

1

00:00:00,848 --> 00:00:07,848

This series presents information based in part on theory and conjecture.

2

00:00:07,848 --> 00:00:18,849

The producer's purpose is to suggest some possible explanations, but not necessarily the only ones to the mysteries we will examine.

3

00:00:18,849 --> 00:00:28,849

It is believed that somewhere in the high mountains of Peru lies wealth beyond imagining.

4

00:00:29,849 --> 00:00:34,849

Gold, the lost treasure of a great empire.

5

00:00:34,849 --> 00:00:40,849

The empire was called Tawantinsuyu, kingdom of the Inca.

6

00:00:40,849 --> 00:00:46,850

White men called it something else. For them, it was El Dorado.

7

00:00:46,850 --> 00:00:55,850

They found that the fabled cities of gold were real, but if the mountains could speak, they would tell a sad story.

8

00:00:56,850 --> 00:01:01,850

A story of lust and greed and treachery.

9

00:01:01,850 --> 00:01:08,851

But men have not learned to read the wind or the cry of great birds that soar over lost kingdoms.

10

00:01:10,851 --> 00:01:14,851

The secret is safe for a while yet.

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00:01:17,851 --> 00:01:22,851

The green world between the peaks has not given up the treasure of the Incos.

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00:01:23,851 --> 00:01:31,851

Men still search, some out of love for the past, some out of love for gold.

13

00:01:33,851 --> 00:01:40,852

Now the in search of cameras come closer than men have been before to the heart of the mystery of the great Inca treasure.

14

00:01:41,852 --> 00:01:47,852

The Great Spine of the Andes Mountains acts as one of the most diverse environments in the world.

15

00:01:47,852 --> 00:01:53,852

It is a land of many wonders which has attracted the curious and the greedy for centuries.

16

00:01:57,852 --> 00:02:03,853

For some, there is wealth enough in the remnants of the ancient and the ancient.

17

00:02:03,853 --> 00:02:09,853

For some, there is wealth enough in the remnants of the western hemisphere's first great civilization.

18

00:02:09,853 --> 00:02:14,853

For others, pottery shards and broken masonry are not enough.

19

00:02:15,853 --> 00:02:19,853

They seek the precious yellow metal called gold.

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00:02:21,853 --> 00:02:26,853

The mountains and jungles of Peru have provided an irresistible lure for centuries.

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00:02:26,853 --> 00:02:32,854

There's the romance of faraway places and people with the most beautiful and beautiful scenery.

22

00:02:33,854 --> 00:02:41,854

With exotic customs, the feeling of being in a Shangri-La somehow cut off from the crush of too many people in too little time.

23

00:02:42,854 --> 00:02:47,854

There's another ingredient in this appealing mix, the promise of treasure beyond imagining.

24

00:02:47,854 --> 00:02:52,854

It's a promise that has touched off wars and launched brave men on great adventures.

25

00:02:55,855 --> 00:02:58,855

The great city of the Incas was Cusco.

26

00:02:58,855 --> 00:03:02,855

It lives on even though the empire it gave birth to is gone.

27

00:03:03,855 --> 00:03:07,855

The streets of Cusco are full of the modest sounds of commerce now.

28

00:03:07,855 --> 00:03:16,855

Once they echo to the marching feet of an imperial army, an army which enforced the will of God-kings on 12 million subjects.

29

00:03:18,855 --> 00:03:21,856

The people of Cusco have endured.

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00:03:22,856 --> 00:03:31,856

They are descendants of a race which conceived, conquered, then lost to a handful of Spaniards, one of the world's most remarkable empires.

31

00:03:32,856 --> 00:03:36,856

Yet relatively little is known of the roots of this remarkable people.

32

00:03:40,856 --> 00:03:45,856

The ruined ink of fortress of Saxa-Woman is testimony to the Inca genius for building.

33

00:03:46,856 --> 00:03:51,857

Strong backs needed to haul great weight were conscripted from conquered peoples.

34

00:03:54,857 --> 00:03:58,857

The massive masonry was perfectly tooled, built to last forever.

35

00:04:02,857 --> 00:04:08,857

Thousands of artists labored directly for the state to embellish the palaces of priests and princes.

36

00:04:12,857 --> 00:04:18,858

The Inca excelled in engineering and advanced methods of irrigation and crop management.

37

00:04:19,858 --> 00:04:23,858

Even in death, the Inca were a proud and disciplined race.

38

00:04:26,858 --> 00:04:33,858

At the National Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology in Lima, Dr. Edward Verstelen and his colleagues inspect an ink and mummy.

39

00:04:37,858 --> 00:04:44,859

Much of what is known about Inca civilization is the fact that the Inca is a great source of inspiration.

40

00:04:45,859 --> 00:04:49,859

Much of what is known about Inca civilization comes from studying graves.

41

00:04:51,859 --> 00:04:56,859

The things a person considered important in death say much about how he lived his life.

42

00:05:14,860 --> 00:05:23,860

To touch things that were precious to someone of another time, another world, it is an irreverence born of a need to know.

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00:05:26,860 --> 00:05:32,860

In the quest for knowledge, investigators must compete with those whose quest is for riches.

44

00:05:33,860 --> 00:05:37,861

There's a thriving black market in Inca gold and artifacts.

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00:05:38,861 --> 00:05:42,861

This Inca might have lived in glorious times.

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00:05:43,861 --> 00:05:46,861

He might have seen an empire created in less than 30 years.

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00:05:47,861 --> 00:05:52,861

Or witnessed the arrival in 1527 of a Spaniard named Francisco Pizarro.

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00:05:53,861 --> 00:05:58,861

That arrival was barely a hundred years from the Inca's explosion of conquest.

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00:05:59,861 --> 00:06:03,862

But for the empire, that was all the time there was to be.

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00:06:03,862 --> 00:06:18,862

In one of the most amazing events of history, the great and mighty of the Inca nation would vanish into the jungle, driven into oblivion by 180 men in rusting Spanish armor.

51

00:06:20,862 --> 00:06:27,862

Hiram Bingham was one of many who would devote part of his life to following the blurred trail left by the Inca.

52

00:06:28,863 --> 00:06:33,863

The young Yale archaeologist and explorer entered the Andes in 1910.

53

00:06:34,863 --> 00:06:40,863

He believed that the Inca must have built another great city once they abandoned Cusco to the Spanish.

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00:06:41,863 --> 00:06:50,863

Bingham knew that Pizarro had held the Inca king Arujopa captive, and that an enormous ransom in gold was raised to meet Pizarro's demands.

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00:06:51,863 --> 00:06:55,864

But Pizarro had the Inca king murdered before the gold was safely in his hands.

56

00:06:56,864 --> 00:07:02,864

Bingham might have reasoned that to find the lost city of the Incas was to find the gold that had eluded Pizarro.

57

00:07:04,864 --> 00:07:07,864

The explorer devoted more than a year to his quest.

58

00:07:12,864 --> 00:07:19,864

Then, one insufferably hot day in July 1911, Bingham thought he'd found the mythical city.

59

00:07:26,865 --> 00:07:30,865

As Bingham approached the ghost city that would be called Machu Picchu,

60

00:07:31,865 --> 00:07:38,865

he was convinced that his long search had paid off, that he had truly found the last capital of the Incas.

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00:07:43,865 --> 00:07:46,865

He found temples, but no hoard of treasure.

62

00:07:46,865 --> 00:08:01,866

Bingham wrote that he had never seen such exquisite masonry. Temples open to the sky, undoubtedly constructed for sun worship.

63

00:08:05,866 --> 00:08:13,866

Bingham was sure he had discovered the retreat where the last Inca kings ruled in the sunset years of their empire.

64

00:08:17,867 --> 00:08:22,867

The road Bingham traveled to the discovery of Machu Picchu was a hard one.

65

00:08:23,867 --> 00:08:29,867

The world celebrated his prize, and the young explorer became one of the decades most appealing heroes.

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00:08:30,867 --> 00:08:38,867

But Bingham was wrong. Machu Picchu was not the last capital of the Incas, the legendary Vilcabamba.

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00:08:39,867 --> 00:08:45,868

Like so much about the Inca civilization and its celebrated riches, the truth remained just out of reach.

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00:08:46,868 --> 00:08:53,868

What was needed was other men of courage and vision to pick up where Bingham left off with his remarkable discovery of Machu Picchu,

69

00:08:54,868 --> 00:08:57,868

to pursue his dream deeper into the Andean wilderness.

70

00:08:59,868 --> 00:09:06,868

At the San Marcos University in Lima, Peru are the offices of a world-renowned authority on Inca history.

71

00:09:06,868 --> 00:09:14,869

He is professor at Mundo Guian, and he has devoted his adult life to solving the riddles that perplexed earlier scholars like Bingham.

72

00:09:15,869 --> 00:09:26,869

On June 24th, 1976, Guian's work would make headlines around the world, and the in search of cameras would be there to record his remarkable discovery.

73

00:09:27,869 --> 00:09:39,870

In a quiet valley of the Rio Pampa Cona, northeast of Cusco, the stage is set for one of the great modern feats of exploration.

74

00:09:42,870 --> 00:09:47,870

It is 1976, and men have traveled to the moon in spaceships.

75

00:09:48,870 --> 00:09:53,870

But the travel here means saddle sores, blistered feet, and aching muscles.

76

00:09:54,870 --> 00:09:58,870

For at Mundo Guian, it is a small price to pay.

77

00:10:02,871 --> 00:10:07,871

Together with 10 colleagues from Peru and Poland, he is setting out on a great adventure.

78

00:10:17,871 --> 00:10:20,871

Guian's mission is of more than simple academic curiosity.

79

00:10:21,871 --> 00:10:31,872

He is out to recapture a place and a moment in history, and if he can, to set the record straight on the final chapter of the Inca Empire.

80

00:10:38,872 --> 00:10:46,872

The popular belief is that Pizarro's murder of the Inca king, Adujopa, brought the old empire instantly to its knees.

81

00:10:47,872 --> 00:10:51,872

Guian thinks that murder was just the beginning of the end for the Inca.

82

00:11:03,873 --> 00:11:08,873

Once over the first ridge from Pampa Cona, the trek begins in earnest.

83

00:11:16,873 --> 00:11:20,873

Hiram Bingham saw this country before at Mundo Guian was born.

84

00:11:20,873 --> 00:11:26,874

He gloried in its breathtaking beauty and struggled valiantly to unlock its mysteries.

85

00:11:27,874 --> 00:11:30,874

But Bingham did not have the blood of Incas in his veins.

86

00:11:30,874 --> 00:11:32,874

Guian does.

87

00:11:38,874 --> 00:11:43,874

It is the culmination of years of research and planning, and of some extraordinary luck.

88

00:11:44,874 --> 00:11:51,875

In the Spanish archives at Seville, Guian discovered letters written by soldiers of the king sent to battle the Inca.

89

00:11:51,875 --> 00:11:56,875

They described Vilcabamba in detail, including the neighboring geography.

90

00:11:57,875 --> 00:12:00,875

Guian knows that the secret is within his grasp.

91

00:12:01,875 --> 00:12:05,875

One Spanish soldier wrote,

92

00:12:05,875 --> 00:12:09,875

When I entered Vilcabamba, the city was desolate.

93

00:12:09,875 --> 00:12:12,875

The palace of the Inca burned.

94

00:12:12,875 --> 00:12:15,876

The food storages sacked.

95

00:12:15,876 --> 00:12:19,876

The letter was dated June 24th, 1572.

96

00:12:19,876 --> 00:12:25,876

Guian vows he will re-enter Vilcabamba on the same day of the same month.

97

00:12:31,876 --> 00:12:35,876

Each tree along the route could be a signpost.

98

00:12:35,876 --> 00:12:41,876

Each valley might be the one described in letters written by Spanish soldiers.

99

00:12:50,877 --> 00:12:54,877

The painstaking research is paying off for Guian and his band.

100

00:12:54,877 --> 00:12:59,877

There are minor discoveries to be made almost every day of the long trek.

101

00:13:00,877 --> 00:13:05,877

Tangillizing portents of what may lie beyond the next stream, over the next ridge.

102

00:13:09,878 --> 00:13:15,878

A longer river named on no map, Guian and his band are intrigued by what seems to be a cave entrance.

103

00:13:15,878 --> 00:13:20,878

A crypt is discovered. Its entrance long hidden by tons of debris.

104

00:13:23,878 --> 00:13:28,878

Guian believes it may be the grave of an important person, perhaps a member of Inca royalty.

105

00:13:31,878 --> 00:13:36,879

It is clear from the discovery of the crypt that the entrance is the entrance of the Inca.

106

00:13:36,879 --> 00:13:39,879

The entrance is the entrance of the Inca.

107

00:13:39,879 --> 00:13:44,879

It is clear from the discovery of the crypt that the end of Guian's quest cannot be far away.

108

00:13:47,879 --> 00:13:52,879

He will return another day to excavate the site.

109

00:14:02,880 --> 00:14:08,880

Great effort is still required if the last chapter to the Inca Empire is not to be written from the memoirs of the Inca Empire.

110

00:14:09,880 --> 00:14:14,880

Guian will be the first to leave the Inca Empire as a member of some long dead Spanish priest

111

00:14:14,880 --> 00:14:19,880

who may have been angered because proud savages worship the sun.

112

00:14:20,880 --> 00:14:25,880

There are only two days left if Guian is to make his rendezvous with history on schedule.

113

00:14:40,881 --> 00:14:45,881

It is here, just as Guian knew it would be.

114

00:14:47,881 --> 00:14:54,881

Vilcabamba at last. For everyone involved, it is the culmination of a great dream.

115

00:15:10,882 --> 00:15:21,882

It is 10 a.m. June 24th. Precisely 403 years have passed since soldiers of Spain sacked this city.

116

00:15:21,882 --> 00:15:26,883

Edmundo Guian has kept the promise he made to himself.

117

00:15:27,883 --> 00:15:31,883

Vilcabamba is retaken.

118

00:15:32,883 --> 00:15:43,883

It is all here, the superb Inca masonry combined with a light and airy style building open to the sky.

119

00:15:46,883 --> 00:15:56,884

It all started in the valley called Cusco. For a century, kings called Inca ruled from a city that was the marvel of pre-European civilization in the Americas.

120

00:15:57,884 --> 00:16:02,884

And there were the great fortresses like Saxa Woman.

121

00:16:05,884 --> 00:16:09,884

The long retreat of the Inca began with the coming of the Spaniards.

122

00:16:10,884 --> 00:16:16,885

But the glory was real. Even as they fought the Spaniards for control of their lush valleys,

123

00:16:16,885 --> 00:16:22,885

the Inca had time to build magnificent mountain retreats like Machu Picchu.

124

00:16:27,885 --> 00:16:35,885

Guian believes he has at last discovered the real thing, larger by far than Machu Picchu.

125

00:16:39,885 --> 00:16:44,886

From records left by two Spanish friars who visited Vilcabamba in 1570,

126

00:16:44,886 --> 00:16:48,886

Guian begins to reconstruct the city in his mind.

127

00:16:49,886 --> 00:16:55,886

The roofing tiles he finds are evidence that the city was built late in the Incan imperial era.

128

00:16:56,886 --> 00:17:03,886

The Incas traditionally covered their buildings with thatch. The Spanish introduced tile.

129

00:17:08,886 --> 00:17:13,887

There will be time for only a brief survey of his remarkable discovery.

130

00:17:13,887 --> 00:17:20,887

Later, others will come to assist with the detailed excavation necessary to piece together the last years of Inca greatness.

131

00:17:25,887 --> 00:17:31,887

The trained eye finds much evidence which helps date the construction of the long hidden city.

132

00:17:32,887 --> 00:17:37,888

Almost everything Guian finds seems to have been built about the same time.

133

00:17:37,888 --> 00:17:44,888

He feels this is a clear indication that Vilcabamba was hastily constructed as a refuge from encroaching Spanish soldiers.

134

00:17:47,888 --> 00:17:52,888

Yet the city's waterworks are as sophisticated as any in Cusco.

135

00:17:54,888 --> 00:17:58,888

After 400 years, they still work.

136

00:17:59,888 --> 00:18:04,889

The city was carefully planned and could have withstood a long siege by any army.

137

00:18:07,889 --> 00:18:12,889

There was the temple of the sun, perhaps as grand as any at Machu Picchu.

138

00:18:14,889 --> 00:18:18,889

Guian finds evidence that it was faced with solid gold.

139

00:18:20,889 --> 00:18:25,889

The city was carefully planned and could have withstood a long siege by any army.

140

00:18:26,889 --> 00:18:31,890

Sun temples were both centers of worship and astronomical observatories.

141

00:18:32,890 --> 00:18:37,890

The placement of stones aided the Inca in studying the movement of stars.

142

00:18:38,890 --> 00:18:41,890

Their knowledge of astronomy was remarkably advanced.

143

00:18:43,890 --> 00:18:48,890

The Inca were remarkable builders, yet they never standardized their tools or techniques.

144

00:18:49,890 --> 00:18:53,890

They were familiar with higher mathematics and never invented the wheel.

145

00:18:55,890 --> 00:18:58,891

Like everything else Guian has learned about the Inca,

146

00:18:59,891 --> 00:19:03,891

Vilcabamba will probably raise as many questions as it answers.

147

00:19:06,891 --> 00:19:11,891

The layout of the city seems to match the descriptions Guian uncovered in the Seville archives.

148

00:19:13,891 --> 00:19:17,891

The discovery clearly puts Inca history in a different light.

149

00:19:19,891 --> 00:19:23,892

The Inca did not give up their empire lightly, Guian believes.

150

00:19:23,892 --> 00:19:31,892

Time and their gods were against them, and they lost it all after a struggle Guian estimates lasted

some 40 years.

151

00:19:32,892 --> 00:19:35,892

Still, it is good to be home.

152

00:19:54,893 --> 00:20:00,893

For the explorers, the occasion of Vilcabamba's discovery was both joyful and solemn.

153

00:20:05,893 --> 00:20:11,893

After more than 400 years, Guian is reclaiming Vilcabamba in the name of the Inca people.

154

00:20:13,893 --> 00:20:15,893

Viva Vilcabamba! Viva el Perú!

155

00:20:16,894 --> 00:20:18,894

Viva Vilcabamba! Viva Vilcabamba!

156

00:20:19,894 --> 00:20:21,894

Viva Vilcabamba! Viva Vilcabamba!

157

00:20:21,894 --> 00:20:23,894

Viva Vilcabamba! Viva el Perú!

158

00:20:28,894 --> 00:20:31,894

When at Mundo, Guian marched into Vilcabamba, the gold was gone.

159

00:20:32,894 --> 00:20:38,894

He believes the Inca may have dumped it into one of dozens of nearby lakes to prevent it from falling into Spanish hands.

160

00:20:39,894 --> 00:20:41,894

But Guian discovered a treasure, nevertheless.

161

00:20:42,894 --> 00:20:50,895

His was the treasure of satisfaction and achievement, the treasure of writing a new chapter to the history of a proud and brilliant people called Inca.

162

00:20:52,895 --> 00:20:59,895

Within weeks, Guian's discovery would make headlines throughout South America and the world.

163

00:21:02,895 --> 00:21:07,895

Ahead lay many months of hard work excavating the ruins of Vilcabamba,

164

00:21:08,895 --> 00:21:13,896

seeking clues to other unresolved mysteries about the Inca.

165

00:21:14,896 --> 00:21:21,896

For now, Guian could rest secure in the knowledge that he had made answers possible.

166

00:21:29,896 --> 00:21:35,896

Coming up next, an agent has no alibi when he's accused of murder on FDI, the Untold Stories.

167

00:21:35,896 --> 00:21:40,897

Then, history's crimes and trials chronicles the genocidal rule of the Khmer Rouge,

168

00:21:40,897 --> 00:21:43,897

the development of Pol Pot's Cambodian killing fields.

169

00:21:44,897 --> 00:21:51,897

And later tonight, fighter ace and Luftwaffe administrator Ernst Houttet heads for failure and

disgrace as one of Hitler's generals.

170

00:21:51,897 --> 00:21:55,897

At nine, here on the History Channel, where the past comes alive.