

1

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

Do you think that somewhere out there in the universe there is intelligent life?

2

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

I absolutely think it has to be possible.

3

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

Get ready for an expedition unknown global event.

4

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

Yeah! I'm on a mission to answer mankind's eternal question.

5

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

The top of the hill.

6

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

The low.

7

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

Are we alone in the universe?

8

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

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, what's it doing?

9

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

The truth may be out there.

10

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

But the evidence is down here.

11

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

Look at these.

12

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

It's the same symbol around all the world.

13

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

I'm joining forces with scientists on the cutting edge of discovery.

14

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

Oh, what's that?

15

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

You see that?

16

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

And I witnesses who say aliens are already here.

17

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

Did you guys know that this was not of this earth?

18

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

Well, it wasn't human.

19

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

It literally is in space.

20

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

Coscience.

21

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

This time, my expedition...

22

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

Welcome to Roswell Army Airfield...

23

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

...is into the ultimate unknown.

24

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

This is the smoking gun that proves alien visitation.

25

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

Look at this thing!

26

00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:14,000

Oh, I got a light.

27

00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:16,000

Come here, get a camera over here.

28

00:01:24,000 --> 00:01:29,000

I may be a world traveler, but, confession, I'm also a card-carrying geek.

29

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

My earliest adventures were aboard the Starship Enterprise...

30

00:01:32,000 --> 00:01:34,000

...or in a galaxy far, far away.

31

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

I spent my childhood in the darkest corners of the Twilight Zone...

32

00:01:37,000 --> 00:01:40,000

...or lost in the pages of Ray Bradbury.

33

00:01:40,000 --> 00:01:42,000

I love science fiction.

34

00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:48,000

And like so many others, I am obsessed with the question of whether there's something else out there.

35

00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:53,000

And now, I'm going to be a part of the world of the starship.

36

00:01:53,000 --> 00:01:57,000

And now, maybe the moment we finally find out.

37

00:01:59,000 --> 00:02:04,000

Recently, a flood of major scientific breakthroughs in space have dominated the headlines...

38

00:02:04,000 --> 00:02:09,000

...reigniting the debate over the existence of extraterrestrials.

39

00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:15,000

Several months ago, astronomers even discovered a grouping of planets...

40

00:02:15,000 --> 00:02:18,000

...that could potentially support alien life.

41

00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:24,000

And here on Earth, eye witnesses are capturing compelling UFO footage...

42

00:02:24,000 --> 00:02:27,000

...that's harder to dismiss than anything seen before.

43

00:02:35,000 --> 00:02:40,000

Now, I'm setting off on the most extraordinary expedition of my career.

44

00:02:40,000 --> 00:02:45,000

I'll journey over 50,000 miles, exploring ancient signs of aliens...

45

00:02:45,000 --> 00:02:49,000

...on the most remote island on the planet, to futuristic technology...

46

00:02:49,000 --> 00:02:52,000

...gazing deep into the final frontier.

47

00:02:53,000 --> 00:02:56,000

This is an adventure as big as the universe.

48

00:02:56,000 --> 00:03:01,000

So beam yourself up and join me on my mission to seek out new life...

49

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

...and boldly go where no adventurer has gone before.

50

00:03:07,000 --> 00:03:09,000

My name is Josh Gates.

51

00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:13,000

I've traveled to more than 100 countries exploring age-old legends.

52

00:03:13,000 --> 00:03:15,000

Oh, wow. Look at this!

53

00:03:15,000 --> 00:03:19,000

And now, I'm tackling mankind's greatest question.

54

00:03:19,000 --> 00:03:22,000

Are we alone in the universe?

55

00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:25,000

Join me on a global quest for answers.

56

00:03:25,000 --> 00:03:27,000

Way, there she goes.

57

00:03:27,000 --> 00:03:30,000

And an investigation that is out of this world.

58

00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:32,000

Oh, right there.

59

00:03:32,000 --> 00:03:36,000

This is Expedition Unknown, Hunt for Extraterrestrials.

60

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

My mission to find the latest evidence of extraterrestrial life...

61

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

...could only begin in one place.

62

00:03:50,000 --> 00:03:53,000

Welcome to Space Center Houston.

63

00:03:55,000 --> 00:04:01,000

An interactive museum that celebrates America's leading role in the exploration of the universe.

64

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

For a space geek like me, this is home.

65

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

On display are priceless relics from the heyday of the American space race.

66

00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:12,000

Actual spacesuits.

67

00:04:12,000 --> 00:04:14,000

Lunar rock samples.

68

00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:18,000

And the jaw-dropping sight of a decommissioned Saturn rocket.

69

00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:23,000

This is where every child's dream of exploring space is made real.

70

00:04:23,000 --> 00:04:28,000

If you can walk around here without feeling a swell of violins in your soul...

71

00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:31,000

...well, then you must be made of stone.

72

00:04:35,000 --> 00:04:37,000

But there's more than a museum here.

73

00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:42,000

Next door is the home of the agency at the forefront of space exploration.

74

00:04:42,000 --> 00:04:44,000

This is NASA.

75

00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:49,000

Much of the facility is off limits to the public...

76

00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:53,000

...but I've been invited inside to see the beating heart of America's space program.

77

00:04:54,000 --> 00:04:58,000

The sprawling campus is where every single American astronaut is trained...

78

00:04:58,000 --> 00:05:02,000

...and houses a full-scale replica of the International Space Station.

79

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

Pools for learning how to work in zero gravity.

80

00:05:06,000 --> 00:05:08,000

And early prototypes of the Orion.

81

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

The next-generation capsule that will take Americans back to space...

82

00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:14,000

...now that the space shuttle is retired.

83

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

So many things for me to break in here.

84

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

This place is all about the future.

85

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

But even the future has a past.

86

00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:26,000

And NASA's is quite frankly glorious.

87

00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:34,000

In the history of human exploration...

88

00:05:34,000 --> 00:05:36,000

...this room is a temple.

89

00:05:36,000 --> 00:05:41,000

Nine Gemini missions and twelve Apollo missions were controlled from right here.

90

00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:46,000

The very first American spacewalk, Ed White on Gemini 4.

91

00:05:46,000 --> 00:05:48,000

The heroic rescue of Apollo 13.

92

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

When Jim Lovell called out Houston, we have a problem.

93

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

This is where he was calling.

94

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

And of course, Apollo 11.

95

00:05:55,000 --> 00:06:01,000

What, for my money, is the greatest achievement in humanity's history.

96

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

On July 20, 1969, every single person in this room...

97

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

...and just about every person in the world held their breath...

98

00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:11,000

...as Neil Armstrong called out from the surface of the moon...

99

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

...that the eagle had landed.

100

00:06:25,000 --> 00:06:30,000

Leaving NASA's past behind, I go to see their newest toy in the search for alien life.

101

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

The ten billion dollar James Webb telescope.

102

00:06:33,000 --> 00:06:36,000

The telescope's project manager, John Homan...

103

00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:40,000

...brings me to the edge of the highly controlled clean room where it's being assembled.

104

00:06:40,000 --> 00:06:43,000

Oh my word, look at that.

105

00:06:43,000 --> 00:06:45,000

It's enormous.

106

00:06:45,000 --> 00:06:48,000

Pretty amazing piece of technology there.

107

00:06:48,000 --> 00:06:51,000

Once it's launched into orbit in 2018...

108

00:06:51,000 --> 00:06:54,000

...the massive solar-powered telescope will gaze further into space...

109

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

...than man has ever been capable.

110

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

And in astronomy, looking into deep space...

111

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

...means looking back in time.

112

00:07:01,000 --> 00:07:03,000

And what will its primary mission be?

113

00:07:03,000 --> 00:07:06,000

The first thing it's looking for is first light of the universe.

114

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

It's also looking for the formation of stars and galaxies...

115

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

...why they form the way they do.

116

00:07:11,000 --> 00:07:13,000

And then, of course, it also is going to be looking for exoplanets...

117

00:07:13,000 --> 00:07:18,000

...and especially being able to look for exoplanets that may have signatures of light.

118

00:07:19,000 --> 00:07:22,000

Exoplanets are planets beyond our solar system.

119

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

With a 21-foot tall gold-plated mirror...

120

00:07:25,000 --> 00:07:28,000

...the Webb telescope is made to detect these planets.

121

00:07:28,000 --> 00:07:31,000

The goal is to find planets that are the right size...

122

00:07:31,000 --> 00:07:34,000

...and the right distance away from the right kind of star.

123

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

You know, like the planet you're standing on now.

124

00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:40,000

The kind that might support extraterrestrial life.

125

00:07:40,000 --> 00:07:43,000

And how will it try to detect those exoplanets?

126

00:07:43,000 --> 00:07:48,000

I'd be able to see the signatures of things like carbon dioxide...

127

00:07:48,000 --> 00:07:54,000

...oxygen, water vapor in the light that's reflected off that planet.

128

00:07:54,000 --> 00:07:58,000

So it's sensitive enough that it can tell if those planets have those elements?

129

00:07:58,000 --> 00:07:59,000

Correct.

130

00:07:59,000 --> 00:08:04,000

The Webb telescope is 20 times more powerful than the Hubble telescope it's replacing.

131

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

For scientists, it will be as if, after years of squinting at the stars...

132

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

...they're suddenly getting a new pair of glasses.

133

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

It's awesome to be able to see it. Thanks for giving us a look.

134

00:08:14,000 --> 00:08:16,000

You're very welcome.

135

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

Of course, when the Webb telescope discovers that shiny new planet with alien life...

136

00:08:21,000 --> 00:08:25,000

...the next question is, what are we going to drive there?

137

00:08:25,000 --> 00:08:30,000

Well, NASA has already designed a vehicle that goes way, way off-road.

138

00:08:31,000 --> 00:08:38,000

In this Texas-sized garage, engineer Justin Ridley lets me kick the tires of NASA's prototype rover.

139

00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:40,000

What is this thing?

140

00:08:40,000 --> 00:08:44,000

Okay, so this is a concept for if we were going to go back to the moon, go to Mars...

141

00:08:44,000 --> 00:08:46,000

...how we would explore that surface.

142

00:08:47,000 --> 00:08:51,000

You can see here at the back of the vehicle, you've got the space suit hanging out.

143

00:08:51,000 --> 00:08:52,000

Right.

144

00:08:52,000 --> 00:08:55,000

So that space suit opens up to the rear of the vehicle. It's like a backpack there.

145

00:08:55,000 --> 00:08:57,000

Oh, you can get into it from inside.

146

00:08:57,000 --> 00:09:02,000

Exactly. Back in the Apollo era, they didn't want to drive further away than they could walk back.

147

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

Right.

148

00:09:03,000 --> 00:09:06,000

So if the vehicle broke down, they needed to walk on their big space suits all the way back.

149

00:09:06,000 --> 00:09:11,000

We wanted a vehicle that was capable enough that we could be comfortable exploring a much, much larger distance.

150

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

How long could you sustain in there?

151

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

About two weeks.

152

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

Two weeks? Wow.

153

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

Yeah.

154

00:09:15,000 --> 00:09:16,000

So it's like a family camper van.

155

00:09:16,000 --> 00:09:17,000

Exactly.

156

00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:20,000

Is the prototype operational? Will it move?

157

00:09:20,000 --> 00:09:22,000

Absolutely. You want to give it a spin?

158

00:09:23,000 --> 00:09:24,000

Yes.

159

00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:25,000

All right.

160

00:09:25,000 --> 00:09:26,000

Please.

161

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

You take a right seat, I'll take the left seat.

162

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

You got it.

163

00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:35,000

Taking me for a test drive is robotics engineer Lucien Junkin.

164

00:09:35,000 --> 00:09:39,000

Tell me about this area we're in out here. This looks a little lunar right here.

165

00:09:39,000 --> 00:09:45,000

Yes. So we have a Mars yard and a lunar yard that represent where we do a bunch of our testing.

166

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

Would you like to draft?

167

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

Yeah, I would love to.

168

00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:51,000

Okay, Josh, I'm transferring control over to you.

169

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

Do a pure right.

170

00:09:52,000 --> 00:09:53,000

Pure right. Here we go.

171

00:09:58,000 --> 00:09:59,000

Keep going.

172

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

Down into the pit?

173

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

Sure.

174

00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:04,000

So this is just a representative crater of what we might see on the moon.

175

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

Do a pure twist to your right.

176

00:10:06,000 --> 00:10:16,000

It may not be the fastest hunk of junk in the galaxy, but with 360 degree control, it can run over pretty much anything, which is helpful when I'm the one driving.

177

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

Get out of here.

178

00:10:20,000 --> 00:10:25,000

This is officially the coolest 4x4 I've ever been in. Actually, I guess it's not a 4x4, it's more like a 12x12.

179

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

Got speakers set from here.

180

00:10:32,000 --> 00:10:33,000

Place some tunes.

181

00:10:33,000 --> 00:10:34,000

Yeah.

182

00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:37,000

All the comfort you want in an RV, you want in this.

183

00:10:37,000 --> 00:10:38,000

What about cup holders?

184

00:10:38,000 --> 00:10:40,000

I already got cup holders for you.

185

00:10:40,000 --> 00:10:43,000

They're in. Where's the beer cooler?

186

00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:46,000

There may be a beer cooler, but the beer won't ever get to Ma.

187

00:10:46,000 --> 00:10:47,000

That's right.

188

00:10:47,000 --> 00:10:53,000

Okay, it's got the cup holders, the thing, but does it have a moonroof?

189

00:10:56,000 --> 00:11:01,000

After the worst pun in the history of the space program, Lucien kicks me out of the rover.

190

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

Okay.

191

00:11:02,000 --> 00:11:03,000

That was awesome, man.

192

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

Thank you so much.

193

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

I hop out knowing that if there is life in outer space, NASA has the capability to run it over.

194

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

Considering that NASA's business is the cutting edge exploration of space, most of the campus here looks fairly unassuming,

195

00:11:19,000 --> 00:11:25,000

but on the inside of one nondescript building, you'll find the most high tech office on Earth.

196

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

This is NASA's active mission control.

197

00:11:28,000 --> 00:11:33,000

It's responsible for the only life in outer space that we can definitively prove exists.

198

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

The astronauts aboard the International Space Station.

199

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

The ISS has been orbiting Earth since 1998.

200

00:11:44,000 --> 00:11:50,000

A truly international undertaking, it has grown to 15 modules built by 25 countries,

201

00:11:50,000 --> 00:11:56,000

and for nearly 20 years, it has been continuously occupied by astronauts and cosmonauts,

202

00:11:56,000 --> 00:12:01,000

who have slipped the surly bonds of Earth to advance mankind's mission to the stars.

203

00:12:04,000 --> 00:12:10,000

The team here in Houston has the immense responsibility of maintaining the space station and her crew.

204

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

Today, they're allowing me on the floor of mission control.

205

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

Josh?

206

00:12:15,000 --> 00:12:16,000

How are you?

207

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:17,000

Mike, good to meet you.

208

00:12:17,000 --> 00:12:18,000

Mike, pleasure.

209

00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:21,000

And thank you, everybody, for letting us interrupt you for a few minutes.

210

00:12:21,000 --> 00:12:22,000

I really appreciate it.

211

00:12:22,000 --> 00:12:25,000

Usually, you're only in here if you did very well in science class.

212

00:12:25,000 --> 00:12:31,000

In my case, they're making an exception to allow me to make a very special phone call.

213

00:12:31,000 --> 00:12:32,000

Thank you.

214

00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:33,000

We're here.

215

00:12:33,000 --> 00:12:34,000

You're loud and clear.

216

00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:36,000

We've got a special guest here at MCC, Mr. Josh Gates.

217

00:12:47,000 --> 00:12:52,000

The first leg of my search for the latest evidence of extraterrestrial life has led me to the place

218

00:12:52,000 --> 00:12:57,000

where all roads lead for space junkies like me, NASA.

219

00:12:57,000 --> 00:13:03,000

And today, I'm overwhelmed at the rare opportunity to set foot on the floor of mission control.

220

00:13:03,000 --> 00:13:08,000

Here, a small army of engineers, technicians, doctors and flight controllers

221

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

make sure that the 450-ton international space station above us stays that way.

222

00:13:14,000 --> 00:13:17,000

They also look after the station's resident astronauts.

223

00:13:17,000 --> 00:13:21,000

We've got a special guest here at MCC, Mr. Josh Gates.

224

00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:25,000

How are you enjoying your visit to Johnson Space Center?

225

00:13:25,000 --> 00:13:28,000

I would say that my visit is now fairly extraordinary.

226

00:13:28,000 --> 00:13:34,000

That station commander, Peggy Whitson, who's logged more time in space than any other American.

227

00:13:34,000 --> 00:13:39,000

She's part of the six-person crew orbiting the planet at 17,000 miles an hour.

228

00:13:39,000 --> 00:13:44,000

Mission control monitors every aspect of their flight, from their position, currently above Europe,

229

00:13:44,000 --> 00:13:49,000

to their schedule, a clock notes that they're due to go to sleep in less than three hours.

230

00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:53,000

Commander Whitson, Colonel Fisher and Nassar Nafiskaya, I just want to say thanks first of all

231

00:13:53,000 --> 00:13:56,000

for taking a moment to chat with us. It's a huge thrill.

232

00:13:56,000 --> 00:13:58,000

Well, it's a huge thrill for us too.

233

00:13:58,000 --> 00:14:01,000

This is officially the second coolest phone call of my life.

234

00:14:01,000 --> 00:14:06,000

It's edged out only slightly by my wife calling me to say that we were having a baby, but it's a close second.

235

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

Well, at least you've got your priorities straight.

236

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

One of the reasons I'm really thrilled to talk with you is that we're doing a big program here on space exploration.

237

00:14:15,000 --> 00:14:20,000

So I have to ask, since you are literally living and working in space, what's your opinion?

238

00:14:20,000 --> 00:14:25,000

Do you think that somewhere out there in the universe there is intelligent life? Do you think that's possible?

239

00:14:25,000 --> 00:14:31,000

I absolutely think it has to be possible. There just are so many planets, so many galaxies.

240

00:14:31,000 --> 00:14:36,000

And yes, I think just by sheer number there has to be life out there.

241

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

I agree with you. I certainly hope that's the case.

242

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

These three astronauts combined have spent almost three years in space.

243

00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:47,000

That's three years in zero gravity, eating specially designed food

244

00:14:47,000 --> 00:14:52,000

and recycling every bit of air and liquid on the station, including their own waste.

245

00:14:54,000 --> 00:14:59,000

You know, maybe a less serious question. What's the first thing that you're going to eat when you get back to Earth?

246

00:14:59,000 --> 00:15:06,000

Well, actually, you know, my favorite would be to have a fresh salad with lots of different vegetables and fruit in the salad.

247

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

That to me is an insane answer. I would want a cheeseburger or a pizza.

248

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

That's real discipline, the fact that where you're craving is a salad.

249

00:15:12,000 --> 00:15:16,000

I mean, you're up there drinking your own urine, Commander. For God's sake.

250

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

What's more is I'm drinking their urine.

251

00:15:20,000 --> 00:15:25,000

Oh man. Oh man. All right. And I think just a sort of a last serious question, you know,

252

00:15:25,000 --> 00:15:33,000

it seems like one of the big missions of NASA will in time be to find ways to colonize worlds beyond Earth eventually.

253

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:35,000

Why do you think that's so important?

254

00:15:36,000 --> 00:15:43,000

The drive to explore and discover is what makes us take each one of those evolutionary steps.

255

00:15:43,000 --> 00:15:47,000

And I think right now the space station is building the infrastructure.

256

00:15:47,000 --> 00:15:49,000

We have a huge rocket in development.

257

00:15:49,000 --> 00:15:57,000

We have all these things getting ready to just launch into the future and to explore the unknown.

258

00:15:57,000 --> 00:16:05,000

So yes, I think colonization and exploration are key if we're ever going to evolve and become more than we are right now.

259

00:16:05,000 --> 00:16:11,000

Very well put. Thank you. And I would be in serious trouble if I didn't ask you to say hi to my son, Owen.

260

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

Hi, Owen.

261

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

Thank you all so much. We'll let you get back to it. And don't forget to brush your teeth.

262

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

You got to be in bed in two and a half hours, guys.

263

00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:25,000

Sounds good. You're doing good as a dad. Already got the advice down.

264

00:16:27,000 --> 00:16:29,000

Thanks very much. All the best.

265

00:16:30,000 --> 00:16:37,000

As I hang up, the weight of the moment where I'm standing and who I've been speaking with becomes overwhelming.

266

00:16:38,000 --> 00:16:42,000

Okay. All right. I have to go to the men's room now and cry for a little bit.

267

00:16:43,000 --> 00:16:47,000

To call what the men and women do here a job is too limiting.

268

00:16:47,000 --> 00:16:54,000

They're true explorers in the air and on the ground, bravely charting humanity's next steps into the unknown.

269

00:16:55,000 --> 00:16:59,000

But the U.S. is far from the only country investigating life beyond Earth.

270

00:16:59,000 --> 00:17:03,000

In other parts of the world, some believe that life is already here.

271

00:17:03,000 --> 00:17:08,000

To investigate the latest reports of extraterrestrial evidence, I'm going to need to look south.

272

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

Way south.

273

00:17:12,000 --> 00:17:14,000

Welcome to San Diego.

274

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

Perhaps the most modern city in South America.

275

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

Its baroque old buildings are surrounded by modern towers, spacious parks and a vibrant arts culture.

276

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

And in the city's central market, there's no shortage of fresh food.

277

00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:31,000

Come on, fresh fish people. Here we go.

278

00:17:31,000 --> 00:17:36,000

With 2,500 miles of coastline, one thing Chileans have plenty of is fish.

279

00:17:39,000 --> 00:17:41,000

This lady's throwing fish at me.

280

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

The people here are warm and generous.

281

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

But the reason I'm here is that they also see a heck of a lot of UFOs.

282

00:17:48,000 --> 00:17:50,000

More per capita than ever.

283

00:17:50,000 --> 00:17:52,000

And the people here are warm and generous.

284

00:17:52,000 --> 00:17:56,000

But the reason I'm here is that they also see a heck of a lot of UFOs.

285

00:17:56,000 --> 00:17:58,000

More per capita than ever.

286

00:17:58,000 --> 00:18:02,000

So many that the government established an official agency to investigate them.

287

00:18:04,000 --> 00:18:10,000

The government founded the agency known as CIFA in 1997 to look into UFO claims

288

00:18:10,000 --> 00:18:14,000

and to keep Chile's vast airspace as clear as possible.

289

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

To see their latest evidence, I've been invited to CIFA to meet with director Hugo Camus,

290

00:18:19,000 --> 00:18:24,000

communications chief Karen Navarro and the director of Chile's Civil Aviation Agency.

291

00:18:24,000 --> 00:18:27,000

How many reports a year are we talking about?

292

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

Last year we had 85 cases.

293

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

85 cases? Wow, in one year?

294

00:18:32,000 --> 00:18:34,000

In one year.

295

00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:39,000

What percentage of those cases are you able to scientifically explain?

296

00:18:39,000 --> 00:18:40,000

72%.

297

00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:41,000

72%.

298

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

And in that 72%, what are the explanations that you've found?

299

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

Atribuibles al vuelo de pájaros.

300

00:18:48,000 --> 00:18:50,000

Most sightings turn out to be ordinary objects.

301

00:18:50,000 --> 00:18:56,000

Things like birds, insects, weather balloons, even other planets like Jupiter or Venus.

302

00:18:56,000 --> 00:19:02,000

But CIFA's most disturbing case came across their radar, so to speak, only recently.

303

00:19:02,000 --> 00:19:07,000

They allowed me to view the raw footage of a government-certified UFO sighting.

304

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

This footage was actually captured by their own military.

305

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

This will give you to us by the end of the video.

306

00:19:14,000 --> 00:19:16,000

What is that? That's the object.

307

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

That's the object, yeah.

308

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

What was the reaction of the crew on board?

309

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

They didn't know what it was.

310

00:19:25,000 --> 00:19:31,000

And when they called to air traffic control, were there other aircraft or helicopters?

311

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:33,000

They didn't know what it was.

312

00:19:33,000 --> 00:19:35,000

They didn't know what it was.

313

00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:37,000

They didn't know what it was.

314

00:19:38,000 --> 00:19:43,000

And when they called to air traffic control, were there other aircraft or helicopters in the area?

315

00:19:43,000 --> 00:19:47,000

They received information that nobody is where they are.

316

00:19:48,000 --> 00:19:54,000

The object was invisible to radar, and the Navy's thermal video shows it hovering in place.

317

00:19:54,000 --> 00:19:57,000

But then, something really strange happens.

318

00:20:01,000 --> 00:20:04,000

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, what's it doing?

319

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

Wait, what?

320

00:20:06,000 --> 00:20:08,000

What is that?

321

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

In the offices of CIFA, the Chilean government's official agency that investigates UFO sightings,

322

00:20:23,000 --> 00:20:30,000

I'm being shown a recent video taken by a Navy helicopter that has the experts here scratching their heads.

323

00:20:30,000 --> 00:20:35,000

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, what's it doing?

324

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

Wait, what is that?

325

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

What is it doing?

326

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

It's emitting something or moving.

327

00:20:48,000 --> 00:20:50,000

It's moving and something's coming out of it.

328

00:20:50,000 --> 00:20:52,000

Something is coming out from it.

329

00:20:56,000 --> 00:20:57,000

How long did this go on for?

330

00:20:57,000 --> 00:20:58,000

Almost four minutes.

331

00:20:58,000 --> 00:20:59,000

Almost four minutes.

332

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

And then what? Vanishes?

333

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

Disappeared.

334

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

Disappeared.

335

00:21:03,000 --> 00:21:05,000

The case is still open.

336

00:21:05,000 --> 00:21:06,000

Yes.

337

00:21:08,000 --> 00:21:13,000

The plume coming from the craft doesn't match the normal contrails left by a plane.

338

00:21:13,000 --> 00:21:15,000

It totally stumped the pilots who filmed it.

339

00:21:15,000 --> 00:21:18,000

Have you ever seen anything like that before, Hugo?

340

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

No.

341

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

No.

342

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

No.

343

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

No.

344

00:21:24,000 --> 00:21:25,000

No.

345

00:21:25,000 --> 00:21:26,000

No.

346

00:21:27,000 --> 00:21:31,000

To investigate what may be the most compelling UFO case in years,

347

00:21:31,000 --> 00:21:36,000

I'm heading to an airfield where I'm meeting a researcher attempting to crack the case.

348

00:21:36,000 --> 00:21:38,000

Hey, how you doing, Josh?

349

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

Alberto, nice to meet you.

350

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

Nice to meet you.

351

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

You ready to go?

352

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

Of course.

353

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

Let's do it.

354

00:21:43,000 --> 00:21:47,000

Alberto Solari has spent almost a decade analyzing UFO reports.

355

00:21:47,000 --> 00:21:53,000

Now, he's devised an ingenious experiment to explain the mysterious Navy footage by trying to recreate it.

356

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

Okay, let's fly.

357

00:21:54,000 --> 00:21:56,000

All right, here we go.

358

00:22:07,000 --> 00:22:11,000

Sifa has accounted for all planes known to have been flying in the area.

359

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

The object clearly doesn't move like a fixed-wing aircraft,

360

00:22:14,000 --> 00:22:17,000

so Alberto is taking another approach.

361

00:22:18,000 --> 00:22:19,000

What's the plan for today?

362

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

What are we going to do?

363

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

The first thing that we want to check is if the object in the video was a balloon.

364

00:22:24,000 --> 00:22:29,000

Because of its size, because of the fact that the flaring camera had some heat,

365

00:22:29,000 --> 00:22:33,000

and the reason why the people had air control never heard of it.

366

00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:38,000

It does make sense in some way that a balloon would maybe literally slip under the radar, right?

367

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

Exactly.

368

00:22:42,000 --> 00:22:47,000

To test his theory, Alberto has arranged for a hot-air balloon to run parallel to our helicopter,

369

00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:51,000

so we can film it with the same thermal camera used by the Navy pilots.

370

00:22:56,000 --> 00:23:00,000

We've got similar parameters on this thermal that the Navy had.

371

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

Hot-air readings are coming in at black, cold readings at white.

372

00:23:04,000 --> 00:23:08,000

The hot-air balloon will hopefully mimic the shape and movement of the UFO.

373

00:23:08,000 --> 00:23:13,000

Now, we're getting our first look at how close a match the image really is.

374

00:23:14,000 --> 00:23:17,000

The balloon looks somewhat similar to the object, really.

375

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

Yeah, you can see it's round, it's harboring.

376

00:23:20,000 --> 00:23:26,000

The balloon has that distinct kind of teardrop shape, which the object in the video doesn't have.

377

00:23:26,000 --> 00:23:32,000

So I don't think it's a traditional hot-air balloon, but the dark coloring from the thermal is a pretty good match.

378

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

That's kind of a match.

379

00:23:33,000 --> 00:23:35,000

What we see in the footage, yes.

380

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

Okay, what's next?

381

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

Well, step two, one of the most unique things that we see in the footage

382

00:23:41,000 --> 00:23:45,000

is the fact that the object expelled some sort of gas, obstructed it.

383

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

So this is what we're looking at today.

384

00:23:47,000 --> 00:23:51,000

We're going to see if this matches with the gas expelled by the harboring balloon.

385

00:23:51,000 --> 00:23:57,000

First, the test balloon will release bursts of hot gas from its onboard propane system.

386

00:23:57,000 --> 00:23:59,000

You're clear to bed, let's do it.

387

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

Venting now.

388

00:24:01,000 --> 00:24:07,000

The pilot fires off the propane while releasing some of the hot air from the balloon.

389

00:24:11,000 --> 00:24:13,000

Nothing, I don't see it.

390

00:24:13,000 --> 00:24:16,000

I don't see it at all, it's very imperceptible.

391

00:24:16,000 --> 00:24:19,000

The hot gas dissipates into the surrounding air.

392

00:24:19,000 --> 00:24:22,000

It barely registers on the thermal camera.

393

00:24:22,000 --> 00:24:26,000

So now for the next part of the experiment, we're going to try to release some visible gas.

394

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

And for this, we're going to use some fire extinguishers.

395

00:24:30,000 --> 00:24:31,000

Copy that.

396

00:24:31,000 --> 00:24:37,000

A fire extinguisher emits a gas that is both visible and significantly colder than the ambient air.

397

00:24:38,000 --> 00:24:40,000

We're hoping it shows up on the thermal.

398

00:24:40,000 --> 00:24:43,000

Whenever you're ready, you can light off that fire extinguisher. We're going to go here.

399

00:24:58,000 --> 00:25:04,000

I'm hovering in a helicopter with researcher Alberto Solari, attempting to replicate a mysterious

UFO video

400

00:25:04,000 --> 00:25:09,000

captured by a military chopper's thermal camera near Santiago, Chile.

401

00:25:09,000 --> 00:25:12,000

The UFO left a visible plume in its wake.

402

00:25:12,000 --> 00:25:15,000

We're about to try to make one of our own, like this.

403

00:25:26,000 --> 00:25:29,000

There we go. This is it for sure.

404

00:25:29,000 --> 00:25:34,000

It's not as concentrated as the video, but we're definitely picking it up on the thermal.

405

00:25:35,000 --> 00:25:40,000

Thus, kind of look like it, but with stills on half the side, it's very faint.

406

00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:43,000

This is very irregular, nothing like we can see on the video.

407

00:25:44,000 --> 00:25:49,000

The other thing is that you notice that when the gas comes out, it just sort of drops off.

408

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

It's almost like it's falling.

409

00:25:51,000 --> 00:25:56,000

In the video, that plume just hovers. It stays almost in line with the object.

410

00:25:57,000 --> 00:26:03,000

Okay, final analysis. The balloon shape is somewhat similar, but the expulsion of gas doesn't look anything like the video.

411

00:26:03,000 --> 00:26:06,000

So if it's not a hot air balloon, what is it?

412

00:26:06,000 --> 00:26:10,000

Great question. Well, I would just call it a UFO.

413

00:26:10,000 --> 00:26:16,000

That is a mystery to me, I mean, I think because it has so many mysteries and fascinating elements.

414

00:26:16,000 --> 00:26:19,000

It's a true UFO, a true unidentified phenomenon.

415

00:26:19,000 --> 00:26:23,000

It's a true UFO.

416

00:26:23,000 --> 00:26:27,000

Alberta's experiment failed to adequately explain the UFO video.

417

00:26:27,000 --> 00:26:32,000

Some alien enthusiasts might consider that failure to be a huge success.

418

00:26:32,000 --> 00:26:35,000

To me, it just means more questions.

419

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

Thank you, I'm glad to see you, Josh.

420

00:26:38,000 --> 00:26:41,000

I've never seen anything move like the craft on that video,

421

00:26:41,000 --> 00:26:43,000

but is it extra-treatable?

422

00:26:43,000 --> 00:26:46,000

I think it's a very interesting experience.

423

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

That remains up for debate.

424

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

While Chile's government continues to scan the skies for signs of UFOs,

425

00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:06,000

scientists are taking advantage of the country's unique landscape

426

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

to find other planets capable of supporting life.

427

00:27:09,000 --> 00:27:14,000

So I'm grabbing some wheels and driving into one of the most remote and harsh climates on Earth,

428

00:27:14,000 --> 00:27:16,000

the Atacama Desert.

429

00:27:16,000 --> 00:27:19,000

There's a reason that the Atacama looks so barren.

430

00:27:19,000 --> 00:27:24,000

We're just cresting over 14,000 feet, that's about 2.6 denbers.

431

00:27:24,000 --> 00:27:28,000

Or put another way, it's only a few thousand feet less than Everest Base Camp.

432

00:27:28,000 --> 00:27:32,000

The desert is unforgiving, and as I drive further into the vast emptiness,

433

00:27:32,000 --> 00:27:36,000

I don't want to be caught without somewhere to stay for tonight.

434

00:27:36,000 --> 00:27:40,000

Fortunately, there is one place for me to stop.

435

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

It's been called the Stargazers Oasis.

436

00:27:48,000 --> 00:27:51,000

Its real name is the Issa Hotel.

437

00:27:55,000 --> 00:27:58,000

It may well be the most exclusive accommodations in the world.

438

00:27:58,000 --> 00:27:59,000

Hello.

439

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

Checking in.

440

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

Can I see your ID, please?

441

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

Sure.

442

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

And your PhD?

443

00:28:03,000 --> 00:28:05,000

Say one now.

444

00:28:07,000 --> 00:28:11,000

This hotel is not open to the general public.

445

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

The only people permitted to stay here are elite astronomers.

446

00:28:19,000 --> 00:28:21,000

And in case you're wondering if this place looks familiar,

447

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

that's probably because James Bond blew it to smithereens in Quantum of Solace.

448

00:28:26,000 --> 00:28:29,000

But since they don't serve booze at this altitude,

449

00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:32,000

I won't be able to enjoy Bond's signature martini.

450

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

Orange soda, shaken, not stirred.

451

00:28:36,000 --> 00:28:39,000

That's a terrible chunk, Connery.

452

00:28:40,000 --> 00:28:44,000

So why put a resort for astronomers in the middle of the desert?

453

00:28:44,000 --> 00:28:47,000

Because this is next door.

454

00:28:51,000 --> 00:28:53,000

This is the Paranal Observatory,

455

00:28:53,000 --> 00:28:57,000

the largest visible light telescope in the world.

456

00:28:57,000 --> 00:28:59,000

It's over 8,000 feet up,

457

00:28:59,000 --> 00:29:02,000

and since the closest city is two hours in any direction,

458

00:29:02,000 --> 00:29:05,000

there's nearly zero light pollution.

459

00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:07,000

This past February,

460

00:29:07,000 --> 00:29:10,000

the scientists at Paranal helped confirm the discovery

461

00:29:10,000 --> 00:29:13,000

of a grouping of planets in the Trappist-1 system.

462

00:29:13,000 --> 00:29:16,000

But the reason they made international headlines

463

00:29:16,000 --> 00:29:19,000

is that they just might be able to support life.

464

00:29:20,000 --> 00:29:22,000

To learn about this sensational discovery,

465

00:29:22,000 --> 00:29:25,000

I'm meeting with astronomer Julian Girard.

466

00:29:27,000 --> 00:29:28,000

Julian.

467

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

Hey.

468

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

How are you?

469

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

Nice to meet you.

470

00:29:31,000 --> 00:29:32,000

Nice to meet you too.

471

00:29:32,000 --> 00:29:33,000

This is extraordinary.

472

00:29:33,000 --> 00:29:34,000

Tell me about this.

473

00:29:34,000 --> 00:29:36,000

This is obviously a telescope facility.

474

00:29:36,000 --> 00:29:39,000

Yeah, the whole thing is called the Very Large Telescope.

475

00:29:39,000 --> 00:29:40,000

It's called the Very Large Telescope.

476

00:29:40,000 --> 00:29:41,000

Very Large Telescope.

477

00:29:41,000 --> 00:29:42,000

How did you come up with that?

478

00:29:42,000 --> 00:29:46,000

I mean, you know, European astronomers like these titles.

479

00:29:46,000 --> 00:29:48,000

Right, it's very to the point.

480

00:29:49,000 --> 00:29:51,000

Optical telescopes like the ones here

481

00:29:51,000 --> 00:29:54,000

are basically huge, souped-up versions of the little one,

482

00:29:54,000 --> 00:29:57,000

which I used to look at the moon in my backyard.

483

00:29:57,000 --> 00:30:01,000

Lenses and mirrors focus light from the stars for us to see.

484

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

Your organization was a part of a major discovery recently.

485

00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:09,000

Yeah, so there was this system with seven exoplanets.

486

00:30:09,000 --> 00:30:14,000

Three of them are probably in what we call the habitable zone,

487

00:30:14,000 --> 00:30:16,000

where you could find liquid water.

488

00:30:16,000 --> 00:30:18,000

Right, so this is like the Goldilocks zone, right?

489

00:30:18,000 --> 00:30:20,000

If you're too close to the sun, the planet's too hot,

490

00:30:20,000 --> 00:30:22,000

you're too far away, it turns icy.

491

00:30:22,000 --> 00:30:23,000

Too close, yeah.

492

00:30:23,000 --> 00:30:25,000

But if you're in this sweet spot, you could have water,

493

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

and if you have liquid water, you may potentially have...

494

00:30:27,000 --> 00:30:28,000

Life as we know it.

495

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

So at this point, how many of these exoplanets

496

00:30:32,000 --> 00:30:33,000

have been discovered?

497

00:30:33,000 --> 00:30:35,000

Thousands have been discovered.

498

00:30:35,000 --> 00:30:38,000

Statistically, we think there are planets around each star

499

00:30:38,000 --> 00:30:39,000

you can actually see at naked eye.

500

00:30:39,000 --> 00:30:41,000

So how many stars are in our galaxy?

501

00:30:41,000 --> 00:30:45,000

So our galaxy has between 200 and 400 billion stars.

502

00:30:45,000 --> 00:30:46,000

And how many galaxies are there?

503

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

Billions and billions.

504

00:30:48,000 --> 00:30:50,000

And so the total number of stars is...

505

00:30:50,000 --> 00:30:52,000

I cannot say the number zero, it's like 24 zeros, maybe.

506

00:30:52,000 --> 00:30:55,000

Right, so right now there could be another TV host

507

00:30:55,000 --> 00:30:57,000

interviewing another astronomer on another planet

508

00:30:57,000 --> 00:30:59,000

talking about this planet.

509

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

Yeah, it's possible.

510

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

But are they as handsome?

511

00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:03,000

Really?

512

00:31:03,000 --> 00:31:06,000

Yeah, I don't know how many arms they have or eyes or whatever.

513

00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:07,000

Right.

514

00:31:07,000 --> 00:31:09,000

Is it possible to see how these things work?

515

00:31:09,000 --> 00:31:10,000

Yeah, sure, be my guest.

516

00:31:10,000 --> 00:31:11,000

Really?

517

00:31:11,000 --> 00:31:12,000

Yeah.

518

00:31:13,000 --> 00:31:15,000

The action starts around here when it gets dark.

519

00:31:15,000 --> 00:31:18,000

So before the sun drops, Julian takes me for a walk

520

00:31:18,000 --> 00:31:19,000

around the complex.

521

00:31:23,000 --> 00:31:26,000

As we enter one of the four massive buildings

522

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

that house the lenses for the VLT,

523

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

I instantly redefine my concept of very large.

524

00:31:32,000 --> 00:31:34,000

Oh my God.

525

00:31:41,000 --> 00:31:42,000

Look at this thing.

526

00:31:42,000 --> 00:31:44,000

So here, you see this thing?

527

00:31:44,000 --> 00:31:46,000

It's like 400 tons.

528

00:31:48,000 --> 00:31:50,000

This is insane.

529

00:31:51,000 --> 00:31:54,000

This is for sure the single most complex piece of equipment

530

00:31:54,000 --> 00:31:56,000

I have ever seen.

531

00:31:59,000 --> 00:32:02,000

As the sun begins to set, the scientists here

532

00:32:02,000 --> 00:32:05,000

jump into action to prepare for the night stargazing.

533

00:32:07,000 --> 00:32:11,000

Julian shows me some of the images the VLT has recently captured,

534

00:32:11,000 --> 00:32:15,000

including a close-up on a star that's basically saying cheese.

535

00:32:15,000 --> 00:32:17,000

So that's the star in real time?

536

00:32:17,000 --> 00:32:18,000

Yes.

537

00:32:18,000 --> 00:32:19,000

And how far away is that?

538

00:32:19,000 --> 00:32:21,000

So this star is 160 parsecs.

539

00:32:21,000 --> 00:32:23,000

160 parsecs?

540

00:32:23,000 --> 00:32:24,000

Yeah.

541

00:32:24,000 --> 00:32:26,000

So it's like 13 times the castle run.

542

00:32:28,000 --> 00:32:29,000

Exactly.

543

00:32:31,000 --> 00:32:33,000

It just so happens that I've arrived in time

544

00:32:33,000 --> 00:32:35,000

to witness a major test.

545

00:32:35,000 --> 00:32:39,000

This telescope has four very powerful lasers

546

00:32:39,000 --> 00:32:42,000

and they excite sodium atom in the atmosphere

547

00:32:42,000 --> 00:32:44,000

basically to create an artificial star.

548

00:32:44,000 --> 00:32:47,000

That's a reference that helps the adaptive optics system

549

00:32:47,000 --> 00:32:50,000

to sharpen the images despite the atmosphere.

550

00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:52,000

So you're going to create an artificial star

551

00:32:52,000 --> 00:32:54,000

to be more in focus on other objects.

552

00:32:54,000 --> 00:32:55,000

Exactly.

553

00:32:55,000 --> 00:32:58,000

The light coming from deep space has to pass through

554

00:32:58,000 --> 00:33:01,000

the turbulence and pollution of Earth's atmosphere.

555

00:33:01,000 --> 00:33:04,000

The lasers can create an artificial star at the edge of space

556

00:33:04,000 --> 00:33:08,000

which the telescope can focus on, cancel out the interference,

557

00:33:08,000 --> 00:33:11,000

and get a crystal clear look at distant stars.

558

00:33:11,000 --> 00:33:12,000

So this is the test?

559

00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:13,000

Yeah, yeah.

560

00:33:13,000 --> 00:33:14,000

Is this the gentleman running the test?

561

00:33:14,000 --> 00:33:15,000

Yeah.

562

00:33:15,000 --> 00:33:16,000

Hello?

563

00:33:16,000 --> 00:33:17,000

Hi.

564

00:33:17,000 --> 00:33:19,000

Okay, I see you have a helmet and protective eyewear on.

565

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

Is this going to work?

566

00:33:20,000 --> 00:33:21,000

Hopefully.

567

00:33:21,000 --> 00:33:22,000

Hopefully, okay.

568

00:33:22,000 --> 00:33:23,000

Let's fire it up.

569

00:33:26,000 --> 00:33:31,000

These aren't the lasers you find at rock concerts and nightclubs.

570

00:33:31,000 --> 00:33:36,000

And if they malfunction, they could blow this mountain top up

571

00:33:36,000 --> 00:33:39,000

like the Death Star.

572

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

Massive doors open.

573

00:33:41,000 --> 00:33:47,000

The system buzzes to life and I have no idea what to expect.

574

00:33:47,000 --> 00:33:52,000

Then it's showtime.

575

00:33:52,000 --> 00:34:10,580

I'm in the main control room of Chile's appropriately named very large telescope.

576

00:34:10,580 --> 00:34:15,080

Holding my breath as they test a new mechanism which will either shoot four giant lasers

577

00:34:15,080 --> 00:34:21,080

56 miles into the outer atmosphere or maybe blow us all up. I'm not really sure.

578

00:34:36,080 --> 00:34:40,080

Guys looking? It works. Yes, it works. Perfect. Nice work. Nice.

579

00:34:40,080 --> 00:34:44,080

We just destroyed Alderaan.

580

00:34:44,080 --> 00:34:55,080

There's a new star in the sky, an artificial one. The lasers humming properly and the telescope is able to go to work for the night.

581

00:34:55,080 --> 00:35:01,080

I have no doubt you're going to be finding many more exoplanets. Yes. That's for sure. All right. Well, keep us posted.

582

00:35:01,080 --> 00:35:10,080

Their telescope may be a little bigger than mine at home and their backyard is a lot darker. But in all the important ways, I know how Julian and his team feel.

583

00:35:10,080 --> 00:35:18,080

This is a place of curiosity, of anticipation and of discovery. I can't wait to see what they find next.

584

00:35:18,080 --> 00:35:24,080

Thanks so much for letting us come here. I really appreciate it. This was really cool. Make sure to get some sleep once in a while. I need it.

585

00:35:32,080 --> 00:35:41,080

The dark skies of the Atacama Desert make it a perfect place for seeing stars. It also turns out to be a hotspot for seeing UFOs.

586

00:35:41,080 --> 00:35:51,080

Thousands of them have been catalogued in this region more than anywhere else on Earth. So I'm meeting a researcher deep in the desert who's investigating the latest sightings.

587

00:35:52,080 --> 00:35:58,080

By the light of a campfire, I find one of Chile's top UFO researchers, Rodrigo Fuenzelida, and his research assistant, Rocío.

588

00:35:58,080 --> 00:36:09,080

Rodrigo, you're a hard man to find. Yes, I'm a hard man to find. This place is my office and I am surrounded by what I love.

589

00:36:09,080 --> 00:36:20,080

It's a nice office. It's a warm office, which is much needed up here. So Rodrigo, I've read that you are a very well-known investigator in the UFO space.

590

00:36:20,080 --> 00:36:29,080

Over 20 years of experience, we are here now to investigate some recent sightings. Right here. And we have a lot of new people here.

591

00:36:29,080 --> 00:36:39,080

Video? You want to see the video? Yeah, I would love to see it. Okay, what do we got here? Someone driving here? Exactly. They're driving, and this object was behind them above the road.

592

00:36:39,080 --> 00:36:44,080

It vanished and then reappeared in the desert. And then it disappeared.

593

00:36:44,080 --> 00:36:47,080

What is that?

594

00:36:47,080 --> 00:36:54,080

Rodrigo shows me some of the most recent videos that witnesses have sent him from the Atacama, some of which were filmed near the desert.

595

00:36:54,080 --> 00:37:00,080

Rodrigo's been in the desert for over a year. And he's been in the desert for over a year.

596

00:37:00,080 --> 00:37:07,080

Rodrigo is a very good man. He's a very good man. He's a very good man. He's a very good man.

597

00:37:07,080 --> 00:37:17,080

Rodrigo shows me some of the most recent videos that witnesses have sent him from the Atacama, some of which were filmed near this very spot.

598

00:37:22,080 --> 00:37:26,080

Okay, so it looks like two lights. Yes.

599

00:37:26,080 --> 00:37:29,080

And then split up.

600

00:37:32,080 --> 00:37:35,080

And then they're gone.

601

00:37:37,080 --> 00:37:41,080

And it's back. That is weird.

602

00:37:41,080 --> 00:37:47,080

After reviewing the videos, Rodrigo agrees to allow us to bring them back to the U.S. for forensic analysis.

603

00:37:47,080 --> 00:37:52,080

But we're sitting in a UFO hotspot, and he's anxious to go out and investigate.

604

00:37:52,080 --> 00:37:55,080

Do you think it's possible we could see what these people are seeing?

605

00:37:55,080 --> 00:37:58,080

There are so many recent sightings that we have to check it out.

606

00:37:58,080 --> 00:38:02,080

I'd love to. Let's see what we can see. Okay. Come on, let's do it.

607

00:38:03,080 --> 00:38:10,080

Rodrigo and Rocio are ready to search. To do that, we need special gear.

608

00:38:10,080 --> 00:38:17,080

It's pitch black here, so infrared lenses and thermal units are deployed to help pierce through the darkness.

609

00:38:17,080 --> 00:38:26,080

One of the things that can be kind of frustrating about filming at night like this is that my camera guys have these really cool low light specialty cameras.

610

00:38:26,080 --> 00:38:31,080

When it comes to me, I'm basically in the dark. I mean, it is pitch black out here,

611

00:38:31,080 --> 00:38:36,080

but I did bring a little toy tonight to help level the playing field.

612

00:38:36,080 --> 00:38:45,080

When I put these on, it might look like I'm about to go skiing, but this is known as a blaze torch.

613

00:38:45,080 --> 00:38:50,080

And you flip this little guy down, suddenly, military grade night vision.

614

00:38:51,080 --> 00:38:56,080

Very cool. Where were you when I was looking for the Yeti?

615

00:38:58,080 --> 00:39:02,080

This is awesome. I mean, you can see everything with these.

616

00:39:06,080 --> 00:39:11,080

We walk for hours along ridges that overlook the vast starscape of the Atacama Desert,

617

00:39:11,080 --> 00:39:17,080

and like so many people before us, we suddenly begin to feel as though we're not alone here.

618

00:39:21,080 --> 00:39:26,080

That's funny, getting some weird interference on this thing.

619

00:39:29,080 --> 00:39:31,080

Super weird interference.

620

00:39:31,080 --> 00:39:37,080

When we go right in here, for some reason the goggles are getting really weird interference.

621

00:39:37,080 --> 00:39:43,080

Only when I look right up in here, it's like something pulsed it right here.

622

00:39:44,080 --> 00:39:49,080

Turns out I'm not the only one with my gear on the fritz.

623

00:39:49,080 --> 00:39:52,080

My cameraman, Evan, is having his own issues.

624

00:39:52,080 --> 00:39:54,080

My camera just freaking out right now.

625

00:39:54,080 --> 00:39:55,080

Why is it doing that?

626

00:39:55,080 --> 00:39:58,080

I don't know. I was just filming normal and it just started freaking out.

627

00:39:58,080 --> 00:40:01,080

I'm totally, I'm plugged in, everything's going to be normal.

628

00:40:01,080 --> 00:40:04,080

I mean, look at this, it's like full poltergeist. What?

629

00:40:04,080 --> 00:40:09,080

Can you see that? I've literally never seen it do that.

630

00:40:13,080 --> 00:40:16,080

The Atacama Desert

631

00:40:23,080 --> 00:40:31,080

In the cold night of Chile's Atacama Desert, I'm looking for UFOs with renowned investigator Rodrigo Fuenzelida.

632

00:40:31,080 --> 00:40:35,080

That's funny, getting some weird interference on this thing.

633

00:40:36,080 --> 00:40:42,080

Now my night vision has malfunctioned and my cameraman Evan appears to be having similar problems.

634

00:40:42,080 --> 00:40:44,080

My camera just freaking out right now.

635

00:40:44,080 --> 00:40:47,080

I've literally never seen it do that.

636

00:40:47,080 --> 00:40:49,080

Is that a common thing around here, Rodrigo?

637

00:40:49,080 --> 00:40:51,080

I've seen this before.

638

00:40:51,080 --> 00:40:57,080

In the past, witnesses have experienced electronic interference while having an encounter.

639

00:41:04,080 --> 00:41:08,080

Our technical difficulties keep our attention on earthly matters for a while.

640

00:41:08,080 --> 00:41:11,080

Fortunately, I still have one eye on the skies.

641

00:41:12,080 --> 00:41:16,080

Oh, I got a light. I got a light. Guys, come here. Seriously, bring the camera. Come here.

642

00:41:16,080 --> 00:41:20,080

Up here. Come here. Get a camera over here.

643

00:41:23,080 --> 00:41:26,080

I still see it. Right in here.