

Damien B. - 10 Outrageous Slums In Unexpected Places



Canada Real Galiana - Madrid -
Photo: Rafael Robles

listverse. August 2014. Everyone has heard of the world's most famous slums: Hell's Kitchen, Skid Row, most of Detroit, etc. But there are slums everywhere, even in the last places you would expect to find urban decay. Sometimes, the causes of the deplorable conditions found there are also unexpected.

Canada Real Galiana

Over 16 kilometers in length, Canada Real Galiana is Europe's largest shantytown, home to over 30,000 people. Situated right next to Madrid's garbage incineration site, the area's residents can often be seen picking through the refuse to scrounge up usable goods to resell or use themselves. Most of the homes in the area were built by the residents themselves, often from whatever scraps of wood and metal they could find within the desolation. The area is Spain's drug capital, and a busy stretch of the only paved road is known as a "shooting gallery," where all sorts of illegal substances can be bought. The people who have the misfortune to call this area home are trapped, receiving no assistance and no official recognition from their government. Spanish authorities have even taken steps to demolish the area entirely, knocking down the homes of people who have known no other way of life. Left with no resources and nowhere to go, these people simply raid the demolition sites where the scraps of their previous homes are dumped and rebuild what was torn down. Should they have no luck, they are often left to squat in the hole in the ground where their home once was.

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