

# off the fence.

## Beautiful Planet 40'

21 x 40'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

### 1. CZECH REPUBLIC istic Centre of Prague

The Old Town of Prague, the Lesser Town and the New Town speak of the great architectural and cultural influence enjoyed by this city since the Middle Ages. Prague has for centuries been the cultural, economic and historical center of the state. Since the Middle Ages, it has had a reputation of being one of the most beautiful cities in the world and was called royal or golden.

### 2. FRANCE Mont St-Michel and its Bay

For centuries, MONT SAINT MICHEL and its breathtaking bay have exercised a powerful attraction. Home to both a famous pilgrimage center and a thriving Benedictine Abbey, its long history is closely intertwined with that of Normandy and France. The monastery perches on a rock isolated in the middle of the bay, protected by the incessant ebb and flow of the tides. Constructed as a place of monastic prayer, the magnificent buildings crowning the rock trace the evolution of Romanesque and Gothic architecture, and together constitute an unique testimony to the civilization of the Middle Ages.

### 3. FRANCE Paris, Banks of the Seine

The capital of the arts, the City of Light, universally recognised as one of the world's most beautiful cities, Paris possesses an enormous cultural richness which it owes, not only to its history, but also to its formidable heritage. With, its monuments, its museums, its great buildings, its libraries, its famous characters, Paris never ceases to transport us through time and space.

### 4. ITALY Historic Centre of Florence

Florence, the capital of the region of Tuscany spreads on the banks of the Arno, between the Adriatic and the Tyrrhenian seas, almost in the middle of the Italian peninsula. The urban complex of Florence is in itself a unique artistic realization, the fruit of a continuous creation over more than

6 centuries. Leaving aside the museums, the greatest concentration of universally renowned works of art in the world is found right here.

## **5. ITALY Historic Centre of Naples**

Between the Sorrentine peninsula and the Campi Flegrei, Naples gazes out on to the open gulf of the Tyrrhenian sea, within a spectacular setting, dominated by Vesuvius, the sea and the hillside, with one of the most beautiful and captivating townscapes in the whole of Europe.

## **6. JORDAN Petra**

Petra is the treasure of ancient world, hidden behind an almost impenetrable barrier of rugged mountains, boasting incomparable scenes that make it the most majestic and imposing ancient site still-standing nowadays. The rock-carved rose-red city of Petra is full of mysterious charm.

## **7. MEXICO Pre-Hispanic City of Chichen-Itza**

The fusion of Mayan construction techniques with new elements from central Mexico make Chichen-Itza one of the most important examples of the Mayan-Toltec civilization in Yucatán.

## **8. PERU Lines and Geoglyphs of Nasca and Pampas de Jumana**

The Nazca Lines are an enigma. No one has proof who built them or why. Since their discovery, the Nazca Lines have inspired fantastic explanations from ancient gods, a landing strip for returning aliens, a celestial calendar created by the ancient Nazca civilization -- putting the creation of the lines between 200 BC and 600 AD, used for rituals probably related to astronomy, to confirm the ayllus or clans who made up the population and to determine through ritual their economic functions held up by reciprocity and redistribution, or a map of underground water supplies.

## **9. SPAIN Works of Antoni Gaudi, Parque Guell, Palacio Guell and Casa Mila in Barcelona**

Barcelona's history, tradition, and cultural influences make it an unequivocally Mediterranean city. Culture and the arts flourish in Barcelona and in all of Catalonia; the splendor achieved by Catalan modernism is one of the most patent displays.

The works of Antonio Gaudi dominate the city of Barcelona. A modern and cosmopolitan city, it possesses a rich artistic and architectural heritage.

## **10. UNITED KINGDOM Westminster Palace, Westminster Abbey, and Saint Margaret's Church**

The Palace of Westminster, or the Houses of Parliament as it is also known, has changed dramatically over the course of nearly a thousand years of history. At the north-eastern end of the Palace is the most famous of its towers, the Clock Tower, commonly known as Big Ben after its main bell. Located next to the Houses of Parliament in the heart of London, Westminster Abbey is a must-see for any London visitor. With its oldest parts dating to the year 1050, the Abbey contains some of the most glorious medieval architecture in London.

## **11. USA Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks**

Canadian Rockies Mountain have become into one of the most important natural tourist centers of the country and today they show you beauty and purity. Among The Rocky Mountains Canada and the great quantity of conifer plantation lies one of the most beautiful lakes all over the world, not only because of its special blue, pure, and fresh water, but its all what surrounds it, becoming the place into a unique spectacular scenery.

## **12. USA Grand Canyon National Park**

Well known for its geologic significance, the Grand Canyon is one of the most studied geologic landscapes in the world. It offers an excellent record of three of the four eras of geological time, a rich and diverse fossil record, a vast array of geologic features and rock types, and numerous caves containing extensive and significant geological, paleontological, archeological and biological resources. It is considered one of the finest examples of arid-land erosion in the world.

## **13. USA Yellowstone National Park**

Established in 1872, Yellowstone National Park was America's first national park.

Yellowstone covers a high, mountain-girt plateau lying astride the crest of the Rocky Mountains in the northwest corner of Wyoming. It is an area of such natural beauty and unusual features that "Wonderland" has long been its fitting sobriquet. There, within an area larger than the states of Delaware and Rhode Island combined, are superlatives of scenery, geology, and wildlife in a grandly primeval setting, a fitting location for America's first, largest, and most influential national park.

## **14. USA Yosemite National Park**

Yosemite National Park covers a huge area of the western Sierra Nevada mountains in central California. Its innumerable lakes, meadows, forests and granite summits form an endless and unspoiled Alpine scenery. The Park embraces a spectacular tract of mountain-and-valley landscape, which was set aside as a national park in 1890. This expansive area is home to

hundreds of wildlife species and thousands of plants native to Yosemite. The landscapes and features of Yosemite National Park inspire awe and wonder in the forces that have created such majesty. Geologists, hydrologists, and geographers investigate and document landscapes to get a sense of the ecosystem as a whole that reaches from below 900 meters to over 4000 meters in elevation.

### **15. Egypt: Memphis and its Necropolis - the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur**

The physical geography of Ancient Egypt has remained in the form of pyramids and temples, and the wealth of knowledge that this civilization was able to develop leaves many visitors feeling inspired. The Great Pyramid of Khufu at Giza is the largest single building ever constructed. On the Giza Plateau, Khufu's builders oriented his pyramid almost perfectly north. The pyramid gives the impression of an immense flight of stairs which leads to infinity. The impression is heightened by the total absence of the facing so that the internal blocks, arranged like a giant staircase, are revealed.

### **16. India: Taj Mahal**

The Taj Mahal is classed as one of the eight wonders of the world, with some Western historians claiming that its architectural beauty has never been surpassed. In 1983 the Taj Mahal became a UNESCO World Heritage Site and was cited as "the jewel of Muslim art in India" ... "a universally admired masterpiece of the world's heritage."

### **17. Mali: Cliff of Bandiagara (Land of Dogons)**

The Bandiagara site is an outstanding landscape of cliffs and sandy plateaux with some beautiful architecture. Several age-old social traditions live on in the region. The geological, archaeological and ethnological interest, together with the landscape, make the Bandiagara plateau one of West Africa's most impressive sites.

### **18. Egypt: Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis**

Thebes, the city of the god Amon, was the capital of Egypt during the period of the Middle and New Kingdoms. With the temples and palaces at Karnak and Luxor, and the necropolises of the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens, Thebes is a striking testimony to Egyptian civilization at its height.

### **19. Russia: Historic Centre of St Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments**

One of the world's most beautiful cities, St. Petersburg has an extraordinary history and a rich cultural traditions that have inspired and nurtured some of the modern world's greatest names in literature, music, and the visual arts. Saint Petersburg is the only city in the world which was included on the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites as a monument of architecture and culture, urban planning and landscape art from the 18th and 19th centuries.

## **20. SPAIN Alhambra, Generalife and Albayzin, Granada**

Granada is located at the foot of Sierra Nevada, the highest mountain range of the Iberian peninsula. With well over a thousand years of recorded history, Granada enjoys one of Spain's most important cultural and architectural patrimonies.

In addition to the Alhambra, the world-renowned palaces and fortresses of the Nasrid dynasty, and the historical Moorish Albaycín quarter, both designated as World Heritage sites by UNESCO, Granada boasts a magnificent Renaissance cathedral dating from the 16th century and many other superb architectural monuments.

## **21. Russia: Kremlin and Red Square, Moscow**

Inextricably linked to all the most important historical and political events in Russia since the 13th century, the Kremlin, built between the 14th and 17th centuries by outstanding Russian and foreign architects, was the residence of the Great Prince and also a religious centre. At the foot of its ramparts, on Red Square, St Basil's Basilica is one of the most beautiful Russian Orthodox monuments.