

WORLD HERITAGE 2008-09



Conquerors from northern Africa built the magnificent complex of Alhambra, Generalife and Alcazars in Spain, beginning with a fortress in the 9th century, later adding ornate palaces and mosques, and finally constructing the vast irrigated garden playground of Generalife in the 14th century. This region of Granada, at the foot of the Sierra Nevada, remained a centre of Moorish culture in Europe until 1492.

Title photo: iStockphoto.com / Rafael Ramirez Lee

Surplace
THE WORLD HERITAGE COLLECTION

The OUR PLACE World Heritage photo book is developed in partnership with UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The OUR PLACE team has now photographed more than 200 World Heritage sites in over 70 countries. Visit: www.surplaceworldheritage.com

The World Heritage emblem symbolizes the interdependence of the world's natural and cultural diversity. The central square represents the achievements of human skill and inspiration, and the circle celebrates the gifts of nature. The emblem is round, like the world, a symbol of global protection for the heritage of all humankind.

The Earthen Architecture Conservation Programme works toward conserving and revitalizing earthen architecture, which is threatened by natural disasters and industrialization. Currently, some one hundred properties on the World Heritage List are partially or totally built with earth.

World Heritage sites are inscribed on the List on the basis of their merits as forming a significant contribution to the cultural and natural heritage of the world. Their outstanding universal value is considered to be of importance for future generations.

Conserving the diversity of life on Earth is critical to global human welfare. With the support of the World Heritage Convention, the most important biodiversity sites receive international recognition as well as technical and financial assistance to deal with threats such as agricultural encroachment, alien species and poaching.

Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, at its General Conference, Paris, 16 November 1972.

EXTRACTS

... parts of the cultural or natural heritage are of outstanding interest and therefore need to be preserved as part of the world heritage of humankind as a whole.

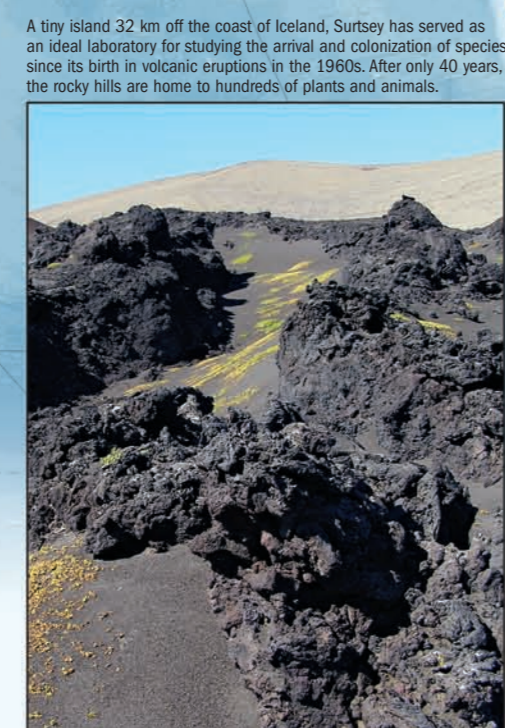
... [with] the magnitude and gravity of the new dangers threatening... [the world's heritage], it is incumbent on the international community as a whole to participate in the protection of the cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value...

... the Committee shall establish... under the title of 'World Heritage List', a list of the properties forming part of the cultural heritage and natural heritage... which it considers as having outstanding universal value...

Four great plazas anchor Old Havana, including Cathedral Plaza, where the baroque, asymmetrical Cathedral of Saint Christopher dominates the scene. Founded by Spanish explorers in 1519, the provincial capital's magnificent harbor became a shipbuilding center for the New World.



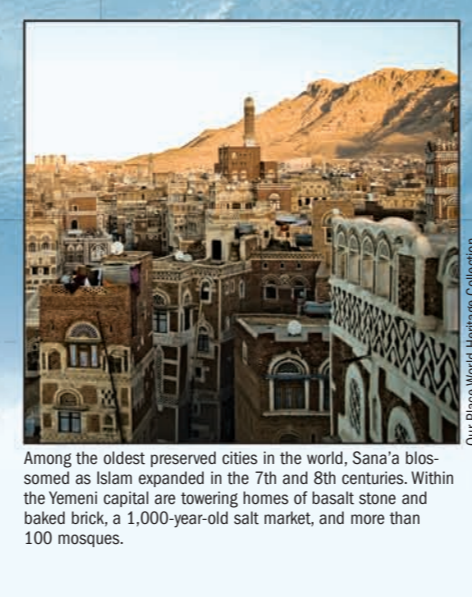
Cocky yellow-plumaged northern rockpouter penguins thrive on Gough and Inaccessible Islands (United Kingdom), a virtually undisturbed sanctuary for one of the world's largest sea bird colonies. The rocky shores of these South Atlantic volcanic islands also shelter breeding seals.



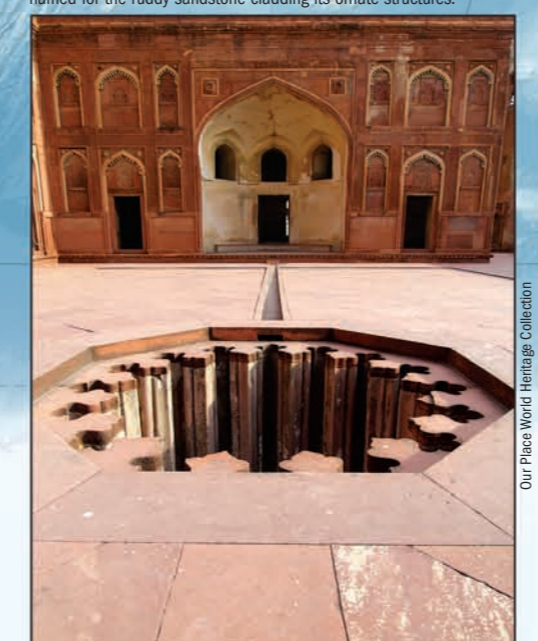
A tiny island 32 km off the coast of Iceland, Surtsey has served as an ideal laboratory for studying the arrival and colonization of species since its birth in volcanic eruptions in the 1960s. After only 40 years, the rocky hills are home to hundreds of plants and animals.



Natural dams of travertine deposited over thousands of years created a series of colorful lakes, waterfalls, and coves that are now protected—along with forest wildlife—in Croatia's Plitvice Lakes National Park.



Among the oldest preserved cities in the world, Sana'a is bisected as Islam expanded in the 7th and 8th centuries. Within the Yemeni capital are towering homes of basalt stone and baked brick, a 1,000-year-old salt market, and more than 100 mosques.



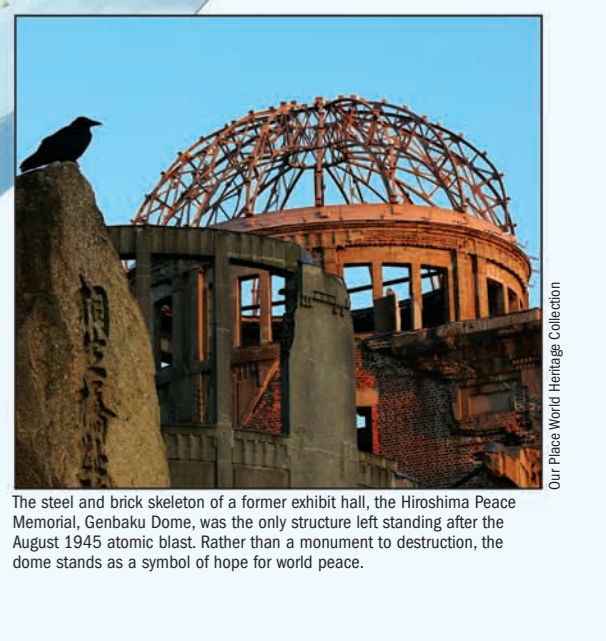
An octagonal pool outside the Jahangir Palace at the Agra Fort in India features the geometric precision of Mughal architecture. Capital of the Mughal Empire in India from the 16th to the 19th century, the fort is named for the ruler's sandstone obelisk by ornate structures.



The image and teachings of the Buddha are integral to life in Luang Prabang, capital of the Kingdom of Laos from the 14th to the 20th century. Dozens of monasteries—with unique multi-layered roofs that distinguish the city's architecture—send monks among the people each day to inspire piety and receive alms.



Colorful granite pillars rise up in a fairy-tale landscape of mist-covered forests, waterfalls, and lakes in China's Mount Sanchi National Park. Scattered tablets provide visitors intimate views of rock sculptures and the spectacular refraction of light through layers of clouds.



The steel and brick skeleton of a former exhibit hall, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Genbaku Dome, was the only structure left standing after the August 1945 atomic blast. Rather than a monument to destruction, the dome stands as a symbol of hope for world peace.

From the vast plains of the Serengeti to historic cities such as Vienna, Lima and Kyoto; from the prehistoric rock art on the Iberian Peninsula to the Statue of Liberty; from the Kasbah of Algiers to the Imperial Palace in Beijing — all of these places, as varied as they are, have one thing in common. All are World Heritage sites of outstanding cultural or natural value to humanity and are worthy of protection for future generations to know and enjoy.

Key

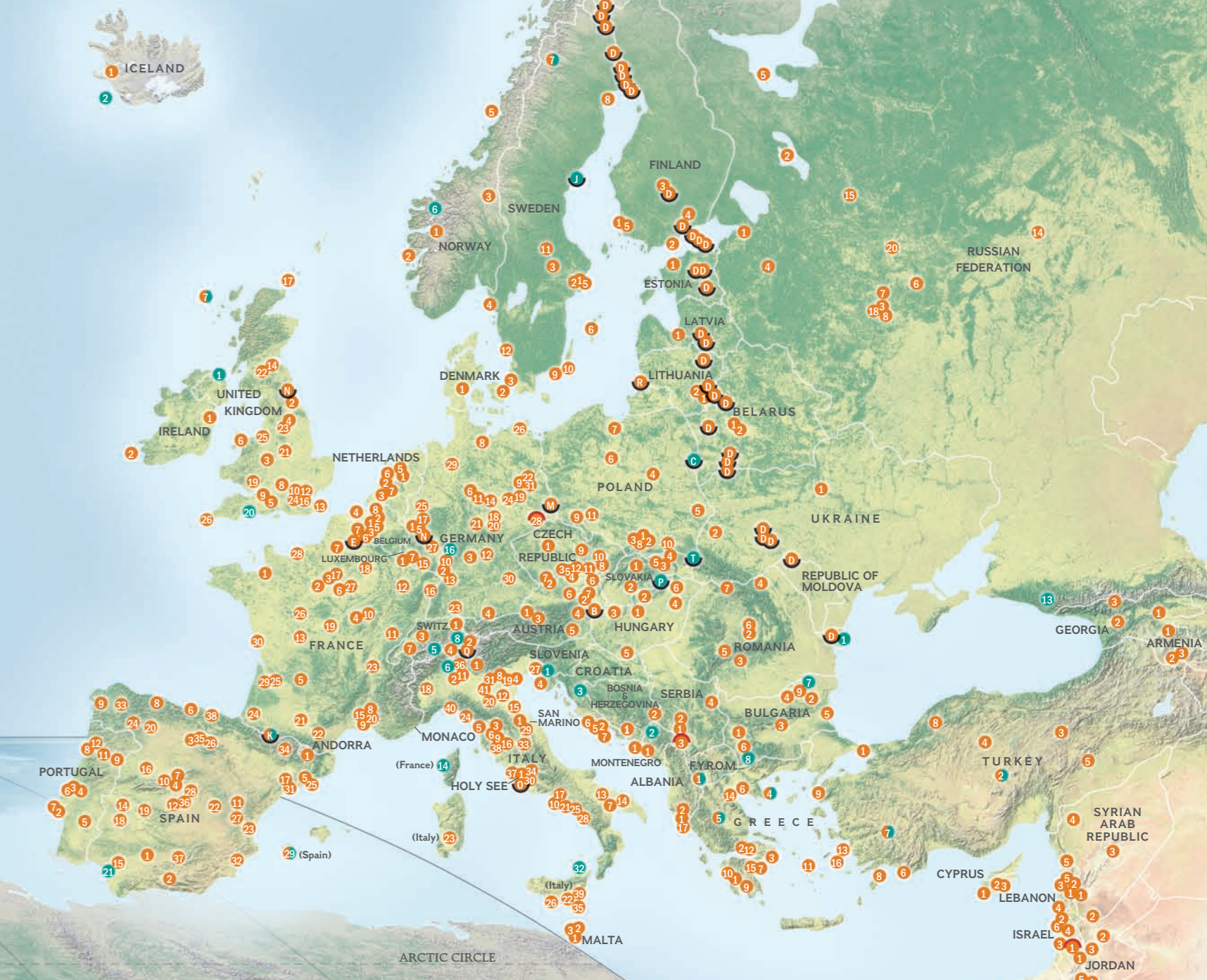
- Cultural property
- Natural property
- Mixed property (cultural and natural)
- Transnational property
- Property currently inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Number indicates site order by year of inscription within each country.
Site country index on back side of map for site listings.
Only States Parties to the World Heritage Convention are labeled on this map.
United Nations (UN) country boundaries shown as of October 2008.
<http://whc.unesco.org>
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com>

The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNESCO and National Geographic Society concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

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Albers Conic Equal-Area Projection
Scale: 0 100 200 400 Miles

The Small Islands Programme focuses on preserving heritage on the islands of the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans.

The World Heritage Cities Programme seeks to protect living historic city centres and their cultural and architectural heritage from threats such as uncontrolled development or inappropriate construction.

Cultural heritage refers to monuments, buildings and sites with historical, aesthetic, archaeological, scientific, ethnological or anthropological value. Natural heritage refers to outstanding physical, biological or geological features and includes habitats of threatened species, as well as areas with scientific, environmental or aesthetic value. Mixed sites have both cultural and natural values.

Worldwide, 97 World Heritage forests protect more than 73 million hectares of woodland. This accounts for 1.9 percent of the global forest cover and about 13 percent of the surface area of all protected forests on the planet.

The World Heritage Marine Programme helps countries nominate marine sites and manage them effectively to ensure that they will thrive for future generations. There are currently 33 marine sites on the World Heritage List.

The World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme helps visitors discover World Heritage sites while encouraging respect for the environment and local cultures and enhancing community livelihoods.

Robinson Projection
SCALE 1:43,720,000
1000 Miles
1000 Kilometers

The reduced scale of the maps and the cartographic projections have resulted in approximate locations of some properties.
Land cover data:
Sea: National Park Service
Yard: Shalley Sperry
Design and production by National Geographic Maps

