



 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
World Heritage Committee  
FUZHOU, CHINA 2021  
第44届世界遗产大会

## PRESS KIT

## **1 Dates and location**

Dates: 16 to 31 July 2021 (no session on 20 July)

Location: Fuzhou, China / online

The webcast of the session can be viewed at the links below. There is no need to register.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44com/>

<https://www.44whcfuzhou2021.cn>

A press conference will be streamed online on 18 July at 10am CEST (Paris local time).

To participate, please contact the media representatives listed at the end of this document.

## **2 Members and role of the World Heritage Committee**

The 21 States Parties of the current World Heritage Committee are the following:

Australia, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Uganda

According to the *World Heritage Convention*, a Committee member's term of office is for six years, but most States Parties choose to be Members of the Committee for only four years, to give other States Parties an opportunity to be on the Committee.

The World Heritage Committee meets once a year. It is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, defines the use of the World Heritage Fund and allocates financial assistance upon requests from States Parties. It has the final say on whether a property is inscribed on the World Heritage List. It examines reports on the state of conservation of inscribed properties and asks States Parties to take action when properties are not being properly managed. It also decides on the inscription or deletion of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The state of conservation reports for 258 sites will be examined during this session.

## **3 Members and role of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee**

The Bureau consists of one Chairperson, one Rapporteur (who are both appointed in their personal capacity), and five Vice-Chairs (which are States Parties) elected annually by the Committee. The Bureau of the Committee coordinates the work of the Committee and fixes the dates, hours and order of business of meetings. The election of the new Bureau will take place at the end of the session of the World Heritage Committee.

Chairperson: H.E. Mr. Tian Xuejun (China)

Rapporteur: Ms. Miray Hasaltun Wosinski (Bahrain)

Vice-Chairpersons: Bahrain, Guatemala, Hungary, Spain, Uganda

#### **4 Sites nominated for inscription to the World Heritage List**

As the World Heritage Committee session was not held in 2020, the sites proposed for both 2020 and 2021 will be reviewed during this session.

The Committee will examine proposals to inscribe **39** sites on UNESCO's World Heritage List, six of them natural and 33 cultural. Sites that have been withdrawn for consideration since the original list was published are barred in the list below.

Sites must demonstrate they have Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) which must be preserved for future generations.

#### **2020 Nominations**

##### **Natural sites:**

- Georgia, Colchic Rainforests and Wetlands
- Japan, Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, Northern part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island
- Republic of Korea, Getbol, Korean Tidal Flat
- Thailand, Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex

##### **Mixed cultural and natural sites:**

- Ethiopia, ~~Holqa Sof Umar: Natural and Cultural Heritage (Sof Umar: Caves of Mystery)~~

##### **Cultural sites:**

- Austria / Belgium / Czechia / France / Germany / Italy / United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, The Great Spas of Europe
- Austria / Germany / Hungary / Slovakia, Frontiers of the Roman Empire – The Danube Limes (Western Segment)
- Belgium / Netherlands Colonies of Benevolence
- Brazil, Sítio Roberto Burle Marx
- China, Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan China
- ~~Dominican Republic, Historical and Archaeological Site of La Isabela~~
- France, Cordouan Lighthouse
- Germany, Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt
- ~~Greece, Fortress of Spinalonga~~
- India, The Glorious Kakatiya Temples and Gateways – Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Palampet, Jayashankar Bhupalpally District, Telangana State
- Iran (Islamic Republic of), Trans-Iranian Railway
- Italy, 'Padova *Urbs picta*', Giotto's Scrovegni Chapel and Padua's fourteenth-century fresco cycles
- Mongolia, Deer Stone Monuments and Related Sites, the Heart of Bronze Age Culture
- Netherlands, Dutch Water Defence Lines [extension of "Defence Line of Amsterdam", inscribed in 1996]

- Peru, Chankillo Solar Observatory and ceremonial center
- Romania, Roșia Montană Mining Landscape
- Saudi Arabia, Cultural Rock Arts in Ḥimā Najrān
- Spain, Paseo del Prado and Buen Retiro, a landscape of Arts and Sciences
- Turkey, Arslantepe Mound
- Uruguay, The work of engineer Eladio Dieste: Church of Atlántida

### **2021 Nominations**

#### **Natural sites:**

- Gabon, Ivindo National Park
- Bosnia and Herzegovina / Czechia / France / Italy / Montenegro / North Macedonia / Poland / Serbia / Slovakia / Switzerland, Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe [extension of “Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe”, inscribed in 2007, extensions in 2011 and 2017]

#### **Cultural sites:**

- Chile, Settlement and Artificial Mummification of the Chinchorro Culture in the Arica and Parinacota Region
- Côte d'Ivoire, Sudanese style mosques in northern Côte d'Ivoire
- France, Nice, capital of Riviera tourism
- Germany, ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz
- Germany / Netherlands, Frontiers of the Roman Empire – The Lower German Limes
- India, Dholavira: A Harappan City
- Iran (Islamic Republic of), Cultural Landscape of Hawraman/Uramanat
- Italy, The Porticoes of Bologna
- Japan, Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan
- Jordan, As-Salt - The Place of Tolerance and Urban Hospitality
- ~~Latvia, Grobiņa archaeological ensemble~~
- Mexico, Franciscan Ensemble of the Monastery and Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption of Tlaxcala [extension of “Earliest 16th-Century Monasteries on the Slopes of Popocatepetl”, inscribed in 1994]
- Poland, Gdańsk Shipyard – the birthplace of “Solidarity” and the symbol of the Fall of the Iron Curtain in Europe
- Russian Federation, Petroglyphs of Lake Onega and the White Sea
- Slovenia, The works of Jože Plečnik in Ljubljana – Human Centred Urban Design
- ~~Spain, Ribeira Sacra~~
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales

### **Sites proposed to be removed from the World Heritage List**

The World Heritage Committee may decide to remove a site from the World Heritage List when the values for which it was added to the List, its Outstanding Universal Value, is no longer present.

- Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania)

- Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

## 5 Sites proposed for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

The Committee will examine five sites already inscribed on the World Heritage List, for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Sites are inscribed on the Danger List when their Outstanding Universal Value, characteristics for which they were inscribed on the World Heritage List, are under threat.

Properties proposed to be inscribed on the Danger List:

- Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region (Albania/North Macedonia)
- Great Barrier Reef (Australia)
- W-Arly-Pendjari Complex (Benin/Burkina Faso/Niger)
- Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrassy Avenue (Hungary)
- Venice and its lagoon (Italy)
- Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)
- Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation)

There are no sites to be considered for removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

## 6 Side events

Side events are scheduled online during the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee, outside of the scheduled working sessions. Selected events are open to members of the press.

The current schedule can be found on the webpage <https://www.44whcfuzhou2021.cn/sideevents/>

## 7 Technical questions

- **Will the session be livestreamed?**

Yes, on <http://whc.unesco.org> in the original, English and French versions. Videos of each half-day session will be uploaded to the World Heritage Centre's website and that of the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee the day after the respective sessions. These videos may be used by media representatives.

- **Will pictures of the nominated sites be provided to the press?**

Yes, pictures of the nominated sites will be available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/newproperties/> They may be used for non-commercial purposes by media representatives.

- **Will videos of the newly inscribed sites be provided to the press?**

Videos of some sites will be made available after the inscription of a site at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/newproperties/>

- **Where can I find documents of the session?**

All working documents are available online at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44com/>

**Provisional agenda and timetable of the session:**

<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2021/whc21-44com-3A-en.pdf>

<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2021/whc21-44com-3B-en.pdf>

**Report on the state of conservation of sites inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:**

<https://whc.unesco.org/archive/2021/whc21-44com-7A-en.pdf>

<https://whc.unesco.org/archive/2021/whc21-44com-7AAdd-en.pdf>

**State of conservation reports of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List:**

<https://whc.unesco.org/archive/2021/whc21-44com-7B-en.pdf>

<https://whc.unesco.org/archive/2021/whc21-44com-7BAdd-en.pdf>

<https://whc.unesco.org/archive/2021/whc21-44com-7BCorr-en.pdf>

**Evaluations of mixed and cultural nominations:**

<https://whc.unesco.org/archive/2021/whc21-44com-inf8B1-en.pdf>

<https://whc.unesco.org/archive/2021/whc21-44com-inf8B1.Add-en.pdf>

**Evaluations of mixed and natural nominations:**

<https://whc.unesco.org/archive/2021/whc21-44com-inf8B2-en.pdf>

## **8 Media Contacts**

Roni Amelan, UNESCO Press Service

[r.amelan@unesco.org](mailto:r.amelan@unesco.org)

+33 (0)1 45 68 16 50

Lucia Iglesias Kuntz, UNESCO Press Service

[l.iglesias@unesco.org](mailto:l.iglesias@unesco.org)

+33 (0)1 45 68 17 02

Ms JIA Nan, Ministry of Education, China

[jianan@moe.edu.cn](mailto:jianan@moe.edu.cn)

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## **World Heritage Basic Facts**

### **1 What is World Heritage?**

World Heritage is the designation for places on Earth that are of outstanding universal value to humanity and as such, have been inscribed on the World Heritage List to be protected for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. Places as diverse and unique as the Pyramids of Egypt, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, Galápagos Islands in Ecuador, the Taj Mahal in India, the Grand Canyon in the USA, or the Acropolis in Greece are examples of the 1092 natural and cultural places inscribed on the World Heritage List to date.

More about World Heritage: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/about/>

### **2 What does it mean for a site to be inscribed on the List?**

Once a country signs the Convention, and has sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, the resulting prestige often helps raise awareness among citizens and governments for heritage preservation. Greater awareness leads to a general rise in the level of the protection and conservation given to heritage properties. A country may also receive financial assistance and expert advice from the World Heritage Committee to support activities for the preservation of its sites.

### **3 What is the World Heritage Convention?**

The *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* is an international treaty that was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972. It is based on the premise that certain places on Earth are of outstanding universal value and should therefore form part of the common heritage of humankind. The countries that ratify the Convention (States Parties) have become part of an international community, united in a common mission to identify and safeguard our world's most outstanding natural and cultural heritage. While fully respecting the national sovereignty, and without prejudice to property rights provided by national legislation, the States Parties recognize that the protection of the World Heritage is the duty of the international community as a whole.

For the whole Convention text please visit <http://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext/>

### **4 What are the legal implications of the Convention?**

The UNESCO World Heritage Convention is a treaty that has become, over the past 45 years, the foremost international legal tool in support of the conservation of the world's cultural and natural heritage. Today, 193 countries (called States Parties) have ratified the Convention, making it an almost universally accepted set of principles and framework of action.

For more information about the Convention please visit <http://whc.unesco.org/en/convention/>

### **5 How is a site inscribed on the List?**



A site goes through a nomination process before being considered for inscription by the World Heritage Committee. A site can be proposed for inscription only by the country in which the property is located.

For more information about the nomination process please visit <http://whc.unesco.org/en/nominations>

## **6 Who nominates sites?**

Countries (or States Parties) submit nomination proposals to the World Heritage Committee. If the Committee determines, based on the recommendations of its Advisory Bodies (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), International Council on Museums and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)), that the nomination meets at least one of the necessary criteria, then the property is inscribed on the World Heritage List. In general, the Committee adds about 25-30 sites per year to the list. Today there are 1092 sites on the List, located in 167 countries around the world.

For more information please refer to the Operational Guidelines <http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/>

## **7 What are the criteria for nominating a site?**

To be included on the World Heritage List, sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out of the following ten selection criteria.

### **Selection criteria**

1. to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
2. to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
3. to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
4. to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
5. to be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
6. to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);
7. to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
8. to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;

9. to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
10. to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for *in-situ* conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

## **8 Who owns a site once it's inscribed on the World Heritage List?**

The site is the property of the country on whose territory it is located, but it is considered in the interest of the international community to protect the site for future generations. Its protection and preservation becomes a concern of the international World Heritage community as a whole.

## **9 Partners in the protection of World Heritage**

The World Heritage Committee and UNESCO promote a partnership approach to nomination, management and monitoring. Such an approach provides a significant contribution to the protection of World Heritage properties and the implementation of the Convention. Partners in the protection and conservation of World Heritage can be individuals and other stakeholders, especially local communities, indigenous peoples, governmental, non-governmental and private organizations and owners who have an interest and involvement in the conservation and management of a World Heritage property. In 2015, the General Assembly of States Parties adopted a policy to integrate a sustainable development perspective within the processes of the World Heritage Convention.