

WORLD HERITAGE

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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



Al Zubarah lies at the meeting place of sea and desert on Qatar's north-west coast. Founded by merchants as an independent pearl-diving and commercial center, the city's trade networks linked East and West in the 18th and early 19th centuries. The four-square-kilometer archaeological site includes a fort and the remains of a vast urban complex of mosques, houses and markets within thick defensive walls.

The photo: Qatar Museums Authority



The OUR PLACE World Heritage photo is developed in partnership with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The OUR PLACE logo has now photographed more than 270 World Heritage sites in over 85 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 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...

The Bahadur Parliament building marries neo-Gothic style and local coral limestone in Bridgetown. Founded in 1628, the port and garden awarded Great Britain's Atlantic trading empire. A rich Creole culture emerged over time from the mingling of the city's Amerindians, Africans and Europeans.

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, 107 World Heritage forests protect more than 80 million hectares of woodland. This accounts for 2 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 46 marine sites on the World Heritage List.

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

See country index on back side of map for site listings. Number indicates site order by year of inscription within each country. Letters are assigned to transitional properties in the order of their inscription on the List.

Only States Parties to the World Heritage Convention are labeled on this map. United Nations (UN) country boundaries shown as of October 2013.

<http://whc.unesco.org>
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com>

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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.

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

*occupied Palestinian territory

The Grand Canyon, a rocky labyrinth 445 kilometers long and 1.5 kilometers deep in the southwestern United States, is one of the world's geological wonders. The Colorado River still carves new channels in the canyon as it has for six million years, revealing multicolored layers of Earth's history.



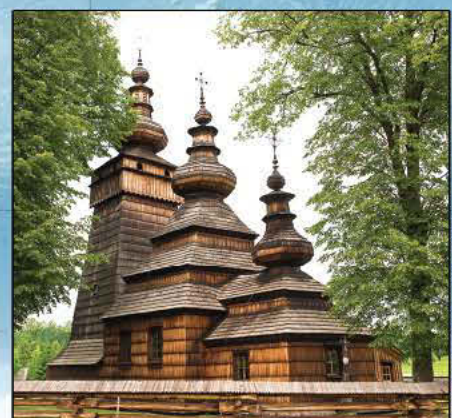
The nine-stepped Maya Temple of the Jaguar rises 47 meters above the Great Plaza of Tikal in Guatemala's lush rain forest. Inhabited from the 6th century A.D. to the 12th century A.D., Tikal was among the most powerful cities in Mesoamerica. At its height, up to 90,000 men, women and children lived and worked there.



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Established as a French colonial outpost in 1659, the island city of Saint-Pierre, at the mouth of the Saguenay River, today welcomes painted fishing boats instead of European traders seeking gold and slaves. A new canal helps to preserve elegant homes and quays from floods.



From the 16th to the 19th century in the Carpathian Mountains of Poland and Ukraine, communities built unique wooden churches (churches). These three-part structures with shingled onion domes, cupolas and bell towers expressed spiritual devotion in a form seen nowhere else in the world.

The Banc d'Arguin's rocky landscape hugs the Atlantic coast of Mauritania, providing a winter haven for two million migratory wading birds. Gulls and terns roost on the sand dunes, while marauding raptors and shy islands offer safe nesting sites and rich feeding grounds for 15 bird species and endangered green sea turtles.



Like a string of jewels, seven groups of religious and historical monuments stretch across Nepal's Kathmandu Valley, attesting to the area's great multicultural and religious diversity. Three Hindu temples at Changu Narayan date from the 5th century. At Bodhi Tree's gleaming Buddhist stupas, "all-seeing eyes" watch over 50 Tibetan Buddhist monasteries.



A favorite subject of artists for ten centuries, the snow-capped volcanic cone of Japan's Mount Fuji rises 3,776 meters above gleaming blue lakes. Shinto shrines and winding Buddhist paths draw 200,000 pilgrims a year to the sacred mountain, many hiking at night in order to watch the sun rise at the summit.



Monitor lizards, bats and 43 species of birds live on the protected southern third of Rennell Island, the world's largest raised coral atoll. Part of the Solomon Islands, the site is invaluable as a laboratory for studying biodiversity and climate change.

