

Unusual manmade travel destinations



The Bhangarh Fort in Rajasthan is considered one of the most haunted places in India. Because of all the ghost stories, you are not allowed to enter between sunset and sunrise. Inside the fort there are many temples of various gods. The iconic buildings and historical remains located around the fort attract many tourists, especially history geeks and photographers. Another attraction are the lush green surroundings and the nearby Sariska Tiger Reserve.



The Gayer-Anderson Museum in Cairo, Egypt is a fascinating example of Islamic architecture. It is a 17th-century home decorated with laced screens, marble inlays, handmade woollen rugs, and art objects. There are several legends connected with the house. One is that it stands on the hill where Noah's Ark stopped after the Flood. The second one tells of three men who went blind when they tried to rob the house. Another belief is that the well in the yard can show you the love of your life.



In the stony valley of Pampa de San José you can find one of the great mysteries of South America: the Nasca lines. Across 500 km², there are many animal figures and geometric shapes, each drawn with a single uninterrupted line. Nobody knows why people made them, but some believe they are connected to astrology or ancient clan totems. The best way to see them is by air, or from a nearby mirador (viewpoint).



Known as the "Bone Church", the Sedlec Ossuary is home to more than 40,000 human skeletons. It is located in Kutná Hora, in the Czech Republic, about an hour away from Prague. People wanted to be buried at this place because it is sprinkled with soil from the Golgotha in Jerusalem. In the 19th century, a woodcarver used the bones to decorate the church. He made all the artwork, chandeliers, coats of arms, and pyramids on display. Most people who visit say it is actually a peaceful place.



The tiny town of Wycliffe Well claims to be the UFO capital of Australia. Locals say that alien sightings have regularly been happening since the town was established in this remote part of the country. There are two large alien statues at the entrance of the town, and many shops dedicated to the little green men. However, there is not much else to see: just a petrol station, a pub and a holiday park. You will, however, meet people from all over the world who are interested in unusual things.



The Grand Gathering, in Sainte-Flavie, Canada, is the place with over a hundred crude wooden figures. They stand upright in the St. Lawrence River and appear or disappear with the tides. These creepy figures were once a part of an art project, and served as studies for paintings. After a while, they were abandoned in the river. Nowadays their tall, narrow bodies and the play of light and shadow on their faces give them a creepy feeling that attracts visitors.

Questions:

- 1) Would you visit one of these unusual places? Why (not)?
- 2) Is there another strange sight you would love to see while travelling?
- 3) Which types of travel destinations do you prefer?
- 4) Are you more interested in natural sights, or those made by people?
- 5) What are some of the more popular tourist destination in the countries from the text?

Tasks:

- 1) Find an unusual place you would like to visit and describe it.
- 2) Make a class map of interesting travel destinations.
- 3) Have a class vote: Where would most people like to go?