



This issue of the *Newsletter* is entirely devoted to the decisions of the World Heritage Committee's 29th session in Durban, South Africa, the first meeting of the Committee to take place in sub-Saharan Africa. As we look back on what the Committee, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre have accomplished over the past five years, we see much change and reinforcement of our united efforts to improve the conservation and protection of heritage around the world.

These past five years have seen quite a few changes to the way the Committee operates. For one, the Committee decided that a yearly session in June/July, rather than a Bureau meeting in June and a Committee session in December, would improve efficiency and allow more work to come to fruition between sessions. I think we can say, without a doubt, that these statutory changes have been a success.

Another important accomplishment has been the work done by both the Committee and the Advisory Bodies on improving representivity on the World Heritage List. This year, we acknowledged with pride the first sites from Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Moldova to appear on the World Heritage List.

The voluntary limitation to four-year terms on the Committee, as well as the practice of not electing a member to the Committee for two consecutive terms, have also helped achieve the goal set by the Committee to bring more States Parties into the process.

Another big advance has been the completion and approval of the new *Operational Guidelines*. This document is a clear compilation and synthesis, readily accessible to everyone involved in the conservation and preservation of World Heritage.

I would also like to point out the growth in international assistance, both public and private, the number of bi-lateral agreements signed, and the increase in private donations over the past five years. The World Heritage PACT (Partnerships for Conservation) Initiative, launched by the World Heritage Centre in 2002, will also serve to reinforce this trend in the years to come, as it raises awareness and mobilizes sustainable resources for the long-term conservation of World Heritage through a network of foundations, conservation and research institutions, companies and media organizations interested in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.

Finally, I would like to thank those States Parties, both on and off the Committee, who have contributed in the past few years to the measurable success of World Heritage conservation and preservation.

Francesco Bandarin, Director, World Heritage Centre

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“This meeting gives us all the opportunity to appreciate the specific character and diversity of African culture. It is important to recognize, however, that African culture is not confined to the soil of Africa. The influence of African culture is truly global and, in its own right and through its interface with other cultures, it has been and continues to be a truly dynamic and creative force around the world.”

Koichiro Matsuura,
UNESCO Director-General,
at the opening of the
29th session of the World
Heritage Committee
in Durban, South Africa

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29th Committee Meets in Durban

The 29th session of the World Heritage Committee met in Durban, South Africa (10-17 July). Besides the 21 Committee members, 230 observers from States Parties and 70 observers from NGOs attended, as well as representatives of the Advisory Bodies, ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN. UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura addressed the opening session, which was presided over by Themba Wakashe, South Africa's Deputy Director-General for Heritage and National Archives.

This 29th session of the World Heritage Committee was particularly fruitful in discussion, reflection and decision-making. Apart from the exceptional quality of the sites added to the World Heritage List this year (see pages 3 and 4), the session was marked by intense discussion on such subjects as African World Heritage, the state of conservation of properties and the issue of Outstanding Universal Value.

One of the highlights of the session was the support given by the Committee to the establishment of the African World Heritage Fund and the Committee's call for States Parties to make voluntary contributions to the Fund.

The Committee noted that the Periodic Report for the African region, adopted in Budapest in 2002, called for the establishment of such a Fund. The Committee also welcomed the African Position Paper which addressed the challenges facing Africa's World Heritage properties, as well as the possibility of setting up the Fund.

The decisions concerning Africa's World Heritage were made against the background of work that had already been carried out by the AFRICA 2009 Programme, the Africa Nature Programme, and the National Strategies Programme. The Committee recommended that capacity building continue to be intensified in the next phases of these programmes.



The World Heritage Committee in session

© Geoff Brink

Exhibition
on South Africa's
World Heritage sites

The Committee devoted a considerable amount of time to examining the state of conservation of World Heritage properties. A total of 137 state of conservation reports of World Heritage sites were presented by the Secretariat. It also considered the interrelation between the results of the Periodic Reporting cycles and the conclusions derived from the state of conservation reports. With a view to consistency, the Committee called for better linkages between both processes in the future, and requested that the WHC and the Advisory Bodies take up the issue at meetings during the year of reflection on the Periodic Reporting process.

The Committee also requested that the reflection on the Periodic Reporting Process include training priorities, international cooperation issues and a discussion on a new regional grouping.

On another subject, the Committee encouraged States Parties to integrate the concept of historic urban landscapes in nomination proposals, following the very successful international conference on 'World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture', held in Vienna in May 2005. It also requested Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre to take into account the conservation of the historic urban landscape when reviewing any potential impact on the integrity of an existing World Heritage property. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly of States Parties at its 15th session adopt a Declaration on the Conservation of Historic Urban Landscapes on the basis of the Vienna Memorandum.

As a follow-up to the Special Meeting on the Concept of Outstanding Universal Value hosted by the Russian Federation and the Kazan authorities in April, the Committee discussed the issue extensively, and decided to continue this reflection at its 30th session in 2006.

Recognizing the work being done within the framework of the UN Convention on Climate Change, the Committee welcomed the offer by the United Kingdom to provide financial support for the organisation of a meeting of experts to review the scale and nature of the risks posed to World Heritage properties arising specifically from climate change and jointly develop a strategy to assist States Parties to implement management responses to these risks.

In order to provide a robust and workable set of guidelines for the development of partnerships in support of World Heritage, the Committee adopted the regulatory framework for the World Heritage PACT and requested the Director of the World Heritage Centre to ensure that it be made widely available to States Parties. It also decided to postpone the examination of the evaluation of the World Heritage PACT from its 30th to the 31st session.

The Committee elected the new Chairperson, Ms Ina Marčiulionytė of Lithuania, Professor Alexander Gillespie of New Zealand as Rapporteur and Benin, Chile, India, Kuwait and the Netherlands as Vice-Chairs.

Finally, the Committee decided to hold its 30th session in Vilnius, Lithuania, in 2006.

List of World Heritage in Danger: Sites Inscribed, Sites Removed

At its 29th session the World Heritage Committee inscribed Coro and its Port (Venezuela) on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and simultaneously inscribed Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) on the World Heritage List and the Danger List. Due to improvements in preservation, the Committee decided to remove from the Danger List three sites, Sangay National Park (Ecuador), Timbuktu (Mali) and Butrint (Albania) where the threats had been adequately addressed. The List of World Heritage in Danger now contains 34 sites.

Inscription on the Danger List

Coro and its Port (Venezuela)

With its earthen constructions unique to the Caribbean, Coro is the only surviving example of a rich fusion of local traditions with Spanish Mudéjar and Dutch architectural techniques. One of the first colonial towns (founded in 1527), it has some 602 historic buildings. Heavy rains between November 2004 and February 2005 caused severe damage to a great number of structures. The situation is aggravated by the deteriorated condition of numerous historic structures, as well as the construction of inappropriate walls and fences. In addition, the construction of a new monument, a beach walkway and an entrance gate to the city is planned in Colina (the port of La Vela). These are located along the beach in the buffer zone of the World Heritage site, and in their present form could have a considerable impact on the values of the site and disrupt the relation of the port city with the water.

Simultaneous Inscription on the World Heritage List and the Danger List

Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile)

Humberstone and Santa Laura is the site of more than 200 saltpeter works which were in operation for over 60 years from 1880. Chileans, Peruvians and Bolivians worked in the remote desert Pampa, forging a communal *pampinos* culture, distinctive for its rich language, creativity, solidarity and striving for social justice. A recent earthquake has added to the extremely fragile nature of the buildings. There has been no maintenance for the last 40 years, and there has been damage and vandalism as well as some dismantling. The greatest threat is from looters searching for re-usable materials and memorabilia. Although the site is a virtually rain-free desert, wind-borne salt from the coast has caused corrosion of metal sheeting and affected the wooden structures as well.

Removal from the Danger List

Sangay National Park (Ecuador)

With its outstanding natural beauty and two active volcanoes, the park illustrates the entire spectrum of ecosystems, ranging from tropical rainforests to glaciers, with striking contrasts between the snowcapped peaks and the forests of the plains. Its isolation has encouraged the survival of indigenous species such as the mountain tapir and the Andean condor. The property was inscribed on the Danger List in 1992, following threats to the Park due to human activity which was harmful to its natural environment. The Committee congratulated the State Party on the progress made in addressing and minimizing threats to the property and decided to remove it from the Danger List. It requested that the Ecuadorian authorities submit a report by 1 February 2006 on the progress in the implementation of the management strategy and measures taken to ensure adequate levels of funding and staff for the management of the property.

Timbuktu (Mali)

Home of the prestigious Koranic Sankore University and other madrasas, Timbuktu was an intellectual and spiritual capital and a centre for the propagation of Islam throughout Africa in the 15th and 16th centuries. Its three great mosques, Djingareyber, Sankore and Sidi Yahia, recall Timbuktu's golden age. Although continuously restored, these monuments have been under threat from desertification. After a range of measures had been taken, the Committee considered that the preservation of the listed monuments of the ancient city had made sufficient progress to warrant its removal from the Danger List, on the condition however that a management and rehabilitation plan to facilitate the preservation and sustainable development of the Old City of Timbuktu be completed. If this condition should not be met, the property will be re-inscribed on the Danger List at the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee in July 2006.

Butrint (Albania)

Inhabited since prehistoric times, Butrint has been the site of a Greek colony, a Roman city and a bishopric. Following a period of prosperity under Byzantine administration, then a brief occupation by the Venetians, the city was abandoned in the late Middle Ages after marshes formed in the area. The present archaeological site is a repository of ruins representing each period in the city's development. The property was inscribed on the Danger List in 1997 because of looting and lack of protection, management and conservation. In deciding to remove Butrint from this List, the Committee noted the considerable efforts by the State Party to improve the state of conservation and management of the property. It requested the Albanian authorities to finalize the management and conservation plan of the property and to take all necessary measures to prevent any on-site illegal development or inappropriate construction. It also requested the State Party to provide a detailed implementation report by 1 February 2006.



Butrint, Albania

© Butrint National Park

Twenty-four New Sites Added to World Heritage List

Twenty-four new sites (seven natural and seventeen cultural) were added to the World Heritage List at the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Durban (South Africa) from 10 to 17 July 2005. This brings to 812 the total number of cultural, natural and mixed sites now inscribed. The List now includes 628 cultural sites, 160 natural sites and 24 mixed sites in 137 countries around the world. Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Moldova enter the List for the first time. Among the inscriptions are three transboundary sites, extensions to six sites that were already on the List and a natural site which has become mixed following the recognition of its cultural values. One of the new sites, Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile), was simultaneously inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Natural Sites

EGYPT Wadi Al-Hitan (Whale Valley)

N (i)
Wadi Al-Hitan, Whale Valley, in the Western Desert of Egypt, contains invaluable fossil remains of the earliest, and now extinct, suborder of whales, *Archaeoceti*. These fossils represent one of the major stories of evolution: the emergence of the whale as an ocean-going mammal from a previous life as a land-based animal. The number, concentration and quality of such fossils here is unique, as is their accessibility and setting in an attractive and protected landscape. Other fossil material in the site makes it possible to reconstruct the surrounding environmental and ecological conditions of the time.

JAPAN Shiretoko

N (ii) (iv)
Shiretoko Peninsula provides an outstanding example of the interaction of marine and terrestrial ecosystems as well as extraordinary ecosystem productivity largely influenced by the formation of seasonal sea ice at the lowest latitude in the northern hemisphere. It has particular importance for a number of marine and terrestrial species, some of them endangered and endemic. The site is globally important for threatened sea birds and migratory birds, a number of salmonid species, a number of marine mammals, and some cetacean species.

MEXICO Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California

N (ii) (iii) (iv)
The site comprises 244 islands, islets and coastal areas. The Sea of Cortez and its islands have been called a natural laboratory for the investigation of speciation. The site is home to 695 vascular plant species, more than in any marine and insular property on the World Heritage List. Equally exceptional is the number of fish species: 891, 90 of them endemic. The site, moreover, contains 39% of the world's total number of species of marine mammals and a third of the world's marine cetacean species.

NORWAY West Norwegian Fjords - Geirangerfjord and Nærøyfjord

N (i) (iii)
Geirangerfjord and Nærøyfjord are among the world's longest and deepest fjords. They are considered as archetypical fjord landscapes and among the most scenically outstanding anywhere. The sheer walls of the fjords have numerous waterfalls while free flowing rivers cross their deciduous and coniferous forests to glacial lakes, glaciers and rugged mountains. The landscape also features a range of supporting natural phenomena.

PANAMA Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection

N (ii) (iv)
Coiba National Park protects Coiba Island, 38 smaller islands and the surrounding marine areas within the Gulf of Chiriqui. Its Pacific tropical moist forest maintains exceptionally high levels of endemism of mammals, birds

and plants due to the ongoing evolution of new species. It is also the last refuge for a number of threatened animals and an outstanding natural laboratory for scientific research.

SOUTH AFRICA Vredefort Dome

N (i)
Vredefort Dome is a representative part of a larger meteorite impact structure, or astrob- leme. Dating back 2,023 million years, it is the oldest astrob- leme found on earth so far. With a radius of 190 km, it is also the largest and the most deeply eroded. Vredefort Dome bears witness to the world's greatest known single energy release event, which had devast- ating global effects, including, according to some scientists, major evolutionary changes. It provides critical evidence of the earth's geo- logical history and is crucial to our under- standing of the evolution of the planet. Vredefort is the only example to provide a full geological profile of an astrob- leme below the crater floor.

THAILAND Dong Phrayayen - Khao Yai Forest Complex

N (iv)
The Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex is a rugged mountainous area ranging between 100m to 1,351m high with about 7,500 of its 615,500 ha above 1,000m. The site is home to more than 800 species of fauna. It is internationally important for the conserva- tion of globally threatened and endangered mammal, bird and reptile species. The area contains substantial and important tropical forest ecosystems, which can provide a viable habitat for the long-term survival of these species.

Mixed Site

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND St Kilda

N (ii) (iii) (iv) C (iii) (v)
Initially inscribed on the World Heritage List for its outstanding natural features and wildlife in 1986, the site has now also been recognized for its cultural value, thus becoming a mixed site. This volcanic archi- pelago, uninhabited since 1930, bears the evidence of more than 2,000 years of human occupation in the extreme conditions preva- lent in the Hebrides.

Cultural Sites

ALBANIA Museum-City of Gjirokastra

C (iii) (iv)
The historic town of Gjirokastra is a rare example of a well-preserved Ottoman town, built by farmers of large estates. The 13th- century citadel provides the focal point of the town with its typical tower houses (Turkish *kule*). Characteristic of the Balkan region, Gjirokastra contains a series of out- standing examples of *kule*, a type of building which crystallized in the 17th century. But

Gjirokastra also features some more elabo- rate examples from the early 19th century. The town also retains a bazaar, an 18th- cen- tury mosque and two churches of the same period.

BAHRAIN Qal'at al-Bahrain Archaeological Site

C (ii) (iii) (iv)
Qal'at al-Bahrain is a typical tell – an artificial mound created by many successive layers of human occupation. The strata of the 300x600-m tell testify to continuous human presence from about 2300 B.C. to the 16th century A.D. About 25% of the site has been excavated, revealing structures of different types: residential, public, commer- cial, religious and military. On the top of the 12m-high mound there is the impressive Portuguese fort, which gave the whole site its name, *qal'a* (fort). The site was the capi- tal of the Dilmun, one of most important ancient civilizations of the region. It contains the richest remains inventoried of this civi- lization, which was hitherto only known from written Sumerian references.

BELARUS Architectural, Residential and Cultural Complex of the Radziwill Family at Nesvizh

C (ii) (iv) (vi)
This architectural, residential and cultural complex was built by the Radziwill dynasty, which gave birth to some of the most impor-



Architectural, Residential and Cultural Complex of the Radziwill Family at Nesvizh

tant personalities in European history and culture. The complex consists of the residen- tial castle and the mausoleum church of Corpus Christi with their setting. The castle has ten interconnected buildings, which developed as one architectural whole around a six-sided courtyard. The palaces and church became important prototypes, which marked the development of architec- ture throughout central Europe and Russia.

BELARUS, ESTONIA, FINLAND, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, NORWAY, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SWEDEN, UKRAINE Struve Geodetic Arc

C (ii) (iv) (vi)
The Struve Arc is a chain of survey triangula- tions stretching from Hammerfest in Norway to the Black Sea, through ten countries and over 2,820 km. These are points of a survey, carried out between 1816 and 1855 by the astronomer Friedrich Georg Wilhelm Struve, which represented the first accurate measur- ing of a long segment of a meridian. This helped establish the exact size and shape of our planet and marked an important step in the development of earth sciences and topographic mapping. It is an extraordinary example of scientific collaboration among scientists from different countries, and of collaboration between monarchs for a scien- tific cause. The listed site includes 34 of the original station points.

BELGIUM Plantin-Moretus House- Workshops-Museum Complex

C (ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)
The Plantin-Moretus Museum is a printing plant and publishing house dating from the

Renaissance and Baroque periods. Situated in Antwerp, one of the three leading cities of early European printing along with Paris and Venice, it is associated with the history of the invention and spread of typography. The monument is of outstanding architectural value. It contains exhaustive evidence of the life and work of what was the most prolific printing and publishing house in Europe in the late 16th century. The building of the company, which remained in activity until 1867, contains a large collection of old print- ing equipment, an extensive library, invalua- ble archives and works of art, among them a painting by Rubens.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA The Old Bridge area of the Old City of Mostar

C (vi)
The historic town of Mostar developed in the 15th and 16th century as an Ottoman fron- tier town and during the Austro-Hungarian period in the 19th and 20th centuries. Mostar has long been known for its old Turkish houses and Old Bridge, *Stari Most*. In the 1990s conflict most of the historic town



The Old Bridge area of the Old City of Mostar

and the Old Bridge were destroyed. The Old Bridge was recently rebuilt and many of the edifices in the Old Town have been restored or rebuilt with the contribution of an inter- national scientific committee established by UNESCO. The Old Bridge area, with its pre- Ottoman, eastern Ottoman, Mediterranean and western European architectural features is an outstanding example of a multicultural urban settlement. The reconstructed Old Bridge and Old City of Mostar is a symbol of reconciliation, international cooperation and of the coexistence of diverse cultural, ethnic and religious communities.

CHILE Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works

C (ii) (iii) (iv)
Humberstone and Santa Laura works contain over 200 former saltpeter works where Chileans, Peruvians and Bolivians lived in company towns and forged a distinctive com-



Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works

munal *pampinos* culture, manifest in their rich language, creativity, and solidarity, and, above all, in their pioneering struggle for social justice. Situated in the remote Pampa, one of the driest deserts on earth, thousands of *pampinos* lived and worked in this hostile environment for over 60 years, from 1880, in order to process the largest deposit of salt- peter in the world, which produced the

fertilizer sodium nitrate that was to transform agricultural lands in North and South America, and in Europe, and result in great wealth for Chile. Because of the vulnerability of the structures and because of the impact of a recent earthquake, the site was also placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.



The Historic Centre of Macao

CHINA

The Historic Centre of Macao

C (ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)

Macao, a lucrative port of strategic importance in the development of international trade, was under Portuguese administration from the mid 16th century until 1999, when it came under Chinese sovereignty. With its historic street, residential, religious and public Portuguese and Chinese buildings, the historic centre of Macao provides a unique testimony to the meeting of aesthetic, cultural, architectural and technological influences from East and West. The site also contains a fortress and a lighthouse, which is the oldest in China. It bears witness to one of the earliest and longest-lasting encounters between China and the West based on the vibrancy of international trade.

CUBA

Urban Historic Centre of Cienfuegos

C (ii) (iv)

The colonial town of Cienfuegos was founded in 1819 in the Spanish territory but was initially settled by immigrants of French origin. It became a trading post for sugar cane, tobacco and coffee. The town first developed in the neoclassical style. It later became more eclectic but retained a harmonious overall townscape. Cienfuegos is the first, and an outstanding example of an architectural ensemble representing the new ideas of modernity, hygiene and order in urban planning as developed in Latin America from the 19th century.

FRANCE

Le Havre, the City rebuilt by Auguste Perret

C (ii) (iv)

The city of Le Havre was severely bombed during the Second World War. The destroyed area was rebuilt according to the plan of a team headed by Auguste Perret, from 1945 to 1964. The site forms the administrative, commercial and cultural centre of Le Havre. Amongst many reconstructed cities, Le Havre is an outstanding post-war example of urban planning and architecture based on the unity of methodology and the use of prefabrication, the systematic utilization of a modular grid, and the innovative exploitation of the potential of concrete.

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

Soltaniyeh

C (ii) (iii) (iv)

The mausoleum of Oljaytu was constructed in 1302-12 in the city of Soltaniyeh, the capital of the Ilkhanid dynasty, which was founded by the Mongols. Soltaniyeh is one of the outstanding examples of the achievements of Persian architecture and a key monument in

the development of its Islamic architecture. Its double-shelled dome is one of the earliest existing examples in Iran. The mausoleum's interior decoration is also outstanding and scholars have described the building as 'anticipating the Taj Mahal.'

ISRAEL

The Biblical Tels – Megiddo, Hazor, Beer Sheba

C (ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)

Tels, or pre-historic settlement mounds, are characteristic of the flatter lands of the eastern Mediterranean. Megiddo, Hazor and Beer Sheba are representative of tels that contain substantial remains of cities with biblical connections. The three tels also present some of the best examples in the Levant of elaborate Iron Age, underground water collecting systems, created to serve dense urban communities. Their traces of construction over the millennia reflect the existence of centralized authority, prosperous agricultural activity and the control of important trade routes.

ISRAEL

The Incense Route - Desert Cities in the Negev

C (iii) (v)

The four Nabatean towns of Haluza, Mamshit, Avdat and Shivta, along with associated fortresses and agricultural landscapes in the Negev Desert, are spread along routes linking them to the Mediterranean end of the Incense and Spice Route. Together they reflect the hugely profitable trade in frankincense and myrrh from southern Arabia to the Mediterranean, which flourished from the 3rd century B.C. until the 2nd century A.D. With the vestiges of their sophisticated irrigation systems, urban constructions, forts, and caravanserais they bear witness to the way in which the harsh desert was settled for trade and agriculture.

ITALY

Syracuse and the Rocky Necropolis of Pantalica

C (ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)

The site consists of two separate elements, containing outstanding vestiges dating back to Greek and Roman times. The Necropolis of Pantalica contains over 5,000 tombs cut into the rock near open stone quarries, most of them dating from the 13th to 7th century B.C. Vestiges of the Byzantine era also remain in the area. The other part of the property, Ancient Syracuse, includes the nucleus of the city's foundation as Ortygia by Greeks from Corinth in the 8th century B.C. Historic Syracuse offers a unique testimony to the development of Mediterranean civilization over three millennia.

NIGERIA

Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove

C (ii) (iii) (vi)

The dense forest of the Osun Sacred Grove, on the outskirts of the city of Osogbo, is one



Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove

of the last remnants of primary high forest in southern Nigeria. Regarded as the abode of the goddess of fertility Osun, one of the pantheon of Yoruba gods, the landscape of the grove and its meandering river is dotted with sanctuaries and shrines, sculptures and art works in honour of Osun and other Yoruba deities. The Grove, which is now seen as a symbol of identity for all Yoruba people, is probably the last sacred grove in Yoruba culture. It testifies to the once widespread practice of establishing sacred groves outside all settlements.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Historical Centre of the City of Yaroslavl

C (ii) (iv)

The historic city of Yaroslavl developed into a major commercial centre as of the 11th century. It is renowned for its numerous 17th-century churches and is an outstanding example of the urban planning reform Empress Catherine the Great ordered for the whole of Russia in 1763. While keeping some of its significant historic structures, the town was renovated in the neo-classical style on a radial urban master plan. It has also kept elements from the 16th century.

TURKMENISTAN

Kunya-Urgench

C (ii) (iii)

Kunya-Urgench is situated in northwestern Turkmenistan, on the south side of the Amu Daria River. Urgench was the capital of the Khorezm region, part of the Achaemenid Empire. The old town contains a series of monuments mainly from the 11th to 16th centuries. The monuments testify to outstanding achievements in architecture and craftsmanship whose influence reached Iran and Afghanistan, and later the architecture of the Mogul Empire of 16th-century India.

Extensions

Cultural Sites

BELGIUM AND FRANCE

The Belfries of Belgium and France

C (ii) (iv)

Twenty-three belfries in the north of France and the belfry of Gembloux in Belgium were inscribed as a group, an extension to the 32 Belgian belfries inscribed in 1999 as Belfries of Flanders and Wallonia. Built between the 11th and 17th centuries, they showcase the Roman, Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque styles of architecture. They are highly significant tokens of the winning of civil liberties, since belfries were erected as a sign of communal independence obtained by charter, and as the very symbol of freedom. Over the centuries, they came to represent the influence and wealth of the towns.

GERMANY AND UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Frontiers of the Roman Empire

C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)

The site consists of two sections of the border line of the Roman Empire at its greatest extent in the 2nd century A.D., part of what is known as the 'Roman Limes'. The two sections cover a length of 550 km from the northwest of Germany, to the Danube in the southeast and are inscribed as an extension of Hadrian's Wall (UK), which was listed in 1987. All together, the Limes stretched over 5,000 km from the Atlantic coast of northern Britain, through Europe to the Black Sea, and from there to the Red Sea and across North Africa to the Atlantic coast. They consist of remains of built walls, ditches, forts, fortresses, and watch towers. Vestiges in this site include remains of ramparts, walls and ditches, close to 900 watchtowers, 60 forts, and civilian settlements.

INDIA

Mountain Railways of India

C (ii) (iv)

The site includes the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, which was inscribed in 1999. The site now encompasses the Nilgiri Mountain Railway, a 46km-long meter-gauge singletrack railway in Tamil Nadu State. Its construction was completed in 1908. This railway, scaling an elevation of 326m to 2,203m and still in use

today, represented the latest technology of the time. It was highly significant in facilitating population movement and the social-economic development in the British colonial era.

SOUTH AFRICA

Fossil Hominid Sites of Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, Kromdraai, and Environs

C (iii) (vi)

The Taung Skull Fossil Site, part of the extension to the site (inscribed in 1999), is the place where in 1924 the celebrated Taung Skull - a specimen of the species *Australopithecus africanus* - was found. Makapan Valley, also in the site, features in its many archaeological caves traces of human occupation and evolution dating back some 3.3 million years. The area contains essential elements that define the origin and evolution of humankind.

SPAIN

Works of Antoni Gaudí

C (i) (ii) (iv)

Casa Vicens (1883-85); Gaudí's work on the Nativity façade and Crypt of the Sagrada Família (1884-1926); Casa Batlló (1904-06); and the Crypt in Colonia Güell (1898-1905), all built by the architect Antoni Gaudí (1852-1926) in or near Barcelona have been added to his Parque Güell, Palacio Güell and Casa Mila in Barcelona, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1984. They testify to Gaudí's exceptional creative contribution to the development of architecture and building technology in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and represent an eclectic, as well as a very personal, style which was given free reign in the design of gardens, sculpture and all decorative arts, as well as architecture.

Natural Site

INDIA

Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks

N (iii) (iv)

Nestled high in the West Himalaya, India's Valley of Flowers National Park is renowned for its meadows of endemic alpine flowers and outstanding natural beauty. It is also home to rare and endangered animals. The gentle landscape of the Valley of Flowers National Park complements the rugged mountain wilderness of Nanda Devi National Park, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1988. Together they encompass a unique transition zone between the mountain ranges of the Zaskar and Great Himalaya, praised by mountaineers and botanists for over a century and in Hindu mythology for much longer.

The World Heritage

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