

AL MURRAY EXPLORES THE COMPLEX LEGACY OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE FOR SKY HISTORY



Al Murray and Anuvab Pal at Mullick Ghat on the banks of the Hooghly River, Kolkata

A BRAND NEW 4-PART SERIES PREMIERING ON SKY HISTORY ON 23 OCTOBER 2023

Interviews available on request

LONDON, 18th Al Murray returns to Sky HISTORY with the new UK commission, *Al Murray: Why Does Everyone Hate the British Empire?* premiering on 23rd October 2023.

Al Murray: Why Does Everyone Hate the British Empire? marks the third collaboration between Sky HISTORY and historian and writer Al Murray and his comedic alter ego, The Pub Landlord. The series follows in the footsteps of the award-winning *Why Does Everyone Hate the English?* (2018), which explored the roots of England's most deep historic enmities, and the ratings success *Why Do the British Win Every War?* (2020), which discussed whether Britain has been helped or hindered by its military legacy.

Now Al Murray returns to examine a piece of British history that today is under the microscope like no other – the British Empire. Al Murray will be taking a global history lesson to unpick the legacy of the empire and, importantly, how it's viewed today by the citizens of these countries.

In each country, Al will pair up with a local comedian, to explore the history of British colonial rule in that country and its legacy. In India, Al will be joined by **Anuvab Pal**; in Jamaica, by **Chris Daley**; in South Africa by **Loyiso Gola**; and in Australia, by Aboriginal comedian, **Kevin Kropinyeri**. Together, they'll find out about the origins of British rule, its impact upon each country and how its legacy continues to influence governance, culture, and attitudes.



Al Murray said: *"This is a debate that is ongoing and becoming more and more heated. The history demands exploration, the legacy assessment. I've been lucky enough to go all over the world to take a look for myself, find out what legacy remains and, most importantly, how it figures in the lives of people in Britain's former colonies. Is this a story with a happy ending or is it not yet over?"*

Al Murray: Why Does Everyone Hate the British Empire? premieres on Sky HISTORY in October and on The HISTORY Channel across key European markets in the autumn of 2023. The show airs in the Netherlands and Belgium in 2024.

Sky HISTORY is available on Sky 123, Virgin 131, and NOW. For more, visit www.SkyHISTORY.co.uk or visit [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).

Programme Descriptions

Episode 1: India (with [Anuvab Pal](#))

Al's road trip through British Imperial history takes him to the 'jewel in the Empire's crown', India, where he takes to rails to explore the truth behind the railways built by the Empire, dives into the controversy surrounding the Kohinoor diamond, and gets his kit off for reasons of historical accuracy in one of the world's most polluted rivers.

Episode 2: Jamaica (with [Chris Daley](#))

Al's Empire exploration takes him to Jamaica, where he uncovers the real story of the pirates of the Caribbean, is put to work on a sugar cane plantation to explore the barbaric realities of the slave trade and delves into the hidden history of Jamaica's World War II heroes... he also manages to sample a few drops of rum!

Episode 3: South Africa (with [Loyiso Gola](#))

Al travels to South Africa, to explore the Empire's role in the gold rush, exposes the deals that started apartheid, and the battlefield secrets that Michael Caine's Zulu doesn't reveal.

Episode 4: Australia (with [Kevin Kropinyeri](#))

Al's Imperial fact finding mission sees him head down under, to uncover the truth about Captain Cook not being a Captain, learn how to snake whistle with a tribal elder, and explore the Empire-led land grabs and massacres that changed the face of Australia forever.

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Editor's Notes

- www.SkyHISTORY.co.uk
- Sky HISTORY is available on Sky 123, Virgin 131, Talk Talk 327 and streaming service NOW.
- Clips, viewing materials and images to be provided on request when available.
- Interview access available depending on availability.

About Sky HISTORY

Sky HISTORY is the flagship brand of the A+E Networks® EMEA portfolio which is made up of true crime channel Crime + Investigation®; Sky HISTORY2® and free to air channel BLAZE®. Sky HISTORY is available in the UK on Sky, Virgin and on streaming service NOW. www.SkyHistory.co.uk

About A+E Networks EMEA

At A+E Networks EMEA, we share stories that matter everywhere, anywhere. A leader in factual entertainment, our compelling, award-winning content connects with millions across the UK, Nordics, Benelux, Germany, Italy, Spain, Central and Eastern Europe,



the Middle East, and Africa. Our portfolio of premium brands – The HISTORY® Channel, Crime + Investigation®, HISTORY2®, BLAZE®, and COSMO TV® - inspire and excite viewers with hit franchises (*Forged in Fire*), must-see dramas (*Vikings*) and original commissions (*The Hunt for Baltic Gold* and *Ross Kemp: Shipwreck Treasure Hunter*). Our stories are global and local, linear and digital, and always compelling. With offices in London, Rome, Madrid, Warsaw, Munich, and Johannesburg, we are a truly international company that celebrates difference and diversity.

About Al Murray

Most famous for his multi-award-winning comedy creation *The Pub Landlord*, Al is also very well-known for his love of history, writing and presenting multiple successful history television programmes. He has authored several popular books including, *Watching War Films with My Dad* and, most recently, *Command*, an entertaining and sharp analysis of the key allied military leaders in WW2, and co-hosts the perennially popular and top-charting WW2 history podcast, *We Have Ways of Making You Talk*, with fellow bestselling military author James Holland.