

Nomination of
The GREAT
SPAS *of Europe*



for inclusion on the
World Heritage
List

Volume I: Justification for Inscription
and Comparative Analysis



3. Justification for Inscription

3.1.a Brief synthesis

Water has long been a catalyst for the development of significant cultural practices that have generated both tangible and intangible cultural values. This includes the use of water at spas. Archaeological evidence indicates that natural thermal mineral water has been universally used from the earliest times. In ancient Greece, thermal bathing was combined with physical exercise, whilst in the Roman Empire massive bathing complexes (thermae) became cultural centres of sociability and entertainment and were directly associated with urbanism (the tradition survived in Byzantium and was adapted by Muslim culture). Thermal bathing traditions became, and remain, a cultural tradition in other parts of the world, such as the onsen in Japan. But it is mainly in Europe that, for centuries, the use of mineral water (thermal and cold) for bathing and drinking has been medicalised. Medical diagnosis developed in European spas during the eighteenth century, following the first scientific chemical analyses of mineral waters, and this reached its peak between the second half of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century. The tradition of ‘taking the cure’ is at the core of a unique urban typology, the European spa, the only example of urbanisation around a medical practice.

The Great Spas of Europe is a transnational serial property of eleven spa towns located in seven European countries: *Baden bei Wien* (Austria); *Spa* (Belgium); the ‘Bohemian Spa Triangle’ of *Karlovy Vary*, *Františkovy Lázně* and *Mariánské Lázně* (Czech Republic); *Vichy* (France); *Bad Ems*, *Baden-Baden* and *Bad Kissingen* (Germany); *Montecatini Terme* (Italy); and *City of Bath* (United Kingdom).

The Great Spas of Europe provides exceptional testimony to the European spa phenomenon. This is a complex urban, social and cultural phenomenon that has its roots in antiquity but gained its highest expression from around 1700 to the 1930s in the most dynamic regions of Europe. These fashionable resorts of health, leisure and sociability were the only European settlement type to be in cultural competition with the great metropolises. They created a new urban typology with a specific form, function and architecture that has no earlier parallel, gaining a distinguished place in the architectural and social history of urbanism, as well as in pioneering nascent modern tourism.

A serial nomination is necessary to capture the geography of this network of water cure towns, its historical geopolitical scale, and the diversity of spa history and style. The nominated property represents the complete development of the range of both tangible and intangible ‘spa’ attributes, through time, that convey its overall significance. Each spa town developed around natural ‘curative’ geothermal and mineral springs which, depending on their variable qualities, were prescribed for specific conditions. The springs were the catalyst for an innovative urban plan, a model of spatial organisation, built features and open spaces that exemplified function and process. This model was designed for a cultural practice characterised by a distinctive arrangement and daily itinerary of the spa guest that served many curative, therapeutic and social functions.

Ensembles of spa buildings include architectural prototypes, such as baths, pump rooms, drinking halls, medical treatment facilities, and colonnades and galleries designed to harness the natural mineral water resource and to allow its practical and sustainable use for bathing and drinking. ‘Taking the cure’, externally and internally, was complemented firstly by related meeting and assembly rooms, together with entertainment and other visitor facilities such as casinos (gaming was endemic throughout Europe and held to be essential for the spa), theatres, hotels and villas. The ensembles were also supported by essential infrastructure of railways, as well as funicular railways. All are integrated into an overall urban context that includes a carefully managed recreational environment of parks, gardens, promenades, sports facilities, woodland walks and rides. These buildings connect visually and physically with their picturesque setting of idealised nature.

The Great Spas of Europe marks the greatest developments in the traditional medical uses of mineral spring water by Enlightenment physicians across Europe. The nominated property represents the largest, most dynamic and economically successful urban resorts, with a fashionable and internationally oriented dimension. They radically changed spa treatment and made significant progress in developing scientific principles of balneology, hydrotherapy, crenotherapy and other advances such as major contributions to the evolution of diagnostic medicine. This medical heritage had a profound impact on development of the towns and their popularity and economy as well as advances in a wider personal health and wellness phenomenon.

As elite places in terms of scientific, political, social and cultural achievements, they initiated the transformation of European society through the reduction of the gap between the elite and a growing middle class. Their contribution to the development of European polite society is further characterised by intangible heritage as places of major political events and of a special creative atmosphere that inspired works of high-art in music, literature and painting that are of outstanding universal significance.

Around 1800 there were only around a hundred places that could be called embryonic spas, having reached a degree of development that distinguishes them as spa towns according to a discrete and unique combination of attributes. By the end of the nineteenth century there were more than a thousand. The series was therefore selected from the many spa towns that were generally active around 1900 and the post war years up to 1930. Those which have been chosen constitute a coherent and representative series of the global phenomenon and which are endowed with the elements that exemplify the attributes of proposed Outstanding Universal Value, to the most remarkable degree, and with undeniable authenticity and integrity.

The Great Spas of Europe is still the heir of the network of European spa towns that emerged in the nineteenth century. The constitution of the series rests not only on the present exceptional qualities of these cities, but on a common history; they themselves have contributed to founding the concept of spa, materially and conceptually. They made a major contribution to the development of the spa culture represented by these original urban structures with their prestigious buildings and parks which embody an essential experience of the relationship between urban living, worldliness and nature. The development of European spa towns thus generated a form of hierarchy between spas with only regional influence, others whose reputation and guests remained strictly national, and “great” spas that reach an international reputation. The series thus represents the pinnacle of the European spa tradition.

The successful management, economic and/or medical success of the series has succeeded in controlling growth and in maintaining original purpose and an enduring atmosphere. They continue their sustainable function as dependable curative venues for body, mind and spirit that ensure their continued contribution to European culture, behaviour and customs.

3.1.b Criteria under which inscription is proposed (and justification for inscription under these criteria)

The Great Spas of Europe is testimony to important innovative ideas from spa towns that influenced development of modern European towns from the eighteenth century to the early twentieth century, and to the exchange of ideas and values in the development of balneology, medicine, arts and leisure activities.

Criterion (ii)

There is a very early circulation of ideas, habits, architectural models, medical innovations and resort actors, characterised by an ease of flow across geographic boundaries. The spas, however, sought competitive advantage and observed developments in leading spa towns in order to adopt the latest discoveries and evolutions, and were swift to offer new amenities to the vacationers, and the latest trends of spa fashion. This influenced the popularity and development of spa towns and balneology in other parts of the world.

The selected spa towns, centred on curative natural mineral springs, reflect different development processes that are influenced by diverse geopolitics and economic factors; some are characterised by State engagement, and others by private enterprise. Spas were promoted regularly, and spa infrastructure was adjusted to respond to developments in medical science and advice, changing socio-economics, an increase in leisure time, and to satisfy the demand of visitors for cure and relaxation.

The Great Spas of Europe became centres for experiment, contributing to the eighteenth century Enlightenment which introduced radical change to the then prevailing attitude towards science, medicine, nature and art. This influenced the creation and design of new cosmopolitan spaces and buildings for meeting and communicating, and innovation of international importance. Distinguished national and international architects designed buildings.

The towns were designed to respect and intermingle with nature, offering places to stay and relax with health treatments available according to visitors' means and preferences. The spa culture and the pursuit of well-being further extend the influence of *The Great Spas of Europe* to the early development of other mineral water spas, sea-bathing, climatic and gambling resorts throughout the world.

Criterion (iii)

The Great Spas of Europe bears exceptional testimony to the conscious care for human health which was developed around natural mineral springs in Europe, and to the specific cosmopolitan spa culture created by a remarkable cultural and social phenomenon which flourished from the eighteenth century to the early twentieth century; and which continues to thrive today as a living tradition.

The spa towns were exceptional places for the reception and transmission of the transnational trends and the values of the Enlightenment. This commanded a new concept of relations between Europeans, between classes and also between men and women. Spas ensure, despite the vagaries of politics, a form of continuity of a transnational cultural and social ideal, a truly European spirit borne with the Enlightenment. They encouraged, and became the reference for, new customs and the business of hospitality.

The defining characteristic of European spa culture centres on the regime of 'taking the cure', a combination of medical aspects (bathing, drinking, inhaling) and leisure, including entertainment and social activities (including gambling, theatre, music, dancing) as well as taking physical exercise and sport within an outdoor therapeutic spa landscape. By the eighteenth century, balneology had become established as a medical discipline. At the same time, *The Great Spas of Europe* were at the forefront of the development of the spa vacation, with its focus on 'taking the cure', entertainment, leisure and recreation, at a place where the landscape merged naturally with the picture of the town. These were resort destinations that attracted first the aristocracy, and then the growing ambitious middle classes of a group of industrialising and increasingly wealthy European nations. They became world-class cultural attractions; prototypes of a nascent European tourist industry that were managed to provide a safe and pleasurable experience. At the same time, *The Great Spas of Europe* provides important testimony to advances in medicine brought forward by spa doctors, chemists and balneologists. From the eighteenth century onwards, the spas variously pioneered the discipline of diagnoses and prescribing new kinds of cures, healthy diets and physical exercise.

Criterion (iv)

The Great Spas of Europe is an outstanding example of a specific urban settlement centred on natural mineral springs and devoted to health and leisure. Central to this is its value as an urban model. Unlike any other type of settlement from the eighteenth century, these towns have combined architecture, progressive town planning and landscape design into the built and natural environments both functionally, visually and economically.

These spa towns, with their spa quarters and suburbs, are integrated with their surrounding landscapes, collectively managed to aid health and are still being used for exercise as part of the cure and enjoyment. Bespoke spa buildings of great quality determine the character of the towns, and distinguished architects designed many. These buildings served as exemplars for similar spa buildings in Europe and the world.

The principal spa ensemble includes 'kurhaus', pump rooms and drinking halls, colonnades and galleries, meeting and assembly rooms, bathing and treatment facilities, hospitals, sanatoria, casinos, concert, theatre and opera houses, shops, hotels and villas, churches of various denominations, and support infrastructure which are set within a green environment of parks, gardens, pleasure grounds, promenades, rides and woodland walks.

The Great Spas of Europe displays a remarkable international character and global reputation, and is an exceptional testimony to the living cultural tradition of the European spa. Cosmopolitanism is inherent in all spas within the series, and many visitors travelled to several of the towns within this well-identified group. Spas became “vectors of a transnational culture”, nodes in an international network of health and leisure. As a result, visiting spas became a significant part of the origins of modern tourism, a legacy of the eighteenth century that survived into the nineteenth century despite the rise of nationalisms. Indeed, spa towns acted as neutral spaces in this context.

The tangible attributes of *The Great Spas of Europe* are associated with, and directly linked to, exceptional social, political, medical, scientific and cultural ideas and achievements that helped to shape European democratic traditions and ideals from the eighteenth century to the early twentieth century. As international meeting places and centres the towns frequently hosted gatherings of prominent figures in science, the arts and humanities, and provided venues for meetings of European rulers, politicians and diplomats, national elites and international high society.

The towns reflected the climate of the Enlightenment and this embraced religious tolerance that is demonstrated by numerous churches of different religions in all towns of the series. *The Great Spas of Europe* played the role of the “salons and summer capitals of Europe”, where the former barriers between class and gender were relaxed and a common freedom and equality characterised their progressive social climate.

These destination resorts were sources of inspiration for artistic and literary works of universal significance. They were host to many original works conceived, performed or exhibited for the first time by composers and musicians, writers and poets, painters, sculptors and architects. *The Great Spas of Europe* contributed to a transformation of society that helped to reduce the gap between the elite and a growing middle class and in a significant way supported the development of a civil and multi-cultural European polite society that we recognise today. Apart from the elite European capital cities, no other form of urban settlement provided such a range of global cultural interchange during this period.

Significance: attributes and features

Attributes and features	Description	Physical elements described in section 2a
Mineral springs	Natural geothermal, and cold water, mineral springs, their variation in qualities between component parts (and within them), together with their water management.	Springs and their water qualities; Spring abstraction mechanisms, outlet covers, faucets and other structures; Spring water distribution facilities; Fountains.
Spa historic urban landscape	Innovative and progressive urban design and its interaction with specific natural features. Specific spatial planning of spa towns that reflects a new urban typology that has no earlier parallel.	Geology, topography, geomorphology and hydrology; Distinctive urban plan of the spa town that defines a shared form and function between all component parts, but that is reflected by characteristic variations in each component part; Spa ensembles of buildings and spaces, gardens and parks, parades and promenades; Setting.
Spa architecture	Form and design of buildings and structures developed for medicinal and curative purposes, for leisure, meeting and communicating, including international clubs. Accommodation for spa clientele, including international hotels and villas.	Spa prototypes and spa buildings of great diversity and quality, including pavilions, pump rooms, drinking halls, baths and pools, fountains, hospitals, treatment rooms, colonnades, promenades and bridges, bottling and salt extraction, pastille-making, casinos, assembly rooms, reading rooms, concert halls, music pavilions, theatres, opera houses, galleries and museums, churches and cemeteries, grand hotels, lodgings, palatial and diverse styles of grand villas.
Therapeutic and recreational spa landscape	Designed open spaces and setting for spa towns, and management of the wider landscape to create therapeutic walks, opportunities for exercise, sport and leisure.	Recreational parkland and pathways; Designed woodland walks, rides and drives; Funicular railways; Hillside trails; Watchtowers and viewpoints; Restaurants, cafes and bars in the spa landscape; Sports facilities (golf courses, tennis courts, horse racecourses); Designed picturesque setting; Vistas.
Spa support infrastructure	Early and technically advanced, and distinctive spa-specific, support infrastructure.	Spa headquarters; Railway stations, railways and funiculars; Administrative buildings; Spring water bottling facilities; Salt extraction and production facilities; Abattoirs; Canalisation; Spring water supply pipelines.
Continuing spa function	The regime of 'taking the cure', together with its associated activities, represents a continued sustainable function, and a continued living tradition with a distinctive contribution to identity and sense of place.	Traditional spa features that remain in use; New complementary developments that sustain the cultural practices of the spa tradition, integrate social values and contemporary economic processes/functionality, and that are sympathetic to proposed World Heritage values.
Scientific, artistic and literary values, events and cultural tradition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Achievements in spa science and other scientific, social and cultural fields; b) Fashionable places that are associated with works of "high-art" in music, literature and painting; c) Centres of political gravity and events; d) Religious and spiritual tolerance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Places and specific buildings where significant progress in developing scientific principles of balneology, hydrotherapy, crenotherapy and other medical diagnostics that relate to mineral water were made (and other scientific, social and cultural achievements). Places which helped to transform society, and which created transferable modes of sociability; b) Places where "high-art" was originated or performed for the first time; c) Places of major political events and/or where many important decisions were made; d) Churches, synagogues and other religious facilities of various denominations related to an international and multicultural spa clientele.

Fig. 8. Attributes and features that collectively convey the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property are reflected in the above aspects of the historic urban landscape that are contained within each component part

3.1.c Statement of Integrity

The eleven component parts that comprise *The Great Spas of Europe* contain, as a whole, all interrelated elements necessary to express proposed Outstanding Universal Value. The series broadly represents a group of the most exceptional examples of European spa towns that is essential for the complete contribution of the range of attributes that fully define the unique urban typology and distinctive characteristics of a “great” European spa. All component parts share a set of determining characteristics formed during the most significant “culture-creating” phase of their history and development, the heyday period from around 1700 to the 1930s, and each continues to function in the purpose for which it was originally designed.

The series illustrates the continental spread of the European spa phenomenon through time, and the entire development of its range of most significant tangible features and processes, capturing the most significant, successful and fashionable ‘hotspots’ of a living cultural tradition with long-standing and enduring origin. Each component part makes a specific and essential contribution to overall compositional integrity through variable and unique combinations of attributes. These encompass the diversity of mineral springs and their water qualities (the *raison d'être* of the spa, which maintained a profound influence on development), corresponding spatial arrangements of the spa town that functions around the spa quarter (designed to harness the resource and to allow its practical use for bathing and drinking), characteristic facilities complementary to ‘taking the cure’ and related visitor facilities (assembly rooms, casinos, theatres, hotels and villas), and spa-specific support infrastructure (from water piping systems and salts production to railways and funiculars); all integrated into an overall urban context that includes a carefully managed recreational and therapeutic environment in a picturesque landscape. The historical relationship between component parts is akin to an international network of resort towns patronised by an international clientele, often moving from one spa to another (from emperors and royalty, to composers, artists and poets), with each spa town sharing functional linkages that range from a dynamic interchange of ideas (for example architects and spa physicians moving between the most innovative and successful spas) to special rail itineraries for spa tourism.

Boundaries are determined in a strategic manner: to be of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the significance of the nominated property, whilst also recognising the strength and specific contribution that each component part makes to compositional integrity of the series as a whole. Buffer zones are drawn not only for the direct protection of the nominated property, but also for the specific protection of spring catchments and of important setting.

All component parts and their constituent elements are generally in good condition. Elements requiring conservation either have works already planned or are awaiting alternative uses, with their current state of conservation maintained. None are threatened, and all are adequately protected and managed; key considerations in the selection of component parts during comparative analyses. There have been continued additions to the historic environment in all component parts (as with any living property), particularly in some where the contemporary function (sustainable, and enduringly consistent with its origins) is subject to modern health and other requirements and expectations.

Integrity of Individual Component Parts

The delineation of the component part *Baden bei Wien* illustrates all key attributes that contribute to proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the series. The boundary of the nominated property includes all necessary areas that form the spa district (inclusive of all springs, key building ensembles and open spaces), the distinctive and highly significant villa belt (“Villengürtel”) together with the parks and the adjacent green areas representing the historic therapeutic and recreational spa landscape. Essential setting is contained partly within the property boundary and partly protected within the buffer zone (especially in the north where the Kurpark blends seamlessly with wooded hills of the Kalvarienberg, and in the west in the picturesque Helenental Valley).

The nominated property contains adequate standards of legal protection and allows an efficient management for the built environment as well as for green areas. Long-standing effective monuments protection-management, as well as high awareness among stakeholders for the necessity to preserve our common past, are responsible for the high level of integrity (including functional and visual integrity) at this component part.

All the attributes associated with a ‘Great Spa’ town that contribute to proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the series are preserved in the *Spa* component part. The boundary of the nominated property includes all of the widely distributed springs (both in the urban spa quarter in the north, and those that comprise the historic ‘Fountain Tour’ in the large wooded hillside area which climbs to the plateau of the High Fens in the south), all spa quarter building and spaces ensembles (including drinking, bathing, promenades, meeting places, parks and gardens, casinos and hotels), the villa belt on and around the higher ground and ridges to the north, and the entire therapeutic and recreational spa landscape and the immediate natural space of peaceful and picturesque woodland that responds to it. Visual integrity is high. The various buildings and public spaces, indeed the organisation of the whole town, testify to the lifestyle of the curists during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in particular.

The connection between the two principal zones in the north and south is made by the principal historical sources from the urban centre. During the nineteenth century, they supported the development of a walking (and carriage) network used by curists in search of exercise and contact with nature. Their names often keep the remembrance of the personalities who frequented the ‘Great Spa’. Concerns related to the protection of water quality prompted early and renewed protective measures that have contributed to preserving the integrity of the water management system and key features of the spa. In 2004, a new thermal centre was built on Annette and Lubin Hill overlooking the town (Thermes de *Spa*, sourcing mineral water from different springs and offering traditional balneotherapy in indoor and outdoor baths, peat baths, and contemporary programmes). It is linked by a new funicular railway to a modern hotel in the spa quarter. Some historic facilities (such as the Old Thermal Bath) have suffered superficially from minor neglect, but their state of conservation is stable and new projects are either planned or shortly awaiting decision.

1. *Baden bei Wien*

2. *Spa*

The component part of *Františkovy Lázně* represents a fully integral complex, much the same in content and appearance as the spa town at the end of its traditional development before World War II. All buildings and park areas, as well as the modified landscape areas containing the attributes of proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the series, lie within the nominated property. The urban core of the spa town lies within the centre of the component part and is distinguished by an orthogonal urban composition reflecting period principles of the town's foundation. This complex is surrounded by extensive parks, where individual spa buildings are located directly above the springs, predominantly in Classicist style. Directly connected with the main spa quarter, predominantly to the east and west, is the natural moorland landscape which has been modified artificially for various forms of spa promenades and activities. There are no adverse effects of development and no serious cases of neglect. The buffer zone is defined so that it supplements protection of the spa complex from an urban as well as architectonic point of view and will guarantee its visual integrity, including in its wider rural setting.

3. *Františkovy Lázně*

The component part of *Karlovy Vary* shows an extraordinary integrity of urbanism, architecture and spa functions, together with an adjacent and highly distinctive therapeutic and recreational spa landscape. It represents a compact and linear spa complex (guided by the distribution of a large number of springs distributed along a fault line/river valley) to the extent which was reached by this town at the end of its supreme prosperity before World War II. Across a large spa area (at 1,123 hectares, second only to the *City of Bath* in the series), an historic urban structure with an architectonically rich complex of spa buildings and complementary structures is preserved in an almost entirely intact condition. The integrity of the spa area is completed by the extended and well-tended therapeutic and recreational spa landscape surrounding the town to the west, east and south, containing a dense network of walking trails and other specific elements of walking infrastructure (shelters for visitors, pavilions, gazebos, viewpoints and view towers) connected to the town by historic funicular railways. Landscape facilities represent a purposeful extension of therapeutic possibilities for spa clients in the town, where the creation of a park area was limited by its location in a valley.

4. *Karlovy Vary*

The component's integrity has been little disturbed, in general, by partial building interventions in the 1970s and 1980s. However, the construction (1967-76) of the Hotel Thermal Spa meant the destruction of Chebská Street, with some important nineteenth century buildings such as the Art Nouveau Alice House, Mattoni's Villa and the Pošta Hotel. The modern complex includes a Convention Centre and dominates the Teplá River Valley in the northern spa quarter. The monolithic reinforced concrete structure apparently lacks harmony with the historic environment but nonetheless represents a Functionalist style landmark of the post-war socialist era by Czech architects that has always hosted medical/balneological programmes and the long-standing *Karlovy Vary* International Film Festival. The buffer zone is delineated to protect setting and to preserve visual integrity of the entire component part.

The component part of *Mariánské Lázně* includes all springs, buildings, parks and therapeutic and recreational spa landscape that represent one of the more extensive spas in Europe (at 835 hectares, the third largest in the series). The spa quarter illustrates an extraordinary high level of functional and visual integrity with respect to urbanism and architecture, as well as to all spa functions. It represents a 'Great Spa' in

5. *Mariánské Lázně*

appearance at the end of its supreme prosperity before World War II. The functional continuity of the spa industry has never been interrupted and the spa activities take place, to the larger extent, in historic buildings. The whole component part demonstrates the period of its foundation and successful development. Well-tended landscape facilities of a natural character create an integral supplement to the compact town and contain numerous preserved spa trails as well as mineral spring outflows.

Whilst there has been very little overall adverse effect of development, neglect of the state of conservation of The Kavkaz Spa House represents a current issue that awaits resolution. An appropriately large buffer zone protects the nominated property and an expansive setting

The component part of *Vichy* is focussed on the central spa quarter and is of an appropriate size to contain all principal attributes that are essential to *Vichy's* contribution to the series, including: the most outstanding aspects such as the thermal baths, casino, parks and promenades, pump rooms and arcades. These are all classed as Historic Monuments and do not suffer from adverse development or neglect. The thermal site, born from the conjunction of architecture and a natural level site along the banks of the Allier, is highly legible. Its most iconic buildings, the Casino and the Célestins, have been the object of scrupulous restoration.

6. *Vichy*

Walking remains the most resonant aspect of the component part; and of the wider historic town which is under the protection as a Remarkable Heritage Site. The site benefits from two protection zones for natural areas (the springs and the river valley) and these areas are meticulously maintained. Associated urbanism, the dammed river ('Lake' Allier), and the green space immediately to the west of the river that contains continuing sporting functions (equestrian, golf, tennis) are considered as important (protected) setting in the buffer zone.

The component part of the compact and highly legible 'Great Spa' of *Bad Ems* contains all attributes that are vital for the component part's contribution to the series. This includes: the entire essential urban layout of the spa town and the nineteenth century districts; almost all of the buildings shown on the map of 1862; the principal 'canalised' section of the River; and the steep therapeutic and recreational spa landscape (to the north and south), with its trails, overlooks and towers. In its original extension of the mid nineteenth century, the property is of an adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance and includes all elements necessary to express and to contribute to the outstanding universal value. The structural elements and urban facilities of the nineteenth century spa remain intact and do not suffer from adverse effects of development (apart from a minor intervention below the villas belt of a slightly over-scaled block of flats erected during the 1980s) or neglect. Visual integrity is outstanding, with the relationship between the historic spa ensemble and the surrounding landscape characterised by steep high hills being completely undisturbed.

7. *Bad Ems*

The structure of the town and its visual, functional and structural integrity can be understood from several high points and especially from the heights of the Bäderlei on the east side of the town. The buffer zone protects the nominated property, and contains important river valley setting to the north, south and west.

8. *Baden-Baden*

The component part of one of the largest 'Great Spas' contains all of the essential attributes that make its significant contribution to the series. The international and highly fashionable spa town of the nineteenth century is still confined and experienced in *Baden-Baden* within its borders of around 1920, with gentle transitions into the surrounding landscape. According to the elements that convey attributes of proposed Outstanding Universal Value, the property consists of the nineteenth century city layout, with the characteristic quarters of the old town, the spa district, the suburbs and the villa districts on the slopes of the Fremersberg and Annaberg. The property is largely preserved in structure, fabric and specific functions of the nineteenth century. New buildings (such as museums in the Lichtentaler Allee) and redesigns of squares exist within the property, but are generally very much in harmony with historic character and do not negatively affect visual integrity. No elements suffer from neglect.

The aesthetic effect of the cityscape of the nineteenth century is preserved almost in its entirety and is protected by an appropriately large buffer zone delineated to broadly surround the component part equally in all directions; the forested mountains on both sides of the nominated property, which appear to be very close due to their steepness, form the landscape setting for many prospects and perspectives within, and from outside, the city. The prospect of the city from many places in the surrounding landscape is known by historic sources and is undisturbed. Vulnerable perspectives are protected as parts of the nominated property itself or in the buffer zone.

The component part encompasses all those attributes and elements that are characteristic of a 'Great Spa', together with individual and specific contributions to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the series. The urban layout of the resort is included, with its central spa district, the mansion, hotel, and sanatorium neighbourhoods, the historical town centre, and the parks and gardens that meet the therapeutic and recreational spa landscape that all run in a north-south orientation of the river valley. These have been preserved as a largely unbroken whole.

9. *Bad Kissingen*

Minor changes to the urban layout primarily concern the construction site of the demolished Kurhaushotel next to the Kurgarten. During its history the form and design of the former building had been overhauled several times while its function remained the same. The development of a new construction on the site of the demolished Kurhaushotel, is at planning stage and aims at continuing the plot's historic function; the building will be carefully designed to blend in with its architectural surroundings. Secondly changes to the urban layout of the northern spa quarter need to be mentioned; the former widely extending graduation houses had been reduced in their quantity and size in the 1990s, a former saline bathing house as well as a café were lost in the 1960s in favour of a new clinic which had been erected in line with the plots function as a spa quarter and itself does no longer exist.

Essential elements include the Kurhaus, pump rooms and drinking halls, colonnades and foyers, meeting and assembly rooms, the gaming casino, bathing and treatment facilities, hospitals, sanatoriums, concert halls, theatres and opera houses, shops, hotels and villas, as well as churches of various denominations. A further, special, contribution is made by substantial spa support infrastructure such as the colossal abattoir in the south, and the exceptional saline production complexes in the north including pumping station, a (rebuilt) graduation tower for brine evaporation/concentration (including a natural inhalatorium), and a salt-works for the production of medicinal salt by boiling and crystallisation of brine. All are present and all preserved in their largely intact settings within the nominated property.

In the valley of the Saale River, and on the hillsides to the west, the transition into the historical spa therapeutic and recreational landscape remains largely unspoilt: the visual, functional and structural connections have been preserved in keeping with the historical layout and intentions. By contrast, the twentieth century town expansions extend along the eastern side of the valley, and when viewed from the west, some degree of development intrusion is visible in places. Looking outwards from within the nominated property, whether from the central spa district, the gardens and parks, or the historical town centre, the view appears almost completely unblemished. The property meets the requirement of integrity structurally, functionally and visually. There are no cases of neglect. A buffer zone surrounds the central spa district and the old town, and the therapeutic and recreational spa landscape in the north, south and (especially) the west. Motor traffic is strictly controlled in the spa district and in the old town centre.

The component part of *Montecatini Terme* contains all the elements that are essential to represent its original contribution to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the series. The therapeutic qualities of the Montecatini springs, already famous in the fifteenth century and entirely contained within the nominated property, have been described in numerous scientific essays. To this day *Montecatini Terme* has maintained the quality of the spa town acquired since the eighteenth century with the urban plan of Grand Duke Pietro Leopoldo of Lorena and furthermore developed as a spa and tourist centre in the nineteenth century, with the discovery of new springs and their consequent associated healing effects. Besides preserving its original urban plan, the inner urban core of the spa town has largely maintained the designed relationship between buildings, open spaces and the well-preserved therapeutic and recreational spa landscape. The city also maintains a continued use in most of its buildings and historical sites, much of it in original function. This includes historical infrastructure such as the old train station and the funicular railway and pathways that access historic Montecatini Alto, collectively contained within the nominated property with strong links as residences, workplaces and accommodation for doctors and spa guests and as a crucial picturesque setting that has a key presence in the spatial design of *Montecatini Terme*.

Magnificent buildings in the middle of gardens and parks were brought forward, all with colonnades, open galleries or lodges, and squares. These maintain fully their historic connection to the surrounding landscape. Despite some loss of parts of some of the building ensembles, adverse effects of development have long been under control. Neglect to some buildings, perpetuated by economic crises of the early twenty-first century, has resulted in an unkempt appearance rather than a decline in the state of conservation (which is stable). Plans for some buildings are coming to fruition whilst others await investment and viable adaptive reuse.

All of the principal attributes of the eighteenth and nineteenth century spa town are well-preserved and within the appropriately large nominated property (the largest component part of the series at 2,870 hectares). This includes the concentrated sources of the springs, the area of Georgian city planning and architecture, and large elements of the landscape within which the City is set. Despite the loss of some Georgian buildings prior to inscription of the *City of Bath* as a World Heritage Site in 1987, the spa buildings and the Georgian city remain largely intact both in terms of buildings and plan form. The Parades retain a prospect over the River Avon to the surrounding hills. The principal parks of Sydney Gardens and Royal Victoria Park continue in

10. *Montecatini Terme*

11. *City of Bath*

public use and are well-maintained. The Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases functions in the centre of the city. Other former hospital buildings in the centre of the city survive and are used for accommodation and an hotel. An extensive range of interlinked spaces formed by crescents, terraces and squares maintain harmonious relationships with the surrounding green therapeutic and recreational spa landscape. The relationship of the Georgian City to its setting of the surrounding hills remains clearly visible.

A modern spa complex, Bath Thermae, opened in 2006 and involved the restoration of five historic buildings and the creation of one new building of striking contemporary architecture and complex advanced engineering. Its realisation has restored a spa function to the city, and a former hospital and the Cross Bath have been brought back into modern spa use. As a modern City, Bath however remains vulnerable to large-scale development, demands for new housing and to transport pressures, both within the nominated property and its setting. Strong control is exercised via the planning system so that potential adverse impacts on its present open character, views across the property and to its green setting are avoided. There are no notable cases of the adverse effects of neglect in key buildings or spaces. There is no buffer zone, but effective protection and management of the setting – where the landscape of the City and its surroundings have been instrumental in the form and special character of the component part - was strengthened by the adoption of a Supplementary Planning Document in 2013.

3.1.d Statement of Authenticity

The Great Spas of Europe is a group of the most exceptional examples of a unique urban typology based on natural mineral springs. Together, the eleven component parts, in seven countries, constrain the full range of attributes necessary to express proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

Such attributes are manifest in a range of highly authentic elements that combine to convey clarity of meaning and understanding: mineral springs, in great diversity, that maintain their natural physical qualities including substance, location and setting; the spa historic urban landscape with its distinctive designed form and highly legible spatial layout, together with a well-maintained location and setting that combine to retain an enduring spirit and feeling; spa architecture, in pioneering form and design, original material and substance, that remains authentic even though some buildings have experienced compatible change of use; the spa therapeutic landscape that retains its form, design and function and continues to be used for the purpose for which it was designed; spa infrastructure, much of which is either original or evolved on original principles and remains in use; continuing spa function where original use and function is sustained, and the consequent evolution of form, structures and technology is evident in successive phases that continue to be complemented by new facilities that not only meet today's standards but enable a continued contribution to the tradition of spa therapy and wellness and the many specific activities relating to the spa season. All component parts are credible and genuine demonstrations of the building, architectural and landscape typologies for which nomination has been proposed. Their authenticity is evident in the degree to which the qualities relating to their type (excellence, uniqueness, representativeness, proto-typicality) may be clearly identified and understood, particularly through their surviving form, material (fabric) and continued use.

The authenticity of the urban layouts, buildings, open spaces and landscapes are demonstrably evident in the degree to which the interchanges (interactions, exchanges and influences) of human values, from which they result, may be identified and understood, particularly through their surviving material (fabric), form, cultural processes and traditions. All component parts are considered authentic as credible and genuine demonstrations and testimonies to a cultural tradition which originates in antiquity but which is still living. Their authenticity is evident in the degree to which the qualities of their testimonies (particularly in surviving form, function, materials and setting) may be clearly identified and understood. The authenticity of the living cultural tradition is evident in the degree to which the qualities of their testimonies may be identified and understood, particularly through the continuity of use of the sustainable and culturally meaningful use of the mineral water sources, their directly associated traditions and functions, and in relation to the spa ensemble and its setting. All component parts represent credible and genuine demonstrations of the associative values for which inscription has been proposed. Their authenticity is clearly evident in the degree to which their associative qualities may be identified and understood, particularly in the spirit and feeling that they manifest.

The nominated property - as a whole, and at the level of component parts and their constituent elements - meets the condition of authenticity that is necessary to qualify for inscription on the World Heritage List. The truthfulness and credible expression of attributes embodied in structures that date from around 1700 to the 1930s, the principal period of contribution to Outstanding Universal Value, is further evidenced during substantial and sustained conservation works that are informed by expansive archival collections of plans, documents, publications and photographs held at each component part.

Authenticity of individual component parts.

The spatial plan and the buildings in the spa quarter of *Baden bei Wien*, as well as in the “Villengürtel” (villa belt), have kept their original layouts to a high extent. Cautious conservation and restoration works were undertaken at regular intervals and were supervised by the town-construction office as well as by the Federal Monuments Protection Authority (Bundesdenkmalamt). Since the early twentieth century, the function of most of the spa-related buildings has remained unchanged. Compared with the “*Baedecker*” guidebook of 1911, which represents a reliable source in this regard, many buildings have kept their original function and as well as their architectural character. The close link between the urban structures and the surrounding therapeutic and recreational spa landscape has been well-preserved. Location and setting is exceptionally authentic.

1. Baden bei Wien

The high authenticity of *Spa* is reflected in the various buildings and public spaces, directly or indirectly related to spa activities: springs, baths, casino, theatres, hotels, villas, and festivals, ice-houses, railway stations and churches. International spa activity has always been the main function of the town and every neighbourhood; every street holds a witness to this activity.

2. Spa

The nominated property also testifies to the evolution from medical spa activity and thermalism to thermal resorts. Since the Waux-Hall, the second casino of the town (built in 1770) to the new thermal baths, all the evolution of practices and uses is

evident through physical property. If functions have sometimes changed, building form and architecture, and toponymy bear witness to the initial functions. Balneology has been a distinguished feature of *Spa* since early times (witness the etymology of the name, the reputation acquired by the City is such that its name is used as a common name throughout the world), and continuously - despite hazards such as the fire of 1807 which ravaged a large part of the centre. It was in fact an opportunity to rethink the planning of the urban area by further strengthening the dynamics of the spa. The parks, gardens and 'natural' spaces with their tranquil walks are always present and continue in use today. Location and setting is exceptionally authentic, and various legislations ensure the authentic conservation of the nominated property and its setting. *Spa* water is bottled on a large scale in modern plant just outside the nominated property.

The component part of *Františkovy Lázně* is distinguished by the wholly intact original orthogonal grid plan of the town, with its concentrated and unified ensemble of Classicist, Empire style and historicising buildings of exceptional quality. Together with springs distributed across the flat terrain (surmounted by architecturally interesting pavilions), and the surrounding therapeutic and recreational spa landscape, authenticity is unquestionable in terms of spatial organisation, form and design, materials and substance. Values have been researched in terms of their authenticity over a long period, and protected. The component part preserves an exceptional authentic picture of a spa town and its structure combining compact urban structure with a rich park environment. The level of preserved urban structure and architecture classes the town amongst extraordinarily intact and valuable spa complexes in the Czech Republic - all buildings have preserved their authentic exteriors, and most their interiors. Construction declined during the twentieth century, leaving the nominated property as remarkably authentic. Many elements and features remain in their original spa function, preserving their use in a continued spa living tradition. Location and setting is exceptionally authentic, lending a high-quality experience in terms of spirit and feeling and an unquestionable strong sense of place.

3. *Františkovy Lázně*

The component part of *Karlovy Vary* represents an authentic urban complex including an important group of urban, architectonic, cultural, historical, art and aesthetic values. A collection of spa architectural buildings, exceptional for their design of building mass, material and visual depiction of details of all important constructions representing spa activities of the town (spa buildings with mineral springs, baths, spa hotels, mineral water drinking halls and colonnades) have been preserved here in virtually intact original condition. Furthermore, the component part includes an authentic extensive therapeutic and recreational spa landscape, including original spa trails and additional facilities for leisure and pleasure. The authenticity of exteriors, public areas and park environment is high and has been intensively researched over a long period. During conservation, restoration, adaptations and reconstructions, stress has been placed on preserving structuring and ornamentation of façade areas and roofs including architectonic and construction details. Most key spa buildings have preserved the basic layout including historical and artistic appearance of interiors. Location and setting is exceptionally authentic, and this combines with an exceptionally strong continued spa tradition to create an intense spirit and feeling of a European 'Great Spa'.

4. *Karlovy Vary*

The component part of *Mariánské Lázně* represents an authentic urban complex in appearance, one which this spa town had at the end of its supreme prosperity before

5. *Mariánské Lázně*

World War II. The spa town, situated in a maintained park environment, has kept its authentic historic urban landscape concept from the period of its foundation. Typical spa buildings with mineral springs, spa hotels, mineral water drinking halls and colonnades have been conserved, restored and renovated over a long period of time under professional supervision. The authenticity of exteriors and layout of public areas and the park environment is high and has been researched over a long period. During conservation interventions, stress has been put on preserving structuring and ornamentation of façade areas and roofs including architectonic and construction details. Most key spa buildings have preserved the basic layout including historical and artistic appearance of interiors. Location and setting is exceptionally authentic.

Vichy has maintained its clear identity as a ‘Great Spa’ town, and its core buildings from which it has earned its international reputation. The initial urban arrangement, structured around Napoleonic thermal boulevards and the river has been fully respected. Monuments from the two key periods, Second Empire and Belle Epoque, remain, emphasising its evolution, and demonstrate the Art Nouveau and exotic trends of this period. They are highly authentic in terms of form and design, materials and substance, and many spa structures are maintained in their original function (a number of hotels, however, are now converted into apartments but their original façades and exteriors remain appropriately authentic). These, in relation to the network of green spaces, ensure the most authentic image of this flagship ‘Great Spa’ of France. Location and setting remains substantially authentic, the typical configuration also sustained by continuing spa activities and major cultural events. *Vichy* mineral water is bottled on a large scale in modern plant just outside the nominated property.

6. *Vichy*

The urban layout of the spa town and the typical spa architecture of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries are maintained in their original form and design, materials and substance. The principal buildings such as the Kurhaus, Kursaal, Kurpark, Kurmittelhaus and Quellenturm, spa-specific urban facilities like the funicular railway, as well as former hotels and guest houses are preserved in material and substance, so too numerous villas and the spa churches which remain in use. The location and setting of the nominated property in the narrow valley of the lower River Lahn, surrounded by wooded and rocky hills of the Rhenish Massif, is highly authentic. The spa function based on the thermal springs is unbroken and as continuing tradition it conveys clearly the spirit and feeling of the European ‘Great Spa’ culture.

7. *Bad Ems*

In *Baden-Baden*, the tradition of bathing is pervasive and reflected in the authentic surviving fabric of the spa town - from the ancient ruins of Roman baths to early-modern bathing establishments, the baroque pompous bath in the New Palace and a great number of individual features and ensembles of the long nineteenth century.

8. *Baden-Baden*

The typical urban structure of a ‘Great Spa’ of the nineteenth century is preserved on the basis of historic streets, squares and green spaces, with their specific historical functions of the separate zones and their buildings. The extraordinary importance of *Baden-Baden* as a world-famous spa town can be read in a special way in the Kurviertel at the Konversationshaus with its well-preserved historic rooms of the casino of the 1850s. The international character of this ‘world spa’ is reflected in the Lichtentaler Allée, the Casino, the theatre, the large number of historic ‘international’ hotels and numerous villas and the church buildings of different confessions. Internationality is a striking and

omnipresent feature of the spa town's authentic fabric, and cultural tradition. It is reflected in the diversity of international guests and residents – recorded in great detail in guests' lists and publications – as well as in significant and regular events such as international congresses, concerts and festivals. The vibrant and enduring living spa tradition is reflected among other things in the Friedrichsbad and the pump room (both conserved and restored in 2014) and a variety of historical sanatoriums still in use. Location and setting remain exceptionally authentic, and this 'Great Spa' remains a popular tourism venue.

The core buildings of the historical spa ensemble are in an impeccable state of conservation with regard to their highly authentic built fabric, as are the large majority of additional buildings both in the spa district and the historical town centre. Changes to some of the buildings within the historic town centre mainly affect the ground-floor premises. In many cases they have been altered continually by the installation of shop fittings and display windows since the late nineteenth and early twentieth century; the heyday of this 'Great Spa'. These alterations reflect the current and historic function of the old town centre being the commercial centre. Besides the single buildings, the characteristic of a 'Great Spa' has been preserved in its entirety. The open and green spaces also typical of an international spa resort have also survived in a largely authentic form, as have those stretches of the historical therapeutic and recreational spa landscape that are situated within the boundaries of the nominated property. The component part meets the criterion of authenticity with regard to form and design as well as materials and substance.

Today, *Bad Kissingen* remains primarily a spa and health resort. Consequently, the structures that are characteristic of a spa town (spring pavilion and pump room drinking hall, foyer, colonnade, and assembly and concert halls) still sustain their original functions. In particular, the well-known and more than regionally significant architectural landmarks of *Bad Kissingen* – the trailblazing structures of the Wandelhalle and Regentenbau created at the turn of the twentieth century – are still being used according to their original function. The same holds for the gardens and green spaces and the surrounding therapeutic and recreational spa landscape, which has been maintained in its authentic state even down to the original footpaths laid out for the "walking cure". The tennis courts and golf course are still in use, and still occupy their original sites. *Bad Kissingen* therefore also meets authenticity in regard to use and function.

The bodies and authorities in charge of the spa business and its buildings and green spaces are the same as in the heyday of this 'Great Spa': The State of Bavaria with its subordinate agencies and institutions, and the municipality of *Bad Kissingen*. The Kurgärtnerei (spa plant nursery) is a facility with a long and unbroken tradition. Even today, *Bad Kissingen* features a spa orchestra of thirteen permanently employed musicians. Medical spa facilities and sanatoriums still thrive; the tradition of the drinking cure continues on a daily basis, year-round. The bathing cure, too, is still on offer. The condition of authenticity, therefore, is also met with regard to traditions, techniques and management systems as well as with regard to spirit and feeling, assisted, too, by a location and setting that is faithfully authentic.

The historic thermal town of *Montecatini Terme* was built mostly in the eighteenth, nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries and it retains all of its original urban design. It maintains most of its historic buildings (spring houses, spas, pavilions, hotels, urban villas, theatres and casino, auditoriums, restaurants, coffee houses, patisseries, display rooms for art exhibitions, promenades, gardens and parks), and these

9. *Bad Kissingen*

10. *Montecatini Terme*

have been inhabited and used since their construction. They are still in use. The historic spa infrastructure (including rail and funicular) remain in their original layout and are living features that remain in constant use. The spa tradition is sustained – from both a medical and recreational/pleasure perspective – and the town remains highly significant for tourism in Tuscany. In addition, many artistic products in the Liberty style or Art Nouveau style (ceramic tiles, large colour glasses, windows and wood furniture) and the famous ceramic art works of Galileo Chini, an example of oriental influence, are preserved in their original setting.

Conservation and restoration, where and when necessary, has been done with careful respect of the original.

The hot springs, the *raison d'être* of the city's original development, are of undoubted authenticity. Principal spa buildings remain materially authentic and are retained and used for activities that are similar to that for which they were originally designed. Most of the large stock of Georgian buildings has been continuously inhabited since construction and retains a high degree of original fabric. Repairs have largely been sympathetic informed by an extensive body of documentation and have been aided by a programme of repair and restoration throughout the late twentieth century. More vulnerable is the interaction between the groups of buildings in terraces and squares and views to the surrounding landscape that have contributed to the harmony of the townscape. New developments must now respect the planning of the Georgian terraces, respect the scale and rhythm of these structures and to contribute to picturesque views.

11. *City of Bath*

3.1.e Protection and management requirements

Protection and management of the individual components of a serial transnational property is carried out primarily at the national or regional level and at the property. Coordination of the management of the property as a whole requires an international system among the participating states parties to develop and sustain a coordinated approach to management (Operational Guidelines paragraph 135). Management at the national level is summarised first, followed by a description of the system for a coordinated approach to management of the whole property.

Ultimate responsibility under the World Heritage Convention for the protection and management of the components of the nominated property rests with the states parties to the Convention. Except for Periodic Reporting, which must be done collectively, it is for each state party to notify the UNESCO World Heritage Centre of issues relating to its components of the property, and to respond to any queries from the Centre.

All parts of the property have well-established legal, protection and management mechanisms in place, generally for many decades, which are in accordance with the particular governance, legal and spatial planning systems of their state party or (in the case of a federal state) regional or provincial government. While there are obviously differences in detail between the protection and management arrangements of each property, depending on the particular systems of their own government, overall all components have adequate and effective protection and management.

All parts of the property have clearly defined boundaries drawn to include attributes of Outstanding Universal Value. All protect the wider setting of each component, either through the provision of a formal buffer zone or through other means, depending on the legislative and spatial planning system of their respective state party or regional authority. All the properties are in mixed public, charitable and private ownership. Many of the major public buildings and public open spaces, such as parks, are in some form of public ownership, at levels varying from the state party or regional government to the local authorities, giving assurance of responsible management and sustainable use. The mineral springs, the key resource of the spas, are in public ownership.

At the level of international legislation, apart from membership of the World Heritage Convention, all states parties are members of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and of its two Protocols, and of the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. All are also members of the Council of Europe Conventions on the Protection of Architectural Heritage (Granada, 1985), the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992), and of the European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000). Each state party applies these Conventions according to their own legal and governance systems.

Each component is protected by national or regional legislation as well as by local policies. This protection covers designated and undesignated heritage assets, both cultural and natural, landscape, and the springs. All parts of the property have spatial plans or planning zones in place to protect the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, generally under national, regional or local schemes of designation. All components are subject to numerous plans, regional or local, for spatial planning, sustainable development or tourism.

All components have in place a system whereby development proposals for new building or the alteration of existing significant features are subject to review before consent for the proposed works is granted or refused. Depending on the circumstances of the particular application (such as its scale or the significance of the heritage asset affected by it), and on the overall planning system, such decisions can be taken locally, regionally or nationally. In most circumstances applications affecting significant attributes of Outstanding Universal Value will be considered nationally or regionally as well as locally, though in most cases decisions will be taken locally.

All components have a *World Heritage Management Plan*, known in the dossier as *Local Management Plans (LMP)*. These have Action Plans which are reviewed on a regular basis. The *Local Management Plans* conform to the overall *Property Management Plan* and *Action Plan*. Each part of the property has a local site manager or coordinator responsible for general oversight of that part of the property and for the implementation and periodic review of the LMP. In each case, the property manager/ coordinator can call on a wide range of specialisms either from within his/ her own councillor or from regional or national heritage organisations.

Individual components are resourced in various ways, not least by income from visitors and spa users. Private owners invest significantly in buildings and other facilities from which they draw an income. There are generally sources of public funding also, and the cost of the coordination/ management function for each is primarily met by the relevant local authority, sometimes with financial support from regional or national levels of government. The individual spa cities or towns also contribute to the management costs of the property as a whole.

The partners in this nomination are establishing a comprehensive system, involving all key stakeholders, to oversee the management of the property as a whole. Key to this is the development of the *Property Management Plan* and *Property Action Plan* setting out general policies and actions for *The Great Spas of Europe*. The *Local Management Plans* are complementary to the objectives of this Plan. There are a number of different groups covering the range of stakeholders. These are:

The *Great Spas Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC)* is made up of representatives of each of the participating States Parties including the Focal Points and/or an appointed representative of the highest monument or heritage protection authority. Its principal functions are to receive reports from the *Great Spas Management Board (GSMB)*, and from individual states parties about revisions to LMPs or other issues affecting individual components, and to guide and offer advice to the Board. It will be important for the *IGC* to be informed of any proposed developments which could have an adverse impact on a particular component which could affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property as a whole.

The Mayors of each city or town within the nominated property, or their nominated representatives, form the *Great Spas Management Board (GSMB)* for the property. This body is responsible for approving and publishing an Annual Report on the property as a whole, monitoring and reviewing the *Property Management Plan* and *Action Plan*, and for developing other necessary strategies, for example on the marketing of *The Great Spas of Europe*. The Board will set the annual budget for the overall management of the property and establish and employ the Secretariat. It will undertake other executive actions as necessary on behalf of the whole property. The *GSMB* is responsible for the risk register and is responsible for mitigation of risks.

The *Site Managers Group (SMG)* is made up of the site manager/ coordinator of each part of the property, the Secretariat and any specialist advisors who may be appointed from time to time. As such, it will be a major source of information and expertise for the property, able to make recommendations and reports to the *GSMB*. The *SMG* may establish sub-groups to deal with specialist areas such as, for example, conservation, training, education, sustainable tourism, marketing and promotion but would have to seek approval of the *GSMB* for any activity which involved additional expenditure.

Apart from the regular meetings of these bodies, there from time to time be joint meetings of two or all of these bodies to discuss issues of general interest.

The overall management system is supported by a Secretariat which will be based in one of the component parts of the property and be jointly funded by all components. The Secretariat will, *inter alia*, organise and service all the meetings of the three bodies, draft a budget for consideration by the *GSMB* and manage and control its expenditure, draft the Annual Report for consideration by the *GSMB*, implement the *Property Management Plan*, manage the GSE website and database, handle external relationships for the property as a whole and as agreed with the *GSMB*, ensure regular contact between the components of the property and facilitate cross working across the property as appropriate.

3.2 Comparative Analysis

3.2.1 Framework for comparison

Spa towns are centred on natural ‘curative’ mineral water springs that act as nuclei for a specialised urban form and function designed for healing and pleasure. The nominated property represents the grandest and most international of the many hundreds of towns that are testimony to the European spa phenomenon. It illustrates, as a whole, the attributes of a ‘Great’ spa that are conveyed by a distinctive suite of physical elements.

Each spa town contributes in a specific way to the overall compositional integrity of the series. Some possess both archaeological testimony to ancient origins, and modern interventions that facilitate a living spa tradition that continues into the twenty-first century. Their predominant heritage, however, relates to their collective heyday that spans the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The European spa evolved a new, unique, and widespread urban typology, which today we can consider in terms of a distinctive historic urban landscape.

The principal spa ensemble includes springs and their drinking taps, pavilions and fountains, the pump rooms and drinking halls, bathing and treatment facilities, colonnades and galleries, hospitals and sanatoria, assembly rooms, casinos, theatre and concert houses, shops and arcades, hotels, lodging houses and villas, churches (characteristically a range of established churches and those of other denominations), and support infrastructure such as funicular railways. This is set within a green environment of promenades and parades, parks and gardens, pleasure grounds, rides and woodland walks. It is these elements that convey the attributes that contribute to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property.

The Great Spas of Europe exemplify the European spa culture that combines the therapeutic use of mineral water with entertainment and social activities. This flourished from around 1700 to around 1930 and still thrives as a living tradition. Growing out of earlier use of hot springs across Europe since at least Roman times, the development of the combined medicinal, social and leisure use of the mineral waters resulted in a new type of urban and therapeutic spa landscape with distinctive spatial planning and architecture supplying the necessary environment for this combined use to happen. In their prime, the influence of the leading spas in matters of European cultural and artistic life, medicine, science, humanities, politics and the widening of polite society was beyond that of any other form of urban settlement.

To understand the specificity of the European spa tradition, it must be compared with other traditions developed in history, and in other parts of the world. Firstly, the European spa tradition must be contrasted with other cultural traditions of the use of mineral waters in broad geo-cultural regions across the globe. Of these, onsen in Japan (and similar thermal baths in China and Korea) is the only bathing tradition that can be legitimately judged as being close to that of the European spa towns. Russian banya and the Finnish sauna are of a very different nature.

Secondly, the European spa tradition can be compared with what had gone before it in Europe. European spas received an important heritage from the Roman times when the first globalisation of bathing practices occurred. The Roman Empire exported its model and the emblematic building, *thermae*, from Spain to the Middle East through Germany and North Africa and from the Mediterranean to northern Britain. Two traditions were born from this model: in Europe, mostly therapeutic in purpose, known as hydrotherapy or the spa; in the Islamic world, the *hammam* which combines the steam bath with many functions, and sometimes used natural hot waters.

More recently, the European spa tradition was so clearly identified as an urban model linked with specific European medical and social practices that it could be exported all over the world, facilitated by colonial expansion, from New Zealand to the Americas and Africa.

After development through the eighteenth century, the peak of this European social and cultural phenomenon was reached around 1900. This chronology is an essential factor in the coherence of the series, since, as well as showing all the aspects of this phenomenon, the selected cities represent the stages of development with pioneering cities like *Spa* and *Bath*, whilst *Mariánské Lázně*, and *Vichy* perfectly illustrate the climax reached around 1900; some of the components represent the scale of the process until the 1930s like *Bad Kissingen* and *Montecatini Terme*.

Around 1800, there were only a hundred or so places that could be called embryonic spas. By the end of the nineteenth century, more than a thousand can be counted which had reached a degree of development allowing them to be seen as spa towns, through the presence of significant components such as pump rooms, baths, casinos, hotels, and urban infrastructures; altogether there are several thousand springs that have been exploited across Europe, but without urban structures. It is therefore necessary to select. From these thousand or more spa towns in activity around 1900, selection should focus on those which can constitute a coherent and representative series of the global phenomenon, make a substantial contribution to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the series, and possess undeniable authenticity and integrity. Another central criterion in the definition of *The Great Spas of Europe* is the international character, the global reputation of some cities, their value as an urban model and reference in terms of image. Clear linkages must be demonstrated in any serial nomination, and it is from such a network of cities that emerged in the nineteenth century that *The Great Spas of Europe* have been selected as the most exceptional, the most closely linked as a group and yet, regarding the widespread phenomenon, they demonstrate an exceptional continuing spa tradition. The constitution of the series rests, therefore, not only on the present exceptional qualities of these cities, but on a common history; they themselves have contributed to the creation of the original and traditional concept of a European spa, materially and intangibly. The 11 components of *The Great Spas of Europe* made a major contribution to the construction of the spa culture, evidenced by their original urban plans, their preserved architectural achievements and the parks which provided an essential experience of the relationship between urbanity, worldliness and nature.

The development of the spa towns resulted in a form of hierarchy, from spas with only regional influence, through others whose reputation and customers remained strictly national, to “great” spas that achieved an international reputation, attested for example by the presence of historic places of worship of various denominations, of international hotels and a rich international intangible heritage.

With the objective of constraining a list of European spa towns with which to make relevant comparisons, an analysis by an expert group of specialists from different European countries (Germany, Czech Republic, France and United Kingdom) cross-referenced with the bibliographic data collected in the few syntheses on European spas (for example *Ciudades Termales en Europa*, Moldoveanu *et al*, 2000) and more numerous national monographs. They found that, according to various methodologies, a target group of around 40 spas should first be taken into account. This was because in making a comparison of the main spas across a wide geography, from Poland and Romania to Spain and Ireland, disparities between the different regions of Europe are great in this period. This group was used as the basis for the first internal comparative analysis to make the selection. In the assessment of the authenticity and integrity of each spa, those that had suffered significant degradation were excluded, because, aside from satisfying integrity, one of the criteria for the selection of component parts for the nominated property is the continued strength of the living cultural tradition that is manifest in their use for spa-related activity and continued achievement. Cities, which no longer have significant hydrotherapeutic activity, were judged to have lost an important aspect of authenticity because their use, function and identity as spas has been substantially eroded, even if historical traces of this activity remain.

The outcome of the analysis was an initial recommendation for a series of 16 spa towns to be placed on state parties' tentative lists as the clear intent for a transnational nomination to the World Heritage List. This was agreed between state parties, and a common collaborative submission of *The Great Spas of Europe* in 2014 resulted in respective updated tentative lists. Subsequent deepening of the analysis, including careful consideration of the contribution that each component part (individual spa town) made to the series - as a whole - meant the further exclusion of five spa towns.

Comparison was then made with properties of the same collective values (as a single property) and specific nature (for each component part), and to assess the potential of the towns to make a substantial contribution to proposed Outstanding Universal Value. Included were the tests for integrity and authenticity, and continuity of a living spa tradition. Comparison was first undertaken with properties already inscribed in the World Heritage List, or present on National Tentative Lists. No spa town alone can embody all the values of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value, and present all its attributes including the geographical spread of the phenomenon with its distinctive variations. A serial approach is all the more justified because close links between the Great Spas existed as early as the nineteenth century: in cooperation, collaboration and rivalry - from medical diagnostics and advancements in patient care, to pioneering resort tourism and trends in fashion; and through a regular pattern of patronage by international clientele - from the ranks of royalty and nobility to the rising middle classes who acquired prosperity, time and ambition in the world's leading industrial economies. In combination, this firmly established *The Great Spas of Europe* as a transnational network.

As *The Great Spas of Europe* is a transnational serial nomination, the Comparative Analysis also justifies the selection of its component parts.

The reader is referred to the proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value defined in section 3.3, and further elaborated in section 3.1. A full and refined statement of proposed Outstanding Universal Value was formulated following the outcome of the basic thematic study on geo-cultural areas of thermalism and the detailed comparative analysis summarised herein. The following criteria under which inscription is proposed (and their justification) were confirmed as criteria (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vi).

Basic thematic study on geo-cultural areas of thermalism

Access to fresh water has always been, and is still, fundamental to every human being. To avoid diseases and because it was not possible to analyse the quality of water, springs providing potable water were for a long time eminently important. Springs were used for every day needs but often also gained a reputation as sacred places and/or for healing the sick.

Specific properties (such as mineral content, the presence of carbon dioxide or a certain temperature) had an impact on tapping the springs, the use of the water and how the surroundings of the springs were developed. All over the world spiritual dimensions and medical effects were attributed to such springs, the water flowing from deep underground to the surface having the advantage of being free from impurities and providing over centuries a mostly constant output. For a long time, to heat water was complicated and expensive, so thermal springs were a special gift that facilitated bathing and the heating of buildings.

Different cultures developed different uses for cleaning, wellbeing and therapeutical treatment. Each cultural tradition is placed within the context of a specific spring, in a specific place, at a specific time and in a specific society.

Bathing traditions

Bathing practice in Russia or in the Scandinavian countries, banya or sauna, are of a fundamentally different nature. Indeed, these steam baths, more often domestic and private than public, use mainly artificially heated water. The practice is also more hygienic than medical. Similar uses of steam baths, in huts, are attested among native populations in North America, South America and Ireland. Such a type of baths is not relevant to be compared with spa towns, because they do not rely on an initial medical use and they have not given rise to towns that combine care and vacation as a typical social phenomenon.

Japanese onsen and thermal baths in the Far East

Because Japan is in a volcanically active region, in the past these were public bathing places, but many are now being developed for tourism. These baths can be indoor places, or managed as public bathhouses as a municipal venture or as part of a hotel. Onsen are defined as relying on geothermal hot springs and so are different from sento which are baths filled with heated mains water. At the same time, onsen must use water that contains one of a number of specified chemical compounds. This water is known to have healing properties, but bathing in onsen is accompanied by a social tradition with an established etiquette; 'onsen therapy' represents a comprehensive bathing treatment.

Around the many thousands of onsen in Japan, some town-like spas have become established around hot springs. Japan's oldest mineral springs are known as the 'three ancient springs' and include the Arima Onsen near modern Kobe. There are references to these from the eighth century CE. The Dogo Onsen is one of the oldest of the Japanese thermal springs



Exterior of the onsen
at Kyoto-Funaoka

and has been in use for over a thousand years, although the present public baths were built in 1895. Some Japanese spas are included in World Heritage sites, like Nanki-shiramama Onsen and Tsubaki Onsen, which are two public baths in part of the Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range World Heritage Site (inscribed in 2004). See table A, World Heritage Sites.

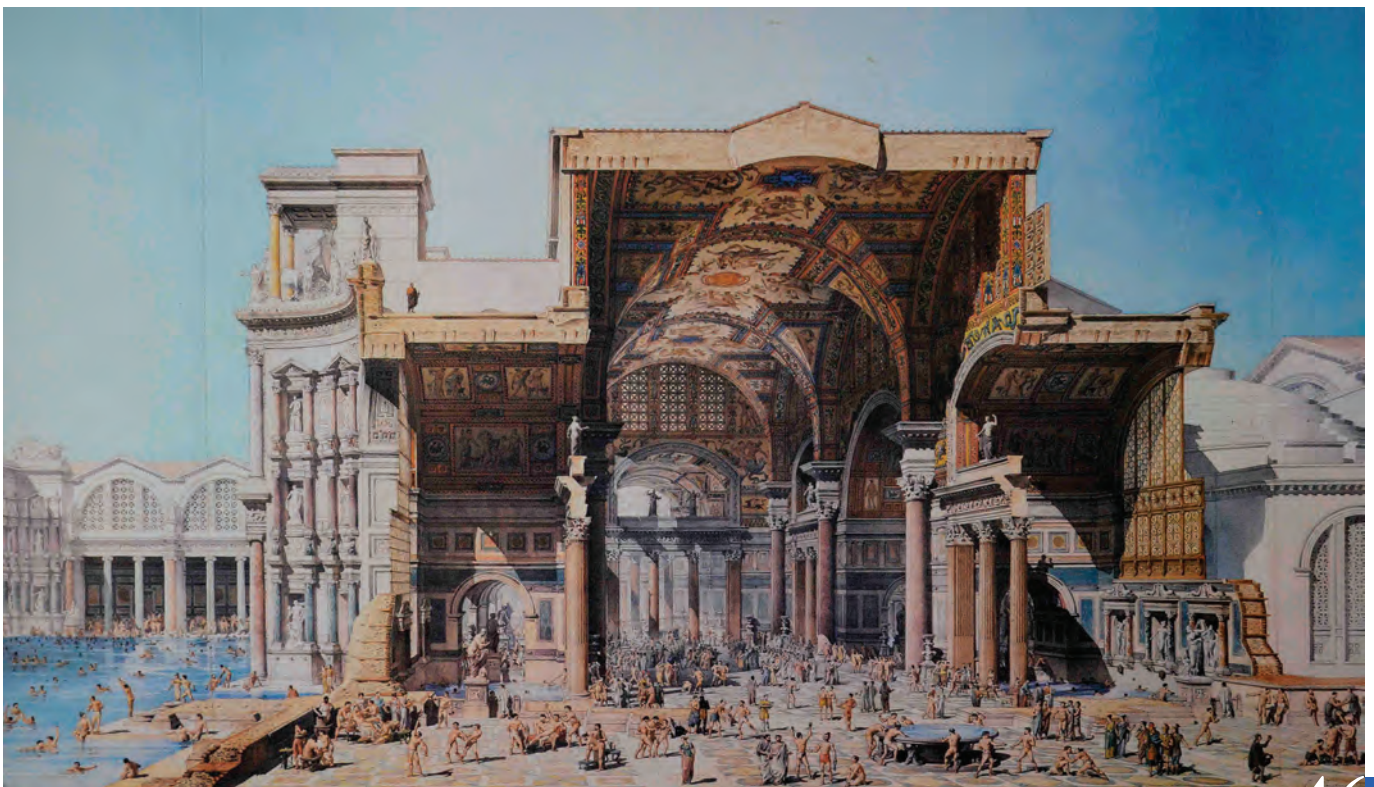
Like Japan, Aoteroa (New Zealand) is on the western edge of the Pacific 'Ring of Fire'. Accordingly, North Island is an active volcanic and seismic region with live volcanoes and many thermal springs, thermal pools, and some geysers. The Maori used the springs and pools for domestic and cleansing purposes for many generations before and after the arrival of English and French colonists. At the same time, the Maori belief system holds volcanoes to be atua (gods) and so these and associated thermal springs and pools are places of spiritual forces which command and give life to the natural world. Here a tapu (sacred/forbidden place) must be respected. Accordingly, these places are treated with great respect, and a spa culture in the European sense emerged only with colonisation and French colonists.

The Roman tradition in Europe and Islamic world

Thermae

Ancient Rome, whose legacy remains paramount in the constitution of European bath culture, has bequeathed thermal practices that have marked both the oriental tradition that is embodied in the hammam and the western tradition through the practices of spas. This is not only for bathing, but also for hygienic activities like massage, and for the presence of libraries and sport facilities. The Romans built bath-suites, of varying sizes, in many different contexts, from public baths in major cities through all military establishments to individual houses in urban and rural locations. Our consideration here is only of public monumental urban baths as being the closest to later spas.

Edmond Paulin, *Thermae de Dioclétien*, restitution, 1880



More than simply a functional model, Roman baths have fed the modern imagination in Western Europe. They have inspired architects with their luxury and the quality of their décor and, in addition to works of art, there were swimming pools made of precious marble and high vaults with frescoes. This type of monumental building was specific to the Roman city and already offered a polyfunctional role, hygienic and cultural. Sometimes it has been adapted to the rural setting of mineral and thermal springs, which

Peutingeriana Tabula Itineraria, copy of a Roman map, detail with France, around 1265, Vienna, National Library.

the Romans identified and used abundantly throughout the Empire. They were often the origin of cities like Aachen, Acqui Terme, Aix-en-Provence, Aix-les-Bains, and Bath. It is curious to note that from antiquity the notion of a network of spas exists, as illustrated on a map, the famous *Tabula Peutingeriana*, a document preserved in Vienna and inscribed in 2007 on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. This medieval copy of a Roman map charts



Imperial routes from the Atlantic to China and uses symbols to identify the cities connected. Among these is the image of a quadrangular building that serves to symbolise the spas. The names most often consist of the word *Aquae* or *Aquis*, the waters. However, if *Aquis Calidis* (Vichy) is accompanied by this symbol, this is not the case of *Aquae Sulis* (Bath). The network also covered North Africa, marking *Aquae Calidae*, the current Hammam Righa in Algeria. But the function of *thermae*, providing a whole sequence of rooms with different temperatures provided by a hypocaust and several pools with water of varying temperatures, did not survive the decline of the Roman Empire in Western Europe. It was the rediscovery of Roman baths starting at the end of the eighteenth century that led in the nineteenth century to new bathhouses offering “Roman” or “Roman-Irish” baths. Another Roman legacy is the link between health and leisure, exemplified in the famous luxurious resort Baia near Naples (Moldoveanu 2000), its model exerting a strong influence within *The Great Spas of Europe*.

On hammams

Roman bathing continued in countries of Islamic culture, and developed to give baths a central place and an important social function in everyday life. Sometimes the buildings are linked to mosques and belong to religious foundations. All medinas inscribed on the World Heritage List (see Table B, World Heritage Sites with Hammams: Damascus, Cairo, Tunis, Marrakesh, Istanbul, Kairouan, Algiers, Bukhara or Samarkand) and some palaces (Alhambra in Granada or Shirvan Sha Palace in Baku) include hammams, baths or steam rooms, but it is not possible to compare them with spas, because their function is entirely different and they do not present the essential connection with nature, water qualities and development of a site-based resort. The major difference with spas is that water is normally thermal, and in a building that is integrated into an urban structure. There are ‘thermal hammams’ that developed at hot springs in Turkey or

North Africa, but they do not have the same function as European spas: they are separate, and they have not created an urban typology and leisure amenities that, combined, attracted an international clientele and reputation. Hammams are not inscribed on the World Heritage List as entities, but are included as part of wider urban ensembles. Only Bursa, in Turkey, inscribed in 2014, could be considered to combine the use of hot springs and general urban functions, but it is presented as the city of “the birth of the Ottoman Empire” and in a series that listed public baths among other emblematic buildings like khans, mosques or the tomb of the founder of the Ottoman dynasty. Spa activities, in the modern sense, are recent and have not shaped the city. They look like other urban hammams. In Central Europe, the Ottoman influence created spas that combine the usual thermal practices with steam baths; sometimes architecture translates this exchange, as in Budapest (Hungary).

In sites with hot springs that had been used by the Greeks and Romans, Arabs and Turks continued to practice medicine in hammams, such as in Bursa. Most often the hammam structure is simplified, because there is no need for the hypocaust and different rooms. So the pool, often in North Africa being of Roman origin, becomes the central element of the ensemble. However, cubicle systems also exist. In North Africa, before French colonisation, some hot springs were used and often visited in connection with the feast of a saint, or religious rituals (these were probably pre-Islamic linked), sometimes with the presence of a khan as in Hammam Lif or Korbous (Tunisia).



Trencianske Teplice (Slovakia). Turkish baths created in 1888 by Iphigenie de Castries d'Harcourt, daughter of Baron Simon George von Sina. She visited the Turkish baths in the Universal Exhibition in Paris and travelled in the Orient. She asked Ismail Pasha, Khedive of Egypt, to help and he sent his architect to assist.

Diffusion of the European spa phenomenon, worldwide

The proof of the existence of a well-established and defined model of the European spa town is that it was exported to other parts of Europe, and to the rest of the world. This occurred particularly through colonisation from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries. In a way, it can be considered that Eastern Europe has imported the spa model from Western and Central Europe. So, when Peter the Great visited *Baden bei Wien*, he ordered research on mineral waters in Russia; and on his return from *Spa*, he founded in 1718 a “Russian spa” in Karelia in Ravdomarsh. In the 1850s, when the railways reached the Caucasus, spas were launched in imitation of the western stations: one names Borjomi as the “Caucasian Vichy”. Again, in 1912, Tsar Nicholas II asked for a study to inform the development of spa resorts near the Black Sea - to rival those of Austria-Hungary. This is how the Matsesta spring was discovered in Sochi where, though better known as a seaside resort, a thermal establishment was created.

The greatest spread of the European spa model is linked with the different stages of colonisation. Spas and European concepts and practices were imposed on existing indigenous cultural traditions. The different colonial powers developed their own health resorts that fused their traditions with local conditions (Walton 2014). The first step concerned the Americas and reached its peak in the nineteenth century with the extension of the English and French empires. We can consider that the diffusion of the European spa model has been a modality of the colonisation, and a first globalisation (Jennings 2006, 212).

Americas

As the nineteenth-century railway network spread westwards across the continent, hot springs and mineral springs that were used by the indigenous peoples became available for new settlers. Today, these have been generally transformed into leisure resorts rather than medicinal spa towns. In Canada, there are three regions with important hot-spring destinations on the west coast, in the Great Lakes region and in Quebec, where an imported spa tradition was handed down from early French and then English settlers. Most significant is the example of a village in Ontario, named Carlsbad Springs in 1906 to recall the fashionable Bohemian resort. It flourished from 1870 to the depression of the 1930s. Sometimes, springs used by indigenous peoples were discovered when the railway arrived, as at Banff, Alberta.



It is the case, also, in the United States, where hundreds of spas developed from the East coast to the West, primarily as spa leisure resorts. Some of them became famous, like Berkeley Springs in West Virginia (since the end of eighteenth century), Saratoga Springs in New York State (which the railway reached in 1832), and Palm Springs in California (a fashionable place in the 1900s). President Roosevelt (1882-1945) was interested in the development of Saratoga Springs, and Warm Springs in Georgia, as medicinal spas. Prof. Dr Paul Haertl, Head of Bavarian Laboratory for Mineral Springs Research at *Bad Kissigen*, provided advice to the President regarding the development of Warm Springs, and was a consultant to Saratoga Springs around 1925. In spite of this, their principal evolution was for leisure use, as shown by Gary Cross (Walton 2014) in reference to Saratoga Springs, which moved “from genteel spa to Disneyfied family resort”.



Saratoga Springs, New York, USA. Old Lincoln Baths and Columbian Spring in Congress Park in the heart of the city. The spa, emulating the European spa tradition was probably the first town in the USA to be built specifically for entertainment. There is no mineral water bathing today.

As in North America, where indigenous populations widely used hot springs, in Latin America there was an Inca tradition to consider springs as sacred places. Baños del Inca, in Cajamarca (northern Peru), is mentioned in chronicles. Aguas Calientes, a celebrated hot spring in Peru, is located close to Machu Picchu. The development of some spas in the Andean countries is fairly recent, and often linked to tourism to take advantage of their beautiful natural context. It is the same situation in Mexico, with Chignahuapan, Chilcuautila and Ixtapan de la Sal, or in Guatemala where new spas have recently opened. Brazil also has a large number of spas, mainly dedicated to tourism. Their development is parallel to that of Europe: in 1777, in the state of Goiás, Caldas Novas discovered what was exploited to become the “capital des águas quentes”, today a major tourist centre with the so-called Acqua Park and other attractions. The model of the ruler who launched a spa station also travelled from Europe to Brazil with the emperors Dom Pedro I, and Dom Pedro II, who sometimes played a pioneering role. Thus the first station of Brazil, launched in 1813, is called Caldas de Imperatriz (Grande Florianópolis, Santa Catarina). In Argentina in the late nineteenth century, newly arriving European migrants who were familiar with spa culture and practices revived the spa resort model, and sometimes restarted former Spanish baths.

New Zealand

There are a great variety of sources of hot and warm mineral waters in New Zealand, the result of past and present high levels of volcanic activity. Of these, some hundred and seven pools and spas are spa resorts and some twenty-seven of these can be considered to be spa towns. The principal thermal region in North Island covers an extensive area of a central plateau where there are three active volcanoes. Separately, and differently, there is a spa resort in South Island at Hanmer Springs. In 1911, A.S. Herbert was commissioned by the New Zealand Government to identify the potential of the existing thermal springs and pools to develop a New Zealand spa industry that would compete with the spas of Europe. Then, often with public help, Rotorua in the centre of the North Island has grown, together with Waiwera on the east Coast and Hanmer Springs in South Island. It is significant that, when Rotorua became a State spa, the first doctor in charge was A. S Wohlmann who had worked in Bath's Mineral Water Hospital.

North Africa

Nowadays, as part of the heritage of the colonial discrimination between French and indigenous practices, the terminology of the Office National du Thermalisme et de l'Hydrothérapie in Tunisia distinguishes the 'station thermale' (thermal spa, where hydrotherapy is under medical supervision, as at Korbous, Djebel Oust and Hammam Bourguiba) from the 'hammam thermal' (which hosts popular practices, as at Hammam Zriba or El Hamma of Gabes, sometimes wholly uncontrolled). The 'thermal hammam' refers to a bath, and this was sometimes very basic such as a simple pool without a cover, or a bathhouse without other amenities in which to stay or relax. By contrast, the 'station thermale' (a spa) is an import of the European model, and the term refers to towns of the colonial period. France, on colonising Algeria, discovered many hot springs and traditional hammams. This was prompted, firstly, because hydrotherapy was then booming in Europe and, secondly, they needed to treat soldiers suffering from the effects of climate. The French began to create spas. In 1845, baths were installed in Hammam Righa and Hammam Malouane, not far from Algiers. After becoming a French department, Algeria saw the creation of many spa towns, which were developed to varying degrees. Some regions specialised, so that the present province of Guelma still has fifteen spa towns; the most picturesque of these being Hammam Meskhoutine. The most famous spa near Algiers is Hammam Righa, which was accompanied in 1898 by a Grand Hotel. There was, however, strict segregation between Europeans and native bathers, the latter being confined to a 'Moorish bath'. In the late nineteenth century Biskra was to become a very famous winter resort, with luxury hotels, a casino and a spa in Hammam Salihine.

In Tunisia (Jarrassé 2009), the best example of a French spa town is Korbous; where there was earlier a very modest bath ensemble and a house 'Dar el Bey'. In 1904, a capitalist investor from Algeria, Edmond Lecore-Carpentier (1860-1920), was the owner of the most important Tunisian newspaper and a great promoter of tourism. He decided to



HAMMAM-R'HIRA. — Grand Hôtel, Façade Nord



16 HAMMAM-R'HIRA. — Bains maures

Hammam R'Hira, Algeria.
The Grand Hotel; Moorish
Baths. Post cards around 1905,
J. Geiser, Algiers.

invest to create an orientalist spa with hotels, casino, and his own villa. He transformed the old building into an exotic and fashionable one with a minaret and Moorish decoration.

Antsirabe spa town, Vakinankaratra Region, Madagascar. Postcard view around 1910.

Other colonial spas

All the English and French colonies in India, South Africa, Egypt or Indochina, have seen the creation of spas, often not far from the capitals from which Europeans retreated during the hot season. There is an organic link between settlement and the development of hydrotherapy and climatotherapy (Jennings 2006); not only did the occupying forces attempt to treat soldiers on the spot, but hygienists tried to demonstrate that the springs and climate sites could contribute to the acclimatisation of Europeans in an inhospitable tropical climate. This is the case in Antsirabe, the largest station in Madagascar (a few hundred kilometres from Antananarivo), the so-called “Malagasy Vichy” spa with its Grand Hotel, pump room “Ranovisi” (“Vichy water”), a hippodrome and villas. At the gates of Cairo, Helwan is a spa founded in 1872 by a German physician Wilhelm Reil (Pflugradt-Abdel Azziz 1996). Dalat in Vietnam, launched by the Swiss doctor Yersin in 1893 as a climate station, was the “summer capital” of French Indochina.



Korbous hot springs, Tunisia (present)

Influence on the creation of other European health and leisure resorts

The increasing success of European spa towns not only influenced the creation of spa towns outside Europe but also influenced the creation of other health resorts. Seaside resorts, climatic health resorts, brine and peat baths and many other therapeutic concepts appeared from the eighteenth century, somehow imitating the idea of physical and mental recovery away from everyday life. Doctors and, moreover investors, quickly understood that with growing competition between therapies and destinations, only very specialised or very complex destinations could succeed.

With reference to figure 9, an analysis of five representative guides of the nineteenth century that claim to provide a spectrum of European Health Resorts (Rotureau 1864, Joanne/Le Pileur 1880, Album International 1880, Flechsig 1883, Linn 1893), a clear predominance of spa towns is evident compared to other health resorts. Thus the evolution of spa towns is the most prominent example of health resorts in the nineteenth century. This cannot only be read as a geographical statement, for the majority of the European population spa towns were more accessible than coastal resorts or resorts in the mountains, but also as a sociological statement: the spa towns in the second half of the nineteenth century were the best evolved and most attractive offer of health care and leisure.

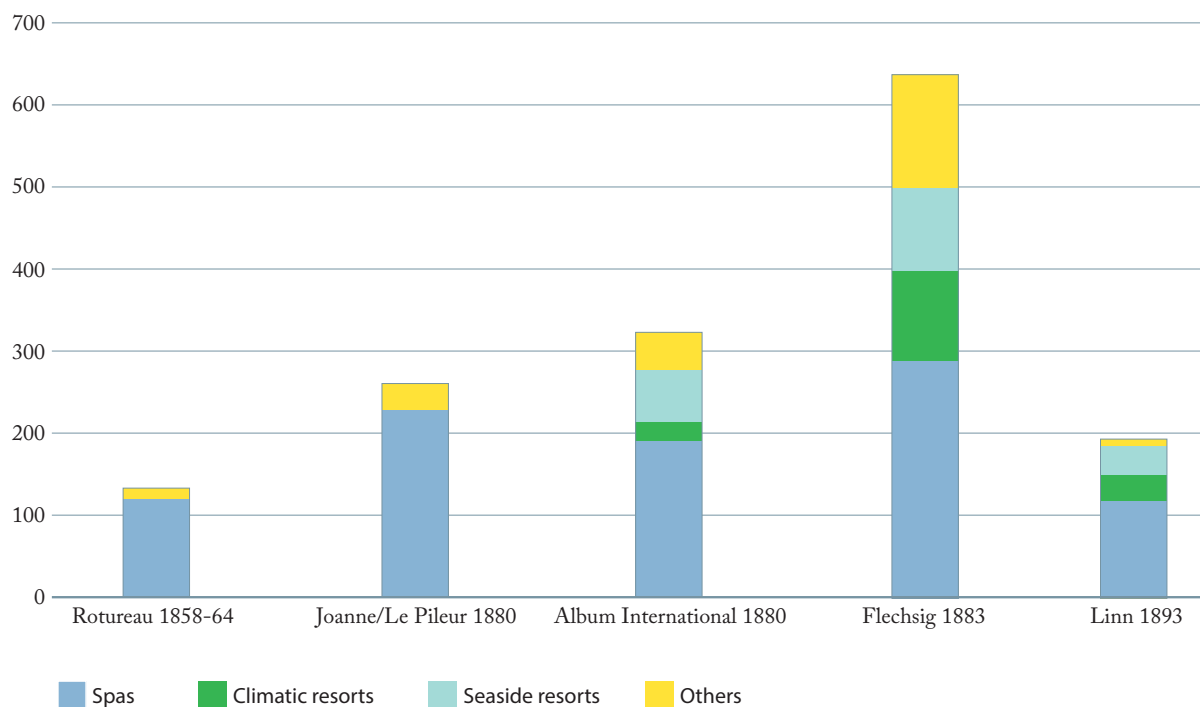


Fig 9: Spas and health resorts through guides. (Analysis: Volkmar Eidloth)

Other health resorts could also not match the regular spa routine of drinking water in company, every day, and for several weeks. The lack of this fundamental framework, shaping not only a special way of life common to everyone entering the spa microcosm but also the coherence of the public infrastructure with defined and differentiated meeting places, led outside spas to an isolation of the medicinal offer (very specialised health resorts like Davos or single sanatoria) or to a strong focus on leisure activities. The following two examples support this proposition.

Climatic Health Resorts

The discovery of the “sublime” Alps by English Tourists at the beginning of the nineteenth century initiated a broader interest in this region and its natural beauty. With the increasing construction of roads and railways starting in the Napoleonic era the Alps became accessible to a broader public. Along alpine passes and new railways, for example the Semmeringbahn in Austria connecting Vienna to Trieste in 1854 and Gotthardbahn in Switzerland connecting Basel to Milan in 1882, resorts, hotels and more mountain railways were built in the second half of the nineteenth century. But often this touristic infrastructure was not designed for a long stay, more to offer a halt or short break on longer journeys.

The positive effects of the climate and the pure air on health (climatotherapy), however, quickly led to medicinal prescriptions to stay in the mountains or in different climatic situations. A Pioneer was Sokolowski in Poland around 1850. Many regions and places in Europe gained fame for their climatic situation. Lakeside resorts like Stresa on the Lago Maggiore rivalled, with a cosmopolitan structure, the great spa towns in Europe.

St. Moritz town, 1938



Rural villages like Davos, famous for healing lung diseases, saw investments in specialised sanatoria from 1865. But the climatic health resorts in the Alps remained physically and economically small in comparison to *The Great Spas of Europe*. Often the public was more interested in exploring the mountains (The Alpine Club founded in England in 1857 was the first mountaineering club worldwide) and in winter sports. In this context, it is interesting to note that the rise of St. Moritz is not directly connected to the existing mineral sources (used by the local population since the Bronze Age) but to an innovative personality like the hotelier Johannes Badrutt. He managed to attract an international public, even in winter, and introduced unknown winter sports into Switzerland, like curling and bobsleigh. With the dissemination of ski sports in the 1890s, a new type of resort evolved in mountain regions, focusing mainly on accommodation and ski lifts thus creating new tourist attractions and a new economic basis for rural and underdeveloped areas in Europe. At the same time the fashion of cold water therapies spread over Europe without any topographical connections thus separating, more and more, therapy from a special place.



Dr. Turban's sanatorium,
Davos, Switzerland

Seaside resorts

It is interesting to consider seaside resorts that appeared from the end of the eighteenth century on most European coasts, and which evolved away from the concept of spa towns (*Resorts and Ports*, Borsay, Walton and alii, 2011). Seaside resorts were first developed in England - for example Brighton from 1750 where in 1825 a Doctor Struve from Dresden built a spa ensemble in one of the parks where he manufactured and dispensed artificial spa waters mimicking those available on the continent. Most English seaside resorts were earlier founded for their chalybeate or mineral springs (for example Weymouth, Brighton, Southampton, Margate, Scarborough and Whitby). These new Victorian resorts quickly set about creating the same atmosphere that had existed at successful spa venues, such as the Bath Assembly Rooms. If prescriptions of sea bathing mark the beginning of many seaside resorts in England, and on the European continent, (Heiligendamm, 1793, on the Baltic Sea; the oldest seaside spa in continental Europe), some of these towns remained very small throughout the nineteenth century until the arrival of the railways. Others gained importance but mainly with the construction of public assembly houses (for example the Kurhaus Scheveningen), hotels and promenades along the coast.

What is special to the northern seaside resorts is the invention of a new type of building: long piers were erected on the shallow sea to provide access to "land ships" where all the leisure functions were transported directly onto the sea. These piers attracted tourists to the seaside, and into a close connection with the sea. Piers evolved in the nineteenth century to become the main attraction; one that provided a maritime promenade, combined with facilities for recreation and pleasure. The expansion of many pierheads with eccentric buildings is of outstanding interest. Brighton in the UK, with its tourist infrastructure and several piers offering a wide range of amusements, attracted more visitors in the nineteenth century

The West Pier,
Brighton, around 1900



Kurhaus Scheveningen,
Netherlands, around 1900



than Bath. But this development shows clearly the different focus of these towns on leisure and tourism. Unfortunately, the most prominent examples of piers have been seriously altered, destroyed by fire (being mostly wooden architecture) or were destroyed in World War II. One example still remaining is in the seaside resort of Blackpool in the UK, now part of a World Heritage Initiative.

On Mediterranean coasts, seaside resorts were often a part of pre-existing coastal towns. During the nineteenth century, settlements with leisure residences spread along the coast. Although doctors prescribed the mild climate for the winter season, cosmopolitan cities like Cannes, Nizza and Biarritz attracted tourists and long-stay guests for other reasons. The towns on the Côte d’Azur, the Riviera or the Croatian Littoral attracted the upper class with their own mix of offers that formed the main attractions of the centres: promenades along the sea (like the 2km long Croisette at Cannes) that gave access to beaches, large Palace Hotels, Casinos and Assembly Houses. The case of Monte Carlo shows clearly that in the development of the touristic hotspots of Europe *The Great Spas of Europe* still served as a model: when Prince Charles III of Monaco (1818-89), Duke of Valentinois, installed sea-bathing in 1856, the resort’s international success came only following the arrival of the railway in 1868 and, moreover, the construction of the casino-theatre that was inspired by German spa casinos and designed by the Parisian architect Charles Garnier (inaugurated in 1879). For the Mediterranean coast the mild climate was the most important factor, leading to the formation of international communities (such as the Russian and English communities at Monaco, Nice, Cannes and Biarritz) that shared great similarity with those of *The Great Spas of Europe*. But the settlements on the coasts around Europe did not follow a comparable development in town planning, and did not form a comparable microcosm like the spa towns: the different coastal situations led to stretched-out town structures, without any binding element such as the springs to provide a focus and to dictate a function-led form and architectural expression.

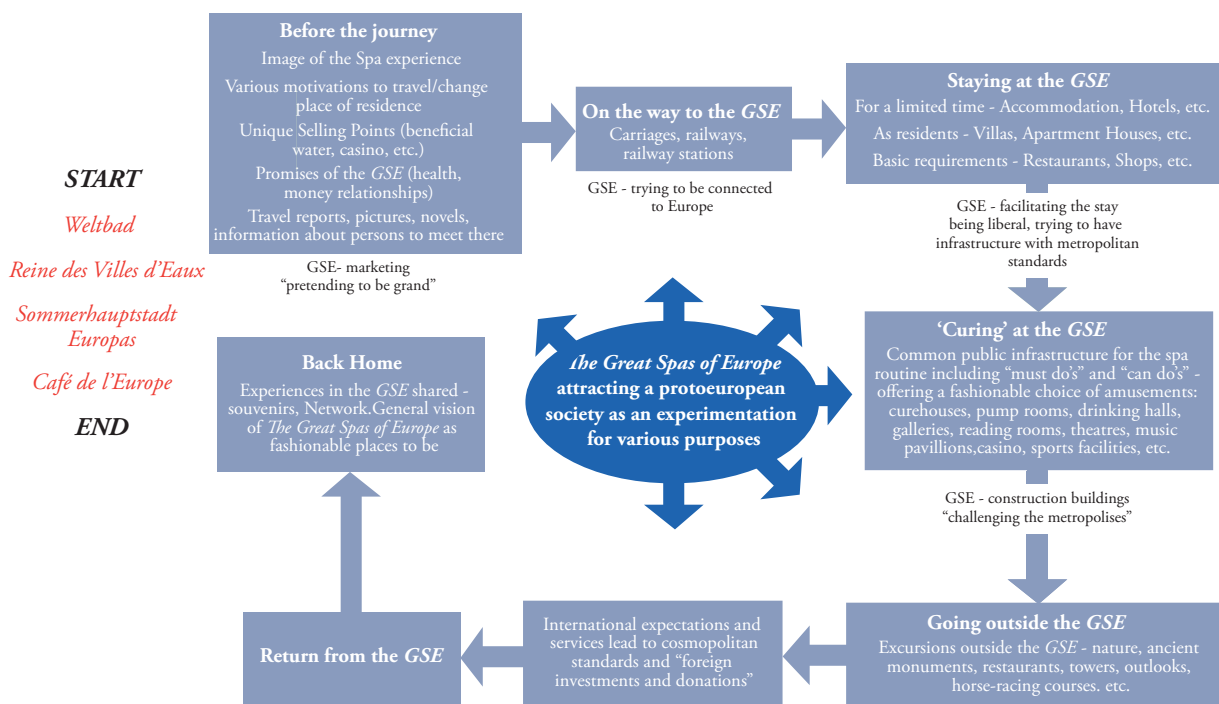


Fig 10. Idealised schema of a customer journey to the *Great Spas of Europe*

As a model for nascent European tourism, however, European spa towns seemed to represent the vision for a coordinated “tourist service chain”, from planning the journey, including all transport, to arrival, accommodation and diverse service offers. The notion of the ‘package tour’, invented in 1841 by British businessman Thomas Cook (1808-92), became international in the 1850s and included grand circular tours of spas in France, Belgium and Germany.

The attitude of trying to succeed by serving the health and leisure interests of customers in one location – the notion of a destination resort (applicable to *The Great Spas of Europe*) – remains a dependable model of success for many today. And the combination of trying to attract a national and international clientele with exclusive treatments, innovative buildings, and spectacular events and entertainment, is still valid in the tourism industry today; much like the indispensable marketing tools like advertising, peer group influence, story-telling and other mechanisms that were at the heart of the success of *The Great Spas of Europe*.

Chronology and linkages

Chronology

The beginning of the European development of spa towns

Spa activities flourished in the context of the Roman civilisation in a great part of Europe under the rules and habits of the conquerors. But when the Empire fell, whilst urban structures and baths were still used, the spa culture all but disappeared. Basic steam baths were known in the Middle Ages, but some hot springs in a few places continued to be used, and were sometimes Christianised. The reputation of some baths was maintained: for example, the city of Baden in Aargau (Switzerland), as evidenced by the letter *De Balneis* of the Italian humanist Poggio Bracciolini who stayed there in 1416. In Plombières, in the Vosges, the Roman open-air swimming pool was frequented and even had an international reputation in the sixteenth century. It is significant that Montaigne, in his trip to Italy by Switzerland and Germany in 1580 and 1581 (a precursor of the Grand Tour), included the baths of Plombières, Baden in Aargau and Bagni di Lucca. This choice shows that the baths most known at that time are different from those that dominated the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Other thermal spas also served as stages in the Grand Tour, especially by the English, or even as a base for excursions in the mountains such as Bagnères-de-Bigorre in the Pyrenees or Bagni di Lucca in the Appenine Mountains (which hosted an English colony). This thermal practice and the use of resorts to stay in picturesque places constitute one of the first forms of European tourism. Hotel facilities, the natural surroundings with walks, and the practice of games also developed to combine therapeutic function and tourist leisure. But these resorts remained modest compared to the *City of Bath*, which created a new concept: the spa town. Even *Spa*, which is so well known that the Czar Peter the Great and Casanova came, remained a village, but nonetheless equipped with two of the first casinos in the world (La Redoute, 1763, and the Waux-Hall, 1770.



Plombières, etching in *De Balneis omnia quae extant apud graecos, latinus et arabas...*, Venice, 1553.

Our chronology must begin with the *City of Bath* around 1700. Symbolically, Beau Nash became “Master of The Ceremonies” in 1704, followed by the construction of the first Pump Room and the first Assembly Rooms and parades. The urban development continued in the 1750s with the Circus and then in the 1770s with the Royal Crescent. In *Bad Kissingen*, one of the first Kurgartens (garden specifically designed for spa guests) was established between 1738 and 1744. The first peak of European spa towns (though predominantly in Western Europe) is the decade 1770-80: *Spa* built the Waux-Hall; the Grand Duke of Tuscny launched *Montecatini Terme* with new baths (1773-83); in *Vichy*, the bath was created for Louis XV’s daughters (1785-87); Plombières was enriched with four new baths and the city embellished with promenades and regular façades; and Aix-les-Bains, in Savoy, received its first monumental baths. Around 1800, the first milestone in the growth of the spa was reached: around 100 small spa towns developed around springs. Some of these grew to become “Great”.

		Main periods of construction of preserved spa buildings, facilities and parks							
		1700-1739	1740-1769	1770-1799	1800-1839	1840-1869	1870-1899	1900-1914	1919-1939
Western Europe	<i>City of Bath</i>								
	<i>Spa</i>								
	<i>Vichy</i>								
Southern Europe	<i>Montecatini Terme</i>								
Central Europe	<i>Bad Ems</i>								
	<i>Bad Kissingen</i>								
	<i>Baden-Baden</i>								
	<i>Baden bei Wien</i>								
	<i>Františkovy Lázně</i>								
	<i>Karlovy Vary</i>								
	<i>Mariánské Lázně</i>								

Fig 11. Main periods of construction of preserved spa buildings, facilities and parks

European spa towns around 1900

With the early nineteenth century, the spas of Central Europe grew and became the prominent ensemble of neo-classical spas: Aachen, Wiesbaden, *Karlovy Vary*, *Mariánské Lázně*, *Baden-Baden*, *Bad Ems* and *Baden bei Wien*. It was the first time that a network developed with contacts and linkages between all the great spas through a neo-classical architecture that became a kind of signature, confirming their relationship in function, form, image and aspiration.

As demonstrated in figure 11 and figure 12 the second key historical moment was the peak of the phenomenon during the last decades of the nineteenth century, also characterised by distinctive buildings. There were new creations such as Vittel or Bad Nauheim, and all the spas that were considered as the most important, renewed their buildings with frenzy. But a key factor that they cultivated is cosmopolitanism.

Attendance increased enormously until the 1930s and the onset of the depression. After World War II, hydrotherapy and the public changed with social mutation in the management of health care, the disappearance of a large part of the wealthy foreign clientele, and the tendency of doctors to resist new chemotherapeutic treatments. In terms of built heritage, the last prestigious buildings date from the 1930s. The sumptuous Tettuccio Stabilimento, in *Montecatini Terme*, opened only in 1928: interpreted as the last flowering of the golden age of European spa towns, that started with Bath around 1700.

Figure 12 demonstrates clearly that there is a concentration of spas in Central Europe; the other lands in general have no less springs, sometimes more, but there is certainly less investment. Massive investment attracted not only visitors, but also other investors. If one superimposed the map of the railway networks to that of spa towns, the same concentration would be found in Central Europe and France: it is interesting to note that the *Guide itinéraire des eaux minérales et des bains de mer* by Constantin James, during the 1860s combined significantly the two elements. It explained that cosmopolitanism, which characterised the spa culture phenomenon from the beginning, had been amplified by this combination, with the bourgeoisie becoming involved in these new habits. This map is a kind of utopia, a Europe without boundaries with railways connecting all cities, spa towns and seaside resorts in a great network.

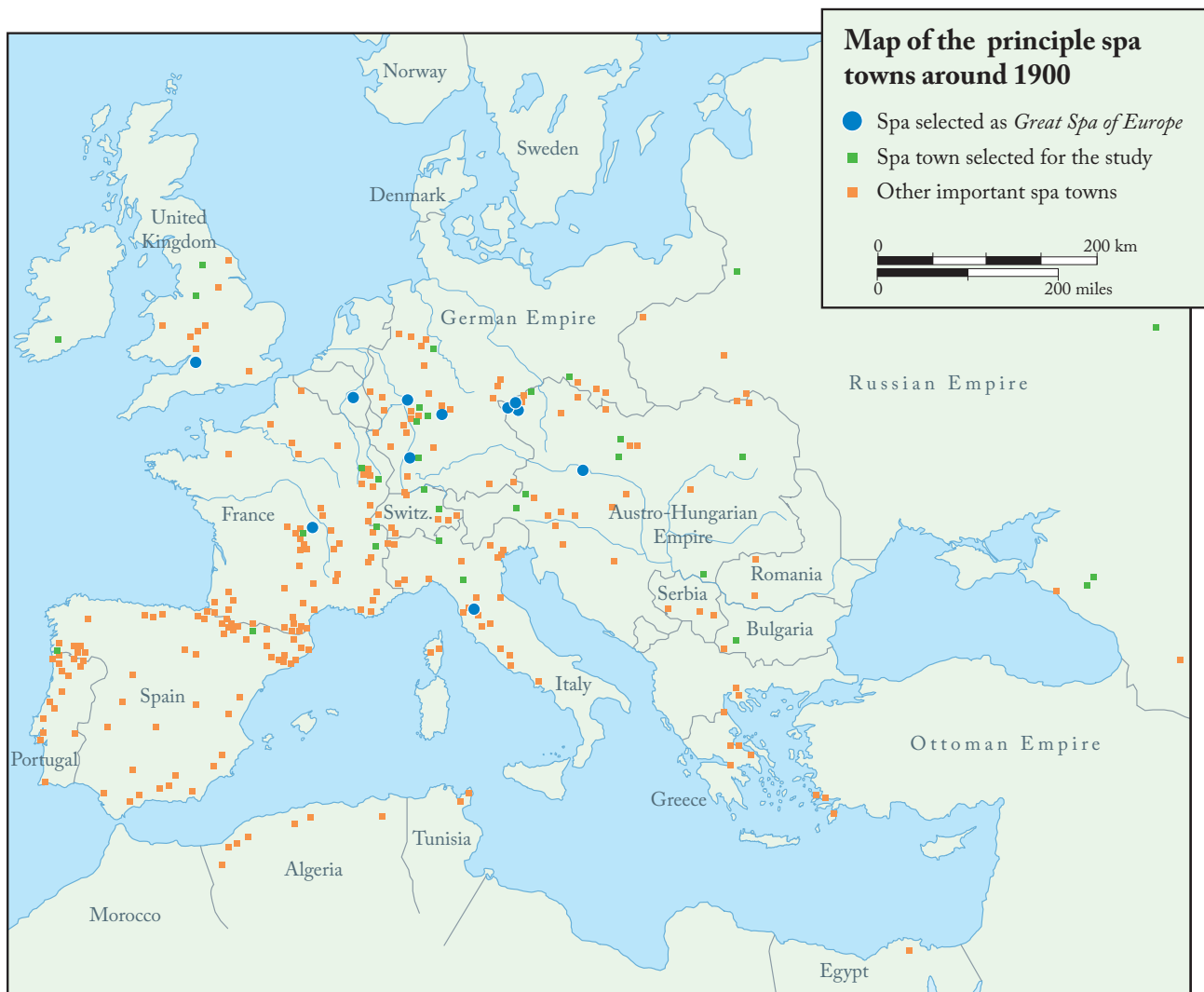


Fig 12. Map of the principal spa towns around 1900

Linkages: European spas as a network

Two key factors demonstrate that *The Great Spas of Europe* is a coherent group, both from the point of view of historical development, with a key period of around 1700 to the 1930s, and of geographical distribution in the most dynamic regions of Europe. Medicine, cultural diversions and gaming, internationalism, urban form and architecture, are central attributes of proposed Outstanding Universal Value. They unite the group and underpin the representativeness of its components as demonstrating the global nature of the European spa phenomenon.

From “Salons de l’Europe” to a European network between medical and leisure activities

Cosmopolitanism is inherent in any spa of great reputation and its visitors most often had visited several of them, becoming “vectors of a transnational culture”, to quote Peter Borsay (Borsay-Furnee 2016).

It is a legacy of the eighteenth century that survives in the nineteenth century despite the rise of nationalism. Spa towns, indeed, look like neutral space. Borsay writes, taking Bath as a mirror of this phenomenon: *One of the most striking features of elite leisure in the eighteenth century is the ease with which ideas and forms flow across geographic boundaries. Indeed, it often seems in the period that fashionable pastimes and practices define themselves in relation to an “international” cultural system, associated with the Enlightenment, which deliberately eschewed the local and parochial, stigmatizing it as boorish and uncivilized.*

The internationalisation of the most notorious spas begins in the eighteenth century in *Spa*, the *City of Bath* and Bad Pyrmont. Spas are the most important sites for the reception and transmission of the transnational trends and new values of the Enlightenment, which requires a new conception of relations between Europeans, between classes and also between men and women. Spas develop a polite art of conversation, a word used in the *Conversationhaus* in *Baden-Baden*, a neoclassical temple used as a casino. Cosmopolitanism is effective in the evolution of spa culture, especially in its component of leisure setting. Polite meeting, gaming, dancing, walking are activities reinforced by meeting with a foreign clientele. *Spa*, in the bishopric of Liège, is designed in 1762 by the author of the *Amusemens de Spa*, Jean-Philippe de Limbourg as *the general meeting place for the European nations which the beautiful season brings together every year, as much by the attraction of pleasure as by the motive of the health.* He adds that *Spa* is a kind of “republic” (Limbourg 1762, 203):

To judge of Spa, one would say that it is a whole World, a kind of extract of the Universe. In it all nations, blood, sentiments, behaviours, and manners of all nations are met with. English, French, German, Dutch, Italian and other lesser-known languages are spoken there. It seems that the whole of Europe is found there by deputies, in order to expose the original characteristics of all the Nations, which it would be difficult to disentangle elsewhere, and which are here developed admirably, because they are as concentrated in this narrow place; and that foreigners live there so freely and with so much intimacy with each other as if they were all members of the same Republic, and as if they had no interest in these unfortunate divisions, which agitate almost all the powers of Europe.

This point of view must be confronted with that of Casanova, more cynical: *The Wells are a mere pretext for gaming, intriguing, and fortune-hunting. There are a few honest people who go for amusement, and a few for rest and relaxation after the toils of business.*

After conversation, balls, a marriage market and promenading, gaming was the most important activity in several spa towns; not only for its attractiveness and customer appeal, but as a lucrative resource. In the eighteenth century, *Spa* and France play a central role in this domain. A Napoleonic decree in 1806 allows gambling only in spa towns in order to provide means to renew the buildings and facilities; its effect extends to *Spa*, Aachen and *Montecatini Terme*. As countries prohibited or allowed gambling, casino managers moved from one city to another. When king Louis-Phillipe restricted gambling in Paris, important managers went to the Rhine Valley and thus assured a boom in attendance. In this way, *Baden-Baden* becomes Salon Europas (Martin 1983): the French Antoine Chabert took the concession of the games in *Baden-Baden* in 1824 and developed the brilliant season; he worked also in *Bad Ems*, Wiesbaden and Schlangenbad. After him, another Frenchman, Jacques Benazet and his son Edouard led the casino and contributed to its success, building a new theatre, inviting Berlioz. This French presence lasted until the Franco-Prussian war and the decision of the Emperor, after German unification, to close the casinos. The most famous director, François Blanc, the “magician of Homburg”, left this place where he played a fundamental role in the growth of the spa and in its urban development, to go to Monte Carlo. There is a kind of “internationale” of gambling which appears clearly in the “Roulettenburg” of Dostoevsky’s *Gambler*, which is a synthesis of all the casinos in the Rhine valley.

Spa (Bishopric of Liege). Gaming near a spring; the walk “Promenade de sept heures”. Engravings in *Amusemens des eaux de Spa*, 1734, Karl Ludwig von Pöllnitz.



French people also played an important role in *Bad Ems*, in music, plays and gaming. In 1861, *Les Eaux d'Ems*, an operetta written by two famous Parisian Boulevard writers, Crémieux and Halévy, with music by Léo Delibes, was created in Paris during the spring, and presented in the Kursaal of *Bad Ems* in summer. More famous, Jacques Offenbach composed here *Orphée aux Enfers*, with a libretto by the same authors, first performed in Paris in 1858.

Baden-Baden is the best example of the European orientation and character of spas. The presence of English and Russian people, and French involvement explains why the city was called Sommerhauptstadt, capitale d'été (summer capital). French illustrated newspapers were published, *L' Illustration de Bade* or *Le Moniteur de Bade*. A French journalist Charles Brainne, wrote (*Baigneuses et buveurs d'eau*, 1860, 99): *In spite of the treaties of 1815 and its double German etymology, Baden-Baden has always been a French city. Not that Parisian society is larger than that of Berlin, Vienna, London, New York, or St. Petersburg; but it dominates it because of the real supremacy which France exercises over all that belongs to the arts, fashion, and intellectual pleasures. French is the language of conversation in Baden.*

Beyond the advertising dimension of this text, it transmits a true vision and the status of the leading European spa towns as exchange places which share values: after *Spa*

and the *City of Bath* in the eighteenth century, and the Rhine valley in the mid nineteenth century, *Vichy*, *Montecatini Terme* and the Bohemian spas during the Belle Époque became the leaders and encouraged the emergence of new customs, intellectual interchange and the mixing of diverse social classes. There has been a kind of “Internationale” of spas, promoted particularly by the cosmopolitan elites and writers who have largely contributed to establishing these intangible links, but also doctors, architects, and managers of these places dedicated to being “different”, that is to say in opposition to the usual frameworks of life. This is a defining characteristic of the holiday resort, even if health is its primary motivation. There is a very early circulation of ideas, habits, architectural models, medical innovations and resort actors. Spas ensure, despite the vagaries of politics, a form of continuity of a transnational cultural and social ideal, a truly European spirit emerging through the Enlightenment. The towns that comprise *The Great Spas of Europe* are the present witnesses of this spirit. They have preserved these values and their current configuration, sites, town planning and architecture, that are witness to these historic links.

Spas have always been connected, not only by patients but also by tourists. People came for a long period of time, the “cure guests/Kurgäste” representing a separate and new group of clientele, besides tourists, travellers and patients. Many of them came to prevent diseases, not being patients as such but rather long-term prophylactic guests. The spas formed a sort of grid on the territory as stages in circuits of visits, or as places to stay for extended periods or sojourns in health and leisure. As a result, modern tourism grew from visiting spas. Europe was thus covered with several thousands of spa towns, some of which have become very famous and have emblematic value for the whole of this network.

The spa network then contributes to the extension of the dense railway networks; special lines or connections are created to serve the spas, which, from then on, experience a real boom. The railway reached the *City of Bath* and *Baden bei Wien* in 1840 and 1841, respectively. Some companies offered “circular travels” between a few spas: for example around the Taunus, or in the South of France (P.L.M.). Many guides clearly illustrate this development, and also an awareness that spas form a well-identified group: thus John Murray, both in *A Handbook for Travellers on the Continent* (1836) and *A Handbook for Travellers in Southern Germany* (1837), specified that these books incorporate “descriptions of the most frequented baths and watering places”. It also helped to prioritise these places by defining their status: thus, for him, “Carlsbad [is] the most aristocratic watering-place in Europe”. Karl Baedeker in Germany and Adolphe Joanne in France proceeded in the same way and published special guides for spas such as *Les Bains d'Europe. Guide descriptif et médical des eaux d'Allemagne, d'Angleterre, de Belgique, d'Espagne, de France, d'Italie et de Suisse* (1860) d'Adolphe Joanne et Auguste Le Pileur. Physicians created medical guides covering Europe. Of course, each spa had its own guidebook for sick people or travellers, usually drafted by doctors, but there also appeared a kind of specialised international guide that created a community between all the European spas: Dr. Constantin James published in 1851 a *Guide pratique aux principales eaux minérales de France, de Belgique, d'Allemagne, de Suisse, de Savoie et d'Italie*. Dr Robert Flechsig, from Bad Elster, wrote a dictionary of all the European spas, including North Africa: *Badër-Lexikon. Darstellung aller bekannter Bäder, Heilquellen, Wasserheilanstalten und klimatischen Kurorte Europas und des nördlichen Afrikas* (1883). Dr. James-Léon Macquarie and Godefroy Bardet, at the same time, required two thick volumes to deal with: *Villes d'eaux de la France* (1884), et *Villes d'eaux de l'étranger* (1885). Doctors were among the best vectors of transmission of spa culture, not only in medical innovation; they were often involved in the management of the baths and the towns.

The map on the following pages is from *Les bains d'Europe*, 1880. It shows a Europe without frontiers connected by the railways that existed at the time.



CARTE
DES CHEMINS DE FER
et des Vains
DE L'EUROPE

Dessiné par N. G. Dufour

Gravée par CH. BONNET

LITHOGR. DE

La Harcelle & Co.

Paris

Echelle

- Chemins de Fer
- Vains
- Routes de grandes communications ou reliant aux chemins de fer
- Ville ou établissement Thermal





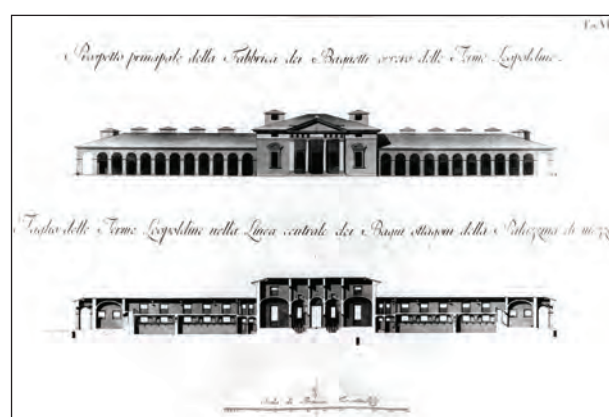
Many doctors travelled throughout Western and Central Europe and liked to establish comparisons. Sometimes, in the medical field, study trips were organised: in France, the Voyages d'Etudes Médicales appeared in 1899. Each year, with the help of the railway companies and station managers, these caravans traversed a region and welcomed foreign doctors. In September 1927, the Italian Tourist Office proposed a medical study trip to Italian spas and climatic stations. Comparative studies were drawn up, which are not always devoid of nationalist aims. Nevertheless, doctors went from one city to another in search of medical or organisational improvement. Dr. Parturier published a *Rapport sur les eaux de Karlsbad et de Vichy* (1909). At the same time, Dr. Gaston Bardet delivered his *Notes on Hydrology in Aux stations minérales d'Allemagne et de Bohême* (1910). It was also the time when France was studying the management of the flourishing German and Austrian stations to establish a Cure-Tax and to free itself from the financial supplements brought by gambling. While Franco-German relations were strained after the War of 1870 and a form of "thermal war" gave rise to books suggesting a boycott, some doctors continued to visit foreign spas. For example, Dr. Auguste Labat gives prefaces in German to his works, *Climat et eaux minérales d'Allemagne* (1902) et *Climat et eaux minérales d'Autriche-Hongrie* (1902), in Italian for his volume *Eaux minérales d'Italie* (1899) and in English for the book on *English waters* (1900). However, these spas were big businesses and were no less rivals: they spied to seize new developments, anxious to offer the latest discoveries to the patients, new amenities to the vacationers, and the latest trends of fashion in spa life. Scientific analysis proved the similarity of the mineral waters in all Europe, and to 'take the cure' was a pretext to travel.



Parturier, *Rapport sur les eaux de Karlsbad et de Vichy*

Internationalisation of spa architecture

After doctors, architects were the most important vectors of transnational spa culture, through using building types that circulated between *The Great Spas of Europe* and other notable spa towns. And they travelled throughout Europe to find solutions to the complex constructions such as huge baths with many kinds of medical services, or casinos that collect ballrooms, games rooms, theatre and lounges of many kinds. In general, the architectural trends move quickly, but architects and managers of spa towns were particularly aware of the necessity to follow the latest trend. Jill Steward (Borsay-Furnee, 255) describes this process: In their organisation, design and culture, as leisure settings, spa resorts functioned as important vectors of transnational culture transfer across a wide range of fields, from architecture and manners to music and garden design, all of which played a part in that different social groups defined and fashioned themselves. Whether initiated by princely rivalry, civic pride or entrepreneurial ambition, the driving force behind the receptivity of the spas to foreign models and influences was competition as they were forced to change and innovate in order to stay abreast of their rivals by adapting to the changing tastes, sensitivities and requirement of their customers. Among the principal agents of transmission were the architects, designers and gardeners who created the built and 'natural' environments framing spa life.



Montecatini Terme, Paoletti

It is relevant, but she forgets that spa towns are not only leisure setting, but health places attentive to technical evolution and medical innovations to conceive new

buildings. One of the most organic and efficient factors in the development of a great spa was the specialisation of each function integrated in its own building. The characteristic of the great spa is to separate functions and to create an urban layout with many buildings related to each other by parks and galleries. It was an opportunity to introduce luxurious architectural motifs and distinctive elements typical of urban architecture. Great spas shared with capitals in searching for representative forms, as well as early and technically advanced infrastructure.

All the international trends of architecture found in spa towns a place to blossom, but two stylistic images dominated. The first one was linked with classicist renewal at the end of the eighteenth century; Palladianism coming through England, and classical models from Italy, spread in all spas towns with favourite inspirations being the Greek stoa, the Roman arcaded gallery and the tempietto. Even if there is no known connection with attested journeys, links between architectural designs are obvious. It is striking that, at the same date, the 1780s, in *Montecatini Terme*, Niccolò Gaspero Maria Paoletti (1779-81), on the initiative of the Grand Duke Leopold, and in *Vichy*, Barthélémy Jeanson (1785-87), on the initiative of Mesdames, the King's sisters, built two very similar arcaded galleries. Mostly in Central Europe, colonnades and pavilions became an emblematic mark, in Wiesbaden (Christian Zais from 1807) and in *Karlovy Vary*, with Josef Esch's works. In *Františkovy Lázně*, the colonnade (1816-32) is still a major element of composition. It is significant that this architectural unity is ensured by the fact that architects worked in various spas: Johann Gottfried Gutensohn built the Kursaal in Bruckenaue, the Marmorsaal in *Bad Ems*, the church of *Mariánské Lázně* and villas in *Bad Kissingen*.



Vichy, The new baths by Barthélémy Janson, 1787.

The prestige of that kind of colonnade found legitimacy in French architectural theory. Exchanges took place in both directions: the architect in charge of the new thermal baths of Bagnères-de-Luchon in the Pyrenees, Edmond Chambert, was sent in 1847 by the prefect to visit the baths of France, Savoy, Switzerland and Germany. The result was always more monumentality and he used a long colonnaded façade that may have also been inspired by Wiesbaden. We have attestation of many journeys by architects. Václav Skalník who worked in *Mariánské Lázně* (1818-23) had visited Britain and Josef Esch who transformed Karlovy Vary adopted the neoclassic style used also by the Viennese official architect Josef Kornhausel in *Baden bei Wien* (Zeman 2014).

Other trends also appear in spa towns, such as neo-gothic or neo-Romanesque, but these remained rare and occurred most often in small spas, as in the early-twentieth century with the regionalist options. There are two enlightening cases: in the original Trinkhalle (pump room and gallery) designed by Heinrich Hübsch in *Baden-Baden* (1839-42), one of the most important buildings for the birth of Rundbogenstil and its attempt to escape historicism; and the Arkadenbau (1834-38) in *Bad Kissingen*, designed by Friedrich von Gärtner. Classicist styles stayed increasingly in favour, until a new ostentatious fashion spread, an eclectic mix of neo-Renaissance and neo-baroque that could extend to neo-rococo, which appeared between Paris and Vienna. Spa towns and seaside resorts played a central role, with the capitals, in the circulation of this lavish style. One of its promoters was Charles Garnier who built not only the Parisian Opera but also a thermal complex in Vittel (1884), a well-known casino in Monte Carlo (1879) and many buildings on the Riviera. This style became international for two reasons,



Monte Carlo, The extension of the casino by Charles Garnier, in Croquis d'architecture, 1879.

because quickly it looked like a visual and prestigious reference, and because many architects studied in Paris. The American scholars baptised this style “Beaux-Arts Architecture” (Drexler 1977). Around 1800-1900, *Karlovy Vary* received many beautiful buildings of this style: the theatre (1884-86) and Imperial spa (1893-95) designed by the international firm Fellner and Helmer (who worked in Vienna, Budapest, Prague, Sofia, Odessa, *Karlovy Vary* and Wiesbaden).

Examples of this style can be found also in *Baden-Baden* (Friedrichbad, Carl Dernfeld, 1869-77, and Augustabad, Josef Durm, 1890-93), in the Kurhaus in *Baden bei Wien* (Fassbender and Katscher, 1886). Many hotels adopted this luxurious style to compete with each other. *Bad Ems* is a spa town clearly characterised by the two periods: the classicist style for the Kursaal and adjoining colonnades until 1913, neo-baroque for the new Kurhaus-Grand Hotel which integrated old baths (1912). The architect Johann Gottfried Gutensohn also designed three spa villas in *Bad Kissingen* 1837-40) and the Marienkirche in *Mariánské Lázně* (1843-48).

The network between spa towns functioned completely in this period and France and Italy followed models from Central Europe, not so much in architectural style, but in technical and management procedures. Around 1900, the French and Italian perception of Central Europe mastery for thermal baths was strong. In 1901 the architect Giulio Bernardini (who gave *Montecatini Terme* its character by designing not only a series of emblematic buildings such as Tamerici Terme or the Excelsior, but above all the park that adds a major quality) travelled with the investors of the Società delle Nuove Terme Pietro and Luigi Bargiola (Massi 2008, 80) to visit the spas in Switzerland, Bohemia and Germany, where he closely studied the installations, the parks and their equipment. Bernardini left a report, *Un Viaggio alle Stazioni Balneari della Svizzera, Boemia e Germania* where he describes his visits to *Karlovy Vary*, *Mariánské Lázně*, *Františkovy Lázně*, *Bad Kissingen*, *Homburg*, *Wiesbaden*, and *Baden-Baden*, and where he shows consciousness of the link between cure and diversions. “Any modern bathing resort”, he writes, “shall not lack a series of major attractions, because the sojourn of the people who stay there shall not only be useful, but also pleasant on all accounts. All bathing resorts, especially *Karlsbad*, *Wiesbaden*, and *Baden-Baden* are far better than the Italian ones, not because they are characterised by a higher healing potential of the waters, but because they actually offer a wider range of comforts. We noticed in fact everywhere we turned there were glorious curative establishments, which contain the most modern amenities that medical science has to offer. There are comfortable well-furnished hotels, which are able to host the best guests. There are establishments for entertaining oneself in conversation or for leisure, whose exterior beauty resembles that of proper monuments, and which offer all sorts of comforts and facilities in wide, luxurious rooms”.

In *Vichy*, the same inferiority complex was apparent in the 1890s. In 1894, coming back from Germany where he noted the baths offer luxury, comfortable and entertainment with the layout prescribed by modern



Vittel, Vosges, France. Casino (destroyed) of Charles Garnier (1825-98), postcard.

Mariánské Lázně. The view of the New Baths (present).



science, Pr Paul Brouardel called on the Company to renew the baths (Morillon 1998). Placed in charge by the French State as State Architect of the renewal of the baths in Aix-les-Bains, and the complete renovation of the *Vichy* facilities, Charles Le Coeur travelled twice in Central Europe. In April 1893 he went to Aachen, *Baden-Baden*, *Karlovy Vary* and *Mariánské Lázně*. Very impressed by Friedrichbad in *Baden-Baden* and by Germanhydrologic installations, he became aware of the need to support the formidable competition from similar establishments in Germany, as he says in his report. After raw conflicts about his projects, he returned to Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire in April 1898; he visited the same spas, but more systematically Wiesbaden, *Bad Ems*, Homburg, *Bad Kissingen* and even Budapest. It is interesting to see his first proposal for the baths, a long and arcaded façade with two campaniles, maybe on the model of the just opened *Nové Lázně* (1893-96) in Marienbad. With reference to this building, inspired by Charles Garnier's architecture in Monte-Carlo (Zeman, Kuca, Kucová 2008), we can understand the nature of exchanges, not only the influence of France on the Czech Republic, but also of Bohemia on France. In 1885, the Principal Surgeon to the Royal United Hospital in Bath (and sometime Mayor of Bath), along with the City Architect, Major Davis, visited major spa towns in central Europe. On their return, new treatment rooms were built close to the King's Bath and new hotels constructed in the centre of the City.

In this common evolution of historic styles inside the spas, original options such as orientalism in the baths, and Art Nouveau in the new opera-theatre in *Vichy*, or baroque references in *Montecatini Terme*, also appeared.

Not only the style, but also the internationalisation of new building materials and construction methods were pioneered in the 'Great Spas'. They state new forms of engineering in the nineteenth century, such as cast-iron and concrete constructions, for example *Bad Kissingen* with the first known significant cast-iron construction, the Brunnenhalle/pump room (1841/42). Only two earlier but minor cast-iron constructions in spa towns are known: a small pavilion covering a well in Bad Weilbach (1832) and a roof construction in Wildbad (1836). The cast-iron construction was replaced in 1910-11 by another very modern building: The Wandel- und Brunnenhalle which shows a special way of exposing concrete that is without any earlier parallel in other spa towns and almost without any parallel in representative high buildings in general (one major example of a representative building exposing concrete is the "Königliche Anatomie" (1905-07) which had also been designed by the architect Littmann.

3.2.2. Assessment

The main comparison addresses the principal spa towns in Europe and to assess whether they have the potential to make a substantial contribution to the draft Outstanding Universal Value. This comparison was made in three steps:

- 1) With European properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List;
- 2) With sites on European National Tentative Lists;
- 3) With other European spa towns.

Criteria for selection

In the years 2006-08 the National Heritage Institute of the Czech Republic - after the deferral of the nomination of the Spa Town of Luhačovice by the World Heritage Committee (“in order to conduct a more thorough study of the nominated property, particularly in the framework of a global thematic study concerning thermalism”) prepared and elaborated the details of an international project entitled: *Spas and the Spa Industry in the Czech Republic in the Context of the Spa Sector’s Global Development*. The aim of the project was to “systematically analyse the development of spas and the spa sector in the Czech Republic through comparison with the most important spa resorts in Europe and elsewhere in the World”. As a result, a booklet *West Bohemian Spas in the Context of the European Spa Heritage* was published in 2008 by Lubomír Zeman. The Czech Republic inscribed on its Tentative List “The West Bohemian Spa Triangle” (25/06/2008). At the same time contacts were made with other European spas and comparative research deepened.

In 2010, Andreas Förderer, working for *Baden-Baden*, published *Playgrounds of Europe. Europäische Kurstädte und Modebäder des 19. Jahrhunderts*. This was the first comparative analysis of eighteenth to early twentieth century European spa towns with an international character. It demonstrates the first scientific attempt to justify a serial approach to a World Heritage nomination, as recommended by ICOMOS. Therefore, the same year, an international conference “European Health Resorts and Fashionable Spas of the 19th century”, was held in *Baden-Baden* and published in 2012 by ICOMOS Germany and the State Office for Cultural Heritage Baden-Württemberg (*Europäische Kurstädte und Modebäder des 19. Jahrhunderts*, edited by Volkmar Eidloth). These papers highlighted the present candidate spa towns, among others, as the most important spa towns of nineteenth-century Europe, and as being worthy of consideration for inclusion on the World Heritage List. A further detailed review, that constitutes a thematic study of European spa towns, was undertaken between 2014 and 2015 by an international expert group appointed to undertake this task by the Project’s International Steering Group. Experts from all seven States Parties assisted them later. Their works appear in the bibliography.

From the first selection of around 40 spa towns, the expert group conducted a second stage by the diligent application of selection criteria that reduced this number to sixteen. These formed a tentative series under the project of *The Great Spas of Europe*. Each state party, if it was not previously the case, then included them on their Tentative Lists. The process of selection then continued in order to select those properties that made essential contributions to the series, as a whole, and therefore ultimately constitute the best and most representative property that contained all attributes of proposed

Outstanding Universal Value. The major reasons for deselecting some spas was a lower scoring when tested for authenticity and integrity, and also the lack of continuity of the medical function as a spa town to the present day. The result was the selection by the International Steering Group of eleven candidate spa towns as the best representatives of the European spa culture in the period from around the beginning of the eighteenth century to the 1930s, from the point of view of their:

- Geographical setting: the selected spa towns are located in all European regions where internationally important spas flourished during the time period concerned;
- Chronological aspects: the selected spa towns bear testimony to all periods of significant development, from the beginning of the eighteenth, the nineteenth and the first third of the twentieth centuries and, as a whole, they represent an outstanding example of the development of the European spa culture during this time period;
- Urban structure and architecture: the series includes all urban forms of spa towns such as those which evolved from earlier settlements with an old tradition of using healing water dating back to Roman or medieval times as well as those established intentionally as virgin spa settlements on natural mineral springs following the appearance of Enlightenment ideas promoting the importance of health and its natural sources. The series includes towns founded in various natural settings (in flat/steep or wide/narrow river valleys as well as in flat areas without significant waterways, places with dense forests or without them). The selected spa towns exhibit all types of dedicated spa structures such as bath houses, pump rooms, assembly rooms and colonnades as well as structures built for the diversion of spa guests (theatres, operas, casinos, sports grounds) most of which are excellent pieces of architectural heritage and became models for other spa ensembles worldwide;
- Variety of spa landscapes: the extremely important feature of all component parts of the series are large areas of thoughtfully designed public parks and gardens, many of them extending to the wider vicinity of spa quarters in order to enable promenading, leisure, exercise and sporting activities (therapeutic spa landscape), and the disposition and integration of urban layouts and spa functions within this;
- Function and use: all selected spa towns benefit from a number of mineral springs and all of them still exhibit a living spa function, the nature of which depends on the typology of mineral springs and their chemical composition (hot or cold, suitable for bathing, drinking or both). All major types of natural mineral springs are represented in the selected spa towns and, consequently, the series gives an outstanding example of diverse balneological procedures used in European spas with *The Great Spas of Europe* being at the forefront in introducing these methods;
- Role, international standing: the selected spa towns are those which can demonstrate high international profile throughout their history, which became important international meeting places and became places of inspiration of major artists. They are the places that largely contributed to the democratisation and emancipation of European society. Measurement of this aspect is through the consultation of primary sources, particularly the highly detailed annually-published seasonal guest registers (some of the most glamorous guest-books in the world), a particular trait of all the “Great” spas which used many strategies to entice those who want “to see, and be seen”;

- Authenticity and integrity: all selected spa towns meet criteria of authenticity and integrity, and the series as a whole meets the notion of compositional integrity.

The State Parties, which submit this nomination, share the expert opinion that the selected eleven spa towns provide optimal compositional integrity of the series. They are those that, together, can best demonstrate proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

The principal contribution of each of these eleven spa towns that make a substantial contribution to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value is summarised in 3.2.3.

The criteria for selection are summarised in tables that follow.

Comparison with properties in World Heritage List

From data posted on the UNESCO World Heritage Centre website, there are 434 cultural World Heritage Sites in Europe and North America (as of August 2018) and of these there are 101 urban sites on the World Heritage List for geographic Europe. However, most of them do not have any spa function and were inscribed, in particular, because of their architecture. Some properties included or still include mineral springs and sometimes bathing structures, but – with the exception of the *City of Bath*, which is included in the current nomination – none of them is a true spa town and they were inscribed for other themes and values than those that are characteristic for the nominated property (see table A).

For example, Aachen, in Germany, a spa town from the Roman times to the nineteenth century, has lost the majority of its spa function; although hot springs are still available for bathing, operated by a not-for-profit trust, and there are some spa hotels. Only the cathedral is inscribed on the World Heritage List for the significance of its architecture and archaeology. Another interesting example is Bagno Vignoni in the extensive Val d'Orcia cultural landscape World Heritage Site. Its thermal waters, used since Roman times, flourished in medieval times around a charming rectangular tank of sixteenth century origin in the “Square of Sources”. It always remained a small and comparatively simple spa, however.

Apart from the *City of Bath*, the only other city that must be taken into consideration, because it includes a famous spa tradition, is Budapest (already inscribed as a World Heritage Site, although not as a spa: “Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrassy Avenue”). Budapest’s ancient and still continuing bathing culture follows the Roman and Ottoman traditions. There are some 120 hot springs in the city. Spa ensembles were created in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The springs feed seventeen thermal baths in the city and three of these have medical departments. The nature of bath treatments in Budapest mostly differs from those used in the nominated property and corresponds rather to a centuries-long tradition of cleansing baths and joint bathing in thermal water known already in ancient times (even before the arrival of the Romans). Drinking cures with associated promenading and other medicinal procedures are used only sporadically. Budapest was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987 under Criteria (ii) and (iv), but not as a spa despite the use of hot springs in the City for their medicinal and recreational properties. Neither the original inscription nor the extension (2002) referred to spas. Compared with the nominated property, Budapest represents a somewhat different typology, a special place with twin cities that are primarily a capital with its own identity - one that is not

necessarily of a spa culture. Nonetheless, the exceptional merits of the spas in the city are acknowledged.

Comparison with properties in the Tentative List

The spa towns included on national Tentative Lists are listed in the table; there are two kinds of sites, spa towns included in the first project *The Great Spas of Europe*, on which we comment later, and some mineral springs with medicinal uses included in cultural or natural landscapes.

The first spa town to be placed on a national Tentative Lists was the town of Luhačovice (Czech Republic) in 2001, followed in 2008 by the Belgian town of *Spa* and the three towns of the West Bohemian Spa Triangle (*Františkovy Lázně, Karlovy Vary, Mariánské Lázně*). The nomination for the Luhačovice property was considered by the World Heritage Committee in 2006/07 and deferred to permit a more thorough study of the nominated property, particularly in the framework of a global thematic study of thermalism.

In 2014, the seven states parties involved in the transnational collaboration of *The Great Spas of Europe* placed the sixteen tentative members of the proposed serial nomination on their respective tentative lists. Apart from the eleven spa towns in the current nomination, five others were included as part of a potential series - namely Bad Ischl (Austria), Bad Homburg vor der Höhe (Germany), Bad Pyrmont (Germany), Wiesbaden (Germany), and Luhačovice (Czech Republic). The deselection of these five towns was a result of a lengthy process undertaken by experts. Whilst the reasons for deselecting these towns are summarised below, they are still included in the global study of European spa towns that forms part of the assessment (3.2.2.4).

At present, the Czech Republic retains *Karlovy Vary, Františkovy Lázně* and *Mariánské Lázně*, and the spa at Luhačovice in its Tentative List. Further examination of the Tentative Lists as of the end of May 2018 has been undertaken. This shows that there is no other spa town identified on any Tentative List other than the 2014 Lists of the States Parties contributing to *The Great Spas of Europe* nomination.

Spa Town Country	Completeness of attributes in terms of OUV	International standing and influence	Satisfactory degree of integrity	Satisfactory degree of authenticity	Still living tradition as a spa town	Significant contribution to the OUV
Bad Homburg Germany						
Bad Ischl Austria						
Bad Pyrmont Germany						
Luhacovice Czech Republic						
Wiesbaden Germany						

Yes No

Fig 13: Attributes of the assessed properties on the Tentative List

However, there are some entries for extensive areas such as cultural landscapes, national parks or cultural routes which may include a spa town. In August 2017, Hungary proposed on its Tentative List, “Balaton Uplands Cultural Landscape”. “Thermal bathing” is evoked in the description among others activities linked with this area, including agriculture, fishery, viticulture, basalt quarrying, etc. But if Lake Hévíz is presented as a “one of the largest hot karst water/curative water lakes in the world” and as a place where “the curative effects of the lake have been used since the eighteenth century without interruption”, the local infrastructure, a kind of pile dwellings upon the lake, has never reached the level of an international spa town.



Thermae Bath Spa has sustained the continuing spa function of the *City of Bath* and was completed in 2003

Internal comparison of a sample of European spa towns

From this large number of health resorts and spa towns in Europe, a study group of 42 European spa towns was chosen by the experts to cover the subject in time and in a broader geocultural region. This group reflects the complex situation of political entities in the nineteenth century, which were sometimes very different from the present situation. These important European spas were tested on their role in the development of the European spa town and their function as meeting places of a proto-European society. Their actual status was compared to their surviving historical appearance to evaluate their integrity, their authenticity and their actual function. This was undertaken to determine their potential contribution to a series that represents the unique urban typology and outstanding societal role *The Great Spas of Europe* had between around 1700 and the 1930s. It is clear that many European countries which are not mentioned, are part of the phenomenon and can contain examples evidencing the important role played by spa towns in Europe for some 200 years.



Fig 14: The geo-cultural regions in Europe based on documents of the Institute Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen in Austria

Following actual state borders
Following cultural proximities

Western Europe (Belgium, France, British Isles)

The eighteenth century in Western Europe saw an important and very early development of spa towns: *City of Bath, Spa*, followed by Bagnères-de-Bigorre, a French spa in the Pyrenees in development at the end of the seventeenth century (with a Waux-Hall since 1775 and equipped with 25 bathhouses in 1787), Bagnères-de-Luchon, launched in the 1760s, and Plombières, in Lorraine, constructing many baths during the eighteenth century. Many springs became famous and received aristocracy and foreign guests. Western Europe also appears as the most dynamic region for creating spa towns during the nineteenth century, sometimes with the support of the central government in links with a public health policy, along with Central Europe. However, private initiative became essential in the second half of the nineteenth century and favoured the development of luxurious spas capable of competing with those of Central Europe. Before the World War I, hundreds of spas existed or were planned in connection with increasing numbers of customers, mostly a bourgeois clientele.

One spa town, only, merits consideration in Belgium: *Spa*; even if there are other springs, such as Chaudefontaine.

From an early period, the use of mineral and thermal waters has been controlled in France. King Henri IV in 1605 created the “Surintendance des eaux minérales” to manage waters and baths. Some spas developed thanks to the presence of sovereigns and members of the court, such as Louis XIII in Forges-les-Eaux in the 1630s. *Vichy* and Bourbon received great writers of the French classicism like Mme de Sévigné. The eighteenth century witnessed many spas in picturesque mountains of the Pyrenees, developed in connection with the English Grand Tour, such as Bagnères-de-Bigorre and Bagnères-de-Luchon. Even if some places received new buildings, as at *Vichy*, Plombières or Bagnères-de-Bigorre during the 1800s, it was during the Second Empire (1851-70) and the Belle Epoque, that France reached its golden age - as was the case also of Central Europe.

It was a result of several factors: balneotherapy became a medical science organised by the state and taught at universities; new spa facilities including new bath houses, prestigious hotels and villas, casinos and theatres were built; visitor numbers grew as a consequence of the rise of the middle class and the arrival of the railway in most regions. A true spa capitalism, combining industrialists and doctors, developed with private owners becoming more and more important. However, internationalisation occurred unevenly. Around 1900, 110 spa towns were active in France. Among them, seven have been retained in this study as the most important for their history, urban form, spa heritage and international standing. These are located in the principal mountain regions of the Pyrenées, Massif Central, Alpes and Vosges.

The French spa towns that reached the greatest fame during the nineteenth century sometimes had a long history as, for example, Plombières, with a European reputation in the sixteenth century, or *Vichy*, already frequented in the seventeenth century by members of the court. Some others are typical creations of the spa frenzy of the second half of the nineteenth century. This is the case of Evian, Châtel-Guyon and especially Vittel, which did not exist in 1850 and achieved great renown in 1900, and especially in the 1930s. The most important, the French model, and the most famous in the world, remains *Vichy*, which qualified itself as the “queen of spa towns”.

There are estimated to be some 1,500 mineral springs and medicinal wells in the United Kingdom and 3,047 in Ireland, and these were often used under the influence of the church. Two Irish villages adopted the name 'Spa' and eight small spa towns developed around a spring; of these four are of interest, but Mallow was until the end of the nineteenth century, the premier spa town in Ireland and was considered to be the 'Irish Bath'. In the United Kingdom, over 500 of these springs have been recognised as having authenticated medical properties as well as having a structure such as a pool, wellhead, fountain or pump house. About a hundred of these medical springs developed into or within a settlement but many of these did not thrive as a spa town. Three spa towns over and above the *City of Bath* are of special interest: Buxton, Harrogate and Mallow.

Retained as a component part of *The Great Spas of Europe*
SPA, Wallonia, Belgium

The GREAT
SPAS of Europe

Spa is not only the city from which comes the generic name "spa", but it played a central role in the eighteenth century in launching the international movement with its association of care, gambling and mundane physical activities: so, the walks around *Spa* were designated by the hours at which it was fashionable to be seen. *Spa*, then in the archbishopric of Liege, also saw the construction of the first casinos, especially the still existing Waux-Hall. Cosmopolitanism characterised this place, which remained a village in the beginning, but expanded to become a European model. *Spa* continued to develop during the nineteenth century, thanks to the support of the kings of Belgium.

The substantial contribution of *Spa* to the series has three fundamental aspects. First of all, from the early seventeenth century, as progenitor of the recognition of the medical properties of water, *Spa* became internationally renowned all over Europe, to the point that the name "Spa" became generic in English, and afterwards all over the world. Secondly, from the early eighteenth century *Spa's* landscape served for both hydrotherapy and physical activities, a network of walks being created that linked the urban and thermal attributes of the town to the various springs in the surrounding countryside. The third element is its early cosmopolitanism and its role as a model for the search of an international standing.

Retained as a component part of *The Great Spas of Europe*
VICHY, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Allier, France

The GREAT
SPAS of Europe

Vichy, the most popular spa town in France, accompanied the evolution of spas through its historical stages: used in Roman times, and in the seventeenth century by members of the Royal court, the spa developed at the end of the eighteenth century with new baths and a pump room. Napoléon I decided to create a park, which became the embryo of the layout that Napoleon III and his engineers designed according to the principles used by Haussmann in Paris. Boulevards were laid out from the railway station to the baths and to the park that Napoleon III created along the river. Around 1900, the city, with a worldwide reputation ("reine des villes d'eaux"), was embellished with oriental baths, an Art Nouveau casino, covered galleries and pump rooms, and welcomed more than 100,000 visitors in the 1910s and nearly 150,000 by the late 1930s.

Not retained

AIX-LES-BAINS, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Savoie, France

Aix-les-Bains, first from the eighteenth century, and then during the romantic period attracted a great attendance. Baths and a Vauxhall were built in 1783. When the town became French in 1860, the waters belonged to the state, but private investments multiplied especially in terms of palaces and villas that in 1900 crowned the city. At this period, Aix had two casinos, and a hippodrome. Baths and casinos were regularly enlarged, however, and lost much of their character during the second half of the twentieth century. Although the city remains one of the first French spas, and the beautiful natural site is generally well preserved, its architectural heritage has commonly lost its original function with palaces transformed into apartments. Although the thermal baths are no longer the main activity of the town, there is still some spa town spirit, albeit changed because of the proximity of Chambéry and of activities linked with the lake and the ski station.



Modern spa facilities,
Aix-les-Bains.

Not retained

BAGNÈRES-DE-LUCHON, Occitanie, Haute-Garonne, France

The Royal intendants of the province developed the baths in the eighteenth century and designed long promenades. The reputation of the waters was because of their use for inhalation, for a long time practiced in a cave. In the Romantic period English and Russian people frequented the place. Large neo-classic baths, still preserved, were built in 1854-58, as were picturesque villas evoking Switzerland and Russia. Between the springs and the old city, a large spa town grew around the casino and its park. Successful during the twentieth century, the spa however lost its internationalism. In 1970, a huge vapourarium was built in the perspective of the old promenade, blocking the view of the mountains. The reason for not including the spa in the series was principally integrity and authenticity, there being only part preservation, although spa activities are maintained.

Not retained

CHÂTEL-GUYON, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Puy-de-Dôme, France

Châtel-Guyon is so exemplary of the creation ex-nihilo of a spa town at the end of the nineteenth century by a combination of bankers and doctors that Maupassant, who took the cure there for a long time, wrote a novel, *Mont-Oriol* (1887) about it. Its growth was very fast, but from around 1930, this ceased. The key buildings, apart from the magnificent baths in regional style (1906), suffered from the decline of the resort in the 1970s. The palaces are greatly altered. The principal reason for not including the spa in the series was integrity and authenticity.

Châtel-Guyon spa
(present day).



Not retained

**ÉVIAN-LES-BAINS, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes,
Haute-Savoie,, France**

The plan of the city was determined by its location along the shore of Lake Geneva where the baths, the first hotels and the casino were built. The pump rooms are installed at the foot of the bluff on which the hotels stand. The true development began in 1858 with the Société anonyme des eaux minérales d'Évian which managed to obtain a monopoly. Around 1900, the spa was at its peak with new baths, a new Art nouveau Cachat pump room, Royal Hotel and a casino pastiche of St. Sophie. Evian became a well-known spa with international attendance, and diplomatic activities. But hydrotherapy became more and more secondary, and now, while the water is exported all over the world, the therapeutic function is small; the ancient baths are transformed into an exhibition centre, and the Cachat pump room partly into offices. As an international spa Evian has been a "Great spa", but it has lost a large part of its spa identity, the principal reason for not including the spa in the series.



Evian, wall paintings
in the former hydrotherapeutic
establishment

Not retained

PLOMBIÈRES-LES-BAINS, Grand Est, Vosges, France

Plombières has had a European reputation since the sixteenth century, and underwent a great urban development during the eighteenth century, with six baroque baths, then neoclassical, built between 1750 and 1810. The Emperor Napoleon III favoured Plombières as well as *Vichy*, under his tutelage new luxurious baths, a large hotel, and a church were built and the railway arrived. From the perspective of heritage, Plombières is the best-preserved eighteenth century spa in France, as well as having an important ensemble of the time of Napoleon III with baths, hotel and park. But in the 1900s, Plombières failed to maintain its international reputation compared to rising spas like its neighbour Vittel, Evian or Aix-les-Bains. During the twentieth century, its reputation has been reduced to the national level.



Plombières, the
Bain Tempéré

Not retained

VITTEL, Grand Est, Vosges, France

Vittel is one of the most significant successes of new spa towns in nineteenth century France. Its founder created a few emblematic buildings in a large park, including oriental baths, a casino, a grand hotel and a gallery with designs by Charles Garnier, the well know architect of Parisian Opera and of the casino in Monte-Carlo. Very famous, Vittel followed the architectural trends, adopting Art Nouveau for its 1900 gallery, then Art Deco to renew the gallery and for the new hotels. Now Vittel remains well known for the bottled waters and hosts the Club Méditerranée. The spa has lost a large part of its hydrotherapeutic function, becoming more a wellness centre.



Vittel, the Great
Gallery restored

Retained as a component part of *The Great Spas of Europe*
CITY OF BATH, Somerset, UK

The *City of Bath*, already inscribed on the World Heritage List, is the premier and most celebrated spa town in the British Isles, and one of the most important in the world. It has played a key role since 1700 in the creation of the spa town concept, with the association of the therapeutic function and the development of a polite society (symbolised by the “Rules of Bath”), which resulted in an original urban design with parades, Palladian terraces and crescents that became models of world importance.

The contribution of the *City of Bath* in the series is not only in urban form and exceptional architecture, but also to be one of the first spa towns where a polite society met. On the medical level, *City of Bath* also had a pioneer role in diagnostic medicine and in the use of the surrounding landscape for exercise and recreation as part of the cure. The city brings to the series an important step in the history of spas, because it is at the beginning of the process and accentuates its orientation, as a model, in the connection between medical care and leisure.

Not retained

BUXTON, Derbyshire, UK

Buxton was developed by the Duke of Devonshire to compete against Bath; there are distinctive urban forms, together with a crescent of 1780, copied from the famous spa. Buxton did not contribute to a wider European culture or the development of medicine. It is no longer active as a spa.

Not retained

HARROGATE, Yorkshire, UK

Harrogate underwent an important development in the eighteenth century, under the name “Harrogate Spaw”. It was the first town to introduce the name of the Belgian spa town in England, from when the word “spa” spread. The town has been partly built around the Stray, a large protected public common, since 1778. Harrogate did not contribute to a wider European culture or the development of medicine. It is no longer active as a spa.

Harrogate Spa,
Yorkshire



Not retained

MALLOW, Ireland

Mallow, at one time the premier spa in Ireland, flourished in the nineteenth century, but declined in the twentieth century. Mallow did not contribute to a wider European culture or the development of medicine. It is no longer active as a spa.

These three towns are of national importance but none compares with the composite property of *The Great Spas of Europe*.

Spa Town Country	Completeness of attributes in terms of OUV	International standing and influence	Satisfactory degree of integrity	Satisfactory degree of authenticity	Still living tradition as a spa town	Significant contribution to the OUV
Spa Belgium	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vichy France	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Aix-les-Bains France						
Bagnères-de-Luchon France						
Châtel-Guyon France						
Évian-les-Bains France						
Plombières France						
Vittel France						
Bath United Kingdom	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Buxton United Kingdom						
Harrogate United Kingdom						
Mallow Ireland						

Yes No

Central Europe (Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland)

When discussing eighteenth and nineteenth century Central Europe, the political situation of this region in the eighteenth century, as a complicated patchwork of hundreds of entities, must be taken into consideration. Kingdoms, principalities, duchies, counties, Free Imperial Cities and other types of ownership and dependencies continually changed with weddings, legacies and wars, while forming the very abstract community of the Holy Roman Empire (800-1806).

After the instability caused by the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars, the territories were first consolidated with the Congress of Vienna 1814-15 confirming the Austrian Empire (1804-67) and later the Austro-Hungarian monarchy (until 1918) as the biggest player. The whole large Central European area was further consolidated after most of the German territories - after the French-German war 1870-71 - formed the German Empire (1871-1918). It is important to realise these changes to understand the spectacular development of spa towns in the nineteenth century in Central Europe, where the question of “how can we live together” was crucial for societies who tried to get connected. The situation changed once more after the two World Wars, and the end of the cold war that leaves us today with a totally different situation. Starting mostly at the end of the seventeenth century with small settlements around springs, already well known, the first modern spa towns were created with princely support. They offered for a larger

public, close to the water, amusements known from princely summer residences. Spa towns like Aachen and Bad Pyrmont had a fame that was similar to *Spa* in Belgium. Today, Wilhelmsbad and Bad Brückenau still give an idea of these early spa towns, which themselves were arranged like one big summer residence.

During the revolutionary period in France and the subsequent Napoleonic wars, many French spas lost their clientele and the relatively secure Central European spas became increasingly popular. They attracted many celebrities, including crowned heads and the nobility, as well as famous artists, writers, poets and composers. They offered a safe and attractive “multinational” milieu, where often a liberal spirit was adopted, offering the same services for anyone who could afford to pay. Together with the increasing wealth of the bourgeois class and a new focus on health, spa towns emerged like mushrooms (see also Chapter 2.b).

In the later eighteenth and early nineteenth century, the region around *Karlovy Vary*, *Františkovy Lázně* and *Mariánské Lázně* started to attract customers from all over Europe. In the second half of the nineteenth century, spa towns in Central Europe enjoyed a major boom with the Austrian Empire taking the lead in the development while trying to manage the multinational composition of its territory. With a profoundly changing society some Spa Towns became prototypes of a new way of life by attracting a large multinational public as a result of the growing railway network, thus providing the first evidence of mass tourism. Towards the end of the nineteenth century, the popularity of spa resorts attained a dimension of “spa fever” leading to large investments in the face of growing competition with other spa towns, and also with tourist destinations in the Mediterranean countries.

Today, important historical spa towns of Central Europe are located in all countries; some are in our study, but this does not mean that other countries like Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia do not have important health resorts. If we take the example of Slovenia, the use of natural resources like thermal, thermal-mineral, and mineral drinking water, climatic factors, peat, seawater and brine, salt pan mud, aerosols for inhaling, mud with healing properties, and other mineral peloids is very common even today. But there are only two small spa towns of national importance, which never became meeting places of international interest: Radenci spa has a renowned mineral water discovered in 1833, and then bottled and served even at the Imperial Court in Vienna, and the Vatican. But even if the large Kurpark has been preserved in the central part of the small town its historic authenticity and urban integrity has been compromised in the twentieth century. At Rogaška Slatina mineral water was already used since the sixteenth century and the Spa House of the nineteenth century, with its famous crystal Hall, and the Kurpark still give an impression of this rather small spa town.

The influence of the Austrian Empire on the development of spa towns in the nineteenth century goes far beyond the actual frontiers of Austria. Today, several small spa towns exist. They are always directly linked to mineral springs, but often in combination with climatic health resorts or sanatoria. Some of them only developed in the twentieth century, with a minimum of infrastructure like accommodation or nowadays a modern thermal bath. Apart from *Baden bei Wien*, two other towns in Austria have a long tradition as spa towns: Bad Ischl and Bad Gastein.

Many known springs of the Bohemian Kingdom were developed in the eighteenth and nineteenth century into spa towns, sometimes in close connection to Vienna.

Bohemia was, in the eighteenth century, part of the Habsburg Monarchy and then became part of the Austrian Empire from 1806 until its dissolution in 1918.

Before the proclamation of the German Empire in 1871, many almost independent domains existed inside today's Germany. In the course of the nineteenth century many local princes realised that it was of interest to have more informal meeting places apart from their traditional residences and that a spa town could serve for the development of the whole country. The noble privilege of "taking the waters" became more public, and town planning was opened to investments. Thus, many spa towns in Germany reflect the ambition to become a *Great Spa of Europe* and some of them managed to reach that status. Many of them represented formerly strong territories that managed to attract, through their spa towns, an international clientele (at least for a time) and thus deserve special consideration. From some hundred spa towns in Germany a careful selection has been made especially from among *Bad Ems*, *Bad Homburg*, *Bad Kissingen*, *Bad Nauheim*, *Bad Pyrmont*, *Bad Wildbad*, *Baden-Baden* and *Wiesbaden*.

Switzerland still has about sixty thermal baths, including very recent buildings, because of renewed interest in this activity. This country played an interesting historical role. Baden was famous throughout Europe in the fifteenth century, but two factors prevented its springs from giving birth to large spa towns. Firstly, access to certain springs was difficult. Those of Pfeffers, famous from the Middle Ages, had to be piped to Bad Ragaz. Lack of space to develop a city was also an issue. Secondly, in a change of activity that began very early, international sites like St. Moritz gradually opted for winter activities, such as curling or skiing, and today the crenotherapy often leaves room for climatotherapy and wellness. Important infrastructures have been created, such as the beautiful Trinkhalle of Tarasp (1875) installed along the river like the old Sprudel in *Karlovy Vary*. Ragaz imitates *Baden-Baden* with its Conversationhaus, and also for its Trinkhalle. Everywhere large hotels and sanatoria are built, especially in St. Moritz, but very often, modern buildings are now rebuilt to meet these new functions. Leukerbad, a very old spa, illustrates this modernisation with its current thermal complexes.

Hungary possesses many mineral, mostly thermal springs. The country has a long and specific spa culture as it is shown by the case of Budapest (see 3.2.2.2) where the bathing culture follows Roman and Ottoman traditions at the same time and where baths were present in the city-centres since the sixteenth century as part of the urban infrastructure. Budapest was never a spa town but gained a metropolitan standing around 1900 with realisations like the famous art-nouveau Gellért-Baths (1912-16).

There are other very original spas in Hungary for example the "Cave Bath" at Miskolc-Tapolca, but only a few spa towns. One of them is part of the Balaton Uplands Cultural Landscape since 2017 on the National Tentative List: Lake Hévíz, is one of the largest hot water lakes in the world used since the eighteenth century for bathing and medicinal purposes. But the last thermal baths building dates from 2006 and there is no historical town structure left. In Hungary, which is one of the leading spa countries in Europe, both the authenticity and integrity of several other historic spas were damaged by extensive reconstructions and the constructions of new, modern spa facilities following the massive boom of the spa industry in the 1990s.

In the Baltic states seaside resorts have a connection to the European tradition: Pärnu, Haapsalu and Kuressaare in Estonia and Jurmala in Latvia can serve as an example. It is only the spa town of Druskininkai inland in Lithuania that is of national significance.

Spa towns in Poland undoubtedly constitute an important part of the European spa tradition. There are dozens of functional spa resorts with different architectural character and various states of conservation. They can be found, in particular, in the mountainous territory of Silesia and Małopolska (“Lesser Poland”) close to the border with the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Due to the difficult circumstances of Polish history in the nineteenth century, Polish spa towns remained rather provincial. Some of them were influenced by local traditional architecture with wooden structures inspired mainly by the building traditions of the Carpathians. For example, in the southern part of Małopolska, the spa of Iwonicz-Zdrój is a small spa town with preserved historic buildings including an interesting promenade and a large spa park.

In Silesia, until 1945 a part of Germany, there is a group of spa towns with mineral springs and spa buildings following the general development of the spa industry in the nineteenth century. The most important places include Szczawno-Zdrój (Bad Salzbrunn) in Lower Silesia with several large spa and treatment buildings and, in particular, with richly designed colonnades. As a spa, it was popular already in the first half of the nineteenth century.

The largest and oldest spa town in the territory of Ziemia Kłodzka (Glatz), which was part of the Bohemian Kingdom until 1742, is Ladek-Zdrój (Bad Landeck). The symbolic construction of the spa town is a bathhouse with a distinctive cupola combining thermal baths with a drinking hall covering several mineral springs. Another example in the region is Kudowa-Zdrój (Bad Kudowa) with its neo-Baroque drinking hall (“Pijalnia wód mineralnych”), established in 1853 and rebuilt in the 1930s.

It is necessary to mention also the spa towns which used brine as a primary treatment source. To make use of the brine and enable inhalation of iodine-rich air, special constructions, the so-called graduation works (Gradierwerke, *teżnie* in Polish) were built, for example in Ciechocinek in Northern Poland in the first half of the nineteenth century. The most interesting spa towns in Poland are Krynica-Zdrój and Świeradów-Zdrój (Bad Flinsberg) in the former German Silesia. Modern Poland has many interesting spas, but their attributes are already well represented in towns forming *The Great Spas of Europe* and none of them can be regarded as making a substantial contribution to the selected series, although they are evidence of the influence *The Great Spas of Europe* had on various other curative resorts based on mineral springs.

The actual frontiers of Romania date to the end of World War I. In the complicated history of the multi-ethnic Romanian lands in eighteenth and nineteenth century Transylvania in the northwest was, from 1711, under the domination of the Habsburgs, and stayed a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1918. This region was influenced by the development of European spa towns, and two gained particular importance: Baile Herculane and Vatra Dornei.

In Moldavia and Walachia, spa towns only developed at the very end of the nineteenth century with a focus based on mineral water therapies, for example in Baile Govora. Although Romania has many mineral springs, the Romanian elite in the second half of the nineteenth century went to foreign spas like *Karlovy Vary* and *Mariánské Lázně* “to take the waters” (Hadju 2010). This is evidence of the European spa culture attracting an international clientele as a special way of life and the reputation of some of *The Great Spas of Europe* as trendsetters of the whole movement.

As in all the provinces of Austro-Hungarian Empire, Slovakia developed a few spa towns, several of which remain, but they were rather modest compared to other regions.

They developed further after Czechoslovakia was created in 1918. Beginning in this period there were big investments in the spas to enable the wider public to be treated. Among the present spa resorts, some historical buildings remain, but due to political changes, a rather mountainous morphology and a remote location from important European capitals, those places did not have international standing. Among some twenty smaller spa towns in modern Slovakia, Turčianske Teplice (German: Bad Stuben; Hungarian: Stubnyafürdv) is considered as one of the oldest spas in Europe, first mentioned in a text dating from 1281 (Aqua Calida). Its size and standing was small and large modern buildings dominate the place today. Another more distinctive spa town is Trenčianske Teplice (German: Trentschantepplitz; Hungarian: Trencsénteplic). The Illésházy, a Hungarian aristocratic family, developed the spa town until the beginning of the nineteenth century. In 1835, it was bought by the Viennese financier Jozef Sina and remodelled as a fashionable spa resort where in 1886-88 a spectacular Turkish bath in Moorish style was built by his daughter, Iphigenia de Castries d'Harcourt. Unfortunately, during the second half of the twentieth century, the urban structure of the spa town was damaged by large modern buildings, mainly hotels and new spa facilities. The most important spa town in Slovakia is Piešťany, which gained international fame at the end of the nineteenth century.

The following basic review of those countries is addressed in alphabetical order (by country).

Retained as a component part of *The Great Spas of Europe*

BADEN BEI WIEN, Austria

The contribution of *Baden bei Wien* lies in its immediate vicinity to a European metropolis (Vienna). Since the fifteenth century, the city has been the favourite spa of the Holy Roman and succeeding Austrian emperors of the ruling Habsburg family. In a unique way, it combines the architecture of the beginning of the nineteenth century (“Biedermeier”) with the architecture and infrastructure of the turn of the twentieth century when Baden became a world-class resort. The historical use of the town has left a belt of villas, parks representative of the nineteenth century, and a rich musical heritage linked to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven and Johann Strauß.

Not retained

BAD GASTEIN, Austria

Bad Gastein lies in the midst of the Hohe Tauern National Park. The Romans settled in the Gastein Valley more than 2,000 years ago. In the early Middle Ages, the local springs were used for bathing in open-air wooden pools. The fame of Gastein’s springs reached its peak in the sixteenth century when Paracelsus pointed out its healing powers. In 1791-94, a Spa Chateau (Badeschloss) was built under the patronage of the Salzburg Count and Archbishop Hieronymus von Colloredo. In 1840, the famous Gastein Waterfall was staged with a height of 341 metres. From 1840 to 1909 several Palace-Hotels were built, including The Grand Hotel de l’Europe (1906-09), which was formerly one of the largest hotels in the Austro-Hungarian



The **GREAT**
SPAS of Europe

Empire. In Gastein, a Peace Conference was held in 1865, where peace was successfully negotiated by Denmark, Prussia, and Austria, and a Tripartite Agreement was agreed by Austria, Germany, and Italy in 1878. During Bismarck's time, Gastein was nicknamed the "Spa of Diplomats". Due to the Alpine landscape, this spa location could not expand to metropolitan dimensions. While overall integrity is good some spas are closed and neglected; although modern spas continue under Austrian health insurance. The property does not have the potential to make a substantial contribution to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the Series.

Not retained

BAD ISCHL, Austria

Situated in the heart of the Salzkammergut (Salt Chamber), Bad Ischl is a famous spa with a long tradition: it is the oldest saline spa in Austria. It was first mentioned in 1262 as Iselen. In 1419, Archduke Albert V of Austria decided that the seat of the local Salt Chamber would be at the Wildenstein Castle and Ischl was granted the privileges of a market town by Emperor Frederick III in 1466. A first salt mine was opened in 1563, and a salt evaporation pond (saline) followed in 1571. When brine came into use for medical purposes in the early nineteenth century, Ischl soon became a fashionable spa resort. The time of the spa's greatest prosperity lasted from 1849 to 1914.

The old salt baths in the former mines were so successful that another saline bathhouse (Tänzlbad) had to be built in 1825 to satisfy the demand. This was followed by the Trinkhalle in 1829-31, Kaiservilla in 1853-54, Villa Cottage (the Teehaus Marmorschlössl) in 1859-61, Kurtheater 1826-27, Kurhaus 1873-75, Seeauerhaus (Hotel Austria), Hotel Elisabeth (Hotel Tallachini, 1844), and Villa Lehar in 1912.

This fashionable spa resort has a record of notable guests, including Prince Klemens Wenzel von Metternich and Archduke Franz Karl of Austria. In 1849, Franz Karl's son, Emperor Franz Joseph I of Austria, chose the town for his summer residence. However, the greatest share of credit for Bad Ischl's fame is owed to the Habsburg Imperial family who used to stay here in a building named Imperial Villa (Kaiservilla). Bad Ischl has preserved its appearance of architectural Classicism to this day, thanks to its structures in the typical Austrian Biedermeier style, complemented with details of various styles of Historicism, including Art Nouveau. Bad Ischl represents a specific type of an Alpine salt spa town with mineral springs. However, from the European point of view Bad Ischl remained a relatively small spa resort which did not reach the size and international profile of *The Great Spas of Europe*, the principal reasons for not including it within the series. The town retains a living spa tradition.

Retained as a component part of *The Great Spas of Europe*

FRANTIŠKOVY LÁZNĚ / FRANZENSBAD, Czech Republic

The contribution of *Františkovy Lázně* is based on the specific urbanism of the town founded at the end of the eighteenth century as an ideal spa town with a united architectonic look. Characteristic is a triple belt of parks and an inner and outer spa landscape. Aside from the extensive use of mineral waters, the town of *Františkovy Lázně* is the oldest peat spa in the world and inspired a number of musical and

Bad Ischl, the Pump room,
now the Tourist office



The GREAT
SPAS of Europe

literary works by world known authors. Thanks to its reputation for treating women's illnesses, ladies used to come here unaccompanied by men. Thus, *Františkovy Lázně* became a place of emancipation, connected with the beginning of democratisation.

Retained as a component part of *The Great Spas of Europe*

KARLOVY VARY / KARLSBAD, Czech Republic

The GREAT
SPAS of Europe

The contribution of the town of *Karlovy Vary* is based on the character and urbanism of a large extended spa zone with an extensive surrounding spa landscape with a network of walking paths and a number of solitary buildings. The unique composition of mineral springs and innovative methods in balneology made *Karlovy Vary* one of the most famous spas in Europe. It has been visited by members of royal families, high aristocracy and artists, who found their inspiration here. *Karlovy Vary*, called 'The largest open air salon of Europe' and 'the chessboard of Europe', became a prototype of mutual tolerance and a model of a united Europe.

Retained as a component part of *The Great Spas of Europe*

MARIÁNSKÉ LÁZNĚ / MARIENBAD, Czech Republic

The GREAT
SPAS of Europe

The contribution of *Mariánské Lázně* is based on its distinctive urban plan with a large natural landscape park in the centre of the spa, surrounded by historic buildings in the extended spa zone. 40 mineral springs rise here, a further 160 acidic springs are located in the surroundings. Today, spa treatments are still carried out in the original spa buildings, which retain their original interiors and equipment. *Mariánské Lázně* was a traditional meeting place of members of royal families, aristocracy and a place of world politics, where important political negotiations took place. It was of considerable importance to the Jewish community, with a key role as a marriage market; although the Nazi destruction of Jewish buildings following the Sudeten Crisis of 1938 has compromised related authenticity. *Mariánské Lázně* was also popular for scientists and artists from all over Europe and the world.

Not retained

LUHAČOVICE / LUHATSCHOWITZ, Czech Republic

The first written mention of Luhačovice dates from 1412. In 1629, it was sold to Gabriel Serenyi, in whose family it remained until 1945. This family played an important role in the further development of the city. Early wooden spa bathing buildings are recorded in the late eighteenth century with the first major spa building being built in 1822. In the later nineteenth century, villas of various styles based on Historicism or Eclecticism began to be built around the spa zone. The most important stage of the spa development is connected with a prominent Slovak architect, Dušan Jurkovič. The Jurkovič House and the Sun Bath rank among the most important spa structures. Many other famous architects contributed to the cosmopolitan appearance of the spa and its buildings in the 1920s. The view of the spa area changed in 1934 with the construction of the Society House. After World War II the Great Colonnade was built. Inseparable parts of the spa environment are the decorated parks and fountains. Throughout the



nineteenth century, the clientele was recruited primarily from Vienna and Brno, including members of the Hungarian gentry. At the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth century, guests and patients would also come from various Slavic regions (Slovakia, Poland, Russia, Serbia) as well as the USA, UK, and German-speaking countries. A significant part of the foreign clientele were Jewish. Many artists have been treated in Luhačovice including the composer Leoš Janáček, who visited Luhačovice twenty five times. The spa of Luhačovice is a living testimony to the spread of modern West-European influences on architecture (Arts and Crafts movement) and urbanism in Central Europe at the turn of the twentieth century. The works of Dušan Jurkovič are a synthesis of Art Nouveau decorative principles and English neo-vernacular architecture with motives borrowed from the folk architecture of the surrounding region. The integrity of the spa zone and the authenticity of the spa buildings have been preserved, Luhačovice is an outstanding example of a regionally important spa town which flourished in the first third of the twentieth century. However, it did not reach the high international profile of *The Great Spas of Europe* and its contribution to the development of the European spa culture was limited, the principal reasons for not including it within the series.

Not retained

TEPLICE / TEPLITZ, Czech Republic

Teplice ranks among the oldest Bohemian spas; it used to be one of the most prestigious spas in Europe. The greatest development of the Teplice spa occurred under Prince Johann Nepomuk von Clary-Aldringen, in 1787-1826, bringing the town international fame. In the spa district, below the castle church, the bathing houses formed a unified complex with two visible corners. Around 1807, a Temple of Apollo was raised on the banks of the large pond, and in 1835, a semicircular colonnade was built in the garden of the Women's Baths. During the spa season Teplice became the summer residence of the Electors of Saxony. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, Teplice was ranked among Europe's foremost spas and was often named the "Reception Salon of Europe", welcoming many significant visitors.



The glory and enchantment of Teplice began to decline after 1850 because of the growth of industry and coal mining in the vicinity. Severe interventions by urban planners in the 1960s led to the destruction of whole blocks of old buildings, the entire Jewish District and the formerly elegant Edmund Boulevard. Only half of the former historic centre has remained which has seriously damaged the integrity and authenticity of the formerly highly recognised spa town.

Retained as a component part of *The Great Spas of Europe*

BAD EMS, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany

The contribution of *Bad Ems* is its architectural heritage that continually occupied the same site next to the thermal springs. It documents the spa's development from the medieval "Wildbad" through courtly life in the Baroque era to the sophisticated nineteenth century resort and beyond to the modernising developments of the early twentieth century. This has resulted in a still-intact transition towards a spa landscape loosely interconnected with the resort. The closed ensemble on both sides of the river

**The GREAT
SPAS of Europe**

Lahn contains all essential elements of a spa and also documents the temporal depth of the European bathing tradition with a focus on an international public and a linked musical heritage.

Retained as a component part of *The Great Spas of Europe*
***BADEN-BADEN*, Baden-Württemberg**

The GREAT
SPAS of Europe

The contribution of *Baden-Baden* is, on the one hand, founded in the fact that from antiquity to the present, the town experienced, and left its own mark on, every major developmental phase of a European spa town. Evidence of all of them has been preserved in the city's physical structure. On the other hand, due in part to its gambling concession, *Baden-Baden* became a supreme example of the nineteenth century German gambling spa of worldwide reputation. The influence of the casino operators, the Bénazet family, contributed to the creation of social venues and public spaces for the international élite.

Retained as a component part of *The Great Spas of Europe*
***BAD KISSINGEN*, Bavaria, Germany**

The GREAT
SPAS of Europe

The contribution of *Bad Kissingen* lies in a harmonious spa quarter which is functionally and structurally extremely well preserved. Its quality is outstanding for the reform era of the early twentieth century as the architect Max Littmann built and rebuilt almost the whole spa infrastructure. It is arranged around the spa garden (originally from 1738), which is the oldest spa garden outside an urban context. It gathered international importance with the visits of the German chancellor Otto von Bismarck. Within the nominated series the town is the only one to possess historical facilities for the production and use of brine.

Not retained

BAD HOMBURG, Hessen, Germany

The town of Bad Homburg lies on the southern slopes of the Taunus Mountains. The nucleus of the old town from the eighth and fourteenth centuries spreads around the river below the castle. The landgraves of Hesse Homburg established their seat here in 1680. After 1866 and the Austro-Prussian War, the town became part of Prussia. Before this, in 1834, the spa industry had begun in the town with the discovery of the Elisabethenbrunnen (spring) that was then located in open fields. Three years later, the brothers Francois and Louis Blanc established a spa park and a casino here and from then on the new spa prospered. The railway arrived in 1860 with a later separate pavilion station for visiting royalty. More success followed the decision by Kaiser Wilhelm to make the town his imperial summer residence. His patronage encouraged and attracted royalty and nobility to the spa from across Europe and ensured the success of the town as a spa town.



Bad Homburg is a spa town added to a castle and medieval town. Extending southeast from this core is the orthogonal layout of the 'new town' built from the 1840s. Here is a sequence of large hotels and villas descending to smaller villa buildings further east.

North of the new town is the extensive Kurpark built by the Prussian landscape architect, Peter Lenné, in 1840. In the Kurpark are wells, fountains and spa buildings led by the magnificent and monumental Kaiser-Wilhelmsbad. The impressive promenade provides a structure across the Kurpark around which most of the spa components are found. Smaller buildings add variety and diversions in the park including the casino, restaurants, tennis and golf clubs. To the west and contiguous with the Kurpark is Jubilee Park and to the north is the woodland of the Hartdwal. Extending from the Schlossgarten in the old town to the Taunus Mountains on the west is the impressive axis of the Tannenwaldallee. This straight path reaches the wooded hills of the Taunus Mountains. Along the path are a number of former parks and gardens some of which included treatment buildings and gardens for recreation and pleasure. Up to 1902, Edward, Prince of Wales, the future King of England, owned a house here and visited the spa repeatedly. Tsar Nicholas visited the town often and gave it the Russian Church. King Chulalongkorn of Siam was so pleased with the success of his treatment that he gave the Sala Thai to the Kurgarten. Other royalty and nobility from across Europe were guests at the spa with European high society and fashionable guests from America including Henry James. Other distinguished literary figures included George Eliot, William Makepeace Thackeray, Oscar Wilde, Fyodor Dostoyevsky and Enrico Caruso.

Two main components of the spa town are first the spa buildings, wells and fountains. Second, is the extensive Kurpark, the impressive Tannenwaldallee and its ensemble of gardens. The original Kurhaus was lost after 1945 and the replacement buildings are arguably an intrusion in an otherwise complete early nineteenth century planned town. Spa buildings, wells and fountains in the Kurpark are authentic with the exception of the casino building. Recent buildings in the Kurpark do not intrude into the character of the park. Apart from the intrusion in the centre, some spa components and a part of the nineteenth century new town are intact. Despite an impressive Kurpark and associated parks as well as some valuable spa buildings, Bad Homburg has regrettably lost part of its integrity and for this reason it does not meet the criteria of *The Great Spas of Europe*.

Not retained

BAD NAUHEIM, Hessen, Germany

Salt extraction from salt springs in Nauheim can be traced back to the fifth century BCE. After the curative properties of salt were discovered at the beginning of the nineteenth century, a first “baths and lodgings house” was built in 1835. The breakthrough of the “Große Sprudel” (great effervescence) in 1846, the subsequent construction of two new bathhouses, the arrival of the railway in 1852-53 and the construction of the casino in 1854 accelerated the growth of this small spa town. In 1857-58 the Kurpark was established, following plans of Heinrich Siesmayer, and then in 1860 a Kurhaus (spa house) was built.

But the heyday of Bad Nauheim started with the commitment of Grand Duke Ernst Ludwig von Hessen und bei Rhein, a grandson of England’s Queen Victoria, who transformed Bad Nauheim into a work of Jugendstil art. His Architect Wilhelm Jost created the so-called “Sprudelhof” in 1902-12, together with a new Trinkkuranlage (drinking cure complex) and a group of the most modern technical buildings “Am Goldstein”. But the complete reconstruction of the main features has deleted all the former buildings.



Around 1900, Bad Nauheim was a popular destination for prominent guests like Empress Elisabeth of Austria (“Sisi”), Empress Alexandra Fedorovna and the German Empress Augusta Victoria. There is a long list of famous visitors from Richard Strauss to Albert Einstein, Edvard Munch, Emil Nolde and the Indian philosopher Rabindranath Tagore. Today Bad Nauheim is a good example for the interpretation of a fashionable spa town into Jugendstil Art. Its peak around 1900 made little of a contribution to the development of European spa culture, and it was therefore not included within the series.

Not retained

BAD PYRMONT, Germany

Offerings dating from the first and fourth centuries have been found in the Brodelbrunnen, evidence that the springs in this small spa town near Hanover were used from earliest times. The Baroque castle was built as a summer residence for the Prince of Waldeck Pyrmont. This ruling family developed the town as a spa from 1668. After this, the town flourished especially during the eighteenth century. The County retained its principality after the Congress of Vienna in 1815, but then later came under the hegemony of Prussia until absorption into Germany in 1871. The town lies in a shallow valley within nearly surrounded by wooded hills. A cross of Baroque principal avenues was built in 1668 at five springs at the now central Brunnenplatz and Brunnenhaus (Wandelhalle). This is the focal point of the town. Leading to this is the earliest promenade in Germany, the Hauptallee of 1668. Here also there are key spa buildings with the Lesesaal (reading room) and the Kurhaus (now a hotel). From 1750, additional avenues were added to the ensemble of alleys to link the spa to outlying springs. These were laid out to provide treatment by means of movement. West of the Brunnenplatz is the extensive 17-hectare Kurgarten with promenades, avenues, an English Garden and Palm Garden, evolved from the seventeenth century. Other gardens were introduced in the 1930s. Paths lead to walking routes out to and within the hills around the town. When Pyrmont was the seat of Princes of Waldeck and Pyrmont, the town attracted visits from the highest-ranking families of Northern German aristocracy. In the early eighteenth century visitors included the Tsar Peter the Great of Russia, Kings George I and George II of England, and the Prussian King, Frederick the Great. Other eminent visitors included Gottfried Leibniz, Wolfgang von Goethe, Johann Herder and Benjamin Franklin.



The Wandelhalle was built in 1843 on the foundations of the earlier building, but this was renovated as a cast iron building twenty-five years later and renovated again in 1927. The other principal spa buildings are preserved and retain their original functions and are set within a matrix of mature avenues.

Authenticity has been respected with new therapeutic clinics and thermal baths positioned around the edge of the urban area. The scattered springs are bound together by avenues, parks and gardens so that the form of the town can be clearly understood. But the spa town lost its relevance in the nineteenth century and modern modifications (namely in the Kurgarten) have had a negative impact on authenticity, two of the reasons for not including it in the series.

Not retained

BAD WILDBAD, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

Archaeological finds suggest that the springs in Wildbad were already used in the twelfth century, but the first documentary mention of “Wildbad” (= wild spa) is to be found in 1345. In the late Middle Ages and until the outbreak of the Thirty Years’ War, it was one of the most frequently visited baths in Germany. In 1742 a major fire almost completely destroyed the town, including the solid bathhouses. It was rebuilt following a regular layout with today’s Kurplatz at the centre. In 1798-99 a “Königliches Palais” (royal palace) was built. In his book of 1837, the spa physician Dr Augustus Bozzi Granville from London placed Wildbad at the top of the list of all the spas in German-speaking countries. In doing so he triggered a considerable stream of visitors, particularly from England. In the second half of the nineteenth century, Wildbad experienced its second heyday: The Graf Eberhard baths were built in 1847 by Nikolaus von Thouret (and were redecorated in 1896-98 in a pseudo-Arab style), the railway connection came in 1868, and the König Karl baths were erected in 1889. An Anglican church was built in 1865 for English guests and a spa theatre, built in 1897-98, were added to the spa complex. This recovery reached its conclusion structurally with the construction of a Kursaal in 1908-10. Wildbad had distinguished guests including Alexandra, widow of the Russian Tsar, Gioachino Rossini and Clara Schumann, but never made an important contribution to the development of the European spa culture.

After World War II, comprehensive restructuring plans were drafted with important buildings being lost, thus damaging the integrity and authenticity of the spa town.

Not retained

WIESBADEN, Hessen, Germany

As a spa, Wiesbaden dates from Roman times. Throughout the middle ages right up to the early modern period the spa business formed the economic backbone of the town. There is evidence in the fourteenth century of 15 bathhouses or spa guesthouses in the area of the springs around Kranzplatz. Following the establishment of the Duchy of Nassau in 1806, the town expanded to become a modern capital city and spa town. The town’s master builder, Christian Zais, drafted a comprehensive plan for the city in which the centre was surrounded by grand boulevards, the so-called historical pentagon. In the same context, Christian Zais rebuilt the Kurhaus in 1808-10 to the east of the old city to create a new spa area where entertainment became the focus of the spa treatment. The constantly rising popularity of Wiesbaden in the second half of the nineteenth century as a home for retired people and people of private means led to an increase in the population to more than 100,000 by 1905. The beginning of the twentieth century marked the high point of the development of Wiesbaden into an international spa town, with the construction of the theatre and the spa house, the establishment of the Kaiser Friedrich baths, and the building of a new central station in 1904-06.

The existing spa town of Wiesbaden comprises the spa area itself together with exclusive residential districts and various other areas of urban expansion. The springs district lies

Bad Wilbad, Grad Eberhard
Bad, now part of the Palais
thermal



Wiesbaden, the Kurhaus



around the Kochbrunnen in the Kranzplatz in the former old city. Today it is characterised specially by its historical hotel buildings. This is joined to the east by the expansions of the spa area that were planned by Christian Zais in around 1810. At the centre is the Kurhaus (spa house), rebuilt in 1905-07 by Friedrich von Thiersch. In front of it is the large “Bowling Green” square bordered by colonnades. Behind the Kurhaus lies the Kurpark. To the south the theatre reconstructed in 1892-94 by the architects Fellner & Helmer completes the ensemble. The large Wilhelmstraße boulevard runs between the springs and the spa district. Bordering on the Kurpark are extended areas of exclusive residential villas which illustrate the entire repertoire of building styles and architectural design of the second half of the nineteenth and early twentieth century. There are additional exclusive residential areas on the Neroberg in the northwest of the town. Since the eighteenth century, a visit to these districts has counted as an essential part of a stay at the spa. It was crowned by a monopteros built in 1851-52 and the Russian church constructed in 1847-55 by Philipp Hoffmann; Princess Elizabeth, a niece of Tsar Nicholas I is buried here. Since 1888, the Neroberg has been linked to the city by a water-driven funicular railway. Enclosed areas of urban expansion with historically significant city blocks have been preserved particularly in the north and south of the historic town centre along the axes of Taunusstraße and Rheinstraße.

It was thanks to the early opening of the railway station in 1842 and the accessibility of the town from the Rhine landing place at Biebrich that the number of visitors to the spa in Wiesbaden increased so rapidly. In 1858, according to the spa register, more than 30,000 spa guests were recorded. Around 40 per cent of the guests came from abroad. In 1853 the town described itself as “international spa town” for the first time. Soon after 1900, Wiesbaden, together with Baden-Baden, was deemed to be the most significant German spa town. Both German Kaisers Wilhelm I and Wilhelm II contributed to this in large measure by making regular visits. The visits were also used as an encouragement to invite guests of state such as the Russian Tsar Nicholas II in 1903. With the international public, many famous artists also came to Wiesbaden, including at the beginning of the nineteenth century Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Clemens von Brentano. After that came Carl Maria von Weber, Robert Schumann, Richard Wagner, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy and Honoré de Balzac. Wiesbaden was also one of the places that inspired the fictitious location “Roulettenburg” in Fyodor Dostoyevsky’s novel *“The Gambler”* (1866).

Many individual buildings and gardens in Wiesbaden have been declared historical monuments, and large parts of the town are designated conservation areas. Important monuments such as the Kurhaus, the State Theatre and the Russian Church have been restored recently. The early spa town of Wiesbaden has grown to become a large metropolitan agglomeration. Whilst many historical boundaries have become blurred and much of the urban context of the nineteenth century is now elusive, the pre-1914 city has remained largely unchanged with the old town and villa areas distinct from newer neighbourhoods. Present business parks are built away from the old centre. Wiesbaden suffered some damage in World War II including, to a limited extent, the springs district, the Kurhaus and the Kaiser-Friedrich bath. Today Wiesbaden is perceived as a spa town only to a limited extent. Historically, Wiesbaden ranked among the most significant German and European spa towns. However, the integrity of the spa town was severely impacted during World War II and in the second half of the twentieth century the function of spa resort became reconciled to the new function of Wiesbaden as capital city of Hessen. It was therefore not included in the series.

Not retained

BAD RAGAZ, St. Gall, Switzerland

In 1240, a hunter from the local monastery discovered the spring close to the town of Pfäfers. Bath activities started soon afterwards by drilling bathtubs into the rocks of the narrow Tamina gorge. In the sixteenth century, the physician and alchemist Paracelsus praised the healing effects of the water. Ragaz, is about 5km from the "Old Baths Pfäfers" at the entrance to the gorge. From 1838-39 on, the hot mineral waters from Pfäfers were transported through a wooden pipeline to Bad Ragaz, a more convenient location. In the years 1866-67, under the direction of the architect and businessman Bernhard Simon (1816-1900), a bathhouse called Dorfbad was built. The drinking hall with a covered promenade was opened in 1871 and a large spa hotel was built nearby. In 1906, the evangelical church was inaugurated. It was at this time the most important spa in Switzerland.



The locality's boom lasted from the Belle Époque until the outbreak of World War I. Ragaz had international guests like Empress Eugénie of France, King Charles of Romania and his wife, as well as Friedrich Schelling, Friedrich Nietzsche, Victor Hugo, Thomas Mann and later Rainer Maria Rilke. After a visit by Grand Duchess Pavlovna of Russia, the locality adopted the name of Helenabad. As a result of World War II, Ragaz lost its lustre and glory. The spa's integrity has remained reasonably intact; however, the authenticity of the individual spa structures was weakened during the second half of the twentieth century. Bad Ragaz has retained its modestly sized character, but for reasons principally regarding authenticity, it was not selected for the series.

Not retained

BADEN IM AARGAU, Aargau, Switzerland

This location on a bend of the Limmat River was mentioned in Roman times by Tacitus (69 CE), under the name "Aqua Helvetica". Rudiments of Roman baths still exist. Around 1230, the medieval city of Baden was founded. In the thirteenth century two open-air pools with rooves formed the public baths. In 1415, Baden became part of the Swiss Confederacy. In the course of the fifteenth century, the town regained popularity as a "Cure Resort" and is celebrated by Poggio Bracciolini. Near the promenade on the river bank (Limmatpromenade) a Drinking Hall was built in 1835, later to become an inhalatorium. The urban structure of the former spa district was expanded in the years 1844-46 by the town's architect Karl Gaspar Jeuch, who added new bathhouses (Verenahof, Limmathof). First plans for a "Conversation House" were drafted by Gottfried Semper in 1866 and realised by Robert Moser in 1872-75 on top of the hill above the spa district. A new district of spa pensions, hotels, and villas grew on the western side of the park that surrounds the Kursaal.



In the nineteenth century, Baden hosted Goethe, Nietzsche, Thomas Mann, and particularly often Hermann Hesse, who visited the town annually for almost thirty years. Very famous in fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, Baden never quite reached the international rank of *The Great Spas of Europe*. The integrity of the spa heritage has been severely damaged and the authenticity of the spa structures has been recently weakened.

Not retained

DRUSKININKAI, Lithuania

The spa town of Druskininkai is a classical spa with natural mineral springs. The name derives from “druska” (salt). The healing effects of the local muriatic salt were confirmed by the granting of the official status of a healing spa in 1794. In 1838, the first operations using hydrotherapeutic equipment started; the spa became particularly popular amongst Russian officials and officers. Druskininkai was celebrated as a valley of the wellness springs and entertainment attractions. During World War I, the town suffered damage, and many significant buildings including famous villas were burnt or looted. Between the World Wars, there was a struggle to renew and revive the spa, but in the following decades the town suffered very cruelly during occupation by both the Soviet Army and the German Nazis, with many lives lost. The importance of the springs was still recognised so from the 1950s new buildings and modern rehabilitation facilities were built and this popular spa was gradually changed into a larger place with many walks and parks including masterpieces of monumental art.

Due to its dramatic history and a rather remote location, this formerly famous spa town was not included within the series mainly due to the loss of authenticity and integrity.

Not retained

KRYNICA-ZDRÓJ, Poland

Krynica-Zdrój in southern Malopolska is the largest spa town in Poland. In addition to the climatic conditions, the main elements used there are mineral waters and therapeutic mud.

The spa resort was founded in the late eighteenth century and during the nineteenth century it grew rapidly. By 1877 there were 11 treatment centres and 64 private clinics which were monitored by a Spa Commission. By the turn of the century, more than 6,000 patients visited Krynica-Zdrój each year. In 1911, the railway reached Krynica-Zdroj, leading to a new influx of patients. Just before the outbreak of World War II some 38,000 visitors were coming annually, including the future queen of Holland, Princess Juliana and her husband Prince Bernard, who spent their honeymoon at the resort. Krynica gained greater international fame in the period between the two World Wars when the site began to focus on winter sports. Krynica was occupied until January 1945 by the German army which removed nearly all the equipment, and what remained was destroyed by the advancing Red Army. Krynica-Zdroj did not really recover as a functioning resort until the late 1950s. The spa is of national importance, only, and was therefore not included in the series.

Not retained

ŚWIERADÓW ZDRÓJ, Poland

The healing powers of the local springs have been known since the fourteenth century; the name Flinsberg dates back to 1524. The first drinking hall was opened in 1750. During the period of 1768–95, the Schaffgotsch family built several bathhouses. In 1781, a “Kurhaus” (Dom Zdrojowy) was built over the original spring and additional new springs were discovered in 1817. In 1895, a major fire destroyed the original spa buildings. In 1899, a new Spa House was opened. The spa’s development reached its peak in the 1920s. The main promenade is surrounded by pensions and villas in a characteristic style, combining wooden Alpine structures with Art-Nouveau architecture. The spa features the longest colonnade in Lower Silesia (80 m), built of larch wood and with a tower 46m high. In front of the Kurhaus is a park landscaped like a natural forest with long terraces and an artificial cave. The direct railway connection, which existed from 1909, increased the world’s access to the Swieradów spa and contributed considerably to its full development. The spa’s integrity has remained quite intact. However, the authenticity of the individual spa structures was weakened during World War II and thereafter. The spa has retained its modest size, and it did not become an international spa resort, therefore has not been included in the series.



Not retained

BAILE HERCULANE, Romania

There is archaeological evidence of a Roman settlement (“Ad aquas Herculi sacras”). Local baths have been named after a Roman legend that says the mythical Herkules here cured his wounds caused by the Hydra. During excavations, six Hercules sculptures were found nearby. When the Habsburg Monarchy took over in 1718 the springs were developed to form a spa town under the influence of Austrian architects. In 1852, Emperor Franz Joseph I proclaimed Herkulesbad to be one of the most fashionable spa resorts in Europe.

The spa resort was enhanced between 1883 and 1886 with the “Austrian Baths” constructed after plans from Carl Wilhelm von Doderer. In the same years he designed the Romana hotel, with the well-preserved Roman Imperial Baths in the basement. The town contains characteristic structures in the Viennese neo-Baroque style, such as the Imperial Spa, Casino, and numerous hotels and villas.

Throughout its history, the spa was visited by various prominent guests, such as Emperor Joseph II, Emperor Franz I, Impress Karolina, and Emperor Franz Joseph I with his wife Sissi. The international fame of the local spa declined with the demise of the Danubian Empire. The construction of very big modern hotels surrounding the old baths during the Communist era has damaged the scale of the place and affected its authenticity. The effort to make the spa procedures available to the masses of working and retired people was well-intentioned, but very destructive from the point of view of the aesthetics of the local environment. Older buildings were destroyed or neglected and both the integrity and authenticity of the spa have suffered. Unfortunately, the decline of the architecture continues to this day. Most historic buildings from the times of the Habsburg monarchy remain dilapidated. For these reasons, it has not been included within the series.

Not retained

VATRA DORNEI, Romania

The springs were first analysed in 1790 by a Nuremberg chemist named Hacquette. In 1811, six bathhouses were built after a design by Dr. Plüsch. Vatra Dornei is a typical highland settlement situated in the north of the eastern part of the Carpathians. A first bathhouse with a casino was built in 1835. Modestly sized pensions in Swiss-chalet style and villas spread along the riverbanks. A new Casino, built in the style of Viennese neo-Baroque, was built in 1898 according to the design of the architect P. Brang of Vienna. The new spa facilities were completed in 1899. Vatra Dornei is a typical example of the spas built in the period of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in Bukovina. The regions along the Danube River were particularly popular during that time. But the spa town never reached an international standing comparable to *The Great Spas of Europe*. Unfortunately, during World War II, the spa was severely damaged. After the war, from 1945 to 1989, the spa suffered considerable neglect and many structures were in a very bad state of repair. Thus, the integrity and authenticity of Vatra Dornei was damaged. However, many buildings remain, but as a spa town of national interest, only, and together with conditions of integrity, authenticity and state of conservation, it has not been included within the series.

Not retained

PIEŠŤANY, Slovakia

The first mention of springs is found in a book from 1549. The first spa was built here by the Erdödy family in 1778 but it was damaged by a flood in 1813. A complex named Napoleon Spa consists of three classicist buildings built over the springs from 1821 to 1862. Behind them stands the Thermia Palace Hotel, which is directly connected to the Irma Bathhouse. At the end of the nineteenth century, the whole spa was leased to the Winter family who turned it into a world-famous spa resort. In 1894, the spa symbol - a “crutch-breaker”, which is still the emblem of the town of Piešťany, - was created. An important element in the urban development of Piešťany was the construction of the Colonnade Bridge designed by the architect Emil Belluš. Built in 1930-33, this is the largest covered bridge in Slovakia and as such is a very interesting piece of modern architecture. The bridge forms a composition axis between the old spa and the forefront of the former main spa buildings. On the other side, it connects to the park that borders the town.



In the nineteenth century Lázně Piešťany was popular all over Europe. The most prominent guests included Emperor Franz Joseph I and his wife Sissi, Bulgarian Tsar Ferdinand I, German Emperor Wilhelm II, maharajahs from India and Malaysia, Alphonse Mucha, who painted a decoration in the Grand Hotel and the Russian singer Fyodor Shalyapin. Lázně Piešťany has preserved its integrity as a spa resort, as well as the authenticity of individual spa structures and is the largest spa place of Slovakia. Due to the limited space on the small Váh river island, Piešťany never grew to the size of a large spa town, and the landscaped area of the Spa Island was altered in the 1960s with large modern facilities (Balnea Palace and Balnea Esplanade) north of the historic ensemble. The residential quarters for the spa clientele gradually spread also on the other bank of the

river, but their urban structure was compromised during the twentieth century so that today the integrity and authenticity of the town was compromised. It was therefore not selected for the series.

Spa Town Country	Completeness of attributes in terms of OUV	International standing and influence	Satisfactory degree of integrity	Satisfactory degree of authenticity	Still living tradition as a spa town	Significant contribution to the OUV
Baden bei Wien Austria	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bad Gastein Austria						
Bad Ischl Austria						
Františkovy Lázně Czech Rep.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Karlovy Vary Czech Rep.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mariánské Lázně Czech Rep.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Luhačovice Czech Rep.						
Teplice Czech Rep.						
Bad Ems Germany	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Baden-Baden Germany	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bad Kissingen Germany	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bad Homburg Germany						
Bad Nauheim Germany						
Bad Pyrmont Germany						
Bad Wildbad Germany						
Wiesbaden Germany						
Bad Ragaz Switzerland						
Baden im Aargau Switzerland						
Druskininkai Lithuania						
Krynica-Zdrój Poland						
Świeradów Zdrój Poland						
Baile Herculane Romania						
Vatra Dornei Romania						
Piešťany Slovakia						

Yes

No

Southern Europe (Italy, Portugal, Spain)

Italy, Spain and Portugal have an ancient and important heritage in hydrotherapy. Many spas developed during the nineteenth century, but those that reached the level of international spas are rare, most of them having a national reputation. However, internationalisation occurred unevenly. Northern Italy has important spas, but Portugal and Spain, maybe because of distance from other countries, and for political reasons, have fewer spas with an international reputation.

In Italy, according to an 1868 survey made by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Trade, there were 1,629 officially registered thermal springs (472 in Northern Italy, 645 in Central Italy and 512 in Southern Italy), of which around 130 had at least one thermal establishment. However, only 58 of them could be considered real spa towns at the end of the nineteenth century. A few are very old and famous from the fifteenth century, such as spas in the Apennine mountains like Porretta Terme or Bagni di Lucca, which were not in a situation to develop as modern spa towns. However, at the end of the nineteenth century, several internationally renowned resorts gained buildings of very high architectural quality, but these tend to be isolated.

Portugal has fifty spas, especially in the north. The most famous resort long ago was Caldas da Rainha, named after Queen Leonor who founded a hospital in the late fifteenth century; it was busy in the eighteenth century. Its greatest development occurred at the turn of the twentieth century with the establishment of companies like Sociedade Vidago & Pedras Salgadas, which launched the reputation of these two stations, and also managed Melgaço. Large hotels were created in these places, such the Palace Hotel da Curia (1915, enlarged in 1926), the Estoril Palácio Hotel (1930) and its Casino (Raoul Jourde, 1931), the Grande Hotel das Termas by Sociedade de Água Luso, etc. As in Spain, mostly these isolated buildings are in a private park, and the urban structure remains modest.

Spain also had many springs and no less than 152 balnearios (spas) active in 1892. In many places, there was only an isolated building or a little hotel. For example, Ourense in Galicia is an important spa complex, but its baths are scattered in and around the city which never became a spa town. Spanish spas had great difficulties in the 1930s and many resorts and hotels were abandoned. Nevertheless, activity resumed in the 1950s and there were about 80 establishments in the 1990s. The development of spa tourism, with significant upgrades, has kept this activity alive. An interesting joint Spanish-Portuguese initiative, launched in 2007 with European support, is the Thermal and Water route of Verín, Chaves and Vidago Water City.

Retained as a component part of *The Great Spas of Europe*

***MONTECATINI TERME*, Toscana, Pistoia**

The first architectural development in *Montecatini* was initiated by Duke Leopold of Habsburg-Lorraine, who built neoclassical baths (1775) and planned promenades. Throughout the nineteenth century, the discovery of new springs led to the creation of private institutions with picturesque buildings such as Torretta (1829) Tamerici (1840s and 1911), Excelsior (former municipal casino, 1902), and Grocco (1904). A wonderful park unified these and gave coherence, because the resort has developed along the axis of Viale del Tettuccio (today Verdi) that connects the village to this

The GREAT
SPAS of Europe

establishment with a perspective to Montecatini Alto, an ancient village situated on a rock buttness. To the left of this axis, developed on the slope in the middle of a park, are the various spas and sports facilities. The most luxurious pump rooms, Tettucio, were built only between 1914 and 1927 in a very impressive baroque style.

Montecatini Terme contributes to the series with the quality of its urban layout in the form of an extensive park with built-in spa complexes, representing the modern concept of garden cities applied to a town functioning as a spa.

Not retained

SALSOMAGGIORE, Emilia-Romagna, Parma

The spa town grew around 1900 as a fashionable place, but its architectural masterpiece, the new Berzieri Terme (arch. U. Giusti and G. Bernardini; decoration by Chini) opened only in 1923. The late addition of this building, mixing neo-Babylonian, Liberty and Art Deco styles, launched the spa which retains regional importance. The two major elements, Berzieri Terme and the casino, are well preserved, but the ensemble does not form a complete spa town with sufficient integrity, or an international reputation, therefore has not been selected for the series.



Not retained

SAN PELLEGRINO TERME, Lombardia, Bergamo

The success story of this well-known spa resort begins in 1899 with the foundation of the Society San Pellegrino, known worldwide for bottled water. A small town grew up under the stimulus of the construction of the new baths (1901), the Grand Hotel (1904) and an extraordinary casino (arch. Romolo Squadrelli, 1906). Unfortunately, San Pellegrino remains more well known for bottled mineral water than as a spa, a function that has largely disappeared. The Grand Hotel and the baths have been transformed, and the casino, well preserved, with all its decoration and furnishings, is now used as a congress centre. These two spas conserved two of the most important buildings of the Belle Epoque in Italy, the Casino Squadrelli and the Terme Berzieri. These are really magnificent, but the cities do not have sufficient integrity to be selected for the series.

Not retained

PEDRAS SALGADAS-VIDAGO, Vila Real district

Although popular in the nineteenth century, this spa which is located about twenty kilometres from another important spa, Vidago, experienced a major boom with the investments of the Sociedade de Pedras Vidago & Salgadas in the period 1900-10. The resort was designed as an integrated ensemble in a park with hotels, baths, a modest casino, a chapel and pavilions. It acquired a strictly national reputation and activity is now reduced; Vidago remains a place known for its wellness centre and its golf therefore has not been selected for the series.

Vidago, the pump room
in the park



Not retained

LA TOJA, Galicia, Pontevedra

Recently discovered on the coast of an island, the springs led to the creation of a spa resort only in 1899. A large project of urbanisation was launched, but only the Grand Hotel (1907) and the casino were finished. After the difficulties of the inter-war period, the hotel reopened in strongly modified form and La Toja stayed a spa of regional importance so was not selected for the series.

Not retained

MONDÁRIZ-BALNEARIO, Galicia, Pontevedra

The spa was renewed at the end of the nineteenth century with the creation of the Grand Hotel (abandoned in the 1940s and now partly rebuilt) and the park with a beautiful pavilion for the Gándara spring (1907). It was intended to build a more prestigious ensemble with an opera house, to try to become a more international place, but this remained unfinished, without the appearance of a town. In the 2000s the spa was reopened with important transformations. Its integrity is not preserved.



These two places, well known around 1900, have lost their authenticity and integrity with their rebuilding, and have not reached the level of great international spa towns. For these reasons it was not selected for the series.

Spa Town Country	Completeness of attributes in terms of OUV	International standing and influence	Satisfactory degree of integrity	Satisfactory degree of authenticity	Still living tradition as a spa town	Significant contribution to the OUV
La Toja Spain						
Mondariz-Balneario Spain						
Montecatini Terme Italy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pedras Salgadas Portugal						
Salsomaggiore Italy						
San Pellegrino Terme Italy						

Southeastern and Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Russia)

Southeastern Europe, the Balkans, had a specific historic development just in the era when dozens of spa places of various size and importance were built in other parts of Europe. Much of the Balkans were under Ottoman rule throughout the early modern period. Ottoman rule was long, lasting from the fourteenth century up until the early twentieth in some territories. The Ottoman Empire was religiously, linguistically and ethnically diverse, and, at times, a much more tolerant place for religious practices than other parts of the world. On the other hand, the overall situation was not very stable and nations of the Balkans struggled for independence in many ways when other powers applied their interests.

During the last two decades of the eighteenth and the first decades of the nineteenth centuries, the Balkan Peninsula dissolved into virtual anarchy. The nineteenth century also brought improved communications, transportation and trade. In April 1876, the Bulgarians revolted. The revolt was poorly organized, and was cruelly crushed by the Ottomans. The response to this in Europe led to the Constantinople Conference of the Great Powers in 1876–77. At the same time the Russian–Turkish war took place. The situation changed after the Congress of Berlin (Summer 1878) but also contributed to World War I. In such an uncertain era, development of spa towns with international standing was hardly possible. Despite this, the wealth of natural mineral springs was recognised in some places and spa resorts have developed, mainly in today's Bulgaria. Some smaller spa towns exist like Bankya, Sandanski, and Stara Zagora, with Velingrad being one of the oldest and largest. In Greece, where the springs were used for medicine during high antiquity, it is interesting to see the revival of antique sites, for example in Aedipsos or in the isthmus of Corinth. During their occupation of the island of Rhodes, in the 1930s the Italians developed an original spa with rationalist and colonial architecture in Kallithea.

In the lands of the Russian Empire (1721-1917) some spa towns evolved early on the initiative of Peter the Great after visits to *Karlovy Vary* and *Spa*. The most important is Martsialnye Vody (the Marcial Waters resort) in Karelia, which is the oldest spa in Russia. Another interesting example is Sergievskie Mineralnye Vody in the southeastern part of European Russia, near Samara. But in the nineteenth century the development of spa towns did not have a dynamic comparable to Central or Western Europe. Instead the Russian elite frequented the spa towns of Central Europe like *Karlovy Vary*, *Bad Ems* and *Baden-Baden* and contributed in many ways to the myth and the multinational ambiance of *The Great Spas of Europe*. The Russian-orthodox churches are testimonials to the Russian communities in many spa towns of Central Europe. Writers like Dostoevsky and Turgenev thus reflect in their work the transnational social significance of the European spa culture. It is the reason why the Czar Nicolas II at the beginning of twentieth century asked for the development of spas in the Caucasian mountains to rival Central Europe. Borjomi in Georgia tried to become the "Caucasian Vichy", because the influence of Western and Central European spa culture on Russia is especially present in the north Caucasus, for example at Kislovodsk and Zheleznovodsk.

Due to the great distance to Central and Western Europe, Russian spa towns have been resorts primarily for Russian clientele. In some of them, architectonically interesting buildings and parks have been preserved. But no Russian spa towns contributed to the evolution of spa towns in Europe and none had the international standing characteristic of *The Great Spas of Europe*.

3.2.3 Conclusion

Contributions of the 11 spa towns to proposed Outstanding Universal Value

Baden bei Wien is an extraordinarily well-preserved example of a large spa zone built in a unique combination of architecture from the beginning of the nineteenth century (“Biedermeier”) with the architecture and infrastructures of the turn of the twentieth century when Baden became a world-class resort. Its location illustrates the spa development next to a pre-existing small historic town, and the only example in the series that lies in the immediate vicinity of a European metropolis and capital city (Vienna), which also corresponds with the seat of a major European monarchy (Habsburg). Moreover, it is the only town in the series that, along with its curative function, served as the summer resort (“Sommerfrische”) for the ruling monarchy and for people of the capital. Since the fifteenth century, the city has been the favourite spa of the Habsburg Holy Roman and then Austrian emperors. The town history leaves an impressive spa ensemble of baths, Kurhouse (serving as Austria’s first year-round casino), Sommerarena (music hall) and theatre, an exceptionally well-preserved spa garden (kurpark), a belt of villas and a therapeutic spa landscape that stretches through the Helental Valley. Whilst Vienna was home to the musical geniuses of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven and Johann Strauß, the outstanding universal significance of their music is linked to Baden as one of their favourite workplaces.

1. *Baden bei Wien*

The contribution of the town of *Spa* has two fundamental aspects. First of all, since the early seventeenth century, the pioneering role of *Spa* in the recognition of the medical properties of water, becoming internationally renowned all over Europe, has led to the introduction of the term “spa” in the English vocabulary. Secondly, since the early eighteenth century *Spa*’s landscape served for both crenotherapy and physical activities, forming a network of walks, linking the urban and thermal attributes of the city to the various springs in the surrounding countryside.

2. *Spa*

The contribution of *Františkovy Lázně* is based on the specific urban plan of the town founded at the end of the eighteenth century as an ideal spa town with an integrated architectonic look, characterised by a triple belt of parks and an inner and outer spa landscape. The town of *Františkovy Lázně* inspired a number of musical and literary works by world-renowned authors. Thanks to its fame for treating women’s illnesses, ladies used to come here without male company. Thus, *Františkovy Lázně* became a place of emancipation.

3. *Františkovy Lázně*

The contribution of the town of *Karlovy Vary* is based on the character and urbanism of a large extended spa zone with an extensive surrounding spa landscape with a network of walking paths and a number of solitary buildings. The unique composition of the mineral springs and innovative methods in balneology ranked *Karlovy Vary* amongst the most famous spas in Europe. It was visited by members of royal families, high aristocracy and artists, who found their inspiration here. *Karlovy Vary*, called ‘The largest open-air salon of Europe’ and ‘the chessboard of Europe’, became a prototype of mutual tolerance and a model of a united Europe.

4. *Karlovy Vary*

The contribution of *Mariánské Lázně* is based on its distinctive urban disposition with a large natural landscape park in the spa centre, surrounded by the historic buildings of the extended spa zone. 40 mineral springs rise here, a further 160 acidic springs are located in the surroundings. Up to the present, spa treatments have been carried out in the original spa buildings with their preserved original interiors and equipment. *Mariánské Lázně* was a traditional meeting place of members of royal families, aristocracy and a place of world politics, where important political negotiations took place. It was popular for scientists and artists from all over Europe and the world.

5. *Mariánské Lázně*

The contribution of *Vichy* is to be a model of spa town with a layout combining Parisian urban principles and the spa promenade inside the city, with pump rooms and covered galleries linked for walks and every-day activities. Not only has it greatly contributed to the creation of nineteenth century spa culture, but it has served as a benchmark in France and abroad. Since the era of Napoleon I, *Vichy* has accorded great importance to the parks surrounding the springs and baths, then, during the Second Empire, the town created a series of parks along the Allier river. Thanks to its theatre and now to the cosmetics trademark, *Vichy*, “reine des villes d’eaux”, gained worldwide reputation.

6. *Vichy*

The contribution of *Bad Ems* is in its architectural heritage: continually occupying the same site next to the thermal springs, it documents the spa's development from the medieval "Wildbad" through courtly life in the Baroque era to the sophisticated nineteenth century resort and beyond to the modernising developments of the early twentieth century. This has resulted in a still-intact transition towards a spa landscape closely interconnected with the resort. The closed ensemble on both sides of the river Lahn represents all essential elements of a spa and also documents the temporal depth of European bathing tradition with a focus on an international public and a linked musical heritage.

7. *Bad Ems*

Baden-Baden is, on the one hand, founded in the fact that in the course of its history from antiquity to the present, the town has experienced, and left its own mark on, every major developmental phase of a European spa town. All of them have been preserved in the City's physical structure. On the other hand, due in part to its gambling concession *Baden-Baden* became a supreme example of the nineteenth-century German gambling spa of worldwide reputation. The influence of the casino operators, the Bénazet family, contributed to the creation of social venues and public spaces for the international élite.

8. *Baden-Baden*

The contribution of *Bad Kissingen* lies in a harmonious spa quarter functionally and structurally extremely well-preserved; the quality for the reform era of the early twentieth century is outstanding as the architect Max Littmann built and rebuilt almost the whole spa infrastructure. It is arranged around the spa garden (originally from 1738) It gathered international importance with the visits of the German chancellor Otto von Bismarck. Within the nominated series the town is the only one to own historical facilities for the production and use of brine.

9. *Bad Kissingen*

The contribution of *Montecatini Terme* is to be a representative symbol of the modern spa town. During the twentieth century, *Montecatini Terme* strengthened specific town plan features: the promenade, conceived as an axis of connection with the hillside village of Montecatini Alto, and the town park around which traditional architectural spa structures have been developed, reinterpreting eclectic and liberty culture in Tuscan style. The authenticity of the ensemble is proven by original infrastructures serving the spa tourism, such as the railway and the funicular railway. Between the eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries, *Montecatini Terme* attracted important intellectuals and artists, such as Verdi, Puccini and Leoncavallo.

10. *Montecatini Terme*

The contribution of the *City of Bath* is to be an exceptional spa city with its celebrated Georgian town planning and exceptional Palladian architectural ensembles, squares and crescents. It has managed its hot springs for 2000 years, providing visitors with medical care and diversions. Bath doctors pioneered diagnostic medicine. The surrounding landscape was managed and used for exercise and recreation as part of the cure. 'Masters of The Ceremony' devised and policed the 'Rules of Bath' contributing to a polite society and forming a model for many spa towns of the nineteenth century on the continent.

11. *City of Bath*

Contributions of the property as a whole

Produced at a crucial moment in European history, experiencing intense industrialisation and urbanisation, the spa town is the complex result of a highly technical and refined civilisation, as well as nostalgia for a primordial relationship with nature. In fact, during the period of its apogee, it was only able to emerge as a result of the Industrial Revolution. As a city successfully integrated within nature, this gave it a function that offset the unpleasant effects commonly experienced in heavily industrialised centres; primarily those of pollution and overcrowding. Following a democratic evolution that has made it the setting for the development of new mores, that interweave the elitist social practices of the aristocracy of the old regime and those of a bourgeoisie, this has reached such a development that some spa towns received more than 100,000 annual visitors during the late nineteenth century.

To understand the specificity of a spa town, it is necessary to consider it according to the two axes of space and time which presided over its development and which determined the criteria of constitution and selection of the series.

It is primarily a space, on the one hand real place of an unprecedented relationship between nature and civility, between cure and leisure, promoting a social mix, and, on the other hand, an imaginary place by representations that it conveys, in particular in connection with the presence of waters to which we lent a long time a quasi-miraculous force. Also, the configuration of the spa stems from this need to combine the practical needs of a cure and recreation for people who stay there for three weeks (in general), with the construction of a prestigious image seeking to attract a clientele, the competition becoming very lively.

The urbanism that places the park and the promenade at its heart, like the architecture itself, which aims at a demonstrative monumentality, tries to unite the functional spa with an ideal spa town, a process attested by the 1900s posters and promotional campaigns.

Because the spa town must assume not only complex functions related to the affluence in a small place of a crowd of visitors, and to the multiplicity of the activities of care and leisure which they come to share, it must also be in continual renewal, according to the modes and the rivalries between them. For one of the factors of the astonishing dynamism of these spa towns, where investments were always disproportionate to real local capacities, is their propensity to aim for a form of completeness based on imaginary representations rather than on real needs. Of course, these are the characteristics of the "Great spas" that have developed over two centuries.

Just as the spa town has therefore been constructed according to an original spatial pattern and a complex combination of attributes, not one site, however exemplary, can incarnate historically the phenomenon, a series is needed. Moreover the series takes all its meaning here by allowing to reconstitute at the same time a kind of sketch of ideal spa town and its evolution over a period of two centuries which brings it to its climax. We pass from precarious inns, rustic sites and open-air celebrations, such as the spa offer at the beginning of the eighteenth century, to the splendour of sumptuous buildings, palaces dedicated to baths, pump rooms competing with the royal greenhouses, palaces of the game and theatres as only capitals can build. This model then becomes international and spreads to a large part of the world dominated by European countries.

"Spa town" is a rather ambivalent formula, because it designates spas that have really reached the urban character in their size and configuration, but also places remained in the state almost embryonic, consisting of a little pump room, a hotel and some leisure facilities. What makes "Great" certain spas is not only the monumentality, but they are also "Grand", because of the image that they forged of themselves in the imagination of the contemporaries; and the famous people, crowned heads, writers and above all musicians - all spa town based on a rich musical and theatrical program to distinguish themselves - have largely contributed to establish this distinction between normal spa towns which offer all the components constituting their function, and the "Great spas" that form an international network and dominated their period. The "royalty" of these cities has been recognised by history and still today their names radiate.

An ideal spa town, combining historical realities and imaginary mental representations, emerges through the attributes that the 11 components of the *The Great Spas of Europe* present. In a majestic and romantic spa town like *Bad Ems*, crowned by the escarpments and hotels of *Karlovy Vary*, a park that would have the qualities of that of *Montecatini Terme* and would be dotted with tempiettos dedicated to the musicians of the park of *Baden bei Wien*, would include the Friedrichsbad of *Baden-Baden* and the Imperial baths of *Františkovy Lázně*, the casino of *Vichy*, the Wandelhalle of *Bad Kissingen*, the *Mariánské Lázně* Gallery ... This would be the heart of the resort, the part that best demonstrates the image reached in 1900; next, some neighbourhoods would give complementary images of the spa towns through time and space. An eighteenth century district would present, in the perspective of a crescent of the *City of Bath*, the Waux-Hall of *Spa* where Beau Nash would officiate; another cosmopolitan and picturesque district would present historicist villas reminiscent of Switzerland, Venice or the East, and offer, scattered along the winding alleys, an austere Anglican chapel, the Romanian Orthodox Chapel and the Russian Orthodox Church of *Františkovy Lázně* or *Bad Ems*; a third neighbourhood opening out to the natural surroundings would include lawn-tennis, a golf, accompanied with cottages and a racecourse.

As for the Tettuccio, the last big establishment of the series (1928), it could represent another form of synthesis, because it has the same ambition to bring together all the characteristics of the baths, pump rooms, casinos and bandstands of all *The Great Spas of Europe*; in one building. Here everything is integrated, even the Post Office, with an architectural and decorative sumptuous blend of Baroque and late Art Nouveau, its setting of gardens offer the same tendencies to reconstruct the microcosm of an ideal spa town.

A place on the World Heritage List for *The Great Spas of Europe*

The Comparative Analysis has shown that there are no similar properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List primarily for their values as a European spa town. By focusing on spa towns, the serial transnational nomination *The Great Spas of Europe* fills a gap in the World Heritage List. The spa towns are essentially different from other urban settlements. They were intended, built and managed expressly for health and leisure and the nomination of a group of spa towns can be well distinguished from other urban sites inscribed already on the List. The only exception to this is the inscription of the *City of Bath* which, however, focuses on the merits of the archaeology of the Roman baths complex and the remarkable eighteenth century urban plan and architecture, not the city's function as a spa town. As a spa town, the *City of Bath* forms one of eleven component parts of this nomination.

Within the global analysis, representative examples of spa towns have been noted which illustrate the merits and characteristics of broad spa regions. The analysis shows spa traditions in geo-cultural regions across the world distinguish themselves from those in other regions. Geo-cultural regions with indigenous spa traditions include natural spas in the Americas, East Asia and New Zealand. The impact of European spa tradition through colonial influences in North Africa, the Americas and New Zealand has been examined. Several other approaches to the use of mineral springs have been identified and examined such as onsens in Japan and hammams throughout the Islamic world, and have been shown to be very distinct from and different to the European spas.

Whatever the merits of all these sites around the globe, they do not compete with, or generally replicate, the European spa tradition with its unique combination of health treatments through the use of mineral waters with social and sports activities. European spas are therefore a distinctive tradition which has strongly influenced culture in Europe and through colonialism overseas. Because of this impact, European spa culture as encapsulated by *The Great Spas of Europe* has the potential to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value.

The detailed European analysis of spa towns inscribed on national Tentative Lists has shown that the nominated property is the best representative of the European spa tradition which flourished from around the eighteenth century to the 1930s, and is characterised by the combination of medical aspects of "taking the waters" with entertainment, social and sport activities.

The nominated property represents the best example of the European spa tradition as manifested by:

- innovative ideas on modern development of European towns centred on curative natural mineral springs which grew and were adjusted regularly to respond to developments in medical science and to satisfy the demand of their visitors for cure and relaxation;
- conscious human care for health which was developed around natural mineral springs and created a specific European spa culture;
- specific urban settlements devoted to health and leisure which are characterised by dedicated spa buildings of great diversity and quality set within a thoughtfully designed green environment aiding the health of spa guests;
- social, political, scientific and cultural achievements that helped to shape European democratic traditions and ideas from the eighteenth century to the early twentieth century.

3.3 Proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

3.3.a Brief Synthesis

Water has long been a catalyst for the development of significant cultural practices that have generated both tangible and intangible cultural values. This includes the use of water in spas. Natural mineral water (thermal and cold) has universal significance, from the *thermae* of Ancient Rome to the *onsen* of Japan, but it is mainly in Europe that its use has been medicalised. The result is a unique urban typology, the European spa, the only example of urbanisation around a medical practice.

The Great Spas of Europe is a transnational serial property of eleven spa towns located in seven countries: *Baden bei Wien* (Austria); *Spa* (Belgium); the 'Bohemian Spa Triangle' of *Karlovy Vary*, *Františkovy Lázně* and *Mariánské Lázně* (Czech Republic); *Vichy* (France); *Bad Ems*, *Baden-Baden* and *Bad Kissingen* (Germany); *Montecatini Terme* (Italy); and *City of Bath* (United Kingdom).

The property provides exceptional testimony to the European spa phenomenon, a complex urban, social and cultural phenomenon that has its roots in antiquity but gained its highest expression from around 1700 to the 1930s. *The Great Spas of Europe* developed around natural water sources, which were the catalyst for an innovative model of spatial organisation dedicated to curative, therapeutic and social functions. These fashionable resorts of health, leisure and sociability created architectural prototypes and an urban typology that has no earlier parallel. They were pioneers of nascent modern tourism, and the only European settlement type to be in cultural competition with the great metropolises.

Ensembles of spa buildings include baths, pump rooms, drinking halls, treatment facilities and colonnades designed to harness the resource and to allow its practical use for bathing

and drinking. ‘Taking the cure’, externally and internally, was complemented by related visitor facilities such as assembly rooms, casinos, theatres, hotels and villas, and spa-specific support infrastructure. All are integrated into an overall urban context that includes a carefully managed recreational and therapeutic environment in a picturesque landscape.

The *Great Spas of Europe* marks the greatest developments in the traditional medical uses of springs by Enlightenment physicians across Europe, including major contributions to the evolution of diagnostic medicine. As elite places in terms of scientific, political, social and cultural achievements, it contributed to the transformation of European society through the reduction of the gap between the social elite and a growing middle class. They hosted major political events and their special creative atmosphere inspired works of high-art in music, literature and painting that are of outstanding universal significance.

Effective protection and management, together with economic and/or medical success, succeeded in controlling growth and maintaining an original purpose and enduring atmosphere. Their sustainable function as dependable curative venues for body, mind and spirit ensures their continued contribution to European culture, behaviour and customs.

3.3.b Justification for criteria

The Great Spas of Europe is testimony to the exchange of innovative ideas that influenced the development of modern European towns from the eighteenth century to the early twentieth century. This exchange included pioneering urban planning and architectural prototypes, together with an intimately associated development of medicine, arts and leisure activities. The ideas influenced the popularity and development of spa towns and balneology in other parts of the world, and are characterised by an almost continuous ease of flow across geographic boundaries, even in times of conflict.

Criterion (ii)

The *Great Spas of Europe* became centres for experiment, contributing to the eighteenth century Enlightenment and introducing radical change to the then prevailing attitude towards science, medicine, nature and art. Developments within the nominated property influenced the early development of sea-bathing, climatic and gaming resorts throughout the world.

The Great Spas of Europe bears exceptional testimony to the conscious care for human health that developed around natural mineral springs. This tradition was born of a remarkable cultural and social phenomenon which flourished from the eighteenth century to the early twentieth century; and which continues to thrive today.

Criterion (iii)

The nominated property embodies a ‘culture-creating’ tradition as places for the origination, reception and transmission of transnational trends and new values of the Enlightenment. This commanded a fresh conception of relations between European citizens, between classes, and also between men and women. At the centre of spa culture is a philosophy of diagnoses and prescription, healthy diets and physical exercise that, together with exceptional hospitality, entertainment and leisure opportunities, combined as a prototype of a nascent European tradition of mass tourism.

Criterion (iv)

The Great Spas of Europe is an outstanding example of a specific settlement type, a new urban typology centred on natural mineral springs and devoted to health and leisure, that flourished from around 1700 to the 1930s. This developed to include architectural prototypes that are spatially arranged according to the distribution of springs and the regime of 'taking the cure'. Unlike any other type of settlement from the eighteenth century, these towns combine architecture, innovative town planning and landscape design into the built environment both functionally, visually and economically.

The principal spa ensemble includes springs, pump rooms and drinking halls, bathing and treatment facilities, 'kurhaus', colonnades and galleries, hospitals and sanatoria, assembly rooms, casinos, theatre and concert houses, arcades of shops, hotels and villas, churches of various denominations, and support infrastructure which are set within a green environment of promenades, parks and gardens, pleasure grounds, rides and woodland walks..

The nominated property served as a model for similar spas, and spa architecture, in Europe and elsewhere in the world

The Great Spas of Europe comprised politically neutral nodes in an international network of health and leisure. They became vectors of a transnational culture

Criterion (vi)

Elements of the nominated property are associated with, and directly linked to, social, political and cultural ideas that helped to shape European democratic traditions and ideals. As international meeting places the spas are distinguished as regular hosts to prominent figures in the arts and humanities, and also to European rulers, politicians and diplomats, national elites and international high society. The spas reflected the climate of the Enlightenment where the former barriers between class and gender were relaxed, and religious freedom and equality prevailed. As preferred resorts of composers and musicians, writers and poets, painters and sculptors, they were sources of inspiration for artistic and literary works of universal significance. Here, many original works were conceived, performed or exhibited for the first time.

3.3.c Statement of Integrity

The eleven component parts that comprise *The Great Spas of Europe* contain, as a whole, all interrelated elements necessary to express proposed Outstanding Universal Value. The series broadly represents a group of the most exceptional examples of European spa towns that is essential for the complete contribution of the range of attributes that fully define the unique urban typology and distinctive characteristics of a "great" European spa. All component parts share a set of determining characteristics formed during the most significant "culture-creating" phase of their history and development, the heyday period from around 1700 to the 1930s, and each continues to function in the purpose for which it was originally designed.

The series illustrates the continental spread of the European spa phenomenon through time, and the entire development of its range of most significant tangible features and processes, capturing the most significant, successful and fashionable 'hotspots' of a living cultural tradition with long standing and enduring origin. Each component part makes a specific and essential contribution to overall compositional integrity through variable

and unique combinations of attributes. These encompass the diversity of mineral springs and their water qualities (the *raison d'être* of the spa, which maintained a profound influence on development), corresponding spatial arrangements of the spa town that functions around the spa quarter (designed to harness the resource and to allow its practical use for bathing and drinking), characteristic facilities complementary to 'taking the cure' and related visitor facilities (assembly rooms, casinos, theatres, hotels and villas), and spa-specific support infrastructure (from water piping systems and salts production to railways and funiculars); all integrated into an overall urban context that includes a carefully managed recreational and therapeutic environment in a picturesque landscape. The historical relationship between component parts is akin to an international network of resort towns patronised by an international clientele, often moving from one spa to another (from emperors and royalty, to composers, artists and poets), with each spa town sharing functional linkages that range from a dynamic interchange of ideas (for example architects and spa physicians moving between the most innovative and successful spas) to special rail itineraries for spa tourism.

Boundaries are determined in a strategic manner: to be of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the significance of the nominated property, whilst also recognising the strength and specific contribution that each component part makes to the compositional integrity of the series as a whole. Buffer zones are drawn not only for the direct protection of the nominated property, but also for the specific protection of spring catchments and of important setting.

All component parts and their constituent elements are generally in good condition. Elements requiring conservation either have works already planned or are awaiting alternative uses, with their current state of conservation maintained. None are threatened, and all are adequately protected and managed; key considerations in the selection of component parts during comparative analyses. There have been continued additions to the historic environment in all component parts (as with any living property), particularly in one where the contemporary function (sustainable, and enduringly consistent with its origins) is subject to modern health and other requirements and expectations.

3.3.d Statement of authenticity

The Great Spas of Europe is a group of the most exceptional examples of a unique urban typology based on natural mineral springs. Together, the eleven component parts, in seven countries, contain the full range of attributes necessary to express proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

Such attributes are manifest in a range of highly authentic elements that combine to convey clarity of meaning and understanding: mineral springs, in great diversity, that maintain their natural physical qualities including substance, location and setting; the spa historic urban landscape with its distinctive designed form and highly legible spatial layout, together with a well-maintained location and setting that combine to retain an enduring spirit and feeling; spa architecture, in pioneering form and design, original material and substance, that remains authentic even though some buildings have experienced compatible change of use; the spa therapeutic landscape that retains its form, design and function and continues to be used for the purpose for which it was designed; spa infrastructure, much of which is either original or evolved on original

principles and remains in use; continuing spa function where original use and function is sustained, and the consequent evolution of form, structures and technology is evident in successive phases that continue to be complemented by new facilities that not only meet today's standards but enable a continued contribution to the tradition of spa therapy and wellness and the many specific activities relating to the spa season.

The nominated property – as a whole, and at the level of component parts and their constituent elements – meets the condition of authenticity that is necessary to qualify for inscription on the World Heritage List. The truthfulness and credible expression of attributes embodied in structures that date from around 1700 to the 1930s, the principal period of contribution to Outstanding Universal Value, is further evidenced during substantial and sustained conservation works that are informed by expansive archival collections of plans, documents, publications and photographs held at each component part.

3.3.e Requirements for protection and management

Responsibility for the protection and management of each of the eleven component parts of the property rests with the national/regional government, in the case of Germany with the government of the Länder, and local authorities of that State Party. Each component is protected through the law and spatial planning regulations applicable in its State Party or individual province, as well as by a significant degree of public/ charitable ownership of key buildings and landscapes. Each part has a nominated property manager or coordinator and has a local management plan in place conforming to the overall *Property Management Plan* and *Property Action Plan*. Responsibility for contact with the World Heritage Centre for each component remains with its respective State Party.

An overall management system for the whole property has been established, with a *Property Management Plan* and *Action Plan* agreed by all stakeholders. An *Inter-Governmental Committee*, made up of national World Heritage Focal Points and/or a representative of the highest monument or heritage protection authority, keeps track of matters relating to the property, can offer advice to the *Great Spas Management Board (GSMB)*. The Board is made up of the Mayors of the 11 components and has executive authority for the property as a whole. The Board sets and manages the budget for the overall management functions, monitors and reviews the Action Plan, approves and publishes an Annual Report, employs the Secretariat, and directs other activities for the property as a whole, such as the marketing and communications strategy, and the risk register and risk mitigation.

The *Site Managers Group* includes site managers for each component, the Secretariat, and any specialist advisors. The *Site Managers Group* is essentially an expert group for debate and exchanges of experience and to advise the *GSMB* on relevant management issues. The international structure is supported and serviced by a Secretariat jointly funded by all the components.

The overall management system will develop over time; locally, nationally, and internationally. An important concern will be to continue to develop cooperation and cross-working between the individual components and to ensure that the property as a whole is adequately resourced. Development pressures may be an issue since these are

living cities which will need to continue to adapt and change to maintain their role as spas. Managing tourism so that it is truly sustainable may also become a challenge. The potential impact of climate change and natural disasters such as wildfires on a property with such a significant landscape aspect will also require careful management.