

# WORLD HERITAGE

## 2017-2018



Qal'at Bu Mahir, a 19th-century four-cornered fortress built of coral stone blocks, plaster, and wood protects the memory of the sailors, divers, and merchants who harvested and traded pearls here for centuries. Oyster beds still grow in the shallow waters off the southern tip of Mahana Island. The terraces and remnants of more than a dozen other structures—including a mosque, shops, and merchants' homes—preserve the history of pearling in the Persian Gulf, which dominated the world's pearl economy until the early 20th century, enriching traders and putting Bahrain at the heart of powerful global networks.

Site photo: © Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities

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

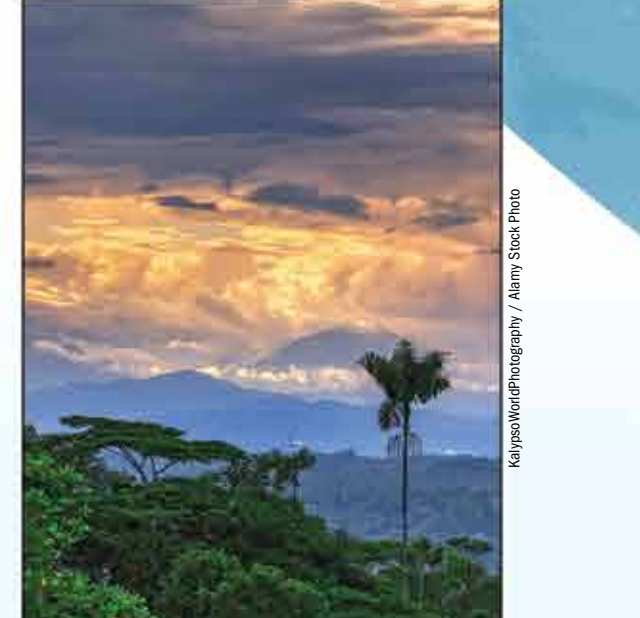
... parts of the cultural or natural heritage are of outstanding interest and therefore need to be preserved as part of the world heritage of humankind as a whole.

... [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...

An Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the Cultural and Natural Heritage of Outstanding Universal Value, called "the World Heritage Committee", is... established within UNESCO.

... 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...

In western Norway the Seven Sisters waterfall rushes from rugged mountain cliffs into the breathtaking blue Geirangerfjord. Carved by glaciers over millennia, Nærøyfjord and Geirangerfjord range from 10 to 500 metres deep, and are among the nation's most cherished and protected landmarks.



The 5,286m Sangay volcano—one of the world's most active—glazes clouds above Ecuador's lush Andean landscape. In its delicate wetlands, dense rain forests and high grasslands, the park shelters endangered mountain tigers and spectacled bears as well as 3,000 flowering plants and over 300 bird species.



Brightly colored homes reached by steep stone staircases and funicular elevators cover the 42 hills enclosing Vietnam's hamlet. At the turn of the 20th century, China's largest Pacific port was a centre of global trade. The city welcomed immigrants from every continent who created its unique urban architecture and culture.



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Five limited ecosystems, including Africa's largest estuarine system, cover almost 2,400 square km at Simonsville Wetland Park in South Africa. Hippo swam in the park's brackish lakes while whales and dolphins migrate off shore. Loggerhead and leatherback turtles nest along its pristine beaches. Colonies of petrels, slots and herons breed nearby.



Sudan's Sanganeb atoll rests 240 metres down to the Red Sea's floor. Its 80 types of coral protect 200 fish species. In the waters and seagrass beds surrounding nearby Mukkawar Island, dugong, turtles and manta rays find a welcoming habitat.



In 1915, Italians erected this grand theatre in their military outpost of Assara, Eritrea, which had been under colonial rule since 1889. Before World War II, Europeans conceived a modernist city replete with hotels, mosques, churches and residential buildings, celebrating modern design while serving the glories of imperial power.



The Hagia Sophia and Sankhan monasteries represent outstanding examples of Armenian religious architecture between the 10th and 13th centuries. Numerous monuments of monumental and monumental art are preserved in the monasteries, amongst which more than 50 khachkars (cross-stones) are considered among the best examples of medieval Armenian sculpture.



Spanning the snow-covered Pamir Knot and surrounding plateau, Tajikistan's high National Park includes one of the world's longest glaciers, some of its deepest gorges and over 400 lakes. Few people live in this rugged land of extreme winters and frequent earthquakes, but agile snow leopards and Siberian ibex roam freely.



In Bang An, Viet Nam, a labyrinth of rice paddies, limestone towers, caves, forests and waterways stretches across the Red River delta. Home to the 10th-century capital Hoa Lu, the history of humans and their relationship with nature here spans 30,000 years.

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**

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

See country index on the back side of map for site listings. Number indicates site order by year of inscription within each country. Letters are assigned to transnational properties in the order of their inscription on the List. Only States Parties to the World Heritage Convention are included on this map. United Nations (UN) country boundaries are shown as of December 2017. [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org) [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com) © 2018 UNESCO Printed February 2018

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The 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.

The final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.



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.

The Small Islands Programme focuses on preserving heritage on the islands of the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.

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  
The reduced scale of the map and the cartographic projections have resulted in approximate locations of some properties.  
Land cover data: Tom Patterson, United States National Park Service  
Text: Shelby Sperry  
Design and production: National Geographic Maps

