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Lifelong learning programme
COMENIUS

Different Cultures, Similar People

„Unity in Diversity“

OUR PALACES

Project meeting, Kosice, Slovakia

12 – 16 December 2011



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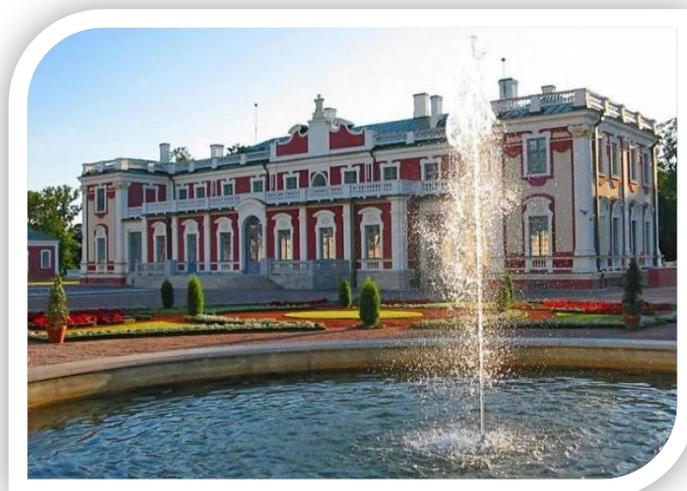


Estonia

Estonia has been ruled by Germans, Danes, Swedes and Russians. All these conquerors have left behind fortified buildings and estates, many of which are still visible today. Before the conquests, Estonian counties also had traditional fortified centers which were not elaborate in design but nevertheless efficient. The variety of historical buildings in our country is surprisingly large. There are fortresses and bishop's castles from the 12-16th centuries, stately homes and palaces from the 17-19th centuries and estates built in the early 20th century, combining the architectural varieties of the times with the somewhat rural characteristics of Estonian design.

Every county has a large city functioning as its centre and housing a castle and manors around it, such as Tallinn, Haapsalu, Kuressaare, Paide, Põltsamaa, Viljandi etc. Many country estates can also be found situated more aside from the current main roads, such as Pädaste in Muhu island. Many of these have been well restored in the past 10 years and offer a comprehensive view of what life was like in the past of these buildings.

Kadriorg Palace, Tallinn





Kadriorg is the palace and park ensemble with several museums. It is located 2 km from the center of Tallinn. Originally, Kadriorg park was located on 120 acres, today - at 85 hectares. Kadriorg is one of the best works of masters of the XVIII century, created by the order of Peter I during the Northern War (1700–1721).

Kadriorg Palace, Tallinn, was built from 1718 – 1736. It was designed for Peter the Great by an Italian architect Niccolò Michetti after Estonia had been conquered by Russia in the Great Northern War.



This place Tsar Peter I named in honor of his wife Catherine I. The palace was completed only after the death of Peter I. All Russian rulers always stayed in Kadriorg. Now it is the Art Museum of Estonia.



Toompea Castle



Toompea Castle is a castle on the limestone hill of Toompea in the central part of Tallinn, which for a time was also one of the names for the whole settlement of Tallinn during the times of Danish Estonia in the 13th and 14th centuries. In 1219, the castle was taken over by Danish crusaders - led by Valdemar II. The much-rebuilt Toompea Castle, topped by the Pikk Hermann tower, still dominates Toompea today. It houses the Parliament of Estonia. Other sights in the vicinity of Toompea Castle include the Russian Orthodox cathedral dedicated to Alexander Nevsky, which was completed in 1900 and now partially overtops the castle.



Maarjamäe Palace, Tallinn



Maarjamäe Palace is now home to a large-scale exhibition devoted to the Republic of Estonia. It tells the story of the birth, development, occupation and regained independence of the republic. A variety of objects, documents and stories highlight Estonians' desire for freedom and self-determination throughout the 20th century.





Palmse Palace



Palmse is the best known and probably best preserved of the manors in Lahemaa National Park. It was the first that has been restored to its former splendour. The house is like a complete little palace with everything a baroque palace requires: the gate and cour d'honneur in front, the residential quarters with separate apartments for husband and wife, a festival hall, the park behind with a landscape garden, a lake and several small park buildings. At the same time it is a farm and enterprise with the necessary economy buildings.





France

The Élysée Palace



The Élysée Palace (French: Palais de l'Élysée) is the official residence of the President of the French Republic, containing his office, and is where the Council of Ministers meets. It is located near the Champs-Élysées in Paris. The Élysée has gardens, in which the president hosts a party on the afternoon of Bastille Day. Nicolas Sarkozy, the President of France since 2007, is the current resident. The architect, Armand-Claude Mollet, sold it in 1718 to Louis Henri de La Tour d'Auvergne.





The palace and gardens were purchased from Beaujon by Bathilde, duchesse de Bourbon in 1787 for 1,300,000 livres. It was the Duchess who named it the Élysée. She also built a group of cottages in the gardens which she named the Hameau de Chantilly.



With the French Revolution, the Duchess fled the country and the Élysée was confiscated. It was leased out. The gardens were used for eating, drinking, and dancing, under the name Hameau de Chantilly; and the rooms became gambling houses.

In 1803, the Élysée was sold to Joachim Murat, and in 1808, to the Emperor, and it became known as the Élysée-Napoléon. After the Battle of Waterloo, Napoléon returned to the Élysée, signed his abdication there on 22nd June 1815, and left the Élysée on the 25th.

Russian Cossacks camped at the Élysée when they occupied Paris in 1814.



Though it was first officially used by the government of Napoléon Bonaparte, the Hôtel d'Évreux was formally purchased for Louis XVIII in 1816. Under the provisional government of the Second Republic, it took the name of the Élysée National and was designated the official residence of the President of the Republic.



In 1853, following his coup d'état that ended the Second Republic, Napoléon III charged the architect Joseph-Eugène Lacroix with renovations.

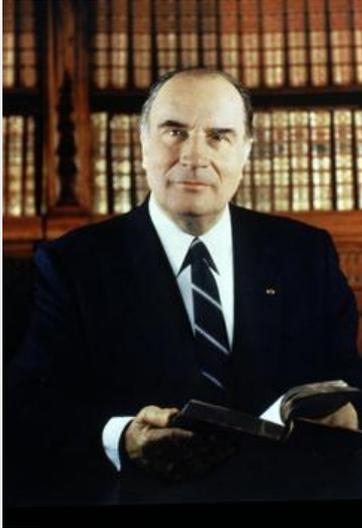
In 1873, during the Third Republic, The Élysée became the official presidential residence.

Between 1959 and 1969, the Élysée was occupied by Charles de Gaulle, the first President of the Fifth Republic.

Socialist President François Mitterrand, who governed from 1981 to 1995, is said to have seldom used its private apartments, preferring the privacy of his own home.

By contrast, his successor Jacques Chirac lived throughout his two terms in office (1995–2007) in the Élysée apartments with his wife Bernadette.

Chirac increased the Palace's budget by 105% to 90 million euros per year, according to the book "L'argent caché de l'Élysée" (The hidden money of the Elysée). One million euros per year is spent on drinks alone for the guests invited to the Élysée Palace, 6.9 million euros per year on bonuses for presidential staff and 6.1 million euros per year on the 145 extra employees Chirac hired after he was elected in 1995. Chirac's successor Nicolas Sarkozy prefers his wife Carla Bruni-Sarkozy's house in Paris XVI to the Élysée palace.



*President François Mitterrand, from 21st
May 1981 to 17th May 1995.*



*President Charles de Gaulle of the Vth
Republic from 1959 to 1969.*



*President Nicolas Sarkozy,
from May 2007.*







Germany



1) Wartburg in Eisenach

2) Burg Hohenzollern

3) Schloss Bellevue in Berlin

The Wartburg

Location

The Wartburg (engl. Wart-castle) is located in the middle of Germany, in the state of Thüringen. It rises on a small, rugged rock about 220 metres above the town of Eisenach.





Size

The “Wartburg” exists out of two towers and four parts. But today you can only visit the outer ward and the main castle.

History

The castle was founded in 1067 by a German earl. Many famous people are linked with Wartburg: After the death of her husband, Princess **Elisabeth of Hungary**, Holy Elisabeth, lived on the Wartburg from 1207 until 1231. She lived in poverty and cared for



Luther's room

ill and poor people. From 1521 to 1522 **Martin Luther** was kept prisoner at the Wartburg. He

used his time to translate the New Testament from Greek to High German on the castle. He was one of the main proponents of the so-called Reformation of the church. Because of this movement, the Christian church was divided into two parts: the Protestants and the Catholics. Today you can also see a spot of ink in Luther's room because at this place the devil appeared and Martin Luther threw an ink pot at the wall. The first Wartburg festival was in **1817**. A lot of students met there to demonstrate for civic liberty and for national unity. It was an important event in German history, because the German flag (black, red, gold) was shown there for the first time.

In 1999, the Wartburg was placed on the **UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list** because of Martin Luther, Holy Elisabeth and other important events. The Wartburg was often beleaguered but never conquered. About its location at the inner German border it was and is a symbol of German integration and unity.



Architecture

The castle is a mix of Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Historicism. Especially the architecture of the main castle is in Romanesque style of highest quality. In 1950 some parts were newly built and the whole castle was modernised.

Today

Nowadays the Wartburg is a museum, e.g. you can see treasures from the middle ages and also the room where Luther translated the New Testament.

The Hohenzollern Castle



Location

The Hohenzollern Castle with its beautiful surroundings is located in the federal state Baden- Württemberg, which is in the south-west of Germany. It is about 50 kilometres south of Stuttgart. The castle is located at the periphery of the Swabian albs and it is 855 metres above sea level on top of Mount Hohenzollern.

Size

The building consists of four elements: the fortification, the castle, chapels, like the Christ Chapel, and a garden.

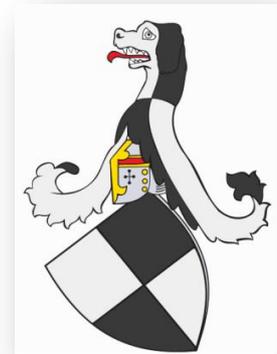


Christ Chapel



History

Hohenzollern Castle is the **ancestral seat of the Hohenzollerns**. The House of the Hohenzollerns is a noble family and a royal dynasty; the current leader has been Georg Friedrich Prince of Prussia since 1994. The history of the Hohenzollern Castle is divided into **three episodes**: the first, the second, and the third castle.



In **1267** the medieval castle of the House of Hohenzollern was **mentioned for the first time**. It appears, however, to date back to the 11th century.

Emblem of the House of Hohenzollern

In 1423 it was besieged by troops of the Swabian Imperial Cities for over a year. On **15 May 1423** the castle was completely **destroyed**.

The construction of the **second castle** began in **1454**. It was much stronger than the first one but in 1634 it was captured by Württemberg troops in the Thirty Years War. This war lasted from 1618 until 1648 and it was one of the most destructive conflicts in European history.

The Hohenzollern Castle was under control of the Habsburgs for a century. At the beginning of the **19th century** there was **only a ruin** left.

After that the third castle was rebuilt by Crown-Prince Frederick William IV of Prussia. The current castle is by the **architect Friedrich August Stüler** from Berlin. The construction began in **1850** and it was completed on 3rd October 1867. The Hohenzollern Castle is built in the **Gothic Revival style** and it is a monument of the ideals of the **German Romanticism movement**. The castle was damaged in an earthquake in 1978 and because of that under repair until the mid- 1990s.



Today

Now the Hohenzollern Castle is a private property and there are about 300,000 visitors a year, so it is a tourist attraction. You can see different events there, like exhibitions, concerts, theatre and cinema presentations and a Christmas market.



The Christmas market at Hohenzollern Castle



Schloss Bellevue



Location

Schloss Bellevue has been the official residence of the President of Germany since 1994. It is located in Berlin, the capital of Germany, near the victory column and the Spree River.

History

Schloss Bellevue, which means the same as Bellevue palace, was built between **1785 and 1787** as a summer residence for Prince Augustus Ferdinand of Prussia. The plans were made by **architect Michael Philipp Boumann** and it was the first **neoclassical** building in Germany. It is characterized by its Corinthian pilasters. The fantastic view over the surrounding park gave the palace the name "Bellevue" ("beautiful view" in French).

Until the German Revolution of **1918** it was used as a residence of the Hohenzollern dynasty. In **1928** the ownership was passed to the state of Prussia. When the palace was converted into the Reich guest house in **1938** the main entrance was moved to the





central axis and a new grander staircase was built. **During World War II** Schloss Bellevue was almost destroyed by strategic bombing and the 1945 Battle of Berlin. In **1959** it had been rebuilt as the second official residence of the Federal President of Germany. The palace was renovated in **1986/1987**.



The „Langhanssaal“: It was designed by Carl Gotthard Langhans, the designer of the Brandenburg gate. It has eight Corinthian pilasters; you can see four of them.

Today

After the German reunification, the first official residence of the president was moved from Bonn to Berlin in **1994**. **2004/2005** it was refurbished again.





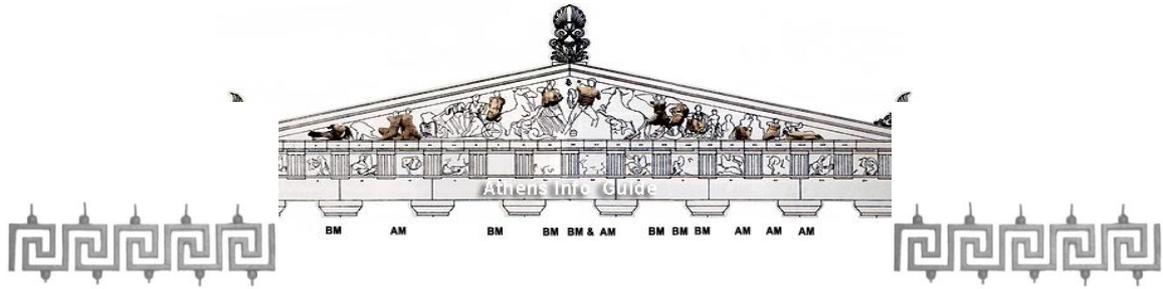
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By Sarah Kümmerer, Vivienne Mennemann and Eva-Maria Link



Greece





Introduction

Winter and summer palaces castles and royal mansions all depict the wealth and greatness of a past which existed in Europe many years ago but which still affects our lives. Although royalty, kings and queens, have been banned from most European countries long ago, in most cases in a violent way, they consist a significant heritage of these countries connecting their peoples to their past, present and future but they are not treated accordingly and thus properly.



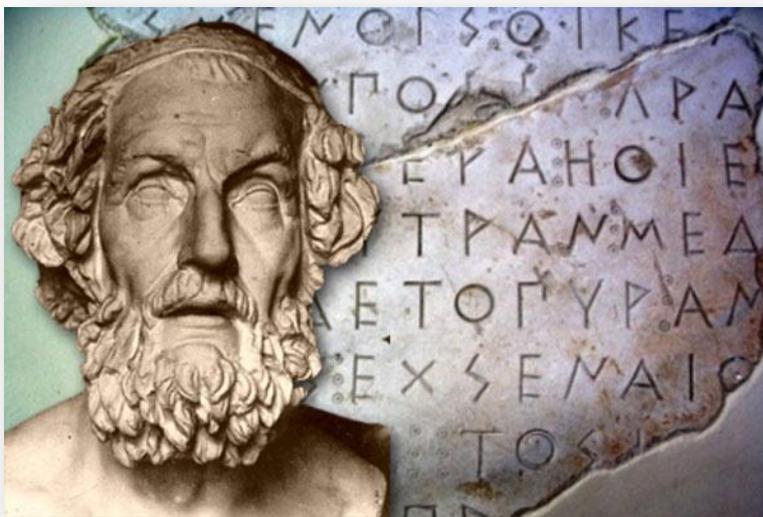
Palaces of Ancient Greece

To find palaces in Greece, you have to reach back through 3,000 years of history. While Europe's feudalistic Middle Ages left the landscape dotted with imposing fortresses and fairy-tale castles, Greece's ancient democratic republic did not leave behind such markings of dynastic rule. The palaces known to modern



historians are remnants from the Minoan and Mycenaen periods, the myth-ridden times of great kings, monsters and heroes such as Agamemnon, the Minotaur and Hercules.

The most known palaces of Ancient Greece are the palace of Knossos (Crete), Mykenae and Pylos!



Knossos



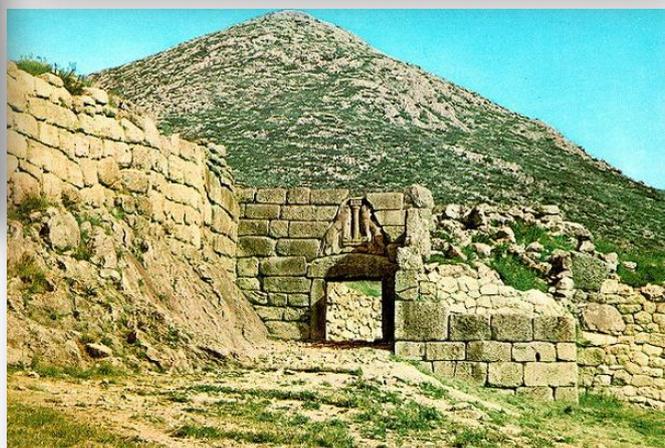
Few locations figure as frequently into ancient mythology as the Minoan palace at Knossos. The palace was purportedly built by Daedalus, who built wings of feathers and wax for himself and his son Icarus to escape the island. King Minos mythically hid his Minotaur half son within the palace's labyrinth until he was slain by Theseus. Myths aside, the ruins of the palace remain in excellent conditions for today's visitors, still displaying wall frescoes depicting details from life in the Minoan society. Somewhat controversially, Arthur Evans, the archaeologist who excavated the site in the early 1900s, restored large sections of the site in an attempt to render the palace more comprehensible to visitors.





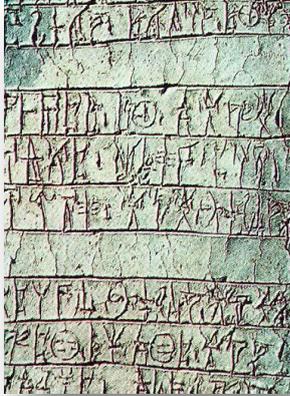
Mycenae

With its high, thick walls, the ancient Greek palace at Mycenae looks more like a citadel than a palace from the hillside below. Ancient Greeks believed gods or cyclopes constructed the walls, as the stone seemed too large and heavy to be transported by humans. Greek mythology asserts that Perseus founded the city, though it is best known as the site from which King Agamemnon and his army set out to invade Troy in Homer's "Iliad." Excavations began in 1876 with the work of Heinrich Schliemann and continue to this day, spearheaded by a group from Dickinson College, uncovering gems, golden masks, statues, frescoes and written tablets at the site.

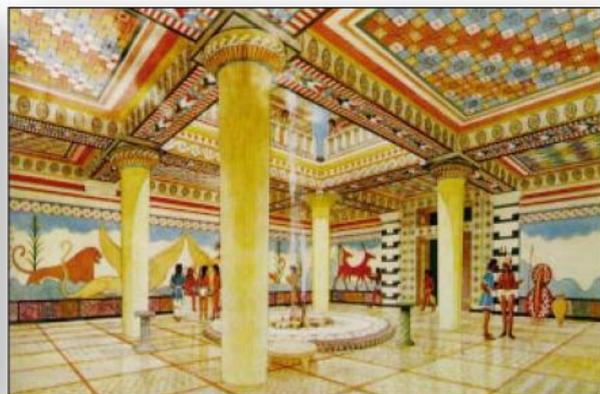




Pylos

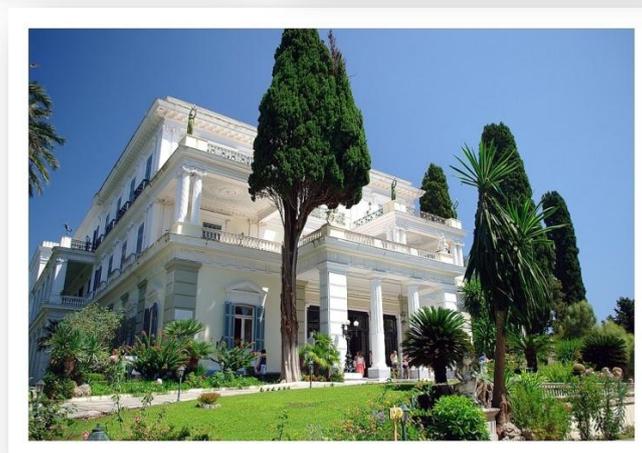
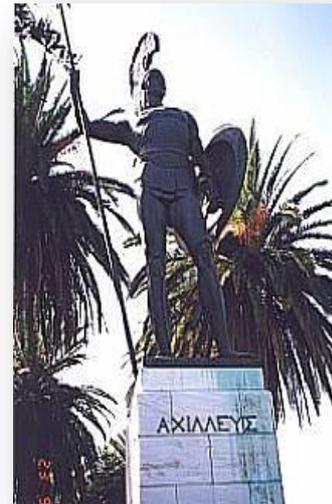


Often referred to as "Nestor's Palace," after the character in Homer's "Odyssey," archaeologists are still working to place the palace at Pylos within the Greek historical record. An archaeologist at the University of Missouri-St. Louis has located another minor palace nearby, and believes these findings corroborate Pylos' role as the center of the nine cities of King Nestor. Pylos is clearly a Mycenaean structure, according to Linear B tablets found at the site. Since its discovery in 1939, the site has furnished archaeologists with a plethora of artists and everyday artifacts. Michael Nelson, an art historian who worked on the site, called it "the best-preserved palace from Greece's Bronze Age."



Achillion

The Palace, located in the village of Gastouri, was erected in 1890 for Elizabeth (Sissy), the Empress of Austria as the solace of her soul. It was used as her summer retreat. Later the Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany bought the Palace. Directly below, on the coast, is the unusual Kaiser's bridge, the stone built jetty where the Kaiser set out on his yacht for swimming trips. The Palace is definitely a place to take your camera. This beautiful building in picturesque gardens overlooks the sea and Corfu town. It is one of Corfu's top attractions.



Hellenic Parliament



The history of the impressive building of the Hellenic Parliament is intimately linked to the history of the Modern Greek state. Initially, the building served as the palace of Kings Otto and George I. It became the Parliament and Senate building a hundred years after it was constructed, and still houses the Hellenic Parliament today. Through all those years, the building has undergone a series of changes and has been modernised.



Presidential Mansion

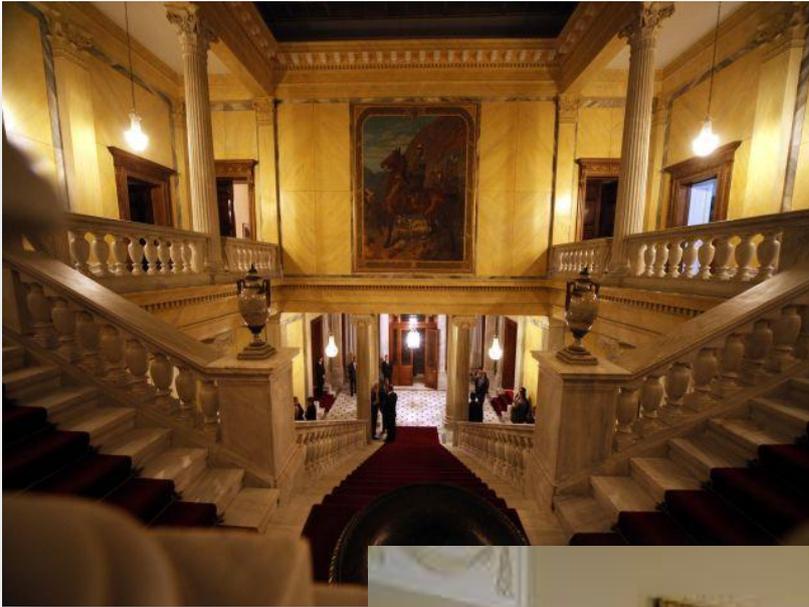
The decision to construct the building which is used today as the Presidential Mansion was taken in 1868. That year, King George 1st son, Constantine, the heir to the throne, was born and the Greek state decided to present him with a private dwelling, when he came of age. Twenty one years later when Constantine married



princess Sophia of Prussia, the state assigned the planning of "The Crown Prince's Palace", as the building became known, to Ernst Ziller. Building began in 1891 and was completed six years later in 1897.

On Christmas Eve 1909 a fire destroyed a large part of the Royal Palace (today used by the parliament), with the result that the Crown Prince's Palace was used temporarily as the residence of the royal family. After the assassination of George I in 1913 and the accession of Constantine to the throne, the Crown Prince's Palace finally became the royal residence.

The use of the building as a Palace was interrupted in 1924 when the monarchy was overthrown and a Republic was declared. It was then used as the Presidential Mansion until 1935 when the monarchy was restored and the King returned. Since 1974, when democracy was restored after a seven year military dictatorship, the building has been used as the Presidential Mansion and the residence of the President of the day.



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Άποψη του Προθαλάμου του Προεδρικού Γραφείου





Palace of the Grand Master

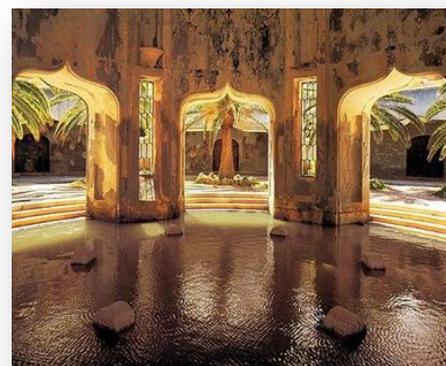


The Palace of the Grand Master of the Knights of Rhodes is a palace in the town of Rhodes, on the island of Rhodes in Greece. In the point that today is the palace it was earlier a Byzantine citadel that functioned as headquarters

and fortress. The palace was built in the 14th century by the Knights of Rhodes, who occupied Rhodes from 1309 to 1522. After the island was captured by the Ottoman Empire, the palace was used as a fortress.

View of the palace.

The original palace was largely destroyed by an ammunition explosion in 1856. When the Kingdom of Italy occupied Rhodes in 1912, the Italians rebuilt the palace in a grandiose pseudo-medieval style as a holiday residence for Victor Emmanuel III of Italy, and later for Benito Mussolini, whose name can still be seen on a large plaque near the entrance. On 10 February 1947, the Treaty of Peace with Italy, one of the Paris Peace Treaties, determined that the recently-established Italian Republic would transfer the Dodecanese to the Kingdom of Greece. In 1948, Rhodes and the rest of the Dodecanese were transferred as previously agreed. The Greeks converted the palace to a museum.





Students

Georgoudis Themis

Kakazianis Paschalis

Karanikas Giannis

Nasikas Stergios

Samouil Evangelos

Teachers

Benis Stamatis

Voivondas Stauros



Hungary

In the castle elegant and wealthy people lived. This was a palatial residence for baron. The elements of the building are towers, bridges and ditches with water. There was need for the protection because of the wars so castles built. These were built upon heights and steep peaks. But the water supply was their disadvantage. On a flat land to marshes the castle was built.





The castle of Buda

The western side of the Danube to the royal palace was built in 1255. The mountain inside the labyrinth, the surface of the architectural and cultural monuments are. The Fishermen's Bastion in Budapest's best-known monuments of the Buda Castle. A beautiful panorama of the major tourist attractions include. The name refers to the medieval city walls, this part of the guild of fishermen defended.





The castle of Eger



The Eger Castle in
bringingt he 1552
siege, when the
skipper Stephen
Casting repelled the

numerically superior army of the Ottoman Empire. The castle is now a protected monument, which operates the Istvan Dobo Castle Museum. The permanent exhibition presents the history of the castle, the underground fortress of the medieval forms of punishment and their assets. The stonework to view the remains of the cathedral was destroyed, the marbletomb of Istvan Dobo cover. The Eger Castle Gallery is one of the major art collection, which is German Plain, Italy, Austria and Hungary paintings check.





The castle of Siklós

In the southern foothills of mountains Villányi a small hill visible in the walls of intact whole Siklos Castle, which will be the protector of the round-storeypalace wings. Front walls of the fortress of the 13th century, around 1,251 were laid off. The oldest building in the southern parts of the residential wing of the cellar was discovered by archaeologists, it was the former mentioned Khan charters are not descendants of Palatine in Gyula fortress erected by the early kernel. The estates after themselves Siklós denominator of noble families inhabitedby servants of the universe. Siklós too high after the Mongol invasion .Tene era born can keep five. Significant fortification, because even in 1316 the siege Kőszegi nation's troops could not take.





The castle of Eszterházy

Esterházy Palace in Fertőd Fertőd city's main attractions, one of Hungary's major tourist attractions. Present for min the 18th won the second half, Nicholas Esterhazy's ideas and plans. This building is the Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna and Paris Versailles worthy pair. In the Baroque era of the building's unique architectural phenomenon can be evaluated. The 18th century Hungary was one of the main cultural center of the castle. "Hungarian Versailles" is also known. In the castle courtyard in honor of three beautiful wrought iron gate opening. The frescoes in the chapel is Ignatz Josef Mildorfer created in 1766.





The castle of Festetics

The Festetics mansion built in 1745, Christopher began Festetics. Today, the 101 rooms of three is one of Hungary's largest Baroque mansion built in this style castle. The castle Festetics now a museum and conference center at the same time. Permanent and temporary exhibitions per year, about 200 thousand visitors to consider. A beautiful park in Keszthely, can enter the ornate main gate. The horse chestnut tree in a garden, Turkish hazelnut, lilac, blackpines and other trees and shrubs along with two beautiful classical Japaneseacacia, and George Earl Festetics bronzestatue and a large fountain decorated. Festetics palace decorated with statues of the west facade against the French garden, English garden behind which a rock garden and the famous lionfountain from which in the summer with fresh drinkingwater trickling. The palace garden to there artract "carriage house" ornate buildings and stables, which are found in the Carriage Museum.

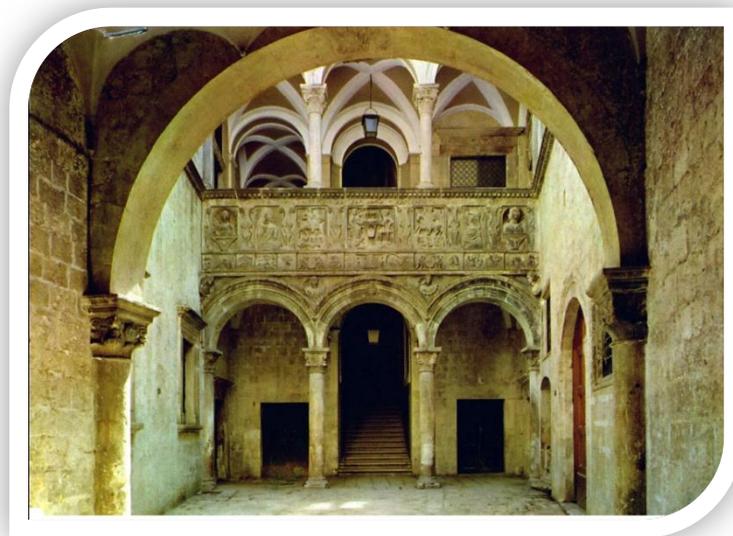




Italy

Palazzo Sylos-Vulpano

The “palazzo Sylos-Vulpano” in Bitonto was a XVth century mansion. Today is a national monument reminded above all for the decorations of its garden.





Palazzo Sylos-Calò

The “Palazzo Sylos-Calò” in Bitonto was a XVIth century mansion in a perfect renaissance style. Today is the house for the “National gallery of Puglia”.



Villa Sylos

The Villa Sylos, commonly named “La contessa”, is a residential complex made up of a watchtower, an arcade and a little church entitled to St. Thomas.





Poland

Belvedere palace in Warsaw



Palace in Warsaw, in the city center, in the bathrooms Park, the Royal Route, classical, built in the nineteenth century designed by Jakub Kubicki baroque palace . Since the twentieth century is the seat of the polish President.





Branicki Palace



Branicki Palace - historic palace in Białystok, one of the best preserved magnate residences of the saxon era on the lands of the former Republic in late Baroque style called the “Versailles of Podlasie”.

The palace was rebuilt in a baroque mansion Branicki by Tylman Gameren. Destroyed during the war the building was reconstructed in the twentieth century.

Today the palace headquarters of the Academy of Medicine.





Czartoryski Palace in Pulawy



Palace in Pulawy, which dates back to the second half of the seventeenth century and are associated with the history of aristocratic families. A restrained classical building architecture is in a beautiful park. To this day, surviving part of the Interior: vestibule, hall and a stone Gothic Hall and Knight.

The palace in Moszna



Is one of the most famous monuments in the ope. Was the residence of the Prussian family Tiele Wincklerów, industrial tycoons from 1866 to 1945.



The building was founded in the mid-seventeenth century. Today's Therapy Center in the Neuroses. The palace is partially open to the public, in the chapel there are concerts of chamber music, and gallery exhibitions of works of art. The property is surrounded by more than two hundred acre park (including the three hundred specimens of oaks)



Palace of Cracow Bishops



Built in the seventeenth century baroque palace in Kielce, was the residence of the bishops of Cracow. One of the symbols of the city. After regaining independence was the provincial office here, and now occupies the historic interiors of the museum.



Rogalin Palace



The impressive mansion was built Raczynski on a high bank above the Warta. Barokowo-classical palace, park and coach house are from the eighteenth century. The team's palace church St. Marcelina in the basement of the church is a mausoleum Raczynski, which lies among others the body of Count Edward Bernard Raczynski.



Slovakia

Bratislava castle

Bratislava castle is the main castle of Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia. It is a gothic castle which is known from the 10th century. The massive rectangular building with four corner towers stands on a quite isolated rocky



hill of the Little Carpathians directly above the Danube river in the middle of Bratislava. It is an outstanding feature of the city. It provides an excellent view of Bratislava, of Austria and, when there is good weather, of Hungary too.

The Summer Shakespeare's Festival is an open-air theatre show of works of this most significant world playwright. It is held in the unique scenery of the Bratislava Castle. The theatre festival is always held in the first half of the summer and every year is dedicated to a different topic, e.g. tragedies like Romeo and Juliet, King Lear or Hamlet, comedies like the Merchant of Venice or the Twelfth Night.





Trenčín Castle



Trenčín Castle, a typical medieval fortified castle is dating from 179 AD. The castle is situated high on a rock above the city and it is the third-largest castle in Slovakia. Trenčín Castle is divided into upper and lower sections, with

extensive fortifications. The upper castle has several palace buildings which surround the central medieval tower, which remains the highest point of the city.

The legend says that the Castle owner, important nobleman Štefan Zápoľský brought a beautiful and noble Turkish woman Fatima among the war prisoners of one of his successful battles against Turks and dedicated her as servant to his wife Hedviga.

After a short time, Pasha Omar, the fiancé of Fatima visited Zápoľský accompanied by a large suite in order to buy out his beloved Fatima. He offered oriental treasures, camels and slaves, but Zápoľský turned them down. Finally he proposed to Omar the following: if he succeeded to dig a





well at the castle rock, he would regain Fatima. Omar and his men started to work. They were digging the well in the limestone rock four years, day and night, in summer and winter before they eventually found water. The joyous Omar took a glass of water to Zápoľský who let Omar take beautiful Fatima away. However, Omar before leaving said to Zápoľský: "Your heart is harder than a rock". Since then the castle well is called the Well of Love.

Roman - Latin inscription in the castle rock, which dates back to 179 and is the northernmost Roman monument to stay in Central Europe. It was built in honor of the victory forces of Marcus Aurelius over Quadi in 179.



To the victory of dedicated by 855 soldiers of II. Legion of an army stationed in Laugaricio. Made to order of Marcus Valerius Maximianus, a legate of the Second Auxiliary legion.

Čachtice Castle



Čachtice Castle is a castle ruin in Slovakia next to the village of Čachtice. It stands on a hill featuring rare plants, and has been declared a national nature reserve for



this

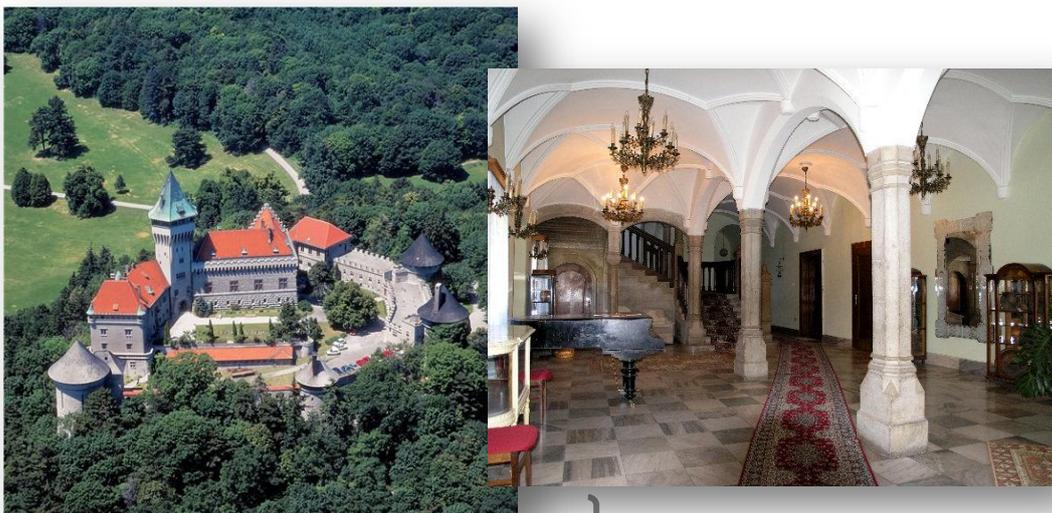
reason. The castle was a residence and later the prison of the Countess Elizabeth Báthory, who is alleged to have been the world's most prolific female serial killer. Čachtice was built in the mid-13th century by Kazimír as a sentry on the road to Moravia.

The story of a „bloody“ countess, who died in 1614, was lastly made as a historical first-rate film in the direction of a famous Slovak director Juraj Jakubisko and it obtained acknowledgement even abroad.



Smolenice Castle

Smolenice Castle is a captivating image in the forests of the Small Carpathian mountains, Smolenice is one of the most picturesque castles in Slovakia. The Smolenice Castle was built up in the half of 15th century but The Smolenice castle you see today was built in the first half of the 20th century by the Pálffy family and was completed in 1945 when the state took ownership.





Bojnice Castle



Bojnice Castle is one of the most beautiful castles in Slovakia, standing on a travertine hill above the town. In 1970 the castle was declared a National cultural monument, nowadays houses a museum. The first written mention of the castle existence is from 1113 and comes from the Zobor abbey. Originally the wooden fortress was rebuilt with stone over the 13th century. Originally renaissance and gothic style, has been rebuilt in Romanticism style in 19th century. Bojnice Castle is one of the most visited and most beautiful





castles not only in Slovakia, but also in central Europe.

The Slovak National Museum – Museum Bojnice prepares nice surprises for the visitors all year e.g. St.Valentin's weekend - Shapes of love, International Festival of Ghosts and Spirits, FAIRY-TALE CASTLE, Knights Days, Noble Christmas and Three Magi in Bojnice Castle...

Spiš Castle



Spiš Castle with its area of more than four ha, and partially in ruins, is one of the largest castle compounds in Central Europe. Spiš Castle was

included in the UNESCO list of monuments belonging to the world cultural heritage in 1993. Construction of the medieval castle on a travertine hill dates back to the beginning of the 12th century. The oldest written reference to the castle is from 1120.

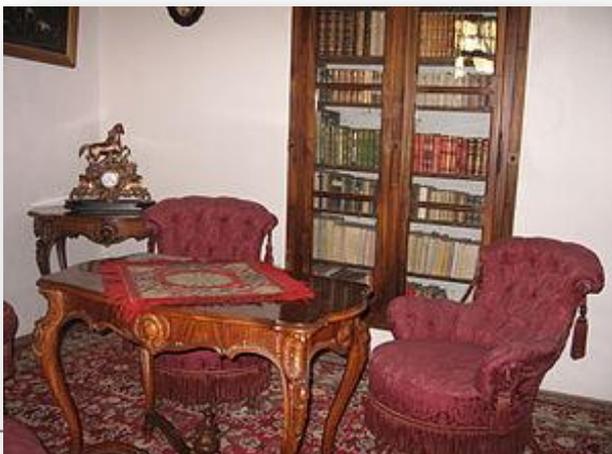


The Krásna Hôrka Castle



The Krásna Hôrka Castle is situated east of Rožňava. It stands on top of the conspicuous unwooded mountain, which dominates the Rožňavská kotlina basin. The main attraction though is the embalmed body of Sophia Andrassy-Seredy. The original Gothic castle was built around 1320.

Originally buried in temporary graves, below the castle, where her body was apparently dripping with water. In this area of karst limestone sweet water flows in the tomb could be drafted and probably all of this meant that the body is preserved in this unusual condition. To the chapel remains were transferred in the early 19th century.





Betliar Manor - House



At the beginning of the 18-th century Štefan Andrassy decided to build a manor house with corner bulwarks on foundations of an old castle from the 16-th century. In 1792-1795 his successors rebuilt the manor house in the Classicistic style.

700 000 m2 large park with exotic trees and bushes, numerous Classicistic and Romantic buildings arose around the manor house. A forest surrounds the park.

The manor house lost its Classicistic design after it was rebuilt in 1880. It started to be used by hunters and nobles. Nowadays, in the manor house there is a museum of historical flat culture, furniture from the 15-17-th century, classicistic and empire equipment. You can find there collections of paintings, portraits, a book-case with more than 20 000 books, gun collections and hunter`s trophies, exotic souvenirs from all around the world esp. from Asia and Africa.



Spain

AJURIA ENEA



The Palace of Ajuria Enea is a building in Vitoria-Gasteiz, northern Spain. It is the official residence of the Lehendakari (president of the government) of the Basque Country.

The building, chosen to be official residence on the basis of its architectural merits, was purchased by the Basque Government from the former owner, the Provincial Council of Álava, in 1980. That same year it was occupied by Carlos Garaikoetxea, first President of the Basque Government after the restoration of democracy in Spain.

The palace, which was built in 1920 by the Swiss architect Alfredo Baeschlin and the contractor Hilarión San Vicente for the local industrialist Serafín Ajuria, displays all



the architectural elements of neo-Basque art on the exterior. After being the residence of the Ajuria family, in 1966 it was handed over to the religious order of the Madres Escolapias, who used it as a school. Six years later, in 1972, it was purchased by the Provincial Council of Álava for conversion into a museum of Basque art, and it was open for the public for two years until it became the Lehendakari's official residence.



MIRAMAR PALACE





At the end of the 19th century, the regent Queen María Cristina ordered to build this palace in order to accommodate the Court during the summer. In accordance to the fashion of that time, she wanted a building inspired by the English country houses, so the architect Selden Wornum was hired.

It was built of brick and sandstone blocks with a timber frame. Its gardens are the handiwork of master gardener Pierre Ducasse, who also designed the gardens of Aiete Palace and Gipuzkoa Square.

The location of the royal palace could not be better: on the hillock ending the El Loro Pick, which separates La Concha Beach from the Ondarreta Beach. This area offers splendid views over the bay and the city. At present, the park is opened for everybody to enjoy it, while the Miramar Palace is the venue for the Summer Courses of the University of the Basque Country and Eusko Ikaskuntza - Society of Basque Studies.





PALACE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF BIZKAIA

Main Facade of the Provincial Government Building on the Gran Vía de Don Diego López de Haro, named after the man who founded the town of Bilbao more than 700 years ago.

It's a building projected by the end of the 19th century eclectic taste, is evident by the use of elements from different historical styles and which stands, in addition, a great concern for the composition of the facades and ornamental appearance. It consists of basement, mezzanine, two heights and penthouse.



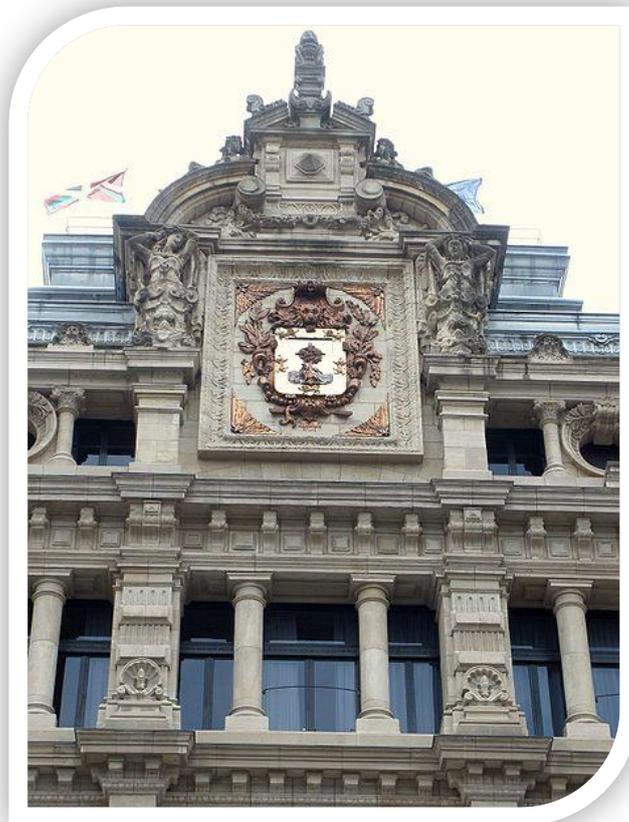
It highlights the main facade, Gran Vía Street, which shows a body advanced to the line of facade, which includes an entrance porch that provides the balconies. Inside, the main staircase distributes and organizes the different dependencies.

Ornamental wealth can be seen both abroad (worked at tip of diamond stalls) as in



the interior, there numerous works of art surrounded by lush furnishings and pictorial ornamentations in walls and ceilings are kept.

It deserves special mention the so-called throne room, with two murals of José Echenagusia Errazquin (1844-1912), painter born in Hondarribia which achieved international success. Different paintings, as well as a pair of vases presented by Eugenia de Montijo, wife of Napoleon III of France are preserved in the Palace.



Shield of arms on the main facade.

Turkey

DOLMABAŦÇE PALACE

Today all sections and units of Dolmabahce Palace are restored and opened to visit. The Dolmabahce Palace Complex is administered by the National Palaces Trust under the TBMM (auspices of the Turkish Grand National Assembly); and it is open to visitors, except Mondays and Thursdays daily between 09:00 - 16:00. It is one of the most important historic places in Istanbul that must be seen.



Istanbul situated on seven hills and it is a city of palaces as well. Please, do not miss to visit Dolmabahce Palace if you come to İstanbul, the city of palaces. This Palace is one of the most fascinating palaces in the world built in 19th century, Ottoman architecture and it was located in an area of 110 thousand squaremeters. It is located along the European shore of the Bosphorus between the ports of Besiktas and Kabatas. the plan arrangement of Dolmabahce Palace is an adaptation of traditional

Turkish house in grandeur scale, constructed with brick internal walls, stone external walls and timber floors.



After your visit with the breezes in the halls of the palace, it will be a great pleasure for you to rest at the cafe in the garden and have a cup of coffee with the fascinating Bosphorus scene. If you have a chance to visit Dolmabahce Sarayı in June, you'll get fascinated by the glory of magnolia trees.





Dolmabahce means “Filled up Garden”. Until 17th Century this site was one of the bays in Bosphorus. This bay was a natural harbour. Beginning from the XVII the Ottoman Admirals anchored the naval fleet here and also the traditional maritime ceremonies had taken place in this harbour when the Ottomans conquered Istanbul. In centuries, it had been started to be filled up time to time and became one of the unique gardens of Bosphorus called Dolmabahce. The construction of the Palace completed in 13 years and cost five million Ottoman gold pounds (the equivalent of 35 tons of gold). Sultan Abdülmecit I, who was the 31st sultan of the Ottoman Empire commisioned the construction of the palace. This marvelous palace displays the power and richness the Sultans had. For the Ottoman treasury this palace was an unnecessary expenditure and because of the external debt, it had become totally empty. This palace had been empty intermittently for 32 years since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.



In Dolmabahce Palace the last 6 sultans and Caliph Abdulmecit lived and after him most of the subsequent sultans preferred to live in the smaller palaces that they had



built on their own along the Bosphorus. This palace was used also by Ataturk with the declaration of the republic. When Ataturk visited Istanbul, he used Dolmabahce Palace as his residence. On 10th of November 1938 Ataturk passed away in this palace after a long period of sickness and then it was converted in to a museum.

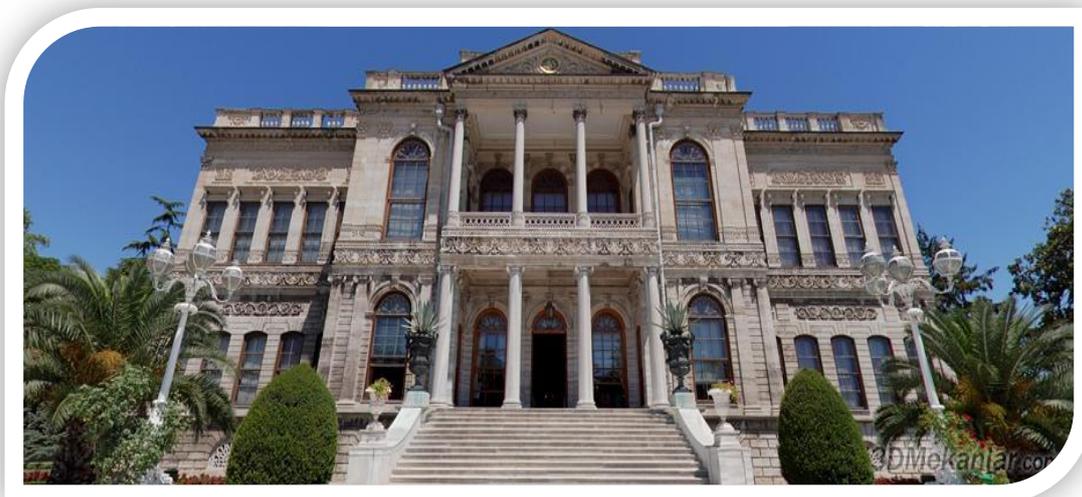


Dolmabahce Palace is a blend of many European architectural styles. It is the most western and the newest of all. Dolmabahce Palace, the monumental example of the Ottoman capital city, influenced by the widespread aesthetical approaches of the dominant European architecture at that time, comprises many characteristics of the Ottoman palace architecture tradition.





It was built between 1843 and 1856 by Karabet Balyan, the best-known member of Armenian architect family, the chief architect of Sultan Abdulmecit. The three-storied palace, including the basement floor, built on a symmetrical plan and there is 45 thousand square meters of usable floor area so it has 285 rooms and 46 halls , 6 Turkish baths, 1427 windows, 68 toilets and carpets covering a floor. The facade of Palace stretches for 600 meters along the European shore of the Bosphorus. It has survived intact with its original decorations, curtains, furniture, silk carpets and everything else. It consisted of sixteen separate sections besides the main structure such as palace stables, mills, glass shop, foundry, pharmacies, kitchens, aviaries, patisserie shop. There are two monumental gates (The Treasury Gate faces the Clock Tower, and the Regal Gate faces the main roadway one of which is very ornate (the one on the land side) and there is a 600 metre-long quay along the sea. The marbles were brought from the Islands in the Sea of Marmara, The porphyry stones from ancient Pergamon city, the alabaster from Egypt, the furniture was brought from Paris, the crystal materials from Baccarat, the vases from Sevr, the canslesticks from England, the silk carpets from Hereke and Lyon with special order. Almost all of 99 small and 131 large handmade carpets are silk and all they were woven in the royal workshops in Hereke. 4.500 square meters area covered by the carpets. It is said that 40 tons of silver and 14 tons of gold were used for the decoration of the palace.





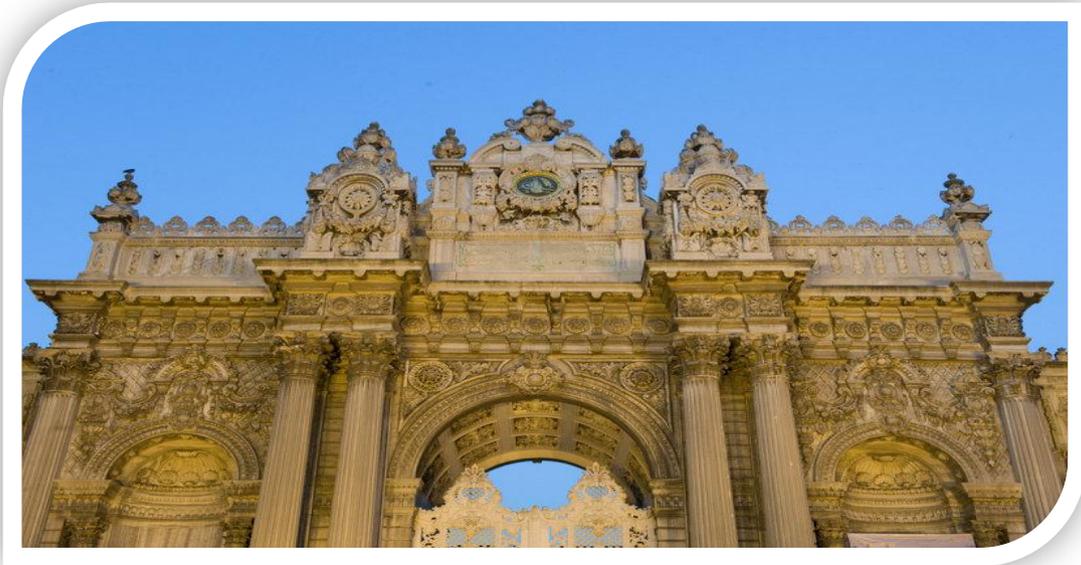
The interior of the Dolmabahçe Palace was decorated with the paintings; and ceiling illustrations were made by French and Italian artists. And also a lot of paintings by famous Russian painter Aiwazowsky enriched the interior decoration of this palace. In the interior decoration, 156 clocks, 58 candlesticks and 280 vases, most of which were placed symmetrically, were used. During the years 1910 – 1912 Dolmabahçe Palace received its central heating and electrical systems.

The clock tower and the lodges were added during the reign of Sultan Abdülhamid II (1876 - 1909)



The main palace is an L-shaped building, with a long facade along the Bosphorus that accommodates, from west to east:

- Selamlık (Men's administrative section) or Mabeyn-i Humayun
- Grand Hall / Ceremonial Hall in the Middle or Muayede
- The Harem or Harem-i Humayun



Mabeyn-i Humayun is where state affairs take place and the most important and also prominent section in terms of function and splendor. There is very large hall at the entrance, a crystal staircase and other decorative elements to impress the visitors. A couple of large halls upstairs decorated with crystal chandeliers, Hereke carpets and fireplaces, and a fine imperial Hamam (Bath) decorated with Egyptian alabaster are other impressive parts of the Selamlık section.

At the entrance, Medhal Salon welcomes the visitors, Crystal Stairs provides the connection with the upper floor, and Sufera (ambassadors) Salon is the guest room where the ambassadors were entertained and Red Room is





where they were admitted by the sultan and it is all decorated and furnished to emphasize the historical splendor of the Empire.



In the upper floor, the Zulvecheyn (two planed) Hall allows a crossing to the Sultan's private living quarters in the Mabeyn-i Humayun section. In this quarter, apart from bath there are study rooms and halls.

Selamlık is entered through a formal garden to the west. It has a highly symmetrical and formalized plan consisting of four major halls on two floors, linked by a monumental staircase at the center. The ambassadorial hall and all small rooms around it were used for the reception and entertainment of foreign guests and functionaries; they are some of the most spectacularly decorated rooms in Dolmabahçe Palace. Both of the halls open into the crystal staircase, a double-story staircase hall with a glass roof that is named after the crystal pillars of its balustrade. Located on the other side of the staircase are two identical oval halls on two different floors. The lower hall has a garden entrance and called the Men's Mounting Chamber (Selamlık Binek Salonu). Directly above it is the "Hall Facing Two Sides" (Zulvecheyn Salon), a meeting space named after its two facing the back gardens to the north and the Bosphorus to the south. Prayer rooms, study rooms and library used by the



Sultan are accessed from this hall, as well as the imperial bath complex, which is lit from above.

The Muayede which is situated between Harem and Mabeyn-i Humayun, is the highest and the most magnificent section of Dolmabahce Palace as a large square hall of monumental proportions, over 2.000 square meters of area and 36 meters high ceiling and also this hall is distinguished from other part of the Palace with 56 columns.

It is decorated with a 4,5 tons of crystal chandelier which was sent by Queen Victoria and a huge Hereke carpet. Important state and religious ceremonies were held in this Grand Hall which entered primarily from the Bosphorus side where a sea gate has been placed to allow guests to arrive by water. Women weren't allowed in these ceremonies so they watched ceremonies from the windows of a long corridor connecting the Selamlik with the Harem, passing just above the Ceremonial Hall.

Upper galleries were used by foreign ambassadors who invited to the religious ceremonies but also by the orchestra at special occasions. During the winter period, the Ceremonial hall was heated with the hot air blown from the heating system at the bottom of 56 tall columns (central heating system blowing warm air from the foot of the columns providing comfortable temperature even in coldest days); it took them about 3 days to heat the hall properly before any ceremony. The golden throne used to be brought in to the hall and Sultan received notables and diplomatic corps on this throne during the traditional holy days celebrations.

The galleries had been allotted to diplomatic staff, female and male guests and to the Palace orchestra.



Harem-i Humayun is the private section of Sultan and his family and it was connected to the Selamlik section by a long corridor which was guarded all the time to make sure that nobody passes. Despite of being influenced by Western architecture and being built by taking European palaces as an example, in Dolmabahce, the Harem was designed as a separate section, although not rigid as it used to be in terms of space arrangements and functional relations.

Harem-i Humayun is a private living space integrated to the whole under the same roof so it is not a building separated from the Palace.

Harem was strictly prohibited by any man to go in, except the sultan himself of course and the eunuch servants. The Harem section is formed by several halls, rooms and baths.

There were rooms for official wives, suites of the sultan, quarter of the Queen mother (Valide Sultan), favorites (Gozde) and concubines (Cariye), and some education rooms for the young children of the sultan.

The capacious halls lightened by the reflections of Bosphorus. Among the most interesting and impressive features of Harem there are Blue and Pink Halls, the apartment of Valide Sultan (Mother Sultan), the rooms of Sultans Abdulmedjid,



Abdulaziz and also Resad, matrons rooms, concubines section, Great Ataturk's study and bedroom and many valuable artifacts such as rugs and kilims, furniture, chandeliers, inscriptions, vases, oil paintings etc. Rooms and three baths of Harem-i Humayun section arranged informally around ten large halls, five on each floor.

The four halls facing the Bosphorus have distinct and elaborate decorative schemes. The Blue Hall was the main meeting space in the harem and nearby it there is the smaller Pink Hall, both rooms opened out to the harem portico. On the east of the harem section The Palace of the Crown Prince is located. It is a separate structure and they are separated by a wall but it appears as an extension of the main palace when viewed from the water.

Photo gallery of the project meeting

During the project meeting we visited **The Krásna Hôrka Castle, Betliar Manor – House and Kezmarok Castle.**







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