

Forgotten Cold War places

All images are taken with permission from the book [Abandoned Cold War Places](#) by Robert Grenville, published by [Amber Books Ltd](#) and available via [Amazon](#).

The Cold War – four decades of tension between the Soviet Union Eastern Bloc and the US-led NATO Allies after the Second World War – has forever left its mark on the globe. The fascinating book, [Abandoned Cold War Places](#) by Robert Grenville, explores the mighty machines and remarkable sites that remain from this hostile period. We've selected some of the most interesting images and look at the fascinating history behind them.

Bechevinka, Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia

An aerial view of the housing built for the staff of this former base known as Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky-54. Established in 1960, it was an important naval base for much of the Cold War, but was closed in 1996 and is now a remote tourist destination on Russia's Pacific coast.



Yuri Smityuk/Alamy

Former Submarine Pen, Vis, Croatia

A small island in the Adriatic Sea, Vis was for a few months during the Second World War the headquarters of Tito (head of the Yugoslav Communist Party) and his Partisans. After the war the island was developed into a major fortified military base, including submarine pens and nuclear bunkers for Tito and his general staff. The Yugoslav Army withdrew in 1992 and it is now a tourist site.



Andrew Lloyd/Alamy

Border Defences, Bucina, Czech Republic

This Cold War-era border between Germany and the former Czechoslovakia shows what the Iron Curtain looked like. Barbed wire, electrified fences, a strip of bare earth covering mines and a line of pyramid-shaped concrete anti-tank traps are all illuminated and overseen by a tall watchtower. Check out these [striking communist remains](#) you can visit around the world.



Petr Bonek/Alamy

Former Listening Station, Teufelsberg, Germany

The Cold War was a bitter struggle between the West and East for information on what the other side was planning. With such a small window of warning for any

nuclear strike, both NATO and the Warsaw Pact spent much time and effort on advanced technology that might give them an advantage should war break out.



OlliFoolish/Shutterstock

Former Tropospheric Scatter Dishes, RAF Stenigot, Lincolnshire, UK

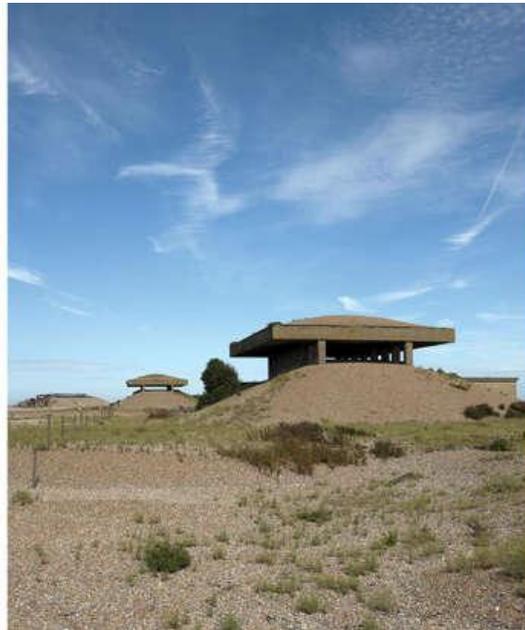
A former radar site in the Second World War, RAF Stenigot became a communications relay site in 1959 as part of NATO's ACE High system. Using UHF tropospheric dishes, the 82-station network in nine countries allowed NATO commanders to communicate over long distances. The network was decommissioned in the late 1980s. Take a look at these [abandoned places where time stands still](#).



Mark Lees/Alamy

Pagodas, AWRE, Orford Ness, Suffolk, UK

Orford Ness on the east coast of England was used as a military test site for much of the 20th century. The distinctive concrete pagodas were built by the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment (AWRE) for testing in real-world conditions. The design allowed explosive gases to vent safely, but a larger-than-expected explosion would cause the roof to fall and safely seal the testing pit.



The National Trust/Alamy

Stanley R. Mickelsen Safeguard Complex, Nekoma, North Dakota, USA

Built to defend the nearby Minuteman ICBM silos – an iconic weapon in the American nuclear arsenal – the complex was the first anti-ballistic site in the US. The Missile Site Radar (the pyramid structure) would guide Spartan (long-range) and Sprint (short-range) missiles to incoming warheads. Viewed as a failure, the complex was closed in 1976 after less than a year.



dedio/Shutterstock

Former US Army Black Hills Ordnance Depot, South Dakota, USA

Opened in 1942, this depot was used for the storage and maintenance of various types of ordnance. Chemical weapons such as mustard gas and sarin were tested on site. The depot was closed in 1967. In 2016, it was bought by a developer who has converted some of the 575 bunkers into shelters that allow up to 24 people to survive for one year.



Jim Lo Scalzo/Rex by Shutterstock

Alternate Command Post, Long-Range Aviation, Moscow, Russia

Long-Range Aviation was the arm of the Soviet Air Force responsible for long-range nuclear bomber strikes, equivalent to the USAF's Strategic Air Command. As Soviet military command structures were likely to be targeted by a NATO nuclear strike, alternative locations like the one shown were constructed to ensure that military operations could continue unhindered.



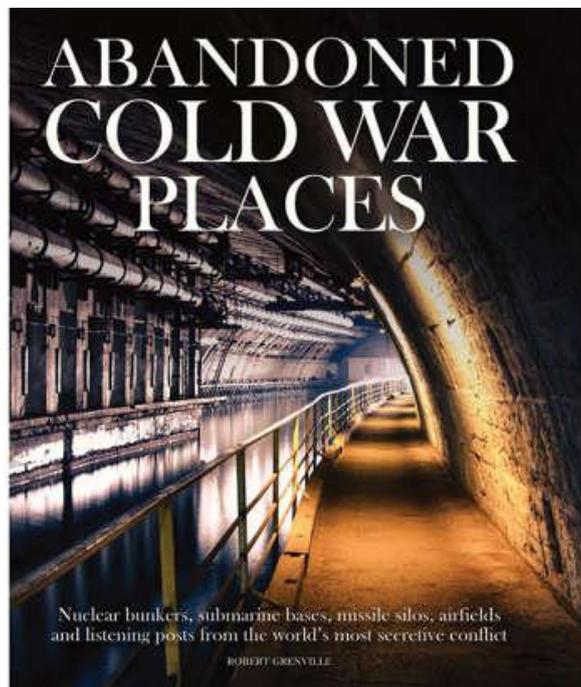
Pavel L Photo and Video/Shutterstock

Wrecked Submarines, Vladivostok, Russia

Stripped down wrecks of what appear to be Foxtrot-class submarines lie trapped in the ice outside the naval base at Vladivostok. The Foxtrot-class were diesel-electric powered submarines designed to hunt NATO vessels. The first Foxtrot-class submarine was commissioned in 1958 and could remain submerged for up to five days with a crew of 78. Take a look at more [stunning shipwrecks around the world](#).



Scott Peterson/Getty images



Courtesy of Amber Books