



UNESCO Cultural Heritage Sites

Erasmus+ Project
Bits & Pieces of Culture

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Etna

Mount Etna is an active volcano on the east coast of Sicily. The name comes from the Greek Aitne, from aithō, "I burn." It is the highest active volcano in Europe.

It has been active since the end of the Neogene Period. The volcano has had more than one active centre. A number of subsidiary cones have been formed on lateral fissures, extending out from the centre and down the sides.

The most violent historical eruption was in 1669, when about 990 million cubic yards of lava were thrown out. The lava flow destroyed a dozen villages on the lower slope and submerged the western part of the town of Catania.

The mountain has three ecological zones, each with its own typical vegetation. The lowest zone is fertile and rich in vineyards, olive groves, citrus plantations, and orchards. Several densely populated settlements are found on the lower slopes. Above, the mountain grows steeper and is covered with forests of chestnut, beech, oak, pine, and birch. At heights of more than 6,500 feet the mountain is covered with ashes, sand, and fragments of lava and a few scattered plants.



The Colosseum



The Colosseum has been in the Unesco World Heritage list since 1980. Also known as the Flavian Amphitheatre, it is an oval amphitheatre in the centre of Rome and the largest amphitheatre ever built in the world.

It was a gift to the Roman people and was built in less than 10 years, in the year 71 AD under the emperor Vespasian.

It's made of volcanic rocks, sand and concrete. It could contain 50,000 people. The gladiators performed there. This monument became a symbol of Rome and of Roman Empire.

It is the most visited monument in Italy.



Trulli

Located in the town of Alberobello, near Bari in Puglia, the Trulli have been in the Unesco World Heritage list since 1996.

They represent a great example of Italian folk architecture. These sort of houses have white walls and the roofs have the shape of a cone. In some of them there's a symbol of protection against the evil eye.

In the cones of some Trulli you can see handmade artifacts, using lime as a symbol of purification.





Acropolis, the Parthenon

Have you ever heard about Greek Temples and History? Well, the most well-known ancient and historical landmark all over the country is Acropolis! It is located at the top of a hill in the capital of Greece, Athens. In the 5th century BC they made some buildings there including the Parthenon that was the Temple of Athina (Minerva) an ancient Greek Goddess whose duty was to protect the city, Athens (named after the Goddess).

Activities can be done there as sightseeing and touring around that famous sight. Also a modern archaeological museum has been built there where you can find many important historical items like ancient weapons, shields, marbles and statues.



Olympia



Olympia is a picturesque village in western Greece. It's famous because the Olympic Games were held there. They started in the 8th century BC until the 4th century AD and took place every 4 years. The statue of Zeus, one of the 7 wonders of Ancient Times, was in Olympia. There were many buildings and temples but they were slowly destroyed, some by earthquakes, and totally covered with mud. In the 19th century they started the excavations looking for it and found the site! Now, near the village, among fields and forests, in the archaeological site you can see many buildings in ruins and the famous stadium where all visitors run, just like the ancient athletes! The museum has a lot of wonderful exhibits and the statue of God Hermes (Mercury) carrying the child Dionysus is the most fascinating one



Agion Oros

Agion Oros (Holy Mountain) is a mountain and peninsula in northeastern Greece covering an area of 335 square kilometres . It is an important center of Eastern Orthodox monasticism .There are 20 monasteries there dating back to 800 AD and over 2.000 monks from Greece and other Eastern Orthodox countries live there. Agion Oros is also called “Garden of Virgin Mary” and only adult men can live there, monks or workers. Women are not allowed to visit it. Agion Oros is located at an altitude of 2033 metres and was founded in 1927.The capital of Agion Oros is Karyes. The local authorities give permits to visitorsCO Cultural Heritage Sites. to enter the area for a short time. Since 1988 it has belonged to UNES





Old City of Dubrovnik

The 'Pearl of the Adriatic' as it is called, situated on the south of Dalmatian coast. It was an important Mediterranean sea power from the 13th century onwards. Although severely damaged by an earthquake in 1667, Dubrovnik managed to preserve its beautiful Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque churches, monasteries, palaces and fountains. It has retained the medieval walls so perfectly and that is the reason why Dubrovnik was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1979.





Plitvice Lakes National Park

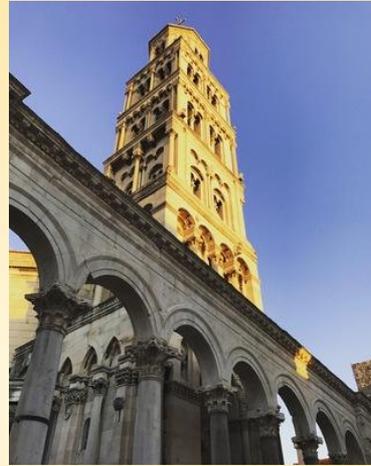
Plitvice Lakes National Park is one of the oldest and largest national parks in Croatia. In 1979, Plitvice Lakes National Park was added to the UNESCO World Heritage register. The national park was founded in 1949. The park is situated in the mountainous region of Croatia, between the Mala Kapela mountain range in the west and northwest, and the Lička Plješivica mountain range to the southeast. The park is primarily covered in forest vegetation, with smaller areas under grasslands. The most attractive part of the park – the lakes. The lake system is comprised of 16 named and several smaller unnamed lakes, cascading one into the next.



Historical Complex of Split with the Palace of Diocletian



The Diocletian's Palace was built between the late 3rd and the early 4th centuries A.D. The cathedral was built in the Middle Ages, reusing materials from the ancient mausoleum. The ruins consist of 12th and 13th-century Romanesque churches, medieval fortifications, 15th-century Gothic palaces and other palaces in Renaissance and Baroque style are the part of the protected area. The complex was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1979. Diocletian's Palace is one of the best-preserved examples of Roman architecture in the world. Along with the historical heritage, Split city centre still has locals living there, as well as tourists who visit seasonally.



The Mosaics of Paphos



The Paphos Mosaics are among the finest mosaics in the Eastern Mediterranean. They were discovered in 1962 and have been included in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list since 1980.



The Houses of Dionysos, Theseus, Aion and Orpheus are the villas of four Roman noblemen that date from the 2nd to the 5th centuries AD. The floor mosaics depict various scenes from Greek Mythology.



Tombs of the Kings

The Tombs of the King is a large necropolis lying about 2 km north of Paphos harbor. It is an UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Tombs are underground and many of them date back to the 4th century BC. They are carved out of solid rock and are thought to have been the graves of aristocrats and high officials up to the 3rd century AD.

No kings were in fact buried in these tombs that imitated the houses of the living. They were name after their magnificence.



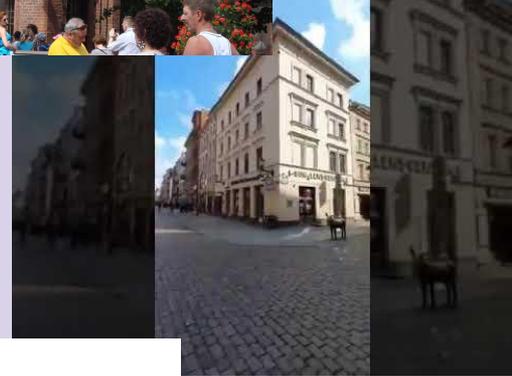
The Sanctuary of Aphrodite

The Sanctuary of Aphrodite is part of the archaeological site of Palaipafos (*old Pafos* in Greek) located in Kouklia village. Kouklia was one of the most important city-kingdom of Cyprus. The Sanctuary dates to the 12th century BC. It was a place of worship until the 3rd-4th century AD. It is the first Cypriot site included in the World Heritage List of UNESCO.



Toruń's Old Town

Toruń's Old Town is not only a UNESCO World Heritage Site but is also regarded as one of the seven wonders of Poland. Toruń is located in the middle of Poland. It was built by the Teutonic Knights. The city has many monuments of architecture dating back to the Middle Ages. It is famous for its big medieval layout and many Gothic buildings, all built from red brick. The most famous are:
The Cathedral with the largest medieval church bell in Poland and one of the largest in Europe,
St. Mary's church,
St. James's church,
The Old Town Hall considered one of the most monumental town halls in Central Europe,
City fortifications,
A 15th-century Gothic house (now a museum) where Nicolaus Copernicus was born in 1473 (now it is a museum devoted to the famous astronomer's life and achievements),
Ruins of 13th-century Teutonic Knights' castle.



Historic Centre of Kraków

Kraków (in English: Cracow) is the one of the oldest and largest cities in Poland. It is in the south of Poland on the Vistula river. Kraków, the former city of kings, was the capital of Poland until 1795. The Old Town is the oldest, historic area of Kraków.

Kraków's most famous historic landmarks are:

the Royal Wawel Castle,

- Main Square, known as one of the largest and most beautiful markets in Europe,
- the medieval site of Kazimierz, in which the Jewish quarter was located, with its ancient synagogues,
- Jagiellonian University,
- the Gothic cathedral where the kings of Poland were buried.



Historic Centre of Warsaw



Warsaw Old Town is the oldest part of Warsaw, the capital city of Poland. It was established in the 13th century, but was completely destroyed by the Nazis through 1939 to 1944 and rebuilt after the war. Warsaw Old Town is an exception on UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage List as it the only urban complex almost entirely reconstructed after the World War II total destruction.



Its most famous monuments are:

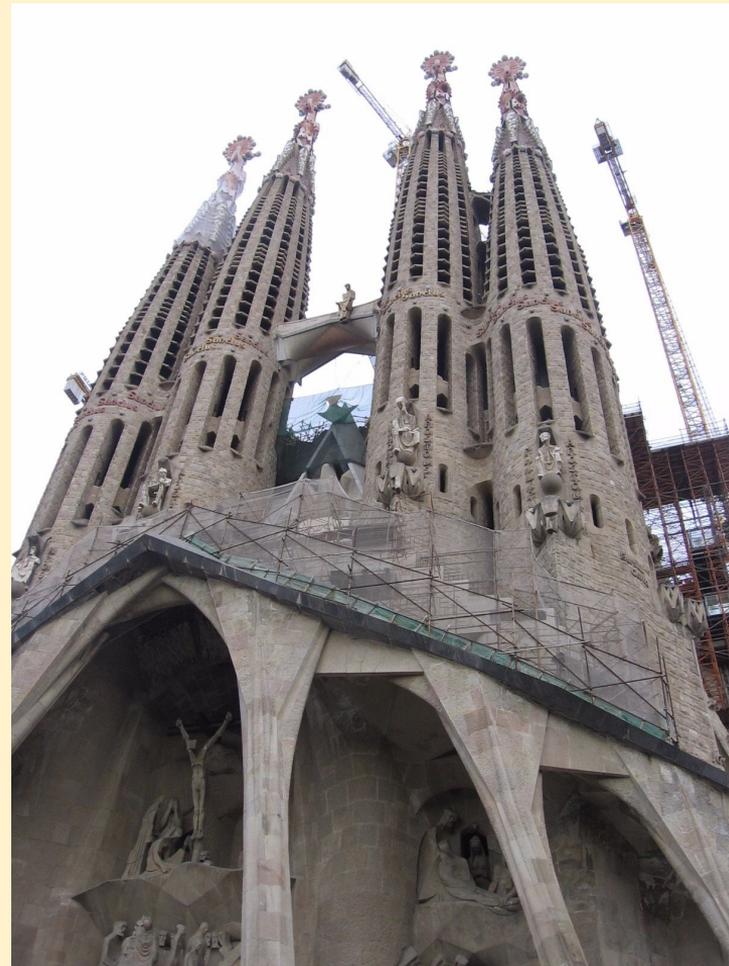
- the Royal Castle - the official residence of the Polish monarchs,
- St. John's Cathedral - a place of Polish kings' coronations,
- Old Town Market Square - the oldest square of Warsaw surrounded with examples of Renaissance, Baroque and Classicism architecture,
- Barbican - the city's defensive construction.



Sagrada Familia

The Sagrada Familia is a large Roman Catholic church in Barcelona, Spain. It was designed by Antoni Gaudí (1852-1926).

Although it is not finished, the church is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in November 2010. Gaudí started working on the Sagrada Familia in 1883, he took over the project until he died. At the time of his death in 1926 less than a quarter of the building was finished. After this, the building was slow and needed private donations, moreover the construction was stopped by the Spanish Civil War until 1950s.





Acueducto de Segovia

The Aqueduct of Segovia is a Roman aqueduct in Segovia, Spain. It is one of the best-preserved elevated Roman aqueducts and the most famous symbol of Segovia. The Aqueduct of Segovia was built during the second half of the first century A.D. under the rule of the Roman Empire and supplied water from the Frío river to the city into the 20th century. The remaining portion of the structure stands 28.5 meters tall along with 14 km of rolling landscape, the aqueduct adjusts to the contours of the valley, hills and city. The Aqueduct was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1985 and today is one of the most intact Roman aqueducts of Segovia.





Casas Colgadas

The Casas Colgadas (Hanged Houses) is a complex of houses located in Cuenca, Spain. In the past, houses of this kind were frequent along the eastern border of the ancient city, located near the ravine of the river Huécar. Today, however, there are only a few of them remaining. Of all of these structures, the most well-known is a group of three with wooden balconies.

Their origin remains uncertain, though there is proof of their existence in the 15th century.

