

Bath Receives Second UNESCO Accreditation

Thermae Bath Spa is proud to announce that Bath has received a second UNESCO accreditation as a 'Great Spa Towns of Europe', alongside 11 other significant spas such as Baden-Baden in Germany, Montecatini Terme in Italy and Karlovy Vary in Czech Republic.



This accreditation means that Bath is the only city in the UK to receive a **double nomination** as a **UNESCO** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) **World Heritage Site** and Thermae Bath Spa is thrilled to be able to **sustain Bath as a living spa** and **help towards enhancing the bathing experience**.

'Great Spa Towns of Europe' is a selected group of **significant Spa Towns** founded around **natural thermal springs** including Vichy in France and Bad Kissingen in Germany, that is **testimony to places for healing pain and disease with mineral waters** and its subsequent **reflection on the study of medicine**.

Most of the cities included **grew into fashionable centres until 1914** and are a **remarkable cultural and social phenomenon that made a contribution to European Culture**. All of the Great Spa Towns include the following key elements:



Springs and sources and ensembles of spa buildings and enabling people to *'take the waters'* such as baths, pump rooms, drinking halls, and prototypes such as the *'Kurhaus'* and *'Kursaal'*

Places to take gentle exercises – walking and promenading (also meeting and been seen by others) in paved and covered colonnades and galleries and landscaped parks and gardens, as well as in **extensive networks of footpaths and trails** in the surrounding woods and landscape. Golf, tennis and horseracing were also provided.



Social activity – facilities developed for **mixing and socialising** in assembly rooms and conversation rooms, and for *'diversions'* such as **gaming**. Casinos, theatres, opera houses, concert and dance halls can be found in most of the *'Great Spas'*.

A **range of accommodation** was important to house **large numbers of guests**, and the **number and size of hotels** as well as numerous villas is a distinctive attribute of the *'Great Spas of Europe'*.



The urban landscape includes **infrastructure that is especially linked to spas**, such as hospitals based on mineral springs, funiculars that lead to lookout towers or restaurants in the landscape, river transport and railways, facilities to bottle and export the water and its by-products and even the pipework transporting the all-important water

Vistas: buildings and spaces connect visually with their picturesque setting of idealised nature.

Finally, the '**therapeutic landscape**' – a **green environment** used regularly for exercise as **contribution to the therapy of the cure**, and for relaxation and enjoyment.



LUBOMÍR ZAORÁLEK, THE MINISTER OF CULTURE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC SAID 'THE GREAT SPA TOWNS OF EUROPE PROJECT IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF INTERNATIONAL cooperation between ministries and INSTITUTIONS, EXPERTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF MUNICIPALITIES IN SEVEN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. I GREATLY APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT OF THE MAYORS OF THE TOWNS INVOLVED WHO HAVE TIRELESSLY SUPPORTED THIS PROJECT AND PROVIDED FINANCIAL RESOURCES OVER THE EXTENSIVE PERIOD OF ITS DEMANDING PREPARATION.'

Bath's natural thermal waters, have been used for health and vitality for **over two thousand years**. In Latin, places such as Bath were known as '**Sanus Per Aquam**' (SPA), meaning '**health by or through water**'.

Bath rose to **popularity during the Eighteenth Century**, where Royalty and High Aristocracy were known to spend 'the season' bathing in the natural thermal waters and enjoying the frivolity within the City.

Thermae Bath Spa has proudly continued the **tradition of bathing** in the

natural thermal waters of Bath since **2006**.

Thermae Bath Spa combines **modern facilities with the historic landscape of Bath** to create something unique. Our four pools are **all fed with the same natural thermal waters at 35.5 degrees Centigrade** and include one the Cross Bath, one in the Hot Bath, and two in the New Royal Bath including the stunning open-air rooftop pool with skyline views of the City.



The **waters of Bath fell** as rain around **10,000 years ago** and then sank through the Mendip Hills to a depth of about 2kms below the Earth's surface. Here it is **heated by high temperature rocks to an estimated 69 degrees Centigrade** before rising back up through **one of the three springs** in the centre of the City, namely **the Cross Spring, the Hetling Spring and the King's Spring** which supplies the Roman Baths. The most recent findings suggest that the waters **contain over 42 minerals and trace elements**.