

# ROMAN EMPIRE VS. NATURE

MEET THE ROMANS' GREATEST ENEMY – THE WILD FORCES OF NATURE

To build the greatest empire in human history, the Romans had to defeat many enemies. But throughout all their epic battles, they always faced a constant enemy – Mother Nature. The harshest and cruellest combatant, always throwing new challenges their way.

From crossing the Alps to defeat Galle through to building an immense war fleet in the middle of Germany, Rome met these challenges every time. Such extraordinary feats of engineering allowed them to conquer natural obstacles no one else even dared attempt, carving out an extraordinary empire, parts of which still stand today.

Our series, built around in-the-field archaeological exploration and exclusive interviews with historians and natural scientists, shows how the Romans fought with nature – and won.

HISTORY  
Docuseries  
6 x 60'





## Episode 1 - The Origin of Everything

Location: Central Italy – Gorges of Velino, Plain of Saint Vittorino, Rieti.

As the old adage goes, Rome wasn't built in a day. And its birth and development stretches far outside of the city walls. An hour from the Eternal City, in the mountains of Rieti, this episode reveals how Romans tamed wild spring waters in the 4th century BC, and in doing so created the highest waterfall in Europe.



## Episode 4 - Litus Saxonicum

Locations: United Kingdom and France – English Channel, English southern coast and French northern coast, Wales and the Orkney Islands

The conquest of Britain places the English Channel in Roman hands. But how will they protect this waterway from attack? This episode explores the lengths the Empire takes to secure the Channel, from building the first and only fortified defence system on both sides of the water, to launching the mighty war fleet, the Classis Britannica, to garrison it.

## Episode 2 - Where Emperors Walked

Location: Southern Italy – Baia, Gulf of Naples.

An entire imperial city, loved madly by the first Emperor of Rome but then swallowed by the sea and forgotten for over 1,500 years. How did Baia come to be built, and then disappear from living memory? This episode explores the coastline of the Gulf of Naples and dives underwater to discover this submerged city's secrets.

## Episode 5 - The Way of the Gallies

Locations: Italy and France – Aosta Valley, Little St. Bernard Pass and Great St. Bernard Pass, Alpine Savoy, Rhone Valley to Vienna and Lyon, Martigny.

Roman roads have long outlived the Romans, each a testament to Rome's ambition. None more so than Via delle Gallie, which crosses the Alps. This mountain range was blocking Rome's ability to move its legions at speed across Europe, so the first Emperor of Rome demanded the seemingly impossible – to conquer the Alps.

## Episode 3 - Rome's Revenge

Locations: Germany and Holland – Roman fleet harbours on the Rhine River and North Sea, battle site of Pontes Longi, Idistaviso and Angrivarian Wall.

Rome never took humiliation lightly. After German barbarians treacherously massacre Roman legions in Teutoburg, the Empire plans its largest ever naval operation. Overcoming hostile forests and swamps, Rome builds more than 1,000 warships within Germany, using timber from the country's own forests and attacking from its own rivers.

## Episode 6 - The End of Empire

Locations: England, Scotland – Hadrian's Wall, the Antonine Wall and Roman sites on the Highlands.

The long arm of the Roman Empire reached as far north as Scotland. Here, to repel Barbarians and ringfence their empire, Rome built huge fortifications using whatever local materials they could find, from stone to turf. Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall are iconic markers of the Romans' triumph over nature.