

WORLD HERITAGE

2021-2023



Located in an arid, mountainous area of southwest Saudi Arabia, on one of the Arabian Peninsula's ancient caravan routes, World Cultural Area contains a substantial collection of rock art images depicting hunting, fauna, flora and lifestyles in a cultural continuity of 7,000 years. Travellers and armies camping on the site left a wealth of rock inscriptions and petroglyphs through the ages and until the late 20th century, most of which are preserved in pristine condition. Inscriptions are in different scripts, including Musnad, Aramaic and Nabataean.

Title photo: © Heritage Commission, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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 go beyond national boundaries and 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...

Beautiful artworks are common in Everglades National Park, a subtropical mosaic of astonishing diversity in southern Florida in the United States of America. Its location between temperate North America and the tropical Caribbean, and the combination of fresh and saltwater systems create a set of unique interconnected habitats for a high variety of flora and fauna.

This cantilever stairway rises like an "endless spiral" inside the round belltower of the Church of San Andrés, a 15th-century city of Montevideo. Built in the 1960s entirely of exposed red brick, this complex is an example of how a humble and traditional material can be used to create sophisticated structures with great aesthetic impact.



Straddling the border between Brazil and Argentina, the impressive waterfalls of the Igazu River span nearly 3 km with vertical drops of up to 80 m. This stunning scenery found within the setting of a lush subtropical humid forest, is the main attraction of the Igazu National Park in Brazil, home to many species of flora and fauna.



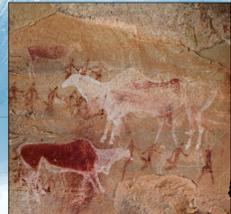
Photo: Reuters / AP Photo / Mike Merton



The Grand Place is a harmonious ensemble of public and private buildings that illustrates the cultural and social dynamism of the capital city of Brussels from the late 17th century. The square's old buildings, adorned with gilded facades and a flamboyant bell tower of the Town Hall, display in this important political and commercial centre, a successful mix of styles ranging from Gothic to Baroque.



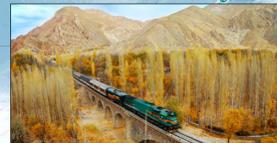
Ichkeul National Park is located at the northern tip of Tunisia, and Lake Ichkeul is one of the last intact freshwater lakes along the southern Mediterranean. The lake marsh system protected by the park is an important wintering and breeding site for hundreds of thousands of migratory birds, such as ducks, geese, storks and pink flamingoes.



The mountainous Makadi-Drakensberg area, spanning South Africa and Lesotho, is home to thousands of remarkable rock paintings representing the spiritual life of the San people over a period of 4000 years. These ancient paintings often depict hunters and animals, especially elands, an antelope species native to the area.



African forest elephants have recently been classified as critically endangered due to the fact that conflict, poaching and deforestation have reduced their numbers. Now, they largely survive in Gabon's Izoce National Park, an almost pristine site covered in rich rainforest and blackwater rivers that flow into beautiful waterfalls.



It took 11 years of hugely challenging construction to complete the 1,394 km of the Trans-Iranian railway, which opened in 1938 and includes 224 tunnels, 174 viaducts and 180 smaller bridges. It connects the Caspian Sea in the northwest, with the Persian Gulf in the southwest crossing two mountain ranges as well as rivers, hostile deserts, highlands, dense forests and plains, and four different climatic areas.



Nature prevails in the Phoenix Islands Protected Area, located in Kiribati about halfway between Australia and Hawaii, just south of the Equator. Here, atolls, submerged reefs and some of the world's deepest seamounts create a brightly coloured coral archipelago ecosystem, teeming with an abundance of marine species rarely found elsewhere.

From the vast plains of the Serengeti to historic cities such as Bergen, 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.

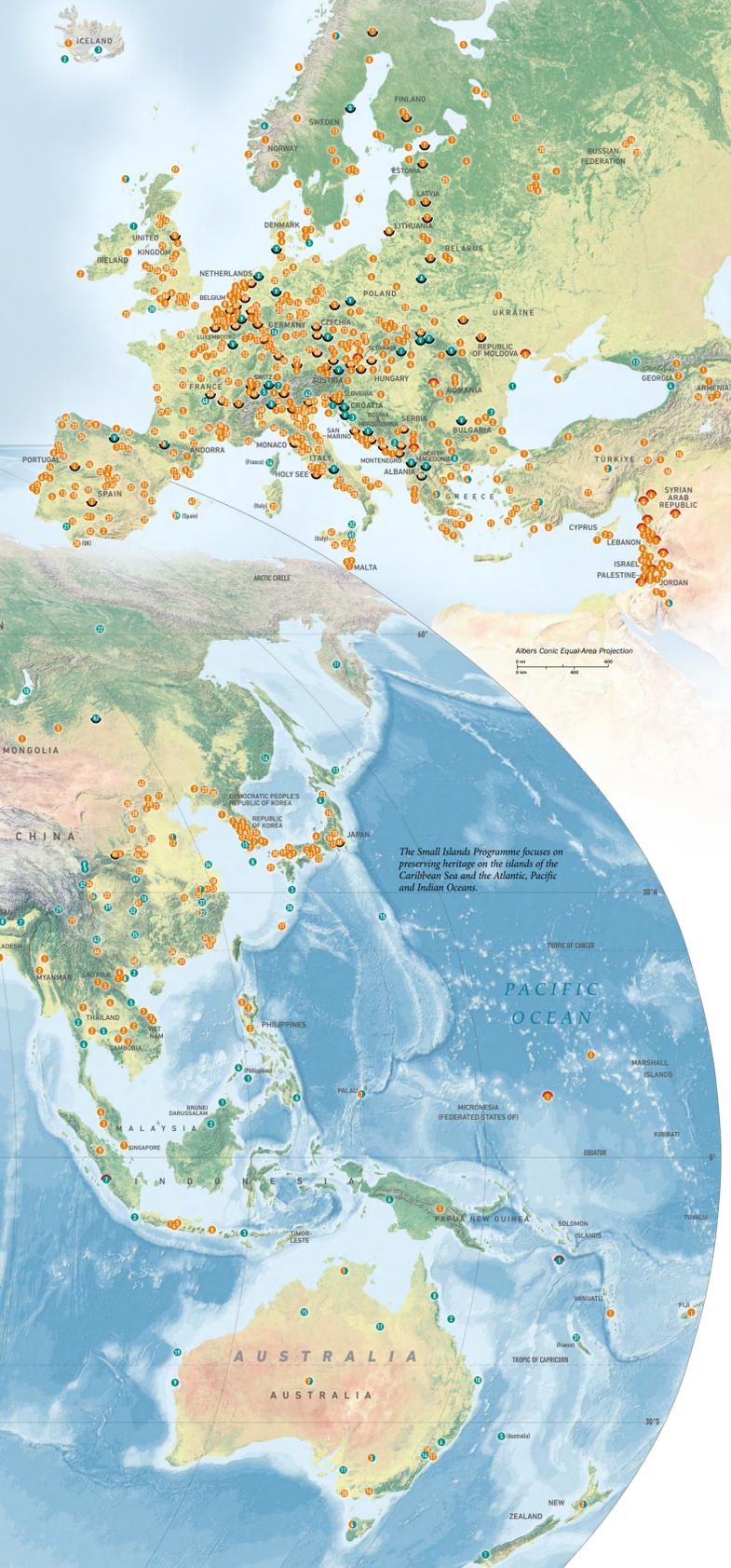
- Key**
- Cultural property
 - Natural property
 - Mixed property (cultural and natural)
 - Transnational property
 - Property currently inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
- See country index on the back side of map for site listings.
Number indicates site order by year of inscription 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 labeled on this map.
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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.

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 50 marine sites on the World Heritage List.

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.

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 maps and the cartographic projections have resulted in approximate locations of some properties.
Land cover data: Tom Patterson,
United States National Park Service
Image captions: Monica Tomatis
Design and production: Geo4Map

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