

European Landmarks

Europe is one of the seven continents. The other six are North America, South America, Africa, Asia, Australasia and Antarctica. Some of the countries in Europe are the United Kingdom, France, Holland and Greece. Throughout Europe, you can find a variety of famous landmarks that bring millions of tourists to the continent every year. Here are three famous human landmarks.



Terrific Tower

The Eiffel Tower is located in Paris, France. It was completed on 31st March 1889 and took two years, two months and five days to build. It has been painted many different colours in its time, (including yellow) before a specially mixed 'Eiffel Tower brown' was chosen in 1968. Until 1930, it was the tallest building in the world, being 324 metres tall. From sunset to 1 a.m., for five minutes every hour, a brilliant light show can be seen that makes the entire tower appear to sparkle. Seven million tourists visit every year, making it the most-visited paid monument in the world. There are even smaller copies of the tower in Las Vegas, USA and Prague, Czech Republic.

Mysterious Stones

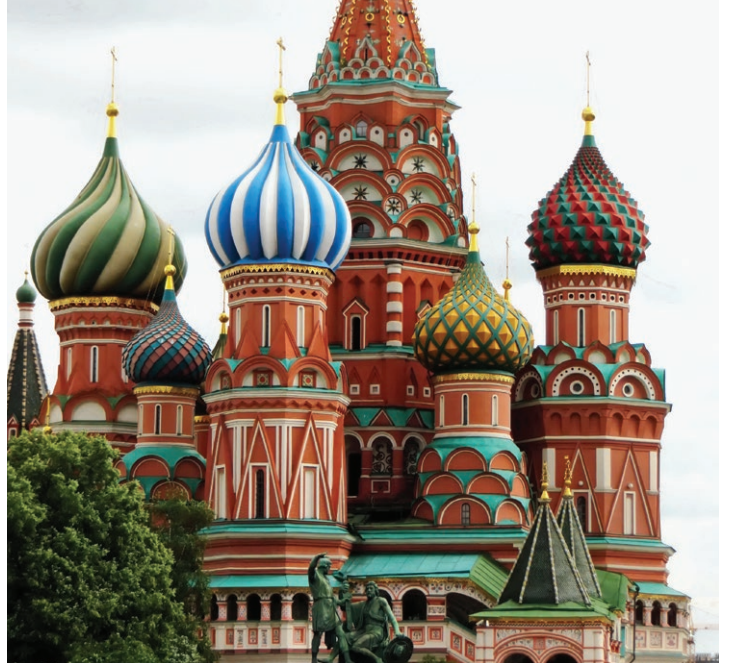
The mysterious Stonehenge can be found in the English countryside in Wiltshire. People believe that the stones were erected around 5,000 years ago, but nobody is sure why. Many historians believe it was once a burial ground, however, some people also believe it served other purposes too, such as a site for religious ceremonies or a resting place for royalty. Many believe that the smaller bluestones were brought to Wiltshire from the Preseli Hills, in Wales - over 200 miles away. Without modern technology, and with the blue stones weighing up to 4 tons, how were the builders able to move them so far? The mystery of the stones brings almost a million visitors every year, with its busiest day on 21st June for the Summer Solstice.



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Colourful Cathedral

Found in Moscow, Russia, St. Basil's Cathedral was ordered to be built by Ivan the Terrible to celebrate his victory over the Kazan Khanate. It began construction in 1555 and took six years to build. Known for its bright colours and distinct shaped domes, St. Basil's is the only cathedral of its kind; which is why so many people flock to the famous landmark every year. Inside is just as colourful – it has nine rooms, all decorated differently and dedicated to different saints – each one linked to a different victory of Ivan's. Only one of its original bells remains from the 16th century, and they were last rung on 1st January 1990. The cathedral's design and colours are often mistaken for the Kremlin, the home of the Russian president.



Glossary

Continent - A group of countries.

Landmark - An object that is well known and easily remembered.

Monument - A statue or building to remember an important person or time.

Erect - To put something together or build.

