

# WORLD HERITAGE

## *Special Issue* **World Heritage in Germany**



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Cultural Organization



World  
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Convention

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# GERMANY

## CULTURE AND NATURE IN MECKLENBURG-WESTERN POMERANIA

### Brick Gothic and Beech Forests

#### World Heritage between the Elbe, the Oder and the Baltic Coast

##### The Hanseatic City of Wismar

A bird's eye view gives the best panorama of this medieval Hanseatic city. So it is worthwhile making the journey in the glass lift, up through the tower of the restored St George's Church, to the visitor platform. The silhouette of St George's, a North German Brick Gothic building restored block by block over 20 years, sets its stamp on the Old City of Wismar, which is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2002. From the tower of the monumental basilica there is a magnificent view across the red roofs of splendid bourgeois houses and Hanseatic warehouses, crooked alleyways and lively squares – a typical city plan from the flowering of the Hanseatic League in the 14th century. St George's Church, once built by proud merchants, is today a centre for culture, art and concerts. There is detailed information about Wismar's cultural heritage in a new exhibition in the World Heritage House.



St. George in Wismar © Grit Büttner

##### The Hanseatic City of Stralsund

Joint with Wismar, the historic centre of this West Pomeranian Hanseatic city has been added to the World Heritage list. Both cities, located on the southern coast of the Baltic Sea, serve as examples for the architecture of Brick Gothic, each city with its own distinctive beauty. Stralsund's unique island position between the Strelasund and the ponds, dammed up in the 13th century, emphasize the body of the city in all its medieval and integrated character. The huge brick churches look like giants built of stone; three of these imposing historic monuments are to be found in each of the two World Heritage cities. St Marys Church in Stralsund was once regarded as the highest building in the world, due to its tower. An overview of Stralsund's cultural treasures, a link in the chain of German Heritage sites, is offered by the World Heritage Exhibition in the Olthof Palais.



Town Hall in Stralsund © Grit Büttner

##### Ancient Beech Forests

The redbrick World Heritage cities of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania soar up, against the blue sea, out of a lush green and robustly healthy landscape. Well protected in the Jasmund National Park on the island of Rügen and the Müritz National Park in the Mecklenburg Lake District grow some of the most precious and undisturbed forests of European beech. Inscribed as a natural World Heritage sites in 2011, the 'Ancient Beech Forests of Germany' represent an addition to the inscription of 'Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians'. The forests in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania exemplify the spread of beech in Central Europe in an exceptional way and are home to more than 10,000 species of animals, plants and fungi. Ramblers can follow clearly-signposted paths to spectacular natural scenery, which give a unique impression of untouched nature.



Jasmund National Park © Nationalpark Zentrum KÖNIGSSTUHL

# MECKLENBURG-WESTERN POMERANIA'S CANDIDATE ON THE GERMAN TENTATIVE LIST

Residence Ensemble Schwerin © LAKD M-V / LD, Achim Bötterfur

## Residence Ensemble Schwerin Cultural Landscape of Romantic Historicism

A walk through Schwerin is like a walk through time.

The capital of the German Federal State of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania forms an outstanding example of the last expression of court culture in the 19th century in the German-speaking world, according to the statements in the submission for inclusion in the German Tentative List for UNESCO World Heritage status.

Since 2014, the 'Residence Ensemble Schwerin – Cultural Landscape of Romantic Historicism' has been registered on the German application list. The new candidate is in tune with nature and full of charm and life. Embedded in a hilly lakeside landscape, the ensemble of stately buildings forms a unique and living architectural whole.

Close to the Old City, the picturesque Residence Castle is built on an island in Lake Schwerin, a site with more than a thousand years of history. Between 1843 and 1857 the building underwent its most important phase of remodelling and is today characterized by Europe's last fully-preserved 'throne apartment' of its epoch – a ceremonial suite of rooms as Napoleon I had established in the Tuileries Palace in Paris. established in the Tuileries Palace in Paris

Even today, the Castle still appears as the focus of the city and the state, both conceptual and political. Since 1990 the former Grand-Ducal Residence has been the seat of the 'Landtag', or Parliament, of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. From the Castle Island visitors need walk only a few steps to the attached ceremonial and functional buildings of the former Court, which have been preserved in almost exemplary completeness and dominate the entire space of the city.

The Court Theatre and Museum for the princely art collections are concentrated around the Old Garden as the 'Residenzplatz', or Residence Square. Next to it historic administrative and palace buildings, the city churches and functional buildings such as the stables, court laundry and Grand-Ducal linen chamber, line up. Here, the culture of the court is displayed as a total ensemble; still in use today, it can now be experienced in its old splendour and beauty after painstaking restoration.

On a tour through the living history of Schwerin the view repeatedly wanders from stately buildings to natural spaces. The architecture and water features, the gardens and last but not least the Baroque Castle Park – later extended in the English landscape style – give visitors the impression of a unique and artistically composed painting.



Residence Castle Schwerin © 2014 www.das-luftbild.com



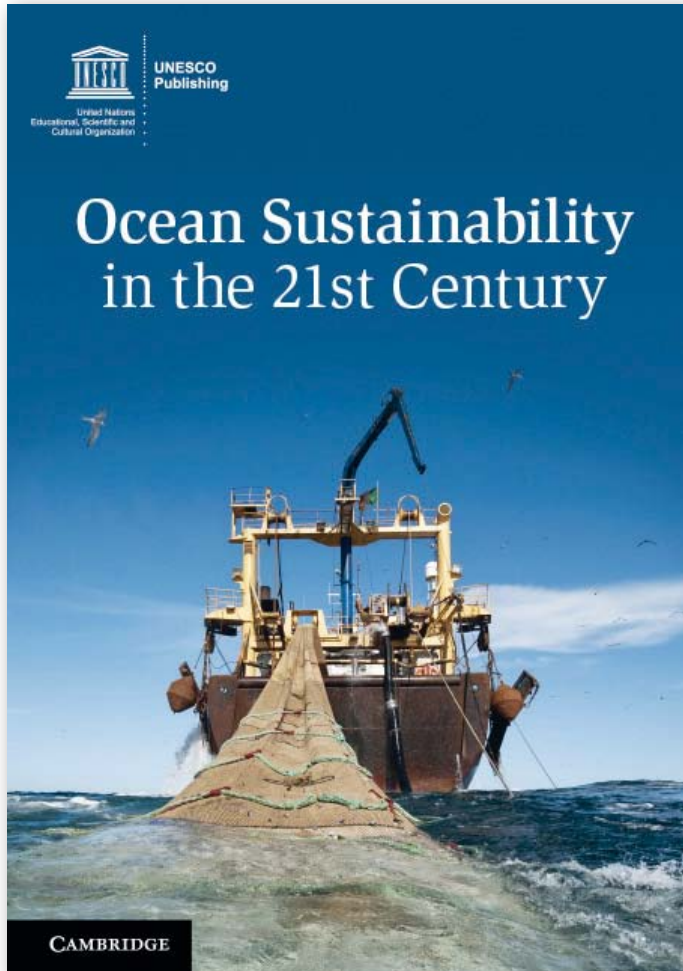
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Cover: From the book *Wattenmeer*, by Martin Stock and Pieter de Vries (see page 45).

The annual session of the World Heritage Committee is a crucial period for the Convention, and we are grateful to Germany for hosting us this year.

The 39th session of the Committee is taking place as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, marking its accomplishments thus far and defining the way forward in the years to come. At the 39th session, the first annual meeting of the six culture conventions will be held. In the context of the 70th anniversary, this provides a unique opportunity to reflect on the future of the Organization's standard-setting action in the face of contemporary challenges and emerging needs. This is particularly important as the international community advances towards the definition of the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda, in which the linkages between culture, development and peace should be fully recognized and projected forward.

Germany has been a leader in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, not only serving on the World Heritage Committee several times over the years but also contributing to reforming its working methods, and currently serves as Chair of the Working Group to renew the nomination process for World Heritage sites.

The country has also set an example when it comes to international cooperation, particularly through the shared management of transnational sites. It currently shares five World Heritage sites, two natural and three cultural, with ten other countries, rising admirably to the challenge of working effectively across boundaries to a common purpose.

Another way that Germany has given its support to World Heritage conservation is by providing staff resources for the World Heritage Centre, without which it would be impossible for the Secretariat to carry on with its important work.

I would like to thank Germany for hosting the World Heritage Committee, for its unwavering support in World Heritage preservation while keeping an eye on the future, and helping to lead the way.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kishore Rao'.

**Kishore Rao**  
Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre



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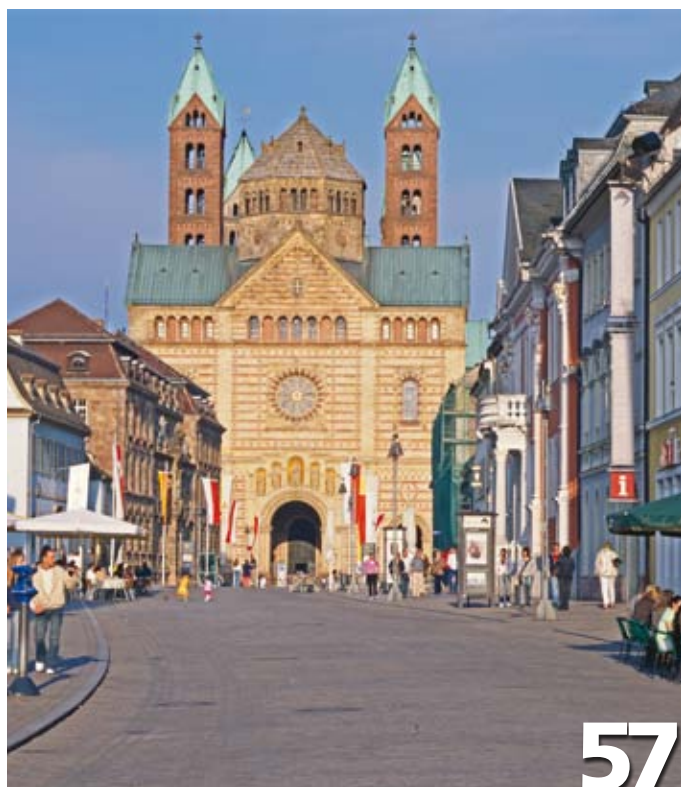
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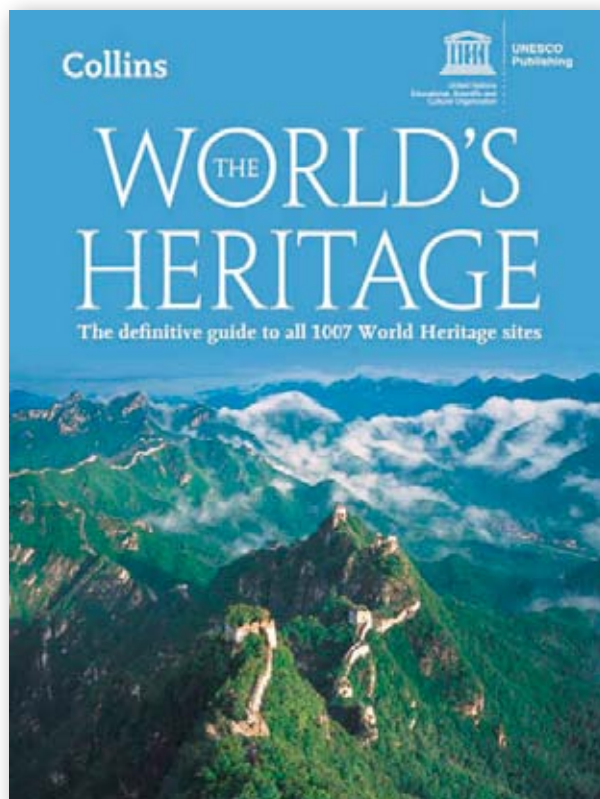


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## Message by Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO

This Special Issue is dedicated to Germany's World Heritage, embodied in thirty-nine sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Each of these sites bears witness to a rich heritage of fabulous diversity, and each carries Outstanding Universal Value. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the small town of Weimar was home to many writers, musicians and artists, including Goethe, Schiller and Liszt. In the 20th century, Weimar became renowned as the first home of Bauhaus, the modernist art school that revolutionized architectural and aesthetic concepts and practices. Other iconic sites include Cologne Cathedral, the Messel Pit Fossil Site, with its exceptionally preserved fossils of the Eocene Epoch, the Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz, jewel of the Age of Enlightenment, the cultural landscape of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley, the industrial heritage of Völklingen Ironworks, and the Berlin Modernism Housing Estates. These sites have special meaning for German society – they matter for men and women everywhere.

Germany's heritage includes two natural sites that are shared with other countries – Germany's Ancient Beech Forests form a transboundary site along with the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians of Slovakia and Ukraine, while the beaches of the Wadden Sea are shared with Denmark and the Netherlands. In all, Germany boasts five transboundary sites – each highlights the great potential of shared site management and international cultural cooperation, providing excellent models for future transboundary sites.



© UNESCO

All of this reflects the profound commitment of the German Government to maintaining and protecting World Heritage. Germany has been a champion of the World Heritage Convention, serving four mandates on the World Heritage Committee to date. In 2013, the German authorities strengthened their leadership by adopting the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. I wish to pay tribute to Prof. Dr. Maria Böhmer, Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office, Member of the German Bundestag and Chair of the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee, for leading the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

The Convention has been actively taken up by civil society organizations

and associations across Germany. I would also highlight the wide range of World Heritage educational activities that are led at individual sites, as well as university courses and research opportunities, including Master's programmes, in Germany. I applaud these efforts as essential contributions to the sustainability of sites, by building awareness among young people of the full power and benefits of heritage.

In this spirit, I congratulate the government and people of Germany and thank them for their leadership in seeking the goals we share, to safeguard humanity's heritage for the benefit of all societies, today and into the future. 🌍

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Where the conservation world meets



*“I hope that what we see in the little island of Vilm is a kind of symbol, a signal of change; that we remain aware of the great diversity of creation and the great possibilities of nature both for their own sake and for the wellbeing of 9 billion people.”*

**Klaus Töpfer**

Former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

The International Academy for Nature Conservation is a unique institution that enables Germany to contribute substantially to the global nature conservation debate. In cooperation with other actors, the academy engages in training in international conservation, developing strategies and instruments of nature conservation policy, supporting management and integrating nature conservation into other policy areas.



*“Our mission is to protect and to conserve every place in the world that is of outstanding universal value, for all time. Vilm plays an important role in what we are doing at the World Heritage Centre.”*

**Kishore Rao**

Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre

As part of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the academy has for the last two decades been intensively involved in the conservation of the world's natural heritage. In close cooperation with UNESCO, IUCN and national partners, the academy has contributed to the nomination of World Heritage Sites, and has supported Eastern European countries in the compilation of tentative lists. Through the development of guidelines and improved information, Vilm island continues to enhance the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

For your meeting on Vilm, please contact [www.bfn.de/06](http://www.bfn.de/06)

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## Special Message

### Frank-Walter Steinmeier Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany

This year Germany is chairing the World Heritage Committee for the second time since the UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage entered into force. When we meet in Bonn on 28 June to open the Committee's 39th session, we and our guests from all over the world want to send a clear message of support for the preservation of our shared heritage and for civilization and humanity.

Particularly in view of the barbaric images we are seeing from Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic we want to show that we will not simply watch from the sidelines while terrorists desecrate globally significant cultural sites and deprive entire societies of fundamental proof of their cultural identity. We are countering this with our joint commitment to the protection and preservation of humanity's cultural and natural heritage.

During this year's session of the World Heritage Committee, we will also discuss new nominations for the World Heritage List, including heritage that has not yet received the attention it deserves from the international community. This is all the more important to us, as the German Government has supported partners in Africa,

Asia and the Americas in preserving and documenting their cultural and natural heritage for many years.

And of course this year we Germans are also rather proud to be able to present proof of successful endeavours to preserve our own World Heritage at home. With almost forty inscribed sites, which now include Corvey, Germany is among the five countries with most sites on the World Heritage List.

We also want to use our time as chair of the World Heritage Committee to adjust the interaction between the various bodies and stakeholders. This might sound somewhat technical, but it is important so that the Convention does not become the victim of its own success – there are now over 1,000 inscribed sites and application procedures are becoming increasingly complex. Our main aim is to make the decisions more transparent and to include civil society to an even greater extent. I am confident that this will allow us to strengthen the Convention.

I am already looking forward to the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in Germany, and I am sure it will be both an important and a very enjoyable act of diplomacy! 🌍



The Westwerk of Corvey uniquely illustrates one of the most important Carolingian architectural expressions.

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## Interview with Prof. Dr. Maria Böhmer

Prof. Dr. Maria Böhmer is Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office, Member of the German Bundestag and Chair of the World Heritage Committee



© German Bundestag

### World Heritage:

**What is your overall vision as current Chair of the World Heritage Committee, in terms of heritage conservation?**

**Maria Böhmer:** The topic of protection and preservation of World Heritage sites in danger deserves more attention. With almost fifty inscriptions, the List of World Heritage in Danger is shockingly long. However, it is not an end in itself, aiming instead to encourage the countries in question to act and the international community to provide support. Recent events in Iraq, Libya, Mali and the Syrian Arab Republic have highlighted the multiple threats to cultural heritage, and international cooperation is particularly important in places where the threat stems from political conflict and war, such as in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Libya, Mali and the Syrian Arab Republic. It is very important that, in its Resolution 2100 (2013) on Mali and Resolution 2139 (2014) on Syria, the UN Security Council called for the protection of cultural heritage and diversity, thus recognizing the powerful role played by culture in building social cohesion and contributing to reconciliation and peace.

**WH: What is Germany doing to help protect and preserve World Heritage sites in danger?**

**MB:** Germany takes its international responsibility very seriously and has long supported measures on nature protection and cultural preservation around the world. Since 1981, in the field of cultural preservation alone the Federal Foreign Office has provided 63 million euros of funding to over 2,650 projects in 144 countries, most recently in Mali and Syria. In 2014, as many as 400,000 Islamic manuscripts, the oldest of which date back to the 12th and 13th centuries, were successfully saved from destruction by radical Islamist groups in northern Mali. Manuscript experts from Mali and Hamburg are now working to preserve the writings and to ensure permanent access to them for research purposes. We have made available over half a million euros for this. Since 2013 we have been helping to preserve Syria's cultural heritage. Archaeologists from Germany, Syria and other countries are coordinating with UNESCO to compile a digital register of Syrian cultural sites and

property with the aim of preventing illegal trade while at the same time creating a basis to work on in the post-conflict phase.

**WH: What is the significance of films such as *Virunga* and *Timbuktu*?**

**MB:** Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was added to the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1994. The mosques, mausoleums and cemeteries of Timbuktu in Mali

**It is very important that the UN Security Council called for the protection of cultural heritage and diversity, thus recognizing the powerful role played by culture in building social cohesion and contributing to reconciliation and peace.**

have been on this Danger List since 2012. The World Heritage Committee sent important political signals by adding them. We have to assume that the multitude of crises will endanger yet more World Heritage sites in the future. That is why, as Chair of the World Heritage Committee, I am working to encourage the States Parties to further expand their efforts to safeguard World Heritage sites in danger. That said, civil society engagement is also important. Films such as Orlando von Einsiedel's and Leonardo DiCaprio's *Virunga* and Abderrahmane Sissako's *Timbuktu* raise a great deal of awareness for a pressing issue. They quite rightly won numerous accolades, most recently France's prestigious César Award.

**WH: How do you see the Convention evolving? There are already over 1,000 sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. Is the future of the system sustainable?**

**MB:** The main public face of the World Heritage Convention is the World Heritage List. The number of inscribed sites testifies to its success, however by the same token it reflects an inflationary,

negative development. What is often overlooked is the Convention's key task to ensure the preservation of the world's cultural and natural heritage – this is sustainable, we do not need to change it. We do however need to reflect on the concept of Outstanding Universal Value which is developing from generation to generation. Something which was unremarkable yesterday could well be exceptional today – the losses in Iraq and Syria are a daily reminder. Therefore, UNESCO's World Heritage programmes must, independently of the World Heritage List, be used much more than before to advance protection of heritage sites of 'solely' national importance. However, we must also discuss reform of the evaluation and nomination process in order to ensure that the World Heritage Convention retains its credibility, sustainability and exemplary role. To this end we have drafted a comprehensive approach which takes into consideration the Advisory Bodies, the World Heritage Committee and the funding of the goals outlined in the World Heritage Convention.

**WH:** You recently opened a major conference on illicit trafficking. What do you see as the key issues in relation to heritage sites?

**MB:** The international conference Cultural Property under Threat – Illicit Excavations and Illegal Trade, held at the Federal Foreign Office in December 2014, enabled us to take a stance regarding the protection of cultural property. We need to raise awareness and foster a sense of responsibility within politics, the public and the art trade and to discuss global strategies on how to responsibly protect cultural property, because illicit excavations and illegal trade are global problems. The destruction of archaeological sites puts many countries' cultural heritage at risk. Alongside illicit weapons

and drugs trafficking, the trade in cultural property which has been looted or illegally excavated has risen to claim first place in global crime statistics. The terrorist organization ISIS is destroying cultural and religious sites and calling for illegal excavations – the profits go to fund their inhumane warfare. UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova has already spoken of 'cultural cleansing'. It is thus all the more important for the international community to take a clear stance not only against ISIS and its terrorism, but also against illicit excavations and illegal trade in cultural property. I thus support UNESCO's call for a global ban on trading. At Germany's initiative, at the end of 2013 the EU prohibited the import, export and transfer of Syrian cultural goods. A similar regulation for Iraq has been in place since 2003. Moreover, Germany is in the process of overhauling its legislation in order to create more effective regulations on the protection of cultural property.

**WH:** Germany has launched an investment programme for National World Heritage Sites. What impact has it had?

**MB:** The protection and preservation of our World Heritage sites constitute challenging tasks for our country. To this end, the German Government made available 210 million euros between 2009 and 2014 which have benefited over 200 projects in 66 cities and communities. Germany has thus shown that it takes the World Heritage Convention seriously, and has made it clear that investing in culture is an important element of long-term, sustainable urban and economic development. This encompasses environmental, economic and social goals in equal measure.

**WH:** Thirty-nine German sites have been added to the World Heritage List to date. Four of them are located in



Speyer Cathedral is one of the most important Romanesque monuments from the time of the Holy Roman Empire.

© Milestoned

**The cultural landscape of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley boasts both great diversity and striking beauty due to its natural formation and the influence of human intervention.**



The 65 km stretch of the Middle Rhine Valley, with its castles, historic towns and vineyards, graphically illustrates the long history of human involvement with a dramatic and varied natural landscape.

© Our Place – The World Heritage Collection

**your native region of Rhineland-Palatinate. What are the key challenges in protecting such World Heritage sites?**

**MB:** The people of my native region are very proud of 'their' world-class historical sites. Speyer Cathedral is one of the most significant pieces of Romanesque architecture in Germany and the largest 11th-century sacred building preserved in Europe. The density and quality of the Roman monuments in Trier – including the Cathedral of St Peter and Church of Our Lady – have graced Germany's oldest city with an exceptional testament to the 400-year Roman era. The cultural landscape of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley boasts both great diversity and striking beauty due to its natural formation and the influence of human intervention. Furthermore, the longest archaeological monument in Europe, the Upper German-Raetian Limes, served the former Roman world power as a border to Germania. Together with Hadrian's Wall in the United Kingdom it forms the transnational property, Frontiers of the Roman Empire.

But World Heritage status is not only a prestigious distinction of Outstanding Universal Value, it also imposes a permanent obligation – a duty to protect and preserve the heritage. Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today and what we pass on to future generations. Heritage forms identity. It connects people to their home and history, to their country as well as the world. Our cultural and natural heritage is an irreplaceable

source of life and inspiration. Recognizing this and translating it into reality may be the greatest challenge facing World Heritage around the globe.

This challenge is particularly complex in the case of World Heritage sites which cover a large area or are densely populated, especially cultural landscapes. Take for example the 65 km long Upper Middle Rhine Valley, which was inscribed on the World

**World Heritage status is not only a prestigious distinction of Outstanding Universal Value, it also imposes a permanent obligation – a duty to protect and preserve the heritage.**

Heritage List as a historical transport artery. In the Romantic period, travel made it possible to discover the scenery for the first time. However, nowadays, the speed, density and noise of the transport burden visitors and residents alike. Therefore a key task will be to preserve the high quality of travel and life in the valley and, wherever possible, improve it. The demands of development and local use need to be reconciled with the historical mysticism that the World Heritage site exudes. That is fundamental if this wonderful site is to be developed in a sustainable manner. 🌱

*En route!*  
*Becoming World Heritage.*

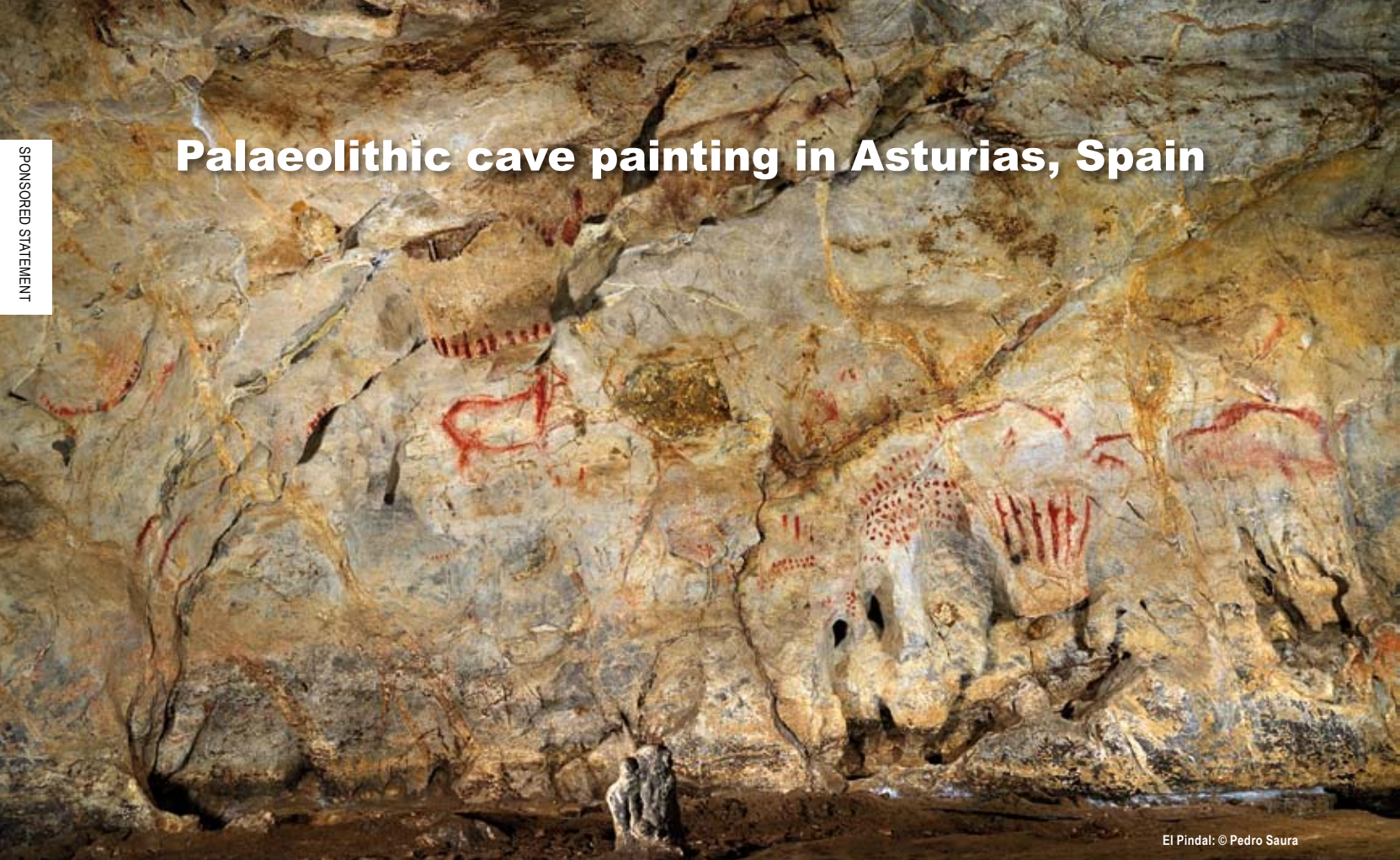
Erfurt, capital of Thuringia in Central Germany, is proud of its Jewish history: with foundations laid around 1094, the Old Synagogue is one of the oldest, largest and best preserved medieval synagogues in Europe. With its construction history, it mirrors the history of the Jewish community of Erfurt until the year 1349. In Europe, only a few Jewish ritual baths have been preserved. Among the monumental mikvaot of its era, the Erfurt mikveh represents a singular type. Erected in the mid-13th century, this secular building can be related to Jewish owners and is one of the few buildings of its time Europe-wide with an originally preserved painted room ceiling. With these unique buildings, Erfurt is seeking inclusion on UNESCO's World Heritage List and was accepted into the German Tentative List in 2014.

[www.welterbwerden.erfurt.de](http://www.welterbwerden.erfurt.de)



# Palaeolithic cave painting in Asturias, Spain

SPONSORED STATEMENT



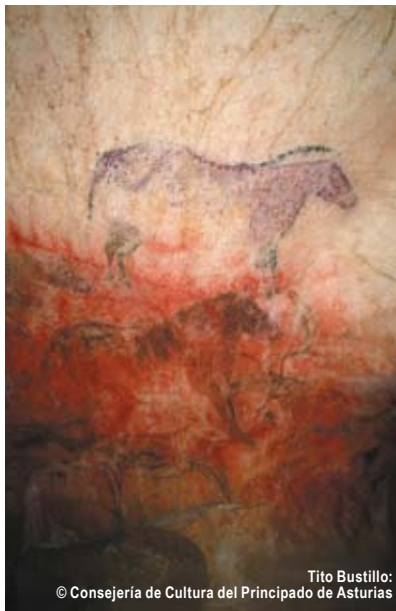
El Pindal: © Pedro Saura

Located in north-east Spain, Asturias is where the franco-cantabrian zone of Palaeolithic art ends in the west. This region has more than half a hundred caves and shelters with pictorial representations and engravings that date back to the Upper Palaeolithic.

Five of these Asturian caves were added in 2008 to the UNESCO World Heritage List, along with another 12 caves on the Cantabrian Ledge, in what was effectively an extension to the recognition that had already been given in 1985 to the Outstanding Universal Value of Altamira cave art.

These five Asturian caves are El Pindal, Llonín, La Covaciella, Tito Bustillo and Candamo, outstanding testimony of human creative genius and a cultural tradition that disappeared with the last ice age 10,000 years ago.

El Pindal, located in the district of Ribadedeva, is a cave comprising a straight gallery 475 metres long. Artistic representations are located in



Tito Bustillo: © Consejería de Cultura del Principado de Asturias



Candamo: © Juanjo Arrojo

five different environments, depicting almost thirty animal figures (bison, horse, deer, one mammoth and one fish), as well as signs always painted in red (claviforms, punctuations, vertical lines, etc.). There is an archaic group of red paintings, a second group of red paintings with engraved tracings, a group of black paintings and a group of motifs painted and engraved with signs of polychrome, with chronologies that range from the Aurignacian (35,000 years ago) to the Magdalenian (13,000 years ago). Open to the public.

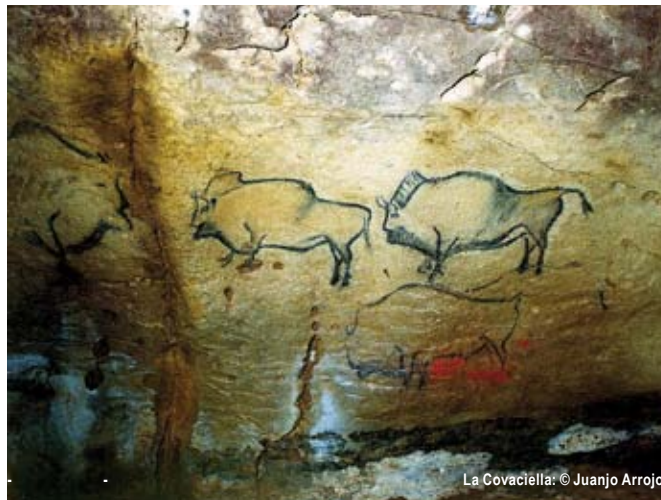
Llonín, in the district of Peñamellera Alta, is a cave with a highly extensive sequence of occupation, with artistic representations ranging from the Gravettian to the Upper Magdalenian. Five successive phases of artistic production have been identified in the cave's main panel, from a bison in red and numerous red signs to a set of engraved goats, horses and bison, with black rectangular signs, deer engraved with multiple tracing of outline and bison and goats painted and coloured in black, with profiling engraving. Not open to the public for conservation and research reasons.





Liónin © Pedro Saura

La Covaciella has a set of cave drawings formed by a small group of figures on the south wall of the gallery, executed using engraving and painting techniques. It is a fairly homogeneous set of representations (deer, horse, goat and, above, all bison) stylistically attributed to the Magdalenian (14,000 years ago). It is located in the district of Cabrales. Not open to the public for conservation reasons.



La Covaciella: © Juanjo Arrojo

Tito Bustillo, open in the Ardines massif, in Ribadesella, is unique due to its 700-metre long gallery with living areas that branch off. Its artistic repertoire is organized into eleven sets, some of which comprise several panels. The main panel's gallery is outstanding, with more than 100 engraved and painted representations from two phases, one pre-Magdalenian (red signs and scarce depiction of animals) and another Magdalenian with several zoomorphs and different techniques. Also outstanding are the horses and reindeer that, through use of different pigments and scraping of outlines, achieve an extraordinary and vivid sensation of polychrome. Open to the public.

comprising successive contributions of paintings and engravings through the Aurignacian, Solutrean and Magdalenian periods (from 35,000 to some 13,000 years ago). The main set of representations is located on the Wall of the Engravings, the Large Hall of the cavity, superimposing at least three strata of representations, the oldest painted in sienna red. Another outstanding space is the Camarín, showing impressive painted representations of horses and a goat, presenting a fascinating scene. Open to the public.

Located in the basin of the River Nalón, the western edge of cave art in Europe, La Peña de Candamo cave houses a treasure trove of complex cave art,



GOBIERNO DEL PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS  
CONSEJERÍA DE EDUCACIÓN, CULTURA Y DEPORTE

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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



Cave of Altamira and Paleolithic Cave Art of Northern Spain  
Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1985

# Civil society engagement in German World Heritage sites

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Claudia Brincks-Murmann  
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The Association of German UNESCO World Heritage Sites, founded in 2001 and based in Quedlinburg, is active throughout Germany.

© Our Place – The World Heritage Collection



The history of protecting monuments and nature in Germany reflects the societal values of the past 200 years. In response to the destruction and neglect of architectural and natural monuments, the 19th-century Romantic Age saw the emergence of a broader interest in natural and cultural heritage. Following the founding of the German Empire in 1870, it was particularly the educated middle classes who joined together to organize the protection of historical monuments and of nature as a state duty so that, at the turn of the 20th century, appropriate institutions as well as the first statutory regulations were established. In the decades following the Second World War, it was again associations and citizens' initiatives that spoke out against misguided restoration policies and increasing environmental damage, forced a change of attitude and called for more effective structures for monument protection and nature conservation. As in other contexts of social life, citizen commitment is broadly anchored in Germany and constitutes a pillar of monumental and environmental protection to this day. The UNESCO World Heritage programme also benefits from this.

## Active NGOs

Reference must first be made to the German National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the national branch of the non-governmental organization (NGO) that the World Heritage Convention explicitly names as one of its Advisory Bodies. ICOMOS Germany was founded in 1965 in Mainz and campaigns at national and international levels for the preservation of monuments, ensembles and cultural landscapes. To advise both the expert community and the general public and to promote public interest in the protection and care of monuments, the German National Committee organizes international colloquia and congresses on topics of monument preservation and relevant to the World Heritage programme. It has set up its own monitoring group to observe the state of conservation of German World Heritage properties and cooperates with national and international organizations such as Europa Nostra.



The beech forest in Jasmund National Park on the German Baltic Coast is one component of the transnational World Heritage site Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany.

© Nationalpark-Zentrum Königsstuhl Sassnitz

Europa Nostra – founded in 1963 as an umbrella organization for now more than 400 NGOs and private individuals from forty-five countries – has a branch in Germany. This association campaigns for favourable framework conditions in the field of monument protection and sees itself as an independent platform for debate among experts and interested lay persons who are committed to the protection and preservation of European cultural heritage and World Heritage.

German NGOs and the German branches of international NGOs are important partners of the German World Heritage sites. WWF, for example, has been campaigning since 1977 for the Wadden Sea and the sustainable development of its environment. In the German sections of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany, Naturschutzbund Deutschland (NABU), the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union, runs the visitor centre in the beech forests of the Schorfheide-Chorin Biosphere Reserve, while the visitor centre in Jasmund National Park on Rügen Island is managed by WWF in cooperation with the City of Sassnitz.

German nature conservation organizations are also active in a plethora of World Heritage sites beyond the borders of Germany. Attention should particularly be drawn here to the Frankfurt Zoological Society, established 1858, which has been involved in Serengeti National Park in the United Republic of Tanzania for over fifty years.

## Community involvement

Many years before the World Heritage Committee, in its Budapest Declaration of 2002, set the objectives for increased civil society involvement and awareness-raising, specific models had been developed in Germany and by German NGOs, and numerous projects implemented at both national and international levels. World Heritage Watch, a recent association founded in 2014 in Berlin, also intends to contribute to awareness-raising, enhancing community involvement and supporting UNESCO in matters of protection and preservation of World Heritage sites.

The Association of German UNESCO World Heritage Sites founded in 2001 and based in Quedlinburg, is active throughout Germany. This group of sites and their respective tourist organizations aim to



Centre of the Frankfurt Zoological Society in Tanzania.

© B. Engels

increase the prominence of German sites, improve coordination between monument protection and tourism and advise the sites on tourist marketing. In addition to its annual congresses, the association also implements a range of cultural World Heritage events in cooperation with the German Commission for UNESCO. In 2005, for example, at the instigation of the World Heritage site of the Abbey and Altenmünster of Lorsch, a nationwide UNESCO World Heritage Day was organized for the first time. Since then, this World Heritage Day is observed annually on the first Sunday in June and contributes not only towards broadening the general public's awareness of German World Heritage sites as places with particular care for monuments, but also towards enhancing their role as ambassadors of UNESCO's goals and principles. The World Heritage Day is intended first and foremost to be a forum for communication and encounters of people on site, for whom 'their World Heritage site' represents an important cultural and historical reference point. The underlying idea is to make World Heritage a shared experience and to understand one's own culture as part of the diversified heritage of humanity.

## German nature conservation organizations are also active in a plethora of World Heritage sites beyond the borders of Germany.

### Privately-owned sites

In addition to those organizations that keep an eye on the overall picture and work together in international networks, there are also numerous associations entirely dedicated to individual World Heritage sites. The association Friends and Supporters of the Fagus Factory World Heritage Site has, *inter alia*, committed to supporting cultural events and setting up a centre for both national and international visitors at the site. The association offers its members the possibility of engaging with a World Heritage site that is privately owned and has preserved its previous function as a shoe last factory. The association had already accompanied the preparation of the nomination file and thus raised awareness in the region of this significant industrial monument at an early stage.

Privately-owned World Heritage sites are by no means the exception in Germany. In addition to the Fagus Factory in Alfeld

site, mention should also be made of the World Heritage site of Corvey in Höxter: the Carolingian Monastery area known as Civitas Corvey is located below the Baroque buildings that are today used as a residential castle by its owner Viktor Prince of Ratibor and Corvey; the Carolingian Westwork is – like many other sacred World Heritage sites in Germany – the property of the Church. Many individual homeowners are also private 'shareholders' of World Heritage sites, such as in the old towns of Stralsund and Wismar, Bamberg and Regensburg. In associations such as the Friends and Supporters of the Horse-Shoe Settlement Berlin-Britz, they campaign for the sensitization, conservation and quality of life in their World Heritage sites.

Numerous World Heritage sites in Germany have also created foundations that dedicate themselves to the preservation of their respective sites by providing information about the site and collecting funds for its maintenance. Bamberg and



Participants at the Annual Conference of the Association of German UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Quedlinburg, 2014.

© UNESCO-Welterbestätten Deutschland e. V.

its World Heritage Bamberg Foundation is notable in this context. It was founded in 2003 and aims to promote cultural and monuments care in order to preserve and develop the Town of Bamberg as a lively World Heritage site. The foundation also administers the so-called 'Bamberg Model', a conservation programme initiated by the municipality of Bamberg as early as 1958 that combines the provision of financial support by public services with the guidance and supervision of knowledgeable experts.


Another prominent example is the German World Heritage Foundation, which was founded in the year 2001

by the Hanseatic cities of Stralsund and Wismar with the aim of focusing not on the conservation of its own cities but on the conservation of World Heritage sites in financially weak countries – it is covered in more detail elsewhere in this issue.

### Civil society initiatives

Particularly in cases of conflict, not only at international level, it is remarkable to see the extent to which the population takes an interest in 'its' World Heritage, so that it does not merely represent the abstract notion of 'globalization' as a sign of the cultural diversity of the world on one's

own doorstep but is anchored in the daily lives of the people. Time and time again civil society initiatives are formed when the people on site see 'their' World Heritage site threatened by construction or other measures.

Last but not least, such civil society initiatives contribute to the liveliness and constant renewal of the idea of World Heritage and thus make it possible, at local level, to strengthen appreciation of the close bonds between tangible and intangible cultural assets and the environment and to contribute to a more comprehensive protection of World Heritage sites. 



'We are proud of our heritage and will carry it into the future.' The community of market gardeners in the Gardeners' District of Bamberg.

© Interessengemeinschaft Bamberger Gärtner / R. Rinkief

# Discover the four World Heritage Sites in Rhineland-Palatinate!



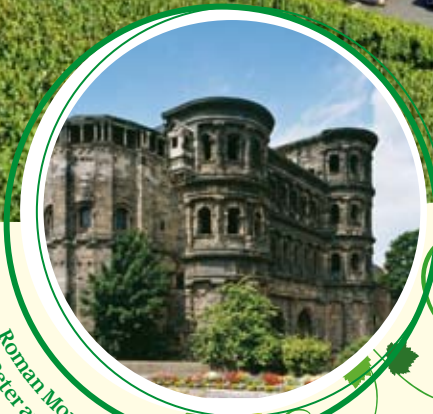
## Upper Middle Rhine Valley

The Upper Middle Rhine Valley gained UNESCO World Heritage Site status in 2002 and is probably the best-known landscape in Germany, dramatically carved out by the River Rhine. In its heart: the Loreley. Its appearance today is characterised in particular by terraced vineyards, which date back as far as the 12th century. During the Middle Ages, the Rhine's significance as the main trading route between the North Sea and the Alps led to the construction of numerous exceptional castles. In the 19th century the valley became place of longing of the „Rheinromantik“.

> [www.welterbe-mittelrhein.de](http://www.welterbe-mittelrhein.de)



Speyer Cathedral  
> [www.dom-zu-speyer.de](http://www.dom-zu-speyer.de)



Roman Monuments, Cathedral of St. Peter and Church of Our Lady in Trier  
> [www.welterbe-trier.de](http://www.welterbe-trier.de)



Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Upper German-Raetian Limes  
> [www.welterbe-limes-rp.de](http://www.welterbe-limes-rp.de)

Rheinland-Pfalz



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



World Heritage in Germany

# Las Médulas, a World Heritage mining landscape



View of the central sector of the gold mine from the viewpoint of Orellán. Senda Perimetral.

Las Médulas is located in the district of El Bierzo, province of León (administrative region of Castilla y León), in north-west Spain. Its landscape meets all the requirements to define it as an ancient mining landscape: the cuttings; core components of its extensive water network; and accumulations of tailings that have allowed experts to estimate removed gold sediment at 93.5 million cubic metres, causing the collapse of the Balao stream valley and leading to the formation of Lake Carucedo. This total conservation of all components makes it possible to confirm that the view we see today is not much different from the one that existed when the Romans stopped mining operations (3rd century AD), if we exclude vegetation cover and the effects of not very significant erosion. The good state of conservation makes it possible to ascertain extraction methods and techniques, progress of mining work, time and rate at which it was exploited and its profitability. In this respect, the Las Médulas mine is quite a unique case in ancient mining that, in most cases, has lost nearly all traces of history or appears to be highly altered by modern mining.

Furthermore, there are other essential elements in the mining environment without which this mining landscape known as Las Médulas could not have been shaped: the townships to accommodate workers, agricultural establishments and farms that cultivated lands, small garrisons that took care of canal maintenance, factories with foundries to manufacture all kinds of tools needed to do all this work and accommodation for specialist, technical and administrative personnel to manage the complex system of the mine and its territory.

Meanwhile, this landscape has a diachronic content involving indigenous communities that occupied the area before the Romans, which were reorganized due to this new economic activity imposed by the Roman administration. These pre-Roman Asturian people underwent radical changes to their social structure and ways of life, resulting in replacing a farming landscape with a mining landscape.

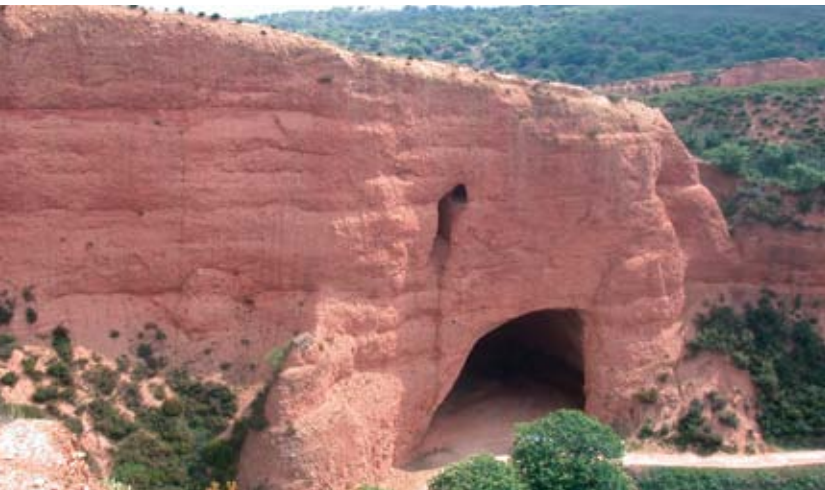
All these elements, in their diversity, are found in Las Médulas in a space no larger than 10 km<sup>2</sup>, which is able to show the entire historic process that built this landscape inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1997.

In order to learn about the processes that formed this landscape, different cultural itineraries can be followed to visit the most significant points of interest in this territory. The following are available for self-guided visits:

## La Ruta Perimetral

This runs through the different sectors of the Roman mine, from which a total of 4,677,500 kilos of gold were extracted during the 190 years it was in operation. The itinerary allows visitors to admire the immensity of the mining work, learn about the different extraction techniques used and understand the gold exploitation process: from tracing out the complex water network, mine faces, remains linked to gold washing, to evacuation of tailings.

La Cuevona, witness the use of the mining technique *ruina montium*. Senda de Las Valiñas.



La Encantada, witness the use of the mining technique *ruina montium*. Senda de Las Valiñas.







Somido lake, the result of changing natural drainage networks introduced by mining operations. Senda del Lago Somido.

### La Senda de los Conventos

Allows visitors to learn about the key role of water in gold extraction work, and some of the mining techniques used in Roman times. By following traditional paths, visitors can come to understand the complexity of the water network, up to 100 km in length, and see in more detail some of its characteristic features (channels and tanks).

### La Ruta de los Poblados

This runs through the different settlements, indigenous and Roman, set up for visitors. The itinerary allows visitors to understand how the indigenous communities lived before the Roman conquest, and their subsequent transformation and integration into the complex social and territorial structure of the Roman Empire.

By following this route visitors can see the only two pre-Roman garrisons in the area: Castrelin de San Juan de Paluezas and Corona del Cerco de Borrenes. It also includes a visit to the Orellán Metalworking Settlement, a Roman township linked to the new activities developed in Las Médulas, following integration of this territory into the Empire: mining, metalworking and agriculture.

### La Senda de las Valiñas

This runs through part of sector III of the mine, the last one to be exploited before it was abandoned (end of 2nd to beginning of 3rd century AD). Visitors will see the extraordinary mining cuttings and the characteristic *picuezos* (carvings), which bear witness to extraction work carried out on the mountain.

The different variations in this itinerary allow visitors to learn about the gold field's geology, operation of the mine and gold exploitation processes.

### La Senda del Lago Somido

This itinerary allows visitors to see how mining activity in Roman times transformed the landscape. Features are created such as plains and artificial lake areas, and ecosystems that did not exist before. Changes to the geomorphology caused by mining activity affected the natural drainage network, causing formation of lakes and wetlands.

### Senda de los Zufreiros del Frade and Circuito del lago de Carucedo itinerary

In addition to its significant cultural values, Las Médulas is of particular environmental interest. By following the Senda de los Zufreiros del Frade and Circuito del lago de Carucedo itinerary, visitors can learn in detail about the richness of the most characteristic flora and fauna of this territory. The variety of its ecosystems makes this landscape a unique environment, originating from changes caused by mining activity in Roman times.



Orellán metallurgical settlement, Roman settlement . Senda de los Poblados.

Galería de Orellán, witness the use of the mining technique *ruina montium*.



#### For further details:

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 24.442 Carucedo - León  
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 (+ 34) 987 403 592  
[www.fundacionlasmedulas.info](http://www.fundacionlasmedulas.info)  
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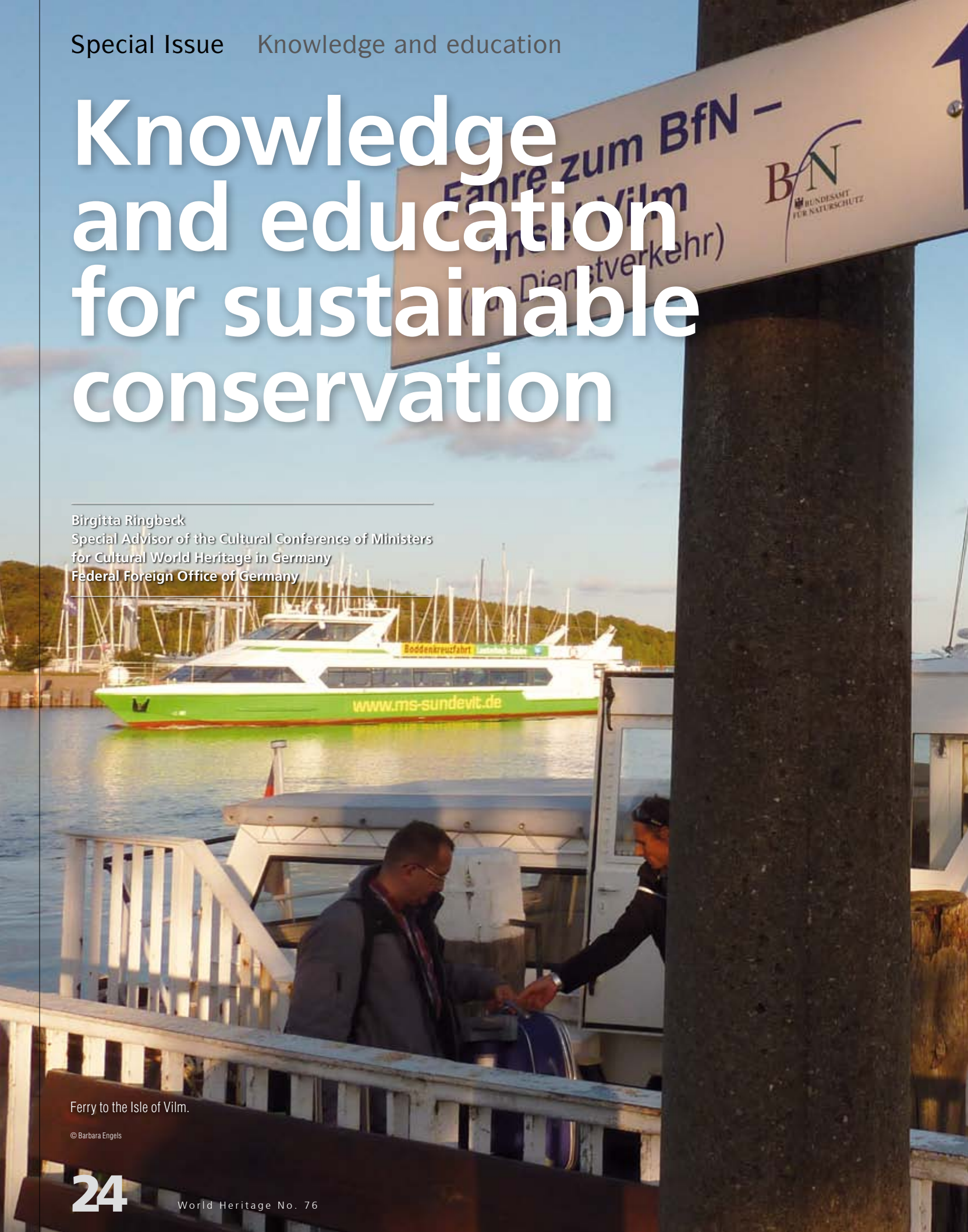


# Knowledge and education for sustainable conservation

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for Cultural World Heritage in Germany  
Federal Foreign Office of Germany

Ferry to the Isle of Vilm.

© Barbara Engels





Bundesamt für Naturschutz

The 1972 World Heritage Convention is an important central document in the development of the concept of sustainability. Like the study *The Limits to Growth*, published in the same year by the Club of Rome, the Convention demands the conservation of natural and cultural resources for future generations. Long before the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014), knowledge and education had been recognized as fundamental components for the long-term conservation of cultural and natural heritage sites by the World Heritage Convention. Signatory States to the Convention therefore have the task of implementing appropriate measures and programmes that also take into consideration the changes in social and economic conditions.

The loss of high-quality architectural monuments not only means the loss of material fabric but also of intangible heritage in the form of knowledge and skills. The more than 700-year-old builders' workshop of Cologne Cathedral, for example, is not merely important for the maintenance of material substance but also for passing on the traditions of craftsmanship and the art of masonry. Likewise, many cultural landscapes such as rice terraces and vineyards can only be authentically preserved and sustainably managed if the knowledge of traditional methods of cultivation is nurtured and passed down in the local communities. Germany hosts numerous institutes and programmes of education and training that transmit knowledge pertinent to the World Heritage programme and to the individual sites throughout the world. Also, a number of universities offer study courses in the field of World Heritage.

### Engaging young people

First and foremost, mention should be made of the World Heritage sites themselves that offer a diversified educational programme in their visitor centres and museums. Messel Pit Fossil Site, for example, communicates in a highly innovative manner about its significance as a unique fossil deposit: a virtual lift transports the visitor – in the truest sense of the word – millions of years back in the phylogenetic development of life as it is today. The



Participants at a workshop on the Isle of Vilm.

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## Germany hosts numerous institutes and programmes of education and training that transmit knowledge pertinent to the World Heritage programme and to the individual sites throughout the world.

museum's educational programme is aimed at children and adults, students and pupils. Young people are also the target group of the project offered to high-school students by the Hainberg-Gymnasium in Göttingen, one of 195 UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) in Germany. Accompanied by the World Heritage site of the Abbey and Altenmünster of Lorsch, the World Heritage programme is addressed interdisciplinarily through geography, politics, religious education, art history and foreign languages.

Professional and personal orientation after leaving school is offered by the Young Builders' Workshops founded and funded by the German Foundation for

Monument Protection (Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz). During their voluntary year of social service, the young people live together as in a medieval builders' workshop and are able to gather practical experience in craft and construction companies, architectural and planning offices or monuments preservation authorities. They also learn about styles and materials, research and working methods, the basics of monument conservation and the significance of the European cultural heritage in accompanying seminars. Independent of their later professional paths, the young people take along with them the experience in dealing with history, original substance, and their craft skills.

## Capacity-building for World Heritage at the International Academy for Nature Conservation

With the International Academy for Nature Conservation (INA) located on the Isle of Vilm in the Baltic Sea, the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation is ideally positioned to contribute to capacity-building for (natural) World Heritage. For fifteen years, INA has been a hub to support the implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. It has established an active cooperation with both the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Heritage Centre and contributes to the Global Capacity-building Strategy of the World Heritage Convention.

On a regular basis, INA organizes training and capacity-building courses for government representatives, World Heritage site managers and NGO representatives. As a follow-up to the first cycle of Periodic Reporting in Europe, for example, the academy took up capacity-building needs that had been identified at the European level and ran a series of workshops, including training on management planning for natural World Heritage sites, tourism management in World Heritage sites and a capacity-building workshop relating to Tentative Lists. This workshop series involved more than a hundred participants from over twenty countries. As a result, an effective network of both site managers and experts has been created which serves as a pool of expertise for the region.

At international level, capacity-building activities include expert seminars on serial World Heritage properties, marine World Heritage, strengthening the advisory capacity of IUCN and most recently on benefits and ecosystem services of natural World Heritage sites.

In addition, Germany through its INA-based expertise is active in several bilateral projects which focus on capacity-building for the preparation of nominations for potential future World Heritage sites. Recent examples include the Lena Pillars Nature Park (inscribed 2012, Russian Federation), and a project on capacity-building and networking for sustainable use in the buffer zones of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (trinational site – Germany, Slovakia and Ukraine – inscribed 2007, extended 2011).

*Barbara Engels*



An outdoor workshop on the Isle of Vilm.


© Barbara Engels

## Further study and research opportunities

A number of German universities offer World Heritage-related courses of scientific studies and research opportunities. Particular mention should be made of the international Master's in World Heritage Studies, set up since the winter semester 1999/2000 at the Brandenburg University of Technology at Cottbus, the Ph.D. in Heritage Studies, offered since 2010, and various capacity-building programmes of the UNESCO Chair in Heritage Studies. The Master's on Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage offered by the University of Paderborn also leads to a university qualification. In addition, the Chair for Art

Education of the University of Paderborn offers teacher training in questions of aesthetic mediation of cultural World Heritage and pursues the establishment of a European-oriented course in World Heritage pedagogics. The UNESCO Chair in Urban and Cultural Landscapes at the RWTH Aachen focuses on basic and applied research oriented to conservation and sustainable development and offers corresponding consultancy services. Lastly, the Pedagogical University of Heidelberg was pivotal in setting up an interdisciplinary working group on World Heritage Education, in which universities, UNESCO Chairs, ASPnet schools and the German Commission for UNESCO develop

innovative concepts for World Heritage education together with German World Heritage sites.

An institution that also has an internationally oriented programme of professional training and continuing education is the International Academy for Nature Conservation on Vilm. As part of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the academy functions as a 'forum for discussion and solution of national and international questions of nature conservation' and thus explicitly and implicitly imparts knowledge about the significance of natural heritage in general and of World Heritage in particular (see page 27). 

## The significance of education in heritage protection and use

The implementation of educational programmes is clearly formulated as a mandate to the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention in Articles 27 and 28. It is Article 27 in particular that defines the content of the measures to be implemented. It reads: 'The States Parties ... shall endeavour by all appropriate means, and in particular by educational and information programmes, to strengthen appreciation and respect by their peoples of the cultural and natural heritage ...'. Furthermore, 'they shall undertake to keep the public broadly informed of the dangers threatening this heritage ...'.

The reasons for this educational mandate explicitly formulated in the Convention cannot be derived directly from the articles themselves. This is indeed not necessary as they are already articulated indirectly in the Preamble to the Convention, which state that heritage of Outstanding Universal Value needs to be placed under protection as it is threatened 'not only by the traditional causes of decay, but also by changing social and economic conditions ...'.

### A multidimensional challenge

An important reason for the implementation of educational programmes is therefore to be seen in social and economic conditions. Why is that so and what are the possibilities of influencing heritage conservation that may be exerted through educational programmes? To be able to answer these questions, attention needs to be drawn first of all to some fundamental aspects that illustrate the significance of education in heritage protection and use. Even if, due to the success of the World Heritage Convention, World Heritage is interpreted as a cultural asset that exists for and from within itself, it still needs to be established that each part of humanity's heritage has been created by humans, just as it is being destroyed by humans. This is true for tangible heritage and natural heritage just as much as for intellectual heritage and the appropriation thereof. In the case of natural heritage this is true not only in a material but also in a figurative sense, i.e. in the cultural way of regarding and appreciating natural assets. Heritage consists of integrative units of people, technology and society that have been formed in the course of historical processes and indeed continue to develop.

It consists of the traditional elements of the history of cultures, their intellectual, intangible heritage, from the material testimony to the world's cultures as well as to nature, which has since the beginning of time provided cultures with the environments they require. The heritage of humanity incorporates the fundamental experience that societies may revert to when shaping their present. The protection and use of heritage is therefore an eminently political, participative and interdisciplinary act that requires human know-how.

### Heritage and identity

Human know-how is based upon education. And it is precisely at this point that the circle closes. Modern concepts of protection must include concepts of use and these concepts must be examined for their sustainability. This requires education and training. Heritage does not merely possess a static, museum value, but also and in particular a dynamic one. The idea that the heritage of humanity is worthy of protection should form identity and thus, also in a figurative sense, also embrace UNESCO's peace-making mandate. This function, too, does not emerge entirely by itself. Education is necessary here as well. Heritage is at the same time part of identity as the heritage of humanity always contains reference points to one's own history. In the context of World Heritage the manifold history of humanity can and should be taken into account. The reflection of this interaction also requires education that allows people to transform historical experiences into projective actions and thus utilize them for tackling everyday problems.

The educational programmes existing in Germany take up, in very different ways, but unanimous in their principles and aims, the understanding formulated above of the significance of heritage and heritage protection and apply it within the contexts of their respective contents and institutions.

*Marie-Theres Albert*

# HERITAGE STUDIES

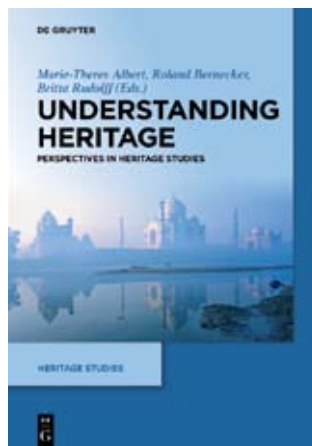
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## NEW SERIES

The Heritage Studies discourse was initiated by the UNESCO Chair in Heritage Studies in the process of developing the concept of the *International Graduate School: Heritage Studies* at the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg in 2010. The discourse was broadened with regards to the different facets of heritage such as cultural and natural heritage, intangible heritage and documentary heritage.

One of the very important goals of this specific discourse of Heritage Studies is to discuss the diversity of paradigms, scientific concepts and constructions. This new publication series published by DeGruyter Publishing House comprises the major outcomes that contain contributions from junior scholars, experienced researchers and heritage professionals.

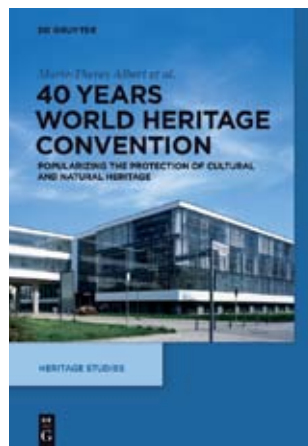
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# Transfer of scientific and practical expertise in conservation from Germany

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Barbara Engels  
Special Advisor for Natural World Heritage in Germany  
Federal Agency for Nature Conservation of Germany

Birgitta Ringbeck  
Special Advisor of the Cultural Conference of  
Ministers for Cultural World Heritage in Germany  
Federal Foreign Office of Germany

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The Government of Germany supported the conservation of Borobudur Temple Compounds (Indonesia) through Technical Conservation Training in November 2014.

© Our Place – The World Heritage Collection





International solidarity was there at the very outset of what, in the meantime, has developed into the almost universally ratified concept of protection for cultural and natural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value: On 8 March 1960, the Director-General of UNESCO issued an appeal for a large-scale safeguarding campaign for the Nubia cultural monuments at Abu Simbel and Philae in Egypt, which were being threatened with flooding by the planned Aswan dam. Fifty countries participated in the rescue operations. A sum of US\$40 million was collected and it was possible, in a complex operation, to dismantle the enormous monuments and rebuild them at another location.

The Nubian experience advanced the drawing-up of the international Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (generally known as the World Heritage Convention), which was adopted on 16 November 1972 by the General Conference of UNESCO in Paris. It declares the exceptional sites of the world to be the heritage of all humanity and of future generations irrespective of state borders. The responsibility for their protection does not lie solely with a single state but is the task of the international community.

In 1960 the Federal Republic of Germany had already been among those fifty states that had joined forces to rescue the pharaonic statues of Abu Simbel. In 1976 the Federal Republic had been one of the first States Parties signatory to the World Heritage Convention. Since 1981, Germany has been supporting the conservation of cultural heritage throughout the world through the Federal Foreign Office's Cultural Preservation Programme with the aim of enhancing the awareness of local heritage

and of a sense of national identity in each of its partner countries. This also responds to Germany's obligations resulting from the Convention to contribute to the protection of cultural and natural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value.

### Local involvement

The Cultural Preservation Programme touches upon a wide range of areas, from the restoration of wall-paintings in temples, the protection and rehabilitation

implemented in the temple district of Angkor Wat (Cambodia) can serve as an example. Since 1995, a team from Cologne University of Applied Sciences has been working to prevent its further decay; the restoration and conservation measures are being implemented by lecturers and students from the Institute for Restoration and Conservation Sciences together with a team of Cambodian conservators.

Over the past few years, cultural preservation projects have gained significantly in importance for the stabilization of states in crisis situations and for crisis prevention. In Palestine, for example, a major project – supported by international donors of various religious convictions worldwide – promoted the restoration of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, which was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2012. Germany made a visible contribution to this project through the conservation of a section of the eastern part of the church's nave.



Experts during project work in Borobudur (Indonesia).  
© German Federal Foreign Office

**Wherever possible the projects are complemented by *in situ* training components in order to build up local capacities and strengthen the sustainability of the projects for cultural preservation.**

of buildings of cultural-historical importance to the digitalization of handwritten manuscripts, films, sound archives and publications illustrating cultural heritage. Experts and the local population from partner countries are involved in project implementation. Wherever possible the projects are complemented by *in situ* training components in order to build up local capacities and strengthen the sustainability of the projects for cultural preservation.

Research institutions such as the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) and universities are important pillars of international cooperation. The project

is the joint Master's course in Cultural Heritage Studies, sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service and offered by Helwan University in Cairo and Brandenburg University of Technology at Cottbus with the involvement of DAI. In particular, the international Master's course on World Heritage Studies, set up in 1999, significantly contributed towards the excellent reputation enjoyed by Germany worldwide for education relating to World Heritage and triggered the interest in further cooperation.

Moreover, Germany has also supported other States Parties in their nomination processes and in the conservation of

### Further education and research

Beyond its Cultural Preservation Programme, Germany also supports many other international projects. One example



Central nave of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem (Palestine).

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Lakes of Ounianga (Chad).

© S. Krüppel

natural World Heritage sites. For example, the German Commission for UNESCO supported Namibia in the identification of potential sites for natural heritage nominations: the World Heritage site Namib Sand Sea, inscribed in 2013, is a direct result of this cooperation. The nomination of the Lakes of Ounianga in the desert of Chad (2012), would not have been accomplished without German expertise and the research cooperation between the University of Cologne's Heinrich-Barth-Institute for Archaeology and Environmental History of Africa and the Chad Research Centre.

### Climate change

The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) lent particular support to the Russian Federation in the nomination of natural World Heritage sites such as the Western


### Germany has also supported other States Parties in their nomination processes and in the conservation of natural World Heritage sites.

Caucasus (inscribed 1999) and Putorana Plateau (2010), but also contributed the necessary expertise to guarantee the preservation of those sites in the long term.

In the context of the International Climate Initiative (IKI), the BMUB also supports major long-term projects for the conservation of valuable ecological systems of significance for climate protection, such as those in the Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park in Sumatra (Indonesia) or in the valley of the River Saluen (Gaoligong Mountains) within the natural World Heritage site of Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas (China).

Other key partners in international cooperation are the German Society for

International Cooperation (GIZ) and the KfW Development Bank. On behalf of the Federal Government, in particular the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, they implement a multitude of projects every year for the protection of nature and culture worldwide. Among the areas being supported are World Heritage sites and Biosphere Reserves, with one of the main focuses being the ecological systems of the tropical rain forest (see page 37).

This German support is only possible thanks to the impressive commitment of many stakeholders. Here, too, sustainability is the supreme mandate: in the long run, it is crucial that expertise and practical know-how are guaranteed locally. 

**Committed to biodiversity – German development cooperation for World Heritage sites**

The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity have long played a crucial role in Germany’s international cooperation. In 2008, Chancellor Angela Merkel announced a substantial rise in Germany’s commitment to global conservation of ecosystems, amounting to €500 million annually from 2013 onwards. The increase in funding also benefits a growing number of natural World Heritage sites. At present a total of twenty-four natural sites, including several on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in fourteen countries, are directly supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.

German development cooperation supports partner countries to better integrate World Heritage sites into national and local development agendas in order to help safeguard them in the long term. This is done by establishing long-term financing mechanisms, investing in business development, implementing rural development programmes that benefit communities living in or adjacent to the parks, and facilitating governance models in which local communities have a say in decision-making and the distribution of costs and benefits. Support is also rendered to improve capacities for management and surveillance.

In Côte d’Ivoire, German development cooperation, jointly implemented by GIZ and KfW, has made a significant contribution to the safeguarding of the World Heritage site of Tai National Park (inscribed in 1982 on the World Heritage List). The programme supports the national park authority in performing its core tasks: organizing surveillance, maintaining infrastructure, developing management and business plans, supporting economic development around the park, and bio-monitoring. Complementary to these protection efforts, support for sustainable and biodiversity-friendly agricultural production in the region and marketing of key commodities such as cocoa and palm oil stimulates local economic development. Whereas poaching remains a challenge, satellite images show that the vegetation inside the park has remained intact since 2000. Local people now welcome the existence of the park and acknowledge its protected status.



Tree nursery at Tai National Park.

© GIZ



Tai National Park (Côte d’Ivoire).

© GIZ / OIPR / ArcCona



# Tanzania's new 'paleo tourism' takes root in Olduvai Gorge

People seem to be developing a great interest in 'travelling back in time' to see where their ancestors may have come from. Accordingly, Tanzania is cultivating paleo (prehistoric) tourism to complement the country's already popular wildlife visits.

Named after the wild sisal plant that the Maasai call *oldupai*, the Olduvai Gorge and adjacent Laetoli is the only site on earth with footprints of *Australopithecus afarensis*, preserved some 4 million years ago in volcanic ash and providing strong evidence of human bipedalism.

Ngorongoro Conservation Area, with its legendary volcanic crater, is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The strong potential of these archaeological sites means that they are attractive to tourism organizations, notably from South Africa, interested in promoting the Olduvai and Laetoli sites worldwide. 'These remarkable gems of northern Tanzania are where the entire world will be flocking to retrace human history,' claims Zweli Mntambo, deputy chair of South African Tourism. It is believed that we all originated from Africa and traces indicate that the first human beings walked the Earth in northern Tanzania, where this new form of tourism is being encouraged. The total number of visitors to Olduvai and Laetoli has risen to 500 per day, increasing during the tourism high season and falling slightly between May and July, according to Godfrey Ole Moita, head of Laetoli Archaeological Site.

Tanzania plans to construct the world's first 'real human history' dome museum at Laetoli, at an estimated cost of US\$30 million, to feature a human foot-shaped enclosure. The Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) recently took over the running of the Olduvai Gorge site where British paleoanthropologist Mary Leakey and her husband Louis once worked.

In 1948 Mary Leakey had discovered the fossilized skull of *Proconsul africanus*, an ancestor of both apes and early humans. Then in 1959 at Olduvai Gorge she discovered the skull of a hominin that her husband named *Zinjanthropus* ('eastern man'), though it is now regarded as a type of 'southern ape'. Throughout their long careers the Leakeys uncovered tools and hominin fossils that were of great importance in the understanding of human evolution. They developed a system for classifying the stone tools found at Olduvai and during their time in northern Tanzania they discovered fifteen new species of fauna and one new genus.

Engineer Joshua Mwankunde, in charge of the Cultural Heritage Department at Olduvai, said they plan to establish another museum to honour the Leakeys and house their archaeological findings, artefacts as well as replicas, at the current site.

The Olduvai and Laetoli sites with over 190,000 visitors per year have become a very popular tourist destination, second only to Ngorongoro crater (600,000 visitors a year), even beating Zanzibar Island.

By Marc Nkwame



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Ngorongoro Conservation Area  
Inscribed on the  
World Heritage List in 1991





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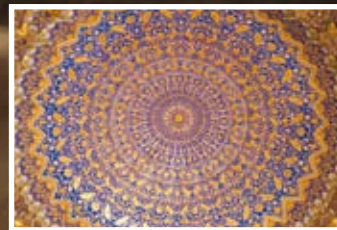
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Samarkand – Crossroad of Cultures – Uzbekistan

# German World Heritage sites as active international partners

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Barbara Engels  
Special Advisor for Natural World Heritage in Germany  
Federal Agency for Nature Conservation of Germany

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Old town of Regensburg with Stadthof.

© Tscherno



With a total of five transboundary and transnational World Heritage sites, Germany boasts more such sites than any other country. They include the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (with the United Kingdom), Muskauer Park / Park Mużakowski (with Poland), and the Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps (with Austria, France, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland). With the Wadden Sea (with Denmark and the Netherlands) and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (with Slovakia and the Ukraine), two of the three natural World Heritage sites are indeed transnational. The joint multinational management thereof is challenging and inspiring at the same time: differences in culture and languages, different statutory regulations and, in the case of the Ancient Beech Forests, even an external border of the European Union confront the site managers with new challenges on a daily basis. The interaction on questions of monitoring, education and public relations, as well as in research, also offers opportunities for continuously developing protection and management at national level.

Next to the indispensable cooperation for the management of these sites, additional in-depth activities have been developed jointly during recent years based on the decisions of the World Heritage Committee.

### A common sustainable vision

In the context of the EU-funded project Protect and Prosper – Sustainable Tourism in the Wadden Sea (PROWAD), opportunities and perspectives for a sustainable socio-economic development of the trilateral Wadden Sea region as a World Heritage site (inscribed 2009, extended 2014) were identified between 2011 and 2015. In addition to an analysis of the potential for sustainable tourism, a common vision and

a common strategy for sustainable tourism in the Wadden Sea have been developed jointly with various participants from tourism and nature conservation. They highlight the particular role played by the tourism sector for the conservation of the site as well as for its economic and social well-being. This coordinated transnational strategy now provides a coherent approach

pile dwellings dating from the Neolithic and Bronze Ages. Due to the excellent preservation conditions under water, they can be counted among the most spectacular archaeological sites anywhere in the world.

The stakeholders involved in the trilateral natural World Heritage site of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany have

already established intensive cooperation in the course of the nomination process. Projects for joint public-relations activities and capacity-building accompanied the nomination and laid an important foundation for successfully cooperating in a joint management system. A trilateral Joint Management Committee brings together representatives of the protected areas and of the ministries while detailed questions of management are coordinated at national level. In Germany, a steering committee guides the five beech forest areas in questions of coordination, common projects and all higher-level matters. Even though language and distance provide ever new challenges for direct cooperation between the areas in Germany, Slovakia and the Ukraine, the network has been growing steadily since the extension of the site to include the German beech forests in 2011. And the site is likely to continue to grow after the inscription of the German components: the

World Heritage Committee has coupled the extension with the request to support a complete serial transnational nomination for the protection of the unique ecological system that the European beech forests represent. A good deal of conscientious effort has been put into this over the past three years: a European network of ancient beech forests in Europe has developed and by way of a scientific approach potential candidates have been identified for a European extension nomination in view of the protection of this important ecological system.



A German component of the transnational World Heritage site Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps.

© Landesamt für Denkmalpflege im Regierungspräsidium Stuttgart / O. Braasch

as to how touristic activities may be developed in harmony with the World Heritage values of the Wadden Sea. The strategy is to be implemented by way of a comprehensive action plan.

No less than six States Parties are involved in the serial property of the Prehistoric Pile dwellings around the Alps. Inscription on the World Heritage List in 2011 gave a decisive boost to common management and international cooperation in both monument preservation and research. A particular challenge to all stakeholders is the presentation of these underwater



Treetop path in the beech forest of Hainich National Park.

© Hainich National Park / R. Biehl

### Joint activities on the wing

Further transboundary and transnational sites are Muskauer Park / Park Mużakowski, which is managed as a German-Polish site in close cross-border cooperation, and the Upper German-Rhaetian Limes, which, together with Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall in the United Kingdom, forms part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire site, first inscribed in 1987. This

project is a cooperation of archaeologists and conservationists from over twenty different states, among them experts from the German Limes Commission and the heritage authorities of the federal states involved. Its ambitious aim is to document the Outstanding Universal Value of this site through exceptional archaeological sections not only in Western, Southern and Eastern Europe but also in the Middle

East and the Arab States, and to increase awareness of it as part of our common cultural heritage.

Bilateral partnerships are another form of international cooperation involving German World Heritage sites. These extend far beyond formal obligations resulting from World Heritage status and therefore reflect the cooperative character and ambition of the World Heritage Convention in a particular manner.

Since February 2014, the Wadden Sea and the natural site of Banc d'Arguin National Park in Mauritania (inscribed 1989) have been connected by more than just the migratory birds that fly south along the East Atlantic migratory route every year and spend the winter on the West African coast. The two World Heritage sites have institutionalized their strengthened cooperation in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding, with a particular focus on the protection of migratory birds. Joint activities and exchange in the fields of monitoring and management are just as much a part of the working programme as the interaction among experts and scientific cooperation.



Oystercatchers at the Wadden Sea.

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## Experience monastic life

The Abbey of Lorsch (Hessen) has initiated an intercultural network of monasteries in the context of the UNESCO World Heritage programme. Intensive partnerships with the Armenian Orthodox Monastery of Geghard, the Buddhist Haeinsa Temple (Republic of Korea) and the Benedictine Convent of St John at Münstair (Switzerland) already exist. The network, created by the Abbey of Lorsch in 2002, has the goal of bringing together these centuries-old spiritual communities and encouraging interaction and mutual discovery. The network partners themselves decide how they wish to participate in this dialogue. Every two years, Haeinsa offers German schoolchildren the unique opportunity of experiencing life in a Buddhist monastery. With the Münstair monastery a scientific, conservationist exchange of opinions is cultivated. Moreover, private contacts have taken root in the meantime, a civic commitment that is summarized in mutual visits, the establishment of associations and a foundation.

The cities of Bamberg, Berlin, Quedlinburg, Regensburg, Stralsund and Wismar are members of the international Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC), of which the regional secretariat for North-West Europe is located in Regensburg and which is presented in more detail as a stakeholder network on page 51.

In addition to institutionalized partnerships, many World Heritage sites cultivate intensive cooperation with World Heritage and other cultural sites worldwide. Such cooperation often focuses on common questions of management or tourism development, and takes forms ranging from international congresses to large-scale



Abbey of Lorsch.

© H.-J. Aubert

funding projects. Regensburg, for example, leads a European-wide network that deals with sustainable development of historic urban landscapes, in which alongside the Old town of Regensburg with Stadthof, the World Heritage cities of Graz (Austria), Naples (Italy), Vilnius (Lithuania), Sighișoara (Romania), Liverpool (United Kingdom) and Valletta (Malta) are represented. In the context of the EU-funded

project HerO (Heritage as Opportunity) recommendations were elaborated for the sustainable development of historic urban landscapes as well as a practical guide for preparing management plans for historic cities. In the follow-on project HerMan (Management of Cultural Heritage in the Central Europe Area), Regensburg continues to develop its successful management plan and cooperates with other World Heritage sites such as Ferrara (Italy) or Budapest (Hungary).

The Upper Middle Rhine Valley is a long-standing partner in the EU-funded project ViTour Landscapes, which is already in its third edition and gathers ten European World Heritage vineyard landscapes into a single network. Throughout the three rounds of this project, innovative and sustainable spatial development concepts and strategies with different thematic focuses have been elaborated in view of supporting protection and development of these cultural landscapes. ☺

## Wattenmeer

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Photographers Martin Stock and Pieter de Vries provide a stunning portrait of the Wadden Sea, from the mudflats of the 'Gates of Hell' near Den Helder in the far west of the Netherlands to the tidal flats, islands and islets of the German coast up to the 'Devil's Horn', the dangerous reef at the northern end of the Wadden Sea in Denmark. Each country's relationship to the World Heritage site is illustrated, and rich stories, legends and background knowledge bring to life this enchanting natural landscape.



# Stakeholders and networks

Wartburg Castle.

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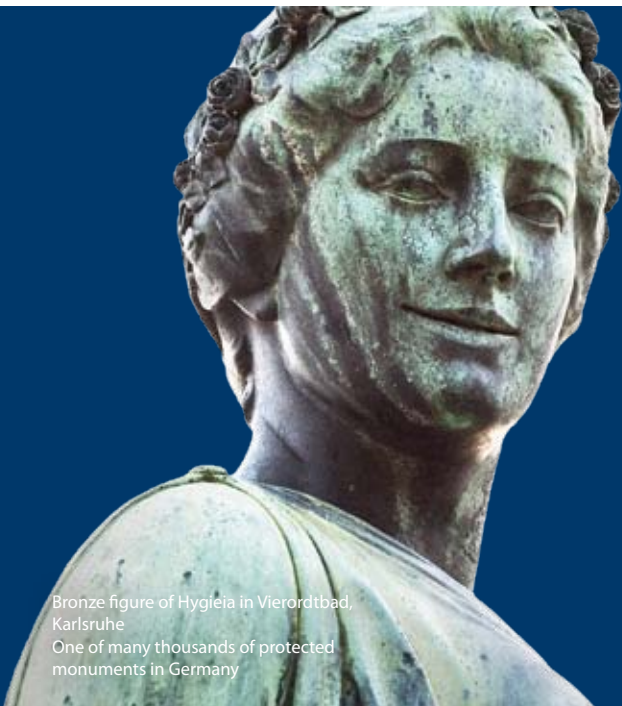


## State players and programmes

Germany has supported the idea of an international treaty for the protection and conservation of the world's cultural and natural heritage since it was first mooted. Even before the World Heritage Convention was adopted in 1972, experts from Germany had been involved in drawing up the Convention. When the Convention came into force in 1976, Germany was elected a member of the World Heritage Committee for the first time; it was a member from 1976 to 1978, from 1980 to 1987 and from 1991 to 1997, and it has again been a member since 2012. A World Heritage Committee session was held in Berlin in 1995, and Bonn is hosting a second session in 2015.

The Federal Foreign Office represents the interests of Germany in UNESCO through its Permanent Delegation. As thirty-six of the thirty-nine German World Heritage sites are cultural heritage, the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the States is a particularly important partner within Germany, acting as a central office for coordinating the implementation of cross-cutting tasks. This is because, in the context of cultural sovereignty, the Federal States are responsible for the protection and conservation of monuments and thus also for World Heritage sites. They also enjoy the right to nominate potential World Heritage sites. The responsibility for natural World Heritage sites in Germany and related nominations, on the other hand, lies with the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, which coordinates the World Heritage programme in close cooperation with the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), which, as a subordinated authority, structures and accompanies the processes at national and international levels. The International Academy for Nature Conservation of the BfN on the Isle of Vilm has played an important role on the national and international stage for over ten years in building up and exchanging expertise in questions relating to the protection of natural World Heritage sites.

National programmes exist for the financing of World Heritage sites. In addition to the monument support programmes of the individual states, particular mention should be made of the urban development funds provided by the Federal State. Furthermore, the Federal Government, between 2009 and 2014, made some €220 million available to German World Heritage sites. This investment programme ensured that urgent conservation measures could be implemented at those sites and that heritage-sensitive development could be supported in the municipalities. Investments into culture thus became an important aspect of local economic promotion and sustainable development. 



Bronze figure of Hygieia in Vierordtbad, Karlsruhe  
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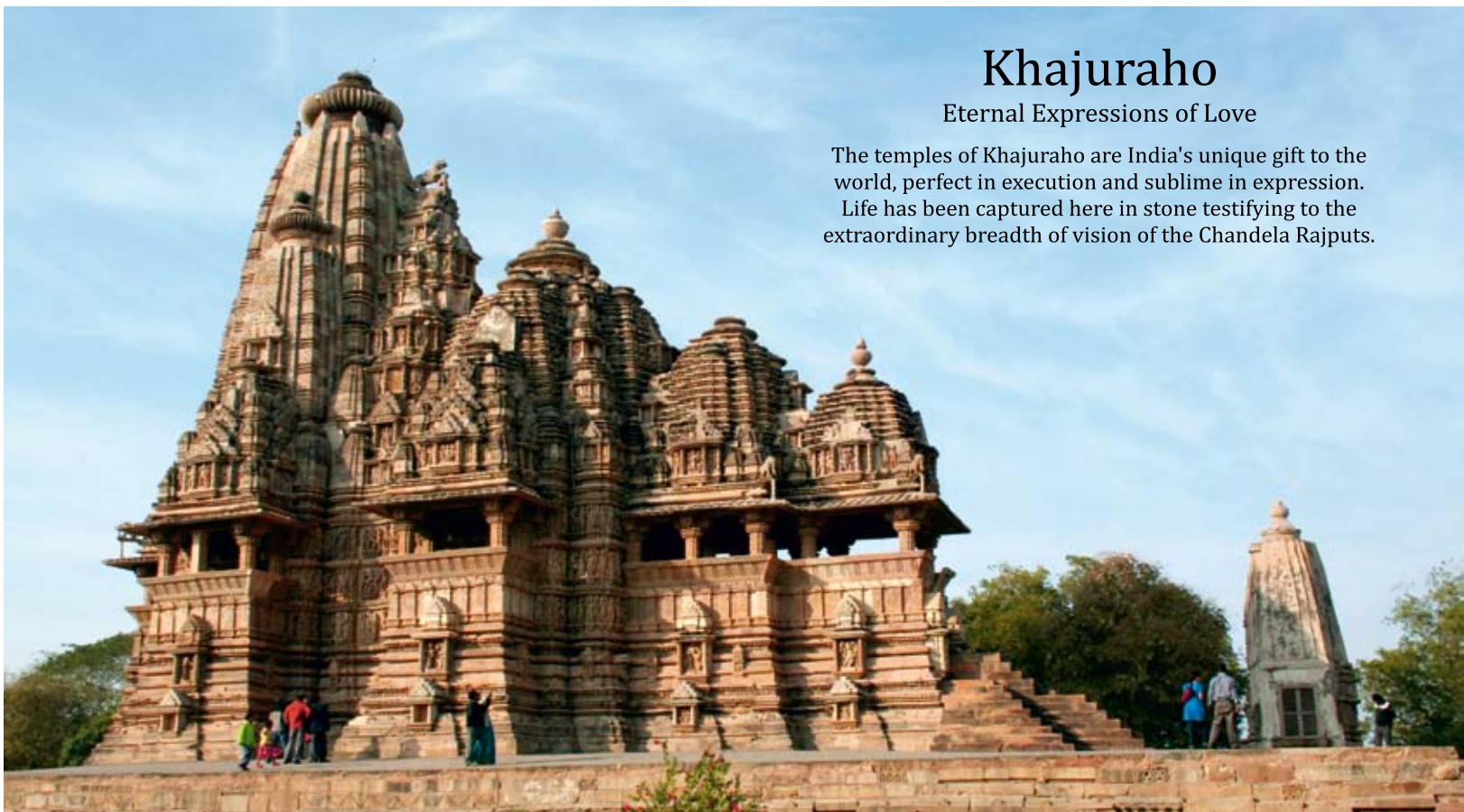
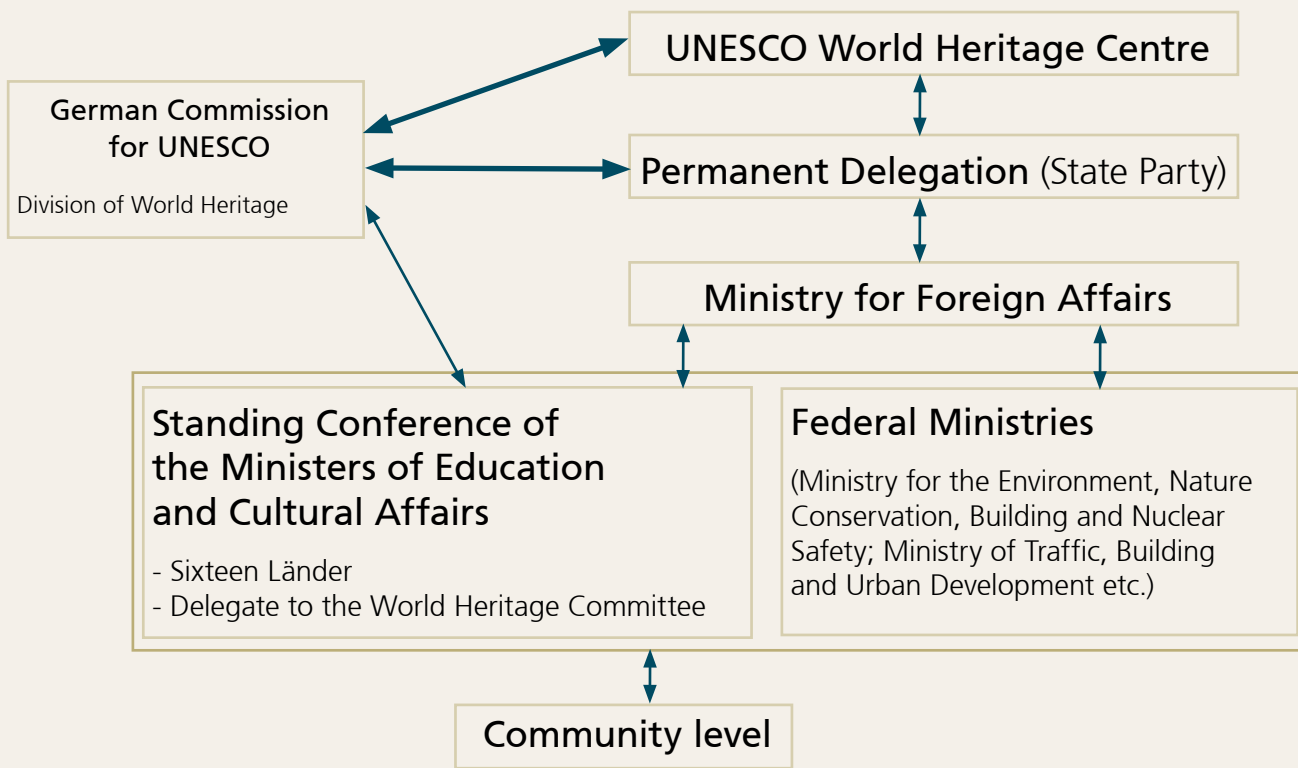
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## World Heritage in Germany - state players



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# The rehabilitation of earthquake-affected Siwa Temple within the

## Prambanan Temple Compounds, Indonesia



A natural catastrophic earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale struck Yogyakarta and Central Java on May 27, 2006. Thousands of residents' houses, public infrastructure and cultural properties were destroyed. Prambanan Temple Compounds, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1991 and located a few kilometres north-east of Yogyakarta, were severely affected. More than 250 individual temples of different sizes surround the Prambanan Temple complex. Rising above at the center is the Siwa Temple towering 47 metres high (154 feet), situated between Wisnu Temple

and Brahma Temple. These are the three major temples in Prambanan Temple Complex decorated with reliefs illustrating the epic poem of the *Ramayana*.

The Government of the Republic of Indonesia, in consultation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, has taken essential efforts to assess the damage suffered by the Temples as well as the remaining risks for the structures and visitors, and organized several consultative expert meetings at a national and international level. In March 2007, an International Experts Meeting was held in Yogyakarta and resulted in an Action Plan as a reference for the rehabilitation of Prambanan World Heritage site.

Based on site observations by international and national experts at the Prambanan Temple complex, most of the temples suffered from material damage (breaking, cracking, fragmentation) while the structure itself suffered from damage such as breaking and splitting, thereby influencing its stability.

Going back to the history of Prambanan's first restoration works, Th. Van Erp began with the preliminary effort to restore the main temple (Siwa Temple). F.D.K. Bosch then continued this restoration in 1918. The Archaeological Office (Oudheidkundige Dienst) continued the restoration led by Van Romondt from 1938 to 1945. During the Japanese Occupation, the restoration continued under the leadership of Indonesian staff, Soehamir, Samingoen, and Soewarno. The restoration of Siwa Temple was completed on December 20, 1953.

Methods and techniques that were used to rebuild Siwa Temple included inserting reinforced concrete and reassembling stones by injection of cement, the consequences of which meant that Siwa Temple became a monolith-like building and rigid. Therefore, during the earthquake, seismic action had a negative impact and many stones were broken, split and collapsed, while the structure became twisted. Through long discussions, it was decided that the rehabilitation of Siwa Temple could not be done by total dismantling, but through partial rehabilitation of parts that were damaged by injecting hydraulic mortar filler. This mortar composition is 1 zeolite: 1 limestone: 1.5 sand, with a grain size of 60 meshes. Hydraulic mortar was chosen because the material is natural and reversible. If another earthquake were to happen the mortar would easily break down instead of damaging the original stones. Siwa temple restoration was completed in 2014. Intensive monitoring will continue from time to time to ensure the stability of Siwa Temple.



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Cultural Organization



Prambanan Temple Compounds  
Inscribed on the World Heritage List  
in 1991

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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE  
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

### German Commission for UNESCO

In a mediatory capacity for German international policy for culture and education, the German Commission for UNESCO acts as a juncture between government and science and as a national clearinghouse for all fields of UNESCO's activities. The Commission is financially supported by the Federal Foreign Office and has the status of a registered association. Implementing the World Heritage Convention is among its central tasks. In this context, the Commission is a board member of the Association of German UNESCO World Heritage Sites, with which it organizes an annual World Heritage conference as well as the nation-wide World Heritage Day. It thereby contributes to World Heritage-related activities in Germany, informs the public and establishes contacts between institutions, specialist organizations, experts and UNESCO. The Commission carries out all its World Heritage activities in close collaboration with the ministries and departments responsible for the World Heritage programme in Germany.



### Association of German UNESCO World Heritage Sites

The Association of German UNESCO World Heritage Sites (UNESCO-Welterbestätten Deutschland e.V.) is a coalition of German World Heritage sites and their corresponding tourism organizations. The association, founded in September 2001 and based in the town of Quedlinburg, aims to increase awareness of German World Heritage sites, improve the coordination of monument preservation and tourism, and advise the World Heritage sites on matters of tourism marketing. Apart from organizing the annual conferences of all German World Heritage sites, the association was central in setting the thematic focus for Germany's international tourism promotion by the National Tourism Board on World Heritage in 2014.



### German World Heritage Foundation

Founded in 2001 by the Hanseatic cities Stralsund and Wismar, the German World Heritage Foundation aims to contribute to the protection and conservation of World Heritage sites as well as to a balanced World Heritage List. The foundation's support is particularly beneficial to LDCs (least-developed countries) in their efforts to protect their cultural and natural heritage and to maintain it for future generations. Over the past years, the foundation has supported, among others, urban conservation work in the historic centre of L'viv (Ukraine), and contributed significantly to funding the nomination process for the Namib Sand Sea (Namibia), which was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2013.

### OWHC Regional Secretariat North-West Europe

Since November 2011, the city of Regensburg in Germany has taken over the management of the North-West Europe Secretariat of the Organization of World Heritage Cities. It is thus one of seven Regional Secretariats around the globe serving as links among the member cities and the General Secretariat of OWHC in Quebec (Canada).

The OWHC is an international network of 250 cities, which all have World Heritage status and cooperate in promoting the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. Through exchange of expertise on matters of conservation and management, as well as by developing a sense of solidarity among its member cities, the organization offers a platform for professional enhancement.

Since its creation, the Regensburg Regional Secretariat has focused on an integrated approach: all member cities in the region are invited to cooperate and contribute their ideas to the continuing working process. Key points of the work programme in the North-West Europe region are communication, solidarity through exchange of expertise, and a strategic approach through thematic input and open discussion.

Now with nineteen active OWHC member cities, the region is implementing a challenging work programme to promote the organization: through activities such as a photo competition or the new film project, residents and especially young people are invited to think about their heritage. City-to-City visits and the biannual Regional Conference offer perfect opportunities for exchange among experts and mayors of the World Heritage cities. The international cross-regional view is supported by sharing information about the General Secretariat's work and fostering the understanding of the global outreach of the organization.

For details, see [www.ovpm.org/en/regional\\_secretariats/northwest\\_europe](http://www.ovpm.org/en/regional_secretariats/northwest_europe)

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# Worldwide. Transboundary. Cross-cultural.

## German World Heritage Foundation



From Namibia via Mongolia to Kamchatka – the German World Heritage Foundation provides support all around the globe.

The Foundation was initiated by the mayors of the Hanseatic cities of Stralsund and Wismar in 2001, with the purpose of assisting World Heritage sites in danger as well as candidate sites during their nomination process.

In Mongolia, for instance, the German World Heritage Foundation supported the preparation of a medium-term management plan for the Orkhon Valley. Partly as a result of this initiative, Kharkhorum, the capital of the Mongol Empire in the 13th century, was inscribed on the World Heritage List as part of the Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape.

In Namibia, the Foundation provided funding to support the World Heritage nomination process for the Namib Sand Sea. Currently, the African country is represented by two sites on the World Heritage List.

The Zabaykalsky National Park in Russia is one of seven natural reserves belonging to the Lake Baikal World Heritage site. Here, the German World Heritage Foundation supported the development of communications infrastructure to help monitor and protect the park.

Be it financial aid or know-how, “We all share a transboundary responsibility for the preservation of our World Heritage”, said Dr. Ing. Alexander Badrow, mayor of the Hanseatic City of Stralsund. “All of the projects we support are located outside of Germany.”

“Furthermore, it is important for us to share our experiences and support potential World Heritage sites to make it on the World Heritage List”, explains Thomas Beyer, mayor of the Hanseatic City of Wismar.

Stralsund and Wismar have shared the World Heritage title since 2002. “With our Foundation, we collaborate globally. We share experiences and thereby support the protection of our World Heritage worldwide”, both mayors agree.

The German World Heritage Foundation cooperates with the German Commission for UNESCO. Projects are financed entirely from the donations via the Foundation endowment.

Are you interested in finding out more about efforts to preserve our World Heritage? Would you like to donate to the Foundation? Perhaps you have an idea for a project that requires our assistance? We look forward to hearing from you at the German World Heritage Foundation.



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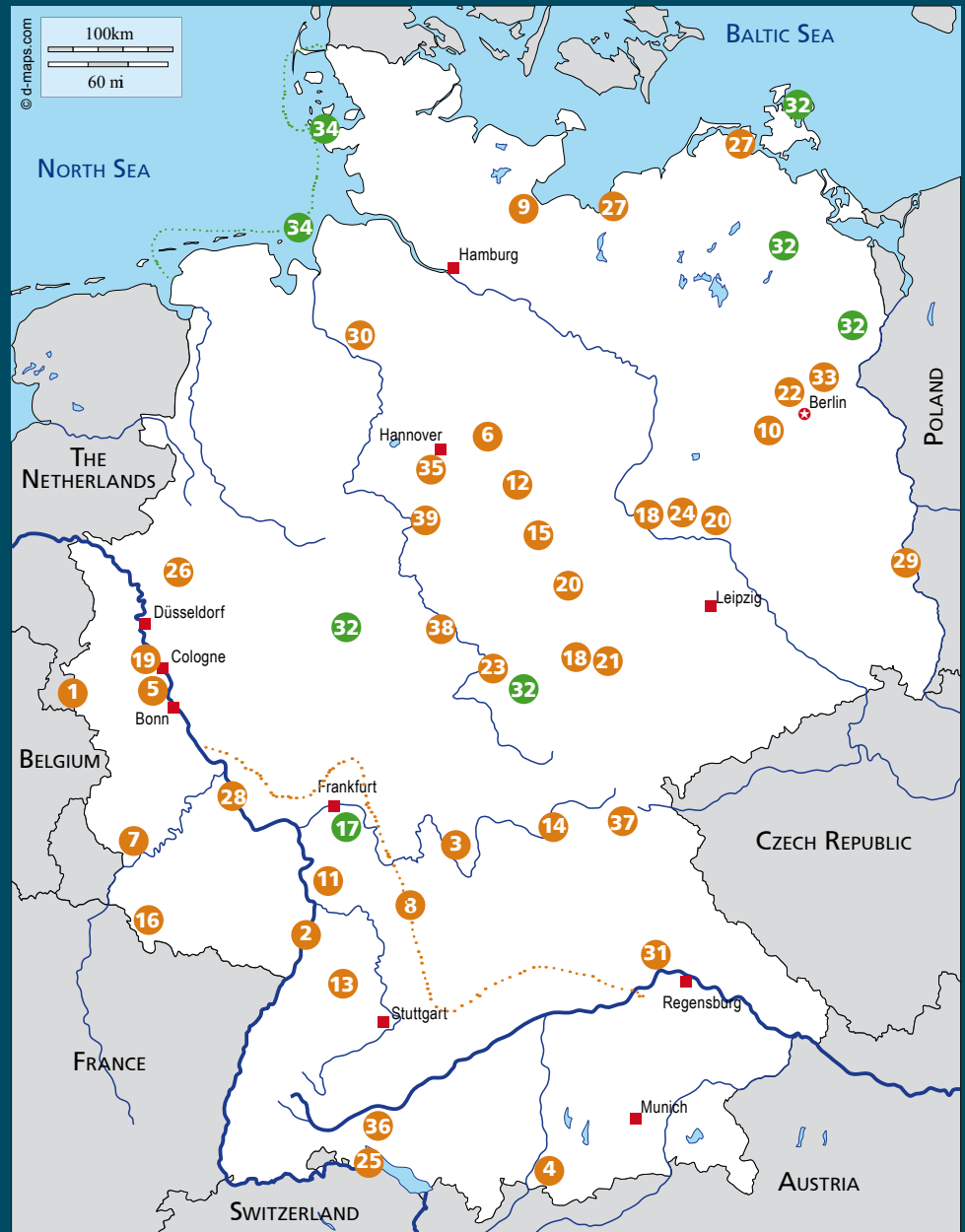
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Cultural Organization



Historic Centres of  
Stralsund and Wismar  
World Heritage Site since 2002

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Special Issue German World Heritage sites

# German World Heritage sites



Museumsinsel (Museum Island), Berlin.

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### Aachen Cathedral (1978)

Aachen Cathedral was the first site in Germany to be inscribed on the World Heritage List. Built in the last decade of the 8th century, the cathedral is of world importance in terms of history of art and architecture, and is one of the great examples of church architecture. The final resting place of Charlemagne, it was also where German emperors were crowned for 600 years.

Charlemagne's ambition was to create a new Rome when he made Aachen the centre of his empire around the year 800. The imperial palace's chapel – the oldest part of

the cathedral today – was to be the religious centre. The mighty octagonal domed building is now thought to have been built in a mere ten years. A unifying architectural masterpiece, it brought together forms from the eastern and western parts of the Holy Roman Empire. Charlemagne was buried in the Palatine chapel following his death in 814. His sarcophagus can be found in the Gothic chancel, near the still-intact imperial throne. Containing exquisite relics from late antiquity and medieval times, the cathedral treasury in the cloister is one of the finest in Europe. It also features artefacts such as the silver and

gold bust of Charlemagne and the Cross of Lothair dating from around 1000, which is still shown to faithful followers as a liturgical object on major religious holidays. Since the Middle Ages, the cathedral along with its relics has become increasingly important as a pilgrimage site. However, it was the imperial coronations that kept Aachen at the centre of world politics over the centuries. More than thirty German kings were crowned here between 936 and 1531 – in a building that could hardly be more solemn and majestic, and that makes every visit to the former imperial city of Aachen memorable.



© H.-J. Aubert

## Speyer Cathedral (1981)

The imperial cathedral in Speyer, officially known as the Cathedral of St Mary and St Stephen, is the town's most prominent landmark. Laid out in the form of a Latin cross, it is one of Germany's largest and most important Romanesque buildings, and was intended to be no less than the largest church in the Western world when building work began in 1030.

Speyer Cathedral in the Rhineland-Palatinate region, a basilica with four towers and two domes, was founded as a flat-ceiling basilica by Konrad II in 1030, probably soon after his imperial coronation. It was rebuilt by Henry IV, following his reconciliation with the pope in 1077, as the first and largest consistently vaulted church building in Europe. The cathedral was the burial place of the German emperors for almost 300 years. Speyer Cathedral is historically, artistically and architecturally one of the most significant examples of Romanesque architecture in Europe.

The cathedral is an expression and self-portrayal of the abundance of imperial power during the Salian period and was built in conscious competition to the Abbey of Cluny as the building representative of the papal opposition. The Cathedral incorporates the general layout of St Michael of Hildesheim and brings to perfection a type of plan that was adopted generally throughout the Rhineland. This plan is characterized by the equilibrium of the eastern and western blocks and by the symmetrical and singular placement of the towers which frame the mass formed by the nave and the transept. Speyer Cathedral is the first known structure to be built with a gallery that encircles the



© Gunnar Ries

whole building. The system of arcades added during these renovations was also a first in architectural history. In its size and the richness of its sculptures, it stands out among all contemporary and later Romanesque churches in Germany, and it had a profound influence on the pattern of their ground plans and vaulting. Today – after the destruction of the Abbey of Cluny – Speyer Cathedral is the biggest Romanesque church in the world. Likewise its crypt is the biggest hall of the Romanesque era. In

1689 the cathedral was seriously damaged by fire. The reconstruction of the west bays of the nave, as an almost archaeologically exact copy of the original structure, can be regarded as one of the first great achievements of monument preservation in Europe. The Westwork, rebuilt from 1854 to 1858 on the old foundations, is by contrast a testimony to Romanticism's interpretation of the Middle Ages, and as such an independent achievement of the 19th century.



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© Heribert Pohl

### Würzburg Residence with the Court Gardens and Residence Square (1981)

Located in southern Germany, the sumptuous Würzburg Residence was built and decorated in the 18th century by an international corps of architects, painters, sculptors and stucco workers under the patronage of two successive Prince Bishops, Johann Philipp Franz and Friedrich Karl von Schönborn.

The residence was essentially constructed between 1720 and 1744, the interior decorated from 1740 to 1770 and

landscaped with magnificent gardens from 1765 to 1780. It testifies to the ostentation of the two Prince Bishops, and as such illustrates the historical situation of one of the most brilliant courts of Europe during the 18th century. The most renowned architects of the period – the Viennese Lukas von Hildebrandt, and the Parisians Robert de Cotte and Germain Boffrand – drew up the plans. They were supervised by the official architect of the Prince Bishop, Balthasar Neumann, who was assisted by Maximilian von Welsch, the architect of the Elector of Mainz. Sculptors and stucco-workers came

from Italy, Flanders and Munich. The Venetian painter Giovanni Battista Tiepolo frescoed the staircase and the walls of the Imperial Hall. Working in creative collaboration, these artists of different nationality and language produced what became known as Würzburg Rococo, the most Italianate of all variations on this style in Germany.

The residence gives consummate testimony to the imposing courtly and cultural life of the feudalistic era of the 18th century, but at the same time its varied role today is an example of modern utilization and preservation as a monument of a historical structure.



© H.-J. Aubert

## Pilgrimage Church of Wies (1983)

The Pilgrimage Church of the Scourged Saviour at the foot of the Alps is considered a perfect example of Bavarian Rococo architecture.

The sanctuary of Wies, near Steingaden in Bavaria, is a pilgrimage church extraordinarily well-preserved in the beautiful setting of an Alpine valley, and is a perfect masterpiece of Rococo art and creative genius, as well as an exceptional testimony to a civilization that has disappeared.

The hamlet of Wies, in 1738, is said to have been the setting of a miracle in which tears were seen on a simple wooden figure of Christ mounted on a column that was no longer venerated by the Premonstratensian monks of the abbey. A wooden chapel constructed in the fields housed the

miraculous statue for some time. However, pilgrims from Germany, Austria, Bohemia and even Italy became so numerous that the Abbot of the Premonstratensians of Steingaden decided to construct a splendid sanctuary. As of 1745, one of the most polished creations of Bavarian Rococo was constructed in this pastoral setting in the foothills of the Alps under the direction of the celebrated architect, Dominikus Zimmermann. The choir was consecrated in 1749 and the remainder of the church finished by 1754.

The church, which is oval in plan, is preceded to the west by a semi-circular narthex. Inside, twin columns placed in front of the walls support the capriciously cut-out cornice and the wooden vaulting with its flattened profile; this defines a second interior volume where the light from the windows and the oculi is cleverly

diffused both directly and indirectly. To the east, a long deep choir is surrounded by an upper and a lower gallery.

A unique feature is the harmony between art and the countryside. All art forms and techniques used – architecture, sculpture, painting, stucco work, carving, ironwork, etc. – were melded by the architect into a perfect, unified whole, in order to create a diaphanous spatial structure of light and form. The exuberant interior decor is unparalleled in richness and refinement, with opulent stucco ornamentation by Dominikus Zimmermann and ceiling frescoes painted by his brother Johann Baptist Zimmermann, the court painter of the Bavarian Prince Elector. The gilded stucco garlands and the intricate *trompe-l'œil* fresco on the dome ceiling are masterpieces of human creativity and a moving testament to a deeply-held faith.



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© Paula Soler-Moya



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### Castles of Augustusburg and Falkenlust at Brühl (1984)

In Brühl, a small town in the Rhineland south of Cologne, architecture, sculpture, painting and garden design have been brought together to create a first-class ensemble.

Set in an idyllic garden landscape, Augustusburg Castle, the sumptuous residence of the prince-archbishops of Cologne, and the Falkenlust hunting lodge, a small rural folly, are among the earliest and best examples of 18th-century Rococo architecture in Germany, and directly linked to the great European architecture and art of unprecedented richness of the time.

In 1725, Clemens August of Bavaria, Prince-Elector and archbishop of Cologne, planned and constructed this large residence of Augustusburg at Brühl on the foundations of a medieval castle. It consists

of three wings built of brick with rough-cast rendering and has two adjoining orangeries. The staircase of Balthasar Neumann – considered a work of creative genius – is a rapturous structure which unites a lively movement of marble and stucco, jasper columns and caryatids, and culminates in the astonishing frescoed ceiling of Carlo Carlone. The central block, the wings of the parade, and the private apartments are organized in a hierarchy of effects of outstanding conception, while the 'bon enfant' decor of the new grand summer apartments, with its faience tiles from the Low Countries, opposes the 'official' programme.

The Castle of Falkenlust stands in its own small park. It was built by François de Cuvilliers between 1729 and 1737 for the Prince-Elector of Cologne to practise his favourite sport of falconry.

The main building is built in the style of a country house. It is flanked by two rectangular single-storey buildings, which originally housed the Prince-Elector's falcons.

The large gardens of Augustusburg and Falkenlust, laid out in a single campaign, both oppose and complement each other. At Falkenlust, the landscaping endeavours to create the randomness of a natural site. At Augustusburg, Dominique Girard (a pupil of Le Nôtre) multiplied monumental ramps and symmetrical flowerbeds. The core of the gardens, situated on the south side of the castle, is a two-part embroidery-like parterre that includes four fountains and the Mirror Pool fed by a small cascade. Alleys lined with lime trees flank the embroidery parterre and lead to triangular boscajes, as well as to the Castle of Falkenlust.

## St Mary's Cathedral and St Michael's Church at Hildesheim (1985)

St Mary's Cathedral and St Michael's Church at Hildesheim, near Hannover, are two outstanding examples of early Romanesque architecture.

The ancient Benedictine abbey church of St Michael in Hildesheim, built between 1010 and 1022 by Bernward, Bishop of Hildesheim, is one of the key monuments of medieval art and one of the rare major constructions in Europe around the turn of the millennium which still convey a unified impression of artistry, without having undergone any substantial mutilations or critical transformations in basic and detailed structures.

St Michael's Church was built on a symmetrical ground plan with two apses that was characteristic of Ottonian Romanesque art in Old Saxony. The harmony of the interior structure of St Michael's and its solid exterior is an exceptional achievement in architecture of the period. Of basilical layout with opposed apses, the church is characterized by its symmetrical design: the east and west choirs are each preceded by a transept which protrudes substantially from the side aisles. In the nave, the presence of square impost pillars alternating in an original rhythm with columns having cubic capitals creates a type of elevation which proved very successful in Ottonian and Romanesque art.

St Mary's Cathedral, rebuilt after the fire of 1046, still retains its original crypt. The nave arrangement, with the familiar alternation



© Barnyz

of two consecutive columns for every pillar, was modelled after that of St Michael's, but its proportions are more slender.

The bronze doors of St Mary's, dating back to 1015, represent the events from the book of Genesis and the life of Christ, and the bronze column of St Michael dating from around 1020, with its spiral decor inspired by Trajan's Column, depicts scenes from the New Testament. These two exceptional castings are now preserved in the Cathedral of St Mary. Lastly, St Michael's displays the painted stuccos of the choir screen and the amazing ceiling: 27.6 m long and 8.7 m wide, depicting the Tree of Jesse, which

covers the nave. The ceiling, with its 1,300 pieces of wood, along with that of Zillis in Switzerland, is one of only two remaining examples of such an extremely vulnerable structure.

St Michael's interior, in particular the wooden ceiling and painted stucco-work, together with the treasures of St Mary's Cathedral – in particular its famous bronze doors and the Bernward bronze column – make the property of exceptional interest as examples of the Romanesque churches of the Holy Roman Empire. Together they are quite unique for the understanding of layouts used during the Romanesque era.



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### Roman Monuments, Cathedral of St Peter and Church of Our Lady in Trier (1986)

Founded as Augusta Treverorum in 16 BC, Trier is Germany's oldest town and a true monument to history. Trier, on the Moselle River, was a Roman colony from the 1st century AD and then a great trading centre in the beginning of the next century. It became one of the capitals of the Tetrarchy at the end of the 3rd century, when it was known as the 'second Rome'. The number and quality of the surviving monuments are an outstanding testimony to Roman civilization. There is no place north of the Alps where so many important Roman buildings and such a concentration of traces of Roman settlement have been preserved as in Trier, the 'Rome of the North'. In late classical times, Trier was one of the largest cities in the Roman Empire; it was the seat of the prefects of Gaul, Germania, Britannia and Hispania and after the imperial reforms of the Emperor Diocletian was the seat of the vice-emperor (Caesar) of the Western Empire.

While the structures built during the first and second centuries (Moselle Bridge, Barbara Baths, Porta Nigra and Igel Column) illustrate the richness of the commercial city from which the garrison towns and fortresses on the Rhine were supplied, the monumental buildings from the reign of Constantine (Imperial Baths, Aula Palatina, Cathedral) are a visible expression of the immensity of imperial power and the claim

to world domination made from the west of the empire for the last time before the eclipse of the classical era. Of the buildings preserved from classical times, at least two of those described above are unparalleled: the Porta Nigra, with its state of preservation and its architectural layout (the combination of a fortification with the features of palace architecture) is a unique construction that is unlike any of the other preserved Roman city gates. The monumental brick structure of the Basilica, with its lapidary form and the vast dimensions of its interior (the

largest known interior from classical times) was the embodiment of the seat (*sedes imperii*) and the power of the Roman Empire. One of the oldest church buildings in the Western world, the cathedral has been a witness to the Christian faith since Constantine made Christianity a tolerated and supported religion in his empire. Its architectural design unites elements of all the periods of classical, medieval and modern times, but has always been marked by the monumental concept that lies at its origins.



© Carmen Eisbär



## Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Upper German-Rhaetian Limes (1987/2005/2008)

The Roman Empire, in its territorial extent, was one of the greatest empires the world has known. Enclosing the Mediterranean world and surrounding areas, it was protected by a network of frontiers stretching from the Atlantic Coast in the west, to the Black Sea in the east, from central Scotland in the north to the northern fringes of the Sahara Desert in the south. Much of this frontier survives on and in the ground. It was largely constructed in the 2nd century AD when the empire reached its greatest extent. This frontier was in places a linear barrier, or a series of protected spaces, or in some cases a whole military zone.

The remains include the lines of the linear frontier, natural elements such as the sea, rivers and deserts, and networks of military installations and ancillary features

such as roads on, behind and beyond the frontier. Together the inscribed remains and those to be nominated in the future form an extensive relict cultural landscape which displays the unifying character of the Roman Empire, through its common culture, but also its distinctive responses to local geography and political and economic conditions

The part of the Roman Frontier known as the Upper German-Rhaetian Limes (Obergermanisch – Raetischer Limes) ran between Rheinbrohl on the Rhine and Eining on the Danube. It was constructed in stages from around AD 100 until the end of the 2nd century AD. The Upper German-Raetian Limes consists within its 550 km length of linear barriers, forts, watchtowers, and settlement zones around larger forts, where civilian populations who supported the military lived. It was abandoned during the second half of the 3rd century AD.

Much of this part of the Limes was an 'arbitrarily' drawn 'straight' line, defined precisely to the metre along that part of its course, which separated the Roman Empire from Germania Magna, and the Germanic peoples that it had failed to conquer. The Limes was not solely a military bulwark: it also defined economic and cultural limits, becoming a cultural divide between the Romanized world and the non-Romanized Germanic peoples.

It was drawn to enable the control of trade routes and to include within the empire agriculturally rich areas such as the Wetterau, the Nördlinger Ries and the rich limestone soils of the Frankish Alb. This divide continued to influence the development of the area long after the demise of the Roman Empire.

The Limes is part of the serial transnational World Heritage site that also encompasses Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall (United Kingdom).



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© Die Lübecker Museen

### Hanseatic City of Lübeck (1987)

Founded in 1143 on the Baltic coast of northern Germany, Lübeck was from 1230 to 1535 one of the principal cities of the Hanseatic League, a league of merchant cities which came to hold a monopoly over the trade of the Baltic Sea and the North Sea. The plan of the Old Town island of Lübeck, with its blade-like outline determined by two parallel routes of traffic running along the crest of the island, dates back to the beginnings of the city and attests to its expansion as a commercial centre of Northern Europe. To the west, the richest quarters with the trading houses and the homes of the rich merchants are located, and to the east, small commerce and artisans. The very strict socio-economic organization emerges through the singular disposition of the *Buden*, small workshops set in the back courtyards of the rich hares, to which access was provided through a narrow network of alleyways (*Gänge*). Lübeck has remained an urban monument characteristic of a significant historical structure even though the city was severely damaged during the Second World War. Almost 20 per cent was destroyed, including the most famous monumental complexes – the Cathedral of Lübeck, the churches of St Peter and St Mary, and especially the *Gründungsviertel*, the hilltop quarter where the gabled

houses of the rich merchants clustered. Selective reconstruction has permitted the replacement of the most important churches and monuments. Omitting the zones that have been entirely reconstructed, the World Heritage site includes three areas of significance in the history of Lübeck. The first area extends from the *Burgkloster*, a Dominican convent that contains the original foundations of the castle built by Count Adolf von Schauenburg on the *Buku* isthmus, in the north to the quarter of St Aegidien in the south. The *Koberg* site preserves an entire late 18th-century neighbourhood built around a public square bordered by two important monuments, the *Jakobi Church* and the *Heilig-Geist-Hospital*. The sections between the *Glockengiesserstrasse*

and the *Aegidienstrasse* retain their original layout and contain a remarkable number of medieval structures. Between the two large churches that mark its boundaries – the *Petri Church* to the north and the cathedral to the south – the second area includes rows of superb patrician residences from the 15th and 16th centuries. The enclave on the left bank of the *Trave*, with its salt storehouses and the *Holstentor*, reinforces the monumental aspect of an area that was entirely renovated at the height of the *Hansa* epoch, when Lübeck dominated trade in Northern Europe. Located at the heart of the medieval city, the third area around St Mary's Church, the *Town Hall* and the *Market Square* bear the tragic scars of the heavy bombing suffered during the Second World War.



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### Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (1990/1992/1999)

The cultural landscape with its parks and buildings was designed and constructed between 1730 and 1916 in a beautiful region of rivers, lakes and hills. The underlying concept of Potsdam was carried out according to Peter Joseph Lenné's plans, which he designed to transform the Havel landscape into the cultural landscape it is today. These designs still determine the layout of Potsdam's cultural landscape. They form an artistic whole, whose eclectic

nature reinforces its sense of uniqueness.

The Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (Sanssouci) represent a self-contained ensemble of architecture and landscape gardening in the 18th and 19th centuries.

This ensemble has its origin in the work of the most significant architects and landscape gardeners of their time in northern Germany – G. W. von Knobelsdorff, C. von Gontard, C. G. Langhans, K. F. Schinkel, P. J. Lenné and their collaborators. Together with highly imaginative sculptors, painters, craftsmen, building workers and gardeners,

they created Sanssouci, the New Garden, the Park of Babelsberg and other grounds in the surrounding area of Potsdam as an overall work of art of high quality and international standing.

The Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin also include buildings, parks, and designed spaces, such as the artificial Italian village of Bornstedt, the Babelsberg Observatory, the Russian colony Alexandrovka with the Kapellenberg, as well as Glienicke Park and the Peacock Island.



© SPSPG/LeoSeidel



© City of Lorsch / G. Lindemann

### Abbey and Altenmünster of Lorsch (1991)

The King's Hall at the former Lorsch Abbey in Hesse is a late Carolingian construction, probably built in the middle of the 9th century under Louis the German. Together with the other buildings and archaeological remains of the medieval abbey complex, it is the last remaining section of the Carolingian abbey still visible from above ground.

Apart from the Gothic gables and a few relics of past repairs and completion, this gatehouse is one of the very rare buildings from the Carolingian era whose original appearance is intact. It is a reminder of the past grandeur of an abbey founded around 764 during the reign of King Pippin, the father of Charlemagne, when it was a centre of power, spirituality and culture in

the Holy Roman Empire until well into the High Middle Ages. The monastery's zenith was probably in 876 when, at the death of Louis II the German, it became the burial place for the Carolingian kings of the Eastern part of the Frankish Realm.

The monastery once housed one of the largest libraries of the Middle Ages. The Lorsch Pharmacopoeia that dates from the late 8th century is seen as marking the beginnings of modern medicine, and has therefore been included in the Memory of the World Register. In the early Middle Ages, medicine was based on herbs and folk remedies. With its extensive herb garden, Lorsch Abbey was a renowned place of healing at this time.

The monastery flourished throughout the 11th century, but in 1090 was ravaged

by fire. In the 12th century, an expansive reconstruction was carried out. After Lorsch had been incorporated in the Electorate of Mainz (1232), it lost a large part of its privileges. The Benedictines were replaced first by Cistercians and later by Premonstratensians. Moreover, the church had to be restored after yet another fire and be adapted to changing liturgical needs. The glorious Carolingian establishment slowly deteriorated under the impact of the vagaries of politics and war: Lorsch was attached to the Palatinate in 1461, returned to Mainz in 1623, and incorporated in the Electorate of Hesse in 1803. Monastic life finished following the Protestant reformation of the Palatinate in 1556.



© H.-J. Aubert

### Mines of Rammelsberg, Historic Town of Goslar and Upper Harz Water Management System (1992/2010)

Documenting around 1,000 years of mining history, the Mines of Rammelsberg on the outskirts of the old town of Goslar in Lower Saxony were once the largest interconnected repositories of copper, lead and zinc ore in the world. Energy for the mine was supplied by the Upper Harz Water Management System, the world's foremost pre-industrial water management system for the mining industry.

The copper, lead and tin mines of Rammelsberg mountain were worked continuously from the 11th century until the 1980s. They bear outstanding testimony to mining installations and practices in Europe, both in terms of surface and underground remains, particularly from the Middle Ages

and the Renaissance period. Producing almost 30 million tonnes of ore, the Rammelsberg mines shaped the history and development of the town of Goslar in the Harz region. They also led Emperor Heinrich II to establish an imperial palace in Goslar. The first imperial assembly took place in 1009 and the town remained a royal seat for German kings and emperors until 1253. The town of Goslar played an important part in the Hanseatic League because of the richness of the Rammelsberg metal-ore veins. From the 10th to the 12th centuries it became one of the seats of the Holy Roman Empire. Its perfectly preserved historic centre, which dates back to the Middle Ages, is dominated by elegant guildhalls reflecting the wealth of the citizens, by the historical town hall and by some 1,500 timber-framed houses with ornamental carvings, from the 15th to the 19th centuries.

In 2010 the World Heritage site was expanded to include the remains of the Cistercian monastery of Walkenried and the mines of the Upper Harz, which bear testimony to the first attempts to systematically extract non-ferrous metal ores (including silver, lead, tin and copper) in Europe, and to develop water management systems for this purpose.

The Upper Harz water management system, considered a masterpiece of early mining and engineering artistry, consists of a large number of artificial ponds and ditches, with drains and underground shafts. Through its extensive surface area, it is one of the largest pre-industrial power supply facilities and bears testimony to the importance of the management and use of water for mining purposes, from the Middle Ages until the end of the 20th century.



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### Maulbronn Monastery Complex (1993)

Founded in 1147, the Cistercian Maulbronn Monastery in the south-west of Germany is considered the most complete and best-preserved medieval monastic complex north of the Alps. Surrounded by fortified walls, the main buildings were constructed between the 12th and 16th centuries and became a distinguishing feature of the surrounding landscape.

The basic medieval layout and structure of the central complex, which is typical of the Cistercian tradition, is virtually complete. The 13th-century buildings, in the transitional style of the Master of the

Paradise, provided a decisive stimulus for the development of Gothic architecture in Germany. In particular the monastery's church, mainly in Transitional Gothic style, had a major influence in the spread of Gothic architecture over much of northern and central Europe. The monastery courtyard is still surrounded by its towers, imposing living quarters and outbuildings and a defensive wall approximately 1 km long. Only the monks' refectory and the lay brethren's dormitories have undergone transformations since the Reformation. The triple-naved basilica, the oldest part of the complex, was consecrated in 1178. In the separate monks' chancel, the ninety-two

seats of the 15th-century choir stalls mark the perimeter of the monastery at that time.

The facilities needed to service a monastery of this size can be seen in the grounds with their adjoining agricultural fields and ingenious water management system which, along with the medieval cloister buildings, have also been preserved. The Cistercian Order was notable for its innovations in the field of hydraulic engineering, and this is admirably illustrated in the Maulbronn complex's elaborate system of reservoirs, irrigation canals and drains, used to provide water for the use of the community, fish farming and irrigating its extensive agricultural holdings.



© Barnyz



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### Town of Bamberg (1993)

A centre of imperial and episcopal power for almost a thousand years, Bamberg is located in the north of Bavaria. It represents a unique and superbly maintained masterpiece of urban design uniting medieval and Baroque architecture.

The well-preserved old town of Bamberg comprises three historical districts: the episcopal district on the hills, the island district and the market gardeners' district. All three are part of the UNESCO World Heritage site and provide a fascinating example of how central European towns were built up around the basic layouts established in the early Middle Ages.

Bamberg's history dates back to the year 1007, when Henry II (973–1024), Duke of Bavaria, became King of Germany and made Bamberg the seat of a bishopric. With the intention of creating a second Rome, he focused episcopal and sovereign power in the town. The term 'Franconian Rome' is used for Bamberg to this day – not least because the city was built on seven hills. During the Baroque period, Bamberg commissioned famous artists of the time to 'modernize' the city.

The historical town features more than 1,300 individual monuments from the 11th to the 18th centuries. With its four towers, the Imperial Cathedral of St Peter and

St George is the most prominent building. The cathedral houses the Bamberg Rider, the tomb of Pope Clemence II – the only papal grave north of the Alps – and the tomb of Emperor Henry II and his wife Empress Cunigunde. Other architectural highlights in the historical town include the Old Town Hall that was built in the river, the former fishing village 'Little Venice', the Baroque palace Böttingerhaus, the renaissance buildings of the Old Court, the former Benedictine monastery of St Michael and the market gardeners' district. Since the Middle Ages, urban gardening has played an important economic and cultural role in Bamberg.



© R. Rinkief



© City of Bamberg



© David Short

### Collegiate Church, Castle and Old Town of Quedlinburg (1994)

Quedlinburg was an important royal and imperial town in the Middle Ages as well as a prosperous trading town since then. With its historical layout and over 1,300 timber-framed houses of high quality from a period spanning six centuries, Quedlinburg is a fine example of a well-preserved medieval European town.

The extraordinary and worldwide cultural importance of Quedlinburg is based on the close link between its history and architecture, which is intertwined with that of the Saxonian-Ottonian ruling dynasty. Following the coronation of Henry I (876 to 936), the first German king from the Saxonian dynasty, the royal residence of Quedlinburg became the capital of the East Franconian German Empire. A visible

testimony to this dynasty is the Collegiate Church dedicated to St Servatius, which was one of the most highly esteemed churches of the empire during the Middle Ages. Its crypt, with cross vaults, capitals, tombs and murals, constitutes one of the most significant monuments in the history of art from the 10th to the 12th centuries. The crypt of the original building is included in the impressive church, which was built on a basilica floor plan from 1070 to 1129.

Quedlinburg is an outstanding example of Middle Ages history. It illustrates the typical development of a medieval town, originating from a castle village and several separate settlements. Its value as a monument of urban architecture is based on the preservation of the town wall of 1330, its surviving urban relations of the old parishes of St Aegidius, St Blasius, St Benedictus and St Nicolas, and the urban

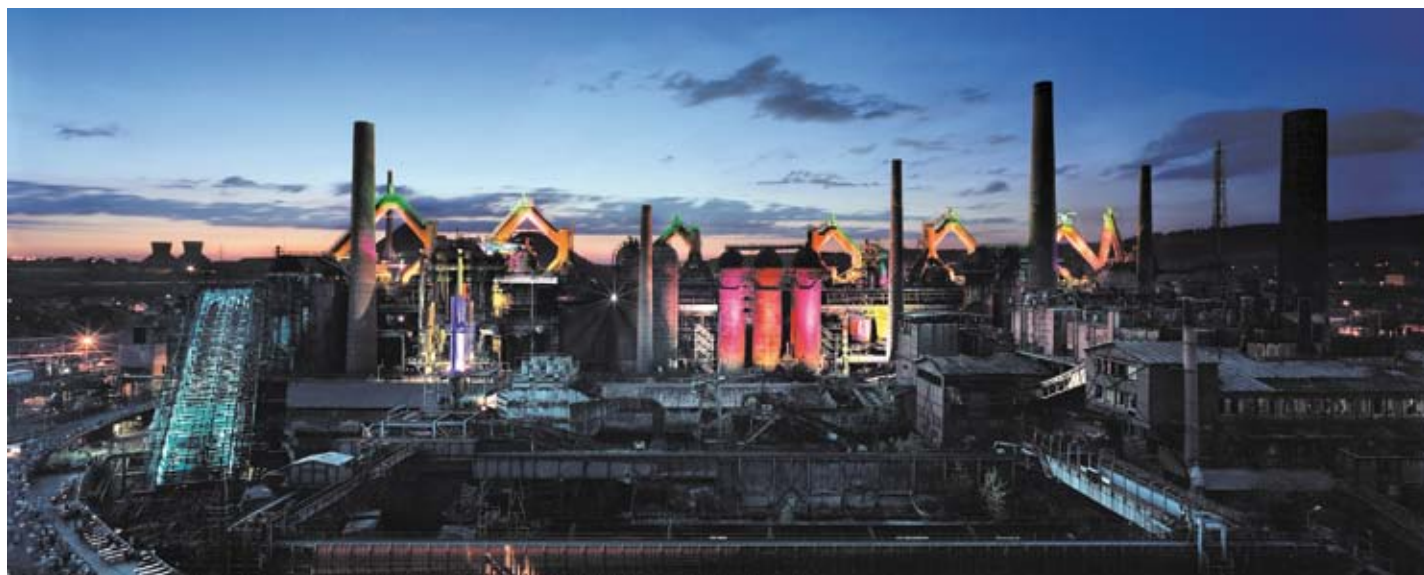
building patterns with medieval and post-medieval timber-framed houses.

The splendour of the metropolis of Quedlinburg from the 10th to the 12th centuries can be seen in the buildings on the castle hill. The ground plan and very likely some original pieces inside the houses have survived from the surrounding residential town of that time. The market settlement with merchants and craftsmen to the west, and later to the north, of the castle hill combined with smaller settlements to form the town of Quedlinburg. Its foundation and development until the 18th century under the rule of the imperial foundation contributed significantly to the town's overall structure and appearance. Quedlinburg experienced an economic boom during and immediately after the Thirty Years' War, and as a result, more timber-framed houses were built from 1620 to 1720 than in any comparable town in the region.



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### Völklingen Ironworks (1994)

The Völklingen Ironworks in western Germany close to the border with France are the world's only surviving smelting works from the Golden Age of the iron and steel industry in the 19th and 20th centuries. The ironworks cover 6 ha and are a unique monument to pig-iron production in Western Europe. No other historic blast-furnace complex has survived that demonstrates the entire process of pig-iron production in the same way, with the same degree of authenticity and completeness, and is underlined by such a series of technological milestones in innovative engineering. The Völklingen monument illustrates the industrial history of the 19th century in general and also the transnational

Saar-Lorraine-Luxembourg industrial region in the heart of Europe in particular. The ironworks are a synonym for and a symbol of human achievement during the First and Second Industrial Revolutions in the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries.

The iron-making complex dominates the townscape of Völklingen. It contains installations covering every stage in the pig-iron production process, from raw materials handling and processing equipment for coal and iron ore to blast-furnace iron production, with all the ancillary equipment, such as gas purification and blowing equipment.

The installations are exactly as they were when production ceased in 1986. The overall appearance is that of an ironworks from the 1930s, since no new installations

were added after the rebuilding of the coking plant in 1935. There is considerable evidence of the history of the works in the form of individual items that have preserved substantial elements of their original form. Large sections of the frames and platforms of the blast furnaces, for example, have not been altered since their installation at the turn of the 19th to 20th centuries. Much of the original coking plant survives, despite the 1935 reconstruction, notably the coal tower of 1898. Six of the gas-blowing engines, built between 1905 and 1914, are preserved, as are the suspended conveyer system of 1911 and the dry gas purification plant of the same time. In addition, remains of Buch's puddle ironworks of 1873 are preserved in the power station below the blast furnaces.



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### Messel Pit Fossil Site (1995)

Messel Pit provides the single best fossil site which contributes to the understanding of evolution and past environments during the Palaeogene, a period which saw the emergence of the first modern mammals. The property includes a detailed geological record of middle Eocene age, dating from 47 to 48 million years ago, when the area consisted of a volcanic lake surrounded by a tropical forest. It provides unique information about the early stages of the evolution of mammals and is exceptional in the quality of preservation, quantity and diversity of fossils of over 1,000 species of plants and animals, ranging from more than thirty fully articulated skeletons to feathers, skin, hair and stomach contents. Especially well known are the remains of prehistoric horses such as the Eurohippus.

Located in the German Land of Hesse, this area of just 42 ha conserves a rich fossiliferous bed of oil shale some 190 m thick. Discovered through mining activities, the area has now been preserved and has been the subject of important

palaeontological research, which has greatly contributed to our knowledge of evolutionary history. Significant scientific discoveries include studies of the evolution of echolocation in exceptionally well-

preserved fossil bats and vital new data on the evolution of primates, birds and insects.

Today, the fossil site benefits from a modern interpretation and visitor centre.



© Georg Sander



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### Cologne Cathedral (1996)

Begun in 1248, the building of this Gothic masterpiece took place in several stages and was not completed until 1880. Over seven centuries, its successive builders were inspired by the same faith and by a spirit of absolute fidelity to the original plans.

Apart from its exceptional intrinsic value and the artistic masterpieces it contains, Cologne Cathedral bears witness to the strength and endurance of European Christianity. No other Cathedral is so perfectly conceived, so uniformly and uncompromisingly executed in all its parts.

Cologne Cathedral is a High Gothic five-aisled basilica, with a projecting transept and a tower façade. The western section,

nave and transept begun in 1330, changes in style, but this is not perceptible in the overall building. The 19th-century work follows the medieval forms and techniques faithfully, as can be seen by comparing it with the original medieval plan on parchment. The original liturgical appointments of the choir are still extant to a considerable degree. These include the high altar with an enormous monolithic slab of black limestone, believed to be the largest in any Christian church, the carved oak choir stalls, the painted choir screens, the fourteen statues on the pillars in the choir, and the great cycle of stained-glass windows, the largest existing cycle of early 14th-century windows in Europe. There is also an outstanding series of

tombs of twelve archbishops between 976 and 1612. Of the many works of art in the cathedral, special mention should be made to the Gero Crucifix of the late 10th century, in the Chapel of the Holy Cross, which was transferred from the pre-Romanesque predecessor of the present cathedral, and the Shrine of the Magi, in the choir, which is the largest reliquary shrine in Europe. Other artistic masterpieces are the altarpiece of St Clare in the north aisle, brought here in 1811 from the destroyed cloister church of the Franciscan nuns, the altarpiece of the City Patrons by S. Lochner in the Chapel of Our Lady, and the altarpiece of St Agilolphus in the south transept.



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### **Bauhaus and its Sites in Weimar and Dessau (1996)**

Between 1919 and 1933, the Bauhaus School, based first in Weimar and then in Dessau, revolutionized architectural and aesthetic concepts and practices. The Bauhaus was a centre for new ideas and consequently attracted progressive architects and artists. The buildings created and decorated by the school's professors (Henry van de Velde, Walter Gropius, Hannes Meyer, Laszlo Moholy-Nagy and Wassily Kandinsky) launched the Modern Movement, which shaped much of the architecture of the 20th century and beyond. Component parts of the property are the Former Art School, the Applied Art School and the Haus am Horn in Weimar, the Bauhaus Building and the group of seven Masters Houses in Dessau.

The Bauhaus represents the desire to develop a modern architecture using

the new materials of that time such as reinforced concrete, glass and steel, and construction methods such as skeleton construction and glass façades. Based on the principle of function, the forms of the buildings refuse the traditional, historical symbols of representation. In a severely abstract process, the architectural forms – both the subdivided building structure and the individual structural elements – are reduced to their primary, basic forms; they derive their expression, characteristic of modernist architecture, from a composition of interpenetrating cubes in suggestive spatial transparency.

The Bauhaus School has become the symbol of modern architecture for both its educational theory and its buildings throughout the world and is inseparable from the name of Walter Gropius. The Bauhaus itself and the other buildings designed by the masters of the Bauhaus are

fundamental representatives of Classical Modernism and as such are essential components of the image of their period of the 20th century. Their consistent artistic grandeur is a reminder of the still uncompleted project for 'modernity with a human face', which has sought to use the technical and intellectual resources at its disposition not in a destructive way but to create a living environment worthy of human aspirations. For this reason, they are important monuments not only for art and culture, but also for the historic ideas of the 20th century. Even though the Bauhaus philosophy of social reform turned out to be little more than wishful thinking, its utopia became reality through the form of its architecture. Its direct accessibility still has the power to fascinate and belongs to the people of all nations as their cultural heritage.



© H.-J. Aubert

### Luther Memorials in Eisleben and Wittenberg (1996)

The Luther Memorials in Eisleben and Wittenberg, located in the State of Saxony-Anhalt in the centre of Germany, are deeply associated with the lives of Martin Luther and his fellow reformer Philipp Melanchthon.

Eisleben was where Martin Luther was born on 10 November 1483 and where he died on 18 February 1546 while travelling. The house of Luther's birth was turned into a memorial site as early as 1693, and is Germany's first ever museum devoted to just one single person and one of the oldest museums in the world. The house of Luther's death has been a memorial place since 1726. From 1863, the house was in the keeping of the Prussian state; in the decades thereafter, it was refurbished as a place of commemoration.

Wittenberg is home of the Luther House: from 1511 and for the duration of his time in Wittenberg – including after he married in 1525 – Luther lived in the Augustinian monastery, both as a monk and later a professor. The monastery was where he made his famous 'reformatory discovery', where he held lectures to students from all over Europe and where he wrote the works that were to change the world. His household became the centre for reformists from all over Europe, and Luther's Room – which has been a memorial site since the 17th century – was the setting for his 'table talks', which were later to be published.

Sites in Wittenberg also include Melanchthon's house, the Town Church

with its striking Cranach altar where Luther served as a preacher, and the Castle Church where Luther posted his famous '95 Theses' on 31 October 1517, launching the Reformation and a new era in the religious and political history of the Western world.

As authentic settings of decisive events in the Reformation and the life of Martin Luther, the memorials in Eisleben and Wittenberg have an outstanding significance for the political, cultural and spiritual life of the Western world that extends far beyond German borders.



© Paula Soler-Moya



© Weimar GmbH

### Classical Weimar (1998)

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Weimar, a small town in Thuringia, witnessed a remarkable cultural flowering and became the centre of intellectual life in Germany, attracting many writers and scholars, notably Goethe (1749–1832) and Schiller (1759–1805).

The town's heyday is reflected in the high quality of many buildings and parks in the surrounding area. It was in the lifetime of Duchess Anna Amalia that Weimar's Classical period began. She appointed the poet Christoph Martin Wieland as tutor to her sons. It was after Carl August had succeeded to the Duchy that Johann Wolfgang Goethe settled in the town. Johann Gottfried Herder came to Weimar in the following year. The high point of the town's cultural influence resulted from the

creative relationship between Goethe and Friedrich Schiller that began in 1794 and was intensified when Schiller moved to Weimar.

Important reminders of Classical Weimar include the Baroque house on Frauenplan that was Goethe's home for almost fifty years. The house has largely maintained its state of the final years of Goethe's life. Goethe's Garden House in the park on the River Ilm was a gift from Duke Carl August to tie the poet to Weimar – and it was always to remain his sanctuary in the midst of nature. The name of Friedrich Schiller is also inextricably linked with Weimar. The writer spent the final years of his life in a town house on what was then the Weimar esplanade. The philosopher and theologian Johann Gottfried Herder came to Weimar at the insistence of Goethe. The garden of

his home and the town church in which he worked as a priest can still be visited in Weimar today. With literary works spanning the 9th to the 21st centuries, the Duchess Anna Amalia Library is a true temple to knowledge, with the famous Rococo Hall at its heart.

The World Heritage site comprises twelve separate buildings and ensembles: Goethe's House and Goethe's Garden and Garden House; Schiller's House; Herder Church, Herder House and Old High School; Residence Castle and Ensemble Bastille; Dowager's Palace (Wittumspalais); Duchess Anna Amalia Library; Park on the Ilm with the Roman House; Belvedere Castle and Park with Orangery; Ettersburg Castle and Park; Tiefurt Castle and Park; and Historic Cemetery with Princes' Tomb.

## Wartburg Castle (1999)

Wartburg Castle is perched at a height of some 400 m above the delightful countryside, south of the city of Eisenach in Thuringia in central Germany. Wartburg Castle blends superbly into its forest surroundings and is in many ways 'the ideal castle'. Its varied aspect and the sense of harmony it evokes are only two of its attractions for visitors. Although it contains some sections of great antiquity, it acquired the current layout over the course of 19th-century reconstructions. This renewal of interest was justified by its symbolic nature for the German people. Its current state is a splendid example of what this fortress might have been at the peak of its military and seigneurial power.

From the very earliest days of its existence, this fortress of the Landgraves of Thuringia has repeatedly acted as a venue for and witness of historic events and

activities worthy of renown as a monument to national and world history.

Lutherans the world over know of the castle as the very place where Martin Luther made his translation of the Bible. The veneration of Saint Elizabeth, which extends far beyond the frontiers of Germany, includes Wartburg Castle where she lived and worked. The patronage of Hermann I, Landgrave of Thuringia, occupies an extraordinary place in the creation of a national literary tradition. In poetry and in legends, Wartburg Castle, the medieval Court of the Muses, bears an undying reputation through the names of Walther von der Vogelweide and Wolfram von Eschenbach. While these authors represented the first steps in German literature, and Martin Luther's translation of the New Testament marked the creation of a unified and accessible written German language, Wartburg Castle is

also associated with the beginnings of a bourgeois and democratic nation, through the content and effects of the Wartburg festival of German students' associations.

The artistic and architectural importance of the palace, built in the second half of the 12th century, is no less significant. In execution and ornamentation, it is unrivalled and represents one of the best-preserved secular constructions from the late Norman period to be found on German soil. Thanks to this broad range of religious content and historic data, and because of its significance in the history of the arts, Wartburg Castle attracts around half a million visitors every year, from all over the world.

What makes the castle such a magnet for memory, tradition and pilgrimage is that it stands as a monument to the cultural history of Germany, Europe and beyond.



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### Museumsinsel (Museum Island), Berlin (1999)

The Berlin Museumsinsel is an ensemble of individual museums of outstanding historical and artistic importance located in the heart of the city. The five museums, built between 1824 and 1930 by the most renowned Prussian architects, represent the realization of a visionary project and the evolution of the approaches to museum design over this seminal century. The Museum of the Ancient World was built from 1824 to 1828 to designs by Karl Friedrich Schinkel as the first public museum in Prussia, followed by the New Museum in 1859, the Old National Gallery in 1876, the Bode Museum in 1904 and the Pergamon Museum in 1930. They form a unique complex that serves purely museological

purposes and constitutes a town-planning highlight in the urban fabric as a kind of city crown.

The cultural value of the Museumsinsel is linked with its historic role in the conception and development of a certain type of building and ensemble, that of the modern museum of art and archaeology. In this respect the Berlin Museumsinsel is one of the most significant and impressive ensembles in the world.

The Museumsinsel of Berlin is a remarkable realization of an urban public forum which has the symbolic value of the Acropolis, and which displays a rare planning and architectural continuity. The urban and architectural values of the Museumsinsel are inseparable from the important collections that the five

museums house, which bear witness to the evolution of civilization, with treasures such as the Ishtar Gate, the Pergamon Altar, the Market Gate of Miletus and the bust of Nefertiti.

The connection is a direct one, as the architectural spaces in the museums were designed in an organic relationship with the collections on display, whether incorporated as parts of the interior design or framed and interpreted.

Post-reunification of Germany, the collections that had been dispersed between East and West Berlin were gradually reunited. Also, the New Museum that, after the war, had been left as a ruin for around sixty years was restored and rebuilt by British star architect David Chipperfield.



## Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz (2000)

As the first English-style landscape garden in mainland Europe, the Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz, located in Saxony-Anhalt, is an exceptional example of landscape design and planning from the Age of the Enlightenment in the 18th century. Its diverse components – the outstanding buildings, English-style landscaped parks and gardens, and subtly modified expanses of agricultural land – served aesthetic, educational and economic purposes in an exemplary manner.

For Prince Leopold III Friedrich Franz of Anhalt-Dessau (1740–1817) and his friend and adviser Friedrich Wilhelm von Erdmannsdorff, the study of landscape gardens in England and ancient buildings in Italy during several tours was the impetus for their own creative programme in the little principality by the Elbe and Mulde rivers.

Over a period of forty years a network of visual and stylistic relationships was developed with other landscape gardens in the region, leading to the creation of a garden landscape on a unique scale in Europe. In the making of this landscape, the designers strove to go beyond the mere copying of garden scenery and buildings from other sites, but instead to generate a synthesis of a wide range of artistic relationships.

As an adherent of the Enlightenment, the prince used the art of landscape gardening to give expression to political views. Many of the structures and statues were designed as didactic elements for the moral improvement of the observer. Proceeding from the idea of the *ferme ornée*, agriculture as the basis for everyday life found its place in the garden landscape. Another feature of the landscape is the integration of new technological achievements, an expression of a continuing quest for modernity. In parts of the Baroque park of Oranienbaum, an Anglo-Chinese

garden was laid out, now the sole surviving example in Europe of such a garden in its original form from the period before 1800.

Schloss Wörlitz was the first neoclassical building in German architectural history. The Gothic House had a decisive influence on the development of Gothic Revival architecture in central Europe. For the first time, the Gothic style was used to carry a political message, namely the desire for the retention of sovereignty among the smaller imperial territories.

Through the conscious and structured incorporation of economic, technological and functional buildings and parks into the artistically designed landscape, the Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz became an important concourse of ideas. The reforming outlook of this period brought about a huge diversity of change in the garden layout, and this legacy can still be experienced today. The property can thus be seen as a designed and constructed philosophy.



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### Monastic Island of Reichenau (2000)

The Monastic Island of Reichenau on Lake Constance in south-west Germany represents a masterpiece of human creative genius as the ensemble of the three churches on the monastic island constitutes an exceptional example of an integrated group of medieval churches retaining elements of Carolingian, Ottonian and Salian architecture that are relevant to the history of architecture.

The Benedictine monastery was an important artistic centre of its time, superbly illustrated by its monumental wall paintings and its illuminations, and is of

great significance to art history in Europe of the 10th and 11th centuries.

The crossing, transepts and chancel of the Carolingian cruciform basilica of Mittelzell, consecrated in 816, are exceptional both in their size and their excellent state of conservation, and constitute a major example of this particular type of crossing in Europe. Equally important are the surviving parts of the Carolingian monastery with a heating system modelled according to ancient Roman examples. The transepts and apse of the church of St Mary and Mark (1048), linked to the Carolingian parts by the nave, are equally important to the history of European architecture. The wall paintings in the apse of

the church of St Peter and Paul at Niederzell are of exceptional quality. The wall paintings decorating the nave of the church of St George at Oberzell are artistically outstanding and constitute the only example of a complete and largely preserved set of pre-1000 scenic wall paintings north of the Alps.

The monastic tradition can still be seen today in the unique religious festivals and processions that take place on the island.

The unique Reichenau manuscripts of the High Middle Ages, with their narrative illustrations of the New Testament and the lives of Jesus and the Gospels, are recognized in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.



© Stiftung Zollverein/Jochen Tack

### Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex in Essen (2001)

The Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex in Essen is an important example of a European primary industry of great economic significance in the 19th and 20th centuries. It consists of the complete installations of a historical coal-mining site: the pits, coking plants, railway lines, pit heaps, miner's housing and consumer and welfare facilities. The mine is especially noteworthy for the high architectural quality of its buildings of the Modern Movement.

Zollverein XII was created at the end of a phase of political and economic upheaval and change in Germany, which was represented aesthetically in the transition from Expressionism to Cubism and Functionalism. The architects Fritz Schupp and Martin Kemmer developed Zollverein XII in the graphic language of the Bauhaus as a group of buildings that combined form and function in a masterly way.

At the same time, Zollverein XII embodies this short economic boom between the two World Wars, which has gone down in history as the 'Roaring Twenties'. Zollverein is also, and by no means least, a monument of industrial history reflecting an era, in which, for the first time, globalization

and the worldwide interdependence of economic factors played a vital part.

Coal was mined and processed here for 135 years, before the mine was decommissioned in 1986. Founded in 1998, the Zollverein Foundation very quickly dedicated its attention to repurposing the complex and preserving the industrial monument. Today's Zollverein heritage

trail informs visitors about the modernists of the 1920s and 1930s, the development of heavy industry and how 'black gold' was processed in the former separation plant, the coal bunkers and the coal washery, massive machines and conveyor belts, seemingly endless rows of coke ovens and six imposing chimneys.



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© Uwe Schwarzbach

### Historic Centres of Stralsund and Wismar (2002)

Founded in the 13th century, the medieval towns of Wismar and Stralsund, on the Baltic coast of northern Germany, represent different but complementary trading structures as leading centres of the Wendish section of the Hanseatic League from the 13th to the 15th centuries.

Both cities have retained their medieval ground plan with street network, system of streets and squares, area and plot structure in an almost unaltered state. Whereas the ground plan of Stralsund is a fine example of

a maritime town dominated by long-distance trading, Wismar has the ground plan of a maritime town which, in addition to long-distance trade, is particularly characterized by the export trade. The preserved architectural substance of Stralsund and Wismar is rich in examples of the Hanseatic era which, in their variety and architectural complexity, are vivid documents of the political and economic importance as well as the extraordinary wealth of the towns in the Middle Ages. In particular, the group of six monumental brick churches forms a unique cross-section of the famous religious

architecture of the Hanseatic towns in the southern Baltic region. This family of Gothic brick basilicas has a unique density and quality that had a lasting influence on Northern European architecture. The many buildings from the Baroque era reflect the outstanding position that both towns had in the 17th and the 18th centuries: as fortified towns of European rank, they had close links to the kingdom of Sweden and became major administrative and defence centres, contributing to the development of military art and integrating another layer of cultural influences.



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### Upper Middle Rhine Valley (2002)

The Rhine is one of the world's great rivers and has witnessed many crucial events in human history. The stretch of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley between Bingen and Koblenz is in many ways an exceptional expression of this long history. This cultural landscape has served as a link between southern and northern Europe since prehistoric times, enabling trade and cultural exchange, which in turn led to the establishment of settlements. The strategic location of this dramatic 65 km stretch of the Rhine Valley as a transport artery and the prosperity that it engendered is reflected in its sixty small towns, the extensive terraced vineyards and the ruins of castles that once defended its trade. Condensed into a very small area, these

subsequently joined up to form chains of villages and small towns.

The geomorphology of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley, moreover, is such that the river has over the centuries fostered a cultural landscape of great beauty which has strongly influenced artists of all kinds – poets, painters and composers – over the past two centuries.

The property extends from the Bingen Gate (Binger Pforte), where the River Rhine flows into the deeply gorged, canyon section of the Rhine Valley, through the 15 km long Bacharach valley, with smaller V-shaped side valleys, to Oberwesel where there is a transition from soft clay-slates to hard sandstone.

In a series of narrows, the most famous of which is the Loreley, no more than 130 m wide (and at 20 m the deepest section

of the Middle Rhine), and then up to the Lahnstein Gate (Lahnsteiner Pforte), where the river widens again into the Neuwied Valley. The property also includes the adjoining middle and upper Rhine terraces (Upper Valley) which bear witness to the course taken by the river in ancient times.

The landscape is punctuated by some forty hill-top castles and fortresses erected over a period of around 1,000 years. Abandonment and later the wars of the 17th century left most as picturesque ruins. The later 18th century saw the growth of sensibility towards the beauties of nature, and the often dramatic physical scenery of the Middle Rhine Valley, coupled with the many ruined castles on prominent hilltops, made it appeal strongly to the Romantic movement, which in turn influenced the form of much 19th-century restoration and reconstruction.

## Town Hall and Roland on the Marketplace of Bremen (2004)

The Town Hall and Roland on the marketplace of Bremen in north-west Germany are an outstanding representation of the civic autonomy and market rights as they developed in the Holy Roman Empire in Europe. Along with the Roland statue, the town hall still stands as a reminder of the pride that the locals have for their city, their freedom and their sovereignty.

The Old Town Hall was built as a Gothic hall structure in the early 15th century, and renovated in the so-called Weser Renaissance style in the early 17th century. A New Town Hall was built next to the old one in the early 20th century as part of an ensemble that survived the bombardments during the Second World War.

The Old Town Hall is a two-storey hall building with a rectangular floor plan. The ground floor is formed of one large hall with oak pillars and, in its time, served for merchants and theatrical performances. The upper floor has the main festivity hall of the same dimensions. Between the windows, there are stone statues representing the emperor and prince electors, which date from the original Gothic period, integrated with late Renaissance sculptural decoration symbolizing civic autonomy.

Underground, the town hall has a large wine cellar with one hall in the dimensions of the ground floor with stone pillars, which was later extended to the west and is now used as a restaurant. In the 17th century, the Town Hall was renovated, and out of the eleven axes of the colonnade the three middle ones were accentuated by



© Robin Tournadre

a bay construction with large rectangular windows and a high gable, an example of the so-called Weser Renaissance.

An elaborate sculptural decoration in sandstone was added to the façade, representing allegorical and emblematic depictions.

The New Town Hall was the result of an architectural competition, designed

by Gabriel von Seidl from Munich, and built between 1909 and 1913. The stone statue of Roland was initially erected in 1404 in representation of the Hanseatic freedom, rights and privileges of the free and imperial city of Bremen. The statue of Roland is associated with the Margrave of Brittany, a paladin of Charlemagne.



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### Muskauer Park / Park Mużakowski (2004) (transboundary with Poland)

The transboundary site of Muskauer Park / Park Mużakowski is an extensive landscape initially developed between 1815 and 1844 by Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau on the grounds of his estate, and continued by his student Eduard Petzold. Set harmoniously in the river valley of the Lusatian Neisse, the park's integration into the local town and surrounding agricultural landscapes heralded a new approach to landscape design and contributed to the advancement of landscape architecture as a discipline. The extensive site includes the River Neisse, on either side of today's German-Polish border, other water features, man-made and natural, bridges, buildings, forested areas and paths. It is an example of a cultural landscape in which the site's natural attributes have been harnessed with the utmost skill.

The park is of the highest aesthetic quality and its composition blends fluidly with the naturally formed river valley. Its essence is the visual relationship between the central residence, the New Castle, and a series of topographical focal points comprising ideal vantage points laid out along riverside terraces flanking the valley, each of which forms part of a masterfully fashioned network of vistas. Pückler incorporated man-made architectural elements into this network along with natural components, including the terrain's geological features. It is distinctive in its extraordinary simplicity and expansiveness.

Pückler laid the foundations of integrated landscape design with the extension of the

park into the town of Bad Muskau through green passages and urban parks. The incorporation of the community into the overall composition, as a key component in his planned utopian landscape, had a great impact on contemporary town planning, particularly in the United States (as illustrated by the green areas of the city of Boston) and on the development of the landscape architecture profession. Pückler published his principles of landscape

design theory in *Andeutungen über Landschaftsgärtnerei* (1834). Moreover, the training of landscape gardeners by Prince von Pückler and his student Eduard Petzold helped to create skill standards which influenced the work of other gardeners and planners. This training tradition has been revived in recent times by the creation of the Muskauer School, as an international school for the training in garden and cultural landscape maintenance.



© Stiftung Fürst Pückler Park Bad Muskau

## Old town of Regensburg with Stadtamhof (2006)

Located on the Danube, the Old town of Regensburg with Stadtamhof is an exceptional example of a central-European medieval trading centre, which illustrates an interchange of cultural and architectural influences. The property encompasses the city centre on the south side of the river, two long islands in the Danube, the so-called Wöhrde (from the old German word *waird*, meaning island or peninsula), and the area of the former charity hospital of St Katharina in Stadtamhof, a district incorporated into the city of Regensburg only in 1924. A navigable canal, part of the European waterway of the Rhine-

Main-Danube canal, forms the northern boundary of Stadtamhof.

A notable number of buildings of outstanding quality testify to its political, religious and economic significance from the 9th century. The historic fabric reflects some two millennia of structural continuity and includes ancient Roman, Romanesque and Gothic buildings. Regensburg's 11th- to 13th-century architecture still defines the character of the town marked by tall buildings, dark and narrow lanes, and strong fortifications. The buildings include medieval Patrician houses and towers, a large number of churches and monastic ensembles as well as the 12th-century Stone Bridge. Other places include the Krauterermarkt

square with the Collegiate Church of St John, the former cathedral deanery, the squares Dachauplatz, Neupfarrplatz, Alter Kornmarkt, Kohlenmarkt, Rathausplatz and Haidplatz, Porta Praetoria and the patrician towers.

The town is also remarkable as the site of imperial assemblies and as the seat of the Perpetual Imperial Diet general assemblies until the 19th century. Numerous buildings testify to its history as one of the centres of the Holy Roman Empire, like the Patrician towers, large Romanesque and Gothic church buildings and monasteries – St Emmeram, Alte Kapelle, Niedermünster and St Jakob – as well as St Peter's Cathedral and the Late Gothic town hall.



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### Berlin Modernism Housing Estates (2008)

Appearing between 1913 and 1934, Berlin's modernist housing estates, with their promise of 'light, air and sunshine' for residents and their clean lines, made them highly influential in 20th-century architecture and town planning.

The set of six housing estates in the Berlin Modernism Style provides outstanding testimony to the implementation of housing policies during the period 1910–1933 and especially during the Weimar Republic, when the city of Berlin was characterized by its political, social, cultural and technical progressiveness. The housing estates reflect, with the highest degree of quality,

the combination of urbanism, architecture, garden design and aesthetic research typical of early 20th-century modernism, as well as the application of new hygienic and social standards.

Contemporary, light-filled, welcoming, well-proportioned and above all affordable for ordinary people, these apartments with kitchens, bathrooms and balconies were innovative in their time and even today have retained their fresh feel. Until today, the timeless designs of Gartenstadt Falkenberg, the Schillerpark estate, Wohnstadt Carl Legien, the White City (Weisse Stadt), 'Siemens town' and the Britz estate (also known as the horseshoe estate because of the distinctive design

of its main building) make them popular places to live.

Some of the most prominent leading architects of German modernism were involved in the design and construction of the properties: the main architects responsible for the planning of the estates were Bruno Taut and Martin Wagner while star architects of the day, such as Hans Scharoun, Hugo Häring and Walter Gropius, were also involved. They developed innovative urban, building and flat typologies, technical solutions and aesthetic achievements. On the horseshoe estate, the 'Tauts Heim', built as a holiday home by lead architect Bruno Taut for himself, has recently been fully renovated with its 1920s-style fixtures and fittings.



© Berliner Bau und Wohnungsbaugenossenschaft 1892



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**Wadden Sea (2009, 2014)  
(transnational with the  
Netherlands and Denmark)**

The Wadden Sea is the largest unbroken system of intertidal sand and mud flats in the world, with natural processes undisturbed throughout most of the area. With over 1,100 km<sup>2</sup>, the site covers the German Wadden Sea National Parks of Lower Saxony, Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein, the Dutch Wadden Sea Conservation Area, and most of the Danish Wadden Sea Conservation Area. The Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation provides the overall framework and structure for integrated conservation and management of the property as a whole

and coordination among all three States Parties.

The Wadden Sea encompasses a multitude of transitional zones between land, the sea and freshwater environment: mussel beds, dense sea grass meadows and mudflats provide food for many animals, flowering salt marshes along the dykes and on the islands and Hallig islets give way to white sandy beaches and dunes.

Geologically, it is a very young area, only 10,000 years, and is constantly being reshaped by the winds and tides. High and low tide alternate every six hours, transforming the landscape as if by magic. The changing water levels make it possible to walk right out onto the mudflats and

across to the islands that lie just off the coast.

Over 10,000 species are especially adapted to the demanding environmental conditions. The Wadden Sea is considered one of the most important areas for migratory birds in the world, and is connected to a network of other key sites for migratory birds. It is important not only in the context of the East Atlantic Flyway but also in the critical role it plays in the conservation of African-Eurasian migratory waterbirds. In the Wadden Sea up to 6.1 million birds can be present at the same time, and an average of 10–12 million pass through it each year. Biodiversity on a global scale is reliant on the Wadden Sea.



© Common Wadden Sea Secretariat / J. van de Kam



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### Fagus Factory in Alfeld (2011)

Designed around 1910, the Fagus Factory in Alfeld is widely regarded as the first truly modernist structure foreshadowing that movement in architecture. Built by Walter Gropius, it is remarkable for the innovative use of walls of vast glass panels combined with an attenuated load-bearing structure, typical of the Neues Bauen style. It bears testimony to a major break with the existing architectural and decorative values of the period, and represents a determined move towards a functionalist industrial aesthetic.

The Fagus Factory in Alfeld establishes major fundamental aspects of modern functionalist architecture of the 20th century, in particular the use of curtain walls and vast glass panels. It constitutes a homogeneous, territorial and built complex, rationally and completely designed to serve an industrial project.

The scheme is at once architectural, aesthetic and social, and bears witness to a determination to achieve humanist control of the social and aesthetic changes linked to industrialization. The interior decorative

and functional elements are attuned with the architecture and the social project. They represent one of the first consummate manifestations of industrial design in an extraordinary architectural unity.

This timeless, elegant and futuristic-looking factory continues to serve its original purpose a hundred years on: production, including that of Fagus lasts for the shoe industry, has continued to this day.



© GRECON Fagus-Werk

## Prehistoric Pile dwellings around the Alps (2011) (transnational with Austria, France, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland)

The series of 111 out of the 937 known archaeological pile-dwelling sites in six countries around the alpine and sub-alpine regions of Europe is composed of the remains of prehistoric settlements dating from 5,000 BC to 500 BC which are situated under water, on lake shores, along rivers or in wetlands. The exceptional conservation conditions for organic materials provided by the waterlogged sites, combined with extensive underwater archaeological investigations and research in many fields of natural science, such as archaeobotany

and archaeozoology, over the past decades, has combined to present an outstanding detailed perception of the world of early agrarian societies in Europe. The precise information on their agriculture, animal husbandry, development of metallurgy, over a period of more than four millennia, coincides with one of the most important phases of recent human history: the dawn of modern societies.

In view of the possibilities for the exact dating of wooden architectural elements by dendrochronology, the sites have provided exceptional archaeological sources that allow an understanding of entire prehistoric villages and their detailed construction techniques and spatial development over very long time periods. They also reveal

details of trade routes for flint, shells, gold, amber and pottery across the Alps and within the plains, transport evidence from dugout canoes and wooden wheels, some complete with axles for two-wheeled carts dating from around 3,400 BC, some of the earliest preserved in the world, and the oldest textiles in Europe dating back to 3,000 BC. This cumulative evidence has provided a unique insight into the domestic lives and settlements of some thirty different cultural groups in the Alpine lacustrine landscape that allowed the pile dwellings to flourish.

In Germany, nine pile dwellings are located on the shores of Lake Constance in Baden-Württemberg, nine more are listed in Upper Swabia (Bavaria), south of Augsburg and at Lake Starnberg.



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## Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (2007/2011)

The Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany represent an outstanding example of undisturbed, complex temperate forests and exhibit the most complete and comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure stands of European beech across a variety of environmental conditions. They contain an invaluable genetic reservoir of beech and many species associated and dependent on these forest habitats.

Since 2011, the most valuable remnants of natural ancient beech forests in Germany form a transnational World Heritage site together with the 'Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians' in the Ukraine and the Slovak Republic that was inscribed in 2007. The five selected forest areas are located in the National Parks of Jasmund and Müritz in Mecklenburg-West Pomerania, Hainich in Thuringia, Kellerwald-Edersee in Hesse and the Biosphere Reserve of Schorfheide-Chorin in Brandenburg. These German components with their beech forests in the lowlands and central uplands are a perfect complement to the mountain beech forests located in the Carpathians. The transnational World Heritage site thus reflects the entire range of beech forest types from the seashore to the mountain timberline and at the most diverse locations within the core zone of beech distribution in Europe.

Jasmund represents the beech forests of the lowlands on lime and boulder clay. Beech forests, chalk cliffs and sea form a fascinating backdrop. The beech forest appears to be literally plunging into the sea at the chalk cliff. The harsh coastal climate and the interaction of topography and climate lead to a broad range of different beech forest communities, which are interspersed with streams and moors. The Serrahn part of Müritz National Park in the midst of an extended forest and lake landscape gives an idea of what the German lowland beech forests once looked like. Lakes and moors enrich the forest landscape, create a rich diversity of habitats and form the basis for abundant biodiversity.

The Biosphere Reserve Schorfheide-Grumsin comprises the largest still-

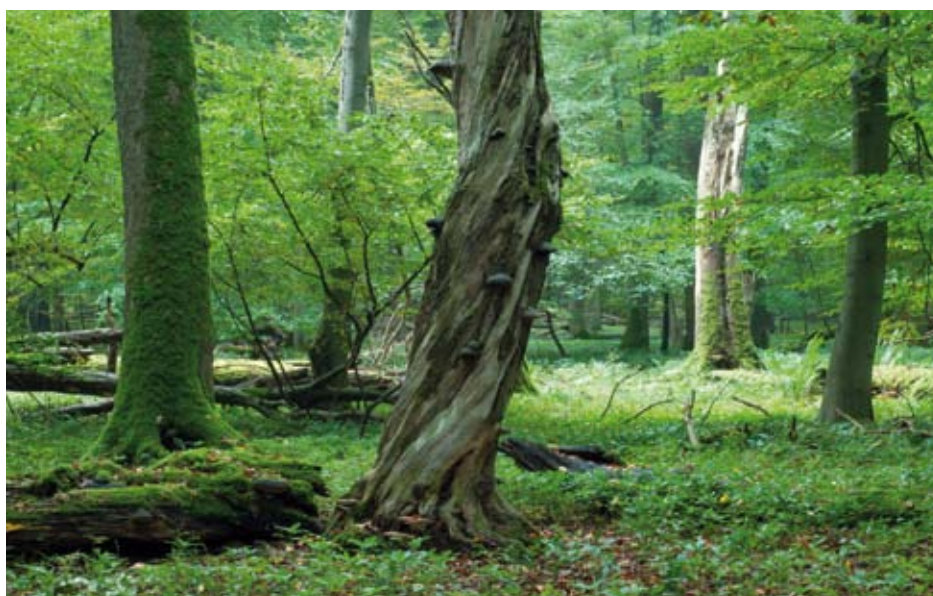


© Nationalpark Hainich

connected lowland beech forests on a global scale. Water and forests are closely linked in Grumsin. Lakes, forest marshes and moors in deep valleys interchange with marked ridges and conjure up atmospheric forest images.

In the Hainich National Park the most valuable beech forests grow on the central mountain ranges. It impresses through its extensive range of tree species and reveals lime beech forests of a magnitude, unspoiled

nature and form not found elsewhere. No roads or settlements cut through the exceptionally old, extensive forests of the Kellerwald in which unique primeval forest relics have survived. The beech reaches its natural forest boundary at the rocky and scree slopes and forms a bizarrely shaped forest landscape. Visitors will find a rich range of living communities typical of deciduous forests, with numerous rare species such as the eagle owl, red kite and black stork.



© Nationalpark Hainich / R. Biehl



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### Margravial Opera House Bayreuth (2012)

The 18th-century Margravial Opera House in Bayreuth is a masterpiece of Baroque theatre architecture, commissioned by Margravine Wilhelmine of Brandenburg as a venue for *opera seria*, and built between 1746 and 1750. The bell-shaped auditorium of tiered loges built of wood and lined with decoratively painted canvas was designed by the then leading European theatre architect Giuseppe Galli Bibiena and his son Carlo.

The sandstone façade designed by court architect Joseph Saint Pierre provides a focal point within the urban public space that was particularly planned for the building. As an independent court opera house rather than part of a palace complex, it marks a key point in opera house design, foreshadowing the large public theatres of the 19th century.

In terms of its scale and splendour, it was comparable to the opera houses in Vienna, Dresden, Paris and Venice. Today it survives as the only entirely preserved example of court opera house architecture. Still used for performances today, the opera house is a box theatre made completely of wood whose lavish, carved and painted decoration is like no other in the world where Baroque court opera culture and acoustics can be authentically experienced.

With its location in the original 18th-century public urban space, the 18th-

century Baroque façade, the original 18th-century roof structure spanning 25 m, the internal layout and design of the ceremonial foyer, tiered loge theatre and stage area including all existing original materials and decoration, the opera house is considered

one of the most important architectural monuments to the absolutist society.

Finally, the Margravial Opera House was also one of the reasons why the composer Richard Wagner chose Bayreuth as a venue for his theatre festivals.



© Frahm



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### Bergpark Wilhelmshöhe (2013)

Inspired by the dramatic topography of its site, the Baroque Bergpark Wilhelmshöhe with its Hercules monument and water features created by Landgrave Carl of Hesse-Kassel from 1689 is an outstanding representation of developments in the art, technology and landscape design movements of the time and ultimately a demonstration of human mastery over nature.

Covering 240 ha in the north Hesse city of Kassel, the 300-year-old topography exemplifies the coming of age of landscape architecture in absolutist Europe. The monumental display of rushing water from the Octagon crowned by the massive Hercules statue via the Vexing Grotto and Artichoke Basin with their hydro-pneumatic acoustic effects, Felsensturz Waterfall and Giant's Head Basin down the Baroque Cascade to Neptune's Basin and on towards the crowning glory of the Grand Fountain, a 50 m high geyser that was the tallest in the world when built in 1767, is focused along an east-west axis terminating in the city centre. Complemented by the wild Romantic period waterfalls, rapids and cataracts created under Carl's great-grandson, Elector Wilhelm I, as part of the 18th-century landscape in the lower section

of the Bergpark, the whole composition is an outstanding demonstration of the technical and artistic mastery of water in a designed landscape. Together with the 11.5 m high copper-sheet Hercules statue

towering above the park and visible from some distance, an extraordinary sculptural achievement, it is a testimony to the wealth and power of the 18th- and 19th-century European ruling class.



© Museumslandschaft Hessen Kassel



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### Carolingian Westwork and Civitas Corvey (2014)

Surrounded by a still largely preserved rural setting and revealed from a distance by their pointed roofs and bare-stone towers, the Carolingian Westwork and the Civitas Corvey lie along the western bank of the River Weser in the east of the town of Höxter, in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The Westwork of Corvey in Höxter on the Weser is one of the few Carolingian structures of which the main parts have been preserved, and the only example of a westwork building from that time still standing. It combines innovation and references to ancient models at a high level. As a building type it has considerably influenced Western ecclesiastical Romanesque and Gothic architecture. The original preserved vaulted hall with

columns and pillars on the ground floor, and the main room encircled by galleries on three sides on the upper floor, make Corvey one of the most striking examples of the 'Carolingian Renaissance'. This applies to the documented original artistic decoration of the elements which still exist on the ground and upper floors, including life-size stucco figures and mythological friezes presenting the only known example of wall paintings of ancient mythology with Christian interpretation in Carolingian times. The structure and decoration refer to the world of ideas of Carolingian times that has become an essential part of Western history.

Corvey was one of the most influential monasteries of the Frankish Empire. Its missionary task was highly important with regard to politico-religious processes in

many parts of Europe. Famous for its library and school and favoured by its convenient location on the banks of the Weser, the Benedictine monastery developed into a cultural, spiritual and economic centre in the 9th and 10th centuries. Since the transfer of the relics of St Vitus in the year 836, Corvey has practised as a place of pilgrimage of great attraction. As an imperial abbey, Corvey not only had intellectual and religious functions with regard to the conversion of Saxony and adjacent areas, but was also of political and economic importance as an outpost of the Frankish Empire on the edge of the Christian world at that time.

Corvey is linked with cultural centres in Europe through historical tradition, as well as the preserved design of the building and archaeological evidence from beyond the former Carolingian Empire. 🌀



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The German Commission for UNESCO and the cleaning specialist Kärcher are cooperating on a nationwide pilot project to help preserve cultural monuments in Germany. Within this context, the Chapel of St Charles and Hubert at Aachen Cathedral was chosen as the winner of a competition for a free and heritage-sensitive cleaning by Kärcher - the work on the world heritage site begins in May 2015. As part of its cultural sponsorship, Kärcher has already lent its support to over 100 listed buildings all over the world over the past 35 years - including the colonnade at St. Peter's Square in Rome, the statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro and the Brandenburg Gate. [www.kaercher.com](http://www.kaercher.com)



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# THE SACRED MIJIKENDA KAYA FORESTS - KENYA



Kenya boasts six sites listed on the World Heritage List. One of the six is the spectacular Sacred Mijikenda Kaya (which means homestead) Forests. The Kayas, situated on the Coastal plains of Kenya, are residual patches ranging from 10 to 200 hectares of the once extensive lowland forest of Eastern Africa. There are eleven separate Mijikenda Kayas. They have been critical in shaping the attitudes, identity and perspectives of the Mijikenda community over time, and symbolize cultural continuity, diversity and integration.

Kayas bear high aesthetic value and have unique remnants of historic small fortified villages. They played a critical role in protecting the Mijikenda ancestors as they settled in the 16th century. The Kayas are of cultural, traditional and spiritual significance. They also have a strong environmental, medicinal and agricultural importance. Efforts to protect the Kayas' greatly vulnerable biodiversity, physical features and spiritual significance are critically threatened due to increasing disregard for traditional values, loss of ritualistic talismans known as *tingo* and other artefacts, and an increase in economic development.

The Kwale and Kilifi County Governments associated with the Kayas are proving to be a beacon of hope for the protection of the Kayas through capacity building in collaboration with strategic entities including UNESCO, Kenya National Commission for UNESCO and the Department of Culture, among others. In Kenya we are proud of the Kayas as they not only tell part of our story, but it is our universal responsibility to preserve such incredible human heritage.



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# ORISCO CAÍDO AND THE SACRED MOUNTAIN AREAS IN GRAN CANARIA

The archaeoastronomical site of the ancient inhabitants of Gran Canaria

## Discovering a unique sacred space

In the environment of the colossal Tejeda Caldera in Gran Canaria are the most spectacular mountain sanctuaries of the ancient inhabitants of the island. During more than 1,500 years of isolation, those island Berbers or Imazighen were capable of developing in isolation a unique culture, loaded with expressions and rites that still resonate in other manifestations and hundreds of engravings in their caves.



## The impregnable troglodyte settlements

Archaeological spaces in caves are a benchmark in the cultural heritage of Gran Canaria. The ancient Canaryans created a complete series of troglodyte settlements such as grain stores, cave dwellings or burial grounds perfectly adapted to the lie of the land, showing a level of organisation of spaces and management of resources both highly efficient and complex.

## Outstanding heritage in the universe of the islands

Part of this legacy illustrates the Odyssey of island aboriginal cultures that have engendered a cosmovision of their own by evolving over long periods without outside influence. There are very few cultural endemisms able to compare with sites such as Rapa Nui or the Heart of Neolithic Orkney.



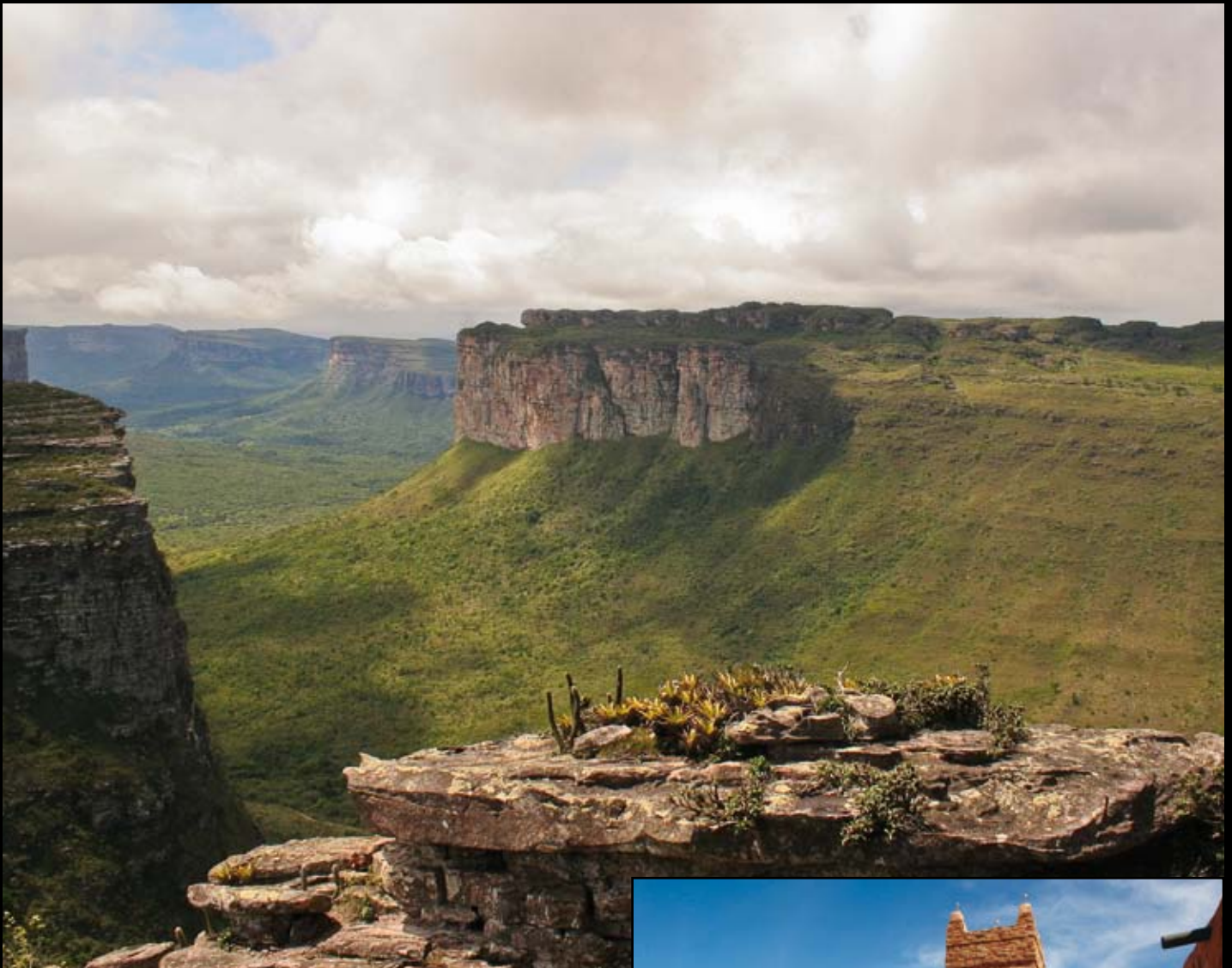
## Recovering the skies of the past

The high sophistication of their astronomical markers, in particular Risco Caído and Roque Bentayga, is an unprecedented milestone in ancient island cultures. It is unheard of for an isolated proto-state society, with very limited technology, to have acquired truly advanced astronomical knowledge, handling astronomical concepts as abstract as the equinox.

## The lost temple of the ancient Canaryans

In 1996, the almogarén or ceremonial centre of Risco Caído was discovered in these mountains, a unique and exceptional religious and astronomical archaeological site. Its architectural design is surprisingly advanced and causes sunlight to project a story of images on pubic triangle and cup engravings.





Cerrado Protected Areas: Chapada dos Veadeiros and Emas National Parks (Brazil).

© Danielle Pereira

### In Focus: Climate change and World Heritage

World Heritage sites are the most spectacular places on the planet, and natural sites are often crucial for sustaining biodiversity hotspots and natural habitats for endangered species. Cultural sites, masterpieces of human creativity, cities and cultural landscapes are often fragile when confronted by the effects of climate change. Published ahead of the COP21 meeting of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held from 30 November to 11 December 2015 in Paris, France, this issue will focus on methods of adaptation and best practices for dealing with the consequences of climate change at World Heritage sites, both cultural and natural, and will also examine some recent experience in mitigating the effects of climate change for intangible heritage.



Chinguetti mosque (Mauritania).

© John

The new sites inscribed on the World Heritage List during the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Bonn (Germany) from 28 June to 8 July 2015, will also be presented. 🌐

# La Alpujarra, An outstanding historical Cultural Landscape



© Jose Visedo

La Alpujarra is a historic district in the provinces of Granada and Almería (Andalusia, Spain). It is located in the foothills of the south side of Sierra Nevada, with peaks such as Mulhacén (3,481 masl) and Veleta (3,392 masl).

Since time immemorial, La Alpujarra has excited great interest given its geographic, natural and human singularities that over the centuries shaped its rugged personality. The purest elements of its ancestral culture can still be seen in this region: houses and villages of undetermined origin, songs, rhythms and romances of medieval influence, and a whole range of customs, farming techniques and artistic statements inherited over the centuries.

La Alpujarra is an outstanding testament to a markedly rural way of life, linked to making the most of scarce resources in a high and middle Mediterranean mountain environment.

It is also a testament to development of water usage techniques in farming, of Muslim origin, which were a crucial part of a civilization such as al-Andalus, which lasted for seven centuries. The district of La Alpujarra became the longest lasting of the territories where Andalus cultural developments were implemented, still preserved five centuries later.

Similarly, it is an outstanding example of traditional ways of using the land, and taking advantage of the environment's biodiversity, while adapting to the environment with which its inhabitants have interacted for centuries.

The outstanding nature of La Alpujarra district lies in the creation of an original and integrated, unique and unrepeatable landscape influenced by humankind, as a result of interaction of cultures (Late Roman, Mozarabic, Berber, Andalus, Moorish and Castilian), and which currently retains the same constants that have defined it since the disappearance of the Kingdom of Granada, during

the last five centuries. The significance of the property, as a refined example of influence on the West from medieval Muslim agricultural cultures and techniques and their adaptation by Christian cultures, transcends national boundaries, to take on a universal value.

## WATER AND BIODIVERSITY IN LA ALPUJARRA

Making use of water from runoff or rainfall, using a channel system to carry it to where it is needed, is found throughout numerous civilizations, yet there are few examples like the one in La Alpujarra.

The earliest written document that refers to water distribution dates back to 1139. The *careo* technique involves guiding water melted from high mountain ice to certain locations called *simas*, *calaeros*, *matas* or *guiaeros*, which facilitate its infiltration and subsequent emergence downstream and some time later. This technique is the result of interaction between the Christian and Muslim cultures, developing an original and efficient water system used effectively for almost twelve hundred years, and which even today is the basis of the district's entire irrigation and public water supply system.

The *careo* has a clear impact on pastures and natural vegetation, in addition to supplying underground aquifers. Several species are found in the natural vegetation, which are responsible for the typical landscape of La Alpujarra (maritime pine, Atlas cedar, Pyrenean oak, maple, field elm, Holm oak, cork oak, walnut, cherry and chestnut).

This region has over eighty endemic insects such as *Parnassius apollo nevadensis*, as well as endemic beetles and ninety unique water insect species. Furthermore, over sixty bird species coexist in La Alpujarra.



© Sheila Palacios



© Ángel Bañuelos



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## VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

Vernacular architecture is one of the most distinguishing features of La Alpujarra. It is characterized by use of the materials found in the land: impermeable clay roofs (*launa*); walls made of slate slabs (*lajas*), a material found in the region's geology; trunk-conical chimneys; oak or chestnut joists and crossbeams, which provide the district with an extraordinary consistency of landscape.

It is worth noting that building techniques have hardly changed at all in the twelve-century period from the Middle Ages (8th to 9th centuries) to the 19th century, and that formal materials and solutions were always the same during this period.

Similarly, La Alpujarra villages are characterized by their waterfall-like urban layout, flowing down the mountain slopes, hugging the steep lie of the land and mostly facing south or east, to make the most of the sunlight. The town plan is a decisive feature of the population centre's outline, and urban development occurs organically, growing from the central core, where the mosque originally stood –and since the 16th century the church– as the reference point.

The inner urban structure developed around highly original public or semi-public spaces (washhouses, *tinaos*, small squares), with a highly specific image, enriched by the existence of inner kitchen gardens.

## AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE

One of the most visually defining features of La Alpujarra landscape is, in fact, the terrace or bank system, providing a clearly humanized picture of the territory

The terraced farming system, called “*paratas*”, is structured using drystone walls called *balates*.

Crops are laid out in a specific arrangement on the terraces, which has survived since the Middle Ages, with hardwood trees along the edge, in some cases introduced to Western Europe for the first time, firewood crops (“*parras*”) at the back, and vegetable or serial crops inside the *parata*, with the occasional fruit tree.

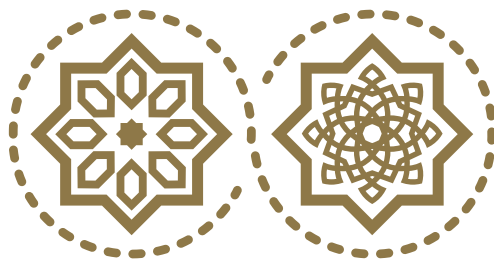
These *paratas* are interspersed in the landscape with fairly dense wooded areas, particularly comprising chestnut, oak and Holm oak, which were exploited by the inhabitants in the region to supplement agriculture, and with cattle pastures in the highlands of the mountains.

Gastronomic and medicinal use of numerous vascular plants, one hundred of them endemic, has historically been part of the way of life in La Alpujarra.



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### Más información • Further information

- **Alhambra** +34 958 027 971
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