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World Heritage

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Unesco World Heritage Convention

Recognizing that the world's cultural and natural heritage transcends national boundaries and must be preserved for future generations, the member states of Unesco, in 1972, unanimously adopted a Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, known in short as the World Heritage Convention.

As of December 1982, 70 states had adhered to the Convention. Canada adhered in 1976.

The Convention provides for:

- The establishment of a World Heritage Committee.
- The compilation of a World Heritage List to include those cultural and natural properties throughout the world which are considered to be of outstanding universal value according to criteria drawn up by the World Heritage Committee. As of December 1982, the committee, comprised of experts in cultural and natural conservation from 21 states, had named 136 sites around the world to the World Heritage List.
- The preparation of a List of World Heritage in Danger.
- The establishment of a World Heritage Fund to provide aid to member states for World Heritage Sites in Danger. Each state adhering to the Convention contributes one per cent of its total annual Unesco assessment to the World Heritage Fund every year.
- The provision of technical and emergency assistance to member states on request.
- The general promotion throughout the world of the importance of heritage conservation.

With Parks Canada as the leading federal agency, Canada has played a major role in drafting and helping to implement the World Heritage Convention.

Criteria for the inclusion of natural properties

Properties nominated should: (i) be outstanding examples representing the major stages of the earth's evolutionary history; (ii) be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing geological processes, biological evolution and man's interaction with his natural environment; (iii) contain superlative natural phenomena, formations or features or areas of exceptional natural beauty; (iv) contain the foremost natural habitats where threatened species of animals or plants of outstanding universal value still survive. In addition to the above criteria, the sites should also fulfil the conditions of integrity.

Criteria for the inclusion of cultural properties

Each property nominated should: (i) represent a unique artistic achievement, a masterpiece of the creative genius; or (ii) have exerted great influence, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture, monumental arts or town-planning and landscaping; or (iii) bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a civilization which has disappeared; or (iv) be an outstanding example of a type of structure which illustrates a significant stage in history; or (v) be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement which is representative of a culture and which has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change; or (vi) be directly and tangibly associated with events or with ideas or beliefs of outstanding universal significance; and meet the test of authenticity in design, materials, workmanship or setting.

Member States

Afghanistan
Algeria
Argentina
Australia
Benin
Bolivia
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burundi
Canada
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chile
Costa Rica
Cuba
Cyprus
Denmark
Ecuador
Egypt
Ethiopia
France
Germany, Federal Republic of
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Guinea
Guyana
Haiti
Holy See
Honduras

India
Iran
Iraq
Italy
Ivory Coast
Jordan
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Malawi
Mali
Malta
Mauritania
Monaco
Morocco
Mozambique
Nepal
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Peru
Poland
Portugal

Saudi Arabia
Senegal, Republic of
Seychelles, Republic of
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Tanzania, United Republic of
Tunisia
United States of America
Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of
Yugoslavia
Zaire
Zimbabwe

December, 1982

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



Nominations to the World Heritage List

Only member states which have adhered to the Convention can make nominations to the World Heritage List.

Since 1978, the World Heritage Committee, meeting annually, has approved 136 nominations to the World Heritage List. A list of the approved World Heritage Sites as of January 1, 1983, follows in alphabetical order by country.



The Nubian Monuments from Abu Simbel to Philae, Egypt



Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania

Algeria Al Qal'â of Beni Hammad
Tassili n'Ajjer
The M'Zab Valley
Djemila
Tipasa
Timgad

Argentina Los Glaciares National Park
Australia Kakadu National Park

The Great Barrier Reef
Willandra Lakes Region
Western Tasmania Wilderness National Parks

Brazil Lord Howe Island Group
Historic town of Ouro Preto
Historic centre of Olinda

Bulgaria Boyana Church
Madara Rider
Thracian tomb of Kazanlak
Rock-hewn churches of Ivanovo

Canada Nahanni National Park
L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Park
Dinosaur Provincial Park
Kluane National Park (joint nomination with
Wrangell-St. Elias National Monument,
U.S., as an international site)

The Burgess Shale Fossil Site, Yoho National Park

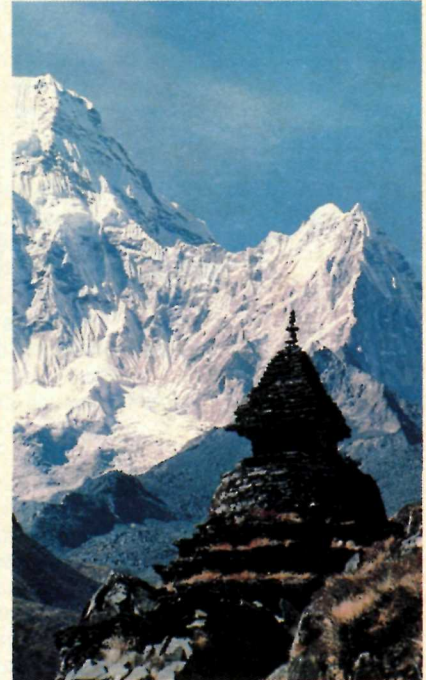
Anthony Island Provincial Park
Head-Smashed-In Bison Jump
Old Havana and its fortifications

Cuba
Cyprus Paphos

- Ecuador** Galapagos Islands
Old city of Quito
- Egypt** Abu Mena
Memphis and its Necropolis – the pyramid
fields from Giza to Dahshur
Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis
The Nubian monuments from Abu Simbel to
Philae
Islamic Cairo
- Ethiopia** Simien National Park
Rock-hewn churches of Lalibela
Fasil Ghebbi, Gondar Region
Lower valley of the Omo
Lower valley of the Awash
Tiya
Aksum
- France** Mont St. Michel and its bay
Chartres cathedral
Palace and park of Versailles
Vézelay, church and hill
Decorated grottoes of the Vézère valley
Palace and park of Fontainebleau
Chateau and estate of Chambord
Amiens cathedral
The Roman Theatre and its surroundings
and the “Triumphal Arch” of Orange
Roman and romanesque monuments of
Arles
Cistercian abbey of Fontenay
Royal saltworks of Arc and Senans



Galapagos Islands, Ecuador



Sagarmatha National Park, Nepal



Germany,	Aachen cathedral
Federal	Speyer cathedral
Republic of	Wurzburg residence with the court gardens and residence square
Ghana	Forts and castles of Volta, Accra and western and central regions
	Ashante traditional buildings
Guatemala	Tikal National Park
	Antigua Guatemala
	Archaeological Park and ruins of Quirigua
Guinea	Nimba Strict Nature Reserve
Haiti	National History Park-Citadel "Sans Souci", Ramiers
Honduras	Maya site of Copan
	Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve
Iran	Tchogha Zanbil
	Persepolis
	Meidan-e Shah Isfahan
Italy	Rock drawings in Valcamonica
	The historic centre of Rome
	The church and Dominican convent of Santa Maria della Grazie with the "Last Supper" by Leonardo da Vinci
	Historic centre of Florence
Ivory Coast	Tai National Park
Libyan Arab	Archaeological site of Leptis Magna
Jamahiriyyah	Archaeological site of Sabratha
	Archaeological site of Cyrene

Malta	Hal Saflieni Hypogeum
	City of Valetta
	Ggantija Temples
Morocco	The Medina of Fez
Nepal	Sagarmatha National Park
	Kathmandu valley
Norway	Urnes Stave church
	Bryggen
	Røros
Pakistan	Archaeological ruins at Mohenjodaro
	Taxila
	Buddhist ruins at Takht-i-Bahi and neigh- bouring city remains at Sahr-i-Bahlol
	Thatta, historical monuments
	Fort and Shalimar gardens at Lahore
Panama	The fortifications on the Caribbean side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo
	Darien National Park



Urnes Stave
Church, Norway

- Poland** Wieliczka salt mine
Historic centre of Cracow
Auschwitz concentration camp
Bialowieza National Park
Historic centre of Warsaw
- Senegal** Island of Gorée
Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary
Niokolo-Koba National Park
- Seychelles** Aldabra Atoll
- Sri Lanka** Sacred city of Anuradhapura
Ancient city of Polonnaruwa
Ancient city of Sigiriya
Ancient city of Damascus
- Syrian Arab Republic** Ancient city of Bosra
Site of Palmyra
- Tanzania, United Republic of** Ngorongoro conservation area
Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and ruins of Songa Mnara
Serengeti National Park
Selous Game Reserve

- Tunisia** Medina of Tunis
Archaeological site of Carthage
Amphitheatre of El Jem
Ichkeul National Park
- United States of America** Yellowstone National Park
Mesa Verde National Park
Grand Canyon National Park
Everglades National Park
Independence Hall
Wrangell-St. Elias National Monument (joint nomination with Kluane National Park, Canada, as an international site)

- Yemen** Redwood National Park
Mammoth Cave National Park
Olympic National Park
Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site
- Yugoslavia** Old walled city of Shibam
Ohrid region
Kotor region
Old city of Dubrovnik
Stari Ras and Sopocani
Historical complex of Split with the palace of Diocletian
Plitvice Lakes National Park
Durmitor National Park
- Zaire** Virunga National Park
Garamba National Park
Kahuzi-Biega National Park

The following inscription was made at the proposal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan:
The old city of Jerusalem and its walls



Kaskawulsh Glacier, Kluane National Park, Canada

Kluane National Park, Yukon

Kluane is the story of icefields and wilderness. Dominated by some of the world's largest icefields outside polar regions, and accented by rugged mountains, wide valleys, mountain lakes, alpine meadows and tundra, the area is a superb example of the role glaciers play in determining the shape of the land. For survival, the living things have had to adapt to extremes of climate and variable topographic conditions.

The dominant features of Kluane are two major mountain chains running parallel in a southeasterly direction. The Kluane Ranges, sometimes called the "front ranges", border the Alaska and Haines Highways presenting a chain of 2 500 m summits interrupted only by a few large valleys. The Icefield Ranges to the west contain Mt. Logan, at 5 951 m, Canada's highest peak.

An extensive network of valley glaciers radiates from the icefields and accounts for year-round snow and ice cover on more than half the park. The Steele is an unusual surging glacier that sporadically moves at a very rapid rate. During the late 1960s, it ground 11 km downhill over a four month period and was nicknamed the "Galloping Glacier".

The Kluane environment ranges from forest to alpine tundra and from marshes to sand dunes. To the southeast, the vegetation is more luxuriant as a result of the climatic influence of the Pacific.

Some of North America's finest wildlife populations inhabit Kluane National Park. Members of the largest subspecies of moose in North America are abundant in the major valleys of the park and some of the world's largest herds of Dall sheep may be seen on Sheep Mountain and other alpine areas. Mountain goats roam rocky slopes and cliffs in the south and a small herd of caribou occasionally enters the park near the Duke River. Grizzlies are found throughout the park, being particularly abundant in the major river valleys.

Kluane National Park adjoins the Wrangell-St. Elias National Monument in Alaska. Many icefields and glaciers originating in the Kluane mountain ranges flow through Wrangell-St. Elias into the gulf of Alaska creating the largest non-polar icefield in the world. Canada and the U.S.A. joined together in 1979 to nominate Kluane/Wrangell-St. Elias to the World Heritage List, the first joint nomination ever made.

Burgess Shale, British Columbia

Located in Yoho National Park, British Columbia, the Burgess Shale contains the fossilized remains of more than 120 species, many of which are unique in the world.

David Attenborough, in his best-selling book on natural history, *Life on Earth*, classifies the Burgess Shale as the location of "some of the most perfectly preserved fossils in the world". The story of the Burgess Shale dates back 550 million years to the Cambrian era when this area was covered by water. Mud slides from an adjacent reef carried living organisms into a

Trilobite, Burgess Shale Fossil Site, Yoho National Park, Canada



basin on the sea floor where the absence of oxygen and predators left the site completely undisturbed. The silt gradually consolidated into shale, flattening the animal carcasses and leaving thin fossil impressions.

During the shifting and folding which created the Rocky Mountains, the Burgess Shale miraculously escaped damage. The fossils remained hidden until the fall of 1909 when Charles Doolittle Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., announced he had accidentally discovered “some interesting things”.

These “interesting things” offer surprising details for study. One worm fossil, for example, is so well preserved that scientists are able to determine the contents of its gut. The Burgess Shale fossils are important for their variety as well as their detail. Several represent creatures who bear no resemblance to known animals and whose existence has never even been suspected. Attenborough describes two in his book. “One had fifteen segments, a trunk in front of its mouth and five eyes, including one pointing upwards. Another, named rather despairingly by the scientist who first examined it *Hallucigenia*, had seven pairs of limbs beneath and seven tentacles waving above, each of which ended apparently with a mouth.”

Most fossils result from an impression made by the outer shell or the hard parts of an animal. With the exception of the Burgess Shale site, impressions from soft-bodied creatures such as worms are rare.

The Burgess Shale was placed on the World Heritage List because it is one of the most significant fossil sites in the world. It uniquely portrays a major stage in the earth’s evolutionary history.



Anthony Island Provincial Park, British Columbia

Anthony Island, located at the southern tip of the Queen Charlotte Islands off the west coast of British Columbia, is the site of an important collection of totem and mortuary poles of the Haida Indians.

Though it is not known for how long the island and its village, Ninstints, has been the home of the Kunghit Haida, archaeological deposits on the island indicate it was occupied for about 2,000 years. Skunggwai, Haida for "red cod island", once supported approximately 300 people, who occupied the village during the winter. During the rest of the year, the tribe roamed throughout the area to fish, hunt and gather food and materials necessary for their existence.

The arrival of early fur traders and colonizers of the northwest coast area brought conflict and disease to the region. In 1791 and 1795, bloody battles between the Indians and fur traders resulted in the massacre of many natives. Later, in the spring of 1862, smallpox ravaged the area. The village was abandoned in the early 1880s, at which time the population of the village probably only numbered about 25 people. Today, the abandoned island village of Ninstints stands as a unique example of the richness of the coastal Indian cultural heritage. The decaying remains of Ninstints include 32 totem poles and mortuary columns and the structural remains of 10 long-houses. There are six other heritage sites on the island, including two cave sites.

Steps have been taken to conserve the bleached and weathered totem poles and structural remains, made out of red cedar, which have been exposed to the weather for nearly 100 years. Conservation work carried out by teams from the British Columbia Provincial Museum has concentrated on a preventive conservation program, clearing encroaching vegetation,

and applying fungicide to poles and house frames. Access to the island is restricted to minimize further site deterioration.

Anthony Island was placed on the World Heritage List because Ninstints village is the most impressive and remarkable coastal Indian site in the Pacific Northwest. The site represents a vanished culture of great richness and significance.

Nahanni National Park, Northwest Territories

Nahanni National Park, in the southwestern corner of the Northwest Territories is a wilderness area of 4 766 km².

Draining more than 36 200 km², the South Nahanni watershed contains a number of strikingly different landscapes and environments. The upper reaches flow through tundra-capped mountains inhabited by mountain goats, Dall sheep, and caribou. At the northern edge of the park rise the peaks of the Ragged Range. In the valley below is Rabbitkettle Hot Spring, a terraced structure of calcareous tufa (limestone precipitate) which rises to a height of 27 m.

The major cataract of the South Nahanni River is Virginia Falls, where the river plunges more than 90 m. Twice the height of Niagara Falls, and the most spectacular undeveloped waterfall in Canada, it shows a face of almost two vertical hectares of water. Several kilometres below the falls, tumultuous rapids and whirlpools take the river through a narrow, tortuous construction known as Hell's Gate.

Rabbitkettle Hot Springs, Nahanni National Park, Canada



Down river lies Third Canyon, 19 km long and 900 m to 1 200 m deep. One feature of this canyon is The Gate, a hairpin turn at the bottom of 210 m vertical cliffs, guarded by Pulpit Rock. The South Nahanni then flows only a short distance before it enters the narrow, steep-walled, Second Canyon. Untouched by ice-sheets during the last glaciation, First Canyon has precipitous walls that rise almost 1 100 m.

At the mouth of First Canyon is a sulphur hot spring. Pools of 37°C water have formed below the spring, and the entire area supports a luxuriant growth of grasses, balsam, poplar and spruce.

The forested river valleys are a prime habitat for moose, grizzly and black bears, wolf, woodland caribou, beaver and deer; these mammals are among the more than 40 species which live in the Nahanni area.

Nahanni National Park starts some 140 km west of Fort Simpson, 1 000 km by air from Edmonton. Access to the park is by air or water.

The park was placed on the World Heritage List because of its canyon systems, the biggest in the world north of latitude 60°, Virginia Falls in its undisturbed setting, its remarkable karst terrain which includes major cave systems and its many hot springs.



L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Park, Canada

L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Park, Newfoundland

Near the top of Newfoundland's Western Peninsula, 400 km north of Corner Brook, is L'Anse aux Meadows, site of the oldest known European settlement of the New World.

The major portion of the site was excavated between 1961 and 1968 by a Norwegian team led by Helge and Anne Stine Ingstad, who discovered the site while in search of Vinland, the first Viking settlement in North America. Four years of archaeological excavation was subsequently undertaken by Parks Canada.

L'Anse aux Meadows, derived from l'anse aux méduses or bay of jellyfish, is the only Norse site found in North America. Its exact dating is not yet clear; but it is probably from the early 11th century and the time of the legendary Leif Eriksson.

The Norse were, however, only one of many groups who lived on the site. The first inhabitants were peoples of the Maritime Archaic culture who lived there at least 5,000 years ago. The Archaic people lived there until the 10th century A.D. or later. The site was also occupied by Dorset Eskimos from the 6th to the 9th century A.D.

The Norse site contains the remains of eight sod buildings. Three are large dwellings, the rest small buildings which may have been workshops or had other special functions. More than 2,400 items have been found. Almost 1,500 of these are of wood.

Already more than 10,000 tourists find their way to L'Anse aux Meadows each year. Visitors can now see the recently completed replicas of three sod buildings where the Norse lived 500 years before Jacques Cartier's arrival in the New World.

L'Anse aux Meadows was placed on the World Heritage List because it is the only authenticated site of Norse settlement in North America. Also, as the site of the first European settlement in the western hemisphere, it ranks among the world's major archaeological properties.

Head-Smashed-In Bison Jump, Alberta

Head-Smashed-In Bison Jump, located in the Porcupine Hills of southern Alberta, 19 km west of Fort MacLeod, is the oldest, largest and best preserved bison jump site in North America. The site was first used at least 5,700 years ago and possibly as early as 8,000 B.C. Except for one major interval, it was used fairly regularly up to the historic period. Head-Smashed-In represents a unique and unsurpassed communal way of hunting used by native peoples of the Great Plains for thousands of years.

At Head-Smashed-In the native people took advantage of the natural topography and prevailing winds to hunt bison. This involved use of a 40 km² gathering basin where herds of bison normally grazed and collected, an 18-m high cliff east of the basin over which the bison could be driven, and a nearby campsite where the butchering, processing, and consumption of meat took place. Bison were herded from various parts of the gathering basin to the precipice along well-defined drive lines marked out by stone cairns, of which some 500 have been identified.

The bison, described as a "walking department store", provided meat, hides from which shelters and clothing could be made, bone and horn for tools, and dung for fires. Given the importance of bison to the survival of indigenous people, it is not surprising that a complex harvesting technology was developed around the bison jump.

Preservation of Head-Smashed-In is excellent; only about five per cent of the kill site and campsite has been disturbed and less than 20 per cent of the gathering basin surface remains have been affected. The main kill area at the base of the cliff contains the skeletal remains of tens of thousands of





Dinosaur Provincial Park, Canada

bison, along with innumerable artifacts such as stone projectile points, knives and hide scrapers.

Head-Smashed-In records native cultural development spanning at least 5,700 years. Evidence of the sophisticated manipulation of the natural environment and the complex social organization required to achieve the kill dramatically illustrates the cultural dynamics and sophisticated development of prehistoric inhabitants of the North American plains.

Dinosaur Provincial Park, Alberta

Located in the badlands of the Red Deer River Valley in southeastern Alberta, Dinosaur Provincial Park provides an opportunity to study remains from the prehistoric era when dinosaurs roamed the earth.

The park was once part of a marine lowland which bordered on the Bearpaw Sea, a shallow inland sea, during the earth's Cretaceous period some 60 to 90 million years ago. During

that time the climate was warm, humid and tropical and many varieties of dinosaurs flourished.

With a change in environment from humid tropical to today's dry temperate climate and the erosion of the landscape by glacial action, wind and the downcutting of the Red Deer River, the fossils in the area were exposed. In the late 1800s discovery of these remains in the Steeveville area of the Red Deer River aroused the curiosity of national and international scientists and launched what is referred to as the Great Canadian Dinosaur Rush from 1910 to 1917.

Dinosaur Provincial Park protects an extremely complex environment. Of greatest importance is the unparalleled abundance of Upper Cretaceous dinosaur fossils. Fossilized remains of horned dinosaurs, flying dinosaurs, meat-eating dinosaurs and bird mimic dinosaurs have been unearthed.

More than 300 museum-quality specimens have been removed from a 24-km stretch along the Red Deer River. Thirty major museums throughout the world exhibit fossils collected in the park. This rich yield of fossils from such a limited area has made the site a significant scientific resource and an outstanding example of the culmination of the age of reptiles.

The park also contains an extensive area of badlands, a landscape of exceptional natural beauty. The badlands display an unusual variety of erosional bedrock features including a diverse range of sculptured, semi-arid landforms.

The Red Deer River is a highly productive and relatively undisturbed river environment which supports a complex plant and animal community. Such areas are seriously threatened by cultivation in the grassland regions of North America.

The park is also home for a number of rare and endangered species such as the golden eagle and prairie falcon.

Wood Buffalo National Park, Alberta and N.W.T.

Located on the border between the Northwest Territories and Alberta, Wood Buffalo is Canada's largest national park. It embodies the qualities of spaciousness and wilderness which symbolize the Canadian North and which are rapidly becoming rare and precious world resources.

Within an area of 44 807 km², Wood Buffalo National Park protects a magnificent example of the boreal plains of north-central Canada. The park contains many superlative natural phenomena including one of the world's finest inland deltas, the best examples of gypsum karst terrain in North America, extensive salt plains and large tracts of boreal ecosystems in their wilderness state. The park also protects several rare or endangered species of wildlife including bison, whooping cranes and peregrine falcons.

The Peace-Athabasca delta, perhaps the world's largest inland delta, has developed where the enormous Peace and Athabasca rivers empty into the west end of Lake Athabasca.

The largest undisturbed grass and sedge meadows left in North America constitute the prime bison range of the park. The salt plains in Wood Buffalo National Park are unique in Canada. Salt springs emerge from the base of a low escarpment and provide a saline water source to over 250 km² of the park. Salt mounds more than two metres high may form at the springs during dry years.

Wood Buffalo National Park protects the largest free-roaming and self-regulating herd of bison left in existence. The 5,000 to 6,000 bison in the park are a last remnant of the more than 50,000,000 bison that dominated the central plain of North America prior to European settlement.

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The park is the last natural breeding habitat of whooping cranes. There are about 73 whooping cranes in the park flock.

Wood Buffalo National Park has been proposed as a candidate for the World Heritage List because it contains rare and superlative natural phenomena and it protects a habitat where populations of rare or endangered species still survive.

Canada

Wood Buffalo National Park, Canada

