

Top 10 Historical Places in the World

1. Egypt



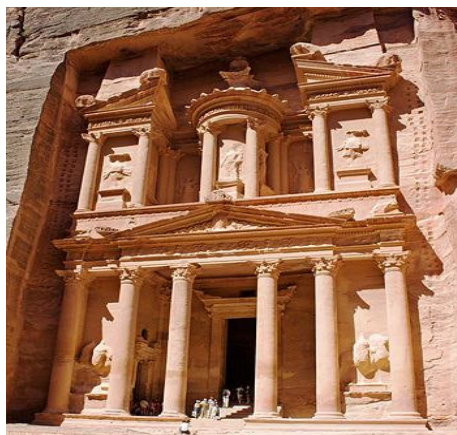
Egypt is perhaps best known as the home of the ancient Egyptian civilization, with its temples, hieroglyphs, mummies and above all, its pyramids. This culturally rich country is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. Some of the famous spots to visit are the Pyramids of Giza, the Temple of Luxor, the Karnak Temple and the various churches, monasteries and mosques. The Pyramids align to the stars and the solstices and are truly a marvel of human engineering that was fit for kings. The largest one, called the Great Pyramid, was built by the Pharaoh Khufu. Egypt, famous for its ancient civilization and some of its earliest architectural structures holds quite an immense historical significance. One must visit all these historical places of Egypt to relive the mystery associated with it and drink in its beauty. Cairo is a popular tourist city, home to multiple attractions and marked by wide boulevards, public gardens and open spaces.

2. Rome, Italy



Although interesting and romantic in many ways, Rome is most of all a historical city. The city is filled with some of the most stunning and iconic architecture in the world. Every year millions of tourists flock to this city, which made the great poet Goethe exclaimed: “this is the eternal city!” The capital of Italy, Rome is not only the center of the ancient Roman Empire and the location of world famous historical constructions like the Colosseum or Pantheon, but also the heart and soul of Italian culture and the Roman Catholic Church. The main area for exploring the ruins of ancient Rome is in Rome/Colosseo either side of Via dei Fori Imperiali, which connects the Colosseum and Piazza Venezia. Though the city is filled with rich historical and cultural heritage, it also is a modern destination complete with multiple shopping opportunities and a lively nightlife.

3. Petra, Jordan



Petra, the fabled "rose red city, half as old as time", is a well known ancient Nabataean city in the south of Jordan. Due to its breathtaking grandeur and fabulous ruins, Petra is recognized as a World Heritage Site. Some of the major attractions are the Theatre and the Monastery, but the most recognizable is the Al Khazneh, commonly referred to as the Treasury, in reality a tomb, probably of the royal family. With massive façades that have been carved entirely out of the existing red sandstone, Petra's magnificent temples and tombs, sanctuaries and altars are like no other religious buildings in the world, and the surrounding landscape dotted with historical sites are a hiker's paradise. Petra has been a city of great religious significance since ancient times. The Turkish baths, hammams of Petra and Wadi Rum are ideal places for relaxation.

4. European Castles



History buffs would love to visit some of the many Medieval and Baroque castles throughout Europe that conjure up images of fairytale princesses and chivalrous knights. Some of the most impressive examples include Germany's Neuschwanstein Castle, France's Palace of Versailles, Ireland's Blarney Castle, Sintra Palace in Portugal, Turkey's Topkapi Palace, Prague Castle in the Czech Republic and Leeds Castle in England. Some castles are ruins; others are schools or government buildings; some are private homes; and many are tourist attractions or hotels. Castles were first built for defence against attacking armies of war torn feudal Europe and were necessary to help protect the villages and their lords. As Europe grew, the castle was built as a place of government over the local populace. Nothing quite beats the beautiful sight of crumbling European castles perched high on mountain tops or

hillsides. The care with which these European Castles have been preserved, restored or rebuilt through centuries shows the great respect Europeans have for their history.

5. Angkor Wat, Cambodia



Angkor Archaeological Park, located in Cambodia is an important archaeological site in South-East Asia. Angkor Wat is one of the most beautiful and the most recognizable temples in Cambodia. The best example of Khmer architecture, which includes many bas-reliefs and devtas, Angkor Wat is unique in that it is the only such temple that is oriented towards the west. Stretching over some 400 sq. km, including forested area, Angkor contains the magnificent remains of several capitals of the Khmer Empire. The temples of Angkor, built by the Khmer civilization between 802 and 1220 AD, represent one of humankind's most astonishing and enduring architectural achievements. The structures one sees at Angkor today, more than 100 stone temples in all, are the surviving remains of a grand religious, social and administrative metropolis whose other buildings - palaces, public buildings, and houses - were built of wood and are long since decayed and gone.

6. The Great Wall of China



One of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Great Wall is an impressive feat of engineering. Just like a gigantic dragon, the Great Wall winds up and down across deserts, grasslands, mountains and plateaus, stretching approximately 8,851.8 kilometers (5,500 miles) from east to west of China. The Wall is the product of 21 centuries of building and rebuilding that began in the 5th century BC, and was used to protect the Empire of China from Xiongnu attacks. The Great Wall of China is particularly

loved by photographers due to its inspiringly beautiful scenery. It is on the top of China's photography destinations. With a history of more than 2000 years, some of the sections are now in ruins or have disappeared. However, it is still one of the most appealing attractions all around the world owing to its architectural grandeur and historical significance.

7. Machu Picchu, Peru



Machu Picchu, known to many as “The Lost City of the Incas”, is the most impressive remainder of the Incan Empire. Located in southern Peru, this fascinating city lies on top of a mountain that's accessible by train or a 4 day trek. It was also named one of the New Seven Wonders of the World in 2007. It is also the end point of the most popular hike in South America, the Inca Trail. The three primary structures are the Temple of the Sun, the Room of the Three Windows and the Intihuatana Stone, an astronomical clock or calendar that has been dubbed “The Hitching Point of the Sun”. Machu Picchu was discovered in the early 20th century. Separated into three areas - agricultural, urban, and religious - the structures are arranged so that the function of the buildings matches the form of their surroundings.

8. The Parthenon, Athens, Greece



The Parthenon of Athens is an elegantly crafted structure that has received a lot of attention from archaeologists, historians, architects, painters and poets. Words and photographs cannot completely describe the beauty of this extraordinary creation. It is the supreme expression of the ancient Greek architectural genius. The current building was built by Pericles in the mid-5th century BC as a Doric temple to the goddess Athena and also as a treasury for the Delian League. All temples in Greece were designed to be seen only from the outside. The viewers never entered a temple and could only glimpse the interior statues through the open doors. The Parthenon was conceived in a way that the

aesthetic elements allow for a smooth transition between the exterior and the interior that housed the chryselephantine statue of Athena. The name Parthenon refers to the worship of Athena Parthenos, the 'Virgin Athena' who issued fully grown from the head of her father Zeus.

9. Taj Mahal, India



The Taj Mahal is one of the most stunning structures in the world and the story behind its construction is just as beautiful. The Taj was built in the 17th century by Emperor Shah Jahan to serve as a mausoleum and monument to his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. It was constructed by twenty thousand workers from marble and inlaid with twenty-eight different kinds of precious and semi-precious stones from across Asia. The Taj Mahal is considered the finest example of Mughal architecture, a style that combines elements from Persian, Indian, and Islamic architectural styles. The Taj is one of the most well preserved and architecturally beautiful tombs in the world and one of the masterpieces of Indian Muslim architecture. The Taj Mahal has a life of its own that leaps out of marble, provided you understand that it is a monument of love. Although it is one of the most photographed edifices in the world and instantly recognisable, actually seeing it is awe-inspiring.

10. Prague, Czech Republic



The famous capital of Czech Republic, Prague lies along the Vltava River and is regarded as one of Europe's most charming and beautiful cities. Prague is a large cosmopolitan city, full of history, music, art and culture. Stare Mesto, Prague's Gothic-style old town, is the center of the city's historic and cultural attractions, including several museums, churches and historical sights such as the astronomical clock and the writer Franz Kafka's birthplace. Charles Bridge is another must see as is a

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sightseeing cruise on the Vltava River. The city's castle, Prague Castle is the biggest ancient castle in the world as per the Guinness World Records. It rises above the city offering beautiful views of the areas below. Rows of steeples stacked on onion domes pierce the sky, lending the city its nickname of "City of a Thousand Spires." There is much to see in Prague of religious and historical interest.