



Lost Civilizations: Tunisia : Carthage



Directed by Jacques VICHET

French Version
English Version

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A documentary of 52'

High Definition
HD Cam & Digital Betacam 16/9

To visit Carthage is to walk in the footsteps of Hannibal, in a quest to discover over 3000 years of history.

The ancient Punic city, destroyed and then rebuilt by the Romans who proclaimed it capital of the African proconsular province, has now become a trendy Tunis suburb.

The Carthaginian Empire was reputed for its size, its territory spread throughout the entire Mediterranean region, but it was in Carthage that important events took place, and political affairs were decided.

During the course of the Vth century Carthage reached its apogee thanks to a series of advantageous exchanges with the populations of North Africa, and the Atlantic coast.

The struggle between Carthage and the Greeks lasted for almost a century, before relations were established with the Egyptians and the Ptolomies. By this stage the Carthaginian empire was immense, its military influence covering the Eastern Mediterranean.

In the end Carthage would fall to Rome in 241 BC, after a dramatic and tragic defeat which later inspired Flaubert's novel « Salammbô ».

The town still boasts a number of impressive archaeological sites, most of which are Roman. Within the confines of a temple, stand a set of Corinthian columns, relics of another era.

Carthage has inspired a great deal of literature, great tales such as the story of Elyssa, the queen who fled from Phoenicia carrying treasures in order to escape from a brother who had killed her husband. Elyssa also appears in Rome under the name of Dido, and was the inspiration for one of Virgil's poems.