

Europa Nostra Shortlists 14 Endangered Historical Sites In Europe (PHOTOS)

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One of Europe's biggest draws for tourism continues to be its landmarks and rich past. From the Amphitheatre in Italy to Westminster Abbey in England, there's no shortage of buildings imbued with centuries' worth of history that bring in summer crowds year after year.

But not all historical landmarks in Europe can garner the attention and tour groups like Greece's Acropolis or France's Arc de Triomphe. Some, like the Vauban's Fortifications in Briançon, are in such a state of decay that they've been shortlisted as Europe's most endangered landmarks.

On Wednesday, [Europa Nostra](#), a group dedicated to the preservation of European landmarks released their short list of historical sites at risk of disappearing. On it were a number of churches, monasteries and even an entire city.

“With this new advocacy programme, Europa Nostra aims not only to identify the most endangered monuments and sites in Europe but also to launch a true call for action,” said Denis de Kergorlay, Europa Nostra's Executive President. “We hope to inspire and encourage action by various public and private organizations also in other places in Europe and beyond.”

The group has listed 14 sites across 21 countries after they sifted through 40 nominations. Some sites, like the city of Hasankeyf, remain under the threat of flooding due to nearby construction. Others, like the Renaissance Monastery of San Benedetto Po, near Mantova, Italy, remain so damaged from earth quakes that any future natural disasters could close the site to visitors.

Europa Nostra plans to whittle down the 14 to a list of seven which highlight the most endangered landmarks in Europe by June 16. The winners, if you want to call them that, will receive "rescue teams" of Europa Nostra's heritage experts and financial specialists to visit the seven sites and develop action plans. Rescue teams will later reconvene in Brussels, Belgium in December to share their results at the European Heritage Policy Conference.

Berlin's Gas Lamps, Germany

Video killed the radio star and now it looks like modern electricity may kill off Berlin's iconic series of gas lamps. The series of gas street lights are still perfectly functional and remain historically valuable (not to mention they add a touch of romance) to Berlin.

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