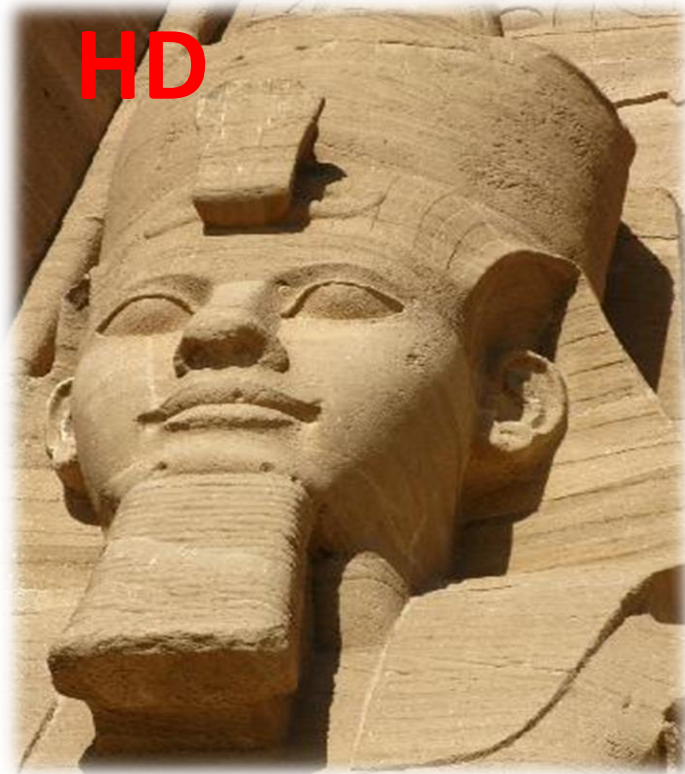




Lost Civilizations

Egypt : The Ramesseum, funeral temple of Ramses II



The Ramesseum is dedicated to the glorious and most famous pharaoh Ramses the second, who reigned for 67 years.

It is a funerary temple, one of the most beautiful of the eastern bank's constructions.

The Ramesseum is located to the north of the Memnon colossus, between the temples of Amenhotep and Tutmosis the 4th, in the Theban necropolis, across the Nile from Luxor.

It was discovered in the first century B.C by the Greek historian Diodorus Siculus, who described this "Tomb of Ozymandias" as "Egypt's most majestic" in his writings.

It was Champollion who named this monumental edifice Ramesseum. The "House of Million Years" was constructed around the temple in its centre.

Surrounding it are buildings for celebrations, administrative offices, priests' houses, workshops, storage houses and the palace where Ramses resided when he visited the site.

Since 1991, members of the French National Research Centre (CNRS) have been carrying out digs. The missions alternate between digging (particularly a funerary chamber in the necropolis), restoration, relocating blocks...

These campaigns have enabled to restore the site to an aspect close to what it looked like over two thousand years ago.

This documentary invites you to dive into Egyptian mythology and legends and be taken by specialists through the secrets of this legendary site.

Directed by Jacques VICHET A documentary of 52'

French Version
English Version

High Definition
Digital Betacam 16/9