

**EPISODE 4  
THE SPOOKIEST ASYLUM ON EARTH:  
WILLARD ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE**

Willard Asylum for the Chronic Insane in Upstate New York was built in 1869 and closed in 1995. When patients were committed to the asylum, they arrived with a suitcase packed with all of the possessions they thought they would need for their time inside. Most never left. Housing 4,000 patients at its peak, more than half of the 50,000 patients who called Willard Asylum home died within its walls. When patients died, they were buried in unmarked graves and their suitcases containing all their worldly possessions were locked in an attic and forgotten.

**EPISODE 5  
SEASIDE GHOST TOWN:  
THE ABANDONED  
MILLIONAIRES' RESORT**

St. Tropez, Miami Beach, the Bahamas; imagine if the world's most glamorous seaside resorts were abandoned overnight. On the western coast of the island of Cyprus in the Mediterranean Sea, just such a place exists. Varosha was home to over 39,000 residents, but today the holiday town is completely fenced off, preventing anyone from entering. In the summer of 1974—without warning and in the middle of the peak tourist season—Varosha fell victim to the ongoing war between the Greeks and the Turks. A full-scale Turkish invasion took place with air strikes and ground forces. Since then, no tourists have roamed the streets.

**EPISODE 6  
RISING FROM THE WATER LIKE RUSTY  
INVADERS: THE RED SAND SEA FORTS**

During World War II, the United Kingdom was facing some serious attacks from the sky, and to help minimise the damage done by the Luftwaffe, British engineer Guy Maunsell developed a clever strategy: take to the sea. Though now defunct, these incredible concrete monsters are still standing out at sea, impressive as ever.

**EPISODE 7  
THE ALCATRAZ OF JAPAN:  
HASHIMA ISLAND**

Hashima Island, also known as "Battleship Island", is an uninhabited island in Nagasaki Prefecture off the south-west coast of Japan. Mitsubishi took control of the island in 1890 and built Japan's first large concrete building, at nine stories high. For nearly a century, the island was a bustling coal mining facility that housed thousands of workers. When the busy mine closed, Hashima Island fell into ruin.

**EPISODE 8  
THE SECOND DEEPEST HOLE  
IN THE WORLD: THE SIBERIAN  
DIAMOND MINE "MIRNY"**

The world's second largest man-made hole is a diamond mine located on the outskirts of Mirny, a small town in eastern Siberia. Mining began in 1957 under extremely harsh weather conditions. The Siberian winter lasted seven months, which froze the ground, making it hard to mine. During its peak years of operation, 3,600 workers produced 10 million carats of diamond per year.

**EPISODE 9  
THE VENICE OF THE PACIFIC:  
NAN MADOL**

In the middle of the Pacific Ocean lies Nan Madol, a thousand-year-old ruined city. Considered to be one of the greatest archaeological wonders of the world, it is the only ancient city ever built atop a coral reef, and it is an engineering marvel. Nan Madol, part of the Federated States of Micronesia, is made up of a vast tapestry of 92 artificial islets all interconnected by canals, and it lies directly adjacent to the tiny island of Temwen.

**EPISODE 10  
BERLIN'S LARGEST PARK:  
THE ABANDONED 1920s AIRPORT  
"TEMPELHOF"**

One of Europe's most iconic pre-World War II airports sat abandoned for several years after its closure in 2008. Today, it is officially Berlin's largest park since its reopening in 2010, making it one of the world's largest free inner city spaces, ideal for biking, skating, baseball, kiting, festivals, music events, and even urban farming.

FACTUAL ENTERTAINMENT



## URBAN RUINS MYSTERY TOUR

10 x 24 min.

HD, Stereo

Executive producers: Nina Steiner, Susanne Degn



TERRA MATER  
Factual Studios

Real stories behind surreal places. History often hides a mystery, and many abandoned places around our globe pose riddles to us. This series will unravel some of them by asking the crucial question: What happened here?

**H**ave you ever walked by an abandoned house and asked yourself, what's in there? In Upstate New York, the Willard Asylum for the Chronic Insane was built in 1869 and did not close until 1995. When patients were committed to the asylum, they arrived with a suitcase packed with all the possessions they thought they would need for their time inside. However, most never left. What really happened behind the thick walls of the Willard hospital during its 126-year existence? Rumours have circulated that experimental psychiatric drugs and procedures were tested on patients in the facility's later years of operation.

Or, imagine if the world's most glamorous seaside resorts were abandoned overnight. On the western coast of the island of Cyprus in the Mediterranean Sea, just such a place exists. In the early 1970s, Varosha, Cyprus, was one of the Mediterranean's most glamorous and popular tourist destinations. Varosha was home to over 39,000 residents, but today the holiday town is completely fenced off.

In the summer of 1974—without warning and in the middle of the peak tourist season—Varosha fell victim to the ongoing war between the Greeks and the Turks. Its inhabitants fled during the invasion, and it has remained abandoned ever since.

In each episode, our thrill-seeking and adventurous host explores the real stories behind surreal places. To shed light on the mystery of the ruins, contemporary witnesses answer our host's fundamental questions. He digs deep into the darkness of the history of these secretive places in order to find footprints where you wouldn't expect them. His aim is to reveal the truth about the ruins, to peel off layer by layer of their history until he solves the secret that lies behind them.

The viewers will experience up-close the instant buzz of exploring the abandoned, the decayed, the forgotten. The experience of manoeuvring mazes and obstacles of days gone by.

In 24-minute episodes, this series uncovers in a curious yet intense way the history and mystery of some of the most fascinating abandoned urban ruins and forgotten places on earth.

**EPISODE 1  
HOME TO THE "COCAINE KING":  
THE HOLIDAY VILLAS OF DRUG KINGPIN  
PABLO ESCOBAR**

What likely transpired in the faded glory that formed the playground of Colombia's most powerful drug baron on the Rosaria Islands, a small cluster of tiny islands in the middle of the Caribbean Sea off the coast of Cartagena? The abandoned holiday home provides a glimpse into the lifestyle of the former head of the Medellín drug cartel.

**EPISODE 2  
THE WEIRD HITLER BUNKER IN LOS ANGELES:  
MURPHY RANCH**

Want to catch a glimpse of an alternate reality in which the Nazis won World War II and set up their headquarters in sunny Los Angeles? That was the hope of landowners Winona and Norman Stephens, who built the 50-acre "Murphy Ranch" in 1933 to be a self-sustaining Nazi community ruled by Adolf Hitler.

**EPISODE 3  
THE SECRET SHIP GRAVEYARD  
IN NEW YORK CITY**

What happened to the Abram Hewitt, a fireboat that was present at New York's worst maritime disaster; or the submarine chaser USS PC-1264, which was the first Navy ship to have a predominantly African-American crew during World War II? You'll find them off the shore of Staten Island, New York, where a veritable graveyard of decommissioned, scrapped, and abandoned ships of various sizes, ages, and states of decay rests.

