United States of America

Grand Canyon National Park (1)

Over thousands of years in northern Arizona, the Colorado River has shaped the most spectacular gorge in the world, the Grand Canyon. It plunges up to 1,808 metres (6,000 feet) deep and spans as much as 24 kilometres (15 miles) wide. It is home to numerous rare, endemic, and protected (threatened or endangered) plant and animal species.

Thus the Grand Canyon is a land of song. Mountains of music swell in the crevices, hills of music swell in the crevices, and meadows of music morn in the rills that cope with the rocks. All this is the music of water.

John Wesley Powell
First Grand Canyon expedition, 1869

Statue of Liberty (3)

Symbol of freedom and democracy, the Statue of Liberty was a gift from the people of France to the people of the United States in 1886. It was made by the French sculptor Emmanuel, in collaboration with Gustave Eiffel. It is located on the 5-hectare (12-acre) Liberty Island in New York Harbor welcoming millions of immigrants since it was first erected.

"Not like the hewn giant of Greek fame, 
With conquering limbs astride from land to land, 
Here at our sea-washed, sunset-girt shore 
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame is 
the imprisoned lightning, and her name 
Mother of Exiles."

Excerpt of Emma Lazarus' poem "The New Colossus", written for the statue in 1883

Independence Hall (2)

This is the heart and soul of the United States. The Declaration of Independence (1776) and the Constitution of the United States (1787) were both signed in this building in Philadelphia. The universal principles of freedom and democracy set forth in these documents are of fundamental importance to American history and have also had a profound impact on lawmakers around the world.

"The Liberty Bell is a very significant symbol for democratic world."

Frederick Douglass, 1905, speaking of the Liberty Bell, which was rung on July 4, 1776, for the reading of the Declaration of Independence.
Dinosaur Provincial Park (9)

Located in eastern Alberta, about two hours east of Calgary, this park contains important fossil discoveries from the "Age of Reptiles", including 35 species of dinosaur dating back some 75 million years. More than 300 first-quality dinosaur skeletons have been pulled from a 27-kilometre stretch (17 miles). It is also a spectacular region with its hoodoos, pinnacles, coulees and buttes.

"I was climbing up a steep face about 400 feet high. I stuck my head around a point and there was this skull horning at me, sticking right out of the ground. It gave me a fright."

Joseph Tyrrell, discoverer of the first Albertosaurus, 1884

Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump (10)

Located in south-western Alberta, this is where the American bison (buffalo) have provided food, hides for clothing and shelter, sinew, bones for tools, and dung for fires, to the Aboriginal peoples of the North American Great Plains. The principal means of killing large numbers of bison was the buffalo jump, where herds were stampeded over cliffs. A vast quantity of buffalo skeletons can still be found in this park.

Kluane/Wrangell-St. Elias/Glacier Bay/Tatshenshini-Alsek (11)

This tremendous reserve, located on the border of United States and Canada (Alaska, Yukon and British Columbia), covers 97,000 square kilometres (37,969,222 acres).
The region contains a spectacular complex of glaciers and high peaks, which are home to many northern species such as grizzly and caribou. This park also has the largest non-polar ice field in the world.

"We found a compact sheet of ice as far as the eye could distinguish."

Captain George Vancouver, 1794

Wood Buffalo National Park (12)

This is Canada's largest park, covering 44,807 square kilometres (11,072,050 acres) of boreal forest, plains and some of the vastest undisturbed grass and sedge meadow left in North America.
It is home to the largest population of wild bison, also known as buffalo, North America's biggest land animal. The park is also the location of the world's largest delta, located at the mouth of the Peace and Athabasca rivers.

Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (13)

One of the greatest Canadian parks, spreading over two provinces (British Columbia and Alberta), the Canadian Rockies are a paradise for skiers and hikers. Regrouping in many national parks, these mountains offer some of the best-known scenery on earth. The parks are home to spectacular mountain peaks, glaciers, waterfalls, canyons and limestone caves.

"Wonder, reverence, the feeling that one is nearer to the mystery of things – that is what one feels in places of such sublime beauty."

J.R. Hartin, Canada's first Commissioner of National Parks, about the Rockies
Aachen Cathedral (4)

Located on the border with Belgium and the Netherlands, 65 km (40 miles) to the west of Cologne, Aachen is home of a palatine chapel built under the Emperor Charlemagne. Originally inspired by the churches of the Eastern part of the Holy Roman Empire, it was splendidly enlarged in the Middle Ages. The tombs of Charlemagne and Otto III nest in this magnificent cathedral.

“...in Aachen I have seen the well-proportioned pillars, with their beautiful capitals, from porphyry green and red and granite, which Charlemagne ordered to be taken from Rome and placed in this building.”
Albrecht Dürer, German artist, 1520

Collegiate Church, Castle, and Old Town of Quedlinburg (5)

Quedlinburg, in the Land of Sachsen-Anhalt, was a capital of the East Franconian German Empire at the time of the Saxonian-Ottonian ruling dynasty. It has been a prosperous trading town since the Middle Ages. The number and high quality of the timber-framed buildings make Quedlinburg an exceptional example of a medieval European town.

Würzburg Residence (6)

The magnificent Baroque palace of Würzburg in Bavaria was created under the patronage of the prince-bishops Lothar Franz and Friedrich Carl von Schönborn. It was designated by the leading Baroque architect Balthasar Neumann. Venetian painter Giovanni Battista Tiepolo painted frescos in the building.

Speyer Cathedral (7)

Located on the Rhine, Speyer Cathedral was founded by Conrad II in 1030 and remodelled at the end of the 11th century. It is one of the most important Romanesque monuments from the time of the Holy Roman Empire. The cathedral was the burial place of the German emperors for almost 300 years.

Roman Monuments, Cathedral of St. Peter and Church of Our Lady in Trier (6)

Trier, which stands on the Moselle River, was a Roman colony from the 1st century A.D. and then a great trading centre beginning in the next century. It became one of the capitals of the Tetrarchy at the end of the 3rd century, when it was known as the “second Rome”. The number and quality of the surviving monuments are an outstanding testimony to Roman civilization.
Plantin-Moretus House-
Workshops-Museum Complex (7)

Situated in Antwerp, one of the three leading cities of early European printing along with Paris and Venice, the Plantin-Moretus Complex is associated with the history of typography from its invention to its expansion throughout the world. The name of the complex refers to the greatest printer-publisher of the second half of the 16th century, Christophe Plantin (1520-1589). The monument is of outstanding architectural value and contains exhaustive evidence of the life and work of what was the most prolific printing and publishing house in Europe in the late 16th century.

"Here lies Christopher Plantin, not only typographer of kings, but king of typographers."

Christopher Plantin’s epitaph in Antwerp

The Four Lifts on the Canal du Centre and their Environs, La Louvière and Le Roeuls, Hainault (8)

The four hydraulic boat lifts on this short stretch of the historic Canal du Centre are industrial monuments of the highest quality. Together with the canal itself and its associated structures, they constitute a remarkably well-preserved and complete example of a late-19th-century industrial landscape.

Historic Centre of Brugge (9)

Brugge is an outstanding example of a medieval settlement that has maintained its historic fabric as it has evolved over the centuries, and where original brick Gothic constructions form part of the town’s identity. The city is closely associated with the school of Flemish Primitive painting.

"Somewhere within the cobbled canals lay the ancient city like a precious jewel, too sacred to be touched, too precious to be polluted.

English novelist Graham Greene (1904-1991)