

WORLD HERITAGE 2009-2010



Architect Oscar Niemeyer's vision of modernism dominates the open landscape of Brasilia, Brazil's capital since 1960. The expansive concrete dome of the National Museum of the Republic rises near the center of the city, planned by Lucio Costa to mimic the shape of an airplane or bird in flight. Near the museum, the Cathedral of Brasilia's circle of 16 gothic columns represents hands stretching toward heaven.

The photo: Our Place World Heritage Collection

Ourplace
THE WORLD HERITAGE COLLECTION

The OUR PLACE World Heritage photobook is developed in partnership with UNESCO's World Heritage Centre. The OUR PLACE team has now photographed more than 200 World Heritage sites in over 75 countries. Visit: www.ourplaceworldheritage.com

The World Heritage emblem symbolizes the interdependence of the world's natural and cultural diversity. The central square represents the achievements of human skill and inspiration, and the circle celebrates the gifts of nature. The emblem is round, like the world, a symbol of global protection for the heritage of all humankind.

The Earthen Architecture Conservation Programme works toward conserving and revitalizing earthen architecture, which is threatened by natural disasters and industrialization. Currently, some one hundred properties on the World Heritage List are partially or totally built with earth.

World Heritage sites are inscribed on the List on the basis of their merits as forming a significant contribution to the cultural and natural heritage of the world. Their outstanding universal value is considered to be of importance for future generations.

Conserving the diversity of life on Earth is critical to global human welfare. With the support of the World Heritage Convention, the most important biodiversity sites receive international recognition as well as technical and financial assistance to deal with threats such as agricultural encroachment, alien species and poaching.

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE, ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, AT ITS GENERAL CONFERENCE, PARIS, 16 NOVEMBER 1972.

EXTRACTS

... parts of the cultural or natural heritage are of outstanding interest and therefore need to be preserved as part of the world heritage of humankind as a whole.

... [with] the magnitude and gravity of the new dangers threatening... [the world's heritage], it is incumbent on the international community as a whole to participate in the protection of the cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value...

... the Committee shall establish... under the title of "World Heritage List", a list of the properties forming part of the cultural heritage and natural heritage... which it considers as having outstanding universal value...

The sprawling complex of Spišský Hrad sits on a green hilltop in Slovakia, overlooking an ancient trade route to the Baltic Sea. Built in the 13th century with its neighboring town of Levoča, the castle is among the most spectacular Romanesque and Gothic structures in Europe.



A shy, scarlet-feathered Andean Cock-of-the-Rock is one of more than 800 bird species in Peru's Manu National Park. Rich, highland soils sustain 1.5 million hectares of tropical forests in the eastern Andes teeming with animal life.



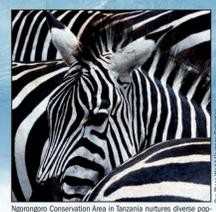
Havana's cobblestones and pastel architecture recall Cuba's colonial past. Founded in 1514, the port prospered in the 18th century as a hub of the vital sugar trade, with 30,000 slaves supporting mills and plantations in nearby Valley de los Ingenios.



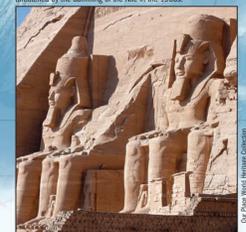
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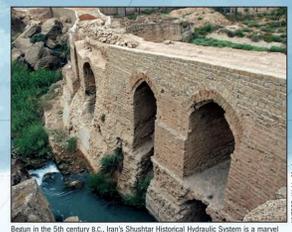
Intricate relief sculptures watch over the ruins of Hierapolis, a Roman city near Pamukkale in southeastern Turkey known for its mystical landscape of white terraced cliffs and thermal springs.



Ngorongoro Conservation Area in Tanzania nurtures diverse populations of animals that live on and migrate across the grassy highlands of the 800,000-hectare park. Hundreds of thousands of rhinos, wildebeest and gazelles wander through the park each summer, feeding predatory lions, cheetahs and leopards.



The temple of Ramses II at Abu Simbel and other grand Nubian monuments in southern Egypt were covered in silt by the Nile's power. UNESCO took the lead in relocating these archaeological treasures, threatened by the damming of the Nile in the 1960s.



Began in the 5th century B.C., Iran's Shuhtar Historical Hydraulic System is a marvel of creative engineering. Tunnels, or qanats, brought water from the Mehriz River to the city of Shuhtar, filling reservoirs under homes. The complex includes bridges, dams and canals that powered watermills to irrigate orchards in the hinterlands.



Blanketed in snow, the Bronze Pagoda is one of dozens of Buddhist temples and monasteries built from the 1st to the 20th century on sacred Mount Wutai, the highest peak in northern China.



In the Sulu Sea west of the Philippine Islands, almost 400 species of coral provide a sanctuary for fish, sharks, eels and sea turtles in Sabah's Tubbataha Natural Park. The park's showy rainbow of atoll reefs includes two small islands where seabirds nest.

From the vast plains of the Serengeti to historic cities such as Vienna, Lima and Kyoto; from the prehistoric rock art on the Iberian Peninsula to the Statue of Liberty; from the Kasbah of Algiers to the Imperial Palace in Beijing — all of these places, as varied as they are, have one thing in common. All are World Heritage sites of outstanding cultural or natural value to humanity and are worthy of protection for future generations to know and enjoy.

Key

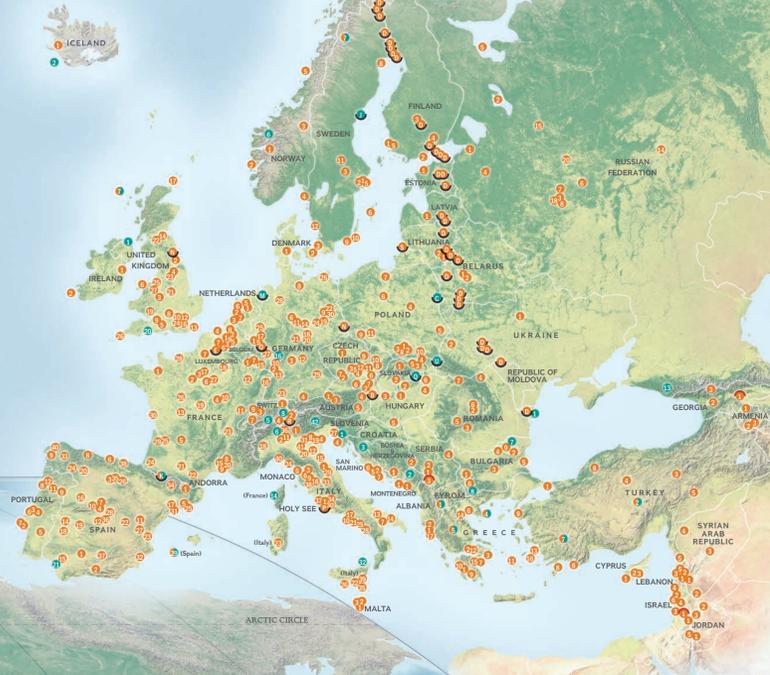
- 1 Cultural property
- 2 Natural property
- 3 Mixed property (cultural and natural)
- 4 Transnational property
- 5 Property currently inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Number indicates site order by year of inscription within each country. See country index on back side of map for site listings. Only States Parties to the World Heritage Convention are labeled on this map. United Nations (UN) country boundaries shown as of October 2006. <http://whc.unesco.org> <http://www.nationalgeographic.com>

The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNESCO and National Geographic Society concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

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The World Heritage Cities Programme seeks to protect living historic city centres and their cultural and architectural heritage from threats such as uncontrolled development or inappropriate construction.

Cultural heritage refers to monuments, buildings and sites with historical, aesthetic, archaeological, scientific, ethnological or anthropological value. Natural heritage refers to outstanding physical, biological or geological features and includes habitats of threatened species, as well as areas with scientific, environmental or aesthetic value. Mixed sites have both cultural and natural values.

Worldwide, 98 World Heritage forests protect more than 73 million hectares of woodland. This accounts for 1.9 percent of the global forest cover and about 13 percent of the surface area of all protected forests on the planet.

The World Heritage Marine Programme helps countries nominate marine sites and manage them effectively to ensure that they will thrive for future generations. There are currently 33 marine sites on the World Heritage List.

The World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme helps visitors discover World Heritage sites while encouraging respect of the environment and local cultures and enhancing community livelihoods.

Robinson Projection
SCALE 1:43,720,000
1 cm = 1000 km
1 inch = 16000 miles

The reduced scale of the maps and the cartographic projections have resulted in approximate locations of some properties.
Land cover data:
Data: Pathfinder, US National Park Service
Text: Shelley Sperry
Design and production by National Geographic Maps

Albers Conic Equal-Area Projection
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