

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-eighth session

Suzhou, China
28 June - 7 July 2004

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please consult the following web sites for:

*For further information on the 28th session, a website
is being prepared by the Suzhou authorities:*

<http://www.28whc.org>

Visa application information:

<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/>

Pre-registration:

<http://whc.unesco.org/suzhou/>

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1 PURPOSE

1.1 The World Heritage Committee consists of representatives from 21 of the States Parties to the *Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, elected by the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention.

The current composition of the Committee is: Argentina, Benin, Chile, China (*Chair*), Colombia, Egypt, India, Japan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, South Africa (*Rapporteur*), and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The essential functions of the Committee are to: (i) identify, on the basis of nominations submitted by States Parties, cultural and natural properties of outstanding universal value which are to be protected under the *Convention* and to list those properties on the World Heritage List; (ii) monitor the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, in liaison with the States Parties; decide which properties included in the World Heritage List are to be inscribed on or removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger; and decide whether a property may be deleted from the World Heritage List; and (iii) examine requests for International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund.

1.2 At its 6th Extraordinary session, March 2003, held in UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, the Chinese government reiterated its invitation to host the 28th session of the Committee in Suzhou, China. The Committee reconfirmed that the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee shall be held in Suzhou, China from 28 June to 7 July 2004.

2 THE CHINESE ORGANISERS AND THEIR SECRETARIAT

2.1 China will host the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee in Suzhou.

Secretariat of the Chinese Organizing Committee

Contact Address in Beijing:

Chinese National Commission for UNESCO
No. 37 Da Mucang Hutong,
Post Code: 100816
Beijing
China

Contact Person:

Ms YU Xiaoping
Tel : + 86. 10.66 09 71 70
Fax : +86.10.66.01.79.12
E-mail : 28whc@moe.edu.cn

Contact Address in Suzhou:

Secretariat of the 28th World Heritage Committee in Suzhou
Mail Box 66
12, Gongyuan Road
Suzhou,
Jiangsu Province
Post Code □ 215006
China

Contact Persons :

Mr ZHOU Suning
Ms YU Feng
Tel:+ 86 512 68 60 20 67 or + 86 512 68 60 20 70
Fax:+ 86 512 68 60 20 72

The website of the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee is being prepared by the Suzhou authorities: <http://www.28whc.org>

3 PROGRAM AND RELATED EVENTS

3.1 The provisional program of the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee (please see Annex A).

4 TRAVEL VISA and INSURANCE, AIRPORT TAXES, ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

4.1 Travel Visa and Insurance

Please contact directly the Chinese mission or consulate in your own city/country (<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn>) to confirm whether you require a travel visa and other relevant formalities needed to enter China. If a visa is needed, the official invitation letter addressed by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to all Committee Members, Advisory Bodies, the organizations of the United Nations system and other international governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions can be used as an official invitation letter. Alternatively, the departments concerned in your country can issue a letter of confirmation as an attachment. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre will not address any invitation letters to individuals, and will not exert any influence on the decisions about visa made by the Chinese government. Every participant is required to obtain a valid passport, visa and entry permission to enter in China.

It is recommended that participants have travel insurance coverage prior to arriving in China.

4.2 Airport Taxes

Air China offer flights from all over the world to Shanghai. Other air companies also have regular flights to China. The airport taxes are **90 Yuan** for international airlines and **50 Yuan** for local airlines, which are not included in the price of your air ticket.

4.3 Airport Arrivals and Departures and Transportation

Receptions are available respectively at the exit of each airport, Shanghai Pudong International Airport (special for the international flights) and Shanghai Hongqiao Airport (special for domestic flights).

4.4 Airport Transportation

There are special regular buses for the participants from the airports to the relevant hotels in Suzhou (26-27 June, 24-hour service). In light of the road conditions, the journey from Pudong Airport to Suzhou can take approximately 90-150 minutes; and 60-90 minutes from Hongqiao Airport to Suzhou. Tickets are on sale at the airports, and one-way ticket costs **100 Yuan**.

In addition, you may take "Airport Buses" towards several fixed places in Suzhou from these two airports, and then take a taxi to the hotel that you have booked. The cost of tickets for these buses from Pudong Airport is **82 Yuan**, while those buses from Hongqiao Airport cost **50 Yuan**. The departure time are fixed.

Starting from Pudong Airport:

10:50	13:50	16:50
11:50	14:50	17:50
12:50	15:50	18:50

Via Hongqiao Airport to Suzhou

It costs approximately **300-400 Yuan** to take a taxi from the airport to Suzhou.

5 VENUE

The venue of the 28th session of The World Heritage Committee is Suzhou Urban Planning Convention Center. The Convention Center is located in the center of Suzhou, covering 34,000 m², and having a floor area of 20,000 m². It is surrounded by several hotels, business and shopping areas, and several "Classical Gardens of Suzhou" a World Heritage property. The transportation system is convenient for

the participants to reach major highway entrances and the Shanghai airport.

Address □ Suzhou Urban Planning Convention Center
Suzhou, Jiangsu Province
Post Code □ 215000
Tel: + 86.512.68 65 88 91
Fax: +86.512. 68 65 88 92

6 PARTICIPANTS/REGISTRATION/ACCREDITATION

6.1 Participants

The primary participants at the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee will be the 21 members of the Committee.

States Parties to the World Heritage Convention that are not members of the Committee may send representatives to the session as observers.

Non-member States may be authorized by the Committee to participate in the session as observers.

Representatives of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) will attend in an advisory capacity.

The United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as, upon written request, other international governmental and non-governmental organizations, permanent observer missions to UNESCO and non-profit-making institutions having activities in the fields covered by the Convention may be authorized to participate in the sessions of the Committee, **(please see Annex B)** .

6.2 Pre-Registration

We encourage all participants to pre-register before the Conference via internet. This will assist the Organizers as well as the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to prepare an accurate List of Participants. For **pre-registration** please complete the registration form at the following address:

<http://whc.unesco.org/suzhou/>
or send a fax to: UNESCO/WHC/28 COM
Attn: David Martel: +33.1.45.68.55.70

Secondly, please send two passport photos to Suzhou Secretariat by mail for the Organizers to prepare your badge in advance:

Secretariat of the 28th World Heritage Committee in Suzhou
Mail Box 66
12, Gongyuan Road
Suzhou,
Jiangsu Province
Post Code □ 215006
China

6.3 Accreditation in Suzhou

From 14:00 June 27, participants can register at the reception desk of the Convention Center. Every participant will be given a bag containing the information on the Conference and a badge. For security purposes, please wear the badge when attending the meeting, other activities and excursions.

7 ACCOMMODATION & EXCURSIONS

7.1 Hotel Reservation

The Chinese Organizing Committee recommend some hotels in Suzhou. We strongly suggest that delegates reserve rooms no later than 15 May 2004. Delegates may contact the hotels directly to book rooms, or contact the Organizing Committee to book rooms at a special price. To book your rooms through the Organizing Committee, a website of the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee is being prepared by the Suzhou authorities: <http://www.28whc.org> For information about the hotels recommended, **(please see Annex D)**.

Note: All participants will be responsible for their own costs, including accommodation and other expenses, such as telephone, facsimile, laundry, refreshments and meals.

7.2 Excursions Registration

Please confirm all activities with the Secretariat of the Chinese Organizing Committee in which you plan to take part before **15 May 2004**, so that we can make necessary arrangements whith the Organizing Committee can make arrangements for you **(please see Annex C)**.

8 CONFERENCE SERVICE AND FACILITIES

8.1 Bilateral meeting room

The Chinese Organizing Committee will assist the delegates to reserve the bilateral meeting rooms. Delegations wanting to use them should apply to the Chinese Secretariat in advance.

8.2 Public Office Area

The Chinese Organizing Committee will provide a Public Office Area. It will open everyday during the Conference. The room is equipped with the following facilities: Computers (with internet access), printers, photocopiers, telephones (local only) and office furniture. There will be pigeonholes with delegations' names in the Public Office Area.

8.3 Medical Service

A Medical Advisory Center is available in the Suzhou Convention Center, with a doctor and a nurse. An appointed hospital provides emergency service to delegates during the Conference.

9. MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS

The Media Center is the work place for the Media to cover the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee.

10 GENERAL INFORMATION

10.1 Survey of Suzhou

Suzhou is one of China's important historical and cultural cities and a reputed city of tourist attraction. The 2,500-year ancient city boasts a rich culture and beautiful waters and hills, among which the elegant and delicate Classical Gardens are of world renown. Nine of the Classical Gardens of Suzhou have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List and several famous water towns in the surrounding areas of Suzhou have been put on the World Heritage Tentative List. Furthermore, the Kunqu (also known as Kunju Opera) was proclaimed by UNESCO as "Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity".

The City of Suzhou lies in the middle of Yangtze River Delta Region, the south of Jiangsu Province and the lakeshore of the Tai Lake, the third biggest lake in China, 90 kilometers east of Shanghai and 220 kilometers west of Nanjing. The total area of Suzhou is 8488 km², with a total population of 5.8 million. Ever since its formation in 514 BC, Suzhou has always been the political, cultural, and economical center of the southern lower reaches of the Yangtze River with its prosperous commerce and a galaxy of talents.

Since the reform and opening policy of China in 1978, thanks to its favorable geographical location, talented people and good conditions of infrastructure, Suzhou has become one of China's most vital cities and an example of rapid economic growth and social development in the Yangtze Delta.

An urban pattern of "old city in the middle, two new districts as two wings" has been formed, with Suzhou Industrial Park to the old city's east and Suzhou New & High Tech Industrial Development Zone to its west. This has created favorable conditions for protecting the old style and urban features of the city and ensure sustainable development of the economy.

10.2 Local Transportation

Suzhou has a convenient transportation system. The Suzhou Railway Station is on the Beijing-Shanghai Line, and Shanghai-Nanjing Express Way, Suzhou-Jiaxing-Hangzhou Express Way, national highways No.312, No.318 No.204 and other 7 provincial highways all have the city on line, there are also buses from other important cities that get to Suzhou. From either the southern bus station or the northern bus station, visitors may set out from the city for Zhangjiagang, Kunshan, Wujiang, Taicang and other towns.

Suzhou Railway Station is a first-rate station on the Beijing-Shanghai Line, so from here all major cities of the country may be reached. Participants may choose any passing train that stops at Suzhou, or indirectly reach Suzhou via Shanghai, Nanjing or Wuxi. It takes about 1 hour from Shanghai, and about 4 hours from Nanjing.

The urban district of Suzhou is 80 kilometers away from Shanghai Hongqiao Airport and 135 kilometers away from Shanghai Pudong International Airport. The single trip takes no more than 2 hours. There is also a water travel route on the Grand Canal from Suzhou to Hangzhou.

Public buses and taxis are available within Suzhou. The taxi in Suzhou costs **10 Yuan** minimum (within 3 kilometers) and above this distance every kilometer costs **1.8 Yuan**. All public buses are of self-service type at two unified ticket prices, **1 Yuan** for buses without air-conditioning and **2 Yuan** for air-conditioned buses. Please prepare small change in advance.

10.3 Currency Policy

Exchange rate value as of January 2004: \$1 = 8.28 Yuan; €1 = 10.49 Yuan.

There is no limitation for you to carry foreign currencies into China. But people who carry more than 5,000 dollars in cash into China must declare to customs. In the light of the declarations, foreign currencies are allowed to be brought out of China, otherwise you could only carry 5,000 dollars or less out of China.

Tourists are only allowed to carry 6,000 Yuan in and out of China. For any Yuan converted into foreign currency prior to leaving China, the tourists must present the receipts of foreign exchange.

Most international currencies and travelers' checks can be converted in big banks, hotels and international airports. The normal working hours of the banks are : 8:30 to 17:30. Most major Credit cards are accepted in most of the hotels and shopping malls. Some Credit cards (including Visa and MasterCard) can be used at the ATM of China Bank.

10.4 Driving Licences

China has not joined the 1949 Convention on Highway Transportation. Therefore participants holding an international driving license who stay in China for a short period are not allowed to drive cars in China.

10.5 Electricity Supply

The power supply in China is 220-240 volts, 50 hertz. Hotels provide 110V or 220V sockets for electric razors. For participants who are likely to require adaptors, the hotel will be glad to provide.

10.6 Postal Service

Post offices generally open everyday from 8:30 to 17:00. A Postal and Courier Service Desk will be located at the Convention Center.

10.7 Smoking Regulations

Certain hotels provide smoking and non-smoking areas. Please consult with the management to confirm whether smoking is permitted or not on their premises.

10.8 Time

The Standard Time will be 8 hours ahead of GMT.

10.9 Weather

The Suzhou climate can be very hot at this time of the year. The average temperatures in late June and early July vary from 22 to 31°C, with a possibility of rain. The participants are advised to bring light, summer clothes.

The website of the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee is being prepared by the organizers of the session: <http://www.28whc.org>

If you need any help, please feel free to contact the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO.

Chinese National Commission for UNESCO
No. 37 Damucang Hutong,
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Beijing
China

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Fax : +86.10.66.01.79.12
E-mail : 28whc@moe.edu.cn

Annex A**Program of Activities**

28th session of the World Heritage Committee	
28 June	Opening Ceremony
Official Events	
28 June -7 July ** (27 June Bureau Session)	The 28th session of the World Heritage Committee <i>** 3 July- no session; 6 July - Partnerships presentations; and 7 July - Adoption of the Report</i>
28 June	The Welcome Banquet hosted by Chinese Government
2 July	Banquet and art performance hosted by the Government of Jiangsu Province
5 July	Banquet and art performance hosted by Government of Suzhou Municipal
6 July	Cocktail hosted by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre
Excursions	
29 June (Evening)	Visiting the Panmen Gate Scenic Area. Evening tour on the City Moat
3 July	Morning: Touring within the city, visiting the Tiger Hill, the Humble Administrator's Garden and the Mountain Villa of Secluded Beauty Afternoon: Zhouzhuang (a water town)
7 July (A.M.)	Morning: Tongli (a water town)

Annex B

Registration Form

Personal Information			
First Name		Last Name	
Date of Birth		Gender	
Nationalities			
Address			
Title/Position			
Organization			
Passport No.		Passport Issued by	
Tel		Fax	
Zip Code		E-mail	
Identity			
1.1 Arrival and Departure Information			
Transportation Means for Arrival		Transformation Means for Departure	
Arrival Port		Departure Port	
Arrival Flight No.		Departure Flight No.	
Arrival Time		Departure Time	
1.2 Accommodation Information			
Reserved Hotel			
Time of Check in		Time of Check out	
1.3 Other Information			
Taboos			
Requirements			

Annex C

Registration Form for Excursions in Suzhou

Name(s)		Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> M	<input type="checkbox"/> F
Nationality		Title/Position		
<p>A. 29 June (evening): <input type="checkbox"/>Yes <input type="checkbox"/>No</p> <p>Touring the ancient city of Suzhou:</p> <p>--Panmen Gate (the only existing water and land gate in China)</p> <p>Enjoy local opera performance and fireworks</p> <p>--Evening tour on the City Moat</p>				
<p>B. 3 July <input type="checkbox"/>Yes <input type="checkbox"/>No</p> <p>Morning: Humble Administrator's Garden (World Heritage)</p> <p>Mountain Villa of Secluded Beauty (World Heritage)</p> <p>Tiger Hill (the No.1 scenic spot in Suzhou)</p> <p>Lunch: Local flavor food</p> <p>Afternoon: Zhouzhang (a water town)</p> <p>Old stage for local opera performance</p> <p>Performance of the local traditional craftsmanship</p> <p>Dinner: Local flavor food</p>				
<p>C. 7 July (A.M.) <input type="checkbox"/>Yes <input type="checkbox"/>No</p> <p>Morning: Tongli (a water town)</p> <p>Garden of Retreat (World Heritage)</p> <p>Performance of folk customs</p> <p>Lunch: Local flavor food</p>				
Special dietary habit				
Accompanying persons				
Other requirements				

Annex D

Recommended Hotels

Hotel	Sheraton Suzhou Hotel and Tower	Aster Hotel
Stars	5-stars	4-stars
Address	388 Xinshi Road, Suzhou	156 Sanxiang, Suzhou
Telephone	86-512-6510 3388	86-512-6829 1888
Fax	86-512-6510 0888	86-512-6829 1838
Website	http://www.sheraton-suzhou.com	http://www.aster.com.cn
E-mail	sheraton.suzhou@starwoodhotels.com	aster@public1.sz.js.cn
Room Rate	Standard Room \$200 Deluxe Standard Room \$230(single) \$240(double)	Standard Room \$100 Deluxe Standard Room \$128
Remark	1.5km to Convention Center	1.2km to Convention Center

Hotel	Xucheng Hotel	Bamboo Grove Hotel
Stars	4-stars	4-stars
Address	120 Sanxiang Road, Suzhou	168 Zhuhui Road, Suzhou
Telephone	86-512-6828 6688	86-512-6520 5601
Fax	86-512-6827 1520	86-512-6510 3511
Website	http://www.castlehotel.com.cn	http://www.bamboo.sz.js.cn
E-mail	castlehl@public1.sz.js.cn	master@mail.bamboo.sz.js.cn
Room Rate	Deluxe Standard Room\$120 Standard Room \$95	Standard Room \$120 Deluxe Standard Room \$140
Remark	1.2km to Convention Center	3.6km to Convention Center

Hotel	Gloria International Hotel	Suzhou Hotel
Stars	4-star	4-star
Address	Ganjiaang East Road, Suzhou	115 Shiquan Street, Suzhou
Telephone	86-512-6521 8855	86-512-6520 4646
Fax	86-512-6523 3437	86-512-6520 5191
Website	http://www.gphsuzhou.com	http://www.suzhou-hotel.com
E-mail	gloria@gphsuzhou.com	fronthall@public1.sz.js.cn
Room Rate	Standard Room \$118 Deluxe Room \$142	\$80
Remarks	3.6km to Conference Center	4km to Conference Center

