

# CELTs

The Untold Story



**3 x 1 hour  
documentary series**

Celts the Untold Story explores and examines the unique culture and history of the Celts of Eastern Europe over three episodes

Little is known about the ancient Celts, a collection of tribes and people whose origins lie in Eastern and Central Europe around 1200 BC. While their exact geographical spread is disputed, they traded, fought and ranged far and wide across the European Continent. Celtic tribes shared similar languages, culture and beliefs. They migrated westward between the 8th and 1st centuries BC. Ultimately their influence stretched from the Bosphorus to Ireland and Spain. Who were these fierce tribal people known as The Eastern Celts?



In *Celts - The Untold Story* we bring them to life on screen blending unique CGI graphics, dramatic recreation, and documentary interviews to experience their battles, ceremonies and celebrations. We travel back in time and enter their world, and bring early Celtic lives to the screen, using all the storytelling devices we have, including on site reconstruction of large Celtic fortified settlements, so-called oppida.

Archeological investigation and reconstruction will reveal their secrets as we follow and interview the historians and archeologists who are unearthing new surprising facts and mysteries with each new dig and investigation.

We will lift the veil on shrines hiding Celtic mysteries and enter their burial mounds.

We will begin to see and understand what this extraordinary, aesthetically mesmerizing culture looked like.

Who were their Gods? Ogmios and Belenus were two of many. The annual celebration of Beltane draws its name from Belenus, the Celtic sun god.

What were their rituals and myths? Rumours of human sacrifice abound. What evidence do we have of this? Druids and Pagan Priests populate their myths.

Why did Celtic tribes fight each other? How did they form alliances between tribes? What were the greatest battles they fought? They were at war much of the time in both inter tribal conflicts, and in tribal alliances against common enemies such as the Romans.



**W**e will journey along the little known Amber Road to the Celtic forts, battlegrounds, villages and mines of Eastern Europe. Amber, “the gold of the North” was traded from the Baltic Sea across Europe to the Mediterranean. The Amber Road was central to the development and strength of Celtic society.

Their amber has been found in Egypt in the breastplate of Tutankhamun in Syria, in Greece in the temple of Apollo, and was highly valued in Rome throughout Italy.

What are the stories and myths that surrounded Amber at the time? What was its value as a commodity? What was the history of the Amber road, and where were the centres of Celtic civilisation that grew up along it?

Our exploration of discoveries that continue to be unearthed in Central and Eastern Europe will take us to Bull Rock cave, site of the famous Hallstatt burials in Monrovia and the mystery of the Gold-plated chariots. The buried chariots were clearly of immense value. Why were they buried? Who was buried with or in them?

The Bronze Cauldron of early bronze fibulae or clothing Clips, bracelets and brooches in Duchcov, Czech Republic will reveal its secrets.

We journey on to a Celtic Fort, the highly important Boii Oppidum, in Bratislava where they minted such high quality coins.

The final defeat of the Boii tribe by the Romans in 8AD and their retreat to the sparsely populated lands of Boii Deserta may be a final resting place on our journey across the land of the Ancient Celts in search of their Untold Story.



## The Episodes:

The first episode will focus on the accumulation of ritual wealth by the Hallstatt princes. Hallstatt Culture traversed the Bronze and Iron ages from 1200 to 450 BC. How they developed as a powerful prosperous spiritual and trade orientated society and then became a society of Warriors feared far and wide, will be the narrative that takes us on through to the Celtic forces finally plundering Rome in 387BC

The second episode will explore the age of the Celtic Warriors, the relationship with Iron, and the impeccable craftsmanship of Celtic swords. Their swords were central to their military success and the ultimate conquest of Rome by a band of Gallic Celts led by the warlord Brennus.

The final episode will take in the pinnacle of Celtic culture, the mint and coin system which led to the accumulation of the largest stock of gold in early European history.

The secrets we unveil will bring us up to the end of Celtic era.

Celts-The Untold Story will take us on an unprecedented journey of exploration. We will discover and contrast parallels between Celtic bronze and Iron age society and our own.



## EPISODE 01 - THE POWER OF IRON AND SALT: (800–480 BC)

We journey through the Alps to Hallstätter See in Austria, where we witness the emergence of a new, powerful society based on salt mining. We explore the salt mines and discover local priests, the druids, the new elite. We get to know how their spiritual and material power is directly tied to the supply of precious materials, such as amber and ivory. Jewelry and ritual objects made of these materials were used to cement the druid high priests' power. We will explore Celtic burial sites, the huge earth mounds, which reflected the stars and galaxies of a clear night sky. We will reconstruct and enact the drinking rituals once organized by mighty Celtic Princes. Forgotten places shrouded in mystery, will open up to us. The Bull Rock caves in the Czech Republic, probably the most enigmatic, mysterious archeological site in Europe, will reveal its extraordinary hidden treasures. The vast Heuneburg fort overlooking the Danube river in Baden-Württemberg Germany, one of the largest Celtic settlements of the time, will reveal how the community there traded with the Greeks in Massilia, modern day Marseilles during the 6th Century BC. We will investigate and reveal what caused the demise of this society. Was it the interruption of the trade route from the western Mediterranean? What changes led to Celtic militarization and the newly emerging La Tène culture which eventually encompassed Hungary to the East and France to the West?



## EPISODE 02 - THE ERA OF WARRIORS: (480–250 BC)

The era of chaos produces a new elite: Celtic Warriors.

Scythians, known as great horsemen from Persia, rose to prominence in northern Europe and trade on the Amber Road came to a halt. Burial ground discoveries reveal the changes that took place in Celtic society. Affluent princes' graves filled with ritual objects and jewelry are replaced by those of warriors with their weapons. What happened to Celtic society? What induced the transformation from a prosperous, spiritual and trade-oriented society to a society of feared warriors, who plundered Rome around 387 BC? Religion became rather hazy. The cult of the warrior was born and took its place. Festive dinners habitually included fighting over the best piece of meat. The winner would rise in the ranks of his tribe. The Celts of this period were also hired as mercenaries for various armies in Europe. The dreaded Celtic sword was longer than any sword known to man. We will examine this unique weapon and compare it to other weapons of the time. We will travel to Duchcov in the Ore Mountains and visit The Giants Spring where an extensive collection of bronze fibulae, bracelets and brooches was hidden in a huge bronze cauldron. What was the significance of this unique sacred treasure, hidden inside a thermal spring? The objects in the cauldron represent an extraordinary accumulation of wealth. It was most probably an offering to gods worshipped by women. The spring was possibly specially sacred to women who believed the offering would unlock supernatural powers of protection and unique healing abilities.





### EPISODE 03 - THE CELTS FINAL ACT (480–250 BC)

The Celts reach another breakpoint, much as they had at the end of the Hallstatt era. The Romans, in search of more land, were expanding from the South, while restless Germanic tribes were moving down from the North. The Celts were being squeezed between two hostile forces. Fortified Oppida, large forts were established as new centers of trade and power along the renewed Amber road. Celtic society became more pragmatic and materialistic. This is reflected in the massive development of trade routes.

Artefacts once produced as individual pieces are now much less ornate as they are produced in greater volumes for trade. Production is economised.

The coins brought home from the Mediterranean as mercenary pay served to inspire the Celtic mint. The Celts quickly understood how the Roman monetary system worked, and realised that new trade opportunities compelled them to create an economic counterbalance in the form of their own currency. The coin's value was the actual value of the metal they were made of. How did the Celts get their hands on such great quantities of gold and silver to support the production of these new coins?

They mined hundreds of tons of gold – a supply which lasted throughout the Middle Ages. This period will be documented using Celtic coins, and explored through numismatics as we decipher the stories hidden in the symbols on Celtic money.

We will tour a 3D reconstruction of the Bratislava oppidum in Slovakia. This huge fortification includes Roman architecture, signaling the growing influence of Rome on Celtic culture. The Celtic Roman excavations here are one of the most important excavation sites in Central Europe, and demonstrate how the Celtic society had changed, developed and grown through the centuries we traverse with them in this, their cultural historical and heritage journey Celts-The Untold Story



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