

UNESCO

# WORLD HERITAGE LIST

## 10 Selection Criteria

### 1. CREATIVE GENIUS

Represent a masterpiece of human creative genius.

### 2. HUMAN VALUES

Exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design.

### 3. CULTURAL TRADITION

Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared.

### 4. HUMAN HISTORY

Be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.

## SITES MUST BE OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

### 5. HUMAN SETTLEMENT

Be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment.

### 6. UNIVERSAL SIGNIFICANCE

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

### 7. NATURAL PHENOMENA

Contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;

### 8. EARTH'S HISTORY

Be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features.

### 9. ECOLOGY & BIOLOGY

Be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.

### 10. BIODIVERSITY

Contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

Sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least 1/10 selection criteria.

Source: [whc.unesco.org/en/criteria/](http://whc.unesco.org/en/criteria/)