

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

## Erich von Däniken



**BORN ON APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>, 1935**, in Zofingen, Switzerland, Erich von Däniken was educated at the College St-Michel in Fribourg, where already as a student he occupied his time with the study of the ancient holy writings. While managing director of a Swiss 5-Star Hotel, he wrote his first book, *Chariots of the Gods*, which was an immediate bestseller in the United States, Germany, and later in 38 other countries.

In the United States, Erich von Däniken won instant fame as a result of the television special "In Search of Ancient Astronauts," based upon his first book. In 1996, the American TV company ABC/Kane produced a one-hour special, filmed all over the world, entitled **Chariots of the Gods - The Mysteries Continue**. In 1996/97 ABC/Kane produced another documentary with Erich von Däniken (seen on the Discovery Channel). In Germany, the biggest TV network, RTL, showed the film on November 26th, 1996. **7,7 million viewers** in Germany alone watched the program. Today, Erich von Däniken continues his filming with ABC and RTL.

Erich von Däniken's books have been translated into 32 languages, and have sold 63 million copies worldwide. From his books two full-length documentary films have been produced: *Chariots of the Gods* and *Messages of the Gods*. Of the more than 3,000 lectures which Erich von Däniken has given in 25 countries, over 500 were presented at universities. Fluent in four languages, Erich von Däniken is an avid researcher and a compulsive traveller, averaging 100,000 miles each year to remote spots of the Earth. This enables him to closely examine the phenomena about which he writes.

Today, Erich von Däniken lives in the small mountain-village of Beatenberg in Switzerland (40 miles from Berne, above the city of Interlaken). He has been married to Elisabeth Skaja since 1960, with one daughter, Cornelia (born 1963), and two grandchildren. Von Däniken is a hobby-chef and a lover of Bordeaux wines.