THE TERRACOTTA ARMY

GUARDIANS IN CLAY

Built in workshops, painted in color and arranged as a real army—then buried for more than two millennia.



ARTISTIC COLOR RECONSTRUCTION

AN ARMY IN FORMATION

SIMPLIFIED PIT GUIDE

NOT TO SCALE

PIT 1 — Main infantry and chariots in long parallel corridors

PIT 2 — A mixed force of archers, cavalry, infantry and chariots

PIT 3 — A smaller command group with officers and a chariot

A fourth identified pit was found empty.

1974

Found by chance

Farmers digging a well near Xi'an uncovered fragments of clay figures and bronze objects. Archaeological work then revealed Pit 1 and, later, the other military pits.

THE COLORS' SECOND BURIAL

The figures were originally lacquered and brightly painted. Excavation can expose fragile lacquer and pigment to rapid drying and flaking, making stabilization a central conservation challenge.

THEN AND NOW

Today's terracotta surface is not the army's original appearance.



ARTISTIC RECONSTRUCTION

FOUR YEARS TO COLLAPSE

210 BCE

A hidden death

Qin Shi Huang dies on tour. His death is concealed during the return journey. The traditional account says Li Si and Zhao Gao help place the younger son Huhai on the throne as Qin Er Shi.

209 BCE

Rebellion spreads

The uprising of Chen Sheng and Wu Guang becomes the first of many revolts. Former regional loyalties and new armies challenge Qin authority.

208 BCE

The court turns inward

Zhao Gao removes rivals and Li Si is executed. Military defeats mount while the central court becomes more isolated from the crisis.

207 BCE

The second emperor falls

Qin Er Shi dies under pressure from Zhao Gao. Ziying later kills Zhao Gao, but the dynasty can no longer recover and surrenders to Liu Bang.

206 BCE · THE QIN DYNASTY HAS ENDED

THE EMPIRE THAT OUTLIVED ITS DYNASTY

Qin rule collapsed in four violent years. The imperial framework survived for centuries.



WHAT OUTLIVED THE DYNASTY

THE HAN KEPT

The shape of empire

- A unified realm ruled by an emperor
- Appointed officials and territorial administration
- Standard writing, coinage, weights and measures
- Roads, records and a centralized bureaucracy

THE HAN CHANGED

How power was explained

Han rulers inherited Qin institutions but softened or revised some of its harshest demands. They adjusted laws, taxes and labor obligations and increasingly framed imperial rule through Confucian learning and ritual. The result was not a rejection of centralized empire, but a more durable version of it.

"Qin lost the dynasty—but won the argument about the shape of the state."

ORGANIC REEF REHABILITATION CENTER

ORRC

REEF REHABILITATION

Let the reef rebuild itself.



EDITORIAL ILLUSTRATION

A NATURE-FIRST APPROACH

The Organic Reef Rehabilitation Center—ORRC—is the next chapter of Ocean Quest Global. Founded by Dr. Anuar Abdullah and based in Malaysia, it argues that reef work should begin with observation: understand what survives, remove the pressure causing damage, and support natural recovery without leaving permanent engineered structures behind.

> *"Work with the reef—not over it."*
>
> ORRC emphasizes natural substrate, temporary support and long-term ecological monitoring.

READ

Study the reef before intervening.

SUPPORT

Stabilize living fragments with minimal disturbance.

RETURN

Let coral growth and natural succession take over.



FROM RUBBLE TO LIVING REEF

1 OBSERVE

Survey damage, surviving coral and the forces shaping the site.

2 RECOVER

Select suitable naturally broken fragments rather than harvesting intact colonies.

3 STABILIZE

Place fragments on coral rubble or natural substrate with temporary support.

4 MONITOR

Track attachment, growth, water conditions and the wider reef community.

MAYA BAY · THAILAND

After Maya Bay closed to mass tourism in 2018, Ocean Quest's method was used in the rehabilitation effort. ORRC reports that 120 natural-substrate nurseries held more than 40,000 coral fragments by May 2019. The bay reopened in 2022 with tightly controlled access and boats excluded from the bay itself.

Source: ORRC official site and project pages. Project totals are reported by ORRC.

FLORIDA'S ATLANTIC COAST

DIVING THE TREASURE COAST

Warm currents, living reefs and historic wrecks

STUART · HUTCHINSON ISLAND · JUPITER · PALM BEACH



EDITORIAL ILLUSTRATION

WHERE THE CURRENT BECOMES THE ROAD

Off Florida's Atlantic coast, Gulf Stream influence brings warm blue water and tropical marine life close to shore. From Stuart's shallow reefs and historic wrecks to deeper ledges south toward Palm Beach, most offshore diving is boat-based—and many dives are drifts. The reef seems to scroll beneath you while the boat follows the dive flag above.

DRIFT DIVING, SIMPLY

1. The boat drops the group up-current.
2. Divers move with the water instead of fighting it.
3. A guide tows a dive flag while the boat tracks the group.
4. Divers surface with a marker and are collected downstream.

GOOD BUOYANCY · DIVE COMPUTER · SURFACE MARKER BUOY



POSSIBLE ENCOUNTERS

- SEA TURTLES
- GOLIATH GROUPER
- REEF & LEMON SHARKS
- SPOTTED EAGLE RAYS
- MORAY EELS
- BARRACUDA & SPADEFISH
- LOBSTERS & OCTOPUSES
- TROPICAL REEF FISH

WHEN TO GO

SUMMER · JUN–SEP

82–86°F planning range

Warmest water and often the calmest seas. Afternoon storms and tropical weather remain possible.

FALL · OCT–NOV

Warm water lingers

Often pleasant early in the season; winds, tropical systems and later cold fronts add variability.

WINTER · DEC–FEB

Commonly in the 70s

Cold fronts can bring cooler water and rougher seas. Exposure protection becomes more important.

SPRING · MAR–MAY

Gradually warming

Active turtles and improving warmth, although wind and visibility can still change quickly.

Conditions are never guaranteed—confirm current, visibility, temperature and seas with the operator before departure.

STUART TO PALM BEACH

REEFS, WRECKS & LOCAL BOATS

Historic hulls, famous ledges and the people who know them

TREASURE COAST DIVE GUIDE · PART TWO



EDITORIAL ILLUSTRATION · COMPOSITE SITE

THREE WRECK EXPERIENCES

The coast offers everything from a historic wreck close to shore to deep technical sites and long Gulf Stream drifts. These are very different dives—depth, current and access determine who should attempt them.

STUART · SHALLOW HISTORIC SITE

Georges Valentine

The iron-hulled vessel wrecked off Hutchinson Island in 1904. Its remains near the House of Refuge form a Florida Underwater Archaeological Preserve. Shore entry, surf and visibility change—local guidance matters.

OFF ST. LUCIE INLET · TECHNICAL

Wickstrom Reef

About nine nautical miles offshore, this steel freighter reaches a maximum depth near 188 feet; the mast begins around 120 feet and the deck near 160. It is for trained technical divers, not a recreational wreck dive.

WEST PALM BEACH · MULTI-WRECK DRIFT

Corridor Wreck Trek

A current-carried route links Brazilian Docks, China Barge, Amaryllis, PC-1174, Mizpah and Ana Cecilia. Coral, sponges, turtles, rays and goliath grouper turn the wreck line into habitat.



BREAKERS REEF

A PALM BEACH CLASSIC

This north–south reef line lies in roughly 50–65 feet of water directly offshore from The Breakers. Boats often use a section called Fourth Window, aligned with the hotel above. Spring and summer can bring especially strong turtle activity, but sightings are never guaranteed.

50–65 FT

TYPICAL REEF DEPTH

THE LANDMARK ABOVE

The Palm Beach Inn opened in 1896 and became The Breakers in 1901. The present Italian Renaissance–inspired hotel opened in 1926.

LOCAL OPERATORS TO KNOW

STUART SCUBA

STUART

Sales, service, training, and recreational or technical charters from Stuart to West Palm Beach.

NARCOSIS

RIVIERA BEACH

Daily two-tank reef and wreck trips. Hunting divers must meet current safety and licensing rules.

KYALAMI

JUPITER · PALM BEACH

Gulf Stream drift dives, reefs, wrecks, training, group charters and private dives.

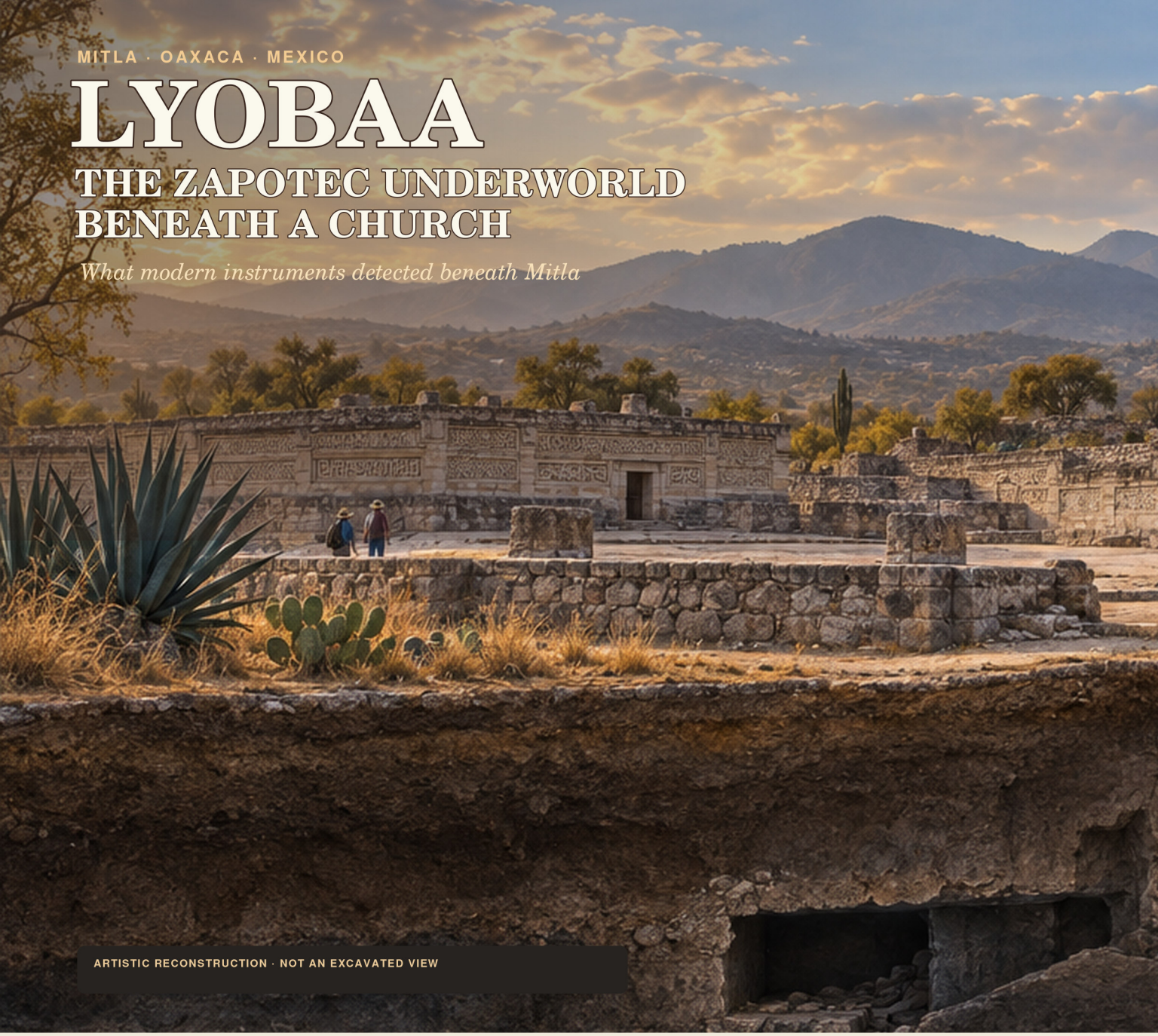
Confirm departure point, certification requirements, current, visibility and weather directly with the operator.

MITLA · OAXACA · MEXICO

LYOBAA

THE ZAPOTEC UNDERWORLD BENEATH A CHURCH

What modern instruments detected beneath Mitla



ARTISTIC RECONSTRUCTION · NOT AN EXCAVATED VIEW

A CHURCH ABOVE AN UNDERWORLD

At Mitla, a sixteenth-century church rises directly among the remains of one of the Zapotec world's most important ceremonial centers. For centuries, colonial writing and local tradition placed a sealed entrance beneath the main altar—an entrance associated with Lyobaa, the realm of the dead and the ancestors. Modern geophysics has now detected substantial underground voids in that same area.

WHAT IS LYOBAA?

The Zapotec name is usually translated as “place of rest.” At Mitla it became connected with sacred caves, elite tombs, rulers, priests and the remembered presence of ancestors.



MITLA, PLACE OF REST

After Monte Albán's decline around 750 CE, Mitla grew into a major Zapotec political and ceremonial center. Much of the architecture visible today belongs to the centuries before the Spanish conquest.

SACRED CENTER

After Monte Albán

Mitla became a place of authority, ceremony and elite burial in Oaxaca's Tlacolula Valley.

STONE MOSAICS

The Grecas

Thousands of precisely fitted stone pieces form the geometric fretwork that makes Mitla instantly recognizable.

BELOW THE EARTH

Tombs & Ancestors

Rock-cut cruciform tombs were already known here; the newly detected voids may belong to a more complex underground story.



THE CHURCH AND THE SEALED ENTRANCE

A story recorded in 1674

Dominican friar Francisco de Burgoa described four subterranean chambers at Mitla, including sanctuaries and burials of high priests and rulers. He wrote that missionaries entered a vast cavern and later ordered its entrances sealed. His account is an important historical source—but it is not an excavation report.

VERIFIED

The church stands over and among pre-Hispanic Zapotec structures.

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

Burgoa described chambers, tombs and a passage that missionaries sealed.

LOCAL TRADITION

The lost entrance to Lyobaa survived beneath the church's main altar.

NOT YET PROVEN

The complete labyrinth, its contents and the exact passage Burgoa described.

WHY THE ACCOUNT STILL MATTERS

Colonial writers interpreted Indigenous beliefs through their own religious worldview and could exaggerate or misunderstand what they encountered. Yet the location in this account matters: modern instruments detected substantial voids beneath the church and near the altar—the same place remembered by local tradition.



READING WHAT LIES BELOW

Project Lyobaa combined three non-invasive methods. Each measures the subsurface differently; agreement between them makes an anomaly more persuasive, but only direct investigation can establish its age and purpose.

1 GPR
GROUND-PENETRATING RADAR

Radar pulses reflect from changes in soil, stone, fill and possible voids.

2 ERT
ELECTRICAL RESISTIVITY

Electrodes map differences in electrical resistance beneath the surface.

3 ANT
AMBIENT NOISE TOMOGRAPHY

Ambient vibrations reveal changes in the speed of waves through the ground.

WHAT THE SURVEYS DETECTED

6+ METERS
Depth below the church of the principal underground anomaly.

ABOUT 15 × 10 M
Estimated footprint of a possible chamber or connected chambers.

CONFIRMED IN 2023
A new 72-geophone array again detected the east–west cavity.

DETECTED

Large voids beneath the church; passage-like anomalies; a possible shaft beneath the altar; and possible connections extending north, east and south.

NOT YET ESTABLISHED

Who created every space; when it was made; whether all voids connect; whether royal tombs survive; or whether this is the complete temple described in tradition.

NEW ORLEANS

Six foods that tel



FROM THE GUMBO POT

GUMBO

A soulful stew of seafood, sausage and vegetables, thickened with a dark roux. It brings together African, French, Spanish and Native American traditions in one unforgettable bowl.

JAMBALAYA

Rice cooked with tomatoes, peppers, onions and your choice of seafood, chicken or sausage. Born from resourcefulness, it's a true Creole classic that turns simple ingredients into something extraordinary.

RED BEANS & RICE

Slow-simmered red beans with sausage, herbs and a rich, creamy texture. Traditionally a Monday meal, it shows how New Orleanians make something delicious out of what they have—and always share it.

"In New Orleans, every recipe carries a history."

ON A PLATE

l the city's story.



SANDWICHES & SOMETHING SWEET

PO-BOY

Crispy fried Gulf shrimp tucked into classic New Orleans French bread with lettuce, tomato, pickles and a swipe of remoulade. A working-class icon with big flavor and even bigger heart.

MUFFULETTA

A round sesame-seed loaf layered with cured meats, cheese and a zesty olive salad. Created by Sicilian immigrants, it's a New Orleans original that's all about bringing cultures together.

BEIGNETS

Pillowy, square pastries fried until golden and buried in powdered sugar. A taste of French influence and New Orleans hospitality—best enjoyed with café au lait and good company.

CREOLE ISN'T SIMPLY CAJUN

Cajun food comes from rural Louisiana and French Acadian roots. Creole food grew in New Orleans, blending French, Spanish, African and Caribbean influences. Different places. A richer story together.

ALSO TASTE



CRAWFISH ÉTOUFFÉE



CHARGRILLED OYSTERS



BANANAS FOSTER

A REMARKABLE PLACE TO STAY

A NIGHT BEHIND SEVEN-FOOT WALLS

Sleeping Inside Langley Castle

Medieval walls. Modern comfort. A timeless stay in the heart of Northumberland.

THE CASTLE

Langley Castle was built in 1350 during the reign of Edward III. It later became associated with the Radcliffe family and the Jacobite risings. The castle fell into neglect and remained a ruin for more than a century. Restoration began in 1882, and in 1986 it was transformed into a hotel, welcoming guests to experience its extraordinary history.



1350
BUILT



1715
JACOBITE RISING



1882
RESTORATION



1986
HOTEL RENEWAL

Fourteen centuries of stories, still standing.

History has never felt this comfortable.

SLEEPING INSIDE THE FORTRESS

Deluxe Castle Rooms feature four-poster beds and window seats within seven-foot-thick walls, combining medieval character with modern luxury. Stone, timber and rich fabrics create an atmospheric retreat that is unforgettable, day or night.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT ROOM

Reserve a Deluxe Castle Room for a four-poster bed and confirm room features when booking. Castle View and Lodge rooms are elsewhere in the grounds and offer a different experience.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE



WALK THE BATTLEMENTS



DINE BY CANDLELIGHT

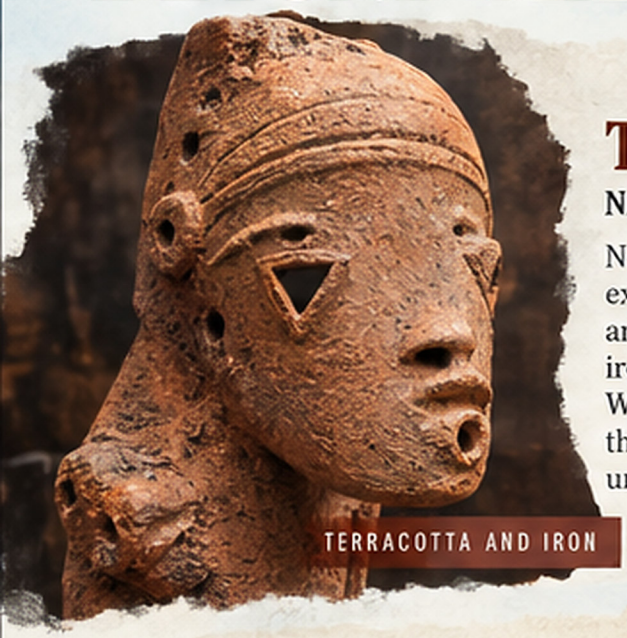


VISIT HADRIAN'S WALL

THREE CULTURES BEYOND THE TEXTBOOK

DIFFERENT PLACES.
SHARED CURIOSITY.
A DEEPER WORLD.

People, ideas and innovations that shaped our shared human story.



TERRACOTTA AND IRON

THE NOK

Nigeria • c. 500 BCE–200 CE

Nok communities created expressive terracotta figures and were associated with early ironworking traditions in West Africa, Much about their society remains unknown.

ARTISTIC RECONSTRUCTION

THE GARAMANTES

Libyan Sahara • c. 500 BCE–700 CE

Garamantian settlements used underground irrigation systems to bring fossil groundwater to desert fields, helping sustain towns and regional exchange.

CITIES BENEATH THE DESERT SUN





POTTERY ACROSS AN OCEAN

THE LAPITA

Western Pacific • c. 1600–500 BCE

Lapita communities were accomplished seafarers whose distinctive stamped pottery helps archaeologists trace settlement across the western Pacific.



ARTISTIC RECONSTRUCTION

NEXT ISSUE

PEOPLE
WILDLIFE
WILDER FUTURES

GUARDIANS OF THE MOUNTAIN FOREST

How Gorilla Protection Created a New Kind of Tourism

RWANDA · UGANDA · DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



Rangers, researchers, veterinary teams and neighboring communities helped change the future of the mountain gorilla. The next issue examines controlled trekking, conservation revenue—and the difficult questions that remain.

CAN TRAVEL HELP PROTECT WHAT TRAVELERS COME TO SEE?

BRYSON CITY

BASECAMP FOR ADVENTURE

Whitewater, trail rides and mountain roads in the Southern Smokies

RUN THE NANTAHALA

NANTAHALA OUTDOOR CENTER (NOC)

NOC has connected visitors with outdoor adventure since 1972. The Bryson City riverfront base offers guided Nantahala rafting, paddling instruction, ziplining, lodging and riverside dining. Trip requirements and schedules should be confirmed when booking.



CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURE



GUIDED RAFTING



INFLATABLE KAYAKING



MOUNTAINTOP ZIP LINE



PADDLING SCHOOL

RIDE, HIKE & TAKE THE HIGH ROAD



HORSEBACK IN THE SMOKIES

Guided trail rides offer a quieter way to experience the forests. Operators, seasonal schedules and rider requirements should be confirmed before travel.



DEEP CREEK

Tom Branch - Indian Creek - Juney Whank
Just north of Bryson City, Deep Creek offers waterfalls, hiking, fishing and seasonal tubing.



BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

Enter near Cherokee, consider Waterrock Knob, and always check official road closures before departing.



ALSO EXPLORE



FONTANA LAKE — KAYAK & SUP



GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS RAILROAD

PLAN SMART

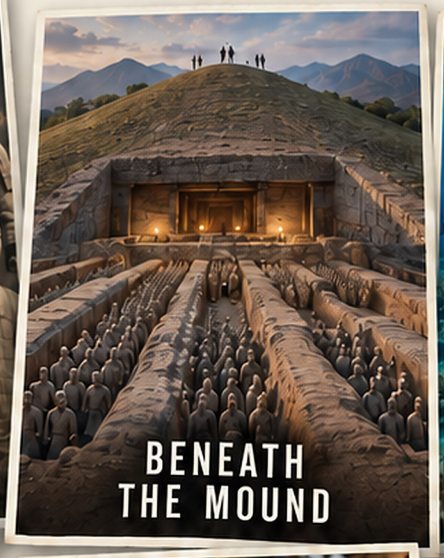
Reserve rafting and guided riding ahead; expect cold river water; bring secure footwear; check park and Parkway alerts; cell service can be limited.

ATLAS ADVENTURES TX

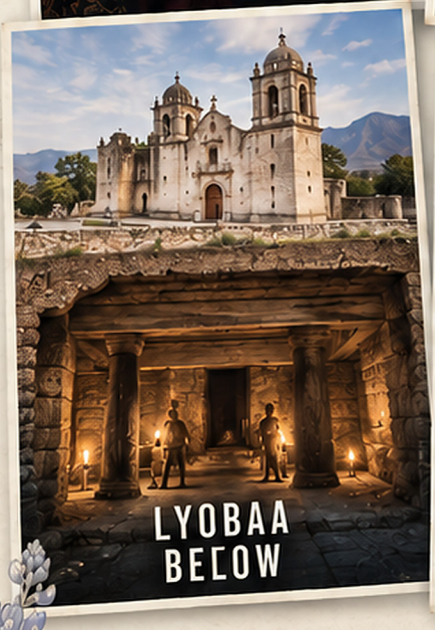
CONTINUE THE JOURNEY

History • Travel • Discovery

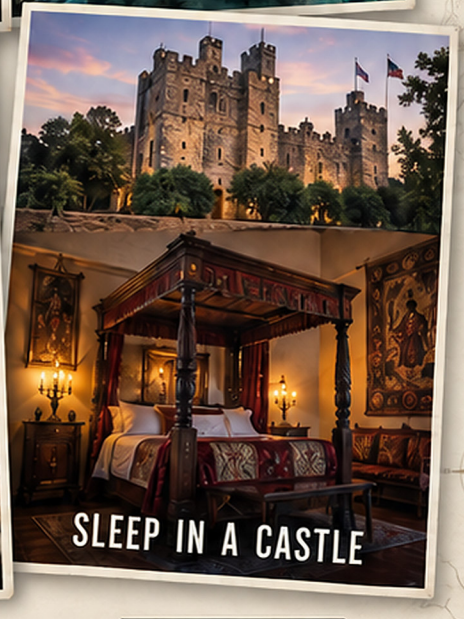












SCAN TO EXPLORE MORE HISTORY & TRAVEL

pinterest.com/atlasadventurestx