

World Heritage Preservation in China

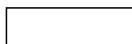
With changes taking place in social and economic conditions, a growing number of ancient ethnic traditions, cultures, customs, modes of living and environments are suffering from increasing serious threats of destruction. It is detrimental not only to unique and precious cultural heritage but also to the historical, social and psychology dignity of local nationalities. On November 6, 1972, the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at its 17th session adopted the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. In 1976, UNESCO set up the World Heritage Committee, an inter-governmental cooperative body, under the Convention. The committee is responsible for including cultural and natural treasures of outstanding universal value on the World Heritage List.

World heritage is divided into three types: natural, cultural (including cultural sites) and the combination of natural and cultural heritage. All sites on the World Heritage List receive financial and technical aid. In the meantime, they become better known worldwide and are protected by pressure from the international community.

China ratified the Convention in 1985, becoming a contracting party, and became a member state of the World Heritage Committee on October 29, 1999. In 1986, China began to identify and nominate sites on its national territory to be considered for inscription on the World Heritage List. So far, the number of its sites on the List has reached 35.

Nomination and inclusion of natural and cultural properties on the World Heritage List is nonetheless the final goal of world heritage work. World Heritage conservation is a continuous process. Listing a site does little good if it subsequently falls into a state of disrepair or if a development project risks destroying the qualities that made the site suitable for World Heritage status in the first place. The final goal of highlighting those most valuable representatives and carriers of information and beauty throughout history and in our natural environment arouses mankind's attention to protect and preserve them for future generations.

World Heritage in China



World Heritage List

Category and Date

1

Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries -- Wolong, Mt. Siguniang and Jiayin

Natural 2006

2

Yin Ruins

Cultural 2006

3

The Historic Center of Macao

Cultural 2005

4

The Capital Cities and Tombs of the Ancient Koguryo Kingdom

Cultural		2004
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5

Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan

Natural		2003
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6

Yungang Grottoes in Datong, Shanxi Province

Cultural		2001
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7

Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties

Cultural		2000 2003 2004
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8

Longmen Grottoes

Cultural		2000
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9

Xidi and Hongcun Villages, Museums of Ming-Qing Architecture in Southern Anhui

Cultural		2000
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10

Mount Qingcheng and the Dujiangyan Irrigation System

Cultural		2000
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11

Dazu Rock Carvings

Cultural		1999
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12

Mount	Wuyi
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Natural & Cultural		1999
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13

The Temple of Heaven

Cultural		1998
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14

The Summer Palace

Cultural		1998
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15

The Ancient Town of Lijiang

Cultural		1997
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16

Classic	Gardens in Suzhou
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Cultural		1997
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17

The Old Town of Pingyao

Cultural		1997
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18

Mount	Emei	and the Leshan Giant Buddha
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Natural & Cultural		1996
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19

Mount	Lushan
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Cultural		1996
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20

Taoist Buildings on Mount Wudang

Cultural		1994
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21

The Confucian Temple, Cemetery and Family Mansion in Qufu

Cultural		1994
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22

The Potala Palace

Cultural		1994 2000 2001
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23

Mountain Resort and Outlying Temples, Chengde

Cultural		1994
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24

Wulingyuan Scenic Area

Natural		1992
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25

Scenic Wonders of Huanglong Scenic Area

Natural		1992
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26

Jiuzhaigou Scenic Area

Natural		1992
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27

Mount	Huangshan
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Natural & Cultural		1990
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28

Mount	Taishan
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Natural & Cultural		1987
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29

The Mausoleum of the First Emperor of the Qin Dynasty and Terracotta Warriors and Horses

Cultural

1987

30

The Mogao Grottoes

Cultural

1987

31

Zhoukoudian, Home of Peking Man

Cultural

1987

32

Imperial Palaces of the Ming and Qing Dynasties in Beijing and Shenyang

Cultural		1987 2004
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33

The Great Wall

Cultural		1987
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