

No trip without a monument

A foray into International Monuments Day on April 18, when attention is paid to the world's monuments.

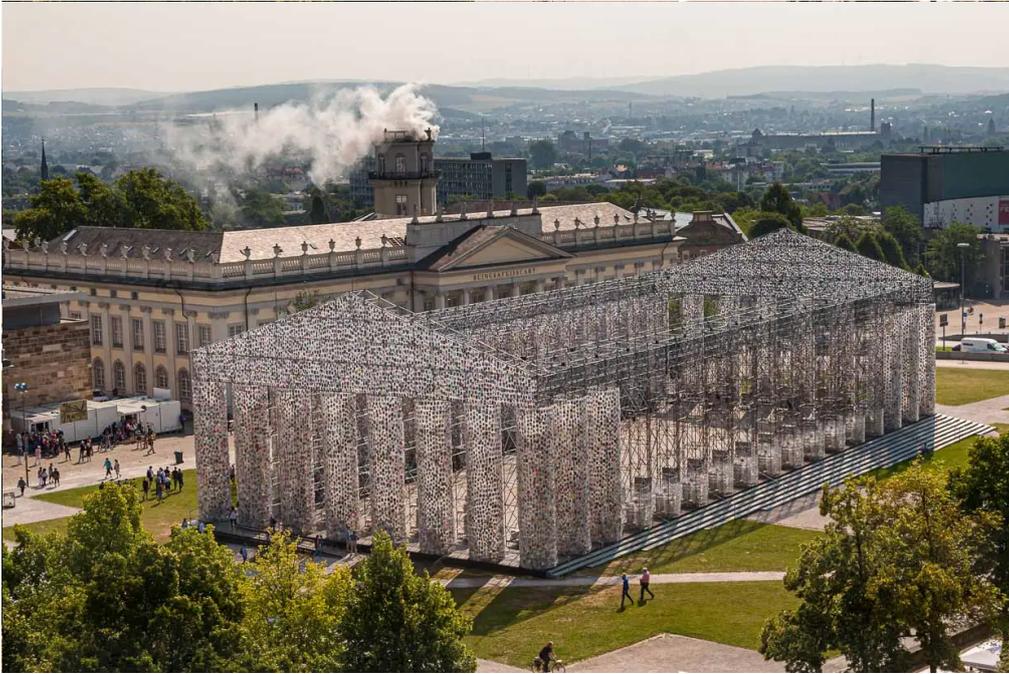
We encounter them particularly often in cities. They are an expression of their time. monuments of history. Glorification carved in stone or an expression of a hard-fought culture of remembrance. Some have become works of art over time, others started out as works of art and went from food for thought to monuments. Still others were created by nature and are venerated by man as a monument. What all monuments in the world have in common is their contribution to education. Without them we would all return from a trip a little less educated. So there are enough reasons to put together a small selection on the occasion of International Heritage Day, which is celebrated on April 18 every year.



The classic monument: Corinthian columns in the landscape. Here in Laodikeia near Pamukkale, Turkey / © Photo: Georg Berg

Art and monuments in Kassel

In the year of [documenta fifteen](#) there is no getting around Kassel. Because Kassel is peppered with works of art that have become monuments. Every five years, as part of the documenta, the city becomes a large stage for contemporary art and also works with the existing monuments. They are cloaked, emit smoke signals or have a temple placed next to them. This all happened at the last [documenta 2017](#) . There will be more reports on documenta fifteen in 2022. Just so much, [Lumbung](#) , the Indonesian rice barn, will matter.



Parthenon of books by Argentine artist Marta Minujin at documenta 14 in Kassel. The construction, which in its dimensions is a replica of the temple on the Acropolis, became more massive and equipped with more books every day. The installation "Expiration Movement" smokes in the background in the Zehrenturm. / © Photo: Georg Berg

High density of monuments in the city

In the cities we often walk past many monuments. Their density is simply too high. If you wanted to understand them all and explore the backgrounds, you wouldn't get anywhere in many cities. Bamberg is such a case. Beautiful area monument, rich world cultural heritage, beautiful old town, tempting inns and restaurants. That doesn't mean that you should avoid a city with a lot of history potential, you just have to make a choice. In Bamberg we focused [on beer](#) instead of baroque. In the city center alone there are 13 breweries and 50 different types of beer. The world cultural heritage in Bamberg not only includes the old town, but also the [gardener 's town](#). Bamberg families have been cultivating historic cultivated areas in the middle of the city for centuries. A very special monument.



The towers of the Bamberg Cathedral of St. Peter and St. George behind a chestnut tree and other buildings in the mountain town of Bamberg / © Photo: Georg Berg

Monument in the country - mystical places

In the country, the perception of monuments is different. If a monument is on a hill, on a cliff, at the end of a lake or in the middle of a sheep pasture, the opposite often happens. One is drawn to these remnants of the past. Here are examples from the often mystical countries of Scotland and Ireland.



Here stands the sea god Manannan Mac Lir and of course one stops at such a place, no matter how windy it is. Gortmore is a stunning viewpoint on Bishop's Road in Northern Ireland and forms part of the Causeway Coastal Route. On a clear day you can see Donegal and the islands of Islay and Jura on the west coast of Scotland from here. How good that the sea god has stopped us! / © Photo: Georg Berg

natural monuments

Then there are the monuments that nature has created. Some of them attain deity status. For example Mount Fuji in Japan. In the city of Fujinomiya there is even the Mount Fuji World Heritage Center. The city is located at the foot of Mount Fuji in Shizuoka Prefecture. Fujinomiya is the city closest to Japan's Bright Mountain. Only in a short time window in the summer months is it possible to climb the 3,776 meter high and holy mountain of Japan. In all other months a visit to the museum remains.



Fuji usually hides behind a veil of clouds and is therefore worshiped as a shy goddess in Japan / © Photo: Georg Berg

Sigiriya Rock Fortress in Sri Lanka is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. If one correctly interprets the historical graffiti lying on the ascent of the megalith, it is arguably one of the world's oldest tourist attractions. After a steep and quite arduous ascent, one is rewarded with a breathtaking view down from the rock fortress over the rice fields to a mountain range

Everyone is a monument or the satirical ME

Last but not least, a look at Kassel. The red sandstone base, on which *ICH* is written in capital letters, was made by the Kassel stone sculptor Siegfried Böttcher according to the plans of the satirist Hans Traxler. The ICH Monument is an invitation to everyone to rise up and feel unique. Unfortunately, there are more and more people who always have such a base in their heads and have not the slightest doubt about their uniqueness. The selfie queen in the background of the photo seems to belong to this not so rare species.



We had to wait a long time for this photo. Because the lady on the park bench took forever to take a picture of herself on the base with a selfie stick / © Photo: Georg Berg

material

Our work is inspired by human encounters and repeated culinary discoveries. Which format do you need? A report with news value, an entertaining report, a short travel tip or a picture gallery? At the international photo agency Alamy you will find a large selection of photos by Georg Berg on the subject of [memorials and monuments](#) . Clicking on one of the pictures below will take you directly to the agency picture.





Angela Berg
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