

Chapter 46

Trip to the Museums

The Hermitage Museum

Founded in 1764 by Catherine the Great, the Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia is a massive museum of art and culture, containing a collection of over 3 million items spanning the globe. A popular tourist attraction, the Hermitage is truly one of the best museums in the world. It display priceless works by Rembrandt, Da Vinci, Michealangelo Reubens and more. The collections occupy a large complex of six historic buildings including the Winter Palace, a former residence of Russian emperors.





The Prado Museum

One of the top museums in Spain, the Prado Museum in Madrid features some of the best collections of European art, from the 12th century to the early 19th century. The best known works on display at the museum are the Majas de Goya (La Maja Vestida and La Maja Desnuda) and Las Meninas by Velazques. Velazques not only provided the Prado with his own works, but his keen eye and sensibility was also responsible for bringing much of the museum's fine collection of Italian masters to Spain.

The Museo Nacional de Antropologia

The Museo Nacional de Antropologia (or National Museum of Anthropology) in Mexico City contains archaeological artifacts from the pre-Columbian heritage of Mexico. Opened in 1964, the museum has a number of significant exhibits, such as the giant stone heads of the Olmec Civilization and the Sacred Cenote from Chichen Itza. The most famous artifact however is the Stone of the Sun which was actually not used as a calendar but does contain 20 day signs and the 4 eras of suns that preceded the current 5th sun.





The National Palace Museum

The National Palace Museum in Taipei has the largest collection of ancient Chinese artifacts and artworks in the world. The museum was originally established as the Palace Museum in Beijing's Forbidden City in 1925, shortly after the expulsion of the last emperor of China. In the final years of the Chinese Civil are the most prized items in the museum's collection were moved to Taiwan. By the time the items arrived in Taiwan, the communist army had already seized control of the Palace Museum.

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The Museum of Modern Art

The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), located in Midtown Manhattan in New York City is often identified as the most influential museum of modern art in the world. It arguably contains the best collection of modern masterpieces world-wide including Monet's Water Lilies, Picasso's Les Demoiselles d'Avignon, and Van Gogh's Starry Night. In addition to the artwork, one of the main draws of MoMA is the building itself. A maze of glass walkways permit art viewing from many angles. In 2004 a $425 million face-lift by Yoshio Taniguchi increased the exhibition space of the museum by nearly 50%.





The Rijksmuseum

The Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam is the largest and most prestigious museum for art and history in the Netherlands. It has a large collection of paintings from the Dutch Golden Age including works by Vermeer and Rembrandt. Until 2013, the museum was being completely renovated, but the major masterpieces are still on show.

Think Fast

Answer the following questions with the help of given options :

1. The word museum comes from mouscian which means 'the seat of the muses' in which language?
   (a) Latin ☐ (b) Spanish ☐ (c) Italian ☐ (d) Greek ☐
2. In which Italian city you find the Uffizi Gallery?
   (a) Florence ☐ (b) Venice ☐ (c) Rome ☐ (d) Pisa ☐
3. In which city is the national museum of China?
   (a) Wuhan ☐ (b) Beijing ☐ (c) Shangai ☐ (d) Dalian ☐
4. When was the metropolitan museum of Art in New York city established?
   (a) 1865 ☐ (b) 1875 ☐ (c) 1870 ☐ (d) 1890 ☐
5. Which type of museum is the 'Musce Greuin' in Paris?
   (a) Folk museum ☐ (b) Children museum ☐
   (c) Science museum ☐ (d) Wax museum ☐

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