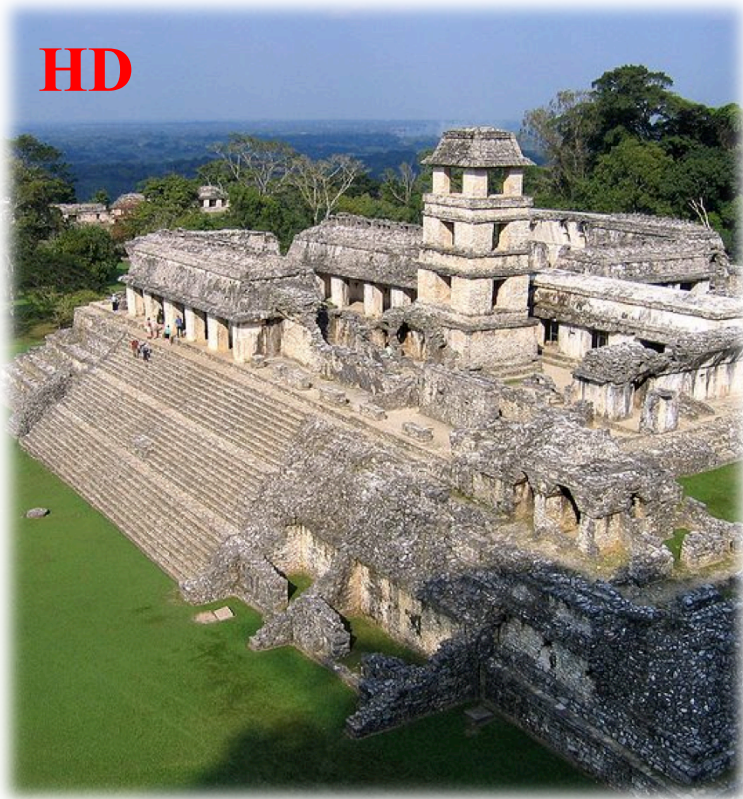




Lost Civilizations: The Mayas : Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras



The Mayan civilization extended mainly over parts of Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, the Honduras and el Salvador.

Established at the end of the 3rd millennium BC, Mayan civilization peaked between the 6th century and 9th century of our era, before declining and disappearing at the time of the Spanish conquest in the 16th century.

With the Aztecs and the Incas, it was one of the three great pre-Columbian civilizations which shaped the New World before the arrival of Europeans.

Its legacy is principally architectural, evidenced by the imposing ruins of palaces and pyramid temples scattered across the jungle, such as Chichen Itza, Uxmal or Palenque.

Mayan civilization is also admired for its advanced mathematical and astrological knowledge, as well as the only established system of writing in pre-Columbian America.

The first explorers created a romantic image of the Mayans which is very different from the reality of a hard-working and highly peaceful people, who devoted themselves, in the tranquillity of their sheltered cities, to the study of the stars.

Nowadays, our fuller understanding means has enabled us to update this simplistic, black and white, view. For, even though the ancient Mayans were builders, artists and wise men, they were also certainly warriors.

Because of their political organisation into rival city states, it is not inappropriate to compare Mayan civilisation with the cities of ancient Greece, or the Italian city states of the Renaissance.

A journey of discovery uncovering the secrets of the Maya civilization, accompanied by specialists and researchers in South American history including Patrice Lecoq, Carmen Bernand and André Delpuech.

Directed by Jacques VICHET A documentary of 52'

French Version
English Version

High Definition
HD Cam & Digital Betacam 16/9