

Secret Cities

3 x 60'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. London: The Underground Megastructures

Throughout centuries, London has become one of the world's greatest metropolis. Big Ben, London Eye or Westminster Abbey to name a few are examples of the London megastructures, but who knows what it is in its depths, that Londoners taking shelter during the 1940 blitz? Who knows that it was the theatre of sensitive operations which remained secret until the beginning of the 2000s?

London's history has always been tied down to its underground. Each major step of the city's expansion went along with profound underground changes. In the 18th century, the longest sewer system in the world was born,. A 100 years later, dozens of subway tunnels were built, as long as underground railways and thousands of building foundations. In July 1940 began the Battle of Britain against the Luftwaffe aircraft that lasted more than three months and killed 30 000 British citizens. But this

war did not just happen in the sky. In the depths of the city the inhabitants took shelter. The general staff also organized the resistance against the Nazi invader in these said undergrounds.

This film will unveil the true maze of hidden underground constructions in London. Using CGI, reconstitutions, archives and historical narratives, we will tell you everything about London's hidden history, about its underground.

2. Paris: The Sacre-Coeur

Every year, the Sacré Coeur welcomes into its midst more than 11 millions of visitors. This is Paris most visited place after Notre-Dame. With its gigantic rounded-roof 83 meters high, its amazing bell of 19 tons (the biggest in France), this megastructure is the highest point of the capital, behind the Eiffel Tower.

What are the secrets behind the construction of one of Paris most symbolic places ? Who actually knows that it was born in a context of war ? Who knows that the conservative wing ordered its construction at the exact same place as the Commune ?

Risks of collapsing, fierce opposition of laypersons, sabotage... its builders have faced the worst. For almost half a century, 7 architects relieved each other to overcome its construction by the end of the First World War. Interviews with experts, reconstitution, CGI, archives, beautiful footage...

This movie will be conceived as a real architectural thriller. It will open with views of today's Basilica and will highlight the amazing saga of its construction. Constant links between past and present will give a certain modernity to the film.

3. Rome: St. Peter's Basilica

If we had to choose only one megastructure of legend, one construction work of god, it would be Saint Peter's Basilica, in Rome...

This is the largest architectural design of its time and one of the most visited monuments in the world. 219 meters long, 126 meters high, 154 meters wide, 2.3 hectares large, a capacity of 60,000 people... it is huge, four times larger than Notre Dame de Paris. This is also one of the holiest places of Christianity because it houses the

relics of St. Peter. Every Sunday, no less than 150,000 Catholics crowd at the moment of the Angelus pontifical.

And yet who knows the secrets behind its construction? Who knows that it took more than a century to overcome this titanic and expensive work site? Who knows that a dozen popes succeeded each other during this period? Who knows that the Protestant Reformation was born because of the construction of St. Peter's Basilica, considered a symbol of delusions of grandeur of the papacy by Martin Luther?

This is the amazing story of this megastructure of legend, illustrated with CGIs, commented with the best experts, incredible footage, archives and historical reconstructions.