



# EUROPE

GLOBAL HERITAGE FUND WORKS TO CONSERVE ANCIENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES REPRESENTING THE EARLIEST CIVILIZATIONS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE, FROM CROATIA TO TURKEY TO THE UKRAINE AND RUSSIA. THE ANCIENT CITY AND CHORA OF CRIMEAN TAURIC CHERSONESOS ON THE BLACK SEA, WHERE GHF FUNDED CONSERVATION OF THREE SITES IN 2002, IS TYPICAL OF THE WEALTH IN HISTORY OF SETTLEMENT WITH RUINS REPRESENTING GREEK, ROMAN AND BYZANTINE SETTLEMENTS. THE ANCIENT CITY OF ÇATALHÖYÜK OF ANATOLIA IN MODERN-DAY CENTRAL TURKEY WAS POSSIBLY THE LARGEST HUMAN SETTLEMENT KNOWN TO EXIST IN 6000 BC. NEOLITHIC SETTLEMENTS FOUND IN THE BALKANS, CENTRAL EUROPE AND GEORGIA EVIDENCE THE LONG HISTORY OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION ACROSS THE REGION.

MONUMENTAL ARCHITECTURE AND MAJOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES FROM BEFORE AD 1000 PROVIDE A LONG LIST OF EXCELLENT POTENTIAL SITES FOR GHF INVESTMENT. HOWEVER, CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES IS NOT A HIGH PRIORITY FOR MANY COUNTRIES IN THE REGION FACED WITH THEIR OWN ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AND POPULATION PRESSURES. MANY GLOBAL HERITAGE SITES LIE ABANDONED AND NEGLECTED; THE SITUATION IS COMPOUNDED BY A LACK OF REGIONAL RESOURCES AND A NASCENT TOURISM INDUSTRY.

42° 40' N, 18° 7' E



**DUBROVNIK** Croatia  
AD 600 – 1600  
Croatian

49° 0' N, 20° 47' E



**SPIŠSKÝ HRAD** Slovakia  
Approx AD 1200 – 1800  
Hungarian, Slovak

59° 26' N, 24° 43' E



**TALLINN** Estonia  
AD 900 – Present

38° 0' N, 31° 34' E



**ÇATALHÖYÜK** Turkey  
7000 – 5000 BC  
Neolithic

44° 36' N, 33° 32' E



**TAURIC CHERSONESOS** Ukraine  
600 BC – AD 1400  
Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine

35° 18' N, 25° 10' E



**KNOSSOS** Greece  
3000 – 1000 BC  
Minoan

38° 45' N, 27° 15' E



**NEMRUT DAG** Turkey  
100 BC – AD 10  
Commagene Kingdom

35° 50' N, 14° 27' E



**MNAJDRA TEMPLES** Malta  
3600 – 2500 BC  
Neolithic



**DUBROVNIK** Croatia

AD 600 – 1600  
Croatian

The fortified medieval city of Dubrovnik, located on the eastern Adriatic coast of Croatia, was renowned as one of the leading port cities in the Mediterranean during the 13th century. A diverse array of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architecture is found within the city's stone walls, including the spectacular Lovrijenac and Revelin Fortresses. Dubrovnik sustained serious damage in the 1990s when it was struck by more than 2000 Serbian missiles, hindering restoration efforts in the city.

**TALLINN** Estonia

AD 900 – Present  
Estonian, Danish, Germanic, Russian

Founded in the 10th century AD, Tallinn is renowned as one of the most beautifully preserved medieval commercial towns in northern Europe. The historic center is divided into two distinct regions. Built on the steep slope of Toompea Hill, the Upper Town is well-known for its exquisite cathedral. The adjacent Lower Town, surrounded by a massive medieval-style fortification, boasts an abundance of magnificent architecture. Despite the ravages of fire and war, most of the city's opulent cathedrals, public buildings and medieval-style homes remain relatively intact due to the fortifications. In recent years, an exponential increase in modern construction in Tallinn, coupled with development proposals in heritage areas, have threatened the preservation of this historic site.



**KNOSSOS** Greece

3000 – 1000 BC  
Minoan

The earliest evidence of habitation at Knossos, on the Greek island of Crete, dates back to the Neolithic Period. At its height, during the New Palace Period (1700–1450 BC) Knossos was the most powerful city in Crete, boasting a monumental administrative and religious central building and a town of 5000–8000 inhabitants. The most important structure at Knossos is the Great Palace, which covered an area of 7800 square miles and contained 1400 rooms. The convoluted floor plan — a jumble of rooms connected by a maze of narrow passageways — probably gave rise to the theory that this was the palace of the mythical King Minos, beneath which lay the labyrinth of the Minotaur. Misguided excavation and reconstruction efforts at the site in the early 1900s have caused long-term damage, which is only now coming to light. The other threat to the site is the multitude of tourists who visit Knossos every year. An example of the damage that can be caused is seen in the palace's Monumental Staircase. Millions of people have climbed the staircase — which is now cordoned off — and essentially flattened it, leaving what now resembles a ramp.

**MNAJDRA TEMPLES** Malta

3600 – 2500 BC  
Neolithic

The extraordinary prehistoric temples at Mnajdra have been identified as the oldest free-standing structures in the world. The complex is made up of two large, circular temples and a small, three-lobed structure, all built on high ground facing the sea. The outer walls are constructed of blocks of coarse coralline limestone, while the inside is made up of softer slabs of globigerina limestone which has been polished, rubbed smooth and decorated with spiral carvings and circular drillings. The megaliths at the site have been in existence for more than 5000 years, but recent events coupled with natural erosion from the climate have posed a major threat to the temples' preservation. A violent rainstorm in 1996 caused some portions of the temples to collapse. Vandals have also attacked the temples, defacing and toppling a number of megaliths.





### SPIŠSKÝ HRAD Slovakia

AD 1200 – 1780  
Hungarian, Slovak

Spišský Hrad is one of the largest medieval castles in central Europe, covering an area of more than ten square miles. The castle sits atop a hill and was first mentioned by King Andrew II in 1209. At this time, Spišský Hrad was already the economic, cultural and administrative center of Spiš county, in large part due to its location at the cross-roads of medieval merchant routes connecting all corners of Europe. Until 1465, the castle remained royal property and belonged to the Kings of Hungary. Following that year Spišský Hrad was purchased by a succession of noble families.

**ÇATALHÖYÜK** Turkey

7000 – 5000 BC  
Neolithic

Çatalhöyük was the first urban center in the world (7000 BC) and features the first wall paintings and sculptures. The spectacular art left behind provides a glimpse of life 9000 years ago, giving us an important key to furthering our understanding of the origins of agriculture and civilization. Since 1993 an international team of archaeologists, led by GHF Advisory Board member Dr. Ian Hodder, has been carrying out new excavations and research, in order to shed more light on the people who inhabited the site. A permit was granted to the Çatalhöyük Research Trust to begin a twenty-five-year site conservation program. Presently, conservators are working to prevent the imminent collapse of sections of a 330-foot wall that contains bas-reliefs and paintings.



**NEMRUT DAG** Turkey

100 BC – AD 10  
Commagene Kingdom

Mt. Nemrut (Nemrut Dag), located in southeastern Turkey, is home to one of the most fascinating and spectacular archaeological sites in the country. A 160-foot high tumulus (burial mound), gigantic statues, stepped pyramids and expertly carved reliefs can be found at this remarkable site. Preservation efforts are needed, however, as its remote location and lack of resources for scientific conservation continue to plague this unique heritage site. Set upon the peak of a 7050-foot high mountain, the stone statues and monuments stand unprotected from the harsh elements. Few of the statues remain intact, as a series of earthquakes have toppled most of the heads from their bodies.





## TAURIC CHERSONESOS

Ukraine

600 BC – AD 1400  
Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine

The ancient Greek colony of Tauric Chersonesos, situated in the extreme south-west corner of Crimea in Ukraine, was founded in the sixth century BC by colonists from Heraklea Pontikamajor, and survived as a Roman and Byzantine outpost until destruction by the Tartars in the 14th century AD. It is one of two sites worldwide that contain the best-preserved evidence of the organization of ancient Greek agricultural territories. It is also a site that has been occupied by many civilizations, a contact zone on the frontier between the various Greek, Taurian, Scythian, Goth, and Hun areas. Few human settlements have endured as long (nearly two thousand years) or left such outstanding monuments of Greek, Roman and Byzantine civilizations in a beautiful natural setting. Conservation efforts at the site are hampered by an ongoing dispute over site governance, continuous exposure to visitors, weathering and a lack of a successful cultural resource management strategy.