

1

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

2700 years ago, these guys, they're building stuff like this?

2

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

Yeah, you can tell they're master engineers having built this.

3

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

If I were to bet what would be the most successful culture in Italy,

4

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

it would be the Etruscans.

5

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

And yet, they're gone.

6

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

This is bone everywhere here.

7

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

It's littered all over this bed.

8

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

The more we look at this map, the more that it seems like there might be tombs everywhere.

9

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

Do you want to go in?

10

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

No.

11

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

There's science in there.

12

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

No, there's spiders in there.

13

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

There's an opening here.

14

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

I think we can drop right into it.

15

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

Here we go.

16

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

Look at this place.

17

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

This is serious construction.

18

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

It's cut out of the hill.

19

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

If you were an outsider, it would look really imposing.

20

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

Wow, I mean, so beautiful.

21

00:00:47,000 --> 00:00:52,000

I've scanned hundreds of historical sites, and I've never seen anything like this.

22

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

This is real Game of Thrones.

23

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

Absolutely.

24

00:00:58,000 --> 00:01:10,000

It is said that all roads lead to Rome, but where do those roads begin?

25

00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:17,000

The groundwork for the mighty Roman Empire might have been built by a civilization you may never have heard of, the Etruscans.

26

00:01:19,000 --> 00:01:25,000

They flourished around 700 BCE and dominated the Italian peninsula for five centuries.

27

00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:35,000

Priceless goods discovered in elaborate tombs are revealing they traded far and wide, but they didn't leave behind many clues about themselves.

28

00:01:35,000 --> 00:01:42,000

Etruscan literature and language is largely lost, some say deliberately destroyed by later conquerors.

29

00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:50,000

What we're left with is their legend as told by others, who saw them as pirates that communed with dark gods.

30

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

To foretell the future through strange, bloody rituals.

31

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

But who was this lost civilization, this missing link of the Mediterranean?

32

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

I aim to find out.

33

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

Groundbreaking new research may be settling the controversy of their origin.

34

00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:12,000

A city of the dead could reveal how powerful the Etruscans were in life.

35

00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:23,000

And an archaeologist and fellow member of the world famous explorers club is on a historic expedition using cutting edge technology to search for a vanished Etruscan necropolis.

36

00:02:23,000 --> 00:02:29,000

A search that may reveal how this ancient superpower helped give rise to the modern world.

37

00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:36,000

So let's fly the flag of exploration as we unlock the secrets of the elusive Etruscans.

38

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

My name is Josh Gates.

39

00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:42,000

Hello!

40

00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:44,000

Explorer.

41

00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:45,000

Adventurer.

42

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

Amazing.

43

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

Woo!

44

00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:50,000

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

45

00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:51,000

Oh, s***.

46

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

Woo, that was exciting.

47

00:02:52,000 --> 00:03:01,000

With a degree in archaeology and a passion for the unexplained, I travel to the ends of the earth investigating the greatest legends in history.

48

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

Okay, let's punch it.

49

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

This is Expedition Unknown.

50

00:03:11,000 --> 00:03:15,000

My journey begins in the so-called capital of the ancient world.

51

00:03:15,000 --> 00:03:26,000

Even today, travelers come from all corners to stroll among the vaunted columns of the Forum, to marvel at the Colosseum, and to stand in awe of the magnificent Vatican.

52

00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:30,000

But before I get too deep in history, I'll be damned if I'm not going to eat something.

53

00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:36,000

The Sistine Chapel is all well and good, but homemade cacio e pepe is a masterpiece you can eat.

54

00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:38,000

The bowls made out of cheese.

55

00:03:38,000 --> 00:03:39,000

It's genius.

56

00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:43,000

Also, nobody looks at you funny when you drink before noon.

57

00:03:43,000 --> 00:03:51,000

Today, this incredible metropolis stretches in all directions, but the best view can be found high above on Jeuniculum Hill.

58

00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:53,000

This is the picture on the postcards.

59

00:03:53,000 --> 00:03:54,000

Rome.

60

00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:57,000

Just the name seems chiseled in marble.

61

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

To most people, Rome has always been here.

62

00:03:59,000 --> 00:04:01,000

It's called the Eternal City, after all.

63

00:04:01,000 --> 00:04:13,000

And the long-standing story, at least the one they taught me in grade school, is that the Romans conquered the Greeks, borrowing their gods, building on their culture, and evolving into a powerhouse, the likes of which the world had never seen.

64

00:04:15,000 --> 00:04:18,000

Ancient Rome lasted for nearly 2,000 years.

65

00:04:18,000 --> 00:04:26,000

It started as a small tribal settlement in central Italy around 750 BCE and expanded, to put it mildly.

66

00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:34,000

By about the year 100, the Roman Empire covered nearly 2 million square miles, stretching from Britain to Egypt.

67

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

At its height, Rome governed nearly 20% of the world's population.

68

00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:45,000

We credit the Romans with awe-inspiring architecture and groundbreaking innovations in engineering.

69

00:04:45,000 --> 00:04:52,000

Roman authors love to brag about the unrivaled glory of their empire, a beacon of light in an otherwise dark world.

70

00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:54,000

But Rome didn't come out of nowhere.

71

00:04:54,000 --> 00:04:56,000

Every story has a beginning.

72

00:04:56,000 --> 00:04:59,000

And it might just be that this one has some hidden chapters.

73

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

We all know that Rome wasn't built in a day, but what if Rome wasn't even built by Romans?

74

00:05:07,000 --> 00:05:14,000

I descend down to the famous Capitoline Museum, a place that celebrates Rome's monumental origins.

75

00:05:14,000 --> 00:05:17,000

Well, there's definitely a mystery afoot.

76

00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:19,000

It's a big foot.

77

00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:25,000

The answers I'm looking for begin with a sculpture tied to the very foundations of this empire.

78

00:05:25,000 --> 00:05:27,000

All cities have their icons.

79

00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:34,000

New York has the Statue of Liberty, Rio has Christ the Redeemer, and this here is the Capitoline Wolf, symbol of Rome.

80

00:05:34,000 --> 00:05:40,000

The she-wolf and the twins suckling below represent the legendary founding of the city.

81

00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:46,000

The kids here are Romulus and Remus, twin demigod sons of the god of war, Mars.

82

00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:52,000

According to myth, Romulus kills Remus and goes on to found the city of Rome.

83

00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:56,000

This image is seen as quintessentially Roman.

84

00:05:56,000 --> 00:06:00,000

Even today, there are depictions of this all over the city.

85

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

It's on every bridge and lamppost.

86

00:06:02,000 --> 00:06:09,000

And yet, this very symbol of Rome and many of the achievements of this city may come from a region that's much older,

87

00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:14,000

a place known as Etruria and a people known as the Etruscans.

88

00:06:14,000 --> 00:06:19,000

But who were they? Where did they come from? And where did they go?

89

00:06:20,000 --> 00:06:25,000

In search of answers, I leave Rome in the rear view and head into the country in an Italian classic.

90

00:06:25,000 --> 00:06:34,000

This here is a fiat Campagnolo, was introduced after World War II, basically Italy's version of a Jeep or a Land Rover.

91

00:06:34,000 --> 00:06:38,000

It's a pretty known nonsense, 4x4 though, does have a touch of Italian style.

92

00:06:38,000 --> 00:06:42,000

And if you pull on the door handles too hard, they're probably going to break off in your hands.

93

00:06:42,000 --> 00:06:48,000

3,000 years ago, this region was known as Etruria, realm of the mysterious Etruscans.

94

00:06:48,000 --> 00:06:52,000

And one of their largest cities was a place called Tarquinia.

95

00:06:54,000 --> 00:06:58,000

Today, the picturesque city that stands here is largely medieval.

96

00:06:58,000 --> 00:07:02,000

But like all of Italy, it's also a layer cake of history.

97

00:07:02,000 --> 00:07:09,000

I stroll through the gates of the Tarquinia National Museum, where, amidst the galleries, it's possible to do a little time traveling.

98

00:07:10,000 --> 00:07:16,000

This museum is a literal treasure trove of Etruscan art and artifacts beyond compare.

99

00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:24,000

And these items paint a picture of not just an ancient culture, but of an incredibly sophisticated civilization.

100

00:07:25,000 --> 00:07:27,000

Everywhere I look, I'm amazed.

101

00:07:27,000 --> 00:07:35,000

From stone, ceramic, and terracotta, to gold, bronze, and marble.

102

00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:39,000

It seems there was no medium that the Etruscans couldn't shape into something beautiful.

103

00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:49,000

And everyday items like delicate umbrellas, bone dice, and hand mirrors reveal a familiar and personal side to their lives.

104

00:07:49,000 --> 00:07:56,000

Each item here is more intriguing than the next, and the collection begs one simple question.

105

00:07:56,000 --> 00:07:58,000

Who were these people?

106

00:07:58,000 --> 00:08:06,000

To find out, I make my way just outside the modern city to an archaeological park, where I meet its director, Dr. Vincenzo Bielelli.

107

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

So we are on the outskirts here of what was Tarquinia.

108

00:08:10,000 --> 00:08:11,000

Yes.

109

00:08:11,000 --> 00:08:13,000

And this was a big Etruscan city, right?

110

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

One of the most important Etruscan cities.

111

00:08:15,000 --> 00:08:19,000

And there were a number of these big, powerful Etruscan cities, right?

112

00:08:19,000 --> 00:08:27,000

Exactly. Etruscans created a dozen of city-states, independent, like the cities of Ancient Greece.

113

00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:35,000

Etruscan civilization can be traced back to roughly 1100 BCE, when Ancient Greece was still in its dark ages.

114

00:08:35,000 --> 00:08:39,000

The Etruscans would rise to power in the 8th century BCE.

115

00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:47,000

Twelve individual city-states that form an Etruscan League, ruled by wealthy families that come to dominate the Italian peninsula.

116

00:08:47,000 --> 00:08:54,000

In its prime, Etruria covered thousands of square miles, all while Rome was a tiny rural backwater.

117

00:08:54,000 --> 00:09:02,000

In the museum, I see these incredible objects. Objects from Etruria, but also from all over the Mediterranean.

118

00:09:02,000 --> 00:09:03,000

From everywhere, yes.

119

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

How are the Etruscans getting all of this stuff?

120

00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:07,000

They were traders.

121

00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:14,000

The Etruscans were adept seafarers, and traded all over the known world from Egypt to the Baltic.

122

00:09:14,000 --> 00:09:18,000

The Greeks sometimes described them as pirates who practiced black magic.

123

00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:22,000

But no one knows if that's an honest assessment or ancient fake news.

124

00:09:22,000 --> 00:09:26,000

So the Etruscans seem like they're very powerful, very sophisticated.

125

00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:32,000

In what is now Italy, the Etruscans were the most sophisticated people.

126

00:09:32,000 --> 00:09:37,000

Right. And so where are we right now? I mean, it just feels like endless fields out here. What is this?

127

00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:39,000

This is the Necropolis of Tarquinia.

128

00:09:39,000 --> 00:09:42,000

The Necropolis. So this would have been a cemetery?

129

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

Cemetery.

130

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

Okay. And these buildings we see, these are?

131

00:09:45,000 --> 00:09:46,000

Tooms.

132

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

What appears to be an empty field is anything but.

133

00:09:49,000 --> 00:09:56,000

Dotting the landscape are small, modern buildings, each of which protect the entrance to an Etruscan burial.

134

00:09:56,000 --> 00:09:59,000

These are the entrances of tombs? Okay. So how many tombs are here?

135

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

More or less 6,000 tombs.

136

00:10:02,000 --> 00:10:03,000

6,000?

137

00:10:03,000 --> 00:10:04,000

Yeah.

138

00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:05,000

Oh, you get your work cut out for you?

139

00:10:05,000 --> 00:10:07,000

Yes, there is a lot to do.

140

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

Okay. Can we see one of the tombs?

141

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

Yes.

142

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

Please.

143

00:10:12,000 --> 00:10:19,000

Josh, are you ready to visit the Trascon underworld?

144

00:10:19,000 --> 00:10:21,000

It depends. Do I get to come back after?

145

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

Yes, of course.

146

00:10:22,000 --> 00:10:23,000

Then I'm ready.

147

00:10:23,000 --> 00:10:24,000

Let's go.

148

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

Let's go to the underworld.

149

00:10:28,000 --> 00:10:32,000

Vincenzo leads me down a sloping hallway deep into the earth.

150

00:10:37,000 --> 00:10:40,000

Wow. I mean, I'm not sure.

151

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

I mean, so beautiful.

152

00:10:46,000 --> 00:10:49,000

Oh, I mean, look at the designs and the color.

153

00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:51,000

This was painted when?

154

00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:53,000

Around 400 AD/BC.

155

00:10:53,000 --> 00:10:57,000

So this is nearly 2,500 year old paint?

156

00:10:57,000 --> 00:10:58,000

Exactly.

157

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

And it is so vivid, like it was done yesterday?

158

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

Yes, it is the best preserved painted tomb of Tarquinio.

159

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

Of the 6,000 tombs in Tarquinio, only 2% are painted and preserved like this one.

160

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

The walls depict an idyllic party.

161

00:11:12,000 --> 00:11:19,000

Even the ceiling is decorated to give us the feeling that we're inside a kind of tent, part of the scene.

162

00:11:19,000 --> 00:11:21,000

Wow. Incredible.

163

00:11:21,000 --> 00:11:22,000

So let's talk about what they're doing.

164

00:11:22,000 --> 00:11:23,000

They're feasting?

165

00:11:23,000 --> 00:11:25,000

It is a banqueting scene.

166

00:11:25,000 --> 00:11:28,000

This reminds me of kind of a Greek scene.

167

00:11:28,000 --> 00:11:34,000

The main difference is that women are allowed to participate.

168

00:11:34,000 --> 00:11:37,000

These are women laying down with the men?

169

00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:40,000

This is not possible in the Greek world.

170

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

Right. Or in the Roman world you wouldn't really have seen this, right?

171

00:11:44,000 --> 00:11:46,000

And it goes far beyond feasting.

172

00:11:46,000 --> 00:11:51,000

Women were even known to fight alongside men in military campaigns.

173

00:11:51,000 --> 00:11:53,000

Okay. Forward thinking atreskens.

174

00:11:53,000 --> 00:11:54,000

Yes.

175

00:11:54,000 --> 00:11:57,000

And these folks look like they're wearing almost togas.

176

00:11:57,000 --> 00:12:00,000

Which is again something I think of as being Roman.

177

00:12:00,000 --> 00:12:03,000

But I guess the toga was around already.

178

00:12:03,000 --> 00:12:05,000

The toga was everywhere in the Trudio.

179

00:12:05,000 --> 00:12:07,000

Alright. Sorry Roman togas.

180

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

There's atreskent togas.

181

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

Hate to break it to you.

182

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

The atreskens seem to be an enlightened society.

183

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

So why don't we know more about them?

184

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:21,000

Dr. Bilelli leads me to another subterranean tomb.

185

00:12:21,000 --> 00:12:26,000

Which holds one of the most mysterious clues from this lost civilization.

186

00:12:27,000 --> 00:12:31,000

Oh my word. Look at this place.

187

00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:44,000

Oh my word. Look at this place.

188

00:12:45,000 --> 00:12:48,000

I'm exploring the underworld of the atreskens.

189

00:12:48,000 --> 00:12:52,000

A lost civilization that I'm quickly learning was extremely advanced.

190

00:12:53,000 --> 00:12:55,000

So what do we know from this scene?

191

00:12:55,000 --> 00:12:57,000

We have mourners here.

192

00:12:57,000 --> 00:12:58,000

Yeah mourners here.

193

00:12:58,000 --> 00:13:01,000

And they are identified with inscription.

194

00:13:01,000 --> 00:13:03,000

This is writing. Amazing.

195

00:13:03,000 --> 00:13:06,000

The atreskens had their own sophisticated language.

196

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

But very few written examples of it survive.

197

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

Without more inscriptions like these, historians aren't able to decode the writing.

198

00:13:15,000 --> 00:13:20,000

So what percentage of the atreskent language can we understand?

199

00:13:20,000 --> 00:13:22,000

I think 30%.

200

00:13:22,000 --> 00:13:23,000

30% only?

201

00:13:23,000 --> 00:13:26,000

Yeah. We hope to find more texts in the future.

202

00:13:26,000 --> 00:13:29,000

And then we have this big scene on this wall.

203

00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:32,000

Help me understand this. What are we looking at here?

204

00:13:32,000 --> 00:13:40,000

Representation of the atlantic games that took place at the funerals of the atreskokragic family.

205

00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:43,000

It's not just a funeral. It's a spectacle. It's an event.

206

00:13:43,000 --> 00:13:44,000

Yes.

207

00:13:44,000 --> 00:13:45,000

Wow.

208

00:13:45,000 --> 00:13:50,000

This gory fighting scene depicts a slave, who is in this case also a professional fighter,

209

00:13:50,000 --> 00:13:53,000

which, come to think of it, rings a bell.

210

00:13:53,000 --> 00:13:57,000

So slaves who are professional fighters brought here to entertain this family.

211

00:13:57,000 --> 00:13:58,000

Yes.

212

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

Which sounds a lot like gladiators. That sounds like something we see later in Rome, right?

213

00:14:02,000 --> 00:14:04,000

That's exactly right.

214

00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:09,000

So wait a minute. This thing that we totally associate with Rome.

215

00:14:09,000 --> 00:14:13,000

Gladiator games. I mean, there's nothing that we think of as more Roman than that.

216

00:14:13,000 --> 00:14:15,000

It comes from the atreskens.

217

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

Yes, for sure.

218

00:14:16,000 --> 00:14:18,000

Wow. That's incredible.

219

00:14:18,000 --> 00:14:22,000

And across from our atreskin gladiator is an unusual figure.

220

00:14:22,000 --> 00:14:24,000

This is the fersu.

221

00:14:24,000 --> 00:14:26,000

So fersu. What does that word mean?

222

00:14:26,000 --> 00:14:28,000

Fersu means mask.

223

00:14:28,000 --> 00:14:31,000

Okay. And that's what he's wearing, this red covering on his face.

224

00:14:31,000 --> 00:14:32,000

Yes.

225

00:14:32,000 --> 00:14:36,000

The character is perhaps an actor playing a kind of executioner.

226

00:14:36,000 --> 00:14:38,000

Again, without more writing, it's hard to know.

227

00:14:38,000 --> 00:14:42,000

But this fersu has trickled down to our own language.

228

00:14:42,000 --> 00:14:50,000

And it is interesting that the Latin term persona derives from atreskin fersu.

229

00:14:50,000 --> 00:14:55,000

So the word persona and the word person that we use today comes from fersu, comes from the atreskens.

230

00:14:55,000 --> 00:14:56,000

Yes.

231

00:14:56,000 --> 00:14:59,000

Who knew every time we use the word person, we owe a debt to the atreskens.

232

00:14:59,000 --> 00:15:02,000

And what do we think these birds represent here?

233

00:15:02,000 --> 00:15:06,000

The birds are probably associated to the auguri.

234

00:15:06,000 --> 00:15:09,000

Okay, so auguri is kind of weird.

235

00:15:09,000 --> 00:15:14,000

In this case, it is the mystic art of reading the patterns of birds in flight to tell fortunes.

236

00:15:14,000 --> 00:15:23,000

Atreskens were also big into herespasy, a killer scrabble word defined as reading the livers of animals to predict the future.

237

00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:26,000

But apparently, the atreskens were really good at it.

238

00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:32,000

So much so that the Romans later employed atreskens to practice this strange magic.

239

00:15:32,000 --> 00:15:39,000

And speaking of the supernatural, I'm led into one last tomb, one that is decidedly darker than all the rest.

240

00:15:39,000 --> 00:15:44,000

Josh, this is the tomb of the blue demons.

241

00:15:44,000 --> 00:15:47,000

The blue demons, okay? This blue character here.

242

00:15:47,000 --> 00:15:48,000

Yes.

243

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

And somebody here with blue eyes and blue hair.

244

00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:52,000

That's right, demons.

245

00:15:52,000 --> 00:15:58,000

And as time marched on, the depiction of these demons grew more and more dark.

246

00:15:58,000 --> 00:16:06,000

They emerge in the time of crisis because the 5th century BC is a time of crisis for all the central Mediterranean.

247

00:16:06,000 --> 00:16:13,000

These monsters appear to represent a threat, a rising enemy to the very existence of the atreskens.

248

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

But at that point, when we see them in their darkest representations, Rome is coming.

249

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

Rome is coming.

250

00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:24,000

In the 4th century BCE, Rome is beginning to expand.

251

00:16:24,000 --> 00:16:30,000

And only 100 years after that, they've conquered Etruria.

252

00:16:30,000 --> 00:16:36,000

To learn more, I thank Dr. Bilelli and Take to the Road, happy to return to the land of the living.

253

00:16:36,000 --> 00:16:42,000

The tombs here in Tarquiniya tell us a lot about the lives of the elusive atreskens.

254

00:16:42,000 --> 00:16:48,000

But history's done a pretty good job of obscuring their full story to solve more of the atreskent mysteries,

255

00:16:48,000 --> 00:16:52,000

where they're from, how they fell, and what made them so powerful.

256

00:16:52,000 --> 00:16:55,000

We have to do more than just visit historic sites.

257

00:16:55,000 --> 00:16:57,000

We have to dig.

258

00:16:57,000 --> 00:17:02,000

I floor my fiat toward another Etruscan settlement about 30 miles away.

259

00:17:02,000 --> 00:17:06,000

That is, if I don't get stuck trying to navigate through the tightest streets in Italy.

260

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

Very narrow.

261

00:17:10,000 --> 00:17:12,000

Okay, so...

262

00:17:12,000 --> 00:17:15,000

This is the charming town of Barbarano Romano.

263

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

It's 1,000 years old and one of the prettiest little villages in Italy.

264

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

I'd stop, but there's no way the doors would open.

265

00:17:25,000 --> 00:17:27,000

We're alive.

266

00:17:27,000 --> 00:17:33,000

I make it through with both my side mirrors and drive on, reaching the hills of San Giuliano.

267

00:17:33,000 --> 00:17:38,000

My GPS leads me to a wooded area, where I hike up to discover an active dig,

268

00:17:38,000 --> 00:17:41,000

and archaeologist Dr. David Zori.

269

00:17:41,000 --> 00:17:43,000

Look at this, beautiful site.

270

00:17:43,000 --> 00:17:44,000

Yeah, archaeological paradise.

271

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

That's amazing.

272

00:17:45,000 --> 00:17:46,000

This is a flag I recognize here.

273

00:17:46,000 --> 00:17:48,000

It is, the Explorers Club flag.

274

00:17:48,000 --> 00:17:49,000

Yeah, you're in some good company.

275

00:17:49,000 --> 00:17:50,000

Yes, we are.

276

00:17:50,000 --> 00:17:56,000

The Explorers Club was founded in 1904 to celebrate accomplishment in field sciences.

277

00:17:56,000 --> 00:18:02,000

It's a gathering place for trailblazers, and its daring members have included Teddy Roosevelt,

278

00:18:02,000 --> 00:18:07,000

Sir Edmund Hillary, Buzz Aldrin, and, you know, charming TV hosts.

279

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

In his 1918, flags like this one have been carried to the farthest corners of the Earth,

280

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

and even into outer space.

281

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

Okay, so let's talk about what's going on here in central Italy.

282

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

What's happening at this site?

283

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

Let me show you.

284

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

All right, please, yeah.

285

00:18:20,000 --> 00:18:23,000

David brings me to see his site.

286

00:18:23,000 --> 00:18:27,000

His project was partially financed by a Discovery Expedition Grant,

287

00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:30,000

working in partnership with the Explorers Club.

288

00:18:30,000 --> 00:18:32,000

This was originally in a Truscan site.

289

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

This was a large Truscan town, several thousand people living up here.

290

00:18:36,000 --> 00:18:37,000

Let's talk about why they're here.

291

00:18:37,000 --> 00:18:39,000

We're up on a big hill here.

292

00:18:39,000 --> 00:18:41,000

So is that why they're here because it's defensible?

293

00:18:41,000 --> 00:18:42,000

That's why they're here.

294

00:18:42,000 --> 00:18:49,000

The most defensible are the isolated plateaus that are defensible on all approaches.

295

00:18:49,000 --> 00:18:55,000

And in this period, you want a well-defended site because folks seem to be allies and enemies a lot, right?

296

00:18:55,000 --> 00:18:58,000

Right, so these are Truscan city-states.

297

00:18:58,000 --> 00:19:01,000

There's a Truscan League of 12 cities, and sometimes they're allied with each other.

298

00:19:01,000 --> 00:19:05,000

Let's say fighting against Rome, or other external enemies.

299

00:19:05,000 --> 00:19:07,000

But when they're not fighting external enemies, they're trying to kill each other.

300

00:19:07,000 --> 00:19:09,000

Right, this is real Game of Thrones.

301

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

Absolutely, just exactly like that.

302

00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:13,000

It is, I mean, minus the dragons, it's Game of Thrones, right?

303

00:19:13,000 --> 00:19:14,000

Right, right.

304

00:19:14,000 --> 00:19:18,000

But the challenge is finding the Truscans under the other layers of history.

305

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

David leads me to where his team is hard at work,

306

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

digging into the more recent part of the site, which is still a thousand years old.

307

00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:28,000

You've got an army at work here. What's going on?

308

00:19:28,000 --> 00:19:34,000

Yes, this archaeological army is excavating inside of a medieval crypt.

309

00:19:34,000 --> 00:19:37,000

So here in this crypt, we have these cuts here. These are all burials?

310

00:19:37,000 --> 00:19:44,000

These are all medieval Christian burials with their heads to the west, which is a classic medieval tradition.

311

00:19:44,000 --> 00:19:49,000

These remarkable burials show us just how long this plateau was occupied.

312

00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:52,000

There's even the footprint of a large hall from a medieval castle.

313

00:19:52,000 --> 00:19:56,000

You really just barely have to squint, and you can totally imagine this place.

314

00:19:56,000 --> 00:19:57,000

You can see it, right?

315

00:19:57,000 --> 00:20:01,000

But the Middle Ages, right, we're in like 1100 AD here.

316

00:20:01,000 --> 00:20:02,000

Correct.

317

00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:06,000

And we're in like about 1500, 2000 years earlier to get to the Truscans.

318

00:20:06,000 --> 00:20:10,000

They were up here, right? They were living in this same spot.

319

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

This would have been the ritual heart of their city.

320

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

Right.

321

00:20:13,000 --> 00:20:15,000

So there would have been temples and houses up here for sure.

322

00:20:15,000 --> 00:20:17,000

And we can't go any deeper here to find them.

323

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

Because this is bedrock?

324

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

We're on bedrock.

325

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

So how do we get to the Truscans?

326

00:20:21,000 --> 00:20:24,000

I think there still remains underneath this bedrock.

327

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

Okay.

328

00:20:25,000 --> 00:20:27,000

In the subterranean parts of their city.

329

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

Okay, and how do we get there?

330

00:20:28,000 --> 00:20:30,000

We've got to find another way down. I'll show you.

331

00:20:30,000 --> 00:20:32,000

Okay. We're going down.

332

00:20:35,000 --> 00:20:39,000

We walk over to the edge of the plateau where I immediately notice two things.

333

00:20:39,000 --> 00:20:42,000

A lot of rope and a very steep drop.

334

00:20:43,000 --> 00:20:44,000

What is this?

335

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

We've arrived at the edge of the Etruscan city.

336

00:20:46,000 --> 00:20:48,000

Like literally the edge.

337

00:20:48,000 --> 00:20:51,000

There is a cliff here that drops straight down.

338

00:20:51,000 --> 00:20:52,000

Okay.

339

00:20:52,000 --> 00:20:53,000

And what is all this?

340

00:20:53,000 --> 00:20:57,000

This is the rigging that's going to take us down over the edge.

341

00:20:57,000 --> 00:20:59,000

No. Why? What is down here?

342

00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:01,000

There's a tunnel made by the Etruscans.

343

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

We saw it with the drone.

344

00:21:02,000 --> 00:21:07,000

We mapped the edge of the plateau and we saw a tunnel leading in underneath the city.

345

00:21:07,000 --> 00:21:09,000

Okay. And what is it?

346

00:21:09,000 --> 00:21:11,000

We think it's a water management system.

347

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

Are you trying to say sewer?

348

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

It's a sewer.

349

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

It's a sewer.

350

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

We're climbing into an ancient sewer.

351

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

Good idea, right?

352

00:21:17,000 --> 00:21:18,000

Yeah. No, it's one of your best.

353

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

Yeah.

354

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

Here we go.

355

00:21:22,000 --> 00:21:25,000

To learn about the Etruscan city from the perspective of their sewer,

356

00:21:25,000 --> 00:21:29,000

David and I gear up and prepare to repel down the cliff.

357

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

You ready?

358

00:21:30,000 --> 00:21:32,000

I'm excited to go down and see it.

359

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

Are you excited?

360

00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:36,000

You don't look, if I'm being honest, you don't look that excited.

361

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

You're not scared of heights, are you?

362

00:21:37,000 --> 00:21:38,000

I'm very scared of heights.

363

00:21:38,000 --> 00:21:39,000

Are you really?

364

00:21:39,000 --> 00:21:40,000

Yeah.

365

00:21:40,000 --> 00:21:41,000

Let me give you a tip.

366

00:21:41,000 --> 00:21:42,000

Some people say don't look down.

367

00:21:42,000 --> 00:21:43,000

Yeah.

368

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

The real key is don't do things like this in the first place.

369

00:21:45,000 --> 00:21:46,000

That's their secret.

370

00:21:46,000 --> 00:21:47,000

I've been trying to avoid this my whole life.

371

00:21:47,000 --> 00:21:48,000

Perfect.

372

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

Okay, well, today's the day.

373

00:21:49,000 --> 00:21:50,000

Okay.

374

00:21:50,000 --> 00:21:51,000

All right, we ready?

375

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

Oh, all right.

376

00:21:55,000 --> 00:21:56,000

David, ciao.

377

00:21:56,000 --> 00:21:57,000

I'm headed down.

378

00:21:57,000 --> 00:21:58,000

Don't look down.

379

00:22:12,000 --> 00:22:14,000

Hey, David, I can see a tunnel.

380

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

We got an opening.

381

00:22:21,000 --> 00:22:23,000

Yeah, there's an opening here.

382

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

What do you see down there?

383

00:22:25,000 --> 00:22:27,000

It looks like a narrow slot that goes back.

384

00:22:27,000 --> 00:22:28,000

Can we get in?

385

00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:30,000

Yeah, I think we can drop right into it.

386

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

Here we go.

387

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

Archaeologist and Explorers Club member Dr. David Zori and I

388

00:22:34,000 --> 00:22:39,000

are repelling down into an ancient sewer beneath a lost Etruscan city,

389

00:22:39,000 --> 00:22:43,000

hoping to find rare artifacts from the people who once lived here.

390

00:22:43,000 --> 00:22:45,000

Okay, I'm coming into the tunnel.

391

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

Man.

392

00:22:48,000 --> 00:22:51,000

Okay, I got a little bit of purchase here.

393

00:22:53,000 --> 00:22:55,000

Okay, I got a little handhold here.

394

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

I can see the tunnel, man.

395

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

It goes way back.

396

00:22:58,000 --> 00:22:59,000

All right, Josh, I'm coming.

397

00:22:59,000 --> 00:23:02,000

Oh, look at this.

398

00:23:02,000 --> 00:23:04,000

Now it's David's turn.

399

00:23:06,000 --> 00:23:08,000

Oh, good Lord, that's high.

400

00:23:08,000 --> 00:23:09,000

Woo.

401

00:23:11,000 --> 00:23:13,000

Okay, David, you got this.

402

00:23:13,000 --> 00:23:14,000

I think I can get down.

403

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

Yeah, like right here, this little foothold right here.

404

00:23:16,000 --> 00:23:17,000

Right there.

405

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

Okay.

406

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

Boom.

407

00:23:24,000 --> 00:23:27,000

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

408

00:23:31,000 --> 00:23:33,000

How are the spiders back there?

409

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

What does that mean?

410

00:23:34,000 --> 00:23:35,000

Should I be expecting to see them?

411

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

You should.

412

00:23:36,000 --> 00:23:37,000

Oh, yeah.

413

00:23:37,000 --> 00:23:41,000

There's like some Hollywood-style spider webs down here, dude.

414

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

Don't worry, they usually don't bite.

415

00:23:45,000 --> 00:23:47,000

All right, walk me through this place.

416

00:23:47,000 --> 00:23:48,000

We are in a sewer.

417

00:23:48,000 --> 00:23:49,000

We're in a water pipe, literally.

418

00:23:49,000 --> 00:23:52,000

We're in an Etruscan pipe underneath the city.

419

00:23:52,000 --> 00:23:55,000

And 2700 years ago, these guys are advanced enough

420

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

that they're building stuff like this?

421

00:23:56,000 --> 00:23:59,000

Yeah, they're the most advanced culture in Central Italy,

422

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

definitely in terms of engineering.

423

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

You can tell they're master engineers.

424

00:24:02,000 --> 00:24:04,000

They're collecting water to use.

425

00:24:04,000 --> 00:24:05,000

They're collecting them at cisterns,

426

00:24:05,000 --> 00:24:08,000

so they can draw the water up on top of their city

427

00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:09,000

for drinking water.

428

00:24:09,000 --> 00:24:12,000

They're also making sure that the water stays off

429

00:24:12,000 --> 00:24:13,000

of the top of the plateau.

430

00:24:13,000 --> 00:24:14,000

Like storm drains?

431

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

Yeah, these are usable, manageable systems

432

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

of drainage and water collection.

433

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

I mean, when I think about this kind of engineering,

434

00:24:21,000 --> 00:24:23,000

I think about Rome.

435

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

That's right.

436

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

The drainage of the Roman Forum was accomplished

437

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

during the reign of the Etruscan kings.

438

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

Almost 3,000 years ago, the Roman Forum was marshland

439

00:24:32,000 --> 00:24:33,000

along the Tiber River,

440

00:24:33,000 --> 00:24:36,000

but an Etruscan king during the earliest days of Rome

441

00:24:36,000 --> 00:24:39,000

commissioned massive drainage systems

442

00:24:39,000 --> 00:24:41,000

that made the area habitable.

443

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

Cutting edge for the Etruscans,

444

00:24:43,000 --> 00:24:46,000

and Rome has been bragging about it ever since.

445

00:24:46,000 --> 00:24:49,000

Literally, Rome was built on Etruscan engineering.

446

00:24:49,000 --> 00:24:52,000

So all that talk about Roman sewers and water management,

447

00:24:52,000 --> 00:24:53,000

that starts here?

448

00:24:53,000 --> 00:24:55,000

It starts in the Etruscan cities.

449

00:24:55,000 --> 00:24:57,000

Wow. I mean, that's insane.

450

00:24:57,000 --> 00:24:59,000

So every time I flush my toilet?

451

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

Think of the Etruscans.

452

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

Think of the Etruscans.

453

00:25:01,000 --> 00:25:03,000

This is crazy, dude.

454

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

So the question is, what's left in the sewers here?

455

00:25:06,000 --> 00:25:07,000

Let's find it.

456

00:25:07,000 --> 00:25:08,000

Yeah, let's see what's here.

457

00:25:08,000 --> 00:25:09,000

Come on.

458

00:25:12,000 --> 00:25:14,000

Tunnel's getting a little shorter.

459

00:25:14,000 --> 00:25:15,000

Yeah.

460

00:25:15,000 --> 00:25:18,000

Just like today, all manner of personal articles

461

00:25:18,000 --> 00:25:20,000

would get flushed into the sewers of Etruria.

462

00:25:20,000 --> 00:25:23,000

Remind me to wash my hands when we get out of here.

463

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

Definitely a layer of fill here on the ground.

464

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

Looks like pottery here. Look at this.

465

00:25:31,000 --> 00:25:33,000

Oh, yeah, a piece of pottery.

466

00:25:33,000 --> 00:25:36,000

Yeah, this pottery looks medieval.

467

00:25:36,000 --> 00:25:37,000

And that makes sense,

468

00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:39,000

because they built a medieval castle on top.

469

00:25:39,000 --> 00:25:40,000

Right.

470

00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:42,000

And then they reutilized these tunnels.

471

00:25:42,000 --> 00:25:44,000

Right, these tunnels were still perfectly good at that time.

472

00:25:44,000 --> 00:25:45,000

Oh, yeah.

473

00:25:47,000 --> 00:25:48,000

Much like the ground above,

474

00:25:48,000 --> 00:25:51,000

this tunnel was repurposed through the Middle Ages,

475

00:25:51,000 --> 00:25:53,000

which means we might have to pick through some thorns

476

00:25:53,000 --> 00:25:55,000

before we find a rose.

477

00:25:58,000 --> 00:26:01,000

David, I got something here that feels like...

478

00:26:01,000 --> 00:26:04,000

First, I thought it was a piece of stone, but it's like waxy.

479

00:26:04,000 --> 00:26:05,000

It's a candle.

480

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

This is a candle?

481

00:26:06,000 --> 00:26:07,000

Yeah.

482

00:26:07,000 --> 00:26:08,000

It is a candle.

483

00:26:08,000 --> 00:26:09,000

Look at that. I can actually see the wick in it.

484

00:26:09,000 --> 00:26:10,000

Wait, when is this from?

485

00:26:10,000 --> 00:26:12,000

Right, it's not a trustee. It's not medieval.

486

00:26:12,000 --> 00:26:13,000

Oh.

487

00:26:13,000 --> 00:26:14,000

Right, that's pretty modern.

488

00:26:14,000 --> 00:26:17,000

There's remnants of a looter probably having worked in here.

489

00:26:17,000 --> 00:26:19,000

Wow, that's crazy.

490

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

Evidence of tomb raiders right there.

491

00:26:21,000 --> 00:26:22,000

Although I guess they're not tomb raiders.

492

00:26:22,000 --> 00:26:23,000

They're sewage raiders.

493

00:26:23,000 --> 00:26:24,000

Yeah.

494

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

Poop raiders.

495

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

The looters obviously left this candle here by accident.

496

00:26:30,000 --> 00:26:31,000

I know, one of my worst.

497

00:26:31,000 --> 00:26:34,000

The question is, what else did they leave?

498

00:26:35,000 --> 00:26:38,000

Soon, the tunnel narrows and forks.

499

00:26:38,000 --> 00:26:42,000

David should probably get a look at what's ahead somehow.

500

00:26:42,000 --> 00:26:46,000

You're going to have to get ahead of me, although I have no idea how that's going to happen.

501

00:26:46,000 --> 00:26:47,000

Okay.

502

00:26:47,000 --> 00:26:48,000

Did you get over me?

503

00:26:48,000 --> 00:26:52,000

I can't, but there's three of these cave spiders right above you.

504

00:26:52,000 --> 00:26:53,000

What kind of spider?

505

00:26:53,000 --> 00:26:54,000

A cave spider.

506

00:26:54,000 --> 00:26:57,000

Just don't tell me about that and climb over me.

507

00:26:57,000 --> 00:26:59,000

Wow, those are really ugly spiders there, Josh.

508

00:26:59,000 --> 00:27:00,000

Okay, this is great.

509

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

I'm laying face down in an ancient sewer.

510

00:27:03,000 --> 00:27:04,000

You smell anything?

511

00:27:04,000 --> 00:27:06,000

Just my career drying up.

512

00:27:06,000 --> 00:27:09,000

All right, how many creatures are going to get in this tunnel?

513

00:27:09,000 --> 00:27:10,000

Oh my God.

514

00:27:10,000 --> 00:27:12,000

I'm almost there.

515

00:27:12,000 --> 00:27:15,000

This is very intimate.

516

00:27:15,000 --> 00:27:19,000

I can see what you mean.

517

00:27:19,000 --> 00:27:20,000

It divides them two.

518

00:27:20,000 --> 00:27:22,000

All right, so what's our move?

519

00:27:22,000 --> 00:27:25,000

I think we've come almost as far as we can.

520

00:27:25,000 --> 00:27:30,000

But if the looters left anything from the Etruscan period, this is where we'd find it.

521

00:27:32,000 --> 00:27:33,000

Back to digging.

522

00:27:36,000 --> 00:27:45,000

Yes, this is kind of loose debris on top, but then within just a couple centimeters,

523

00:27:45,000 --> 00:27:48,000

you get to this more hard packed stuff.

524

00:27:48,000 --> 00:27:52,000

I think this is slowly filled up in the medieval period.

525

00:27:52,000 --> 00:27:53,000

Uh-huh.

526

00:27:59,000 --> 00:28:00,000

Oh, here you go.

527

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

Here's something.

528

00:28:01,000 --> 00:28:02,000

What do you got?

529

00:28:02,000 --> 00:28:03,000

A piece of black pottery.

530

00:28:03,000 --> 00:28:04,000

Let me see.

531

00:28:04,000 --> 00:28:05,000

Yeah.

532

00:28:05,000 --> 00:28:06,000

Here you go.

533

00:28:08,000 --> 00:28:09,000

See what I mean?

534

00:28:09,000 --> 00:28:11,000

Yeah, it's just black on the outside.

535

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

I think it could be Bukaro.

536

00:28:13,000 --> 00:28:21,000

Bukaro is the signature ceramic style of the Etruscans, gleaming black thanks to a unique method for firing the pottery.

537

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

To think that this could be 2,500 years old is crazy.

538

00:28:25,000 --> 00:28:30,000

And maybe just a little trace of the Etruscans here, but man, they are elusive.

539

00:28:30,000 --> 00:28:31,000

Yeah, you're telling me, man.

540

00:28:31,000 --> 00:28:32,000

I know.

541

00:28:32,000 --> 00:28:41,000

These tunnels, though, look pretty clean, you know, some medieval refuse, but it looks like the looters have been through here, so I don't think we're going to find anything major down here, do you?

542

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

Not from the Etruscan period, but you ain't seen nothing yet.

543

00:28:44,000 --> 00:28:45,000

Really?

544

00:28:45,000 --> 00:28:48,000

There's a part of this site that will blow your mind.

545

00:28:48,000 --> 00:28:49,000

Okay.

546

00:28:49,000 --> 00:28:51,000

Better than the sewers, David?

547

00:28:51,000 --> 00:28:55,000

Well, this is hard to beat, but there's a part of this site that will make your jaw drop.

548

00:28:55,000 --> 00:28:56,000

Really?

549

00:28:56,000 --> 00:28:57,000

Etruscan. Absolutely.

550

00:28:57,000 --> 00:28:58,000

All right, let's move. Here we go.

551

00:28:59,000 --> 00:29:05,000

David and I return to the surface, having seen firsthand the ingenuity of Etruscan plumbing.

552

00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:16,000

But to understand more about who the Etruscans were, what else they accomplished, and where they went, David leads me to a part of their city that needs to be seen to be believed.

553

00:29:19,000 --> 00:29:21,000

Okay, take a look at this landscape.

554

00:29:21,000 --> 00:29:24,000

This is crazy. It's like we're in a slot canyon.

555

00:29:24,000 --> 00:29:26,000

Exactly like that, but it's a road.

556

00:29:26,000 --> 00:29:27,000

This is a road.

557

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

This is an Etruscan road carved into the hillside to create a ramp leading down through the necropolis and towards the city.

558

00:29:33,000 --> 00:29:37,000

If you were an outsider coming into the city, this would have looked really imposing.

559

00:29:37,000 --> 00:29:46,000

Absolutely. There are tombs everywhere here. Several layers of tombs on the right and on the left on either side and looking down on us as we approach the city.

560

00:29:47,000 --> 00:29:54,000

Known as Etruscan cuts, remains of roads like this one can be found all over central Italy.

561

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

Before all roads led to Rome, the Etruscans had things covered.

562

00:29:58,000 --> 00:30:01,000

The Etruscans are the road builders.

563

00:30:01,000 --> 00:30:05,000

That's right. They build a whole network of roads across the central Italian peninsula.

564

00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:11,000

And when Rome comes, they build on that infrastructure and create the famous Roman road network.

565

00:30:11,000 --> 00:30:13,000

The Etruscans need a better PR agency.

566

00:30:13,000 --> 00:30:14,000

Right? Can you work on that?

567

00:30:14,000 --> 00:30:19,000

I'm trying. I mean, because this is another thing that we think of as a Roman innovation.

568

00:30:19,000 --> 00:30:21,000

The Romans were their original plagiarizers.

569

00:30:21,000 --> 00:30:26,000

They were masters at taking innovations of other cultures and incorporating them into their own empire.

570

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

Meanwhile, underneath all that, Etruscan highways.

571

00:30:29,000 --> 00:30:31,000

That's right. And we're walking down one.

572

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

Okay, let's see where this road leads.

573

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

All right. Onward.

574

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

Yeah, onward.

575

00:30:36,000 --> 00:30:42,000

Okay, the road has now spit us out into a plaza, with tombs all surrounding us.

576

00:30:42,000 --> 00:30:46,000

And we have entered into the heart of the Necropolis.

577

00:30:46,000 --> 00:30:48,000

Look at this place.

578

00:30:49,000 --> 00:30:52,000

These cities weren't just built for the living.

579

00:30:52,000 --> 00:30:59,000

This is what's known as a city of the dead, a community of souls that surrounded and watched over the Etruscans.

580

00:30:59,000 --> 00:31:00,000

This is insane.

581

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

I feel like I'm in Angkor Wat in Southeast Asia.

582

00:31:03,000 --> 00:31:04,000

Looks like that, right?

583

00:31:04,000 --> 00:31:07,000

We've entered into a different environment here in the bottom of the ravine.

584

00:31:07,000 --> 00:31:10,000

This area here is meant to be awe-inspiring.

585

00:31:10,000 --> 00:31:11,000

It's meant to impress.

586

00:31:11,000 --> 00:31:12,000

Yeah.

587

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

It's meant to give the sensation that are entering into a landscape that's already claimed by the Etruscans,

588

00:31:17,000 --> 00:31:18,000

by the inhabitants of the city.

589

00:31:18,000 --> 00:31:20,000

Right. The Etruscans are one with this land.

590

00:31:20,000 --> 00:31:21,000

That's right.

591

00:31:21,000 --> 00:31:24,000

And especially this city is one with this landscape.

592

00:31:24,000 --> 00:31:25,000

That's right.

593

00:31:25,000 --> 00:31:29,000

Maybe in contrast to other Etruscans, remember, there's always a lot of people who are not familiar with the Etruscans.

594

00:31:29,000 --> 00:31:32,000

Remember, there's always conflict and rivalry.

595

00:31:32,000 --> 00:31:33,000

Right.

596

00:31:33,000 --> 00:31:34,000

Who's got the best necropolis?

597

00:31:34,000 --> 00:31:36,000

Who's got the most impressive tombs?

598

00:31:36,000 --> 00:31:40,000

All these are meant to impress visitors and maybe even attract alliances.

599

00:31:40,000 --> 00:31:41,000

Right.

600

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

And when it comes to trying to impress, David leads me toward a nearby clearing to see just how far the Etruscans would go.

601

00:31:50,000 --> 00:31:51,000

Whoa.

602

00:31:51,000 --> 00:31:52,000

Hey, look at this.

603

00:31:52,000 --> 00:31:53,000

What is this thing?

604

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

Look at this thing.

605

00:32:01,000 --> 00:32:03,000

This is what's known as a tumulus.

606

00:32:03,000 --> 00:32:04,000

A tumulus?

607

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

It's a tomb cut into the summit of a hill.

608

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

Literally cut into the top of the hill.

609

00:32:09,000 --> 00:32:10,000

That's right.

610

00:32:14,000 --> 00:32:19,000

So you have to imagine this being kind of the main tomb area of a whole family.

611

00:32:19,000 --> 00:32:23,000

And there are tombs carved in all along the outside of this tumulus.

612

00:32:23,000 --> 00:32:24,000

Right.

613

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

And then there's one of the biggest, the principal tomb, which would have been maybe for the founder of a dynasty,

614

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

but you're definitely the leader of that family group.

615

00:32:30,000 --> 00:32:31,000

Wow.

616

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

Can we see it?

617

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

Yeah, let's go.

618

00:32:33,000 --> 00:32:37,000

I mean, look at this place.

619

00:32:37,000 --> 00:32:39,000

This is serious construction.

620

00:32:39,000 --> 00:32:40,000

It's cut out of the hill.

621

00:32:40,000 --> 00:32:45,000

A big passageway leading into the main tomb, but you can see here how it's carved into the summit of the hillside,

622

00:32:45,000 --> 00:32:49,000

and then blocks are used to build up the top and make an even more impressive entryway.

623

00:32:49,000 --> 00:32:52,000

This is definitely like the big bosses too.

624

00:32:52,000 --> 00:32:55,000

The big boss in the middle of the 7th century BC was buried right in here.

625

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

And what's going on inside?

626

00:32:56,000 --> 00:32:57,000

Let's go see.

627

00:32:59,000 --> 00:33:05,000

The painted chambers we saw back in Tarquinia aren't the only type of a Truscan tomb.

628

00:33:05,000 --> 00:33:10,000

Here we see them carving what life may have been like in three dimensions.

629

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

Now this is legit.

630

00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:14,000

Look at this carved columns.

631

00:33:14,000 --> 00:33:15,000

This is like very regal.

632

00:33:15,000 --> 00:33:19,000

Back in the day, these huge family tombs, they must have looked so impressive.

633

00:33:19,000 --> 00:33:21,000

I think they would have been magnificent.

634

00:33:21,000 --> 00:33:26,000

Crowning the hilltops of the Necropolis on all the hills surrounding the city of the living.

635

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

Absolutely unbelievable.

636

00:33:28,000 --> 00:33:31,000

One such hilltop still exists.

637

00:33:31,000 --> 00:33:37,000

A nearby Truscan Necropolis called Chervetterie has stone made to look like wood beams,

638

00:33:37,000 --> 00:33:41,000

benches, long hallways, and detailed reliefs.

639

00:33:41,000 --> 00:33:44,000

There's even a carving of a book on a night table,

640

00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:47,000

evidence that the Truscans once had literature.

641

00:33:47,000 --> 00:33:53,000

But those tombs, like the ones I saw at Tarquinia, and even the sewer here, had been largely

raided.

642

00:33:53,000 --> 00:33:55,000

When this tomb was discovered, it had been looted.

643

00:33:55,000 --> 00:33:56,000

It had been looted.

644

00:33:56,000 --> 00:33:59,000

We have some objects and some sculptures from inside.

645

00:33:59,000 --> 00:34:02,000

For instance, there were two griffins guarding the entrance.

646

00:34:02,000 --> 00:34:05,000

This gives you an idea of how important the individual was.

647

00:34:05,000 --> 00:34:07,000

This really is a tomb for a king.

648

00:34:07,000 --> 00:34:08,000

Very high status.

649

00:34:08,000 --> 00:34:09,000

Yeah.

650

00:34:12,000 --> 00:34:16,000

David is determined to find undisturbed burials here at this site,

651

00:34:16,000 --> 00:34:20,000

which may contain inscriptions that could unlock a Truscan language,

652

00:34:20,000 --> 00:34:25,000

as well as priceless grave goods to explain their culture and origins.

653

00:34:25,000 --> 00:34:30,000

But as it turns out, even some of the tombs that have been broken into aren't totally empty.

654

00:34:31,000 --> 00:34:39,000

Right under our feet is an old funerary path that leads along the side of a row of tombs.

655

00:34:39,000 --> 00:34:40,000

There's one here.

656

00:34:40,000 --> 00:34:41,000

Uh-huh.

657

00:34:41,000 --> 00:34:42,000

There's another one here.

658

00:34:42,000 --> 00:34:43,000

Oh, wow, look at this.

659

00:34:43,000 --> 00:34:48,000

I mean, I would never have seen this just totally filled up and overgrown.

660

00:34:48,000 --> 00:34:52,000

This is a good example of what the tombs look like when we first encountered them.

661

00:34:52,000 --> 00:34:54,000

So why isn't this fully covered?

662

00:34:54,000 --> 00:34:59,000

Because at some point in the past, somebody broke into this tomb by removing the top block of the doorway.

663

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

So it's been looted.

664

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

Has it been excavated?

665

00:35:01,000 --> 00:35:07,000

It has not been excavated, but typically the looters leave a wealth of information inside the tomb for us to document.

666

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

Okay.

667

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

Do you want to go in?

668

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

No.

669

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

There's science in there.

670

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

No, there's spiders in there.

671

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

Spiders and science.

672

00:35:13,000 --> 00:35:14,000

Yeah, but a lot of spiders.

673

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

Let's go.

674

00:35:15,000 --> 00:35:16,000

You're going first though.

675

00:35:16,000 --> 00:35:17,000

All right.

676

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

Spiders or not, we're going in.

677

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

All right, here we go.

678

00:35:29,000 --> 00:35:31,000

This is horrible.

679

00:35:33,000 --> 00:35:34,000

Okay.

680

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

Ooh, I'm in.

681

00:35:38,000 --> 00:35:40,000

Wow, this is awesome in here, actually.

682

00:35:40,000 --> 00:35:45,000

Okay, so we've got two beds here with these kind of lower bunks carved out here.

683

00:35:45,000 --> 00:35:46,000

That's right.

684

00:35:46,000 --> 00:35:49,000

There's room for two on each side here to be laid out.

685

00:35:49,000 --> 00:35:52,000

Each tomb has its own particularities.

686

00:35:52,000 --> 00:35:54,000

All right, well, let's have a look around, yeah?

687

00:36:01,000 --> 00:36:03,000

Oh, wow, Josh, look over here.

688

00:36:03,000 --> 00:36:04,000

What do you have?

689

00:36:04,000 --> 00:36:06,000

There's this bone everywhere here.

690

00:36:06,000 --> 00:36:08,000

It's littered all over this bed.

691

00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:14,000

All these little white flakes that we see here, this big piece, that's all human bone?

692

00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:15,000

That's right.

693

00:36:15,000 --> 00:36:18,000

These remains weren't deliberately damaged.

694

00:36:18,000 --> 00:36:22,000

Chances are the ancient brittle bones shattered as the tomb was being looted.

695

00:36:22,000 --> 00:36:23,000

What is that?

696

00:36:23,000 --> 00:36:24,000

That dark thing?

697

00:36:24,000 --> 00:36:26,000

This is a piece of bronze.

698

00:36:26,000 --> 00:36:28,000

Wow, look at that.

699

00:36:28,000 --> 00:36:30,000

What do you think this is from?

700

00:36:30,000 --> 00:36:32,000

I think it would have been a decorative element, perhaps.

701

00:36:32,000 --> 00:36:33,000

Like something they were wearing?

702

00:36:33,000 --> 00:36:37,000

Yeah, probably a breastplate, maybe part of a belt.

703

00:36:37,000 --> 00:36:40,000

These people would have been laid out here wearing their best, right?

704

00:36:40,000 --> 00:36:42,000

They would have been laid to rest in their finest clothes.

705

00:36:42,000 --> 00:36:43,000

Right.

706

00:36:44,000 --> 00:36:45,000

Look at that.

707

00:36:45,000 --> 00:36:47,000

It's a tooth, a molar.

708

00:36:47,000 --> 00:36:49,000

Oh, my word.

709

00:36:49,000 --> 00:36:50,000

That is a tooth.

710

00:36:50,000 --> 00:36:51,000

That is a human tooth.

711

00:36:52,000 --> 00:36:54,000

That is an Etruscan tooth right there.

712

00:36:54,000 --> 00:36:56,000

Not just the trace of their pottery now,

713

00:36:56,000 --> 00:36:58,000

not just the trace of their architecture,

714

00:36:58,000 --> 00:37:00,000

but actually the remains of an individual.

715

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

That's right, and this is important data.

716

00:37:02,000 --> 00:37:04,000

We can do a series of analyses on bones like this

717

00:37:04,000 --> 00:37:08,000

that'll tell us about the life and the diet, the health and migrations,

718

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:10,000

and the origins of the Etruscans.

719

00:37:10,000 --> 00:37:13,000

This is a big question, their origins, right?

720

00:37:13,000 --> 00:37:14,000

Right.

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00:37:14,000 --> 00:37:16,000

Because they do seem to us to be this culture

722

00:37:16,000 --> 00:37:18,000

that just kind of comes out of nowhere,

723

00:37:18,000 --> 00:37:22,000

and people have been debating their origins since ancient times, right?

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00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:23,000

That's right.

725

00:37:24,000 --> 00:37:26,000

From their writings, the Romans and Greeks

726

00:37:26,000 --> 00:37:29,000

looked at the Etruscans as an exotic culture

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00:37:29,000 --> 00:37:32,000

that could not have been from the Italian peninsula.

728

00:37:33,000 --> 00:37:36,000

The Roman writer Livy speculated they were from Turkey,

729

00:37:36,000 --> 00:37:38,000

home of the mighty Trojans.

730

00:37:38,000 --> 00:37:41,000

Others thought they were originally from Greece.

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00:37:41,000 --> 00:37:44,000

But because the Etruscan language hasn't survived,

732

00:37:44,000 --> 00:37:46,000

they've never been able to speak for themselves.

733

00:37:47,000 --> 00:37:50,000

Recently, there's been an increasing number of genetic studies

734

00:37:50,000 --> 00:37:53,000

both using modern populations and ancient populations.

735

00:37:53,000 --> 00:37:57,000

Okay, and those studies may show us where the Etruscans were really from.

736

00:37:58,000 --> 00:38:01,000

Recently, scientists gathered genetic information

737

00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:04,000

from the ancient remains of 82 Etruscans

738

00:38:04,000 --> 00:38:08,000

to compare the DNA against other ancient and modern peoples.

739

00:38:09,000 --> 00:38:11,000

Okay, so where are they really from?

740

00:38:12,000 --> 00:38:13,000

Here.

741

00:38:14,000 --> 00:38:15,000

On the Italian peninsula?

742

00:38:15,000 --> 00:38:16,000

In the middle of Italy.

743

00:38:17,000 --> 00:38:18,000

So they're not from somewhere else at all?

744

00:38:19,000 --> 00:38:20,000

It doesn't seem that way.

745

00:38:20,000 --> 00:38:23,000

So they're just part of this landscape, literally.

746

00:38:23,000 --> 00:38:24,000

They're from here.

747

00:38:24,000 --> 00:38:25,000

They're Italians.

748

00:38:25,000 --> 00:38:27,000

They're Italians. They're from here.

749

00:38:27,000 --> 00:38:31,000

Identifying the origins of the Etruscans is a major win.

750

00:38:31,000 --> 00:38:33,000

But even with these human remains,

751

00:38:33,000 --> 00:38:36,000

we're left with more questions than answers.

752

00:38:36,000 --> 00:38:40,000

Right here in front of us, we have, in many pieces,

753

00:38:40,000 --> 00:38:42,000

an Etruscan, an individual.

754

00:38:42,000 --> 00:38:43,000

That's right.

755

00:38:43,000 --> 00:38:45,000

I don't think the story is fully told.

756

00:38:47,000 --> 00:38:49,000

In order to fully know who the Etruscans were

757

00:38:49,000 --> 00:38:51,000

and why they fell to Rome,

758

00:38:51,000 --> 00:38:54,000

archaeologists need unlooted tombs.

759

00:38:54,000 --> 00:38:58,000

But every burial David's team has found to date has been robbed,

760

00:38:58,000 --> 00:39:01,000

and the tombs are hard to locate since they're overgrown,

761

00:39:01,000 --> 00:39:04,000

buried, or hidden along steep cliffs.

762

00:39:04,000 --> 00:39:07,000

In other words, we need some high-tech help.

763

00:39:08,000 --> 00:39:11,000

Josh, this is Forest, Laura, and Natalie from LIDAR USA.

764

00:39:11,000 --> 00:39:13,000

I'm very familiar with LIDAR USA.

765

00:39:13,000 --> 00:39:14,000

I've worked with your company before.

766

00:39:14,000 --> 00:39:15,000

Yes, you have.

767

00:39:15,000 --> 00:39:17,000

You worked with our dad, Jeff, and Roanoke.

768

00:39:17,000 --> 00:39:18,000

That's right.

769

00:39:18,000 --> 00:39:20,000

And my brother Daniel in Guatemala.

770

00:39:20,000 --> 00:39:21,000

Yes, at El Mirador.

771

00:39:21,000 --> 00:39:23,000

I think I made your brother throw up in a helicopter.

772

00:39:25,000 --> 00:39:27,000

Sometimes science is pukey.

773

00:39:29,000 --> 00:39:30,000

He's okay now?

774

00:39:30,000 --> 00:39:31,000

He's fine.

775

00:39:31,000 --> 00:39:32,000

He's fine. He's recovered.

776

00:39:32,000 --> 00:39:33,000

Okay.

777

00:39:33,000 --> 00:39:34,000

Sorry about that.

778

00:39:34,000 --> 00:39:35,000

Sorry.

779

00:39:35,000 --> 00:39:36,000

And here we are again.

780

00:39:36,000 --> 00:39:37,000

Yes.

781

00:39:37,000 --> 00:39:38,000

So, okay.

782

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

Talk to me.

783

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

What's the plan here?

784

00:39:40,000 --> 00:39:42,000

I'm excited about this because this is, as you've seen,

785

00:39:42,000 --> 00:39:44,000

a very hard site, very challenging to actually see what's on the surface.

786

00:39:44,000 --> 00:39:46,000

A lot of hills, a lot of vegetation.

787

00:39:46,000 --> 00:39:47,000

That's right.

788

00:39:47,000 --> 00:39:48,000

The LIDAR will get us through those trees.

789

00:39:48,000 --> 00:39:49,000

Right.

790

00:39:49,000 --> 00:39:53,000

The plan is for the LIDAR to peer down and image any additional cavities

791

00:39:53,000 --> 00:39:57,000

around the site, targets for potentially unlooted tombs.

792

00:39:57,000 --> 00:39:59,000

And what kind of area are we going to be scanning here today?

793

00:39:59,000 --> 00:40:02,000

So, we're looking at somewhere around 250 acres.

794

00:40:02,000 --> 00:40:04,000

250 acres is a lot.

795

00:40:04,000 --> 00:40:05,000

And that will take this drone how long?

796

00:40:05,000 --> 00:40:06,000

About 15 minutes.

797

00:40:06,000 --> 00:40:07,000

15 minutes.

798

00:40:07,000 --> 00:40:11,000

And in that 15 minutes or so, how many data points will this collect?

799

00:40:11,000 --> 00:40:12,000

Millions.

800

00:40:12,000 --> 00:40:13,000

Millions.

801

00:40:13,000 --> 00:40:14,000

It doesn't make any sense.

802

00:40:14,000 --> 00:40:15,000

Are you ready to fly for us?

803

00:40:15,000 --> 00:40:16,000

I'm ready.

804

00:40:16,000 --> 00:40:17,000

All right. Let's do it.

805

00:40:19,000 --> 00:40:20,000

She's alive.

806

00:40:20,000 --> 00:40:27,000

The drone hovers in the air, scanning along a pre-programmed route

807

00:40:27,000 --> 00:40:31,000

that will cover the same territory it would take years to explore on foot.

808

00:40:34,000 --> 00:40:37,000

The really mysterious thing about the Etruscans is that the more you learn about them,

809

00:40:37,000 --> 00:40:41,000

the more you understand that they were this really robust civilization.

810

00:40:41,000 --> 00:40:42,000

Right?

811

00:40:42,000 --> 00:40:43,000

They were politically smart.

812

00:40:43,000 --> 00:40:45,000

They were trading far and wide.

813

00:40:45,000 --> 00:40:46,000

They were innovative.

814

00:40:46,000 --> 00:40:49,000

And yet, they were so much more innovative.

815

00:40:49,000 --> 00:40:53,000

And yet, it seems today like they've just vanished off the face of the earth.

816

00:40:53,000 --> 00:40:57,000

I mean, if I were to bet, let's say, around 500 BC,

817

00:40:57,000 --> 00:41:00,000

what would be the most successful culture in Italy,

818

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

it would be the Etruscans, definitely not the Romans.

819

00:41:03,000 --> 00:41:06,000

Why is it, do you think, in the end of the Etruscans couldn't stand up to Rome?

820

00:41:06,000 --> 00:41:09,000

I think the city-state division may have worked against them.

821

00:41:09,000 --> 00:41:13,000

Their rivalries between the nobilities may actually, in the end,

822

00:41:13,000 --> 00:41:16,000

have weakened them when they were faced with a power as strong as Rome.

823

00:41:16,000 --> 00:41:17,000

Right.

824

00:41:17,000 --> 00:41:18,000

And they were a divided group.

825

00:41:18,000 --> 00:41:20,000

They were these independent city-states.

826

00:41:20,000 --> 00:41:26,000

A league of 12, but not always supporting each other militarily when it came down to it.

827

00:41:26,000 --> 00:41:27,000

Right.

828

00:41:27,000 --> 00:41:28,000

It's an age-old lesson.

829

00:41:28,000 --> 00:41:31,000

United we stand, divided we fall.

830

00:41:31,000 --> 00:41:37,000

By the time Rome grew into a threat, the Etruscans weren't cohesive enough to withstand them.

831

00:41:37,000 --> 00:41:43,000

While David and I ponder the past, the drone finishes its program and gently touches down.

832

00:41:43,000 --> 00:41:48,000

Nice flying, by the way.

833

00:41:48,000 --> 00:41:49,000

Thank you.

834

00:41:49,000 --> 00:41:50,000

You excited?

835

00:41:50,000 --> 00:41:51,000

Oh man, let's get this data.

836

00:41:51,000 --> 00:41:56,000

Once the data is extracted from the drone, it's time to process it through the computer

837

00:41:56,000 --> 00:42:02,000

to see if this forest has been hiding some intact Etruscan tombs for over 3,000 years.

838

00:42:02,000 --> 00:42:07,000

Oh, look at that!

839

00:42:14,000 --> 00:42:15,000

Hello, sir.

840

00:42:15,000 --> 00:42:17,000

How's your pasta?

841

00:42:17,000 --> 00:42:18,000

Ecellente.

842

00:42:18,000 --> 00:42:19,000

What brings you to Italy?

843

00:42:19,000 --> 00:42:20,000

We're looking for the Etruscans.

844

00:42:20,000 --> 00:42:23,000

You know we have here in the restaurant an Etruscan tomb?

845

00:42:23,000 --> 00:42:24,000

In the restaurant?

846

00:42:24,000 --> 00:42:25,000

Yeah, of course.

847

00:42:25,000 --> 00:42:26,000

Is it under your feet?

848

00:42:26,000 --> 00:42:27,000

I'll show you.

849

00:42:27,000 --> 00:42:28,000

Move the table.

850

00:42:28,000 --> 00:42:29,000

Move the table.

851

00:42:29,000 --> 00:42:31,000

What?

852

00:42:31,000 --> 00:42:32,000

That's it.

853

00:42:32,000 --> 00:42:33,000

Are you kidding me?

854

00:42:33,000 --> 00:42:34,000

It's a real tomb?

855

00:42:34,000 --> 00:42:35,000

Of course, yes.

856

00:42:35,000 --> 00:42:36,000

Do you want to jump down?

857

00:42:36,000 --> 00:42:37,000

Yeah.

858

00:42:37,000 --> 00:42:39,000

Luciano, please, come here.

859

00:42:39,000 --> 00:42:40,000

Hello, Luciano.

860

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

Luciano, we're going to open it.

861

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

Oh, thank you, I...

862

00:42:44,000 --> 00:42:45,000

You got it?

863

00:42:45,000 --> 00:42:46,000

I can go down here, really?

864

00:42:46,000 --> 00:42:47,000

Yeah, of course, yes.

865

00:42:47,000 --> 00:42:49,000

Okay, I'll see you later, guys.

866

00:42:49,000 --> 00:42:50,000

Giang d'etre.

867

00:42:52,000 --> 00:42:57,000

There is literally a tomb thousands of years old underneath this restaurant.

868

00:42:57,000 --> 00:43:02,000

It just goes to show that when you eat out, it's important to inquire about specials that are off

the menu.

869

00:43:03,000 --> 00:43:04,000

Hello?

870

00:43:04,000 --> 00:43:05,000

Hello, George.

871

00:43:05,000 --> 00:43:06,000

Hello, hello.

872

00:43:06,000 --> 00:43:07,000

Guys?

873

00:43:13,000 --> 00:43:14,000

Oh, my word.

874

00:43:14,000 --> 00:43:16,000

So that's the whole site.

875

00:43:16,000 --> 00:43:19,000

It's the whole plateau with the surrounding hillsides.

876

00:43:19,000 --> 00:43:20,000

That is so cool.

877

00:43:20,000 --> 00:43:24,000

No unlooted Etruscan tombs have been found at this site.

878

00:43:24,000 --> 00:43:31,000

Locating one could mean finding historic artifacts or inscriptions that could help decipher their lost language.

879

00:43:31,000 --> 00:43:33,000

And so walk me through the color pattern here.

880

00:43:33,000 --> 00:43:35,000

So this is colored based on height.

881

00:43:35,000 --> 00:43:36,000

Yep.

882

00:43:36,000 --> 00:43:41,000

So the dark blue is the lowest sections and the darkest red is the highest portions.

883

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

And now can we remove that layer?

884

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

Yes, so that's what we're going to do now.

885

00:43:46,000 --> 00:43:47,000

Look at that.

886

00:43:47,000 --> 00:43:49,000

How cool is that?

887

00:43:49,000 --> 00:43:52,000

So now that we can see this without any of the vegetation, let's get our bearings.

888

00:43:52,000 --> 00:43:55,000

So the main part of the site is where?

889

00:43:55,000 --> 00:43:56,000

Here.

890

00:43:56,000 --> 00:44:02,000

And this would have also been where the Acropolis, the ritual center of the Etruscan city, which extended across the plateau.

891

00:44:02,000 --> 00:44:05,000

Okay, so what jumps out on here for you?

892

00:44:05,000 --> 00:44:10,000

What jumps out, first of all, is you may be seeing segments of the circuit walls that might date back to the Etruscan city.

893

00:44:10,000 --> 00:44:14,000

Right, like above the site there, can we zoom in on that?

894

00:44:14,000 --> 00:44:16,000

This looks really squared off.

895

00:44:16,000 --> 00:44:18,000

Yes, this looks excellent right here and right there.

896

00:44:18,000 --> 00:44:19,000

You think that's part of a defensive wall?

897

00:44:19,000 --> 00:44:20,000

I would say it is.

898

00:44:20,000 --> 00:44:26,000

So if these are all sections of a defensive wall, does that mean this whole plateau might have been part of the city?

899

00:44:26,000 --> 00:44:30,000

It's further evidence that the city extended across the entirety of the plateau.

900

00:44:30,000 --> 00:44:32,000

Look at this down to the south.

901

00:44:32,000 --> 00:44:34,000

This feature comes in very clearly here.

902

00:44:34,000 --> 00:44:36,000

Right, this is one of these Etruscan roads here.

903

00:44:36,000 --> 00:44:41,000

Yeah, this is a road cut, like a ramp leading down from the hilltop, down into the Necropolis.

904

00:44:41,000 --> 00:44:45,000

Then this down here, there's our tumulus right there, yeah?

905

00:44:45,000 --> 00:44:46,000

That's right.

906

00:44:46,000 --> 00:44:55,000

And down the escarpment here of the hillside, layers of tombs and sequence would have been laid

along the roads that connect the city of the dead.

907

00:44:55,000 --> 00:45:01,000

So all these pock marks we see, all these dark areas here, some of which look kind of squared off actually, are those tombs?

908

00:45:01,000 --> 00:45:03,000

I think those might be tombs.

909

00:45:03,000 --> 00:45:04,000

Oh man.

910

00:45:04,000 --> 00:45:07,000

And do they occur on the other hillside as well? Can we zoom out?

911

00:45:09,000 --> 00:45:10,000

Look at that.

912

00:45:10,000 --> 00:45:13,000

Look how many potential tombs are right there.

913

00:45:13,000 --> 00:45:19,000

You see these cluster of tombs would have been looking right towards the city of the living, right towards the ritual center.

914

00:45:19,000 --> 00:45:22,000

And up on the top here, we have additional constructed tombs.

915

00:45:22,000 --> 00:45:24,000

Can we zoom in there a little bit?

916

00:45:25,000 --> 00:45:28,000

Look at that. You can see them just cut out of the hillside there.

917

00:45:28,000 --> 00:45:29,000

That's right.

918

00:45:29,000 --> 00:45:33,000

The more we look at this map, the more that it seems like there might be tombs everywhere here.

919

00:45:33,000 --> 00:45:35,000

Oh, there certainly are.

920

00:45:35,000 --> 00:45:38,000

How many tombs did you survey on the ground just from what you could see?

921

00:45:38,000 --> 00:45:42,000

Our pedestrian survey documented 543 tombs.

922

00:45:42,000 --> 00:45:44,000

Sorry, 543 tombs?

923

00:45:44,000 --> 00:45:48,000

543 tombs, but there must be many more. This image helps to show that.

924

00:45:48,000 --> 00:45:50,000

I mean, I think there are thousands of tombs here.

925

00:45:51,000 --> 00:45:52,000

Thousands?

926

00:45:52,000 --> 00:45:53,000

Thousands of tombs.

927

00:45:53,000 --> 00:45:58,000

This model here shows us the pinpointing locations of probably even more.

928

00:45:58,000 --> 00:46:03,000

I've scanned hundreds of historical sites around the world, and I've never seen anything like this.

929

00:46:03,000 --> 00:46:10,000

I mean, it really does seem like everywhere you zoom in here, there are potentially tombs.

930

00:46:10,000 --> 00:46:16,000

There might be unlooted tombs here because we do not see those looters pits that penetrate down.

931

00:46:16,000 --> 00:46:21,000

We've not found an unlooted tomb, and unlooted tomb really would provide a wealth of data for us.

932

00:46:21,000 --> 00:46:25,000

An unlooted tomb is a gold mine in terms of understanding the Etruscans.

933

00:46:25,000 --> 00:46:26,000

It's the Holy Grail.

934

00:46:26,000 --> 00:46:27,000

Right.

935

00:46:29,000 --> 00:46:32,000

And that grail may be within David's grasp.

936

00:46:32,000 --> 00:46:37,000

Unlooted tombs that could finally give us the keys to the Etruscan language,

937

00:46:37,000 --> 00:46:41,000

or offer us stunning examples of their art and architecture.

938

00:46:41,000 --> 00:46:45,000

This lidar has just opened yet another door into the Etruscans' world,

939

00:46:45,000 --> 00:46:51,000

and David and his team will continue to chase down every lead in their pursuit of the past.

940

00:46:52,000 --> 00:46:58,000

Before heading home, I returned to the Eternal City, as if seeing it for the first time,

941

00:46:58,000 --> 00:47:01,000

now through the eyes of an Etruscan.

942

00:47:01,000 --> 00:47:08,000

This is the terminus of the Cloaca Maxima, that massive sewer system that once ran beneath ancient Rome.

943

00:47:08,000 --> 00:47:14,000

Waste from around the city would flow out into the Tiber River, and it quite literally drained the swamp,

944

00:47:14,000 --> 00:47:17,000

paving the way for the construction of the Roman Forum.

945

00:47:18,000 --> 00:47:22,000

And as we now know, it was the Etruscans who first built it.

946

00:47:24,000 --> 00:47:29,000

And not just the plumbing, chariot racing, and gladiator games.

947

00:47:29,000 --> 00:47:37,000

The first roads, fashion, and elements of their religion are all part of a Rome that exists to this day.

948

00:47:37,000 --> 00:47:40,000

Yet we're born with the Etruscans.

949

00:47:42,000 --> 00:47:46,000

If all roads lead to Rome, those roads begin with the Etruscans.

950

00:47:46,000 --> 00:47:48,000

And where did the Etruscans go?

951

00:47:48,000 --> 00:47:52,000

Well, it turns out, nowhere. They've been right here, all along.