Stonehenge is the best-known but least understood prehistoric monument in the British Isles. Other stone circles are impressive and atmospheric, but none approach the sophistication of Stonehenge. The stones visible today represent the final phase of a monument that was begun about 5,000 years ago, and altered several times during the next fifteen centuries, before it was Stonehenge. Other stone circles are impressive and atmospheric, but none approach the sophistication of Stonehenge. Stonehenge is one of the most mysterious and interesting buildings of ancient times. Located in the United Kingdom in Wiltshire, not far from the small English town of Salisbury (south-west of London). Stonehenge is a circle of huge stones inlaid, which lie on each other recalling the giant gate (or door). The ancient Britons called this wonderful building "dance of the giants." Next to the Egyptian pyramids Stonehenge for many centuries continues to haunt the imagination of scientists, historians, writers and even the esoteric. Relative to the time of appointment and this strange building amo History of Stonehenge. Stonehenge is perhaps the world's most famous prehistoric monument. It was built in several stages: the first monument was an early henge monument, built about 5,000 years ago, and the unique stone circle was erected in the late Neolithic period about 2500 BC. In the early Bronze Age many burial mounds were built nearby. Today, together with Avebury, Stonehenge forms the heart of a World Heritage Site, with a unique concentration of prehistoric monuments. The Greater, or Stonehenge, Cursus, a huge rectangular earthwork enclosure 1.7 miles long, seen from the air in 2000. Stonehenge, prehistoric stone circle monument, cemetery, and archaeological site located on Salisbury Plain, about 8 miles (13 km) north of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England. It was built in six stages between 3000 and 1520 BCE, during the transition from the Neolithic Period to the Bronze Age. What was Stonehenge used for? There is debate surrounding the original purpose of Stonehenge. The claim gained popularity by way of the book Chariots of the Gods?, published in 1968, in which its author, Erich von Däniken, claimed that many monuments, including Stonehenge, may have been built by extraterrestrials. Von Däniken's claims and others like them have been debunked by scientists and other researchers.