NEW SITES

Discover the 2019 World Heritage sites
In December 2001, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee declared the Mudejar Architecture of Aragon a World Heritage site for its “universality, uniqueness and authenticity”. This recognition was the culmination of a journey started 15 years earlier, in 1986, when the Mudejar Architecture of Teruel was also declared a World Heritage site, triggering the process of promotion and rediscovery of an art that was previously less appreciated.

Mudejar art, exclusive to Spain, reflects the history of Aragon in an architecture whose development in the countryside is surprising due to how it contrasts with the perception people used to have of this art. Mudejar architecture draws you in because of the story behind it – a cultured architecture that nevertheless connects with everyday life in a territory rich on intellectuality and beauty.

Mudejar is often spoken about as Christian architecture executed by the Mudejars, the Muslims who stayed behind in a territory conquered by Christian power. However, this definition is much too simple to successfully explain the complexity of this art developed over several centuries.

Mudejar architecture in Aragon is an excellent example of a type of construction that developed a unique technology over a period of almost five centuries thanks to coexistence of traditions and cultures as well as a combination of building methods. The long list of monumental buildings preserved in Aragon, especially in the province of Zaragoza, is the tip of the iceberg of a culture created through the exchange of knowledge and experience between Christians, Muslims and Jews.

Mudejar art is embodied in the common elements that define it, yet in turn it puts its own stamp on each town, which has carried through to the present day with surprising integrity.

While Mudejar buildings in cities like Zaragoza or Teruel started a trend and were presented as state-of-the-art movements in the Middle Ages, the valleys would have acted as transmitters of this style, favouring means of communication and influence that materialised in the works of the villages. The Islamic tradition, very much present in Aragon since the 8th century, was integrated into new historical contexts arising from the Christian conquests of the 12th century.

Commissions of Christian society during the following centuries came about by hiring Muslim labour and continuity of the Islamic artistic system, resulting in survival of the Muslim tradition that was at the service of the Christian lords. A clientele that, in Aragon and especially in the province of Zaragoza, was characterised by its historical senior figures: kings, prelates, nobles, priors of military orders and even a pope (Aragonese nobleman Benedict XIII, Pope Luna) who carried out many Mudejar style projects.

The Mudejar working system, known for its extraordinary efficiency and speed, is strengthened by the undeniable beauty achieved by using materials that, although often considered poor, spring from valleys and
mountains: variations of red in clays, shades of white in plasters, wood, iron and gloss of glazed ceramics, reminiscent of flickering light in nature.

These materials play an essential decorative role that embellishes urban centres without losing the formal integrity of the surrounding towns and scenic landscapes. Examples such as the Palace of Pedro IV in Aljaferia, Zaragoza, the Cathedral Walls of La Seo de Zaragoza as well as the Teruel and San Pablo Church Towers in Zaragoza were all templates for the impressive Mudejar monuments built in rural areas.

Along with the magnificent Mudejar sites of Tarazona, Borja and Daroca, which have preserved some of the best examples of civil and religious Mudejar architecture, Calatayud has stood since Antiquity as a city of extraordinary economic, social and cultural influence. This explains its large number of Mudejar style buildings.

The Collegiate Church of Santa Maria de Calatayud has preserved from its Mudejar construction the work of Master Muhammad Rami: apse, cloister and tower, which, standing at 72 m high, is the tallest in Aragon. Other buildings in this city, such as the Tower of San Andrés or the remains of the cloister of the Collegiate Church of the Holy Sepulchre continue to show the importance of Calatayud during its Mudejar period.

Yet it is in the affluent valleys of the Ebro and the Jalon where this art can really be appreciated: towers, churches, palaces and urban environments in harmony with the landscape, shapes, colours and textures that form landscapes of breathtaking beauty adorned by variations of light and seasons. The Church of the Virgin of Tobed and the Parish Church of Santa Tecla in Cervera de la Cañada, located in magnificent hamlets, show us the origin and continuity of these fortress-like churches. Built in just under one century, today they stand as intelligent and sustainable buildings created from functional building intelligence and the desire to mirror the magnificence of nature.

The result is a Mudejar territory marked by the creation of sublime locations that are respectful of the countryside and where the inhabitants are reflected at both the start and end of creation of a lofty and unique heritage that transcends the borders of Aragon.

Mudejar World Heritage in the province of Zaragoza
- Parish Church of Santa Tecla in Cervera de la Cañada
- Church of the Virgin of Tobed in Tobed
- Collegiate Church of Santa Maria
- Palace of the Aljaferia, Seo de San Salvador and the Church of San Pablo in Zaragoza

Tower of the Collegiate Church of Santa Maria in the city of Calatayud (Zaragoza) © Territorio Mudéjar

www.territorimudejar.es
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T
he 1972 World Heritage Convention is truly unique. It is the only legal instrument conceived to protect both cultural and natural heritage, based on the principle of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) – the value of a site that is irreplaceable and must be protected for the future.

Each year, during its annual session, the World Heritage Committee adds new sites to the UNESCO World Heritage List. In this issue, we present the 29 sites added to the List during the Committee’s 43rd session held from 30 June to 10 July 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The key goal of the World Heritage Convention is the conservation of cultural and natural places around the world of Outstanding Universal Value. We cannot protect these sites, whether in our own country, or elsewhere, if we are not aware of them. This issue gives you a brief look at each of these extraordinary places.

There are more and more disasters and conflicts around the globe, which threaten these precious places. The effects of climate change are contributing to many of these factors. At UNESCO, we are dedicated to bringing together the expertise to guide actions that will help with heritage conservation. It is not enough to identify heritage and include it on a List. We support national authorities, local authorities and site managers in their daily work of managing and monitoring the state of conservation of these sites.

We must take effective action to ensure our heritage can withstand threats or recover from damage from both natural and human causes. It is more important than ever that we develop and enhance awareness among all stakeholders of what is truly valuable among our human-made and natural treasures, our diverse cultural heritage and environment, so that we can preserve it for future generations to enjoy.
In Denmark, the land of fairytales and Hans Christian Andersen, and in Viborg, we have long learned the value and power of storytelling.

In the Middle Ages, Viborg was the capital of Denmark. People paid homage to kings here and Danish democracy and judiciary were born at Viborg Thing, an annual assembly. Viborg is still a capital but nowadays of animation and visualization as “stories create our life”.

In Viborg, creativity is used as a strategic tool to bring value to all aspects of life and human interaction. Thus, in Viborg, we seek to increase the strategic use of culture, creativity and animation as core elements in making our city sustainable; building on our old and valuable history.

Animation puts Viborg on the world map with The Animation Workshop (TAW), a global top animation school. It is the cornerstone of Viborg’s creative visual position and, like Hans Christian Andersen, its stories transcend age and nationality as it attracts students and professionals from all over the world.

It is a major milestone in the development of Viborg as a media art city that we have recently been designated within the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) as a UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts.

We are looking forward to joining the network and cooperating with the other leading creative cities of the world. Our ambition is to become a vibrant partner of the media arts community and the whole UNESCO family.

Stories create our life.

More info:

Viborg UNESCO Candidacy Film
www.youtube.com/watch?v=aT-aDZZoFZI

The Animation Workshop
https://animationworkshop.via.dk/
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The Risco Caido and the Sacred Mountains of Gran Canaria Cultural Landscape is a treasure chest sharing the story of the Atlantic odyssey of human groups that faced isolation and gave birth to a unique and differentiated island culture for 1,500 years. This is a process that is deeply rooted in the arrival of the North African Amazigh populations on the island. Against the backdrop of a natural environment as sublime as it is demanding, these men and women articulated an epic poem verse by verse, written at the same time on the ocean, in the volcanic depths and under the stars.

The deep imprint of this civilization is specifically visible on the summits of Gran Canaria. A network of archaeological sites reflects the intense relationship between nature and an original culture that crystallised between cliffs and ravines, like an undiscovered jewel, culminating in a degree of organization and complexity based precisely on extensive knowledge of the environment, the latter giving rise to the only representation of a Berber culture developed in an island space on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The traces of this ‘chrysalis’ from which an entirely new social entity would emerge can be seen in the lyrical-Berber alphabetical inscriptions or in their infusion in the toponymy and in certain rural customs and practices.

Cabildo de Gran Canaria
Servicio de Cultura y Patrimonio Histórico
https://riscocaido.grancanaria.com/
The mountains of Gran Canaria are literally alive as a result of a legacy of cave dwellers that cut through the volcanic tuff to live, dream, design and record their beliefs in the very core of the landscape, literally embedded in the mountain across more than two thousand caves and multiple sanctuaries. This heart of stone still beats today. Heritage concentrated in the Cultural Landscape, as well as an ark, is also a mirror.

In fact, different features of the relationship with the territory started by the ancient inhabitants have been passed down from generation to generation and keep the cave dwelling alive, while ancestral uses live on, such as migratory herding, certain water management systems, terrace farming, a pottery factory without a wheel and baking without a kiln peculiar to the native inhabitants, as well as a very ancient network of roads and paths that make up an entire ethnographic universe.

This vibrant Cultural Landscape resonates in the sound of the bells worn by the sheep guided by shepherds, which is still modelled, for example, by the women potters of Lugarejos, where we find ourselves before a real time bubble. This sign of identity is corroborated in historical testimonies such as that of the enlightened José de Viera y Clavijo, who expressed his astonishment in the mid-18th century at the livelihood of those who lived in «holes like bird nests». At the end of the 19th century, English writer and traveller Olivia Stone could not get over the image of children at desks inside a cave used as a local school.

This human adventure seemed to begin in the Tejeda Basin and its surroundings. It was the result of the colossal collapse of a stratovolcano that left behind a caldera almost twenty kilometres in diameter revealing a face that has been etched by erosion. The magnificent geology of the site, defined by author Miguel de Unamuno as a "petrified tempest" with its rocks, cliffs, crags, scarps, plateaus and rock formations that touch both the sky and caress the impossible, became a sacred space and the ideal location to establish links between the human and the sacred, taking advantage of the condition of the sacred mountains as a connecting point between heaven and earth, the cosmic axis. A feeling that is heightened on the peaks of Gran Canaria, a large clear window that is always wide open to the skies.

They were sacred places, as shown by the open-air sanctuaries or almogarenes (sanctuaries carved out of rock) or in caves dotted across the Cultural Landscape, also with an abundance of inverted triangular carvings, representations of the female pubic triangle and the ultimate symbol of fertility for 30,000 years of human history. In fact, comparative examination of some five hundred records suggests it has the highest known density of this kind of cave motif.

The complexity of aboriginal cosmology and sacred symbolism are exceptionally intertwined in what is now known as cave number 6 of Risco Caído, an unknown sanctuary of island culture until its discovery in 1996 by archaeologist Julio Cuenca. His discovery and subsequent study are a turning point in assessment of the scope of the ancient Canarian society.

The farmer of Artenara who used the farm as a place to sell hay was completely unaware that day after day he was entering a lunisolar calendar marking the equinoxes and the summer solstice in a changing path of light along the frieze of pubic triangles of the almogarén, the most perfect one that demonstrated the high level conceptual and practical knowledge of the aborigines in the fields of geometry, geology and astronomy. The Sierra del Bentayga archaeological site, with its almogarén and equinoctial marker, also dazzles us today with yet another glimpse of a civilization that filled the mountains with life and who knew how to communicate and use the stars to measure the passage of time.

This joint work of humanity and nature took place, and still does, on a natural site of immense biological wealth, protected in its entirety, with abundant endemic species and where the boundaries of the Cultural Landscape are almost fully integrated within the Gran Canaria Biosphere Reserve. This is also an emotionally charged environment for the local population, where features located in the Cultural Landscape, such as Roque Nublo, are symbols of identity.

On these lands there are farmers that grow a two-thousand-year-old variety of barley, similar to barley the aborigines jealously stored in their fortified barns, the oldest genetically confirmed case. This seed also germinates as a metaphor for a living landscape capable of regenerating itself and facing up to any change or transformation through the adaptive ability of the land’s dwellers. They thread and maintain the miraculous strand that connects the present to the past as it heads into the future, like a ship unlike any other on its particular ancient Atlantic odyssey.
The World Heritage Convention is the only international legal instrument that protects both cultural and natural sites. The nations (or States Parties) that adhere to the Convention agree to protect heritage in their own countries and in other countries too. Officially called the La Convention concernant la protection du patrimoine mondial, culturel et naturel, it was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972.

WHAT IS WORLD HERITAGE?

The World Heritage Convention is the only international legal instrument that protects both cultural and natural sites. The nations (or States Parties) that adhere to the Convention agree to protect heritage in their own countries and in other countries too. Officially called the La Convention concernant la protection du patrimoine mondial, culturel et naturel, it was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972.

HOW IS A SITE ADDED TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST?

1. A country makes an inventory of its heritage sites and creates a Tentative List of places it would like to propose for inscription on the World Heritage List.

2. The country chooses a site to propose for the List and sends a detailed file of information about the site, including its history and values, and how it will be managed, to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

3. Once the file is complete, advisory bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN) visit the site on a technical mission to evaluate it for its values and authenticity.

4. The evaluation by the advisory bodies is presented to the World Heritage Committee. During its annual session, the World Heritage Committee reviews the sites proposed and decides whether to inscribe each site on the List. A site can be inscribed (added to the List), or the Committee can defer the decision and request further information.

The 29 sites featured in this issue were added to the World Heritage List during the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee, held from 30 June to 10 July 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan. These sites include 24 cultural, four natural and one mixed. One site, the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region, was extended to include elements in Albania, and is now a transboundary site (Albania/North Macedonia).
In Focus

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER INSCRIPTION?

The site remains the responsibility of the country where it is located, and UNESCO supports countries in managing their sites.

World Heritage sites can be added to the List of World Heritage in Danger when their values are under threat.

193 countries have ratified the Convention.

There are currently 1121 sites on the World Heritage List (869 cultural, 213 natural, 39 mixed/both).

The World Heritage Committee consists of representatives from 21 countries to the Convention, elected by their General Assembly. The General Assembly meets every two years. The current members of the Committee are 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.

Advisory Bodies

IUCN
International Union for Conservation of Nature

ICCROM
International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property

ICOMOS
International Council on Monuments and Sites
In Focus    New World Heritage sites

Cultural sites

La Colline del Prosecco di Conegliano e Valdobbiadene (Italy).

© Consorzio di Tutela del Vino Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore Docg
Budj Bim Cultural Landscape (Australia)
The Budj Bim Cultural Landscape, located in the traditional Country of the Gunditjmara people in southeastern Australia, consists of three serial components containing one of the world’s most extensive and oldest aquaculture systems. The Budj Bim lava flows provide the basis for the complex system of channels, weirs and dams developed by the Gunditjmara in order to trap, store and harvest kooyang (short-finned eel – *Anguilla australis*). The highly productive aquaculture system served as an economic and social base for Gunditjmara society for six millennia. The Budj Bim Cultural Landscape is the result of a creational process narrated by the Gunditjmara as a deep time story, referring to the idea that they have always lived there. From an archaeological perspective, deep time represents a period of at least 32,000 years. Today the ongoing dynamic relationship of Gunditjmara and their land is carried by knowledge systems retained through oral transmission and continuity of cultural practice.
Historic Centre of Sheki with the Khan’s Palace (Azerbaijan)
The historic city of Sheki is located at the foot of the Greater Caucasus Mountains and divided in two by the Gurjana River. While the older northern part is built on the mountain, its southern part extends into the river valley. Its historic centre, rebuilt after the destruction of an earlier town by mudflows in the 18th century, is characterized by a traditional architectural ensemble of houses with high gabled roofs. Located along important historic trade routes, the city’s architecture is influenced by Safavid, Qadjar and Russian building traditions. The Khan Palace, in the north-east of the city, and a number of merchant houses reflect the wealth generated by silkworm breeding and the trade in silk cocoons from the late 18th to the 19th centuries.
Dilmun Burial Mounds (Bahrain)
The Dilmun Burial Mounds, built between 2200 and 1750 BCE, span over 21 archaeological sites in the western part of the island. Six of these sites are burial mound fields consisting of a few dozen to several thousand tumuli. In all there are about 11,774 burial mounds, originally in the form of cylindrical low towers. The other Javier Gil León sites include seventeen royal mounds, constructed as two-storey sepulchral towers. The burial mounds are evidence of the Early Dilmun civilization, around the 2nd millennium BCE, during which Bahrain became a trade hub whose prosperity enabled the inhabitants to develop an elaborate burial tradition applicable to the entire population. These tombs illustrate globally unique characteristics, not only in terms of their number, density and scale, but also in terms of details such as burial chambers equipped with alcoves.
Ancient Ferrous Metallurgy Sites of Burkina Faso (Burkina Faso)

Tiwéga furnace, near Kaya.
© DSCPM/MCAT
This property is composed of five elements located in different provinces of the country. It includes about fifteen standing, natural-draught furnaces, several other furnace structures, mines and traces of dwellings. Douroula, which dates back to the 8th century BCE, is the oldest evidence of the development of iron production found in Burkina Faso. The other components of the property – Tiwêga, Yamané, Kindibo and Békuy – illustrate the intensification of iron production during the second millennium CE. Even though iron ore reduction – obtaining iron from ore – is no longer practiced today, village blacksmiths still play a major role in supplying tools, while taking part in various rituals.
In Focus    New World Heritage sites

Writing-on-Stone / Áísínai’pi (Canada)

More than 200 rock art panels are found on cliff faces in the property.

© Alberta Parks
This site is located on the northern edge of the semi-arid Great Plains of North America, on the border between Canada and the United States of America. The Milk River Valley dominates the topography of this cultural landscape, which is characterized by a concentration of pillars or hoodoos – columns of rock sculpted by erosion into spectacular shapes. The Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksikáítsitapi) left engravings and paintings on the sandstone walls of the Milk River Valley, bearing testimony to messages from Sacred Beings. Dated in situ archaeological remains cover a period between ca. 4,500 BP—3,500 years BP and the Contact Period. This landscape is considered sacred to the Blackfoot people, and their centuries-old traditions are perpetuated through ceremonies and in enduring respect for the places.
Archaeological Ruins of Liangzhu City (China)

Aerial view of City Site (from southwest to northeast).

© Hangzhou Liangzhu Archaeological Site Administrative District Management Committee
Located in the Yangtze River Basin on the south-eastern coast of the country, the archaeological ruins of Liangzhu (about 3,300—2,300 BC) reveal an early regional state with a unified belief system based on rice cultivation in Late Neolithic China. The property is composed of four areas – the Area of Yaoshan Site, the Area of High-dam at the Mouth of the Valley, the Area of Low-dam on the Plain and the Area of City Site. These ruins are an outstanding example of early urban civilization expressed in earthen monuments, urban planning, a water conservation system and a social hierarchy expressed in differentiated burials in cemeteries within the property. 

![Jade cong (Fanshan M12:98).](image1)

![Aerial view of Palace Area (from south to north).](image2)
Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří Mining Region (Czechia/Germany)

Example of the timbering in the Štola č. 1 (Adit no. 1) in Jáchymov.

©Jan Albrecht
Erzgebirge/Krušnohorské (Ore Mountains) spans a region in south-eastern Germany (Saxony) and north-western Czechia, which contains a wealth of several metals exploited through mining from the Middle Ages onwards. The region became the most important source of silver ore in Europe from 1460 to 1560. Mining was the trigger for technological and scientific innovations transferred worldwide. Tin was historically the second metal to be extracted and processed at the site. At the end of the 19th century, the region became a major global producer of uranium. The cultural landscape of the Ore Mountains has been deeply shaped by 800 years of almost continuous mining, from the 12th to the 20th century, with mining, pioneering water management systems, innovative mineral processing and smelting sites, and mining cities.
Landscape for Breeding and Training of Ceremonial Carriage Horses at Kladruby nad Labem (Czechia)
The property is situated on the Elbe (Labe) River flood plain, which features sandy soil, oxbow lakes and the relic of a riparian forest. The structure and functional use of plots of land (pastures, meadows, forests, fields, park), network of paths, avenues, trees in regimented lines and arranged clusters as well as the solitary trees, the network of watercourses, ensembles of buildings in the farmsteads and the overall composition, including functional relations and links between these components – all these fully serve the needs of breeding and training the Baroque draught horses of the Kladruber breed, which were used during ceremonies at the Habsburg Imperial Court. The landscape composition demonstrates an intentional artistic approach. The property represents a rare synthesis of two types of cultural landscape – a living, organically developing landscape where the key function dominates, and a man-made landscape, intentionally designed using the principles of French and English landscape architecture – to create an outstanding example of a ferme ornée, specialized decorative farm. The Imperial Stud Farm was founded in 1579 and its landscape has been used for this purpose ever since.
In Focus    New World Heritage sites

Water Management System of Augsburg (Germany)

Hercules Fountain. © Planinghaus architekten
The water management system of the city of Augsburg has evolved in successive phases from the 14th century to the present day. It includes a network of canals, water towers dating from the 15th to 17th centuries, which housed pumping machinery, a water-cooled butchers’ hall, a system of three monumental fountains and hydroelectric power stations, which continue to provide sustainable energy today. The technological innovations generated by this water management system have helped establish Augsburg as a pioneer in hydraulic engineering.
Jaipur City, Rajasthan (India)

View of building façade of a haveli entrance at Choti Chaupar.

© DRONAH
The walled city of Jaipur, in India’s north-western state of Rajasthan was founded in 1727 by Sawai Jai Singh II. Unlike other cities in the region located in hilly terrain, Jaipur was established on the plain and built according to a grid plan interpreted in the light of Vedic architecture. The streets feature continuous colonnaded businesses that intersect in the centre, creating large public squares called chaupars. Markets, shops, residences and temples built along the main streets have uniform facades. The city’s urban planning shows an exchange of ideas from ancient Hindu and modern Mughal as well as Western cultures. The grid plan is a model that prevails in the West, while the organization of the different city sectors (chowkris) refers to traditional Hindu concepts. Designed to be a commercial capital, the city has maintained its local commercial, artisanal and cooperative traditions to this day.
In Focus  New World Heritage sites

Ombilin Coal Mining Heritage of Sawahlunto (Indonesia)

Current condition of compressor building.
© Office of Cultural Affairs, Historical Remains and Museums of Sawahlunto
Built for the extraction, processing and transport of high-quality coal in an inaccessible region of Sumatra, this industrial site was developed by the Netherlands East Indies' government in the globally important period of industrialization from the late 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century. The workforce was recruited from the local Minangkabau people and supplemented by Javanese and Chinese contract workers, and convict labourers from Dutch-controlled areas. The property comprises the mining site and company town, coal storage facilities at the port of Emmahaven and the railway network linking the mines to the coastal facilities. The Ombilin Coal Mining Heritage was built as an integrated system that enabled the efficient deep-bore extraction, processing, transport and shipment of coal. It is also an outstanding testimony of exchange and fusion between local knowledge and practices and European technology.
In Focus    New World Heritage sites

Babylon (Iraq)

Southern Palace.
© Qahtan Al-Abdul
Situated 85 km south of Baghdad, the property includes the ruins of the city which, between 626 and 539 BCE, was the capital of the Neo-Babylonian Empire. It includes villages and agricultural areas surrounding the ancient city. Its remains, outer and inner city walls, gates, palaces and temples, are a unique testimony to one of the most influential empires of the ancient world. Seat of successive empires, under rulers such as Hammurabi and Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon represents the expression of the creativity of the Neo-Babylonian Empire at its height. The city’s association with one of the seven wonders of the ancient world — the Hanging Gardens — has also inspired artistic, popular and religious culture on a global scale.
In Focus    New World Heritage sites

Le Colline del Prosecco di Conegliano e Valdobbiadene (Italy)

© Consorzio Tutela del Vino Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore Docg
Located in north-eastern Italy, the site includes part of the winegrowing landscape of the Prosecco wine production area. The landscape is characterized by ‘hogback’ hills, ciglioni – small plots of vines on narrow grassy terraces – forests, small villages and farmland. For centuries, this rugged terrain has been shaped and adapted by man. Since the 17th century, the use of ciglioni has created a particular chequerboard landscape consisting of rows of vines parallel and vertical to the slopes. In the 19th century, the bellussera technique of training the vines contributed to the aesthetic characteristics of the landscape.
Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group: Mounded Tombs of Ancient Japan (Japan)
Located on a plateau above the Osaka Plain, this property includes 49 kofun (‘old mounds’ in Japanese). These tombs were for members of the elite. These kofun have been selected from among a total of 160,000 in Japan and form the richest material representation of the Kofun period, from the 3rd to the 6th century CE. They demonstrate the differences in social classes of that period and show evidence of a highly sophisticated funerary system. Burial mounds of significant variations in size, kofun take the geometrically elaborate design forms of keyhole, scallop, square or circle. They were decorated with paving stones and clay figures. The kofun demonstrate exceptional technical achievements of earthen constructions.
Megalithic Jar Sites in Xiengkhuang — Plain of Jars (Lao People’s Democratic Republic)
The Plain of Jars, located on a plateau in central Laos, gets its name from more than 2,100 tubular-shaped megalithic stone jars used for funerary practices in the Iron Age. This serial site of fifteen components contains large carved stone jars, stone discs, secondary burials, tombstones, quarries and funerary objects dating from 500 BCE to 500 CE. The jars and associated elements are the most prominent evidence of the Iron Age civilization that made and used them until it disappeared, around 500 CE.
In Focus    New World Heritage sites

Bagan (Myanmar)

Shwezigon Pagoda.
© Department of Archaeology and National Museum
Lying on a bend of the Ayeyarwady River in the central plain of Myanmar, Bagan is a sacred landscape, featuring an exceptional range of Buddhist art and architecture. The seven components of the serial site include numerous temples, stupas, monasteries and places of pilgrimage, as well as archaeological remains, frescoes and sculptures. The property bears spectacular testimony to the peak of Bagan civilization (11th–13th centuries CE), when the site was the capital of a regional empire. This ensemble of monumental architecture reflects the strength of religious devotion of an early Buddhist empire.
In Focus    New World Heritage sites

Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region (Poland)

Krzemionki Opatowskie Mining Field. Chamber mine 795, visitor route.
© K. Pyrczalski/Historical and Archaeological Museum in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski
Located in the mountain region of Świętokrzyskie, Krzemionki is an ensemble of four mining sites, dating from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age (about 3900 to 1600 BCE), dedicated to the extraction and processing of striped flint, which was mainly used for axe-making. With its underground mining structures, flint workshops and some 4,000 shafts and pits, the site features one of the most comprehensive prehistoric underground flint extraction and processing systems identified to date. The site provides information about life and work in prehistoric settlements and bears witness to an extinct cultural tradition. It is an exceptional testimony of the importance of the prehistoric period and of flint mining for tool production in human history.
Royal Building of Mafra – Palace, Basilica, Convent, Cerco Garden and Hunting Park (Tapada) (Portugal)
Located 30 km north-west of Lisbon, the site was conceived by King João V in 1711 as a tangible representation of his conception of the monarchy and the State. This imposing quadrangular building houses the king’s and queen’s palaces, the royal chapel, shaped like a Roman baroque basilica, a Franciscan monastery and a library containing 36,000 volumes. The complex is completed by the Cercó garden, with its geometric layout, and the royal hunting park (Tapada). The Royal Mafra Building is one of the most remarkable works undertaken by King João V, which illustrates the power and reach of the Portuguese Empire. João V adopted Roman and Italian baroque architectural and artistic models and commissioned works of art that make Mafra an exceptional example of Italian Baroque.
In Focus    New World Heritage sites

Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte in Braga (Portugal)

Stairway and church of Bom Jesus do Monte.
© João Paulo Sotto Mayor

World Heritage No. 94

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Located on the slopes of Mount Espinho, overlooking the city of Braga in the north of Portugal, this cultural landscape evokes Christian Jerusalem, recreating a sacred mount crowned with a church. The sanctuary was developed over a period of more than 600 years, primarily in a Baroque style, and illustrates a European tradition of creating Sacri Monti (sacred mountains), promoted by the Catholic Church at the Council of Trent in the 16th century, in reaction to the Protestant Reformation. The Bom Jesus ensemble is centred on a Via Crucis that leads up the western slope of the mount. It includes a series of chapels that house sculptures evoking the Passion of Christ, as well as fountains, allegorical sculptures and formal gardens. The Via Crucis culminates at the church, which was built between 1784 and 1811. The granite buildings have whitewashed plaster façades, framed by exposed stonework. The celebrated Stairway of the Five Senses, with its walls, steps, fountains, statues and other ornamental elements, is the most emblematic Baroque work within the property. They are framed by lush woodland and embraced by a picturesque park that, masterfully set on the rugged hill, highly contributes to the landscape value of the ensemble.

© João Paulo Sotto Mayor

Stairway of the Five Senses

© João Paulo Sotto Mayor

Via Crucis

© João Paulo Sotto Mayor
Seowon, Korean Neo-Confucian Academies (Republic of Korea)
This site, located in central and southern parts of the Republic of Korea, comprises nine seowon, representing a type of Neo-Confucian academy of the Joseon dynasty (15th–19th centuries CE). Learning, veneration of scholars and interaction with the environment were the essential functions of the seowons, expressed in their design. Situated near mountains and water sources, they favoured the appreciation of nature and cultivation of mind and body. The pavilion-style buildings were intended to facilitate connections to the landscape. The seowons illustrate an historical process in which Neo-Confucianism from China was adapted to Korean conditions.
Churches of the Pskov School of Architecture (Russian Federation)

Church Georgiya so Vzvoza (Church of St. George by the road leading up the bank), view from the north-west.

© State budgetary institution of culture. Research and Development Centre for Conservation and Use of Historical and Cultural Monuments of the Pskov Region
This group of monuments is located in the historic city of Pskov, on the banks of the Velikaya River in the northwest of Russia. Characteristics of these buildings, produced by the Pskov School of Architecture, include cubic volumes, domes, porches and belfries, with the oldest elements dating back to the 12th century. Churches and cathedrals are integrated into the natural environment through gardens, perimeter walls and fences. Inspired by the Byzantine and Novgorod traditions, the Pskov School of Architecture reached its peak in the 15th and 16th centuries, and was one of the foremost schools in the country. It informed the evolution of Russian architecture over five centuries.
Risco Caido and the Sacred Mountains of Gran Canaria Cultural Landscape (Spain)
Located in a vast mountainous area in the centre of Gran Canaria, Risco Caído comprises cliffs, ravines and volcanic formations in a landscape of rich biodiversity. The landscape includes a large number of troglodyte settlements — habitats, granaries and cisterns — whose age is proof of the presence of a pre-Hispanic culture on the island, which has evolved in isolation, from the arrival of North African Berbers, around the beginning of our era, until the first Spanish settlers in the 15th century. The troglodyte complex also includes cult cavities and two sacred temples, or almogarenes — Risco Caído and Roque Bentayga — where seasonal ceremonies were held. These temples are thought to be linked to a possible cult of the stars and ‘Mother Earth’. © Javier Gil León

© Nacho González
In Focus  New World Heritage sites

Jodrell Bank Observatory (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Located in a rural area of north-west England, free from radio interference, Jodrell Bank is one of the world’s leading radio astronomy observatories. At the beginning of its use, in 1945, the site housed research on cosmic rays detected by radar echoes. This observatory, which is still in operation, includes several radio telescopes and working buildings, including engineering sheds and the Control Building. Jodrell Bank has had substantial scientific impact in fields such as the study of meteors and the moon, the discovery of quasars, quantum optics, and the tracking of spacecraft. This exceptional technological ensemble illustrates the transition from traditional optical astronomy to radio astronomy (1940s to 1960s), which led to radical changes in the understanding of the universe.
The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright (United States of America)
The property consists of eight buildings in the United States designed by the architect during the first half of the 20th century. These include well-known designs such as Fallingwater (Mill Run, Pennsylvania) and the Guggenheim Museum (New York). All the buildings reflect the ‘organic architecture’ developed by Wright, which includes an open plan, a blurring of the boundaries between exterior and interior and the unprecedented use of materials such as steel and concrete. Each of these buildings offers innovative solutions to the needs for housing, worship, work or leisure. Wright’s work from this period had a strong impact on the development of modern architecture in Europe.
Since the Romans began exploiting the area’s mining resources, through the rise of the steelmaking industry, and without forgetting deep sea and water resource usage, productive activity has been shaping the Basque Country’s landscape and its people. Rural homes, beret and playing card factories that are now part of a network of museums and centres let us discover the region’s reality, its history and economic activity, and the memory of work, and understand its urban development while interpreting its environment.

Of the resources that are currently part of this network, particularly noteworthy are:

- **The Bizkaia Bridge** was the world’s first transporter bridge with a metal structure. It is located at the mouth of the Ibaizabal River where Bilbao’s navigable statuary opened up to the sea until the 19th century. The bridge was inaugurated on 28 July 1893, with its design being the work of Alberto Palacio y Elissague. In 2006, it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site for being one of the most noteworthy examples of the European industrial revolution and cast-iron architecture.

The bridge connects Portugalete and Getxo a few metres from where the statuary empties out into the Cantabrian Sea, making it the perfect reason to visit these two towns; the former with its medieval passageways, and the latter with its charm and lavish mansions.
La Encartada Factory Museum, with all of its manufacturing process components intact, is a unique chance to visit an example of this type of factory. The ‘La Encartada’ beret factory was founded in 1892 by Marcos Arena, a Spanish emigrant who found wealth in Latin America, in collaboration with an English textile trade company. The entire production process was handled in the factory, starting with the acquisition of raw materials and spinning the wool, to the final process of creating the berets.

The complex is comprised of various buildings: the factory museum, worker housing, a chapel, and the supervisor’s house. The factory is a compact, four-story rectangular building with six shorter adjoining bays. It also has large windows. Recognized as an Anchor Point on the European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH), the site presents an exceptional collection of well-preserved late 19th and early 20th century machinery.

The Basque Country Mining Museum is dedicated to the study and promotion of the Basque Country’s mining history and culture, particularly in the Bizkaia Mining Area. Here you can observe part of one of the best mining material and tool collections in Spain, with railway trucks, cots for the injured, picks, etc. Near the museum is the large Concha II mine, which was Europe’s largest iron mine in its day, with 50 km of galleries that run underground throughout the area. In addition, the museum gives an account of the characteristics and location of the other industrial remnants distributed throughout the Mining Area.

In the oldest town in Alava some 30 km from Vitoria-Gasteiz, where the waters of a vast ocean stood 200 million years ago, is the Añana Salt Valley. An imposing open-air cultural landscape (now a monument), the site is comprised of more than 5000 fields where completely pure salt is obtained by pouring brine and leaving it to evaporate in the sun. A unique and extensive network of wooden channels distribute water to the farthest corners of the Salt Valley.

The Añana salt mines are one of the world’s oldest salt factories, and the Salt Valley is currently one of Europe’s best preserved and most spectacular cultural landscapes. Its value lies not only in its unique architecture or in its more than 6,500 years of documented history, nor in its geological characteristics, its biodiversity or its prized landscapes, but in the union in perfect harmony of all of the above in a spectacular setting.

Since November 2017, The Agricultural System of Valle Salado de Añana has been designated as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). This is the only landscape with this distinction in Europe, placing it on the level of China’s rice paddies and Kashmir’s saffron farms.

Yet the Salinas de Añana has much more to offer than its salt factory; in addition to being the gateway to Valdegovia, its heritage also includes important medieval archaeological remains that are being studied and recovered.

The Lenbur (Legazpi Natura eta Burdina) project breaks with the traditional definition of a museum housed in a single space, and offers a route including diverse Iron Valley buildings in Legazpi, where the visitor will be immersed in the daily life of the 1950s while discovering how old foundries worked.

Mirandaola Park includes various spaces along the ‘Beat of the Foundries’ route: The Mirandaola foundry, which was rebuilt and put back into operation on Sundays, just as it was six centuries ago, as well as the Mirandaola chapel and the Basque Iron Museum. Others include the Shepherding Ecomuseum about Idiazabal cheese production, the Rincón del Pan about bread production, and the AIKUR-Bee Museum, which are all housed in rural homes. Also, the ‘Workers Route’ offers an original journey back to the 1950s, with visits to places like classrooms, homes, and a chapel.

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Natural sites
Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China (Phase I) (China)
he site features an intertidal mudflat system considered to be the largest in the world. These mudflats, as well as marshes and shoals, are exceptionally productive and serve as growth areas for many species of fish and crustaceans. The intertidal areas of the Yellow Sea/Gulf of Bohai are of global importance for the gathering of many migratory bird species that use the East Asian-Australasian flyway. Large gatherings of birds, including some of the world’s most endangered species, depend on the coastline as a stopover to moult, rest, winter or nest.
French Austral Lands and Seas (France)

Coastal landscape of the Kerguelen Islands.
© Geoffrey Bertrand
The French Austral Lands and Seas comprise the largest of the rare emerged landmasses in the southern Indian Ocean: the Crozet Archipelago, the Kerguelen Islands, Saint-Paul and Amsterdam Islands as well as 60 small sub-Antarctic islands. This ‘oasis’ in the middle of the Southern Ocean covers an area of more than 67 million ha and supports one of the highest concentrations of birds and marine mammals in the world. In particular, it has the largest population of King Penguins and Yellow-nosed albatrosses in the world. The remoteness of these islands from centres of human activity makes them extremely well-preserved showcases of biological evolution and a unique terrain for scientific research.

© Jean-Philippe Siblet

Saint-Paul Islands.

© Nelly Gravier

In Focus

Sooty-backed Albatross (Phoebetria fusca), Archipelago Crozet.

© Jean-Philippe Siblet
Vatnajökull National Park – Dynamic Nature of Fire and Ice (Iceland)
This iconic volcanic region covers an area of over 1,400,000 ha, nearly 14% of Iceland’s territory. It numbers ten central volcanoes, eight of which are subglacial. Two of these are among the most active in Iceland. The interaction between volcanoes and the rifts that underlie the Vatnajökull ice cap takes many forms, the most spectacular of which is the jökulhlaup – a sudden flood caused by the breach of the margin of a glacier during an eruption. This recurrent phenomenon has led to the emergence of unique sandur plains, river systems and rapidly evolving canyons. Volcanic areas are home to endemic groundwater fauna that has survived the Ice Age.
Hyrcanian Forests
(Islamic Republic of Iran)
Hyrcanian forests form a unique forested massif that stretches 850 km along the southern coast of the Caspian Sea. The history of these broad-leaved forests dates back 25 to 50 million years, when they covered most of this Northern Temperate region. These ancient forest areas retreated during the Quaternary glaciations and then expanded again as the climate became milder. Their floristic biodiversity is remarkable: 44% of the vascular plants known in Iran are found in the Hyrcanian region, which only covers 7% of the country. To date, 180 species of birds typical of broad-leaved temperate forests and 58 mammal species have been recorded, including the iconic Persian Leopard (Panthera pardus tulliana).
The southern peninsula of Baja California is a unique place with vast natural wealth, inhabited by magnificent endemic species and many others that travel to its warm waters to breed in sanctuaries that are valuable to humankind. Grey, humpback and blue whales are just a few of the large mammals that, year after year, choose the bays of Baja California Sur to give birth to future generations and prepare them for the long voyage back to the Arctic. To get to know them is an adventure that cannot be experienced anywhere else in the world.

In this magical Mexican state, getting up close to a grey whale and her calf is one of the most unforgettable experiences for any traveller. There are several encounter points organized by tour operators who are trained to ensure your safety and that of these friendly beings. You could travel to La Paz and take part in an overland excursion to the north a couple of hours away. There are two ports in the nearby town of Comondú: Puerto López Mateos and Puerto San Carlos, both on Magdalena Bay. Another place where you can know them is closer to the Magic Town of Loreto, which you can fly to and then go inland to see the amazing Mulegé. There you will encounter one of the world’s major ecological reserves, where the Grey Whale Sanctuary of Ojo de Liebre Lagoon is located. Deciding between these sites very much depends on the type of trip you want to take. The north and Loreto are the ultimate nature adventure, whilst La Paz provides the comforts of a capital city. Whatever your choice, we can safely say that your encounter with grey whales will be a total communion with nature; a spectacle that includes the curiosity of the young calf, which will often approach the sea craft and play with visitors in a display of incomparable trust and tenderness. But of course accompanied at all times by a vigilant, attentive and friendly mother. The best grey whale season runs from January to March.

If you choose to visit Loreto, in addition to seeing islands overflowing with adventure and old Jesuit missions, you can see one of the world’s most notable cave paintings, today a World Heritage site. Located in the neighbouring town of Mulegé, a three-and-a-half hour road trip from Loreto, this imposing work of art over 10 m high is some 10,000 years old.
Protected by the San Francisco Mountains, it is a difficult place to reach requiring travel by mule to a beautiful and breath-taking canyon. Thanks to this and permits required by the National Anthropology and History Institute (INAH), the murals are subject to stringent conservation and to experience them constitutes a journey back in time. Large shaman-like human figures cohabit in harmony with endemic species such as pronghorn, hare, bighorn sheep and whale. Some historians believe that it was a sacred ceremonial site where the ancient Californians worshipped the Earth. Whether this is true or not, to encounter the vastness of the cave and its huge ancestral mural is a unique experience that is well worth the journey.

If you arrive in Baja California Sur via La Paz, there is no doubt that you will experience one of the gentlest bays in Mexico. A city established on the seashore whose promenade is representative of the heart and origin of the city’s inhabitants. Currently it is one of the key attractions because you get to enjoy spectacular sunsets. You can travel from La Paz to the Espíritu Santo Island Complex, which is part of the 244 islands and islets in the Gulf of California. In this paradise-like place you can get to know one of the largest and friendliest sea lion colonies in the world. Swim or dive with sea lions, large manta rays and other large species. It is commonplace to find very high level camps on the beaches where you can enjoy fantastic days and nights under millions of stars. In addition, its crystal clear turquoise blue waters are perfect for kayaking.

And while the La Paz islands are a key attraction for advanced divers and nature-loving families, Loreto also has islands that are part of this heritage and where multiple species are a must-see, from minute nudibranchs to the magnificent blue whale. The Loreto islands are renowned for their beautiful volcanic rock formations. Overall, the Baja California Sur islands are home to 695 botanical species and approximately 33% of all the world’s marine mammal species.

Yet if you are looking for recommendations, it is best to experience all of Baja California Sur: its beaches, its sanctuaries and its islands. To get to know the magical villages where sun and beaches merge with the colonial Mexico’s history. To get to know, above all, the numerous World Heritage sites, which are also yours and which you should enjoy and look after in the same way as the people who inhabit Baja California Sur and safeguard its natural life. Take the plunge and head for Baja California Sur.
Mixed site

Paraty and Ilha Grande – Culture and Biodiversity (Brazil)
On the 8th September 2019, it has marked 41 years from September 1978, when UNESCO for the first time published the World Heritage list, sites which deserved special attention from humanity to preserve natural and/or culture properties. The priceless architectural and artistic treasures in our historic centre, one of the best conserved and alive places on the planet allowed us to be included in this milestone.

“The commitment of the City to preserve and give our historic centre the city careful attention that this living treasure of humanity deserves, it is evident in every action that has been undertaken. This is the best way that to pay tribute to the history of our city.” Carla Cárdenas, director general of Quito Tourism.

“The city of Quito forms a harmonious ensemble where nature and man are brought together to create a unique and transcendental work” is the official summary from the evaluation committee from UNESCO when the city was named as a World Heritage site, this includes 78.43 hectares of historic city and a buffer zone of 375.25 additional hectares.

A privileged located at the centre of the world appears to have influenced our city to be a space for historical encounters. It is by the unification of Spanish and indigenous cultures that expressions that have marked art not only Latin America but throughout the world. Movements such as the Quito school and in particular our historic centre are areas that attest to the history of cultural and architectural development.
The natural-cultural landscape encompasses the historic centre of Paraty, one of Brazil’s best-preserved coastal towns; four Brazilian Atlantic Forest protected natural areas; one of the world’s five key biodiversity hotspots; and part of the Serra da Bocaina mountain range and the Atlantic coastal region. Serra do Mar and Ilha Grande Bay is home to an impressive diversity of animal species, some of which are threatened, such as the jaguar (Panthera onca), the white-lipped peccary (Tayassu pecari) and several primate species, including the Southern Muriqui (Brachyteles arachnoides), which are emblematic of the property. In the late 17th century, Paraty was the end-point of the Caminho do Ouro (Gold Route), along which gold was shipped to Europe. Its port also served as an entry point for tools and African slaves, sent to work in the mines. A defence system was built to protect the wealth of the port and the town. The historic centre of Paraty has retained its 18th-century plan and much of its colonial architecture dating from the 18th and early 19th centuries.
Site extension

Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region (Albania)

(extension of Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region, North Macedonia)
The part of Lake Ohrid located in Northern Macedonia and its hinterland, including the town of Ohrid, has been inscribed on the World Heritage List since 1979. With this extension, the site now encompasses the north-western, Albanian, part of Lake Ohrid, the small Lin Peninsula and the strip of land along the shoreline that connects the peninsula to the Macedonian border. The peninsula is the site of the remains of an Early Christian church founded in the middle of the 6th century. In the shallow waters near the shores of the lake, three sites testify to the presence of prehistoric pile dwellings. A superlative natural phenomenon, the lake provides a refuge for numerous endemic species of freshwater fauna and flora dating from the Tertiary period.

Decorative floor mosaics.

© Aneta Ribarska

The 6th-century paleochristian basilica in Lin (Albania).

© Fariba Babaei

In Focus    New World Heritage sites
Located 10 km from the city of Alcoy and 50 km from Alicante, the rocky shelters of La Sarga are a prehistoric sanctuary where more than a hundred painted motifs of the three artistic horizons of the Neolithic eastern seaboard of the Iberian Peninsula are depicted. They are known as Macro Schematic Art, Levantine Art and Schematic Art, which developed between the 5th and 2nd millennia BC.

Among the most notable painted motifs is a Levantine Art deer hunting scene. It is superimposed on a Macro Schematic style «praying» figure, a depiction of a «sorcerer» or a unique scene of trees being shaken to harvest their fruit. Geometric motifs, idols and anthropomorphic motifs from the Schematic artistic horizon are also depicted.

Another attraction of the Caves of La Sarga is the beauty of their surroundings, bordering on the Carrascal de la Font Roja Natural Park.

The La Sarga prehistoric paintings make up one of the most representative Rock art of the Mediterranean Basin sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1998. The site’s safekeeping and management is tied to the City of Alcoy, through its Municipal Archaeological Museum, which has acquired the adjacent land and an old farm building that is due to become the Interpretation Centre for this exceptional Rock Art site.
The UNESCO Courier
Teachers: Changing lives

(October-December 2019)

To demonstrate a commitment that goes far beyond what is generally required by the profession, whether by choice or because the context demands it. This is why the teachers featured in this new issue of the UNESCO Courier—on the occasion of World Teachers’ Day, celebrated each year on 5 October—have in common.

The UNESCO Courier, the flagship UNESCO magazine since 1948 is a platform for the dialogue between cultures and a forum for international debate. Bringing together well-known personalities, experts and artists, as well as journalists from different cultural and geographical horizons, it reflects the intellectual role of UNESCO, and its work around the world in all its domains of competence.

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The seminar ‘Climate Change, World Heritage and Tourism’ was presented at UNESCO Headquarters on 16 December 2019 by Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University in collaboration with UNESCO’s World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS France and the Association des biens français du patrimoine mondial.

The seminar focused on issues crucial to future World Heritage preservation. The sessions illustrated the different ways in which climate change is already encroaching on the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage sites in various environments, from Venice in Italy to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda.
Experts discuss climate change, World Heritage and tourism at UNESCO

The seminar ‘Climate Change, World Heritage and Tourism’ was presented at UNESCO Headquarters on 16 December 2019 by Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University in collaboration with UNESCO’s World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS France and the Association des biens français du patrimoine mondial.

The seminar focused on issues crucial to future World Heritage preservation. On a global scale, tourism is a factor contributing to climate change, especially when emissions are measured at the level of the individual. Carbon emissions from tourism, including air travel, are expected to double in the next 25 years. And climate change poses a risk to the integrity of World Heritage properties, endangering the very qualities that make them attractive to tourists.

To both mitigate and adapt to the threat, managers of World Heritage sites are devising new measures. These include setting up projects to assess risk and minimize the impacts of climate change by increasing site resilience, and launching initiatives to help sites adjust to changing conditions.

Opened by Mechtild Rössler, Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the seminar approached these questions holistically, at global, regional and local levels. The keynote speaker was Adam Markham, Deputy Director of the Climate & Energy programme at the Union of Concerned Scientists, who outlined the issues linking climate change, World Heritage and tourism and cited appropriate responses. Helena Rey de Assis from UN Environment’s Consumption and Production Unit described projects currently being implemented to transfer tourism value chains in the Dominican Republic, the Philippines, Saint Lucia and Mauritius.

The sessions illustrated the different ways in which climate change is already encroaching on the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage sites in various environments, from Venice in Italy to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda. Panelists emphasized the need to understand the risks, maintain effective monitoring and take action both locally and internationally.

The seminar also provided case studies on the application of the Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI) around the world. This rapid assessment tool has been specifically developed for World Heritage properties, building upon the vulnerability framework approach described in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University is a UNESCO Chair in Tourism, Culture and Development.
Stepping up management of Komodo’s outstanding marine environment

From 25 to 29 November 2019, experts from World Heritage marine sites met in Indonesia to support the Komodo National Park with the management of its marine component.

Komodo National Park was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1991 for its outstanding ecosystems and biodiversity. While perhaps best known for the Komodo Dragon, Komodo National Park’s Outstanding Universal Value comprises also a unique array of corals, fish, turtles, dolphins, dugongs and whales. Sixty per cent of the property’s surface is ocean and a significant proportion of the income generated by tourism is derived from scuba divers and snorkelers who are attracted by the underwater spectacle Komodo provides.

The meeting brought together experts from across the 50 marine World Heritage sites, including the Great Barrier Reef (Australia), Galápagos Islands (Ecuador) and Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park (Philippines). The wide range of topics included marine monitoring and research, sharing benefits equitably among local communities, and marine zoning.

In addition, hands-on training was provided on how to put the Outstanding Universal Value at the centre of a World Heritage site’s management system, following the approach set out in the Marine World Heritage Best Practice Guide. Participants visited local communities where discussions were held on building sustainable livelihoods through cooperation with the dive industry and dealing with marine litter.

The workshop was organized in close collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Jakarta, building on a first capacity building session held in 2017.

Instituto do Património Cultural (Cabo Verde) awarded UNESCO-Greece Melina Mercouri cultural landscapes prize

The 2019 UNESCO-Greece Melina Mercouri International Prize for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural Landscapes was awarded on 18 November to Instituto do Património Cultural in Cabo Verde for its outstanding contribution to the safeguarding, management and sustainable development of the Natural Park of Cova, Paul and Ribeira da Torre.

The award ceremony took place at UNESCO Headquarters in the presence of the Minister of Culture and Sport of Greece, Styliani Mendoni, and the Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay.

Funded by the Government of Greece and named after the late Greek actress and former Culture Minister Melina Mercouri, the prize rewards an individual, institution or non-governmental organization for outstanding efforts to protect and manage cultural landscapes, defined as sites that embody an enduring, intimate relationship between people and their environment.

Hamilton Jair M. L. Fernandes, President of the Instituto do Património Cultural in Cabo Verde, accepted the award, declaring that ‘for us it is a priority to implement actions to improve the living conditions of communities, to fully protect the cultural and natural ecosystem and sustainably ensure the enjoyment of those who visit this beautiful landscape. With this award we intend to elaborate a Management Plan, create a centre for landscape interpretation, train young tourist guides and promote female entrepreneurship.’

The Natural Park of Cova, Paul and Ribeira da Torre is an emblematic example of Cabo Verde’s mountain wetlands and one of its most important agricultural ecosystems. The Park is dominated by a volcanic crater (Cova), forest areas, steep peaks, deep valleys and cliffs overlooking the sea. Over time, people found ingenious ways to adapt to this particular landscape, creating a network of local roads and paths, as well as soil conservation and irrigation infrastructure. The management of the natural park has been guided by the commitment and involvement of the park’s inhabitants, ensuring the sustainable use of resources, and the local community is a key partner for the Instituto do Património Cultural in monitoring and fighting fires that periodically break out in the park.

Awards every two years, the $30,000 UNESCO-Greece Melina Mercouri International Prize for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural Landscapes supports the safeguarding of cultural landscapes in the face of numerous threats, such as unplanned infrastructure development and urbanization; a lack of people to manage landscapes, due to depopulation and changes in traditional ways of life; and increasing disaster risks and the effects of climate change.
Hydropower project in Tanzania’s Selous Game Reserve site causing UNESCO grave concern

Considering the alarming results of an independent technical review of the project’s Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), the World Heritage Centre is expressing grave concern over the state of conservation of Tanzania’s Selous Game Reserve World Heritage site and the impacts of the Rufiji Hydropower Project on the property.

The review, commissioned by IUCN, concludes that the SEA of the Rufiji hydropower project inside the World Heritage site falls ‘fundamentally short of both international and national guidance’ for such an assessment.

The World Heritage Committee had previously requested that Tanzania fully assess the cumulative impacts of the Stiegler’s Gorge hydropower project on the property and its wider landscape through a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), undertaken to the highest international standards, and to consider alternatives.

The independent review, released by IUCN, concludes that the SEA is completely insufficient and does not assess the project’s economic viability, social and environmental impacts, or project alternatives.

As the review further points out, ‘Given the advanced stage of project planning, the Rufiji assessment cannot deliver the credible input into strategic decision-making that a SEA is intended to provide’. It notes that alternative project options, including alternative locations, are only superficially assessed. The SEA was completed after the construction contract for the project was signed and work had already begun. The World Heritage Centre has sent the results of the review to the Tanzanian government.

Rufiji River, a reservoir measuring 914 km², and the deforestation of nearly 1,000 km² in the very heart of the World Heritage site. The World Heritage Committee has closely followed the proposed dam construction and urged Tanzania not to proceed with it. The Committee’s position is that the construction of dams with large reservoirs within the boundaries of World Heritage properties is incompatible with their World Heritage status. At its last session in Baku, Azerbaijan in July 2019, the Committee concluded that the project would likely lead to irreversible damage to the site’s Outstanding Universal Value and hence fulfil the conditions for removal of the property from the World Heritage List.

The Selous Game Reserve was inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List in 1982 as one of Africa’s largest wilderness areas. It is home to iconic species such as the elephant and the critically endangered black rhinoceros. In 2014, the reserve had been initially included on the List of World Heritage in Danger because of the significant decline in its elephant population due to poaching. The threat of the dam was added to the justification for danger-listing in 2018.

The Committee has urged Tanzania to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property without further delay to review the status of the dam project, to verify the extent of the damage already incurred, and to assess the state of conservation of the property. The World Heritage Centre awaits Tanzania’s invitation for the mission.

The full independent review is available on the IUCN website: https://www.iucn.org/news/world-heritage/201912/iucn-outsourced-paper-finds-no-proof-rufiji-dam-project-can-meet-tanzanias-development-needs
Arab World Heritage young professionals meet in Tunisia

Thirty-two young professionals from 17 countries of the Arab States region attended the Arab World Heritage Young Professionals Forum in Tunis, Tunisia from 2 to 6 December 2019. The participants brought a diverse range of academic and professional backgrounds related to heritage and peacebuilding. Over the five days, they examined the concept of violent extremism and its manifestation at heritage sites, recovery and reconciliation processes, and the pivotal role that youth and society as a whole can play. As young professionals in the field, they explored a common vision for a future of peace in the region, and discussed how culture can be leveraged to help create it.

The Forum was opened by Dr Mohamed Ould Amar, Director-General of ALECSO; H. E. Ms Élaine Ayotte, Ambassador of Canada to UNESCO; Dr Mechtild Rössler, Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre; Mr Adel Elsayed Sparr, Head of the Youth Engagement Unit, UNOCT/UNCCT; and H. E. Mr Mohamed Zinelabidine, Minister of Cultural Affairs of Tunisia.

First-hand accounts from experts on the loss of heritage to conflict and war struck a deep and personal chord with participants, bringing the realities of damage and destruction to the fore and setting the stage for ensuing discussions. Participants were better able to understand the mechanisms and the push and pull factors that lead violent extremists to attack expressions of cultural identity.

Two visits to heritage sites in Tunisia that were recently under attack from extremist groups helped bring in the local context and highlighted ways in which communities addressed the threat. Participants were led to consider reconciliation and reconstruction options they would choose in similar situations. Moving forward, they gained an overview of UNESCO’s action to support its Member States in protecting heritage from violent extremism and mitigating its impact.

Communicating heritage for peace

Three distinct case studies related to heritage sites were used to explore the emotion design approach, which creates a personal connection between the community, generations of their shared stories, and their heritage. Applying this compelling method, which leverages the unifying force of heritage to prevent violent extremism and facilitate peacebuilding and reconciliation, participants produced innovative communication plans for each case study. They developed relevant projects that ranged from educational and entertaining video games to week-long cultural events and festivals.

In addition to building a peer network of like-minded individuals committed to this common goal, the young professionals are eager to apply their new knowledge in their respective communities and countries. The Action Plan they devised, including a set of recommendations for multiple stakeholders in the Arab States region, can be found on the World Heritage Centre website (http://whc.unesco.org).

Focused on the link between heritage and peacebuilding and highlighting their positive impact on each other, the Forum was the first initiative of its kind within the World Heritage Education Programme.

The Forum was organized by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre under the World Heritage Education (WHE) Programme, within the framework of the UNESCO/UNOCT project on the Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) through Youth Empowerment in Jordan, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia, co-funded by Canada. The event was held in collaboration with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), and l’Institut national du patrimoine (INP).
Youth Lens on the Silk Roads

This Photo Album, which gathers 74 photos, is the result of an International Photo Contest organized by the UNESCO Silk Roads Project in order to contribute to the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022).

This initiative, which benefited from the support and valuable advice of the photographer and humanitarian, Reza, provided an opportunity for youth living or travelling along these Silk Roads to reflect on the concept of common heritage and plural identities while trying to express their views and visions through photography.

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Creating and Governing Cultural Heritage in the European Union (Open Access)
The European Heritage Label (CDIS) and the Culture Conventions for Development Indicators Suite (FCS), the Culture|2030 indicators comprise a framework of thematic indicators. Their purpose is to monitor the progress of culture’s enabling contribution to the implementation of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, both as a sector of activity, and transversally across other sectors. The indicators were developed over two years with inputs from numerous experts, and in partnership with the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) in Montreal. Existing methodologies were reviewed, including the UIS Framework for Cultural Statistics (FCS), the Culture for Development Indicators Suite (CDIS) and the Culture Conventions periodic reporting mechanisms, in the specific context of the 2030 Agenda.

Managing Heritage in Africa: Who Cares?
Edited by Webber Ndoro, Shadreck Chirikure, Janette Deacon
Published by UNESCO

Managing Heritage in Africa provides a wide-ranging synthesis of heritage management practice in Africa, covering a broad spectrum of heritage issues including archaeology, living traditions, sacred sites, heritage of pain (slavery), international conventions cultural landscapes, heritage in conflict areas and heritage versus development. Dealing with both living and tangible heritage, Managing Heritage in Africa gives informative insights into some of the major challenges and approaches to contemporary heritage management in Africa.

The Protection of Cultural Heritage During Armed Conflict: The Changing Paradigms
Noelle Higgins
Published by Routledge
Download free pdf at https://www.routledge.com

This book analyses the current legal framework seeking to protect cultural heritage during armed conflict and discusses proposed and emerging paradigms for its better protection. Conflict has always affected cultural heritage, with monuments and artefacts frequently destroyed as collateral damage in wars throughout history. However, deliberate destruction of cultural sites, and items has also occurred, and the intentional destruction of cultural heritage has been a hallmark of recent conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa, where unprecedented, systematic attacks on culture are used as a weapon of war. This study explores how the international law framework can be fully implemented in order to tackle cultural heritage destruction. This volume will be an essential resource for scholars and practitioners in the areas of public international law, especially international humanitarian law, and cultural heritage law.

Managing Natural World Heritage Russian translation
Joint publication of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN
Published by UNESCO

This Resource Manual has a specific purpose: helping to manage natural values within World Heritage properties. Aimed at natural and mixed World Heritage properties as well as cultural landscapes (inscribed under cultural criteria), it is intended to help managers better understand and incorporate World Heritage concepts and processes into natural site management. All natural World Heritage managers and staff can find useful guidance here and be inspired to explore the many resources highlighted. Many of the management principles described will apply to any type of protected area, but here special emphasis is given to those management considerations most relevant to sites with World Heritage status.

World Heritage Marine Sites
Managing effectively the world’s most iconic Marine Protected Areas: Best Practice Guide
Published by UNESCO
Download free pdf at https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000235316v

There are currently three World Heritage marine sites in the Arab region, in Mauritania, Sudan and Yemen. This publication lays the groundwork for a common approach to a more pro-active, future-oriented management of marine protected areas (MPAs) around the world. The step-by-step guidance provides a tangible approach for bringing the Outstanding Universal Value of a site to the heart of its management system. Best practice illustrations throughout the guide show how Outstanding Universal Value is key to setting management objectives and can align private sector partners, NGOs and government institutions behind shared and common conservation goals. More broadly, the guide outlines how using area-based tools, such as marine spatial planning (MSP), can help to plan for and achieve environmental, social and economic outcomes that lead to sustainable use and effective management of MPAs over time.
**Calendar**

**11 to 14 February 2020**

*13th session of the Intergovernmental Committee of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*

UNESCO Headquarters
Information: [http://www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)

**17 to 27 March**

*Heritage Management for Building Resilience of Living Settlements*

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam
Information: [http://www.iccrom.org](http://www.iccrom.org)

**24 to 25 March**

*10th Meeting of the Monaco Blue Initiative*

Principality of Monaco

**5 to 7 May**

*Adapt Northern Heritage Conference 2020*

Edinburgh, United Kingdom

**26 to 29 May**

*2020 Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA)*

Seville, Spain

**2 to 6 June**

*2020 UN Ocean Conference*

Lisbon, Portugal
Information: [https://oceanconference.un.org/](https://oceanconference.un.org/)

**11 to 19 June**

*IUCN World Conservation Congress*

Marseille, France
Information: [http://www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)

**29 June to 9 July 2020**

*44th session of the World Heritage Committee*

Fuzhou, China
Information: [http://whc.unesco.org](http://whc.unesco.org)
Located on the northwestern foothills of the Hajjar Mountains at 120 m altitude, Halla overlooks the extensive dry valley of Wadi Haqil. The village is surrounded by steep, caldron-shaped slopes that were of great strategic value in the 17th and 18th century. These slopes provided a natural barrier that hid the village and sheltered its residents during a time when the Kingdom of Hormuz, and with it its political control and protection for the region, was in decline. Halla, as well as other mountain villages in the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah, served as a place of refuge against raiders landing at the nearby coast.

Today, approximately 150 archaeological structures, dating back over 300 years, still remain in Halla. These include houses, storing places, as well as a central mosque. The stone houses, which can be differentiated into a smaller and a larger building type, suggest that there were two phases of settlement. The history of Halla serving as a safe haven is evident from its two defence walls, which are still partially standing today. These walls blocked the access to the village, which was only possible through either a small dry valley (wadi) from the West, or across the very steep mountain’s crest from the North.

Due to its historical and archaeological value, Halla is part of the Protected Archaeological Areas Network in the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah. The Department of Antiquities and Museums is working to preserve the village’s original character through adopting a holistic protection strategy that considers the archaeological site in connection with its surrounding mountain landscape. Furthermore, small-scale and low-impact developments will ensure that the development footprint on the site is as minimal as possible. In collaboration with the local Tourism and Development Authority, the Department of Antiquities and Museums is in the process of developing nature trails, information boards, and viewing platforms for the public. There are also plans to authentically restore a small number of the stone houses in order to allow visitors to experience what Halla looked like centuries ago. In the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah, the conservation and restoration of archaeological sites goes hand in hand with the development of responsible heritage tourism.
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*World Heritage* magazine is published jointly by UNESCO and Publishing for Development and printed four times a year in English, French and Spanish. The publication presents and promotes the preservation of our World Heritage, with detailed feature articles and news items about the most outstanding cultural and natural sites around the world. This magazine is designed particularly to reflect and enhance UNESCO’s dedication to World Heritage sites – our legacy from the past, our responsibility for the present and our duty to future generations.

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48 million years ago the Messel Pit came (close to a coastline of an ocean on the northern hemisphere of our Earth) into existence by a maar volcano eruption in a landscape consisting of granitic rocks of the Odenwald mountains. It created a very deep crater that eventually filled with water, a lake in a subtropical geographic area came into existence. Organisms settled within the lake, at the border of it and eventually into the surrounding forest when it recovered from the eruption.

In the middle of the 19th century this area of Germany was discovered and identified as an oil shale area and was exploited for petrol production up to 1971. Mainly the products went into the oil lamp industry. After this industrial phase a courageous fight of residents and scientists against a future use of this open air quarry as waste disposal site took place and finally came to an end on 9th December 1995 when UNESCO accepted this site as an outstanding universal fossil site with earth history witnesses of Eocene time and designated it as Natural World Heritage site. Fossils of extraordinary conservation status, especially complete skeletons of mammals, but also birds, fish, reptiles, amphibia, insects, skin, tissue and stomach contents etc. were found inside the oil shale, an algae mud, that filled up the former lake.

Scientific investigations up to today prove the uniqueness of the fossils also permitting an interpretation for a subtropical rainforest environment around and inside the former crater lake and having this site as a unique window into the Eocene rainforest environment. They represent the development of a high diversity of species after a global catastrophe happening about 18 million years before the volcanic eruption.

Today the site is a research area and visitors get access across a visitor center at the southern rim of the former open air quarry. Three museums present fossils in the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt/Main, Hesse State Museum in Darmstadt and in Messel, about 4 km away from the site. The visitor center directly next to the World Heritage site demonstrates the spirit of the site itself in about seven exhibition rooms in a holistic and artistic way. Handicapped visitors can use it easily. The design makes it a communication platform for people from all over the world to exchange and seed peace at this unique site.
In Focus: Biodiversity

The World Heritage List includes the most outstanding places on the planet, and many of its natural sites are crucial for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem integrity. Through the World Heritage Convention, the global community pledges to preserve these exceptional places while respecting their cultural and local connections. Today, the situation is critical. Our planet has experienced the biggest loss in biodiversity ever recorded.

The World Heritage Convention works with the UNESCO Man and Biosphere programme to conserve some of the most important biodiversity sites as World Heritage sites or biosphere reserves. At the same time, the World Heritage Convention works closely with the other biodiversity-related Conventions, notably the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to demonstrate the importance of biodiversity conservation to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

2020 is being called ‘the biodiversity super year’, as it is when the world will decide on the next decade’s global targets for biodiversity conservation. In this issue, we will explore some of the World Heritage sites with amazing biodiversity and discover what significant steps the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) recommends taking in the coming decade to conserve the web of life.

The issue also offers an exclusive interview with Jane Goodall, renowned primatologist, anthropologist and founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and the Roots & Shoots global youth programme.
The Ku Klux Klansmen who bombed Birmingham, Alabama’s 16th Street Baptist Church, taking the lives of four black girls preparing for Sunday worship services on September 15, 1963, tried to destroy the sanctuary designed by Wallace A. Rayfield, the nation’s second black architect and protégée of the first, Robert Taylor of Tuskegee Institute.

Rayfield, a Georgia native who graduated from the historically black Howard University in Washington, D.C., before studying architecture at both the Pratt Institute and Columbia University School of Architecture in New York City, worked under Taylor before setting up an office in Birmingham from which he designed nearly 500 buildings in 20 states, the most famous being the church that served as a backdrop for protests during the Civil Rights Movement. Constructed in 1911 as an attractive blend of Roman arches and Byzantine domes, the building’s granite foundation suffered from the hateful dynamite blast. Repairs failed to solve a drainage problem. Recognizing the significance of the structure placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and later made a National Historic Landmark, community leaders joined the congregation in a restoration campaign that raised locally $3 million, with receipt of a National Park Service “Save America’s Treasures” grant providing half of the remaining $1 million used in 2006 to finally fix long-standing structural problems so that the church might continue to welcome civil rights pilgrims for generations to come. A decade later, receipt of two National Park Service African American Civil Rights Grants provided a million dollars’ worth of additional repairs that included the restoration of the stained-glass windows. A proposed renovation of the contemporaneous parsonage next door as a museum will feature an exhibit on Rayfield. Sixteenth Street Baptist Church is among the keystone locations of the U.S. Civil Rights Trail.

The murder of the four black girls so moved the children of Wales that they supported a campaign to donate their pocket change to fund a memorial stained-glass window proposed by Welsh artist John Petts. Reading of the domestic terrorist attack against the 16th Street Baptist Church in Cardiff’s The Western Mail, Petts learned that the window illustrating William Holman Hunt’s famous painting of Jesus knocking at the door had survived the blast unscathed save for the face of Christ being blown away. Shaken by that image, Petts designed a new window depicting a Christ-like black man whose right hand pushes away injustice while his left reaches out in love. A rainbow symbolizing forgiveness stretches behind his weary head. Inspired by the Matthew 25:40 scripture, which begins “as you did it to one of the least of these, my brethren,” the artist added to the bottom of the window the verse’s conclusion, changing it to the startling present tense: “You do it to
me.” Rather than have a rich patron pay for the gift, Petts asked The Western Mail to appeal to the public for donations capped at a half crown each, or the equivalent today of 15 cents U.S., and the youth of the nation responded. In 1965, the congregation installed the Wales Window above the arcaded porch entrance. Recently, working with REV Birmingham, the church received a 2018 Partners in Preservation Award of $150,000 from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to pay for the installation of protective glass coverings over the stained-glass windows. A Welsh delegation that included the minister of education and the national youth movement leader made a pilgrimage to the church in 2019 to see the window and promote international exchanges. An exhibit on the life and work of Petts is planned for the new parish house museum. More details available at CivilRightsTrail.com
Casa Batlló has carried out a meticulous restoration of this Work of Antoni Gaudí, inscribed on the World Heritage list in 2005. Since 2018 the visitor has been part of this historic moment that continues to amaze and inspire us today for its Outstanding Universal Value. The Explore the Restoration campaign has allowed us to implement the UNESCO’s 5C strategy as we prepare to develop the 2020-25 Management Plan and update our contents in a new visiting project never seen before.