

Turkey

Hattusha¹

Brief description

The archaeological site of Hattusha, former capital of the Hittite Empire, is notable for its urban organization, the types of construction that have been preserved (temples, royal residences, fortifications), the rich ornamentation of the Lions' Gate and the Royal Gate, and the ensemble of rock art at Yazilikaya. The city enjoyed considerable influence in Anatolia and northern Syria in the 2nd millennium B.C.

1. Introduction

Year of Inscription

1986

Agency responsible for site management

- Ministry of Culture and Tourism
General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums
II. TBMM Binası Ulus
06100 ANKARA
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2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria

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

Justification provided by the State Party

The “outstanding universal value” of the site corresponds with all criteria for cultural property adopted by the World Heritage Committee:

(i) The rock reliefs of Yazilikaya represent unique masterpieces of Hittite art; the gateways as well as the palace and the temples or the buildings on Sarikale and Yenice kale demonstrate outstanding samples of creative Hittite architecture on its culminating point of development in the 14th - 13th century b.C.

(ii) Hittite Art and Architecture represented by the samples mentioned above (i) exerted considerable influence on the cultures of the late 2nd and the 1st millennium b.C. as demonstrated by Post-Hittite and Urartian sites in East and Southeast Anatolia as well as in Northern Syria.

(iii) The site, representing the capital of the Hittite Empire, i.e. a metropolis, which has been for hundreds of years the political as well as the cultural and religious focus of the Hittite State, is without any parallels among the capitals and cities of the Old World.

(iv) The site comprises one of the most characteristic but rather rare examples of both royal residence and sacred city.

(v) The buildings - palace, temples as well as normal houses - and the fortifications are typical examples of traditional Hittite-Anatolian architecture and methods of construction.

(vi) As proved by last years' excavations the outstanding arrangement of the large and monumental residence and sacred city, which Hattusha represents in the period of the Late Empire, was mainly settled on the ingenious ideas of Great King Tuthaliya IV, son of Hattushili III, who signed the famous peace treaty with Ramses II of Egypt.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

In recommending the inclusion of Hattusha on the World Heritage List, ICOMOS stresses first of all the fact that this unique archaeological site, whose importance is universally recognized, will help to strengthen the credibility and representativeness of the list of the cultural properties of mankind.

Although the choice of inclusion criteria do not, in this particular case, constitute an exceedingly arbitrary exercise, ICOMOS considers that criteria i, ii, iii and iv can be put forward jointly, at the same time presenting each separate argument:

Criterion i. The city's fortifications, along with the Lions' Gate and the Royal Gate and the Yazilikaya rupestal ensemble together with its sculptured friezes, represent unique artistic achievements as monuments.

Criterion ii. Hattusha exerted dominating influence upon the civilizations of the 2nd and even the 1st millennium B.C. in Anatolia and northern Syria.

Criterion iii. The palaces, temples, trading quarters and necropolis of this political and religious metropolis provide a comprehensive picture of a capital and bear a unique testimony to the disappeared Hittite civilization.

Criterion iv. Several types of buildings or architectural ensembles are perfectly preserved in Hattusha: the royal residence, the temples and the fortifications.

¹ New name of the property is “Hattusha : the Hittite capital”

Committee Decision

Bureau (1986): The Bureau would like confirmation that the management plan prepared on the spot by a German archaeological team has the approval of the Turkish authorities and that the creation of a national park suggested in 1971 will become a reality, enabling the soil to be better protected.

Session (1986): The Committee noted that the management plan prepared by a German archaeological team had the approval of the Turkish authorities and that it was expected that steps at present underway to proclaim Bogazköy and Alacahöyük as a National Park would be completed before the end of 1987.

- No information available on whether the Statement of Significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- Need to seek a decision from the Committee on changes to the statement of significance
- Proposal for revised text has been made by State Party
- Name of the site is not adequate, change required

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- No buffer zone has been defined; is not needed

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

3. Protection**Legislative and Administrative Arrangements**

- Being declared a "First Degree Archaeological Site" it is subject to Conservation Legislation; it has a Master Plan for Protection and Use
- The site was declared a National Park in 1971
- Protection arrangements are considered highly effective

4. Management**Use of site/property**

- Visitor attraction, national park

Management/Administrative Body

- No steering group
- Site manager/coordinator on part-time basis
- Levels of public authority primarily involved with the management of the site: national, regional and local

- The current management system is sufficiently effective

Actions proposed

- Within the framework of the revised Conservation Legislation put into force in 2004, the preparation of the management plans for the World Heritage sites will be considered primarily

5. Management Plan

- No management plan, but will be prepared

6. Financial Resources**Financial situation**

- There is no core funding. Every year state funds are allocated for various purposes (infrastructure and conservation projects) to the related bodies within the site
- The German Institute of Archaeology conducts excavation and restoration projects every year, which are financed by the German Government (approximately 40.000 Euro annually)
- Funding is insufficient

7. Staffing Levels

- Number of staff: 1

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Good: conservation, promotion, interpretation
- No information provided: management, education, visitor management

8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

No information provided

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: no figure provided
- Visitor facilities: tri-lingual (Turkish, German, English) signs with pictures and explanatory texts at most of the sites to visit within the archaeological ruins; toilets; gift shops
- Visitor facilities are adequate

10. Scientific Studies

- Monitoring exercises, archaeological surveys

- The results of the excavations have led to a better understanding of the site and supplied the basis for ongoing restoration and reconstruction work; the latest example is the reconstruction of a 60 m long stretch of the mud brick fortification wall of the site

or building foundations which attract more tourists

- Weaknesses of management: security staff is not adequate, more guards are needed
- Future actions: not provided

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention emblem used on some publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among visitors, local communities, businesses and local authorities
- Web site available: www.hattuscha.de
- No involvement of local population

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

Conservation interventions

- Restoration of the stone foundations of about 20 temples and official buildings and reconstruction of several hundred meters of the stone foundations of the cities fortification wall has been completed; reconstruction of a 60 m long stretch of the mud-brick city wall is under way and will be completed in 2006; Excavations have been undertaken in four different quarters of the city
- Present state of conservation: good

Threats and Risks to site

- No information

13. Monitoring

- No formal monitoring programme
- The German Archaeological Institute will carry on its excavation on the site; the suggested system in the revised legislation will be realized

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: social
- Strengths of management: excavations have continued to give good results, leading to more visible monuments and more restored buildings