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# THE ROAD TO ZAMA

A Documentary Miniseries

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# Logline, Theme **and** Style of Presentation

- Using modern technology and a tech start-up approach, a disparate and adventurous team of experts probe stops along the Tunisian landscape in search of **Zama** – the lost battlefield where legions of the Roman Republic defeated the mighty Hannibal and his Carthaginian-led army of international warriors.
- The series explores themes of Leadership, Community, Democracy, Strategy and Perseverance.
- Our veteran TV host and military expert will follow our team as it explores historic sites in Tunisia and recreates the events of a history-defining ordeal.
- 4 Part Miniseries



# Synopsis

Somewhere buried in the sands of Tunisia lay the undiscovered remains of the most history-altering battle of antiquity: Zama. Had the legions of the Roman democracy, led by the popularly elected Scipio Africanus in 202 B.C.E., not defeated the mighty Hannibal of Carthage, Western Civilization as we know it may have been snuffed out.

How did Scipio, the smooth-talking, Rockstar of a democrat – who earned the moniker Africanus – win over the populace and persuade a skeptical senate to allow him to take on the most feared general in history on his home turf? Only by retracing his steps and discovering the actual battle site of Zama will we learn this answer – one that will almost certainly influence modern political and military strategic thinking.

Many academics and adventurers alike have speculated on the location of Zama, but it remains a lost battlefield to this day. Armed with modern technology, a tech start-up mindset and returning to the fidelity of the ancient sources –Polybius and Livy – our team of experts from seemingly disparate disciplines will combine their cumulative knowledge and insight to explore four possible locations in Tunisia.



Hannibal Barca

# Synopsis



Scipio Africanus

This adventure mini-series will be a scientific and cultural travelogue as we crisscross Tunisia in search not just of Zama, but of a better understanding of the events that shaped our modern civilization. Hosted by Grant Reynolds, Marine Corps veteran and Military Channel regular, we will retrace the steps of Scipio Africanus and Hannibal Barca as they stalked one another across Tunisia.

We will travel from Scipio's starting point, Tunis, to the Tunisian and Algerian border. Between these two, our team will take a shot at identifying another lost battlefield along the way, The Great Plains, where Scipio defeated Syphax and Hasdrubal before the climax at Zama.

The expedition will then retrace the steps of Hannibal as he launched west from Hadrumetum (Sousse) to Zama Regia where he sent scouts ahead to identify Scipio's whereabouts.

Where did the two great military strategists finally meet for their epic showdown? The only way to know is to begin our own journey into the depths of Tunisia and discover The Road To Zama.

# Big Boss Showdown 202 B.C.E.



**Scipio Africanus**

Democratically elected, his successful policies were actively resisted in the Senate. On the battlefield, he was undefeated despite being outnumbered in every battle.



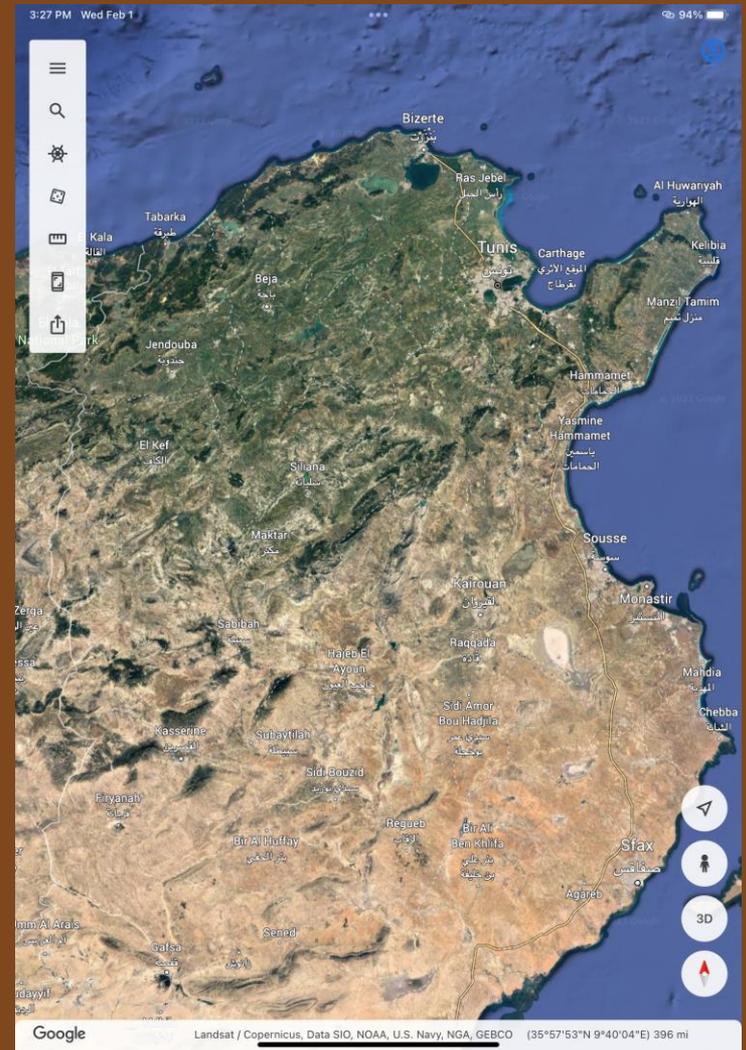
**Hannibal Barca**

Hannibal almost single-handedly destroyed Rome. After boldly crossing the Alps, his army remained in Italy for 15 years until being recalled to fight Scipio in Carthage, modern Tunisia.

# LET'S GET **SERIOUS** – CAN WE REALLY FIND ZAMA?

**Yes, we can.** We can do it by utilizing modern technology that will expedite searching potential sites already thought to be Zama, and include sites based on original textual analysis. Zama is in Tunisia, and the simple reason it has not yet been found is that it has not been actively searched for in recent times.

While most treasure hunting programs on TV are more about the journey and not the destination, our miniseries will be an engrossing journey that also includes the distinct possibility of finding our target – thereby contributing a valuable chapter in archeology and historic research.



# CORE TECHNOLOGICAL TOOLS

Modern technological advancements have increased the potential use of multiple tools. Greatly improved dependability of commercial drones, for example, along with enhancements in thermal cameras and photogrammetric software packages make aerial thermography a cutting-edge tool not widely used in previous attempts to find Zama. Below is a partial list of the tools we will utilize to search prospective sites:

- Aerial Thermography
- Multispectral Imagery
- Ground Penetrating Radar
- Metal Detectors
- Satellite Imagery
- LiDAR



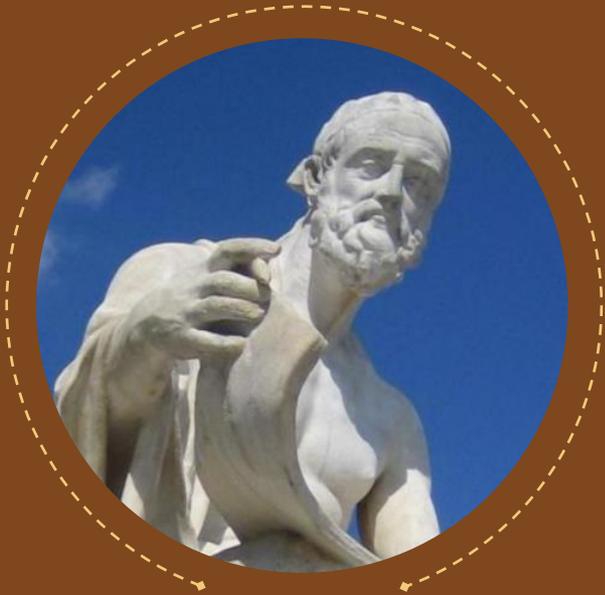
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## STARTUP APPROACH

Like a technology startup company, our team will move quickly, efficiently and cost-effectively. Incorporating the latest technology will allow multiple sites to be vetted quickly, offering an engrossing show that keeps to strict archeological standards.





**POLYBIUS**

**200 B.C.E. – 118 B.C.E.**



## HOW WE IDENTIFY POSSIBLE SITES FOR ZAMA

We follow the original source material: the writings of **Polybius**, hired by Scipio's family some 50 years after Zama to write a history of the war.

# From the Writings of Polybius

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“Some days afterwards he broke up his quarters at Adrumetum, and pitched his camp near ZAMA, a town about five days' march to the west of Carthage.” – Polybius Book 15.5

Hannibal left modern Sousse, Tunisia, and headed west to locate Scipio's legions, arriving in ZAMA, likely Zama Regia, just west of modern Siliana.

“Scipio...Thus reinforced, he removed his camp to Margaron: selecting it as a place which, among other advantages, enabled him to get water within a javelin's throw.” – Polybius Book 15.5

The Romans had a water supply adjacent to their camp near a town called Margaron which has never been identified.

# From the Writings of Polybius

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“From this place he sent to the Carthaginian general, informing him that he was ready to meet him...On hearing this, Hannibal moved his quarters to within thirty stades [about 3.5 miles] of Scipio, and pitched his camp on a hill...water had to be fetched from a considerable distance, which caused his soldiers great fatigue.”

– Polybius Book 15.6

Our target sites must therefore match the following: 3.5 miles separated The Roman and Carthaginian camps. The Roman camp had water, and the Carthaginian camp was on a hill without an immediate source of water. Between the two was a reasonably flat plain suitable for Hannibal to field his 80 elephants. The site, misnamed ZAMA, is likely over a day's march (20 miles) somewhere west-southwest of the ZAMA Hannibal camped at before the famous battle.

Fortunately, only so many physical locations fit the criteria outlined above.



# What we will look for at possible sites:

When we survey a prospective location using our noninvasive archeological tools such as aerial thermography, we are hunting for hallmarks of a great battle. These include defensive fortifications and metal objects whose heat or magnetic signature we can detect. At the recently discovered battlefield of Baecula in Spain, for example, 9,225 metallic objects from Roman cleats to javelins and coins were discovered.

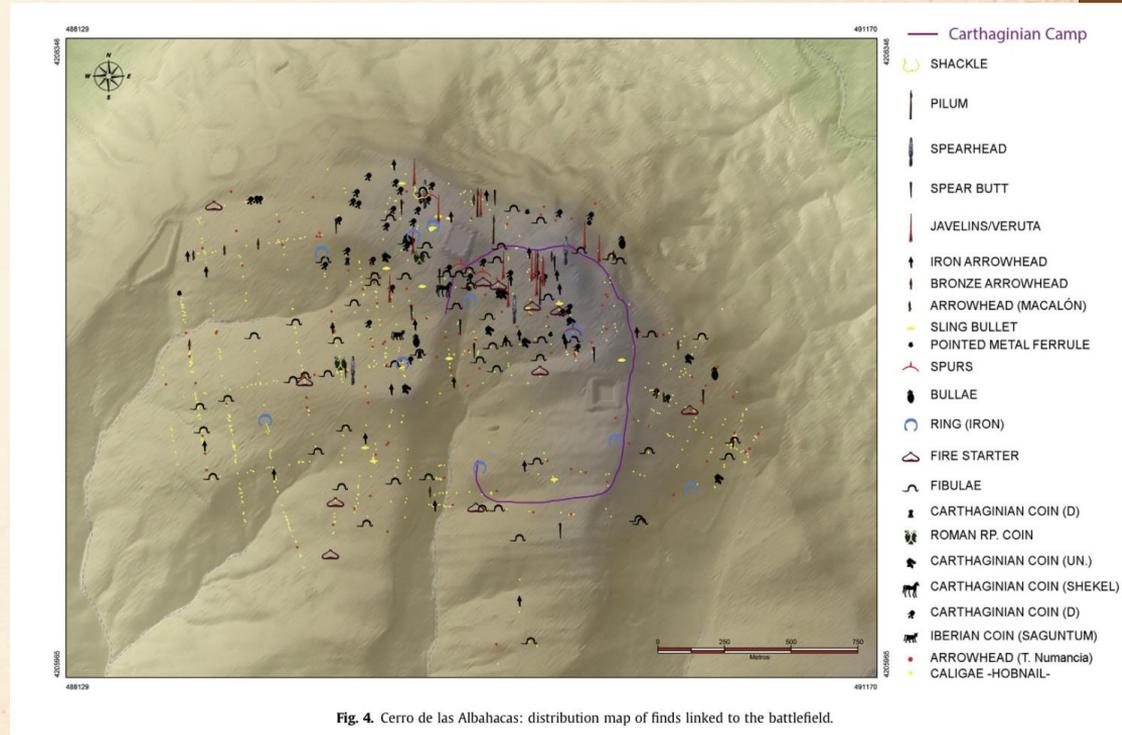
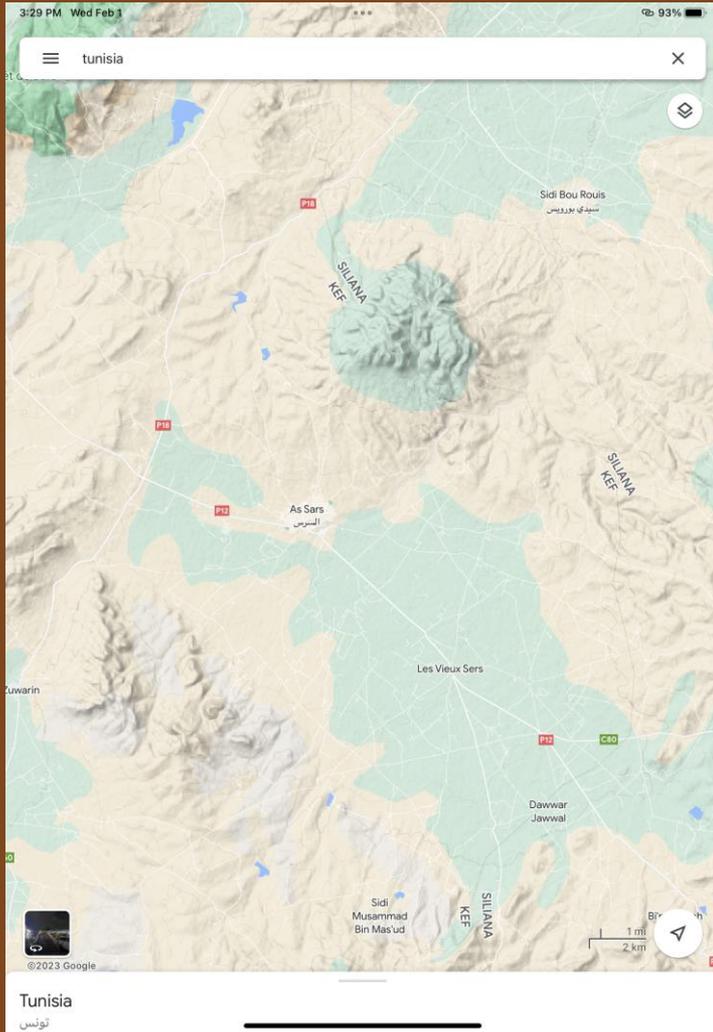


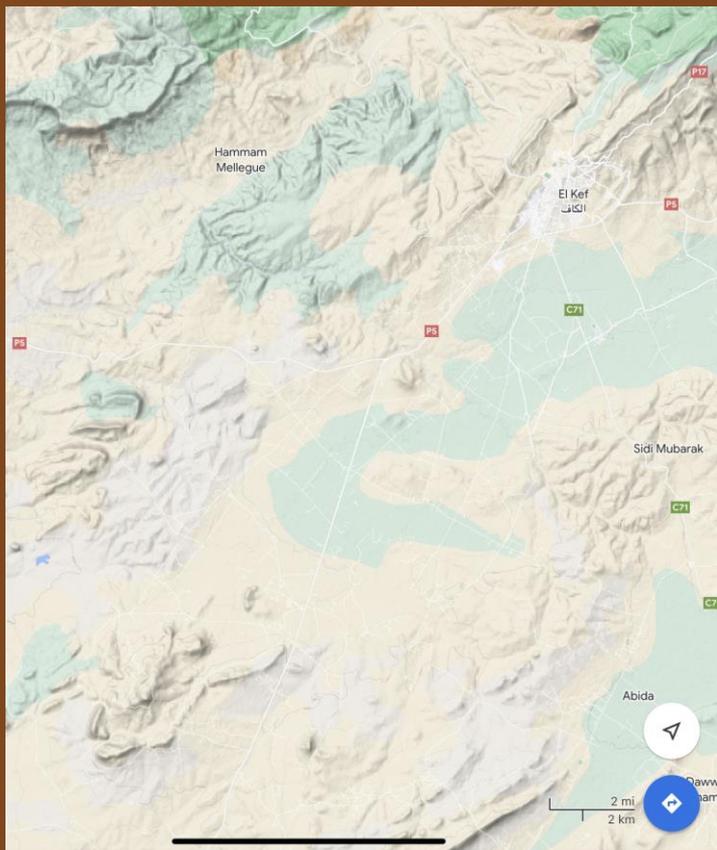
Fig. 4. Cerro de las Albahacas: distribution map of finds linked to the battlefield.



# Possible Zama Location

President JFK's ambassador to Tunisia, career diplomat Francis H. Russell, and many others, believe this to be the location of Zama.

GPS: 36°01'07"N 9°05'02"E

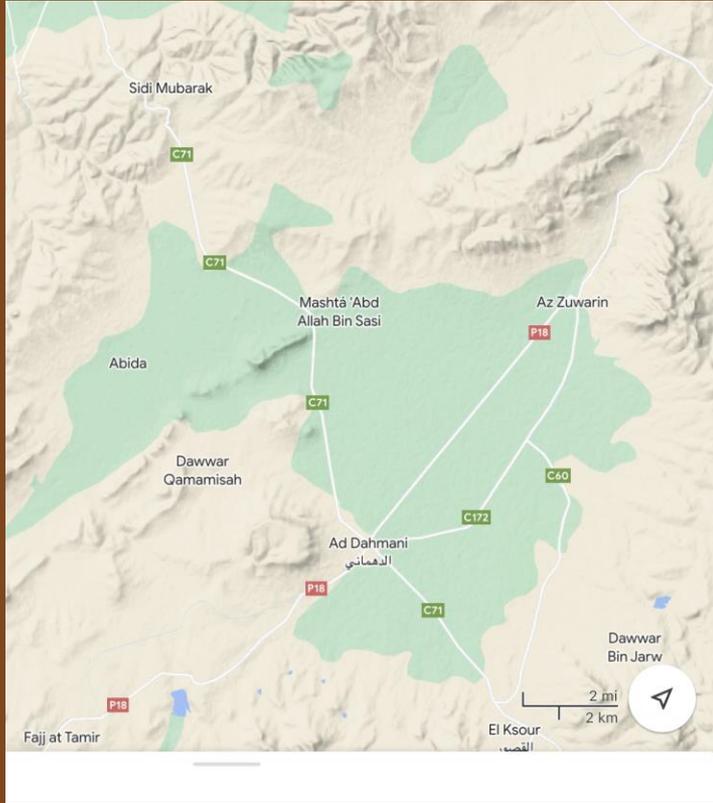


## Possible Zama Location

Scipio Africanus biographer and Roman historian H.H. Scullard, Austrian historian Georg Veith and many modern academics accept this site to be the location of **Zama**.

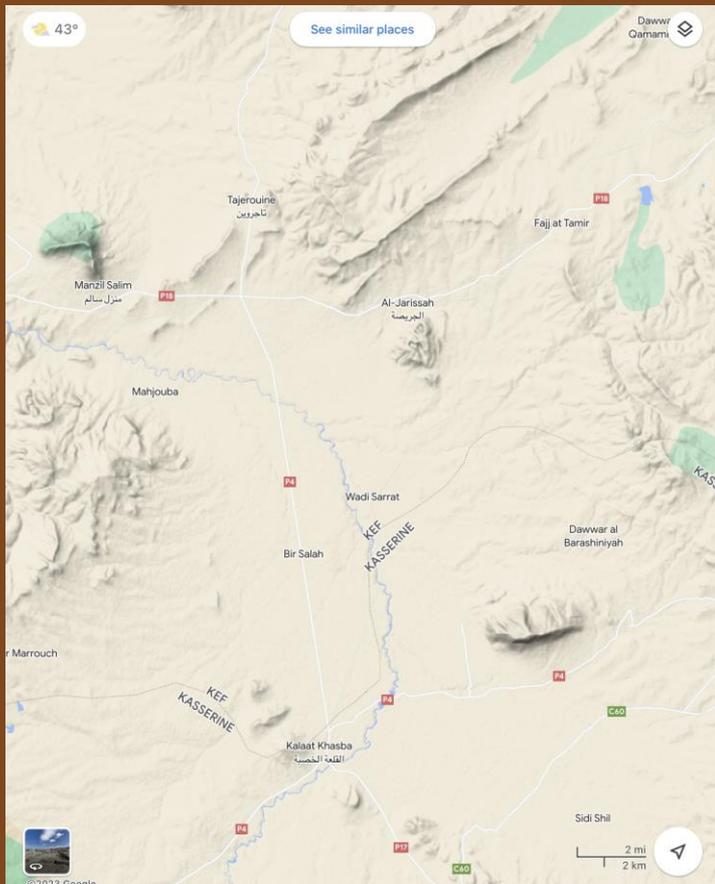
GPS: 36°04'19"N 8°37'04"E

*"It is to be hoped that some day the spade or **air-photography** may probe the two hill-tops for traces of **ancient camps**...in the meantime this seems by far the most likely site of the battle." – H.H. Scullard, *Scipio Africanus: Soldier and Politician**



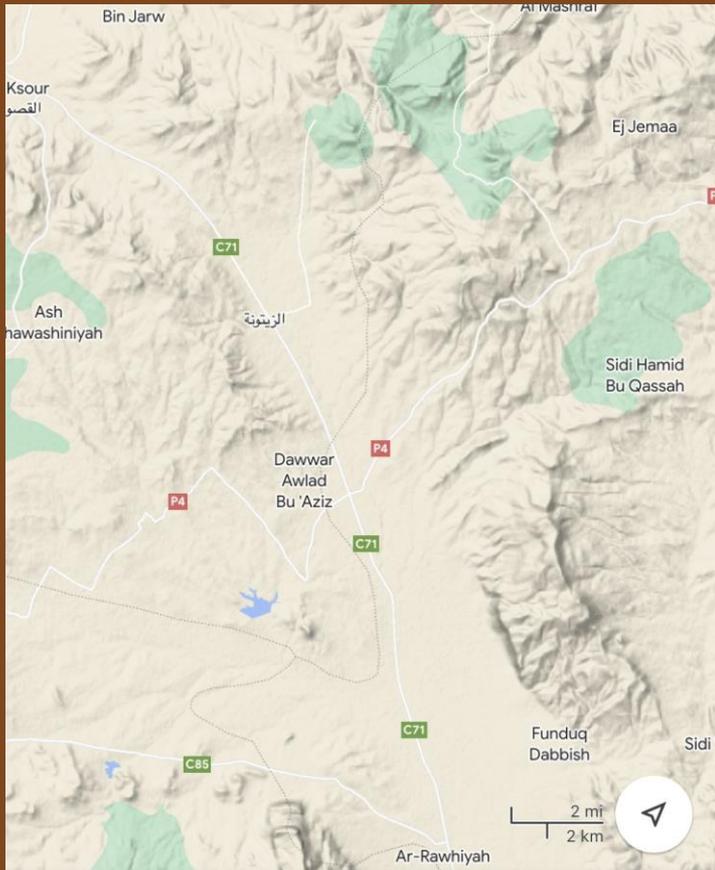
## Possible Zama Location

GPS: 35°58'07"N 8°52'16"E



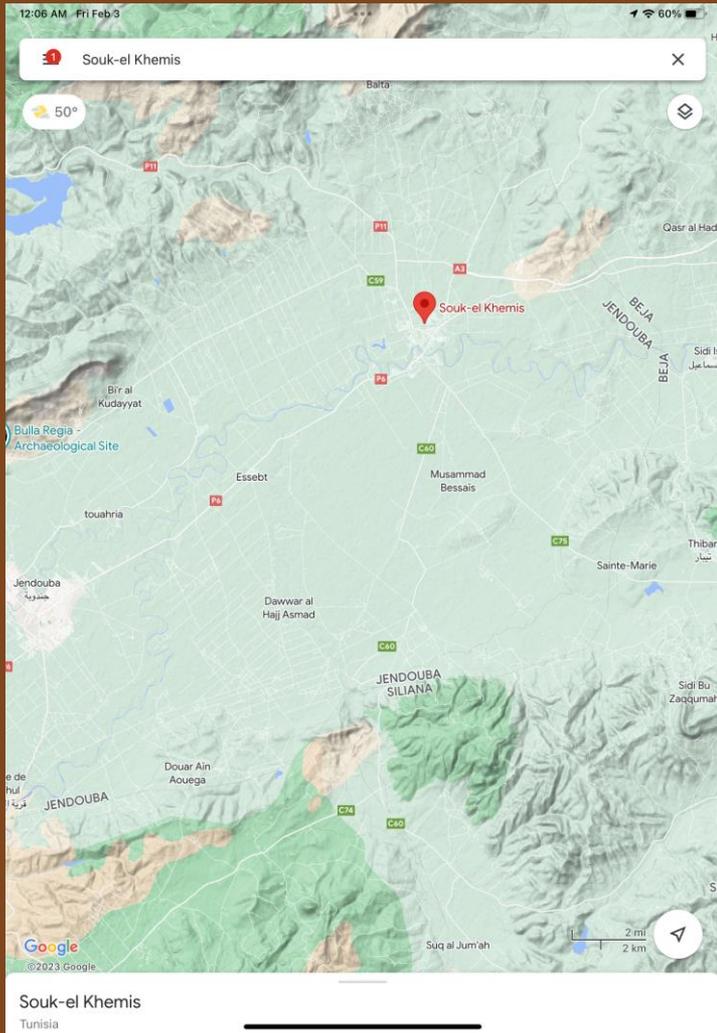
# Possible Zama Location

GPS: 35°46'30"N 8°37'44"E



## Possible Zama Location

GPS: 35°44'06"N 9°02'08"E



## Bonus Site: Battle of the Great Plains

Like Zama, the site of this battle has never been identified.

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## Our Team (Other Than Director & Crew)



Producers



Lead Archeologist



Historian



Numismatic Expert /  
Roman Arms Expert



Host / Narrator



Expert Consultants:  
Consult As Needed

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