

World Heritage

1. What is World Heritage?

(1) In 1972, the Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (The World Heritage Convention) was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO. Properties considered to have "outstanding universal value" were placed (registered) on the World Heritage List, which includes: irreplaceable "natural" heritage and "cultural" heritage of human creation that should be handed on to future generations, whatever nation or people it may belong to, such as monuments, ruins, and natural areas.
 (2) Three prerequisites must be satisfied to be listed as World Heritage: the property must have outstanding universal value; one or more of the criteria for inclusion in the World Heritage List must be satisfied; and measures must have been taken for the protection and management of the cultural and natural heritage to ensure that the value of the property can be handed on to future generations.
 (3) As of July 2004, 788 properties are inscribed on the World Heritage List (154 natural, 611 cultural and 23 mixed* heritage).
 *Mixed heritage: A property that satisfies the criteria for both natural and cultural heritage

2. World Heritage Criteria (Cultural)

(1) Represent a masterpiece of human creative genius; or
 (2) 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; or
 (3) Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared; or
 (4) Be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural, technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history; or
 (5) Be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or of human interaction with the environment, especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
 (6) Be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, beliefs, with artistic and literary works of 'outstanding universal significance' (the Committee considers that this criterion should justify inclusion in the List only in exceptional circumstances and in conjunction with other criteria cultural or natural).

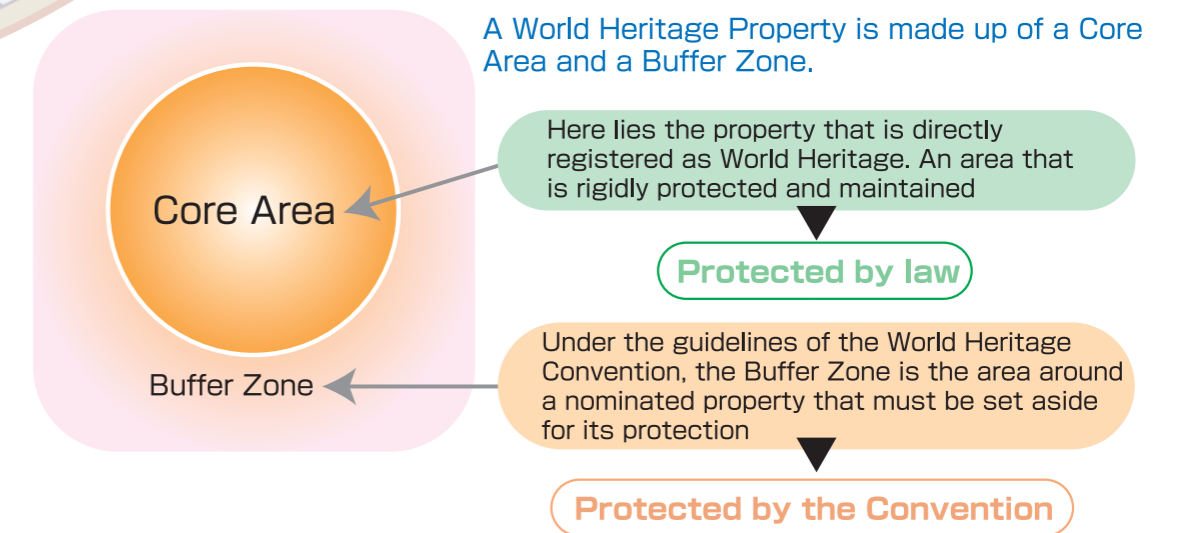
3. World Heritage Properties in Japan

	Property Name	Classification	Year	Reference
1	Buddhist Monuments in the Horyu-ji Area	Cultural	1993	[Representative World Heritage Properties around the World]
2	Himeji-jo Castle	Cultural	1993	[Cultural Properties]
3	Shirakami-sanchi	Natural	1993	• Great Wall of China (China)
4	Yakushima	Natural	1993	• Angkor (Cambodia)
5	Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto	Cultural	1994	• The Palace of Versailles (France)
6	Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama	Cultural	1995	• The Pyramids (Egypt)
7	Hiroshima Peace Memorial	Cultural	1996	• The City of Potosi (Bolivia)
8	Itsukushima Shinto Shrine	Cultural	1996	[Natural Properties]
9	Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara	Cultural	1998	• The Grand Canyon (USA)
10	Shrines and Temples of Nikko	Cultural	1999	• The Great Barrier Reef (Australia)
11	Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu	Cultural	2000	[Both Cultural and Natural Property]
12	Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range	Cultural	2004	• Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)

In addition to the properties listed above, the Japanese Government has made a list of sites in its territory that it believes satisfy the criteria for inscription in the World Heritage List, and has presented this "Tentative List" to The World Heritage Committee** for evaluation.
 There are four properties on the Japanese Tentative List; Hikone Castle and Ancient Kamakura (both listed in 1992), the Iwami-Ginza Silver Mine Ruins, and the Cultural Heritage of Hiraizumi (listed in 2001).
 The Committee requests that State Parties to The World Heritage Convention submit a list of the properties it intends to nominate for inscription in the World Heritage List over the next five to ten years. This list will enable the Committee to evaluate within the widest possible context the "outstanding universal value" of each property nominated for the List.
 It has been decided that no cultural property will be considered for Cultural Heritage listing unless it has been previously submitted on such a tentative list.

**The World Heritage Committee: Composed of representatives from 21 committee states selected from the State Parties to the World Heritage Convention and observers and experts from dozens of other countries. Meets once a year to fulfill four roles:
 1. To inscribe superior cultural and natural properties on the List of World Heritage;
 2. To coordinate with countries after inscription and continue to monitor the status of conservation;
 3. To conclude whether certain properties are endangered and inscribe them on the List of World Heritage in Danger; and
 4. To give assistance to the State Parties of the World Heritage Convention by effectively allocating financial aid from the World Heritage Fund.

4. The Extent of a World Heritage Site



5. Mines (Gold/Silver/Copper) on the World Heritage List

	Site/Descriptions	Country	Date of Inscription
1	Roros/Copper mine town	Norway	1980
2	City of Potosi/Silver mine town	Bolivia	1987
3	Historic Town of Guanajuato and Adjacent Mines/Silver mine town and silver mines	Mexico	1988
4	Mines of Rammelsberg and Historic Town of Goslar/Silver mine town and silver mines	Germany	1992
5	Historic Centre of Zacatecas/Silver mine town	Mexico	1993
6	Banská Štiavnica/Gold and silver mine town	Slovakia	1993
7	Kutná Hora: Historical Town Centre/Silver mine town	Czech Republic	1995
8	Las Médulas/Gold mine from ancient Rome	Spain	1997
9	Mining Area of the Great Copper Mountain in Falun/Copper mine	Sweden	2001
10	Historic Centre of the Town of Goiás/Gold mine town	Brazil	2001



Potosi



Guanajuato



Rammelsberg



Zacatecas



Banská Štiavnica



Falun