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*An* **ATLAS** *of*  
**LEGENDARY  
PLACES**

From Atlantis  
to the Milky Way

**PRESTEL**

Munich · London · New York

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**ATLANTIS**  
Somewhere or nowhere  
Humanity's ancient  
myth

**THINGVELLIR**  
Iceland  
The parliament  
in a rocky gorge

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**STONEHENGE**  
England  
Dance of the  
giants

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**The LORELEI**  
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Mali  
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of the desert?

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Space  
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in the starry sky

**MESA VERDE**  
USA  
Life in the abyss

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**PALENQUE**  
Mexico  
Lost in the jungle

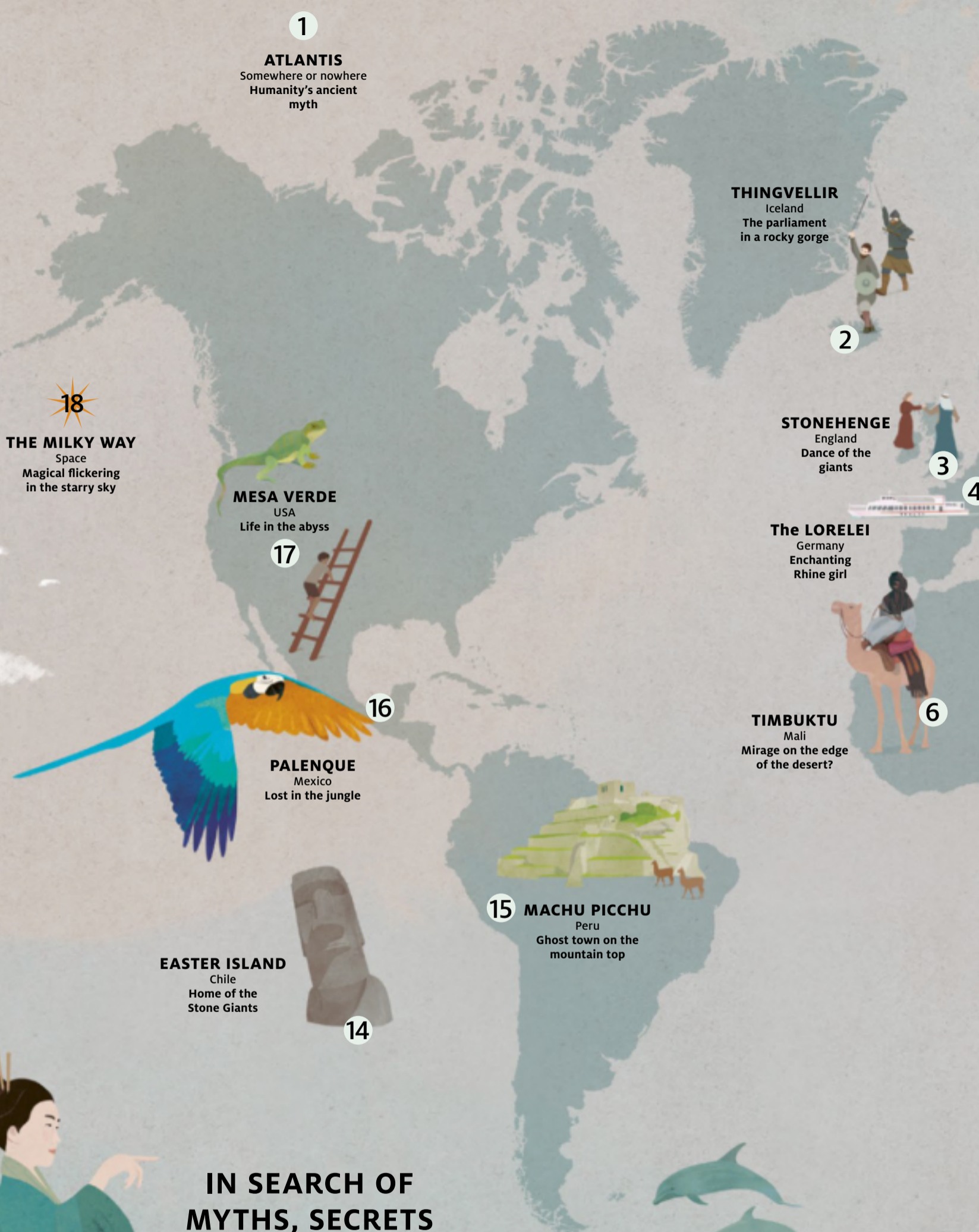
**15 MACHU PICCHU**  
Peru  
Ghost town on the  
mountain top

**EASTER ISLAND**  
Chile  
Home of the  
Stone Giants

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## IN SEARCH OF MYTHS, SECRETS AND TRUTHS

We are going on a world tour. This is not a normal journey, but a wild, adventurous one that has never been taken before. We will escape reality and encounter magical sites and enchanted locations. We follow the path of fairy tales, legends, and rumors, yet keep an eye out for the facts and what really happened.





# ALL around the WORLD

## DELPHI

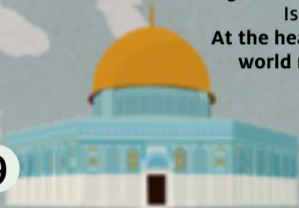
Greece  
Heavenly oracle at the center of the world



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## JERUSALEM

Israel  
At the heart of three world religions



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## THE TOMB OF TUTANKHAMUN

Egypt  
Hidden in the desert sand for 3,000 years



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Memory in sandstone

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**1** To start off with, let's explore a fabulous city that may never have existed.

**2** Next, we go to an island that's home to invisible, mystical creatures.

**3** We dance in the company of stone giants.

**4** We fall in love with a blonde girl on a wide river.

**5** We let an ancient oracle predict our future.

**6** We then flee with the cartoon Donald Duck to a city in the desert.

**7** We visit a unique zoo full of wild animals.

**8** We go on a voyage of discovery with an exceptional archaeologist.

**9** We follow in the footsteps of Jesus, Muhammad, and the biblical King Solomon.

**10** Of course, we climb the highest mountain in the world.

**11** Well-trained, we then scale a long stairway to heaven.

**12** To relax, we listen to stories about the most beautiful mountain on earth.

**13** We read about bygone times in a huge book of sandstone.

**14** We encounter mysterious stone figures on the loneliest island in the world.

**15** We go in search of incredible golden treasures.

**16** We take a trip through time to pyramids in sunken cities in primeval jungles.

**17** We visit brave children who get a kick out of steep cliffs.

**18** And to finish off, we disappear into space and travel to the sun, moon, and stars.



# ATLANTIS

## HUMANITY'S ANCIENT MYTH

***This is a myth that has preoccupied people for over 2,000 years. It is the story of a legendary island that generations of explorers have searched for but never found. The account of an enchanted, rich, and powerful city that probably never existed.***

***Or did it?***

It was the Greek philosopher Plato who started the myth of Atlantis in 360 BC, saying: "Before the estuary known as the Pillars of Hercules, there existed an island larger than Asia and North Africa put together. On this island of Atlantis, there was a large and splendid kingdom that not only controlled the island itself but many other islands and parts of the mainland. Sometime later, however, there came about violent earthquakes and floods and during one bad day and night the island of Atlantis disappeared by sinking into the sea." Plato was able to report more about this fertile island that had existed 9,000 years before his own time, explaining there was a magnificent capital city with artistically laid out dockyards and a powerful navy. Gold and silver are said to have been plentiful. Did Plato make this all up, or was there an earlier example for his Atlantis story? Did the people of Atlantis leave behind any traces? If so, then wouldn't these have been discovered?

### SEARCHING FOR ATLANTIS

Adventurers and treasure hunters, as well as respected researchers and explorers have repeatedly searched for this sunken island, all in vain. Even the Portuguese and Spanish seafarers of the 15th and 16th centuries, who made many voyages across the Atlantic Ocean, were unable to find either Atlantis or remnants of such a place. This led people to think that Plato was wrong and that the island did not lie in the Atlantic but somewhere else altogether: maybe in the Mediterranean, Black, or North Seas, in the Caribbean, or even further afield in the Malay Archipelago. Or was Atlantis the predecessor of the Greek island, Santorini, which was indeed destroyed by a volcanic explosion in ancient times? Was Atlantis, in fact, not an island at all, but a city or a kingdom in Mexico, India, or the Antarctic?