

World Heritage Sites in the United States



Governor's House, La Fortaleza and San Juan National Historical Site
© HARVEY BARBROSE

Red-footed booby, Papaha'naumoku'kea
© KRIS KRUG

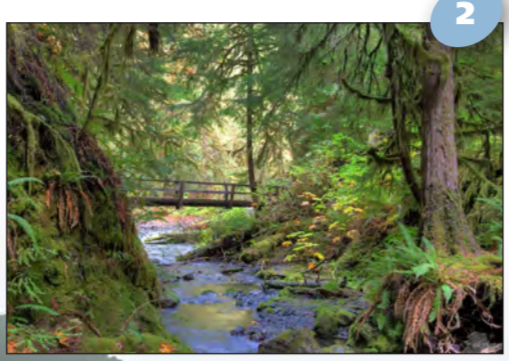
Morning Glory Pool, Yellowstone National Park
© JEFF SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Statue of Liberty
© MICHAEL BELL

Grand Canyon National Park
© PIXABAY/SKEEZE

Black bear, Great Smoky Mountains National Park
© MICHAEL LOTO

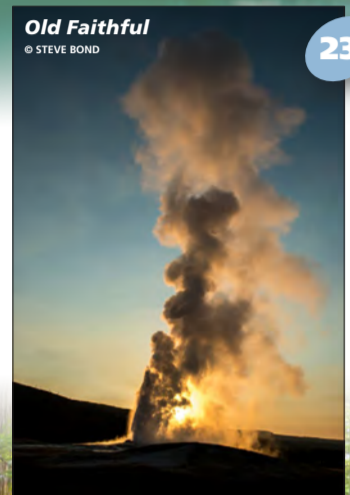
1 Kluane/Wrangell-St. Elias/ Glacier Bay/Tatshenshini-Alesek
vii • viii • ix • x
ALASKA (US), CANADA - 1979
Over 24 million acres of wild lands and waters are changed by glaciers and volcanic activity.
www.nps.gov/glba, www.nps.gov/wrst
www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-nplyt/kluane
www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore
© MIKE KOCH



2 Olympic National Park
vii • ix
WASHINGTON - 1981
Features temperate rainforest, glaciers, peaks, alpine meadows, old-growth forest, and wilderness coastline. Critical habitat for endangered species including northern spotted owl and bull trout.
www.nps.gov/olym
© MIKE CROSS



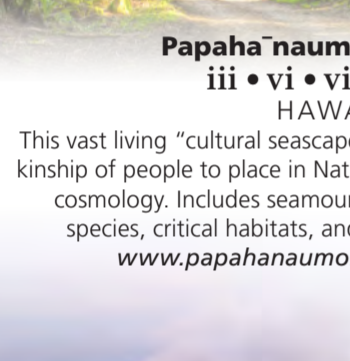
3 Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park
vii • ix
MONTANA (US), CANADA - 1995
World's first international peace park. Rich biodiversity and outstanding scenery with prairie, forest, alpine, and glacial features.
www.nps.gov/glac
www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-nplab/waterton/



23 Old Faithful
© STEVE BOND
Yellowstone National Park
vii • viii • ix • x
WYOMING, MONTANA, IDAHO - 1978
Renowned for geothermal features, Yellowstone has the world's largest concentration of geysers. Protects grizzly bears, wolves, bison, and elk.
www.nps.gov/yell



22 Redwood National and State Parks
vii • ix
CALIFORNIA - 1980
Coastal mountain home to California brown pelicans, sea lions, bald eagles, and ancient redwood forest—the world's tallest trees.
www.nps.gov/redw
© AMY HUDECEK



21 Papaha'naumoku'kea
iii • vi • viii • ix • x
HAWAII - 2010
This vast living "cultural seascape" embodies kinship of people to place in Native Hawaiian cosmology. Includes seamounts, endemic species, critical habitats, and coral reefs.
www.papahanaumokuakea.gov
Greg McNeil / NOAA



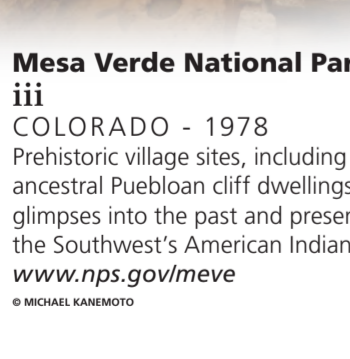
20 Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
viii
HAWAII - 1987
Earth's greatest mass of volcanoes, including Mauna Loa and Kilauea, tower over a "hotspot" in the mantle. Continuous geologic activity builds an ever changing landscape home to rare and endemic species.
www.nps.gov/havo
NPS



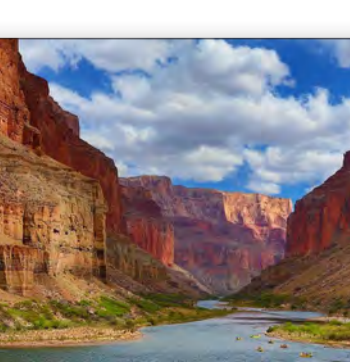
19 Yosemite National Park
vii • viii
CALIFORNIA - 1984
Glacial erosion helped sculpt this scenic landscape. Soaring granite cliffs, polished domes, high waterfalls, sequoia groves, wilderness, deep-cut valleys, and alpine meadow habitats.
www.nps.gov/yose
© JOCELYN PANTALEON HIDALGO



17 Mesa Verde National Park
iii
COLORADO - 1978
Prehistoric village sites, including hundreds of ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings, provide glimpses into the past and present lifeways of the Southwest's American Indian peoples.
www.nps.gov/meve
© MICHAEL KANEMOTO



15 Grand Canyon National Park
vii • viii • ix • x
ARIZONA - 1979
This grandest ongoing geological spectacle is a stunning display of Earth's history. Volcanic features, eroded landforms, waterfalls, white-water, and an array of plants and animals.
www.nps.gov/lgrca
© Tom Gotchy



14 Taos Pueblo
iv
NEW MEXICO - 1992
The dwellings and ceremonial buildings of this pre-Hispanic adobe settlement illustrate the traditional architecture and culture of the Pueblo people of Arizona and New Mexico.
www.taospueblo.com
© Ellen Dunn



13 San Antonio Missions
ii
TEXAS - 2015
Five frontier mission complexes and a ranch date to the 1700s. Styles weaving Spanish and indigenous elements showing an interchange of cultures and values.
www.nps.gov/saan
www.thealamo.org
© ALEX ALDANA



PRESERVED FOR ALL HUMANITY
With over 1,100 properties, the World Heritage List shows a shared global commitment to preserve the world's most important natural and cultural sites.
Learn more about the World Heritage sites in the United States, described here with selection criteria in Roman numerals (*details other side*), location, inscription year, and websites. The Passport booklet *World Heritage Sites in the United States* can be purchased at www.eparks.com. For more on the World Heritage List: whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/us.

Natural **Cultural** **Mixed**

4 Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site
iii • iv
ILLINOIS - 1982
This urban complex flourished 1000–1350 CE (Common Era). Regional center for prehistoric Mississippian culture.
www.cahokiamounds.org
© JIM WARK/ARPHOTO



5 Statue of Liberty
i • vi
NEW YORK - 1984
This gift from France to the United States is a symbol of international friendship, peace, progress, freedom, democracy, and human migration. Renowned for art and engineering.
www.nps.gov/stli
© PIXABAY



6 Independence Hall
vi
PENNSYLVANIA - 1979
An international symbol of freedom and democracy, this 18th-century building is where the Declaration of Independence and Constitution were created and signed.
www.nps.gov/inde
© TODD LANDRY



7 Everglades National Park
viii • ix • x
FLORIDA - 1979
North America's largest subtropical wilderness has several vital habitats for plants and animals including Florida panthers and manatees. Key area for bird migration and breeding.
www.nps.gov/ever
© CARLTON WARD JR.



8 Castillo San Felipe del Morro
vi
PUERTO RICO - 1983
Strategic defensive structures represent early European military architecture, engineering, and history in the Americas.
www.nps.gov/saju

10 La Fortaleza and San Juan National Historic Site
vi
PUERTO RICO - 1983
Strategic defensive structures represent early European military architecture, engineering, and history in the Americas.
www.nps.gov/saju

10 Monumental Earthworks of Poverty Point
iii
LOUISIANA - 2014
Earthen construction complex of five mounds, six concentric ridges, and a central plaza dates to 3700–3100 BCE (Before Common Era).
www.povertypoint.us
www.nps.gov/popopo
© LOUISIANA OFFICE OF TOURISM



11 Mammoth Cave National Park
vii • viii • ix
KENTUCKY - 1981
100 million years of geological history continues in the world's longest network of natural caves and underground passageways. Some flora and fauna are known to exist only here.
www.nps.gov/maca
NPS



12 Monticello and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville
i • iv • vi
VIRGINIA - 1987
The sites of President Thomas Jefferson's plantation home and "academical village." Jefferson's architectural designs link American and classical ideals.
www.monticello.org, www.virginia.edu



Monticello
© BALCE LOCKEY PHOTOGRAPHY
COURTESY THOMAS JEFFERSON FOUNDATION

The World Heritage Convention

Conserving Humanity's Common Heritage

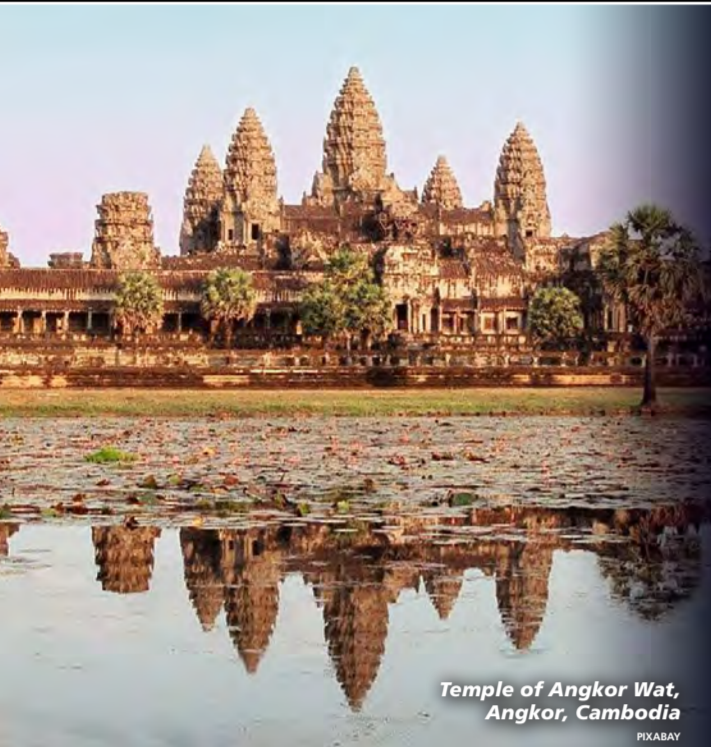
Imagine a world without the pyramids of Egypt, the Serengeti, or the Great Barrier Reef. What about the Grand Canyon, Everglades, or Statue of Liberty? World Heritage sites like these are as diverse and unique as the lands and peoples of our planet. Yet many of the world's irreplaceable properties come under threat from deterioration, natural disasters, civil strife, or insufficient resources for their care.

Conserving them helps the world connect continuously through humanity's common heritage. These sites—and our care for them—represent our human legacies, our present lives, and what we pass on to future generations. Working together, the people and nations of the world can protect the places that tell our shared human story.



The World Heritage emblem symbolizes the interdependence of cultural and natural properties. The square is a form created by humankind and the circle represents nature, the two being intimately linked. The emblem is round like the world, and at the same time it is a symbol of protection.

Kudu, Isimangaliso Wetland Park, South Africa
© EVI/VERVUEREN



Temple of Angkor Wat, Angkor, Cambodia
© PIAABAY



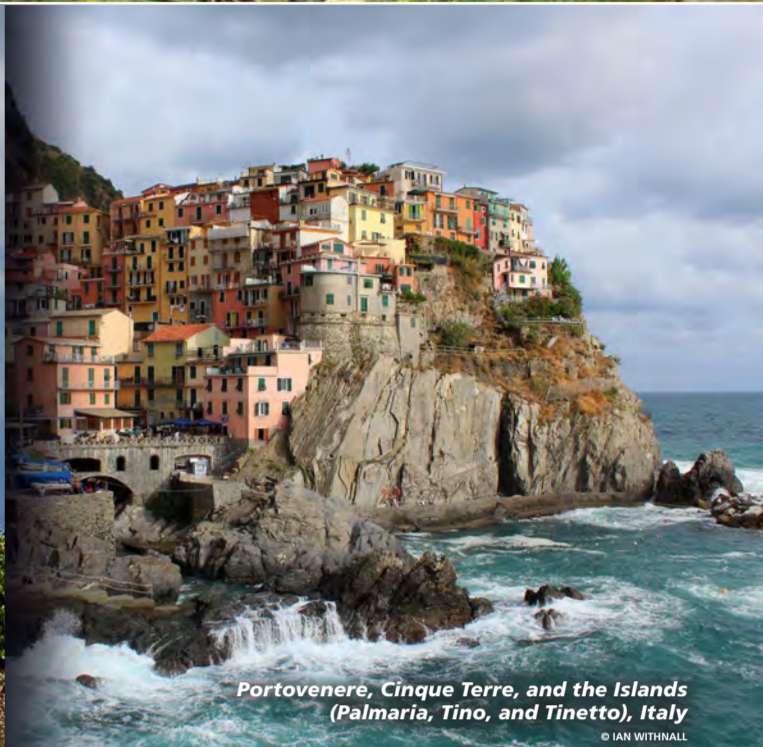
Sea lion, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador
© THOMAS FORSTOCKY



Victoria Falls, Mosi-oa-Tunya, Zambia/Zimbabwe
© PIAABAY/RETZOTOS



Moai, Rapa Nui National Park, Chile
© DR. ALBAN MIRABAUD



Portovenere, Cinque Terre, and the Islands (Palmaria, Tino, and Tinetto), Italy
© SAN WITHNALL

A Shared Promise to Protect the World's Heritage

After the United States established Yellowstone as the world's first national park in 1872, a movement progressed to conserve more natural and cultural heritage across the United States. This movement, in a variety of forms, eventually spread across the globe. One century later, in 1972, the United States played a key role in developing an international treaty called the *Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage*. Aiming to enhance understanding and appreciation of heritage conservation, many see the Convention as applying the

US national park idea throughout the world. The United States was the first country to ratify the Convention, which today has over 190 signatory states. Yellowstone and Mesa Verde national parks were in the first group of sites selected for the World Heritage List in 1978. Now, more than 1,000 World Heritage sites in over 160 countries are recognized. The Convention has become one of history's largest collective conservation efforts, fostering international cooperation and making strides across the globe to protect humanity's shared heritage.

Safeguarding World Heritage Sites

Cooperation is vital to conserving World Heritage sites. Nations identify and nominate their properties to be considered for the World Heritage List—a global collection of properties whose preservation is enhanced through international cooperation. The World Heritage Committee reviews the properties for their “outstanding universal value” to humanity, and selected sites are inscribed on the World Heritage List. Nations pledge to protect their sites while retaining sovereignty and control over them.

The National Park Service administers several World Heritage sites in the United States; others are managed by states, tribes, local governments, or private owners. The United States and Canada jointly nominated bordering parks to be two World Heritage sites: Waterton-Glacier and Wrangell-St. Elias/Glacier Bay/Tatshenshini-Atkasut-Kluane. These designations underscore the nations' mutually beneficial interaction in long-term resource management and day-to-day activities.



Selection Criteria

To be included on the World Heritage List, a site must be of “outstanding universal value” and meet at least one of ten selection criteria. A site must also meet standards for integrity (must be complete) and authenticity (must be credible and truthful) and have good management and strong legal protection.

CULTURAL CRITERIA

- i • Represent a masterpiece of human creative genius.
- ii • Exhibit an important interchange of human values on developments in architecture, technology, monumental arts, town planning, or landscape design.
- iii • Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization that is living or has disappeared.
- iv • Be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural, or technological ensemble or landscape that illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.
- v • Be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land use, or sea use representative of a culture.

- vi • Be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.

NATURAL CRITERIA

- vii • Contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.
- viii • Be outstanding examples representing major stages of Earth's history.
- ix • Be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes.
- x • Contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-place conservation of biological diversity.



Global Partnerships

The National Park Service (NPS) Office of International Affairs works to promote the NPS mission to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout the United States and the world. NPS works with World Heritage site managers to help them better protect their own natural and cultural heritage, providing technical assistance and promoting exchanges of best practices in site conservation and management.

Zebra, Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania
© PHILIPPE CLARO



EXPLORE, LEARN, AND PROTECT!

The National Park Service Junior Ranger program provides learning opportunities for people of all ages. To earn your official World Heritage Junior Ranger badge and certificate, complete a series of fun activities, then share your answers with National Park Service staff. Learn more at www.nps.gov/subjects/internationalcooperation/world-heritage-junior-rangers.htm.

More Information
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www.nps.gov/orgs/1955

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National Park Service World Heritage in the United States
www.nps.gov/subjects/internationalcooperation/worldheritage.htm

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
World Heritage List
whc.unesco.org/en/list/