

Schönbrunn Palace



Notes / Research

- Schönbrunn Palace is a former imperial summer residence in Vienna, Austria.
- Schönbrunn Palace is surrounded by a huge park and is one of the most significant cultural monuments in Austria.
- It was built to rival French Versailles in Baroque beauty and importance.
- It has 1,441-rooms.
- The palace is one of the most important architectural, cultural and historical monuments in the country.
- When the Habsburg Monarchy fell in 1918, the newly founded Austrian Republic took control of the property and turned it into a museum.
- After World War II, the palace served as offices for British military officers, before being turned into a museum once again in 1955.
- Since the mid-1950s it has been a major tourist attraction.
- The history of the palace and its vast gardens spans over 300 years, reflecting the changing tastes, interests, and aspirations of successive Habsburg monarchs
- The park was opened to the public around 1779 and since then has provided a popular recreational area for the Viennese population and international visitors alike.
- Extending for 1.2 km from east to west and approximately one kilometre from north to south, it was placed together with the palace on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites in 1996.
- The palace and its grounds form a unit and reflect each other, in accordance with the Baroque design principles.
- The Baroque layout of the gardens, together with the additions made during the last decade of Maria Theresa's life, have survived more or less intact.
- The zoo inside the vast Schönbrunn park dates back to Francis I's menagerie founded in 1752, making it the oldest zoo in the world. It is home to more than 750 species, as diverse as giant pandas, orangutans, Siberian tigers, African elephants, cheetahs, koalas, penguins, and Arctic wolves.

Further information at:

<http://justfunfacts.com/interesting-facts-about-schonbrunn-palace/>

<https://www.schoenbrunn.at/en/>

https://kids.kiddle.co/Sch%C3%B6nbrunn_Palace

Palace of Versailles.



Notes/ Research:

- The Palace of Versailles is a royal castle, located in the Ile de France region of France. It is about 15 miles south west of Paris and easily reached by train.
- The palace was built in the late 17th century as a home for France's king at the time, Louis XIV.
- It took about 3,000 workers to construct the palace and grounds.
- The daily routine of Louis XIV was planned out in detail when he lived at Versailles. He had over 200 servants to carry out various duties such as emptying the Royal chamber pot.
- The Palace of Versailles cost about \$2 billion in today's money. It contains over 700 rooms, over 60 staircases and over 1,200 fireplaces.
- The seat of French government was officially moved to Versailles in 1682. It remained there until 1789 when a mob marched on the palace which started the French Revolution.
- The huge gardens were just as spectacular as the palace itself. They covered over 30,000 acres and featured a mile-long canal, 400 sculptures and 1,400 fountains.
- The grounds also contained two smaller palaces, both elaborately decorated and furnished.
- The Petit Trianon was a refuge for Marie Antoinette to escape from the hectic palace lifestyle.
- The Palace of Versailles was decorated with valuable paintings and works of art. It contained an estimated 6,000 paintings and 5,000 pieces of furniture and other objects.
- The Hall of Mirrors is one of the most spectacular rooms in the palace and was originally lit with 3,000 candles.
- The Treaty of Versailles, officially ending World War 1, was signed in this room in 1919.
- The huge kitchens alone employed hundreds of people. However, it was located so far away from the dining room that the King's meals were often served cold.

Further Information at:

https://kids.kiddle.co/Palace_of_Versailles

<http://en.chateauversailles.fr/discover/estate/palace>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/world-heritage/versailles/>

Potala Palace.



Notes/Research:

- The first recorded use of the site was in the 7th century AD, when King Songtsen Gampo built a palace here.
- Construction of the present structure began during the reign of the fifth Dalai Lama in 1645 and took labourers and artisans more than 50 years to complete.
- The Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet was the chief residence of the Dalai Lama until the 14th Dalai Lama fled to India during the 1959 Tibetan uprising.
- It is now a museum and UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The palace is named after Mount Potalaka, the mythical abode of the bodhisattva Avalokiteśvara.
- The first recorded use of the site dates from the 7th century AD, when King Songtsen Gampo built a palace here.
- Construction of the present structure began during the reign of the 5th Dalai Lama, Lobsang Gyatso, in 1645 and took divisions of labourers and artisans more than 50 years to complete.
- The 13th Dalai Lama extended Potala Palace to the present size.
- The complex, comprising the White and Red Palaces, is built on Red Mountain in the centre of Lhasa Valley, at an altitude of 3,700 metres (12,100 feet).
- The palace measures 400 metres (1312 feet) east-west and 350 metres north-south, with sloping stone walls averaging 3 metres thick, and 5 metres thick at the base, and with copper poured into the foundations to help proof it against earthquakes.
- It has thirteen stories of buildings – containing over 1,000 rooms, 10,000 shrines and about 200,000 statues.

Further Information at:

<https://www.tibetdiscovery.com/what-to-see/potala-palace/>

<http://tenrandomfacts.com/potala-palace/>

<https://www.chinatibettrain.com/potala-palace-tibet.htm>

Buckingham Palace.



Notes/Research:

- Buckingham Palace is located in the very heart of London, surrounded by the lavish St. James and Green Park.
- Built as the Buckingham House in 1703, the palace was originally constructed by English Gentleman and architect William Winde as a large townhouse for Duke Buckingham.
- In 1761, King George III bought the property as a private residence for Queen Charlotte, earning it the title The Queen's House.
- In the 19th century, the residence underwent renovations, adding three additional wings that surround a central courtyard.
- In 1837, the palace became the London Residence of one of Britain's most famous and longest reigning monarchs, Queen Victoria.
- In 1982, Michael Fagan broke into the Royal Residence, entering Queen Elizabeth II's very own bedroom.
- Buckingham Palace features 775 rooms. Of these rooms, 188 are staff bedrooms, 92 offices, 78 bathrooms, 52 royal and guest bedrooms, and 19 state rooms.
- In total, the Buckingham palace grounds spans over 39 acres.
- Despite the palace serving as an important place for the royal family, the Queen does not in fact privately own the residence. It is instead held in trust by the Crown Estates.
- When the Queen is not in residence, typically around late July to late September, the beautiful State Rooms at Buckingham palace are open to the public, attracting tourists from all over the world!
- With dimensions of 36.6 m long, 18m wide, and 13.5 m high, the ballroom earns the award for largest room at the iconic palace.

Further Information at:

<https://www.royal.uk/search?tags%5B0%5D=Buckingham%20Palace>

<http://projectbritain.com/london/attractions/buckinghampalace.htm>

<https://primaryfacts.com/1425/buckingham-palace-facts-about-the-home-of-the-british-monarch/>

Alhambra Palace.



Notes/Research:

- The **Alhambra** is a palace and fortress complex located in Granada, Andalusia, Spain.
- The Alhambra was so called because of its reddish walls (in Arabic, («qa'lat al-Hamra'» means Red Castle)
- It rises up like an imposing castle with reddish tones in its ramparts.
- It was originally constructed as a small fortress in 889. After years of neglect, the Moorish king of Grenada renovated it in the 11th century. The fortress was to later be converted into a royal palace in the 1333 by Yusuf I, Sultan of Granada.
- After the Catholic Monarchs (Ferdinand and Isabel) conquered Andalucía in 1492, parts of the Alhambra were used by the Christian rulers, and eventually the mosque was replaced by a church.
- In 1527, the palace of Charles V was built within the complex as a permanent residence for the Monarch.
- Then the complex fell into disrepair, inhabited by vagrants, and even being used as soldiers' barracks during Napoleonic times.
- Alhambra was rediscovered in the nineteenth century by European scholars and travellers, with restorations commencing.
- Today it is one of Spain's major tourist attractions, exhibiting the country's most significant and well-known Islamic architecture.
- The plateau where the Alhambra sits measures about 740 metres in length by 205 metres at its greatest width.
- The Alhambra is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the inspiration for many songs and stories.

Further Information at:

<https://www.andalucia.com/cities/granada/alhamhistory.htm>

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Alhambra>

<https://www.alhambradegranada.org/en/>