

1

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

Welcome to Eldorado.

2

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

Oh my God.

3

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

The Spanish came here because they believed that it was full of gold.

4

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

Right, they didn't find this Eldorado in the south, so they believed come up here.

5

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

How many burials have you found here?

6

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

120.

7

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

Look at that.

8

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

We got a cave, look at this.

9

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

That's just gonna get way, way worse.

10

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

Holy s\*\*\*, this is madness.

11

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

Almost there!

12

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

Woo!

13

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

Look at this.

14

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

This is a lost city.

15

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

What is that?

16

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

It's gold.

17

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

Yeah.

18

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

That is amazing!

19

00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:13,000

Eldorado.

20

00:01:13,000 --> 00:01:17,000

It is a legend both dazzling and deadly.

21

00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:23,000

For centuries, thousands of Spanish conquistadors vanished into the jungles of South America

22

00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:26,000

in pursuit of a secret city made of gold.

23

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

Laying waste to entire indigenous civilizations.

24

00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:34,000

But what actually inspired the legend?

25

00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:38,000

Were there really golden treasures and hidden cities?

26

00:01:38,000 --> 00:01:42,000

And if so, is there more out there waiting to be found?

27

00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:46,000

The country of Columbia is ground zero for the Eldorado myth,

28

00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:51,000

and now modern explorers there are making incredible new discoveries.

29

00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:57,000

One archaeologist is mounting a search for a forgotten cave

30

00:01:57,000 --> 00:02:01,000

where Columbia's greatest golden prize was found.

31

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

Another team is excavating the tombs of a powerful civilization

32

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

near Columbia's mysterious Stonehenge.

33

00:02:09,000 --> 00:02:12,000

Meanwhile, deep in the untamed rainforest,

34

00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:17,000

cutting edge technology has revealed a massive network of lost structures

35

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

that have never been explored.

36

00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:23,000

Can they be reached? And what secrets will they reveal?

37

00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:28,000

To untangle the myth of Eldorado,

38

00:02:28,000 --> 00:02:32,000

I'm embarking on my own quest for both truth and treasure,

39

00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:37,000

where the chances for discovery and danger are as good as gold.

40

00:02:40,000 --> 00:02:42,000

My name is Josh Gates.

41

00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:43,000

Hello!

42

00:02:43,000 --> 00:02:44,000

Explorer.

43

00:02:45,000 --> 00:02:46,000

Adventure.

44

00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:47,000

This is sick!

45

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

And a guy who ends up in some very strange situation.

46

00:02:51,000 --> 00:02:52,000

Oh, s\*\*\*!

47

00:02:52,000 --> 00:02:53,000

That was exciting.

48

00:02:53,000 --> 00:02:57,000

With a degree in archaeology and a passion for the unexplained,

49

00:02:57,000 --> 00:02:59,000

I travel to the ends of the earth,

50

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

investigating the greatest legends in history.

51

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

Now let's punch it!

52

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

This is Expedition Unknown.

53

00:03:13,000 --> 00:03:14,000

Wheels down Bogota.

54

00:03:14,000 --> 00:03:17,000

Columbia's colorful, chaotic capital.

55

00:03:17,000 --> 00:03:21,000

The city is perched nearly 9,000 feet above sea level,

56

00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:24,000

with views that will literally take your breath away.

57

00:03:25,000 --> 00:03:26,000

Oh!

58

00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:27,000

Thank you.

59

00:03:27,000 --> 00:03:28,000

Gryffindor!

60

00:03:35,000 --> 00:03:38,000

Before I trek into the depths of the jungle in search of Eldorado,

61

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

I stop for one last indulgence.

62

00:03:41,000 --> 00:03:42,000

Gracias.

63

00:03:42,000 --> 00:03:44,000

This is Chocolate Santa Farino,

64

00:03:44,000 --> 00:03:46,000

which is hot chocolate and cheese,

65

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

a classic Colombian comfort food, I'm told.

66

00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:55,000

Yep, it's great.

67

00:03:56,000 --> 00:03:57,000

It's official.

68

00:03:57,000 --> 00:03:59,000

Two things I would never combined in my life.

69

00:03:59,000 --> 00:04:02,000

I should have been putting together this whole time.

70

00:04:02,000 --> 00:04:03,000

Amazing.

71

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

The uses.

72

00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:07,000

When you tell people you're traveling to Colombia,

73

00:04:07,000 --> 00:04:09,000

everybody asks the same question.

74

00:04:09,000 --> 00:04:10,000

Is it safe?

75

00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:11,000

And hey, fair enough.

76

00:04:11,000 --> 00:04:14,000

After all, for decades, this country was caught in the crosshairs

77

00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:17,000

between right-wing paramilitary groups,

78

00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:18,000

left-wing guerrillas,

79

00:04:18,000 --> 00:04:21,000

and some seriously well-armed drug cartels.

80

00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:23,000

But then, things got better.

81

00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:29,000

In 2016, an historic agreement between the government

82

00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:32,000

and insurgent rebels led to a ceasefire,

83

00:04:32,000 --> 00:04:34,000

and a Nobel Peace Prize.

84

00:04:35,000 --> 00:04:38,000

And hey, kidnappings are down by 92%, so...

85

00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:40,000

you know, that's good.

86

00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:48,000

The country has quickly become a hotspot

87

00:04:48,000 --> 00:04:50,000

for adventure travelers, and I'm one of them.

88

00:04:50,000 --> 00:04:52,000

Here to begin my quest for the truth

89

00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:55,000

behind the legendary City of Gold.

90

00:04:55,000 --> 00:04:58,000

Okay, so to understand the myth of Eldorado,

91

00:04:58,000 --> 00:05:01,000

we have got to talk about the history of the city.

92

00:05:01,000 --> 00:05:03,000

And so to understand the myth of Eldorado,

93

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

we have got to talk about the founder of Bogota,

94

00:05:06,000 --> 00:05:09,000

Spanish conquistador Gonzalo Jiménez de Quisada,

95

00:05:09,000 --> 00:05:11,000

whose statue is right behind me.

96

00:05:14,000 --> 00:05:15,000

Right.

97

00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:17,000

Uh, about that.

98

00:05:19,000 --> 00:05:21,000

Okay, so we happen to have touched down

99

00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:23,000

at a slightly...what's the word?

100

00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:24,000

Dynamic time.

101

00:05:32,000 --> 00:05:36,000

A few weeks ago, demonstrations erupted across Colombia.

102

00:05:48,000 --> 00:05:51,000

These protests were originally about taxes,

103

00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:53,000

but they have taken on a life of their own.

104

00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:55,000

It's like Occupy Wall Street.

105

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

People are rising up against corruption,

106

00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:01,000

calling for peace, and generally fighting

107

00:06:01,000 --> 00:06:04,000

economic disparity here in Colombia.

108

00:06:04,000 --> 00:06:07,000

Many of the injustices that Colombians are fighting today

109

00:06:07,000 --> 00:06:09,000

started with the Spanish,

110

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

which is why protesters tore down that statue of de Quisada.

111

00:06:13,000 --> 00:06:15,000

And to see the bigger picture,

112

00:06:15,000 --> 00:06:17,000

we've got to turn back the clock.

113

00:06:21,000 --> 00:06:23,000

Christopher Columbus.

114

00:06:23,000 --> 00:06:24,000

You remember him?

115

00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:27,000

After bumping into the Caribbean while searching for China,

116

00:06:27,000 --> 00:06:30,000

he returned to Spain with reports of a new world,

117

00:06:30,000 --> 00:06:33,000

which ushered in the era of exploration,

118

00:06:33,000 --> 00:06:35,000

and more accurately, exploitation.

119

00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:38,000

Meet the conquistadors.

120

00:06:40,000 --> 00:06:42,000

Hernán Cortés.

121

00:06:42,000 --> 00:06:44,000

He arrives in Mexico in 1519,

122

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

and through some very careful diplomacy,

123

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

lays waste to the Aztec Empire.

124

00:06:50,000 --> 00:06:54,000

In 1526, this jackwad Francisco Pizarro

125

00:06:54,000 --> 00:06:56,000

decimates the Inca Empire in Peru.

126

00:06:56,000 --> 00:06:59,000

Then there's De Soto, who went looking for a route to China

127

00:06:59,000 --> 00:07:01,000

in the southern United States, go figure,

128

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

and Ponce de Leon, who thought the fountain of youth was in Florida.

129

00:07:04,000 --> 00:07:06,000

Alright, maybe he was only half wrong.

130

00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:08,000

And those are just a few of the Spaniards.

131

00:07:08,000 --> 00:07:12,000

Portuguese conquistadors called Bandirantes snatch up Brazil,

132

00:07:12,000 --> 00:07:16,000

and old world invaders fan out across the continent like a virus,

133

00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:18,000

all in the name of their kings.

134

00:07:18,000 --> 00:07:21,000

Oh, and for God. They're also doing this for God.

135

00:07:22,000 --> 00:07:25,000

In the end, the conquistadors kill an estimated 8,000 people

136

00:07:25,000 --> 00:07:29,000

more than 80% of the indigenous population.

137

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

And fueling their rampage are the vast quantities

138

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

of gold and silver they discover.

139

00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:38,000

They melt it down to mint coins and decorate churches,

140

00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:42,000

and ship more than 180 tons of gold back to Spain.

141

00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:47,000

In today's prices, that's worth about \$450 billion.

142

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

Which brings us back to our man in Bogota.

143

00:07:55,000 --> 00:07:57,000

Dick Hisado wanted in on the action.

144

00:07:57,000 --> 00:08:01,000

So in 1536, he mounted an expedition to Colombia.

145

00:08:02,000 --> 00:08:06,000

What he saw inspired a legend that would sow destruction

146

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

and change the course of history.

147

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

That somewhere, there was a secret city entirely made of gold.

148

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

El Dorado.

149

00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:21,000

This is the closest thing to El Dorado contained within four walls,

150

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

the Museum of Gold in Bogota.

151

00:08:26,000 --> 00:08:29,000

Home to 55,000 glittering artifacts,

152

00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:31,000

the treasures the Spanish never found.

153

00:08:31,000 --> 00:08:34,000

And the crown jewel of the collection is a masterpiece

154

00:08:34,000 --> 00:08:37,000

of ancient metalwork, the golden raft.

155

00:08:37,000 --> 00:08:40,000

It depicts a mysterious ceremony that may be the key

156

00:08:40,000 --> 00:08:43,000

to unlocking the truth about El Dorado.

157

00:08:45,000 --> 00:08:49,000

To learn more, I need to meet the people who made it, the Muisca.

158

00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:54,000

I drive 50 miles from Bogota into the foothills of the Andes

159

00:08:54,000 --> 00:08:56,000

and a place called Cecile.

160

00:08:57,000 --> 00:09:00,000

This area is sacred to the Muisca people.

161

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

So I recruited an old friend who spent years

162

00:09:03,000 --> 00:09:05,000

earning the trust of their tribal leaders.

163

00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:08,000

Ash!

164

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

How are you?

165

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

Good to see you.

166

00:09:10,000 --> 00:09:11,000

How are you doing?

167

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

Great, thank you.

168

00:09:12,000 --> 00:09:13,000

Great to see you.

169

00:09:13,000 --> 00:09:15,000

What the hell has the Scotsman doing in the middle of Colombia?

170

00:09:15,000 --> 00:09:17,000

Just like you, Satchin Feraldo.

171

00:09:17,000 --> 00:09:18,000

Really?

172

00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:19,000

Really.

173

00:09:19,000 --> 00:09:22,000

Last time I saw explorer and author Ashley Cowie,

174

00:09:22,000 --> 00:09:25,000

we were searching for gold in his native Scotland.

175

00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:28,000

Okay, so El Dorado.

176

00:09:28,000 --> 00:09:29,000

You want to see it?

177

00:09:29,000 --> 00:09:30,000

Don't want to see El Dorado?

178

00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:31,000

See El Dorado.

179

00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:33,000

Yes, you know where it is?

180

00:09:33,000 --> 00:09:34,000

I can take you to show you El Dorado,

181

00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:36,000

but we're going to introduce you to some people first.

182

00:09:36,000 --> 00:09:38,000

Okay, if it's this easy, sure.

183

00:09:38,000 --> 00:09:39,000

Come on, let's go.

184

00:09:39,000 --> 00:09:40,000

Let's go.

185

00:09:40,000 --> 00:09:41,000

We're on foot, yeah?

186

00:09:41,000 --> 00:09:42,000

We're up here, Josh.

187

00:09:42,000 --> 00:09:43,000

Oh boy.

188

00:09:43,000 --> 00:09:45,000

Everything in Colombia is hills.

189

00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:49,000

After trudging up a steep jungle path,

190

00:09:49,000 --> 00:09:51,000

we emerge into another world.

191

00:09:51,000 --> 00:09:52,000

Wow.

192

00:09:53,000 --> 00:09:55,000

Look at this place.

193

00:09:56,000 --> 00:09:57,000

Amazing.

194

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

This is astounding.

195

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

I feel like we've traveled back in time here.

196

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

We truly have traveled back in time.

197

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

Is all of this Moisica?

198

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

This is a Moisica community, Josh.

199

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

They're called the Sesquili community.

200

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

The basic religious beliefs of these people are what?

201

00:10:13,000 --> 00:10:16,000

The Moisicas believed that a creator entity

202

00:10:16,000 --> 00:10:18,000

known as Chimini Gaga

203

00:10:18,000 --> 00:10:21,000

created first the sun and then the moon,

204

00:10:21,000 --> 00:10:22,000

and they were married.

205

00:10:22,000 --> 00:10:24,000

Chimini Gaga can't be worshipped directly.

206

00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:26,000

He was too holy.

207

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

So the Moisica people worshipped him

208

00:10:28,000 --> 00:10:30,000

through the sun and the moon.

209

00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:32,000

I've seen a lot of gold.

210

00:10:33,000 --> 00:10:36,000

So this would have been offered up to these gods?

211

00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:40,000

The Museum of Gold in Bogota has 55,000 pieces.

212

00:10:40,000 --> 00:10:42,000

They reckon that represents about 5%

213

00:10:42,000 --> 00:10:44,000

of what the Moiscas gave to their gods.

214

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

So where are we going?

215

00:10:46,000 --> 00:10:48,000

We're going to the top part of this hill.

216

00:10:48,000 --> 00:10:50,000

We're going to the temple of the sun,

217

00:10:50,000 --> 00:10:52,000

which is like the last place we have to go to get permission

218

00:10:52,000 --> 00:10:55,000

to enter the most sacred landscape in Colombia.

219

00:10:55,000 --> 00:10:57,000

If you think about it, it's like walking through the doorway

220

00:10:57,000 --> 00:10:59,000

to the El Dorado myth.

221

00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:01,000

Let's open the door. Come on.

222

00:11:03,000 --> 00:11:05,000

At the summit of the hill,

223

00:11:05,000 --> 00:11:07,000

we find a large ceremonial structure

224

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

and a friend of Ashley's.

225

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

This is Candil. He's the leader of the community here.

226

00:11:12,000 --> 00:11:13,000

Mucho gusto.

227

00:11:13,000 --> 00:11:15,000

Welcome to the temple of the sun.

228

00:11:15,000 --> 00:11:17,000

Please come inside.

229

00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:23,000

But the door to El Dorado doesn't just swing open.

230

00:11:23,000 --> 00:11:27,000

To gain access, I need to be accepted by the community.

231

00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:31,000

What he's going to do is a clearing ceremony, if you like.

232

00:11:31,000 --> 00:11:33,000

To ask the gods for permission,

233

00:11:33,000 --> 00:11:36,000

we're going to share a healing medicine.

234

00:11:36,000 --> 00:11:38,000

He's going to give us tobacco,

235

00:11:38,000 --> 00:11:40,000

which is going to clear the way for us

236

00:11:40,000 --> 00:11:44,000

to allow the spirit of the sun god to come into us.

237

00:11:53,000 --> 00:11:55,000

Soaked in a dizzying haze of smoke,

238

00:11:55,000 --> 00:11:59,000

the shaman blows finely ground snuff called rapé up our noses,

239

00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:02,000

using a traditional bone pipe or tepi.

240

00:12:07,000 --> 00:12:10,000

The snuff is meant to induce a relaxed state

241

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

for the next step of the purification trial.

242

00:12:17,000 --> 00:12:19,000

A cleansing offering.

243

00:12:20,000 --> 00:12:24,000

These pieces of cotton are from the youngest leader of the community.

244

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

The left represents a negative and the right is a positive.

245

00:12:27,000 --> 00:12:30,000

He's telling us to concentrate all of the negative energies

246

00:12:30,000 --> 00:12:33,000

we've ever had into this piece of cotton.

247

00:12:37,000 --> 00:12:41,000

People are always telling me to stop balling up my negative energy,

248

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

but in this case, it's all about letting it go.

249

00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:52,000

Now we're going to place these in the fire.

250

00:12:52,000 --> 00:12:56,000

So we're asking for the good positive energies to be fertilized into our life

251

00:12:56,000 --> 00:12:59,000

and for the old negative energies to be burned away.

252

00:13:07,000 --> 00:13:09,000

One final test remains.

253

00:13:09,000 --> 00:13:12,000

A fermented corn drink called chicha is passed around.

254

00:13:12,000 --> 00:13:15,000

Made by chewing and spitting out corn kernels,

255

00:13:15,000 --> 00:13:18,000

chicha is a sacred and boozy backwash.

256

00:13:19,000 --> 00:13:20,000

There you go.

257

00:13:20,000 --> 00:13:23,000

This is maize and moiscus alive, a judge.

258

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

It's fermented for a long time, so it's really strong.

259

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

It's going to hit you where it counts.

260

00:13:36,000 --> 00:13:41,000

To outsiders like me, chicha is challenging, but it's also an honor.

261

00:13:41,000 --> 00:13:46,000

And in the smoke, the centuries seemed to waft away to a time before conquest,

262

00:13:46,000 --> 00:13:50,000

when the Muisca were the guardians of this sacred landscape.

263

00:13:55,000 --> 00:13:57,000

Permission is granted.

264

00:13:58,000 --> 00:14:02,000

Candille escorts us from the temple of the sun

265

00:14:02,000 --> 00:14:05,000

to the ceremonial heart of the Muisca people.

266

00:14:07,000 --> 00:14:10,000

Josh, welcome. Tell Dorado.

267

00:14:10,000 --> 00:14:11,000

Oh my God.

268

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

This is absolutely breathtaking.

269

00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:23,000

There's no other word for it, Josh.

270

00:14:23,000 --> 00:14:26,000

And without this lake, there would be no Eldorado legend.

271

00:14:26,000 --> 00:14:30,000

Muisca leader Carlos Candille and explorer Ashley Cowie

272

00:14:30,000 --> 00:14:33,000

explain that the Eldorado legend started with a ritual

273

00:14:33,000 --> 00:14:36,000

that took place in Lake Guadavida.

274

00:14:36,000 --> 00:14:39,000

The golden raft in the museum of Bogota

275

00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:43,000

depicts an actual golden raft that was used here at Guadavida, Josh.

276

00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:46,000

That golden man standing on the raft

277

00:14:46,000 --> 00:14:48,000

with all of his attendants around him,

278

00:14:48,000 --> 00:14:50,000

that was the golden man.

279

00:14:50,000 --> 00:14:54,000

To the Muisca, Lake Guadavida was their holiest site,

280

00:14:54,000 --> 00:14:58,000

where thousands would gather to witness the ascension of their ruler,

281

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

known as the Zipa.

282

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

When the Zipa came here to become king,

283

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

they would cover him in gold.

284

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

This plant here, when you mush it up, becomes like a glue

285

00:15:08,000 --> 00:15:10,000

that was put all over the man's body.

286

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

Then he was put on the raft,

287

00:15:14,000 --> 00:15:16,000

and then he was put on the raft

288

00:15:16,000 --> 00:15:18,000

and then he was put on the raft.

289

00:15:19,000 --> 00:15:22,000

Then he was covered with golden powder.

290

00:15:24,000 --> 00:15:27,000

The raft is loaded with gold figurines,

291

00:15:27,000 --> 00:15:30,000

and it's pushed out into the middle of the lake.

292

00:15:30,000 --> 00:15:32,000

And when it gets there,

293

00:15:32,000 --> 00:15:35,000

the sun is shining on that king to be.

294

00:15:38,000 --> 00:15:40,000

He dives off into the lake.

295

00:15:41,000 --> 00:15:44,000

At that point, he is the golden man.

296

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

The golden man.

297

00:15:48,000 --> 00:15:50,000

The golden man.

298

00:15:52,000 --> 00:15:54,000

So, the golden man,

299

00:15:54,000 --> 00:15:56,000

or the golden man.

300

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

The golden man originally is a man,

301

00:15:59,000 --> 00:16:01,000

is a king, a leader.

302

00:16:01,000 --> 00:16:03,000

So how do we go from a man,

303

00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:05,000

the golden man,

304

00:16:05,000 --> 00:16:07,000

to the golden man, a city of gold?

305

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

It seems like a huge leap.

306

00:16:09,000 --> 00:16:11,000

It's like a game of telephone, Josh.

307

00:16:11,000 --> 00:16:13,000

The first conquistadors come here and find bits of gold,

308

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

and they know that there's gold in these landscapes.

309

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

Right.

310

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

They hear about a golden man,

311

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

then it becomes a golden village,

312

00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:23,000

and there actually is records of people looking for golden villages.

313

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

Right.

314

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

Then it becomes the golden city.

315

00:16:25,000 --> 00:16:27,000

And an early call in the game of telephone

316

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

that turned a golden man into a golden city

317

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

was placed by our toppled conquistador back in Bogota,

318

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

Gonzalo Jimenez de Quisada.

319

00:16:36,000 --> 00:16:40,000

In 1536, he leads 900 men into the Colombian Highlands,

320

00:16:40,000 --> 00:16:43,000

where many fall victim to disease and starvation.

321

00:16:43,000 --> 00:16:45,000

Of the original party,

322

00:16:45,000 --> 00:16:48,000

only 170 make it out of the jungle.

323

00:16:48,000 --> 00:16:50,000

Clearly a glutton for punishment.

324

00:16:50,000 --> 00:16:55,000

In 1569, he tries again with similar dire results.

325

00:16:55,000 --> 00:16:58,000

But the survivors of these ill-fated expeditions

326

00:16:58,000 --> 00:17:01,000

return with stories of a treasure trove of offerings

327

00:17:01,000 --> 00:17:03,000

lost in the depths.

328

00:17:03,000 --> 00:17:07,000

Imagine hearing stories of people covering themselves in gold.

329

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

Right.

330

00:17:08,000 --> 00:17:10,000

I mean, you would think,

331

00:17:10,000 --> 00:17:11,000

oh, they must have so much wealth.

332

00:17:11,000 --> 00:17:13,000

They must be so dripping in gold

333

00:17:13,000 --> 00:17:15,000

that they can afford to bathe in it almost.

334

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

Yeah.

335

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

Their imaginations must have gone wild.

336

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

Yeah.

337

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

Gold fever erupts.

338

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

The scene depicted on that ceremonial raft

339

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

launches an armada,

340

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

and waves of conquistadors descend on Lake Guadalupe

341

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

to make their fortune.

342

00:17:30,000 --> 00:17:32,000

So hundreds of years ago,

343

00:17:32,000 --> 00:17:34,000

how would they have tried to get this gold out of the lake?

344

00:17:34,000 --> 00:17:37,000

The first attempt was made in 1545 with wooden buckets.

345

00:17:37,000 --> 00:17:38,000

Wooden buckets, OK?

346

00:17:38,000 --> 00:17:40,000

That's how desperate they were.

347

00:17:40,000 --> 00:17:42,000

They got more ambitious and they did this here.

348

00:17:42,000 --> 00:17:44,000

They cut this ravine into the side of the lake.

349

00:17:44,000 --> 00:17:45,000

Oh, here where it's cut out.

350

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

Yeah, this is a draining hole, George,

351

00:17:47,000 --> 00:17:49,000

where they tried to drain the water out.

352

00:17:49,000 --> 00:17:51,000

It was a disaster.

353

00:17:51,000 --> 00:17:55,000

In 1580, the Spanish drained the lake by 60 feet,

354

00:17:55,000 --> 00:17:58,000

but only recovered half a million dollars worth of gold.

355

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

But they abandoned the project

356

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

when a ravine collapses, killing hundreds of workers.

357

00:18:04,000 --> 00:18:07,000

In the late 1800s, they pumped water out from the central lake

358

00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:09,000

and they got it down to about four feet high.

359

00:18:09,000 --> 00:18:12,000

But of course, the sun was coming through the water,

360

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

and it baked the silt into cement

361

00:18:14,000 --> 00:18:17,000

so they couldn't get through the cement to get to the gold.

362

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

It does seem like every effort to recover gold here

363

00:18:20,000 --> 00:18:21,000

has been kind of cursed.

364

00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:22,000

Without doubt.

365

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

Disasterous attempts to salvage gold from Lake Guadalupe

366

00:18:25,000 --> 00:18:27,000

didn't stop until the Colombian government

367

00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:31,000

declared it a cultural heritage site in 1965.

368

00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:36,000

All these attempts to drain the lake,

369

00:18:36,000 --> 00:18:39,000

to damage this place, to take this gold,

370

00:18:39,000 --> 00:18:42,000

how has that affected the Muisca?

371

00:18:42,000 --> 00:18:45,000

Our community was destroyed by the conquistadors.

372

00:18:45,000 --> 00:18:49,000

We lost our homes and our sacred places.

373

00:18:49,000 --> 00:18:52,000

We could not practice our religion

374

00:18:52,000 --> 00:18:56,000

and forget many of the stories of our grandparents.

375

00:18:56,000 --> 00:18:58,000

First wave was the physical trauma,

376

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

having lost over a million people.

377

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

A horrendous, sisters, brothers, gone, traditions,

378

00:19:03,000 --> 00:19:06,000

songs, music, crafts wiped out.

379

00:19:06,000 --> 00:19:09,000

But then came a spiritual catastrophe.

380

00:19:09,000 --> 00:19:11,000

They had no connection with divinity.

381

00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:15,000

They had no way to listen to the goddess and to the gods.

382

00:19:17,000 --> 00:19:21,000

Now, do you think though there is more gold out there,

383

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

maybe not a gilded city,

384

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

but do you think there is still lost gold,

385

00:19:25,000 --> 00:19:28,000

that elusive thing the Spanish were after?

386

00:19:28,000 --> 00:19:30,000

There's so much more to learn about El Dorado, Josh.

387

00:19:30,000 --> 00:19:33,000

You've seen where the golden raft ceremony took place.

388

00:19:33,000 --> 00:19:34,000

Yes.

389

00:19:34,000 --> 00:19:35,000

But what you really need to see

390

00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:38,000

is where that little golden raft was discovered.

391

00:19:39,000 --> 00:19:41,000

It wasn't discovered around Lake Guadalvita.

392

00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:44,000

It was found about 100 miles from here, Josh.

393

00:19:44,000 --> 00:19:45,000

Really?

394

00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:48,000

Thank you so much for taking us here,

395

00:19:48,000 --> 00:19:50,000

for allowing us to come here, to see this place.

396

00:19:50,000 --> 00:19:52,000

It's really special.

397

00:19:52,000 --> 00:19:54,000

Thank you so much for coming.

398

00:19:54,000 --> 00:19:55,000

Thank you.

399

00:19:56,000 --> 00:19:58,000

From Lake Guadalvita, I journey 100 miles south

400

00:19:58,000 --> 00:20:00,000

to the town of Pasca.

401

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

The location of the cave of the golden raft

402

00:20:04,000 --> 00:20:06,000

is a closely guarded secret.

403

00:20:06,000 --> 00:20:09,000

To discover what other treasures may be hiding inside,

404

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

I'm going to need a guide.

405

00:20:11,000 --> 00:20:14,000

That's where archeologist and expert in Moisica art,

406

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

Dr. Natalia Lazada Mendieta comes in.

407

00:20:16,000 --> 00:20:17,000

Natalia?

408

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

Yes.

409

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

Hey, how are you?

410

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

Hi, Josh.

411

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

Jump in.

412

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

Thank you.

413

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

Nice to meet you.

414

00:20:23,000 --> 00:20:24,000

Nice to meet you too.

415

00:20:24,000 --> 00:20:25,000

Where are we going?

416

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

That's the big question.

417

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

Further into the mountains.

418

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

Further into the mountains?

419

00:20:28,000 --> 00:20:29,000

Yes.

420

00:20:29,000 --> 00:20:30,000

Oh, boy.

421

00:20:30,000 --> 00:20:31,000

Okay.

422

00:20:31,000 --> 00:20:32,000

Yeah, you're going to see where the Moissica rub was found.

423

00:20:32,000 --> 00:20:33,000

I can't wait.

424

00:20:33,000 --> 00:20:34,000

This is amazing.

425

00:20:34,000 --> 00:20:35,000

How are the roads?

426

00:20:35,000 --> 00:20:36,000

Perfect?

427

00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:37,000

Yes.

428

00:20:37,000 --> 00:20:38,000

I've only just met you,

429

00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:40,000

but I sense that you're lying to me.

430

00:20:42,000 --> 00:20:44,000

The conquistadors believe that the roads in El Dorado

431

00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:46,000

were paved with gold.

432

00:20:46,000 --> 00:20:49,000

But where we're going, they're not paved at all.

433

00:20:50,000 --> 00:20:51,000

Okay.

434

00:20:51,000 --> 00:20:53,000

Natalia, you were right.

435

00:20:53,000 --> 00:20:54,000

Great.

436

00:20:54,000 --> 00:20:55,000

It's everything you promised.

437

00:20:55,000 --> 00:20:56,000

I tried to tell you.

438

00:20:56,000 --> 00:20:58,000

How confident are you that you can find this cave?

439

00:20:58,000 --> 00:21:01,000

I mean, I have a rough idea of where it is.

440

00:21:01,000 --> 00:21:02,000

How rough?

441

00:21:02,000 --> 00:21:03,000

It's my first time there.

442

00:21:03,000 --> 00:21:04,000

Yeah.

443

00:21:04,000 --> 00:21:06,000

We're going to try to find it.

444

00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:07,000

Okay.

445

00:21:07,000 --> 00:21:08,000

We're going to go around.

446

00:21:08,000 --> 00:21:10,000

The cave has never been fully investigated,

447

00:21:10,000 --> 00:21:13,000

and its location was nearly forgotten.

448

00:21:13,000 --> 00:21:16,000

Now, we may be one of the first to ever film there,

449

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

if we don't get led astray.

450

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

I'm following these dogs.

451

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

They're leading the way.

452

00:21:27,000 --> 00:21:29,000

I think you have to stop here.

453

00:21:29,000 --> 00:21:30,000

This is it?

454

00:21:30,000 --> 00:21:31,000

Yeah, this is it.

455

00:21:31,000 --> 00:21:33,000

Now, it's up there.

456

00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:35,000

We have to go walking.

457

00:21:35,000 --> 00:21:36,000

I'm sorry, up there?

458

00:21:36,000 --> 00:21:37,000

Yes.

459

00:21:37,000 --> 00:21:39,000

That looks slightly imposing.

460

00:21:41,000 --> 00:21:44,000

I mean, that's about as mysterious of you as you can imagine.

461

00:21:44,000 --> 00:21:45,000

That you can get, yeah.

462

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

I all of a sudden understand why no one knows where this cave is.

463

00:21:48,000 --> 00:21:51,000

There are no trail markers, no landmarks,

464

00:21:51,000 --> 00:21:54,000

just the faint traces of an ancient path.

465

00:21:54,000 --> 00:21:57,000

The cave doesn't want to be found.

466

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

Okay, starting to rain.

467

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

Let's get inside the trees here.

468

00:22:01,000 --> 00:22:02,000

Yeah.

469

00:22:02,000 --> 00:22:04,000

Get rain gear on.

470

00:22:09,000 --> 00:22:10,000

Oh, it is just vertical.

471

00:22:10,000 --> 00:22:11,000

Yeah.

472

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

I mean, it's literally just a vertical ascent.

473

00:22:15,000 --> 00:22:17,000

Whoa, Natalia, you okay?

474

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

Careful with this.

475

00:22:19,000 --> 00:22:21,000

Stick to the roots, not the branches.

476

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

As we climb higher, the dense jungle completely obscures the trail ahead.

477

00:22:31,000 --> 00:22:33,000

Whatever path we had,

478

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

Yes.

479

00:22:34,000 --> 00:22:36,000

feels like it's just about gone.

480

00:22:38,000 --> 00:22:39,000

I have a hunch.

481

00:22:39,000 --> 00:22:40,000

You have a hunch?

482

00:22:40,000 --> 00:22:41,000

Yeah.

483

00:22:41,000 --> 00:22:42,000

Good.

484

00:22:42,000 --> 00:22:43,000

Josh, look at this.

485

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

Look at that.

486

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

A cave.

487

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

Look at this.

488

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

It's huge.

489

00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:49,000

Josh, this is it.

490

00:22:49,000 --> 00:22:51,000

This is awesome.

491

00:22:51,000 --> 00:22:54,000

Very few have ever seen these sacred chambers

492

00:22:54,000 --> 00:22:56,000

where the golden raft was discovered.

493

00:22:57,000 --> 00:22:59,000

Unbelievable.

494

00:22:59,000 --> 00:23:00,000

This is so cool.

495

00:23:01,000 --> 00:23:02,000

Okay, let's see what's in here.

496

00:23:03,000 --> 00:23:04,000

Nice and slow.

497

00:23:07,000 --> 00:23:08,000

This is insane.

498

00:23:08,000 --> 00:23:10,000

This is great.

499

00:23:14,000 --> 00:23:16,000

Do you see anything, Josh?

500

00:23:17,000 --> 00:23:18,000

No, nothing in here.

501

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

Anything over there?

502

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

Nothing yet.

503

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

What is this?

504

00:23:31,000 --> 00:23:32,000

This looks man-made.

505

00:23:32,000 --> 00:23:33,000

Anything over there?

506

00:23:33,000 --> 00:23:34,000

Nothing yet.

507

00:23:35,000 --> 00:23:36,000

What is this?

508

00:23:42,000 --> 00:23:43,000

This looks man-made.

509

00:23:45,000 --> 00:23:49,000

It has that razor-sharp edge that looks like it was worked, like it was made.

510

00:23:49,000 --> 00:23:50,000

It looks like a tool.

511

00:23:50,000 --> 00:23:51,000

It does.

512

00:23:51,000 --> 00:23:52,000

Could have been a scraper.

513

00:23:52,000 --> 00:23:53,000

Totally.

514

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

Potential tool in our hands, right?

515

00:23:54,000 --> 00:23:55,000

You're holding your hands at tool.

516

00:23:55,000 --> 00:23:56,000

Can you see anything?

517

00:23:56,000 --> 00:23:57,000

No.

518

00:23:57,000 --> 00:23:58,000

Nothing.

519

00:23:58,000 --> 00:23:59,000

Nothing.

520

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

Nothing.

521

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

Nothing.

522

00:24:01,000 --> 00:24:03,460

Your hands are tool, a musket tool.

523

00:24:03,460 --> 00:24:04,800

That's incredible.

524

00:24:04,800 --> 00:24:06,600

The idea that we could be holding something here

525

00:24:06,600 --> 00:24:09,640

that was worked by human hands 1500 years ago?

526

00:24:09,640 --> 00:24:10,400

At least.

527

00:24:10,400 --> 00:24:11,480

How crazy is that?

528

00:24:11,480 --> 00:24:13,320

That's exciting.

529

00:24:13,320 --> 00:24:15,400

That's why we do what we do.

530

00:24:15,400 --> 00:24:17,520

Perhaps used for food preparation,

531

00:24:17,520 --> 00:24:19,680

this stone scraper could have been left here

532

00:24:19,680 --> 00:24:22,720

by the very artisans who made the golden raft.

533

00:24:22,720 --> 00:24:24,040

OK, let's see what else is in here.

534

00:24:27,640 --> 00:24:30,000

So many little nooks and crannies in here.

535

00:24:30,000 --> 00:24:30,900

Yeah.

536

00:24:31,460 --> 00:24:33,860

I don't see anything, but a lot more spiders.

537

00:24:40,380 --> 00:24:42,900

So how did this raft get found here?

538

00:24:42,900 --> 00:24:46,820

So it's 1969.

539

00:24:46,820 --> 00:24:48,220

And there are a couple of farmers

540

00:24:48,220 --> 00:24:51,420

that came up to the mountain.

541

00:24:51,420 --> 00:24:54,220

They found a ceramic vessel, and inside of the vessel

542

00:24:54,220 --> 00:24:55,460

there was the musket raft.

543

00:24:56,460 --> 00:24:59,860

And they take the whole thing back to their home

544

00:24:59,860 --> 00:25:03,060

and tell the priests of the town that they have just found this.

545

00:25:03,060 --> 00:25:03,860

Right.

546

00:25:03,860 --> 00:25:06,060

Did these farmers have any idea the significance

547

00:25:06,060 --> 00:25:07,060

of what they found?

548

00:25:07,060 --> 00:25:08,060

Of course they knew it was important,

549

00:25:08,060 --> 00:25:10,060

and that's why they told the priests, right?

550

00:25:10,060 --> 00:25:10,860

Yeah.

551

00:25:10,860 --> 00:25:13,860

They could have kept it, and so we owe them

552

00:25:13,860 --> 00:25:16,260

to have the musket raft right now.

553

00:25:16,260 --> 00:25:20,460

Another part of this story is that so many musket items

554

00:25:20,460 --> 00:25:22,060

were never turned in, right?

555

00:25:22,060 --> 00:25:22,860

Yeah.

556

00:25:22,860 --> 00:25:23,860

There's been a ton of looting.

557

00:25:24,260 --> 00:25:26,660

It's been a major problem, and most of the items

558

00:25:26,660 --> 00:25:29,060

in the gold museum come from looting.

559

00:25:29,060 --> 00:25:32,260

But the biggest looters of all were the conquistadors.

560

00:25:32,260 --> 00:25:35,460

There's probably lots that were lost when the Spaniards came

561

00:25:35,460 --> 00:25:37,660

because they just took the gold, melted,

562

00:25:37,660 --> 00:25:39,860

and brought it back to Spain.

563

00:25:39,860 --> 00:25:43,660

So the Spanish also seemed to have overlooked

564

00:25:43,660 --> 00:25:44,860

the artistry of it.

565

00:25:44,860 --> 00:25:47,660

There was no appreciation for a lot of the mastery

566

00:25:47,660 --> 00:25:49,860

that went into what the muskets were able to make.

567

00:25:49,860 --> 00:25:52,860

So the Spanish gold has monetary value.

568

00:25:52,860 --> 00:25:54,860

To the Muisca, it's in spiritual value.

569

00:25:54,860 --> 00:25:56,860

I mean, that's the key right there.

570

00:25:56,860 --> 00:25:59,860

These two cultures that are completely opposed

571

00:25:59,860 --> 00:26:01,860

in terms of how they think about this stuff.

572

00:26:01,860 --> 00:26:03,860

So the Spanish, this is valuable.

573

00:26:03,860 --> 00:26:04,860

This is money.

574

00:26:04,860 --> 00:26:06,860

They're hiding money from us.

575

00:26:06,860 --> 00:26:08,860

Pretty hard for the Muisca to be able to calculate

576

00:26:08,860 --> 00:26:10,860

the level of greed from the Spanish Empire, though.

577

00:26:10,860 --> 00:26:11,860

True.

578

00:26:11,860 --> 00:26:15,860

And in the end, the Muisca culture was nearly wiped out.

579

00:26:15,860 --> 00:26:19,860

But the raft survived because it was hidden away up here.

580

00:26:20,860 --> 00:26:24,860

Help me understand why the Muisca would put something so beautiful

581

00:26:24,860 --> 00:26:26,860

in such a remote spot.

582

00:26:26,860 --> 00:26:28,860

Mountains, stuff of the mountains,

583

00:26:28,860 --> 00:26:31,860

would be associated to sacred spots.

584

00:26:31,860 --> 00:26:34,860

And the higher up, there are more sacred the art.

585

00:26:34,860 --> 00:26:38,860

It has to do with the sacred land that belongs to the gods.

586

00:26:38,860 --> 00:26:40,860

When we think about El Dorado,

587

00:26:40,860 --> 00:26:43,860

is part of what drives the Spanish to keep searching

588

00:26:43,860 --> 00:26:45,860

deeper and deeper into the mountains?

589

00:26:45,860 --> 00:26:49,860

This very fact that people are concealing offerings

590

00:26:49,860 --> 00:26:52,860

and that some of these amazing glittering items

591

00:26:52,860 --> 00:26:54,860

are out of reach.

592

00:26:54,860 --> 00:26:55,860

Absolutely.

593

00:26:55,860 --> 00:26:56,860

And it might have looked like that,

594

00:26:56,860 --> 00:26:58,860

because of course, the offerings were being made

595

00:26:58,860 --> 00:27:00,860

in remote places like this.

596

00:27:00,860 --> 00:27:01,860

Right.

597

00:27:01,860 --> 00:27:03,860

It gives fuel to this obsession of theirs.

598

00:27:03,860 --> 00:27:04,860

Yes.

599

00:27:04,860 --> 00:27:06,860

As the Spanish went hunting for treasures in the mountains,

600

00:27:06,860 --> 00:27:08,860

but found only isolated offerings,

601

00:27:08,860 --> 00:27:11,860

they became more desperate.

602

00:27:11,860 --> 00:27:14,860

When De Que Sada rode into a new village demanding gold,

603

00:27:14,860 --> 00:27:17,860

the Muisca would attempt to dissuade his men,

604

00:27:17,860 --> 00:27:20,860

telling them the mother load was deeper in the interior.

605

00:27:20,860 --> 00:27:24,860

El Dorado was always just one conquest away.

606

00:27:24,860 --> 00:27:27,860

This belief led De Que Sada away from Lake Guadalupe

607

00:27:27,860 --> 00:27:30,860

and deeper into Muisca territory.

608

00:27:30,860 --> 00:27:33,860

I thank Natalia and follow Que Sada's quest

609

00:27:33,860 --> 00:27:37,860

140 miles northeast to a site called El Invernito,

610

00:27:37,860 --> 00:27:40,860

where archaeologist Pedro Arguello

611

00:27:40,860 --> 00:27:43,860

may have unearthed a treasure of his own.

612

00:27:45,860 --> 00:27:47,860

Hello, hello.

613

00:27:47,860 --> 00:27:48,860

How are you?

614

00:27:48,860 --> 00:27:49,860

How are you? Nice to meet you.

615

00:27:49,860 --> 00:27:50,860

Much gusto.

616

00:27:50,860 --> 00:27:51,860

Nice to meet you too.

617

00:27:51,860 --> 00:27:52,860

I feel like I'm at Stonehenge.

618

00:27:52,860 --> 00:27:53,860

You are, in a way.

619

00:27:53,860 --> 00:27:56,860

It was a solar observatory used by Muisca people.

620

00:27:56,860 --> 00:27:57,860

Wow, okay.

621

00:27:57,860 --> 00:27:59,860

So these stones would align to what?

622

00:27:59,860 --> 00:28:01,860

To mark December 21.

623

00:28:01,860 --> 00:28:03,860

So the winter solstice?

624

00:28:03,860 --> 00:28:04,860

The solstices, yeah.

625

00:28:04,860 --> 00:28:07,860

It helped them to mark the annual cycle

626

00:28:07,860 --> 00:28:11,860

for agriculture and ritual cycles and things like that.

627

00:28:11,860 --> 00:28:13,860

Carved out of pink sandstone

628

00:28:13,860 --> 00:28:15,860

and aligned in two symmetrical rows,

629

00:28:15,860 --> 00:28:17,860

the position of the sun and moon

630

00:28:17,860 --> 00:28:19,860

in relation to these stones

631

00:28:19,860 --> 00:28:21,860

acts as an astrological calendar.

632

00:28:21,860 --> 00:28:25,860

Now, this place, though, today is called El Infernito.

633

00:28:25,860 --> 00:28:26,860

Yeah.

634

00:28:26,860 --> 00:28:28,860

So if I remember my high school Spanish,

635

00:28:28,860 --> 00:28:29,860

that's like the hell, the...

636

00:28:29,860 --> 00:28:30,860

The little hell.

637

00:28:30,860 --> 00:28:31,860

The little hell.

638

00:28:31,860 --> 00:28:32,860

Yeah, the little hell.

639

00:28:32,860 --> 00:28:33,860

So why is it called that?

640

00:28:33,860 --> 00:28:36,860

In some cases, Spaniards used to put these kind of names

641

00:28:36,860 --> 00:28:39,860

to the places where Indians used to make ritual.

642

00:28:39,860 --> 00:28:41,860

So because this is a pagan place,

643

00:28:41,860 --> 00:28:44,860

it's not Christian, to them it was hell, it was evil.

644

00:28:44,860 --> 00:28:45,860

Yeah.

645

00:28:45,860 --> 00:28:47,860

This is like Conquistador rebranding.

646

00:28:47,860 --> 00:28:48,860

Rebranding, yes.

647

00:28:48,860 --> 00:28:49,860

Right.

648

00:28:49,860 --> 00:28:51,860

This northern area was a big power center for the Muisca.

649

00:28:51,860 --> 00:28:53,860

Yeah, according to the Spaniards,

650

00:28:53,860 --> 00:28:56,860

there were two big chieftains,

651

00:28:56,860 --> 00:29:00,860

the Sipa and Sake, one of the north, one in the south.

652

00:29:00,860 --> 00:29:03,860

And the Spanish and the Casada, the Conquistador,

653

00:29:03,860 --> 00:29:05,860

he comes up to the north as well, right?

654

00:29:05,860 --> 00:29:06,860

Yeah, the Spanish came here

655

00:29:06,860 --> 00:29:08,860

because they believed that it was full of gold.

656

00:29:08,860 --> 00:29:10,860

They were told that the gold was in the north.

657

00:29:10,860 --> 00:29:12,860

Right, they didn't find this Eldorado in the south,

658

00:29:12,860 --> 00:29:14,860

so they believed, come up here.

659

00:29:14,860 --> 00:29:15,860

Yeah.

660

00:29:16,860 --> 00:29:18,860

So the Spanish arrive here, what do they do?

661

00:29:18,860 --> 00:29:20,860

They do what they always do.

662

00:29:20,860 --> 00:29:23,860

First, they kidnap the leader and ask for gold.

663

00:29:23,860 --> 00:29:25,860

Right, that's their big move, right?

664

00:29:25,860 --> 00:29:28,860

Kidnap the leader and demand that all this hidden gold

665

00:29:28,860 --> 00:29:29,860

be brought to them.

666

00:29:29,860 --> 00:29:31,860

And so did they bring gold?

667

00:29:31,860 --> 00:29:34,860

Yeah, people bring some gold, but it was not enough.

668

00:29:34,860 --> 00:29:37,860

So they decide to kill the leader.

669

00:29:37,860 --> 00:29:38,860

It's never enough.

670

00:29:38,860 --> 00:29:40,860

It's never enough for this leader.

671

00:29:40,860 --> 00:29:41,860

Right.

672

00:29:42,860 --> 00:29:45,860

De Quezada and his army use every dirty trick

673

00:29:45,860 --> 00:29:48,860

in the Conquistador playbook, ruthless betrayal,

674

00:29:48,860 --> 00:29:51,860

kidnapping, and murder, to take down the Muisca chieftains

675

00:29:51,860 --> 00:29:53,860

in the north and south.

676

00:29:53,860 --> 00:29:57,860

In less than a year, the Muisca Confederation was crushed.

677

00:29:58,860 --> 00:30:01,860

And now, in terms of the archaeology in this area today,

678

00:30:01,860 --> 00:30:02,860

what are you finding?

679

00:30:02,860 --> 00:30:06,860

We have found enormous places with a lot of population.

680

00:30:06,860 --> 00:30:08,860

The places where the elite used to live.

681

00:30:08,860 --> 00:30:09,860

Uh-huh.

682

00:30:09,860 --> 00:30:13,860

We have found the houses, a big burial sites.

683

00:30:13,860 --> 00:30:14,860

Wow.

684

00:30:14,860 --> 00:30:16,860

Actually, we are digging one of them right now,

685

00:30:16,860 --> 00:30:17,860

if you want to see.

686

00:30:17,860 --> 00:30:18,860

I would love that.

687

00:30:22,860 --> 00:30:24,860

We drive to Dr. Argueo's dig site,

688

00:30:24,860 --> 00:30:26,860

an archaeologist's El Dorado,

689

00:30:26,860 --> 00:30:29,860

that may be the most important Muisca discovery

690

00:30:29,860 --> 00:30:31,860

since the golden raft.

691

00:30:31,860 --> 00:30:33,860

I feel like we're going to a university.

692

00:30:33,860 --> 00:30:34,860

It is a university.

693

00:30:34,860 --> 00:30:36,860

The excavations in a university?

694

00:30:36,860 --> 00:30:37,860

Yeah.

695

00:30:37,860 --> 00:30:38,860

Okay.

696

00:30:38,860 --> 00:30:40,860

This makes no sense to me.

697

00:30:44,860 --> 00:30:45,860

So, this is the dig?

698

00:30:45,860 --> 00:30:46,860

This is the dig?

699

00:30:46,860 --> 00:30:47,860

Yeah.

700

00:30:47,860 --> 00:30:50,860

I mean, we are like in the middle of the campus here.

701

00:30:50,860 --> 00:30:51,860

Yeah.

702

00:30:51,860 --> 00:30:53,860

This is crazy.

703

00:31:05,860 --> 00:31:08,860

My quest to untangle the El Dorado myth

704

00:31:08,860 --> 00:31:11,860

has led me to the remains of a Muisca burial site,

705

00:31:11,860 --> 00:31:13,860

miraculously discovered in the heart

706

00:31:13,860 --> 00:31:16,860

of a Colombian university campus.

707

00:31:17,860 --> 00:31:18,860

Like, what was here?

708

00:31:18,860 --> 00:31:19,860

A parking lot.

709

00:31:19,860 --> 00:31:20,860

Literally, this was a parking lot?

710

00:31:20,860 --> 00:31:22,860

Yeah, it was a parking lot.

711

00:31:22,860 --> 00:31:24,860

But underneath it, a Muisca site.

712

00:31:24,860 --> 00:31:26,860

And it is a Muisca site also.

713

00:31:26,860 --> 00:31:28,860

And so, how did you figure out this was here?

714

00:31:28,860 --> 00:31:30,860

Before we build a new building,

715

00:31:30,860 --> 00:31:32,860

we have to make an archaeological discovery.

716

00:31:33,860 --> 00:31:35,860

How many burials have you found here?

717

00:31:35,860 --> 00:31:37,860

120 burials.

718

00:31:37,860 --> 00:31:38,860

120?

719

00:31:38,860 --> 00:31:39,860

Yeah.

720

00:31:39,860 --> 00:31:41,860

Actually, it is one of the largest burial sites

721

00:31:41,860 --> 00:31:43,860

in the Northern Andes.

722

00:31:43,860 --> 00:31:46,860

The Muisca elite were buried with pots of food

723

00:31:46,860 --> 00:31:48,860

and precious gold jewelry,

724

00:31:48,860 --> 00:31:50,860

indicators of their high social status

725

00:31:50,860 --> 00:31:52,860

to ensure a good afterlife.

726

00:31:55,860 --> 00:31:57,860

The Spanish were aware of this practice

727

00:31:57,860 --> 00:31:59,860

and would rob Muisca graves.

728

00:31:59,860 --> 00:32:01,860

But they never found this site.

729

00:32:01,860 --> 00:32:03,860

Hundreds of vessels have been unearthed here.

730

00:32:03,860 --> 00:32:06,860

And now, archaeologists are homing in

731

00:32:06,860 --> 00:32:09,860

on that most elusive prize, gold.

732

00:32:10,860 --> 00:32:11,860

Hola.

733

00:32:11,860 --> 00:32:12,860

Hola.

734

00:32:12,860 --> 00:32:13,860

An introducer a tierna.

735

00:32:13,860 --> 00:32:14,860

Hola, soy Selena.

736

00:32:14,860 --> 00:32:15,860

Arqueologis in design.

737

00:32:15,860 --> 00:32:16,860

Nice to meet you, nice to meet you.

738

00:32:16,860 --> 00:32:19,860

The sifting station, where all the action happens.

739

00:32:19,860 --> 00:32:20,860

Uh-huh.

740

00:32:20,860 --> 00:32:21,860

What are we finding?

741

00:32:21,860 --> 00:32:23,860

Look at this.

742

00:32:25,860 --> 00:32:26,860

Pottery.

743

00:32:26,860 --> 00:32:28,860

Pottery, pottery, incredible.

744

00:32:28,860 --> 00:32:30,860

Literally, just buckets of dirt

745

00:32:30,860 --> 00:32:33,860

and it is just filled with pottery.

746

00:32:33,860 --> 00:32:35,860

It means that people used to live here.

747

00:32:35,860 --> 00:32:38,860

Give me the range of dates on the pottery.

748

00:32:38,860 --> 00:32:40,860

Mil, mil doscientos años.

749

00:32:40,860 --> 00:32:41,860

Wow.

750

00:32:41,860 --> 00:32:43,860

So, a thousand, twelve hundred years ago.

751

00:32:43,860 --> 00:32:44,860

So cool.

752

00:32:44,860 --> 00:32:46,860

Okay, can we see some of the pits?

753

00:32:46,860 --> 00:32:47,860

Of course.

754

00:32:47,860 --> 00:32:48,860

Let's take a look.

755

00:32:48,860 --> 00:32:49,860

Okay.

756

00:32:51,860 --> 00:32:55,860

A nearby burial offers another window into the past.

757

00:32:55,860 --> 00:32:57,860

Hola.

758

00:32:57,860 --> 00:32:58,860

Hola.

759

00:32:58,860 --> 00:32:59,860

¿Cómo estás?

760

00:32:59,860 --> 00:33:00,860

Good morning.

761

00:33:00,860 --> 00:33:01,860

What have we got here?

762

00:33:01,860 --> 00:33:03,860

Oh, this is awesome.

763

00:33:03,860 --> 00:33:04,860

It's vertebrae.

764

00:33:04,860 --> 00:33:05,860

Yeah.

765

00:33:12,860 --> 00:33:15,860

It's a long bone, yeah?

766

00:33:15,860 --> 00:33:16,860

Tibia maybe?

767

00:33:16,860 --> 00:33:17,860

Yes.

768

00:33:17,860 --> 00:33:18,860

Yeah.

769

00:33:18,860 --> 00:33:19,860

Wow.

770

00:33:19,860 --> 00:33:21,860

And then we have this ceramic vessel.

771

00:33:21,860 --> 00:33:24,860

So, each of these pits is a single burial.

772

00:33:24,860 --> 00:33:25,860

See.

773

00:33:25,860 --> 00:33:26,860

See?

774

00:33:26,860 --> 00:33:27,860

It's so extensive.

775

00:33:27,860 --> 00:33:30,860

Were they buried like in a seated position?

776

00:33:30,860 --> 00:33:32,860

Sentado en posición fetal.

777

00:33:32,860 --> 00:33:33,860

Aha, fetal position.

778

00:33:33,860 --> 00:33:36,860

With ceremonial offerings?

779

00:33:36,860 --> 00:33:37,860

Algunas veces.

780

00:33:37,860 --> 00:33:39,860

Aha, sometimes.

781

00:33:39,860 --> 00:33:42,860

Okay, so let's see what else we got.

782

00:33:42,860 --> 00:33:44,860

There is no clear pattern to determine

783

00:33:44,860 --> 00:33:46,860

which Muisca burials hold offerings.

784

00:33:46,860 --> 00:33:48,860

Modern archaeologists are never sure

785

00:33:48,860 --> 00:33:50,860

what they're going to find.

786

00:33:50,860 --> 00:33:52,860

Oh.

787

00:33:53,860 --> 00:33:55,860

This is amazing.

788

00:33:55,860 --> 00:33:58,860

So, we've got what looks like a vessel that's collapsed.

789

00:33:58,860 --> 00:34:01,860

It's a vessel and it is a human bone inside.

790

00:34:01,860 --> 00:34:02,860

In the vessel?

791

00:34:02,860 --> 00:34:03,860

In the vessel.

792

00:34:03,860 --> 00:34:04,860

And this is a child.

793

00:34:04,860 --> 00:34:05,860

Wow.

794

00:34:05,860 --> 00:34:08,860

How many children's burials have you found here?

795

00:34:08,860 --> 00:34:09,860

50.

796

00:34:09,860 --> 00:34:10,860

Yeah, 50.

797

00:34:10,860 --> 00:34:12,860

And why so many children?

798

00:34:12,860 --> 00:34:16,860

It's a good question and we are trying to figure out why.

799

00:34:16,860 --> 00:34:19,860

One intriguing possibility is that children were brought here

800

00:34:19,860 --> 00:34:22,860

for burial from neighboring villages.

801

00:34:22,860 --> 00:34:26,860

So, maybe more evidence here that this really is a significant site.

802

00:34:26,860 --> 00:34:27,860

A holy place.

803

00:34:27,860 --> 00:34:29,860

A holy place, maybe.

804

00:34:29,860 --> 00:34:31,860

Finding any burial is so personal,

805

00:34:31,860 --> 00:34:34,860

but when you find a child's burial, it's kind of emotional,

806

00:34:34,860 --> 00:34:37,860

you know, I mean, such a short life.

807

00:34:37,860 --> 00:34:42,860

But in a way, you know, a thousand years or more later,

808

00:34:42,860 --> 00:34:43,860

kind of living again in a sense

809

00:34:43,860 --> 00:34:46,860

and teaching us about the culture is incredible.

810

00:34:46,860 --> 00:34:47,860

It's incredible.

811

00:34:47,860 --> 00:34:48,860

Yeah.

812

00:34:48,860 --> 00:34:50,860

And even though this is broken,

813

00:34:50,860 --> 00:34:52,860

the preservation here really is remarkable

814

00:34:52,860 --> 00:34:54,860

considering it was all underneath a parking lot.

815

00:34:54,860 --> 00:34:55,860

Yeah.

816

00:34:55,860 --> 00:34:58,860

It is because most of the burials have a slab.

817

00:34:58,860 --> 00:35:01,860

Oh, so there's like, so there was like a capstone over the top.

818

00:35:01,860 --> 00:35:02,860

Uh-huh.

819

00:35:02,860 --> 00:35:04,860

So they would have had this protective cover.

820

00:35:04,860 --> 00:35:08,860

Yes, actually we have a burial that we haven't opened yet.

821

00:35:08,860 --> 00:35:10,860

So we are waiting for you.

822

00:35:10,860 --> 00:35:11,860

A stone you haven't removed?

823

00:35:11,860 --> 00:35:12,860

Yes, of course.

824

00:35:12,860 --> 00:35:13,860

Oh, can we, can we film it?

825

00:35:13,860 --> 00:35:14,860

Come on.

826

00:35:14,860 --> 00:35:16,860

Oh, yes, this is incredible.

827

00:35:17,860 --> 00:35:20,860

Whatever lies inside hasn't seen the light of day

828

00:35:20,860 --> 00:35:22,860

in more than a thousand years.

829

00:35:22,860 --> 00:35:24,860

Ah, here.

830

00:35:24,860 --> 00:35:26,860

This is awesome.

831

00:35:27,860 --> 00:35:28,860

Wow.

832

00:35:28,860 --> 00:35:29,860

Okay, so, do we lift?

833

00:35:29,860 --> 00:35:30,860

Do we flip?

834

00:35:30,860 --> 00:35:31,860

Do we flip?

835

00:35:31,860 --> 00:35:32,860

Do we flip?

836

00:35:32,860 --> 00:35:33,860

Okay.

837

00:35:33,860 --> 00:35:34,860

Are you ready?

838

00:35:34,860 --> 00:35:35,860

One, two, three.

839

00:35:35,860 --> 00:35:36,860

One, two, three.

840

00:35:42,860 --> 00:35:43,860

Definitely a burial.

841

00:35:43,860 --> 00:35:44,860

Yes.

842

00:35:44,860 --> 00:35:46,860

Perfectly round hole here.

843

00:35:46,860 --> 00:35:48,860

So now, what's inside?

844

00:35:48,860 --> 00:35:49,860

This work.

845

00:35:49,860 --> 00:35:50,860

With pleasure.

846

00:35:50,860 --> 00:35:51,860

Stop to work.

847

00:35:51,860 --> 00:35:52,860

Here we go.

848

00:35:52,860 --> 00:35:53,860

Okay.

849

00:35:57,860 --> 00:35:58,860

Here.

850

00:35:58,860 --> 00:36:00,860

Oh, oh, oh, right here.

851

00:36:00,860 --> 00:36:01,860

Right here, look.

852

00:36:01,860 --> 00:36:03,860

Here, look.

853

00:36:03,860 --> 00:36:05,860

Yeah, it's a hole and...

854

00:36:05,860 --> 00:36:06,860

Is it ceramic?

855

00:36:06,860 --> 00:36:07,860

No.

856

00:36:07,860 --> 00:36:09,860

Is it a skull?

857

00:36:09,860 --> 00:36:10,860

Is a skull?

858

00:36:10,860 --> 00:36:11,860

Look at that.

859

00:36:11,860 --> 00:36:12,860

That is a skull.

860

00:36:12,860 --> 00:36:13,860

Yeah.

861

00:36:13,860 --> 00:36:14,860

Can I have a brush?

862

00:36:17,860 --> 00:36:19,860

The skull is perfectly preserved,

863

00:36:19,860 --> 00:36:22,860

having been protected by its capstone.

864

00:36:22,860 --> 00:36:25,860

And until recently, a parking lot.

865

00:36:25,860 --> 00:36:27,860

Look at this.

866

00:36:27,860 --> 00:36:29,860

Oh, no, isn't that a vessel?

867

00:36:29,860 --> 00:36:30,860

It's a vessel.

868

00:36:30,860 --> 00:36:31,860

It is, that ceramic.

869

00:36:31,860 --> 00:36:32,860

Look at that.

870

00:36:36,860 --> 00:36:37,860

Is that intact?

871

00:36:37,860 --> 00:36:38,860

Maybe.

872

00:36:41,860 --> 00:36:42,860

Absolutely incredible.

873

00:36:44,860 --> 00:36:45,860

Is the lip, yeah?

874

00:36:45,860 --> 00:36:47,860

There's the lip of the vessel right there.

875

00:36:47,860 --> 00:36:48,860

Yes.

876

00:36:48,860 --> 00:36:49,860

Look at that.

877

00:36:49,860 --> 00:36:50,860

Look, I'm going to look at this.

878

00:36:50,860 --> 00:36:52,860

As we brush away more dirt,

879

00:36:52,860 --> 00:36:55,860

something unmistakable catches the light.

880

00:36:55,860 --> 00:36:57,860

Oh, wait, wait.

881

00:36:57,860 --> 00:36:59,860

What is that?

882

00:36:59,860 --> 00:37:00,860

Ah!

883

00:37:06,860 --> 00:37:08,860

Out on the streets of Bogota,

884

00:37:08,860 --> 00:37:10,860

I find a rock star rendition

885

00:37:10,860 --> 00:37:12,860

of a popular Colombian dessert.

886

00:37:12,860 --> 00:37:14,860

Mick Jagger owns this stand?

887

00:37:14,860 --> 00:37:15,860

Yes.

888

00:37:15,860 --> 00:37:16,860

He does?

889

00:37:16,860 --> 00:37:17,860

Wow.

890

00:37:17,860 --> 00:37:18,860

That guy is diversified.

891

00:37:21,860 --> 00:37:23,860

Whatever Mr. Jagger recommends.

892

00:37:23,860 --> 00:37:24,860

Gracias.

893

00:37:24,860 --> 00:37:26,860

This is my first obleo.

894

00:37:26,860 --> 00:37:28,860

Way for cookies, dulce de leche,

895

00:37:28,860 --> 00:37:30,860

jam, and chocolate.

896

00:37:30,860 --> 00:37:33,860

Sir Mick has another hit on his hands.

897

00:37:34,860 --> 00:37:35,860

Incredible.

898

00:37:35,860 --> 00:37:36,860

Wow.

899

00:37:36,860 --> 00:37:39,860

It turns out you can get some satisfaction.

900

00:37:39,860 --> 00:37:40,860

Yes.

901

00:37:40,860 --> 00:37:41,860

That's a Rolling Stones joke.

902

00:37:41,860 --> 00:37:42,860

What do you think?

903

00:37:42,860 --> 00:37:43,860

I'm going to be dancing in the street.

904

00:37:43,860 --> 00:37:45,860

I have a few more of these.

905

00:37:45,860 --> 00:37:46,860

They're Rolling Stones.

906

00:37:46,860 --> 00:37:47,860

It doesn't matter.

907

00:37:47,860 --> 00:37:49,860

They're really good.

908

00:37:55,860 --> 00:37:56,860

What is that?

909

00:37:56,860 --> 00:37:57,860

Soto?

910

00:37:57,860 --> 00:37:58,860

Soto. Yeah.

911

00:37:58,860 --> 00:37:59,860

It's gold?

912

00:37:59,860 --> 00:38:00,860

It's gold.

913

00:38:00,860 --> 00:38:01,860

It's gold.

914

00:38:01,860 --> 00:38:02,860

Yeah.

915

00:38:02,860 --> 00:38:03,860

It's a piece of gold.

916

00:38:03,860 --> 00:38:04,860

Unbelievable.

917

00:38:04,860 --> 00:38:05,860

Look at this.

918

00:38:07,860 --> 00:38:08,860

This is incredible.

919

00:38:08,860 --> 00:38:10,860

It's gold and copper, yeah?

920

00:38:10,860 --> 00:38:11,860

Yeah, it's tumbaga.

921

00:38:12,860 --> 00:38:14,860

That is unbelievable.

922

00:38:14,860 --> 00:38:18,860

Tumbaga is a copper and gold alloy made by the Moisca.

923

00:38:18,860 --> 00:38:21,860

Its lower melting point made it easier to work with

924

00:38:21,860 --> 00:38:22,860

than pure gold.

925

00:38:22,860 --> 00:38:25,860

And the presence of copper explains the green patina.

926

00:38:26,860 --> 00:38:28,860

Have you found this in other pits?

927

00:38:28,860 --> 00:38:29,860

No.

928

00:38:29,860 --> 00:38:30,860

No?

929

00:38:30,860 --> 00:38:31,860

No.

930

00:38:31,860 --> 00:38:32,860

Ah, this is awesome.

931

00:38:33,860 --> 00:38:36,860

We carefully remove more soil from around the scone.

932

00:38:37,860 --> 00:38:38,860

Ah, this is incredible.

933

00:38:38,860 --> 00:38:39,860

There's more, two more.

934

00:38:43,860 --> 00:38:44,860

Another here?

935

00:38:44,860 --> 00:38:45,860

Yeah.

936

00:38:45,860 --> 00:38:48,860

So one, two, three, four, five.

937

00:38:48,860 --> 00:38:49,860

What do you think?

938

00:38:49,860 --> 00:38:50,860

I think it's on necklace.

939

00:38:50,860 --> 00:38:53,860

I mean, look at the positioning of it right under the skull.

940

00:38:53,860 --> 00:38:55,860

That is absolutely incredible.

941

00:38:56,860 --> 00:38:58,860

This must have been someone significant, right?

942

00:38:58,860 --> 00:39:01,860

Una persona importante, un líder.

943

00:39:01,860 --> 00:39:02,860

Yeah.

944

00:39:02,860 --> 00:39:06,860

Finally, after hours of painstaking brushing.

945

00:39:06,860 --> 00:39:07,860

More.

946

00:39:07,860 --> 00:39:08,860

More.

947

00:39:08,860 --> 00:39:09,860

Get out of here.

948

00:39:10,860 --> 00:39:14,860

A dozen pyramid-shaped beads are revealed in all their glory.

949

00:39:14,860 --> 00:39:17,860

When this was buried, it would have shined like gold.

950

00:39:17,860 --> 00:39:18,860

Of course.

951

00:39:18,860 --> 00:39:19,860

But over time, it toppers oxidizing.

952

00:39:19,860 --> 00:39:20,860

Yeah.

953

00:39:21,860 --> 00:39:23,860

And is most of the Moisca gold like this?

954

00:39:23,860 --> 00:39:25,860

Most of the cases, yes.

955

00:39:25,860 --> 00:39:28,860

It's so fascinating because when we think of the myth of

956

00:39:28,860 --> 00:39:31,860

El Dorado and the Spanish obsession with the Moisca gold,

957

00:39:31,860 --> 00:39:34,860

we think of pure gold, but it really wasn't.

958

00:39:34,860 --> 00:39:36,860

And why is that?

959

00:39:36,860 --> 00:39:39,860

It's because Moisca people doesn't have mines.

960

00:39:39,860 --> 00:39:42,860

They weren't mining their own gold.

961

00:39:42,860 --> 00:39:45,860

But they were making a lot of things using gold.

962

00:39:45,860 --> 00:39:47,860

So the gold was coming from where?

963

00:39:47,860 --> 00:39:49,860

From the Magdalena Valley.

964

00:39:49,860 --> 00:39:50,860

They were trading for it?

965

00:39:50,860 --> 00:39:51,860

Yeah.

966

00:39:51,860 --> 00:39:54,860

And what would the Moisca use to trade for gold?

967

00:39:54,860 --> 00:39:55,860

Salt.

968

00:39:56,860 --> 00:39:57,860

Salt.

969

00:39:57,860 --> 00:40:00,860

They used to trade gold by doing salt.

970

00:40:00,860 --> 00:40:02,860

Salt was as valuable as gold?

971

00:40:02,860 --> 00:40:03,860

Yeah.

972

00:40:03,860 --> 00:40:04,860

In some cases, more.

973

00:40:04,860 --> 00:40:06,860

This is a stunning revelation.

974

00:40:06,860 --> 00:40:10,860

The Moisca didn't build a golden city or even a gold mine.

975

00:40:10,860 --> 00:40:15,860

In fact, they were known to other Colombian cultures as the salt people.

976

00:40:15,860 --> 00:40:19,860

They used their expansive trade network to barter for gold and develop

977

00:40:19,860 --> 00:40:24,860

sophisticated metallurgy to transform this rare and precious resource

978

00:40:24,860 --> 00:40:26,860

into gifts for their gods.

979

00:40:26,860 --> 00:40:30,860

You know, it's so funny because the Spanish think that the Moisca have

980

00:40:30,860 --> 00:40:31,860

endless gold.

981

00:40:31,860 --> 00:40:33,860

In reality, they have salt.

982

00:40:33,860 --> 00:40:37,860

We have this legend of El Dorado that is larger than life.

983

00:40:37,860 --> 00:40:39,860

You know, entire cities made of gold.

984

00:40:39,860 --> 00:40:41,860

But here is El Dorado.

985

00:40:41,860 --> 00:40:43,860

This is the reality.

986

00:40:43,860 --> 00:40:44,860

Thank you so much.

987

00:40:44,860 --> 00:40:45,860

You're welcome.

988

00:40:45,860 --> 00:40:46,860

Are there more of these around?

989

00:40:46,860 --> 00:40:48,860

Are there more stones we should be turning over?

990

00:40:48,860 --> 00:40:49,860

Yeah.

991

00:40:49,860 --> 00:40:51,860

I have gold fever now.

992

00:40:51,860 --> 00:40:56,860

In fact, there are more stones to turn in the El Dorado legend.

993

00:40:56,860 --> 00:40:59,860

And mounting evidence suggesting that the conquistadors' belief

994

00:40:59,860 --> 00:41:05,860

in a great lost civilization may not have been so far-fetched.

995

00:41:05,860 --> 00:41:09,860

It's clear that the rituals and precious offerings of the Moisca people

996

00:41:09,860 --> 00:41:13,860

helped fuel the Spanish obsession with El Dorado.

997

00:41:13,860 --> 00:41:16,860

But this legend is about more than just gold.

998

00:41:16,860 --> 00:41:20,860

It's also about an entire lost city.

999

00:41:20,860 --> 00:41:23,860

When the Spanish arrived on Colombia's Caribbean coast,

1000

00:41:23,860 --> 00:41:27,860

they encountered another indigenous group, the Tyrona,

1001

00:41:27,860 --> 00:41:30,860

a people richly adorned in gold jewelry.

1002

00:41:30,860 --> 00:41:34,860

They attempted to raid a Tyrona capital deep in the mountains,

1003

00:41:34,860 --> 00:41:37,860

but were turned back before they could plunder its wealth.

1004

00:41:37,860 --> 00:41:41,860

Outsiders wouldn't find the city for centuries.

1005

00:41:41,860 --> 00:41:47,860

That is until the 1970s, when looters deep in the jungle

1006

00:41:47,860 --> 00:41:51,860

discovered an ancient ruin lost for 400 years,

1007

00:41:51,860 --> 00:41:56,860

a place they called Ciudad Perdida, or the Lost City.

1008

00:41:57,860 --> 00:42:01,860

Soon after, glittering Tyrone artifacts began flooding the black market,

1009

00:42:01,860 --> 00:42:06,860

so much of it that the global price of gold actually dropped.

1010

00:42:06,860 --> 00:42:09,860

And now, archaeologists working at the Lost City

1011

00:42:09,860 --> 00:42:12,860

have deployed cutting-edge scanning technology

1012

00:42:12,860 --> 00:42:15,860

that has revealed something extraordinary.

1013

00:42:15,860 --> 00:42:18,860

There may be even more undiscovered cities

1014

00:42:18,860 --> 00:42:21,860

and lost treasure deeper in the jungle.

1015

00:42:21,860 --> 00:42:25,860

My mission? Reach the team at Ciudad Perdida

1016

00:42:25,860 --> 00:42:30,860

and join a dangerous mission to find a real-life El Dorado.

1017

00:42:34,860 --> 00:42:38,860

From Tyrona, I fly more than 500 miles north to Santa Marta,

1018

00:42:38,860 --> 00:42:40,860

the gateway to the Lost City.

1019

00:42:46,860 --> 00:42:51,860

In 1499, the first Spanish conquistadors arrived on Colombia's Caribbean coast

1020

00:42:51,860 --> 00:42:55,860

in search of gold, God, and glory in that order.

1021

00:42:55,860 --> 00:43:01,860

They founded Santa Marta, the oldest surviving colonial city in all of South America.

1022

00:43:01,860 --> 00:43:05,860

The Spanish tried to reach Ciudad Perdida from Santa Marta,

1023

00:43:05,860 --> 00:43:08,860

but they never conquered the city or understood its true extent.

1024

00:43:08,860 --> 00:43:10,860

Hopefully we fare better.

1025

00:43:10,860 --> 00:43:14,860

My team and I hitch a ride to the aptly-named village of Machete

1026

00:43:14,860 --> 00:43:16,860

to meet our local expedition team.

1027

00:43:17,860 --> 00:43:19,860

Okay, gracias.

1028

00:43:19,860 --> 00:43:21,860

All right, the adventure begins,

1029

00:43:21,860 --> 00:43:24,860

and this place is called the Lost City for a reason.

1030

00:43:24,860 --> 00:43:26,860

It's not easy to reach.

1031

00:43:26,860 --> 00:43:29,860

We're going to have to hike in at least a week's worth of provisions,

1032

00:43:29,860 --> 00:43:32,860

not to mention all of the equipment we need to document the journey.

1033

00:43:32,860 --> 00:43:35,860

And so, to do that, we're going to need some help.

1034

00:43:35,860 --> 00:43:36,860

Okay.

1035

00:43:36,860 --> 00:43:38,860

Tameno, gracias.

1036

00:43:40,860 --> 00:43:43,860

Turns out it takes a village to find a lost city.

1037

00:43:43,860 --> 00:43:46,860

Guide Sergio Guerrero will lead the charge.

1038

00:43:48,860 --> 00:43:50,860

Sergio, hey, nice to meet you, man.

1039

00:43:50,860 --> 00:43:51,860

How you doing? Welcome, man.

1040

00:43:51,860 --> 00:43:52,860

Thank you. Okay, Lost City.

1041

00:43:52,860 --> 00:43:54,860

Lost City is our destination.

1042

00:43:54,860 --> 00:43:55,860

Somewhere up there?

1043

00:43:55,860 --> 00:43:57,860

Yeah. It's right behind that cloud.

1044

00:43:57,860 --> 00:43:58,860

Behind the clouds?

1045

00:43:58,860 --> 00:44:00,860

Yes, about 20 miles.

1046

00:44:00,860 --> 00:44:02,860

It's going to take us two days.

1047

00:44:02,860 --> 00:44:03,860

Perfect.

1048

00:44:03,860 --> 00:44:07,860

The average rainfall here is more than 157 inches a year,

1049

00:44:07,860 --> 00:44:11,860

making for a slow, muddy, and miserable climb.

1050

00:44:11,860 --> 00:44:14,860

And lurking in the jungle are jaguars, spiders,

1051

00:44:14,860 --> 00:44:17,860

and some of the most venomous snakes on Earth.

1052

00:44:18,860 --> 00:44:20,860

And what are the hotels like along the way? Good?

1053

00:44:20,860 --> 00:44:21,860

They're hotels, yeah.

1054

00:44:21,860 --> 00:44:22,860

Five-star?

1055

00:44:22,860 --> 00:44:23,860

Yeah, yeah.

1056

00:44:23,860 --> 00:44:25,860

One thousand stars, I would say.

1057

00:44:25,860 --> 00:44:26,860

Oh, a thousand stars. I see.

1058

00:44:26,860 --> 00:44:27,860

That's because there's no roof?

1059

00:44:27,860 --> 00:44:28,860

Yeah.

1060

00:44:28,860 --> 00:44:29,860

Perfect.

1061

00:44:29,860 --> 00:44:30,860

All right, let's get into it. Come on.

1062

00:44:30,860 --> 00:44:34,860

With so much gear, we're lightening our load with a little mule power.

1063

00:44:34,860 --> 00:44:37,860

That's like over 100 pounds.

1064

00:44:37,860 --> 00:44:40,860

This poor mule deserves every piece of food that you can give it.

1065

00:44:41,860 --> 00:44:43,860

And a little horsepower.

1066

00:44:46,860 --> 00:44:47,860

Let's go.

1067

00:44:51,860 --> 00:44:55,860

The ride starts out so smooth, I feel downright optimistic.

1068

00:44:55,860 --> 00:44:58,860

All right. This is my kind of hiking.

1069

00:45:00,860 --> 00:45:01,860

Sergio.

1070

00:45:01,860 --> 00:45:02,860

Yeah, go.

1071

00:45:02,860 --> 00:45:05,860

Are we taking the bikes the whole way into the Lost City?

1072

00:45:05,860 --> 00:45:07,860

No, only three miles.

1073

00:45:07,860 --> 00:45:08,860

Three miles?

1074

00:45:08,860 --> 00:45:09,860

Yeah.

1075

00:45:09,860 --> 00:45:10,860

I'll take it.

1076

00:45:12,860 --> 00:45:17,860

In these three miles, we're going to gain about 1,500 feet in elevation.

1077

00:45:17,860 --> 00:45:21,860

And it's clear that this road was built for neither comfort nor speed.

1078

00:45:21,860 --> 00:45:24,860

So this gets really challenging up in here.

1079

00:45:24,860 --> 00:45:27,860

Not to complain, I certainly appreciate free ride,

1080

00:45:27,860 --> 00:45:32,860

but not exactly the newest tires and not exactly the best road.

1081

00:45:33,860 --> 00:45:37,860

Not only are we riding on a steep incline of mud and loose rocks,

1082

00:45:37,860 --> 00:45:42,860

but the deep ruts turn these steel horses into bucking Broncos.

1083

00:45:45,860 --> 00:45:46,860

We don't.

1084

00:45:46,860 --> 00:45:48,860

Free top gone in here.

1085

00:45:48,860 --> 00:45:50,860

It's extremely slippy.

1086

00:45:50,860 --> 00:45:52,860

It's enough to make you spout gibberish.

1087

00:45:52,860 --> 00:45:54,860

Slippy dipples.

1088

00:45:54,860 --> 00:45:55,860

Whoa.

1089

00:46:03,860 --> 00:46:05,860

Stop, stop, stop, stop, stop.

1090

00:46:07,860 --> 00:46:08,860

We got this.

1091

00:46:14,860 --> 00:46:16,860

Less like riding a motorcycle.

1092

00:46:16,860 --> 00:46:18,860

Or like ice skating.

1093

00:46:21,860 --> 00:46:22,860

Come on.

1094

00:46:22,860 --> 00:46:23,860

You got this.

1095

00:46:23,860 --> 00:46:25,860

You got this.

1096

00:46:27,860 --> 00:46:30,860

Eventually, though, every ride has to end.

1097

00:46:33,860 --> 00:46:34,860

What's up?

1098

00:46:34,860 --> 00:46:35,860

I'm good.

1099

00:46:35,860 --> 00:46:36,860

It's time to walk.

1100

00:46:36,860 --> 00:46:37,860

What?

1101

00:46:37,860 --> 00:46:38,860

It's time to walk, John.

1102

00:46:38,860 --> 00:46:39,860

Time to walk?

1103

00:46:39,860 --> 00:46:40,860

Yeah, let's do it.

1104

00:46:40,860 --> 00:46:41,860

There's more road, though.

1105

00:46:41,860 --> 00:46:42,860

I can see it.

1106

00:46:42,860 --> 00:46:43,860

We walk now.

1107

00:46:43,860 --> 00:46:44,860

No.

1108

00:46:44,860 --> 00:46:45,860

We have to walk, yeah.

1109

00:46:45,860 --> 00:46:46,860

But I like the bike.

1110

00:46:46,860 --> 00:46:47,860

This is what you came for.

1111

00:46:47,860 --> 00:46:48,860

Let's do it.

1112

00:46:48,860 --> 00:46:53,860

The path ahead will take me into the uncharted depths of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta mountains,

1113

00:46:53,860 --> 00:46:56,860

one of the most unforgiving environments on Earth.

1114

00:46:56,860 --> 00:47:01,860

And somewhere in its depths lies the lost city.

1115

00:47:03,860 --> 00:47:05,860

Next time on Expedition Unknown.

1116

00:47:05,860 --> 00:47:06,860

Where's the bridge?

1117

00:47:06,860 --> 00:47:08,860

This is our bridge.

1118

00:47:08,860 --> 00:47:10,860

All right, let's get wet.

1119

00:47:12,860 --> 00:47:15,860

The quest for El Dorado continues.

1120

00:47:17,860 --> 00:47:19,860

We're now approaching our target coordinates.

1121

00:47:19,860 --> 00:47:21,860

There's no place you can land out here.

1122

00:47:21,860 --> 00:47:24,860

There's really no way to get down there.

1123

00:47:24,860 --> 00:47:26,860

We trek deep into the jungle.

1124

00:47:26,860 --> 00:47:28,860

Whoa, whoa, whoa, Brian.

1125

00:47:28,860 --> 00:47:30,860

To separate fact from fiction.

1126

00:47:30,860 --> 00:47:32,860

It is just a sheer drop here.

1127

00:47:32,860 --> 00:47:35,860

And discover the real El Dorado.

1128

00:47:35,860 --> 00:47:36,860

Ha ha!

1129

00:47:36,860 --> 00:47:37,860

Is it a wall?

1130

00:47:37,860 --> 00:47:38,860

Look at that!

1131

00:47:38,860 --> 00:47:43,860

On an epic adventure that will push my team to the absolute limit.

1132

00:47:43,860 --> 00:47:44,860

Holy s\*\*\*.

1133

00:47:44,860 --> 00:47:50,860

I have never been in a jungle environment that was more challenging than this one.

1134

00:47:50,860 --> 00:47:51,860

Ever.

1135

00:47:51,860 --> 00:47:52,860

This is madness.

1136

00:47:54,860 --> 00:47:55,860

Wow!

1137

00:47:55,860 --> 00:47:56,860

Jesus!

1138

00:47:57,860 --> 00:47:58,860

Grab him!

1139

00:47:58,860 --> 00:47:59,860

Grab his arm!

1140

00:48:00,860 --> 00:48:01,860

Grab his arm!