in Madeira to make his living as a chart maker.

59

00:04:41,000 --> 00:04:44,000

But he also develops an obsession with the sea.

60

00:04:51,000 --> 00:04:55,000

Madeira is steep, and to discover its history, you need to head uphill.

61

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

Welcome to the top of Madeira.

62

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

There's little physical evidence of Columbus here today.

63

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

At his house, this window is all that remains.

64

00:05:08,000 --> 00:05:12,000

And through it, Columbus looked out on a very different world than ours.

65

00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:20,000

At the end of the 15th century, the European powers depend on trade along the famed Silk Road to

India.

66

00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:24,000

But the route becomes blocked by the powerful Ottoman Empire.

67

00:05:24,000 --> 00:05:31,000

Spain and Portugal dispatch their best navigators to find an ocean route to the southeast around the tip of Africa.

68

00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:38,000

But the young chart maker in Madeira has a different plan.

69

00:05:38,000 --> 00:05:40,000

To look west.

70

00:05:43,000 --> 00:05:47,000

It's easy to see why Columbus and his fellow colonists loved Madeira.

71

00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:50,000

The view up here can't be beat.

72

00:05:50,000 --> 00:05:55,000

In Columbus' time, though, getting back down to sea level quickly required a novel solution.

73

00:05:55,000 --> 00:05:58,000

Wicker sleds that would fly down the steep streets.

74

00:05:59,000 --> 00:06:05,000

They once carried bottles of Madeira's famous wine, but today they carry less precious cargo.

75

00:06:05,000 --> 00:06:07,000

Television personalities.

76

00:06:07,000 --> 00:06:11,000

I can literally feel and hear the wicker breaking under me, as I said.

77

00:06:11,000 --> 00:06:13,000

That's not a good sign.

78

00:06:13,000 --> 00:06:20,000

This crazy contraption is called a carreros de monte, and it is not for the faint of heart or the weak of bladder.

79

00:06:20,000 --> 00:06:22,000

Oh, again.

80

00:06:22,000 --> 00:06:24,000

This is insane.

81

00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:26,000

Good lord!

82

00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:28,000

Yeah!

83

00:06:28,000 --> 00:06:30,000

Yeah!

84

00:06:30,000 --> 00:06:32,000

Oh, I'm crazy.

85

00:06:32,000 --> 00:06:34,000

Yeah!

86

00:06:34,000 --> 00:06:36,000

Whoa, whoa!

87

00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:41,000

Imagine flying 30 miles an hour downhill in a red basket from Pottery Barn with no brakes,

88

00:06:41,000 --> 00:06:44,000

and you'll get an idea of how safe this is.

89

00:06:44,000 --> 00:06:47,000

Is this an intersection? Are you kidding me?

90

00:06:47,000 --> 00:06:49,000

Yeah!

91

00:06:53,000 --> 00:06:55,000

Excellent work, boys.

92

00:06:55,000 --> 00:07:00,000

I'm just going to sit here for a minute and think about the choices in my life that brought me to this moment.

93

00:07:03,000 --> 00:07:08,000

Shaking off my near-death experience, I get it together and head to the docks to meet here.

94

00:07:08,000 --> 00:07:13,000

I'm hopeful that he can shed some light on what kind of man Columbus really was,

95

00:07:13,000 --> 00:07:16,000

and reveal more about his fateful voyage.

96

00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:22,000

He told me he has a boat by the docks, and, well, it's not hard to spot.

97

00:07:22,000 --> 00:07:24,000

How are you?

98

00:07:24,000 --> 00:07:26,000

I'm fine. Welcome on board.

99

00:07:26,000 --> 00:07:28,000

This is the Santa Maria.

100

00:07:28,000 --> 00:07:29,000

Yes.

101

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

When you said you had a boat, I didn't realize you had the boat.

102

00:07:32,000 --> 00:07:34,000

I'm glad you're here.

103

00:07:34,000 --> 00:07:37,000

Now, unlike the real Santa Maria, we're going to come back, though, right?

104

00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:38,000

Yes, yes.

105

00:07:40,000 --> 00:07:45,000

Built by local craftsmen, this is one of the only working replicas of the Santa Maria in the world.

106

00:07:48,000 --> 00:07:52,000

Put about 500 years on her odometer, and this could be the boat I'm looking for.

107

00:07:52,000 --> 00:07:54,000

This is the same size as the Santa Maria.

108

00:07:54,000 --> 00:07:56,000

Exactly the same size.

109

00:07:56,000 --> 00:08:00,000

Which, you know, it seems, frankly, it's not the same size as the Santa Maria.

110

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

Exactly the same size.

111

00:08:02,000 --> 00:08:05,000

Which, you know, it seems, frankly, being out here, it seems kind of small.

112

00:08:05,000 --> 00:08:11,000

Because people have the idea that those sheep were big, but these was the biggest they had.

113

00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:27,000

While everyone else is trying to get around Africa, Columbus is obsessing over the journals of the great explorer Marco Polo.

114

00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:32,000

Polo went over land, way past India, to the grand courts of Kublai Khan in China.

115

00:08:32,000 --> 00:08:37,000

Columbus is convinced he can sail west and reach this mysterious country.

116

00:08:37,000 --> 00:08:42,000

And for almost 10 years, he seeks funding for what most believe is a fantasy.

117

00:08:42,000 --> 00:08:48,000

But in 1492, he's finally granted sponsorship from Spain's Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand.

118

00:08:49,000 --> 00:08:53,000

On August 3rd of that year, Columbus, a crew of about 100 men,

119

00:08:53,000 --> 00:08:59,000

and three small but sea-worthy ships, the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria, depart for Asia.

120

00:08:59,000 --> 00:09:03,000

Little does anyone know that only two ships will be coming back.

121

00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:11,000

Even just outside of Port here, it's pretty rolly on this boat.

122

00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:12,000

Yes.

123

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

With a storm, this would be very difficult to...to...to sail.

124

00:09:16,000 --> 00:09:21,000

If I'm gonna get inside Columbus' head, though, I'm gonna have to sail a mile in his shoes.

125

00:09:21,000 --> 00:09:23,000

Okay, so, all right, step one.

126

00:09:23,000 --> 00:09:26,000

Step one, you have to anti-these sails.

127

00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:27,000

Okay, what do I pull?

128

00:09:27,000 --> 00:09:30,000

Uh, not here. You have to go up there.

129

00:09:32,000 --> 00:09:35,000

No, this is...look, there's so many things here to pull.

130

00:09:35,000 --> 00:09:38,000

It doesn't want to be used just to make the sail drop.

131

00:09:38,000 --> 00:09:42,000

You just have to go up there, and you will see it's very easy. It's very easy.

132

00:09:44,000 --> 00:09:45,000

Okay.

133

00:09:45,000 --> 00:09:47,000

Up like this? Yeah, this is very stable.

134

00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:48,000

Yes.

135

00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:50,000

Now I can see you have Portuguese blood.

136

00:09:50,000 --> 00:09:53,000

Yeah, you're about to have some Portuguese blood on the deck of the ship in a minute.

137

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

While I hang on for dear life, the Portuguese Hugh Jackman here just keeps smiling,

138

00:09:59,000 --> 00:10:02,000

and another deckhand flies up like mogulie from the Jungle Book.

139

00:10:02,000 --> 00:10:04,000

Wait, why are you so much faster than me?

140

00:10:07,000 --> 00:10:09,000

That's good. We are just going slow ahead.

141

00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:12,000

Slow ahead.

142

00:10:12,000 --> 00:10:13,000

Slow ahead.

143

00:10:13,000 --> 00:10:14,000

Slow ahead.

144

00:10:14,000 --> 00:10:17,000

Be careful. It's moving a little bit.

145

00:10:17,000 --> 00:10:20,000

This is horrible. This is officially horrible.

146

00:10:29,000 --> 00:10:34,000

I'm off the coast of Portugal aboard a life-size replica of Columbus flagship, the Santa Maria.

147

00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:36,000

This is crazy. So it's up higher.

148

00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:39,000

This is horrible. This is officially horrible.

149

00:10:39,000 --> 00:10:42,000

I'm up in the very creaky crow's nest to untie the sail.

150

00:10:47,000 --> 00:10:50,000

It is a puke McGillicuddy up here.

151

00:10:55,000 --> 00:10:58,000

I can't even imagine being up here in a storm.

152

00:10:58,000 --> 00:11:00,000

You are supposed to untie that rope there.

153

00:11:01,000 --> 00:11:02,000

Okay, untied.

154

00:11:03,000 --> 00:11:04,000

Can I get out of here now?

155

00:11:04,000 --> 00:11:05,000

Yes, you can come down.

156

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

Okay, I'm coming down.

157

00:11:07,000 --> 00:11:10,000

I carefully descend down the ropes and get back to the deck,

158

00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:13,000

and with knots untied, we're ready to sail.

159

00:11:17,000 --> 00:11:28,000

How about that? That's as good as you say, else.

160

00:11:48,000 --> 00:11:52,000

According to Columbus' calculations, he can sail west and reach the coast of China,

161

00:11:52,000 --> 00:11:54,000

and technically, he's right.

162

00:11:54,000 --> 00:11:59,000

But what he and nobody else in Europe knows is that the world is bigger than they thought,

163

00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:04,000

and that two entire continents and a lot of islands are standing in his way.

164

00:12:04,000 --> 00:12:08,000

And on October 11, 1492, after many waterlogged weeks at sea,

165

00:12:08,000 --> 00:12:10,000

Columbus finally spots land.

166

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

Actually, one of his crew members does, but Columbus takes the credit.

167

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

Ego.

168

00:12:15,000 --> 00:12:20,000

Ricardo and other experts believe the first sighting was probably of San Salvador in the Caribbean.

169

00:12:20,000 --> 00:12:25,000

And then, over the next two and a half months, a perplexed Columbus explores small islands,

170

00:12:25,000 --> 00:12:29,000

and then the coast of Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic,

171

00:12:29,000 --> 00:12:34,000

all the while desperately looking for some indication that this is Asia.

172

00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:41,000

In the process, he discovers coffee, sugar, and spices, but no sign of gold, pearls, or China.

173

00:12:41,000 --> 00:12:44,000

I have to say, being out here, it really gives me an idea.

174

00:12:44,000 --> 00:12:47,000

It really gives me an idea of how hard this must have been,

175

00:12:47,000 --> 00:12:51,000

and how brave you'd have to be to set sail on a voyage like that.

176

00:12:51,000 --> 00:12:56,000

Even nowadays, it's not any sailor that can take about a ship like this and sail to America.

177

00:12:56,000 --> 00:13:00,000

If anything happened to these guys, nobody was coming for them.

178

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

No. On the voyage over, he didn't lose a single man.

179

00:13:04,000 --> 00:13:07,000

Which, you know, in those days is quite rare.

180

00:13:07,000 --> 00:13:08,000

Yeah, it's an accomplishment.

181

00:13:08,000 --> 00:13:14,000

They had a lot of confidence in Columbus' ability to sail, to navigate.

182

00:13:16,000 --> 00:13:18,000

Alright, well, it looks like we're getting a little weather coming in here.

183

00:13:18,000 --> 00:13:19,000

Yes, yes.

184

00:13:19,000 --> 00:13:23,000

So we can either go back to port or we can go to the New World. What do you want to do?

185

00:13:23,000 --> 00:13:25,000

I think for today, it's better to go back to port.

186

00:13:25,000 --> 00:13:27,000

Smart man, let's go. Sail this thing.

187

00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:33,000

This replica has one advantage over its namesake. It still floats.

188

00:13:33,000 --> 00:13:36,000

The original Santa Maria sank accidentally.

189

00:13:37,000 --> 00:13:38,000

Or did it?

190

00:13:39,000 --> 00:13:42,000

There are new theories about what really happened to the ship,

191

00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:44,000

and shocking revelations about her captain.

192

00:13:44,000 --> 00:13:48,000

To learn the truth, I need to follow Columbus' path to the New World.

193

00:13:52,000 --> 00:13:58,000

It's pretty wild to be flying over the same ocean that Columbus traversed hundreds of years ago.

194

00:13:58,000 --> 00:14:04,000

You know, it took him and his crew more than a month to sail down there in really tough conditions.

195

00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:08,000

Today, in a modern jetliner, we make the trip in about ten hours,

196

00:14:08,000 --> 00:14:11,000

and you get to watch old two-and-a-half men episodes.

197

00:14:12,000 --> 00:14:16,000

So, maybe it was better on Columbus' ship.

198

00:14:16,000 --> 00:14:20,000

It's 3,500 miles from this island to my destination on another.

199

00:14:20,000 --> 00:14:21,000

Haiti.

200

00:14:28,000 --> 00:14:30,000

Haiti is a nation born of hope.

201

00:14:30,000 --> 00:14:34,000

Founded in 1804 by former slaves, he threw off their shackles

202

00:14:34,000 --> 00:14:36,000

and seized their freedom from the French.

203

00:14:36,000 --> 00:14:41,000

This was the first black republic in the world with an astounding cultural legacy

204

00:14:41,000 --> 00:14:46,000

and historic treasures which reveal a past filled with wealth and pride.

205

00:14:47,000 --> 00:14:51,000

Unfortunately, none of this is what Haiti is known for.

206

00:14:56,000 --> 00:14:57,000

Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

207

00:14:58,000 --> 00:15:02,000

This is, generally speaking, not a place that many tourists visit these days.

208

00:15:02,000 --> 00:15:03,000

I've never been here.

209

00:15:03,000 --> 00:15:05,000

In fact, I don't think I know anyone who's been here.

210

00:15:05,000 --> 00:15:08,000

Haiti is not just synonymous with poverty.

211

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

It redefines it.

212

00:15:09,000 --> 00:15:12,000

Though it is closer to Miami than Washington, D.C.,

213

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

it exists in an entirely different world.

214

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

For the past hundred years, the Haitian people have been victims of endemic corruption and foreign meddling.

215

00:15:22,000 --> 00:15:25,000

Port-au-Prince is a capital city of over a million people

216

00:15:25,000 --> 00:15:30,000

that lacks reliable infrastructure, sanitation, and in some cases, buildings.

217

00:15:32,000 --> 00:15:36,000

It has been five years since a massive earthquake leveled much of the capital,

218

00:15:36,000 --> 00:15:41,000

taking with it at least 100,000 people and more than a quarter of a million homes.

219

00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:44,000

Since then, a lot has been done.

220

00:15:44,000 --> 00:15:46,000

A lot hasn't been done.

221

00:15:46,000 --> 00:15:49,000

And there's a real sense here in the city that people are unsure

222

00:15:49,000 --> 00:15:51,000

what's going to happen next.

223

00:15:51,000 --> 00:15:56,000

Perhaps the only thing that pulled through the earthquake stronger than before was capitalism.

224

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

Haiti is a country constantly on the make,

225

00:15:59,000 --> 00:16:02,000

and every man, woman, and child has to sell to survive.

226

00:16:05,000 --> 00:16:06,000

Hey, guys.

227

00:16:06,000 --> 00:16:07,000

How are you?

228

00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:09,000

How you doing?

229

00:16:09,000 --> 00:16:10,000

So what is this?

230

00:16:10,000 --> 00:16:12,000

This is bootlegging.

231

00:16:12,000 --> 00:16:13,000

Bootlegging.

232

00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:15,000

This is a power line.

233

00:16:15,000 --> 00:16:17,000

And this is now a cell phone charging station.

234

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

Can I top up?

235

00:16:19,000 --> 00:16:21,000

Do we have a charger for him?

236

00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:24,000

We got it.

237

00:16:24,000 --> 00:16:25,000

Got it.

238

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

And it's charging.

239

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

It's charging.

240

00:16:27,000 --> 00:16:30,000

So basically this is a power line, and they've cut into it,

241

00:16:30,000 --> 00:16:33,000

and it directly attached cell phone chargers.

242

00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:36,000

It's like cutting out the wall socket.

243

00:16:36,000 --> 00:16:38,000

How long do these things take to charge?

244

00:16:41,000 --> 00:16:44,000

500 years ago, Haiti didn't yet exist.

245

00:16:44,000 --> 00:16:49,000

On Christmas Eve of 1492, the Santa Maria sailed along her northern coast.

246

00:16:49,000 --> 00:16:51,000

Columbus, according to his log,

247

00:16:51,000 --> 00:16:54,000

hands the tiller to a crewman and goes to sleep.

248

00:16:57,000 --> 00:17:01,000

That crewman leaves the Santa Maria in the hands of a young boy.

249

00:17:01,000 --> 00:17:04,000

It's like letting your 12-year-old pilot the space shuttle.

250

00:17:05,000 --> 00:17:07,000

Which is why, on early Christmas morning,

251

00:17:07,000 --> 00:17:11,000

one of the world's greatest navigators crashes into a reef off northern Haiti.

252

00:17:15,000 --> 00:17:19,000

A tragic mistake.

253

00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:20,000

Or was it?

254

00:17:20,000 --> 00:17:23,000

Columbus' journals were often filled with misdirection.

255

00:17:23,000 --> 00:17:25,000

The wreck and what happens after

256

00:17:25,000 --> 00:17:28,000

could reveal the darkest secrets about Columbus.

257

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

But in order to learn them,

258

00:17:30,000 --> 00:17:33,000

we need to find the greatest lost ship in history.

259

00:17:44,000 --> 00:17:48,000

At Haiti's National Museum, I meet with director of conservation, Camille Louis,

260

00:17:48,000 --> 00:17:51,000

who shows me a breathtaking connection to the mystery.

261

00:17:51,000 --> 00:17:54,000

So tell me about this incredible artifact.

262

00:17:54,000 --> 00:17:58,000

It's anchor. It's from the Santa Maria.

263

00:17:58,000 --> 00:18:00,000

This is the anchor from Columbus' flagship?

264

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

Absolutely.

265

00:18:01,000 --> 00:18:03,000

Was the anchor found in the water?

266

00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:06,000

No. It was found on Earth.

267

00:18:09,000 --> 00:18:11,000

The anchor, one of six aboard the Santa Maria,

268

00:18:11,000 --> 00:18:13,000

was discovered in the year 1700,

269

00:18:13,000 --> 00:18:17,000

rusting in a plantation field near the northern village of Limanada.

270

00:18:17,000 --> 00:18:20,000

The question is, how did it end up so far inland?

271

00:18:20,000 --> 00:18:22,000

We have one theory.

272

00:18:22,000 --> 00:18:25,000

Because at the time when we had this shipwreck,

273

00:18:25,000 --> 00:18:29,000

they used all the roots from the Santa Maria to build a fort.

274

00:18:29,000 --> 00:18:31,000

Not even that.

275

00:18:32,000 --> 00:18:36,000

After the Santa Maria runs aground on Christmas morning of 1492,

276

00:18:36,000 --> 00:18:38,000

Columbus makes a shocking decision.

277

00:18:38,000 --> 00:18:41,000

Before the boat sinks, he orders the deck timbers stripped

278

00:18:41,000 --> 00:18:45,000

and hauled on shore to build a fort that he names La Navidad.

279

00:18:45,000 --> 00:18:48,000

He commands that 39 men whose ride home has crashed

280

00:18:48,000 --> 00:18:51,000

will stay behind until Columbus can return.

281

00:18:53,000 --> 00:18:55,000

Has the fort itself ever been found?

282

00:18:55,000 --> 00:18:59,000

Well, we had some missions, but unfortunately not yet.

283

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

The government's current missions to find La Navidad

284

00:19:03,000 --> 00:19:07,000

may be my best opportunity to unravel the mystery of the Santa Maria.

285

00:19:07,000 --> 00:19:10,000

Find the fort, and the rest of the boat,

286

00:19:10,000 --> 00:19:13,000

along with the truth about Columbus, will be revealed.

287

00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:22,000

Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

288

00:19:22,000 --> 00:19:25,000

I'm on my way north to where Christopher Columbus wrecked his flagship

289

00:19:25,000 --> 00:19:27,000

and where its anchor was found.

290

00:19:27,000 --> 00:19:29,000

But if I'm going to join archaeologists in their search,

291

00:19:29,000 --> 00:19:31,000

I've got a long drive ahead of me.

292

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:34,000

The anchor was found far north of Port-au-Prince,

293

00:19:34,000 --> 00:19:36,000

the second largest city, Capatian.

294

00:19:40,000 --> 00:19:43,000

When you think of the Caribbean, you don't really think of mountains,

295

00:19:43,000 --> 00:19:46,000

but in fact, Haiti is very mountainous.

296

00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:49,000

Tallest peak on the island is almost 9,000 feet.

297

00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:51,000

And to get from Port-au-Prince up to Capatian,

298

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

we have to go over the top.

299

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

In Haiti, no matter the time of day,

300

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

there are people walking along the road.

301

00:19:57,000 --> 00:20:00,000

So driving is dangerous for both me and them.

302

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

Fortunately, I only have to hit the brakes once,

303

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

and it's for this.

304

00:20:07,000 --> 00:20:09,000

Who's the best?

305

00:20:09,000 --> 00:20:11,000

Guess people love.

306

00:20:11,000 --> 00:20:13,000

Let me see your moves, man. Let me see your moves.

307

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

What do you got?

308

00:20:14,000 --> 00:20:16,000

I mean, I can't just let this be a spectator sport.

309

00:20:16,000 --> 00:20:18,000

I'm coming in.

310

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

Come on, slow it down, dude!

311

00:20:22,000 --> 00:20:24,000

Get out of here!

312

00:20:24,000 --> 00:20:27,000

Come on! We got this! We got this!

313

00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:28,000

Come on!

314

00:20:28,000 --> 00:20:31,000

Man, you gotta slow that down. You gotta slow that down, man.

315

00:20:33,000 --> 00:20:35,000

Slow that down, man.

316

00:20:40,000 --> 00:20:42,000

Okay, I need a rest now.

317

00:20:43,000 --> 00:20:45,000

Even with the double Dutch break,

318

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

it takes six hours over twisting roads

319

00:20:47,000 --> 00:20:50,000

to go only 150 miles to the North Shore.

320

00:20:51,000 --> 00:20:54,000

Columbus' journals place the wreck of the Santa Maria

321

00:20:54,000 --> 00:20:56,000

near a reef off the coast,

322

00:20:56,000 --> 00:20:59,000

and recently, one American explorer claimed to find it.

323

00:21:03,000 --> 00:21:06,000

To find out if he did, I'll need a guide.

324

00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:08,000

And in Northern Haiti, looking for shipwrecks

325

00:21:08,000 --> 00:21:11,000

brings you to one man, Jean-Claude Dichmar.

326

00:21:11,000 --> 00:21:12,000

Bonjour.

327

00:21:12,000 --> 00:21:13,000

Bonjour.

328

00:21:13,000 --> 00:21:14,000

How are you?

329

00:21:14,000 --> 00:21:15,000

I'm good. You ready to go out?

330

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

Yeah, of course.

331

00:21:16,000 --> 00:21:17,000

Okay, let's do it.

332

00:21:17,000 --> 00:21:20,000

Don't let his age fool you. Jean-Claude is a machine.

333

00:21:20,000 --> 00:21:23,000

He's been documenting wrecks in Haiti for 40 years

334

00:21:23,000 --> 00:21:26,000

and even worked alongside Cousteau aboard the Calypso.

335

00:21:26,000 --> 00:21:28,000

This guy is full Steve Zizou.

336

00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:31,000

This is for me? Captain?

337

00:21:31,000 --> 00:21:32,000

Souvenir, Captain.

338

00:21:32,000 --> 00:21:33,000

Captain Adriel.

339

00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:34,000

I'm Arnaud.

340

00:21:41,000 --> 00:21:43,000

Most of the known shipwrecks in this area

341

00:21:43,000 --> 00:21:45,000

were discovered by Jean-Claude,

342

00:21:45,000 --> 00:21:48,000

but there's one that has eluded his grasp.

343

00:21:48,000 --> 00:21:49,000

How many wrecks out here?

344

00:21:49,000 --> 00:21:51,000

257.

345

00:21:51,000 --> 00:21:53,000

257?

346

00:21:53,000 --> 00:21:54,000

Right here.

347

00:22:02,000 --> 00:22:05,000

In 2013, famed American explorer Barry Clifford

348

00:22:05,000 --> 00:22:09,000

found a wreck nearby that he claimed was the Santa Maria.

349

00:22:09,000 --> 00:22:11,000

Case closed? Hardly.

350

00:22:11,000 --> 00:22:15,000

Since the wreck is so old, most of what's left are ballast stones.

351

00:22:15,000 --> 00:22:18,000

Large rocks used to stabilize the boat.

352

00:22:18,000 --> 00:22:22,000

Many disagreed with Clifford's claim, including Jean-Claude.

353

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

So how many years have you been looking for the Santa Maria?

354

00:22:25,000 --> 00:22:26,000

About 15 years.

355

00:22:26,000 --> 00:22:27,000

15 years.

356

00:22:27,000 --> 00:22:29,000

The boat that everybody talked about in the news

357

00:22:29,000 --> 00:22:31,000

with Barry Clifford, that boat.

358

00:22:31,000 --> 00:22:32,000

Is that the Santa Maria?

359

00:22:32,000 --> 00:22:33,000

I don't think so.

360

00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:34,000

No.

361

00:22:34,000 --> 00:22:35,000

So you think it's still out there?

362

00:22:35,000 --> 00:22:36,000

Yeah.

363

00:22:36,000 --> 00:22:37,000

Yeah.

364

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

Where do you think the reef is that the Santa Maria hit?

365

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

Not of capacean. Capacean is here, not of chair.

366

00:22:43,000 --> 00:22:44,000

So somewhere off here?

367

00:22:44,000 --> 00:22:45,000

Somewhere off here.

368

00:22:45,000 --> 00:22:46,000

And you can see reef, like right here, right?

369

00:22:46,000 --> 00:22:47,000

Yeah.

370

00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:48,000

That's reef. That's reef.

371

00:22:48,000 --> 00:22:49,000

Right here.

372

00:22:49,000 --> 00:22:50,000

Lots of reef.

373

00:22:50,000 --> 00:22:51,000

So many places for him to wreck?

374

00:22:51,000 --> 00:22:52,000

Over there.

375

00:22:52,000 --> 00:22:53,000

Over there? Over there?

376

00:22:53,000 --> 00:22:54,000

Over there.

377

00:22:54,000 --> 00:22:55,000

It's not easy, right?

378

00:22:55,000 --> 00:22:56,000

No.

379

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

And now the verdict seems to be in.

380

00:22:58,000 --> 00:23:04,000

Recently, UN experts studied the find and declared that the wreck isn't old enough to be the lost ship.

381

00:23:07,000 --> 00:23:10,000

Jean-Claude has two new leads on possible wrecks,

382

00:23:10,000 --> 00:23:15,000

both from the local fishermen who've had their lines snagged on something just off the coast.

383

00:23:20,000 --> 00:23:22,000

The old-sized medium BC.

384

00:23:22,000 --> 00:23:25,000

Because when you look at me, you think medium.

385

00:23:28,000 --> 00:23:35,000

I'm down at the bottom.

386

00:23:35,000 --> 00:23:37,000

Visibility is about 10 feet.

387

00:23:46,000 --> 00:23:50,000

Under the surface is the world's greatest undiscovered museum.

388

00:23:50,000 --> 00:23:55,000

The remains of untold ships swept into these reefs by erratic currents.

389

00:23:55,000 --> 00:23:59,000

It doesn't take long before we see what shredded the local fishermen's nets,

390

00:23:59,000 --> 00:24:03,000

jagged metal rising up from the ocean floor.

391

00:24:04,000 --> 00:24:07,000

There's definitely something down here.

392

00:24:10,000 --> 00:24:12,000

Oh my God, look at that!

393

00:24:12,000 --> 00:24:14,000

There's a huge wreck down here.

394

00:24:14,000 --> 00:24:17,000

It's absolutely massive.

395

00:24:26,000 --> 00:24:28,000

Under the waves off the northern coast of Haiti,

396

00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:32,000

expert diver Jean-Claude Dichmar and I have been scouring the sea floor

397

00:24:32,000 --> 00:24:36,000

for evidence of Christopher Columbus's lost ship, the Santa Maria.

398

00:24:36,000 --> 00:24:40,000

What we find is almost beyond description.

399

00:24:41,000 --> 00:24:43,000

Oh my God, look at that!

400

00:24:47,000 --> 00:24:50,000

There's a huge wreck down here.

401

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

It's massive.

402

00:24:54,000 --> 00:24:58,000

It looks like the ship is wrapped in pieces on the reef.

403

00:24:59,000 --> 00:25:01,000

The hull is steel.

404

00:25:03,000 --> 00:25:06,000

This is not all the wreck must have been later.

405

00:25:07,000 --> 00:25:11,000

The wreck is both far too large and far too modern to be the Santa Maria.

406

00:25:12,000 --> 00:25:16,000

It's more likely a 20th century cargo freighter that hit the same reef

407

00:25:16,000 --> 00:25:19,000

Columbus smashed into 500 years earlier.

408

00:25:19,000 --> 00:25:23,000

And as I soon discover, there may be more here than meets the eye.

409

00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:45,000

These are ancient amphoras, ceramic vessels that date back centuries.

410

00:25:49,000 --> 00:25:51,000

Over here.

411

00:25:52,000 --> 00:25:54,000

It's a cannon!

412

00:25:54,000 --> 00:25:56,000

We got a cannon!

413

00:26:01,000 --> 00:26:06,000

Crusted over by time and the elements is the barrel of a historic cannon.

414

00:26:09,000 --> 00:26:12,000

System. System's in trouble.

415

00:26:12,000 --> 00:26:15,000

This is a cannon from the 1500s.

416

00:26:15,000 --> 00:26:18,000

It and the rest of this wreck has never been documented.

417

00:26:20,000 --> 00:26:24,000

However, the cannon doesn't match the type aboard Columbus's ship.

418

00:26:24,000 --> 00:26:28,000

This is likely a weapon from about 50 to 100 years later

419

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

when other explorers followed in Columbus's wake.

420

00:26:34,000 --> 00:26:36,000

I'm turning to the surface.

421

00:26:36,000 --> 00:26:40,000

I head to the surface, speechless at having been able to find something so historic.

422

00:26:44,000 --> 00:26:46,000

How was it?

423

00:26:46,000 --> 00:26:49,000

For me, this was the dive of a lifetime.

424

00:26:49,000 --> 00:26:51,000

For Jean-Claude, it's Tuesday.

425

00:26:51,000 --> 00:26:53,000

The hunt continues.

426

00:26:58,000 --> 00:27:02,000

It turns out that not everyone is looking in the same place.

427

00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:07,000

One historian has proposed a new theory that could turn everything we know about Columbus upside down.

428

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

I'm meeting with him in Haiti's second largest city.

429

00:27:16,000 --> 00:27:18,000

This is Cape Haitian.

430

00:27:18,000 --> 00:27:21,000

At one point, this was the richest city in the Caribbean.

431

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

Today, it is a brightly colored maze of streets, equal parts charm and chaos.

432

00:27:32,000 --> 00:27:35,000

Cape Haitian is a city waiting for a comeback.

433

00:27:35,000 --> 00:27:38,000

Look past the chipped paint and the faded signs.

434

00:27:38,000 --> 00:27:42,000

Underneath, this place is absolutely alive.

435

00:27:42,000 --> 00:27:45,000

Oh yeah! I got it!

436

00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:49,000

I got it!

437

00:27:49,000 --> 00:27:51,000

Okay, nice work. High five.

438

00:27:55,000 --> 00:28:01,000

Columbus was so obsessed with shimmering gold that he hardly noticed some of the island's natural riches.

439

00:28:01,000 --> 00:28:06,000

In his logs, he described walking right past natives who were drying out leaves.

440

00:28:06,000 --> 00:28:12,000

If he'd bothered to investigate, he could have been the richest man in the world by introducing tobacco to Europe.

441

00:28:12,000 --> 00:28:16,000

So, as the first European to set foot in the new world,

442

00:28:16,000 --> 00:28:20,000

Columbus tried to chronicle all of the things that he found here.

443

00:28:20,000 --> 00:28:25,000

He tried to describe a fruit that had never been seen by anybody in Europe at this point.

444

00:28:25,000 --> 00:28:29,000

He didn't have a name for it. Today, we know it is pineapple.

445

00:28:32,000 --> 00:28:36,000

I'm pulled away from the fun when I get a call on my emergency satellite phone.

446

00:28:36,000 --> 00:28:40,000

This thing doesn't ring often, and when it does, it's for a reason.

447

00:28:43,000 --> 00:28:46,000

I'm gonna need a minute.

448

00:28:51,000 --> 00:28:54,000

Just found out that I'm gonna be a dad.

449

00:28:54,000 --> 00:28:56,000

Oh my god!

450

00:28:56,000 --> 00:28:58,000

Yeah!

451

00:29:06,000 --> 00:29:09,000

It's gonna take a few minutes for my brain to reboot.

452

00:29:09,000 --> 00:29:12,000

In fact, I'll let you know when it finishes.

453

00:29:12,000 --> 00:29:16,000

Well, new life in the new world.

454

00:29:16,000 --> 00:29:18,000

Look at that.

455

00:29:18,000 --> 00:29:21,000

Okay, Josh, get it together. There's no crying in exploration.

456

00:29:27,000 --> 00:29:30,000

So far, all of the people searching for the ship

457

00:29:30,000 --> 00:29:35,000

have based their work on Columbus' own logs and maps, sources that are suspect.

458

00:29:35,000 --> 00:29:39,000

But what if Columbus changed more than just a few numbers in his log?

459

00:29:39,000 --> 00:29:42,000

What if he lied about the event altogether?

460

00:29:47,000 --> 00:29:50,000

I meet historian Manuel Rosa, who has a groundbreaking new theory

461

00:29:50,000 --> 00:29:54,000

that could literally change every history textbook in the world.

462

00:29:55,000 --> 00:29:56,000

Manuel.

463

00:29:56,000 --> 00:29:57,000

Hey, Josh. Good to meet you.

464

00:29:57,000 --> 00:29:58,000

Nice to meet you too. How are you?

465

00:29:58,000 --> 00:29:59,000

Good.

466

00:29:59,000 --> 00:30:02,000

I'm told that when it comes to Columbus, you're a man with a lot of info.

467

00:30:02,000 --> 00:30:05,000

Yeah, 24 years of research in Columbus and uncovered a lot of dirt.

468

00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:07,000

Okay, so how do we understand him?

469

00:30:07,000 --> 00:30:10,000

If you really want to listen to Columbus, you have to retrace his route.

470

00:30:10,000 --> 00:30:12,000

Retrace his route. Let's do it. Come on.

471

00:30:15,000 --> 00:30:18,000

We head back toward the reef where Columbus supposedly wrecked.

472

00:30:18,000 --> 00:30:21,000

But Manuel paints a very different picture of the event.

473

00:30:22,000 --> 00:30:24,000

Orient me a little bit. Where are we?

474

00:30:24,000 --> 00:30:26,000

Okay, so we're in the Bay of Cape Aetian.

475

00:30:26,000 --> 00:30:29,000

Columbus called it Mount Curry Butter, which is that high peak there.

476

00:30:29,000 --> 00:30:35,000

And on December 24th, 1492, he says that Santa Maria was roughly in this area

477

00:30:35,000 --> 00:30:37,000

before he went to sleep.

478

00:30:37,000 --> 00:30:42,000

If it's true, then we would be sitting right near the spot where his flagship was lost.

479

00:30:42,000 --> 00:30:47,000

Columbus had already seen and charted the massive reef that buffets this side of the island

480

00:30:47,000 --> 00:30:50,000

and spent time anchoring inside of it where it was calm.

481

00:30:50,000 --> 00:30:55,000

Yet according to his logs, he smashed into it from the ocean side in the dead of night.

482

00:30:56,000 --> 00:30:58,000

You have a different version of this story.

483

00:30:58,000 --> 00:31:00,000

Oh yes, because none of it made any sense.

484

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

The whole scenario about the Santa Maria racking on this reef is false.

485

00:31:05,000 --> 00:31:08,000

He was an expert mariner. He knew where he was every hour of the day.

486

00:31:08,000 --> 00:31:10,000

He knew exactly where he was going.

487

00:31:10,000 --> 00:31:16,000

Manuel finds it inconceivable that Columbus would have fallen asleep with the ship outside the deadly reef.

488

00:31:16,000 --> 00:31:19,000

Even I have to admit, it does seem weird.

489

00:31:19,000 --> 00:31:22,000

Instead, he thinks he wrecked the boat on purpose.

490

00:31:22,000 --> 00:31:23,000

But why?

491

00:31:23,000 --> 00:31:27,000

Columbus wanted to leave the Santa Maria behind.

492

00:31:27,000 --> 00:31:30,000

So when he got to Spain, he had a reason to return.

493

00:31:30,000 --> 00:31:34,000

Because if everybody made it back to Spain safe and sound, there was no reason to return.

494

00:31:34,000 --> 00:31:38,000

So he had to leave a reason to force a second voyage.

495

00:31:38,000 --> 00:31:40,000

And then he invented the whole story about the ship racking.

496

00:31:41,000 --> 00:31:49,000

According to Columbus, the timbers from the ship were pulled ashore to make a fort, La Navidad, where he left 39 of his men behind.

497

00:31:53,000 --> 00:32:01,000

And you don't think there's any possibility that Columbus just screwed up, was in the wrong place when he went to sleep and wrecked the ship?

498

00:32:01,000 --> 00:32:07,000

No. You see, Columbus was like a tool to me. It was a genius at sailing. Everything he did was very well planned.

499

00:32:07,000 --> 00:32:08,000

Right.

500

00:32:08,000 --> 00:32:11,000

And this is why you should question everything you've been told.

501

00:32:11,000 --> 00:32:13,000

Where do we look for the Santa Maria?

502

00:32:13,000 --> 00:32:18,000

You're going to look for it near a river, which he said there was, where they can get fresh water.

503

00:32:18,000 --> 00:32:22,000

Somewhere where it's easy to drag up on shore, so it has to be, you know, flat beach.

504

00:32:22,000 --> 00:32:28,000

And then in a place that's going to be easily defended against, you know, possibly with water on two sides.

505

00:32:28,000 --> 00:32:30,000

So you think that's where the Santa Maria ended up?

506

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

Yes, it is. I think we should go look for it.

507

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

Okay. Let's go find it.

508

00:32:35,000 --> 00:32:42,000

According to Manuel's research, we're quickly approaching the area he believes the remains of the Santa Maria were pulled ashore.

509

00:32:42,000 --> 00:32:43,000

Okay. Hi guys.

510

00:32:43,000 --> 00:32:47,000

To get into the shallows, we hitch a ride with some local fishermen.

511

00:32:51,000 --> 00:32:55,000

This is it. This is where Columbus arrived over 500 years ago.

512

00:32:55,000 --> 00:32:56,000

100 years ago.

513

00:33:03,000 --> 00:33:09,000

We make landfall and immediately set up our equipment to find any metallic remnants that hail from the Santa Maria.

514

00:33:10,000 --> 00:33:16,000

Okay. So chances are the coast would have been further in during Columbus' time.

515

00:33:16,000 --> 00:33:18,000

It really is needle in a haystack territory.

516

00:33:18,000 --> 00:33:19,000

Sure.

517

00:33:19,000 --> 00:33:20,000

But that's okay.

518

00:33:21,000 --> 00:33:23,000

We got something here.

519

00:33:23,000 --> 00:33:24,000

No, here.

520

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

Something there for sure.

521

00:33:37,000 --> 00:33:39,000

That's a big hit.

522

00:33:39,000 --> 00:33:41,000

Something right here.

523

00:33:43,000 --> 00:33:44,000

What is this?

524

00:33:51,000 --> 00:33:59,000

Researcher Manuel Rosa and I are searching for evidence to support his radical new theory that the Santa Maria's demise was no accident.

525

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

Something right here.

526

00:34:09,000 --> 00:34:10,000

Here we go. There it is.

527

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

Yeah, a piece of pipe.

528

00:34:13,000 --> 00:34:16,000

It looks very old, very worn, but this could literally be from any way.

529

00:34:16,000 --> 00:34:18,000

Sure. It could also be from the Santa Maria.

530

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

You never know, right?

531

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

We need a little bit more than that.

532

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

So let's keep exploring.

533

00:34:24,000 --> 00:34:27,000

Like everywhere else in Haiti, you're never alone for very long.

534

00:34:27,000 --> 00:34:31,000

A local farmer takes notice of our work and comes over to chat.

535

00:34:37,000 --> 00:34:42,000

We're looking for the remains of something wooden or like pieces of metal.

536

00:34:45,000 --> 00:34:46,000

You have?

537

00:34:48,000 --> 00:34:49,000

This way. Please.

538

00:35:02,000 --> 00:35:03,000

Oh, look at that.

539

00:35:03,000 --> 00:35:05,000

Oh my God. Look at that.

540

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

That is a cannon.

541

00:35:11,000 --> 00:35:12,000

It's metal.

542

00:35:12,000 --> 00:35:13,000

That's metal, all right.

543

00:35:14,000 --> 00:35:15,000

Just out here in the open.

544

00:35:15,000 --> 00:35:19,000

There's probably either the remains of a fort here or the remains of a ship.

545

00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:20,000

You know?

546

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

Yes, it didn't float here on the waves.

547

00:35:21,000 --> 00:35:24,000

Right. We know that Columbus did have cannons on the Santa Maria, right?

548

00:35:24,000 --> 00:35:26,000

Yes, he left some cannons behind.

549

00:35:26,000 --> 00:35:30,000

At least he would have had to leave at least one because when he returned on the second voyage,

550

00:35:30,000 --> 00:35:34,000

and he's out here in the bay trying to meet up with the people who left back at Navidad,

551

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

they fired a cannon from the Ninha.

552

00:35:39,000 --> 00:35:42,000

And they were expecting a reply from Navidad and that reply never came.

553

00:35:42,000 --> 00:35:46,000

And they began to suspect that something had happened to the people he left behind.

554

00:35:46,000 --> 00:35:50,000

So what do you think? Could we be looking at the cannon from the Santa Maria?

555

00:35:50,000 --> 00:35:54,000

No, I would say that they probably left behind a small cannon.

556

00:35:54,000 --> 00:35:56,000

They wouldn't have left something this big.

557

00:35:56,000 --> 00:35:58,000

I would say this looks later, wouldn't you?

558

00:35:58,000 --> 00:36:00,000

Yeah, and I don't think Santa Maria had cannons this big anyway.

559

00:36:00,000 --> 00:36:02,000

Yeah, this looks huge.

560

00:36:02,000 --> 00:36:07,000

The cannon is too large for the Santa Maria, but it is likely from a Spanish fort,

561

00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:10,000

established here after Columbus' second voyage,

562

00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:14,000

and yet it remains totally unexcavated, sinking in the mud.

563

00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:16,000

It's a piece of history, you know?

564

00:36:16,000 --> 00:36:20,000

Though it may not be from that fort, it is part of the history that followed.

565

00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:21,000

Exactly.

566

00:36:21,000 --> 00:36:23,000

This is probably just the tip of the iceberg here.

567

00:36:23,000 --> 00:36:27,000

Sure, with a good archaeologist, they might find quite a few things around here,

568

00:36:27,000 --> 00:36:29,000

valuable things for the history of Haiti.

569

00:36:29,000 --> 00:36:33,000

It's just incredible to think that you can come to a place like this

570

00:36:33,000 --> 00:36:37,000

and you can actually come upon something that is still sitting where it was left.

571

00:36:37,000 --> 00:36:39,000

Thank you very much, Missy.

572

00:36:39,000 --> 00:36:40,000

Missy.

573

00:36:48,000 --> 00:36:53,000

Nearby, there's a Haitian archaeologist who's taking a different approach to the mystery.

574

00:36:53,000 --> 00:36:57,000

He too thinks the key to locating the Santa Maria is to find her remains on land,

575

00:36:57,000 --> 00:36:59,000

that he's searching just down the coast.

576

00:36:59,000 --> 00:37:03,000

I walk into town to link up with him, that is, if I don't get hit by a bus.

577

00:37:03,000 --> 00:37:05,000

Hi, how are you doing?

578

00:37:05,000 --> 00:37:06,000

How you doing, man?

579

00:37:06,000 --> 00:37:07,000

Good.

580

00:37:07,000 --> 00:37:08,000

It's a busy intersection to meet at.

581

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:12,000

Yes, it is, but you know it's a light spot because we need to catch a ride.

582

00:37:12,000 --> 00:37:13,000

Catch a ride?

583

00:37:13,000 --> 00:37:14,000

Oh, we have to catch this one.

584

00:37:14,000 --> 00:37:15,000

That's it?

585

00:37:15,000 --> 00:37:16,000

Okay.

586

00:37:16,000 --> 00:37:20,000

To get there, we're taking public transportation, and in Haiti, there's no bus stops.

587

00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:24,000

Wow, we made it.

588

00:37:30,000 --> 00:37:37,000

Like most things in Haiti, the Tap Tap system is totally unregulated.

589

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

This is the action up here.

590

00:37:39,000 --> 00:37:41,000

Can you feel the breeze there?

591

00:37:41,000 --> 00:37:42,000

Yeah, this is great.

592

00:37:42,000 --> 00:37:45,000

This is what it's all about.

593

00:37:47,000 --> 00:37:51,000

Each truck fits about a dozen people, and when you're ready to bail, you just tap the roof.

594

00:37:55,000 --> 00:37:56,000

Tap tap.

595

00:37:56,000 --> 00:37:57,000

Yes, here we go.

596

00:37:57,000 --> 00:37:58,000

We're here.

597

00:37:58,000 --> 00:37:59,000

Okay.

598

00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:08,000

We arrive at our stop and make our way on foot toward a field where Alain is certain that the remains of La Navidad will be found.

599

00:38:08,000 --> 00:38:11,000

The only question for him is, will it be found today?

600

00:38:20,000 --> 00:38:24,000

I didn't expect that the search for Columbus' ship would lead to a field.

601

00:38:25,000 --> 00:38:28,000

But we call this place Embasaline.

602

00:38:28,000 --> 00:38:29,000

Embasaline?

603

00:38:29,000 --> 00:38:30,000

Yes.

604

00:38:30,000 --> 00:38:35,000

Embasaline is the name of an ancient settlement of indigenous people known as the Taíno.

605

00:38:35,000 --> 00:38:43,000

Contrary to the myth that Columbus discovered the New World, when his three ships arrived in the Caribbean, the islands were positively swarming with life.

606

00:38:43,000 --> 00:38:49,000

By some estimates, there were more than one million Taíno living in the islands off North America.

607

00:38:49,000 --> 00:39:01,000

When the ship of Santa Maria went on the bay of Cartesian, the tribe was there to receive Christopher Columbus.

608

00:39:04,000 --> 00:39:06,000

How was he received by the Taíno people?

609

00:39:06,000 --> 00:39:15,000

The chief of the Taíno village received him, I would say, as a king.

610

00:39:15,000 --> 00:39:19,000

To the Taíno, Columbus and his crew may as well be gods.

611

00:39:19,000 --> 00:39:24,000

They are skinned, huge ships, and the Taíno have never even seen metal before.

612

00:39:24,000 --> 00:39:29,000

At first contact, one of them innocently grabs the blade of a sword and draws blood.

613

00:39:29,000 --> 00:39:32,000

A prophetic moment for what is to come.

614

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

Columbus is welcomed warmly and leaves 39 men in La Navidad surrounded by the Taíno.

615

00:39:39,000 --> 00:39:45,000

When he returns 11 months later, the fort will be destroyed and all the men will be dead.

616

00:39:45,000 --> 00:39:49,000

What happens in those 11 months to sour the relationship?

617

00:39:49,000 --> 00:39:56,000

Finding La Navidad may be the key to learning the truth and what role Columbus played in the death of his men.

618

00:39:57,000 --> 00:39:59,000

And you think that that fort could be here?

619

00:39:59,000 --> 00:40:05,000

Absolutely. It may take time, but I think we can find it.

620

00:40:05,000 --> 00:40:09,000

It's incredible to think that this pivotal moment in history may have happened right near here.

621

00:40:09,000 --> 00:40:11,000

It's in this area.

622

00:40:14,000 --> 00:40:20,000

Elaine is systematically excavating the fields near the location where Columbus' anchor was found.

623

00:40:24,000 --> 00:40:27,000

Alright, Columbus, come on. Where's your boat?

624

00:40:30,000 --> 00:40:34,000

We spend hours in the 95 degree heat digging up portions of the field.

625

00:40:34,000 --> 00:40:37,000

Archaeologically speaking, it's a treasure trove.

626

00:40:39,000 --> 00:40:42,000

Everywhere we put a shovel, we get something.

627

00:40:42,000 --> 00:40:44,000

Watch out, it's a false stone.

628

00:40:44,000 --> 00:40:45,000

Stop, stop, stop.

629

00:40:47,000 --> 00:40:49,000

Look at that. Seashell.

630

00:40:49,000 --> 00:40:51,000

So you find a lot of those here, yeah?

631

00:40:51,000 --> 00:40:54,000

Yes, we found a lot of seashells there.

632

00:40:55,000 --> 00:40:57,000

The seashells here are telling.

633

00:40:57,000 --> 00:41:03,000

Their presence means that they were brought inland and that this was a settlement, perhaps even La Navidad itself.

634

00:41:04,000 --> 00:41:05,000

Let's go.

635

00:41:14,000 --> 00:41:16,000

Once it up, once it up.

636

00:41:16,000 --> 00:41:18,000

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. Right there.

637

00:41:26,000 --> 00:41:31,000

Down here is where the bones Christopher Columbus were capped for centuries.

638

00:41:31,000 --> 00:41:33,000

You feel 100% confident that he's here.

639

00:41:33,000 --> 00:41:35,000

I don't believe it. I know it.

640

00:41:35,000 --> 00:41:37,000

This could be Christopher Columbus.

641

00:41:37,000 --> 00:41:38,000

Yeah.

642

00:41:45,000 --> 00:41:47,000

Come on, let's get out of here.

643

00:41:49,000 --> 00:41:51,000

We're just getting knocked down.

644

00:41:55,000 --> 00:41:57,000

Guys, come here.