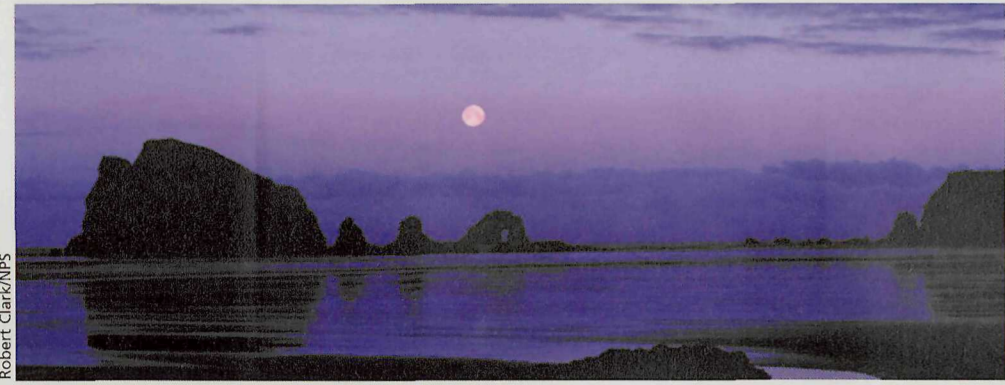


U.S. World Heritage Sites



Olympic National Park
The 1,400 square miles of Olympic National Park in northwestern Washington state encompass not only snow-capped Mount Olympus, glaciers, alpine meadows and rocky Pacific Mountain coastline, but also one of the few temperate rain forests in the world. The luxuriant forest is created by the warm, moisture-laden air from the Pacific, meeting the mountains and dropping more than 12 feet of rain a year. This cool, perpetually damp environment results in a dense, green, jungle-like world. It is home to some of the world's largest conifers, towering 230 feet; moss-enshrined maple trees with 40 foot spans; and a dense undergrowth of shrubs, wildflowers, ferns and lichen. All are vying for light and room to grow. The cycle of growth and decay is abundantly demonstrated here, for example when new trees sprout up along the decaying trunks of fallen trees. The biological evolution, the ecological variety and the sheer splendor of the coastline, forests and mountains of Olympic make it a special place. Inscribed in 1981 as a Natural site, under Criteria N (ii) and (iii). For more information, visit www.nps.gov/olymp/



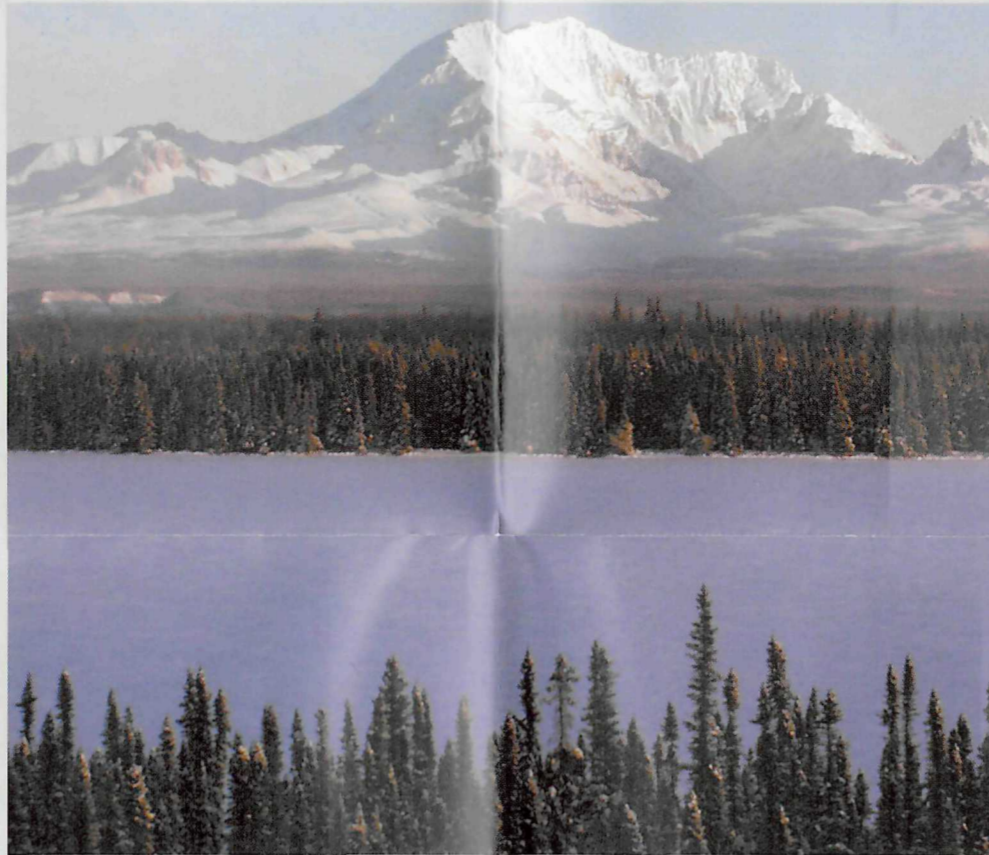
Redwood National Park
Redwood National Park contains the tallest living trees on Earth. The coast redwood can grow to more than 350 feet. Sitka spruce, hemlock, Douglas-fir, berry bushes, and sword ferns create a multiple canopied understory that towers over visitors. The park's mosaic of habitats include prairie/oak woodlands, mighty rivers and streams, and 37 miles of pristine Pacific coastline. Cultural landscapes reflect American Indian history.

Pueblo de Taos
Located in the valley of a small tributary of the Rio Grande River in northern New Mexico, Pueblo de Taos comprises a group of habitations and ceremonial centers which are representative of a culture largely derived from the traditions of the pre-historic Anasazi Indian tribes who settled near the present borders of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado. Pueblo de Taos is thought to have appeared before 1400 and is the best preserved of the pueblos north of the border defined by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848).

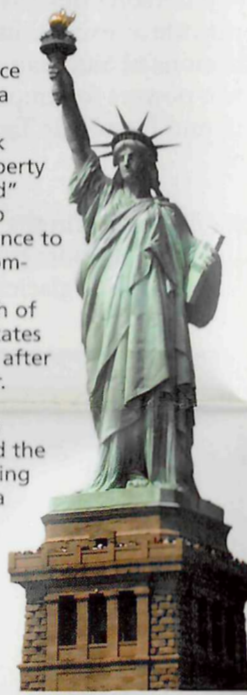
Taos Pueblo has been a center of Native-American culture since the 17th century. The Pueblo de Taos, still active today, symbolizes Indian resistance to external rule. The mission of San Geronimo, one of the earliest in New Mexico, was built near Taos Pueblo in the early 17th century. During the 18th century, Taos played an important role in resisting Spanish colonization.

As the need for defensive structures relaxed, certain European architectural traits were adapted. These included fireplaces, exterior doors and a more extensive use of windows. Nevertheless, Taos is a remarkable example of a traditional type of architectural ensemble from the pre-hispanic period of the Americas unique to this region. It is representative of a culture which has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change. Inscribed in 1992 as a Cultural site, under Criteria C (iv). For more information, visit <http://taospueblo.com>.

The National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation cooperatively manage the national park and three state parks as one unit—Redwood National and State Parks—for improved preservation of the resources and the enjoyment of visitors. Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, together with the national park lands contain 45 percent of all the old-growth redwood forest remaining in California. Together these parks are a World Heritage Site and International Biosphere Reserve, protecting resources cherished by citizens of many nations. Inscribed in 1980 as a Natural site, under Criteria N (ii) and (iii). For more information, visit www.nps.gov/redw/



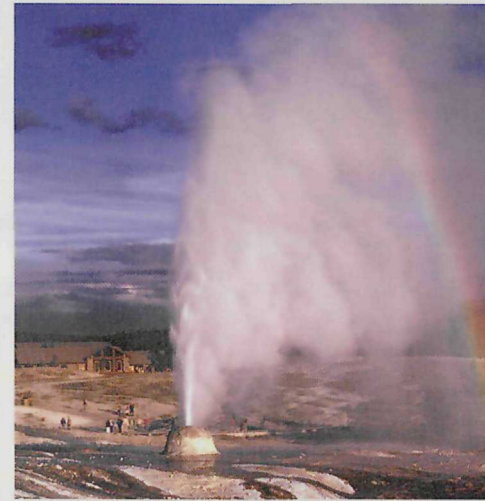
Statue of Liberty National Monument
Standing at the entrance to New York harbor is a 151-foot statue of a woman holding a book and a raised torch. "Liberty Enlightening the World" was a gift of friendship from the people of France to the United States to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of liberty in the United States and the end of slavery after the American Civil War.



After Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi prefabricated the figure in Paris by molding sheets of copper over a stainless-steel framework, it was shipped to the United States in 214 crates in 1885. The pedestal was designed by Richard Morris Hunt and funded through American fundraising. The sculptor intended his work to be an immense and impressive symbol of human liberty. It inspired the millions of immigrants who came to the United States in the early 20th century seeking freedom and fulfillment of their dreams. It is one of the most universal symbols of political freedom and democracy in the world and is embraced frequently by advocates of self-governance around the globe. Inscribed in 1984 as a Cultural site, under Criteria C (i) and (vi). For more information, visit www.nps.gov/stli/

Wrangell-St. Elias/Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
Located on the border between Alaska and Canada, the Wrangell-St. Elias and Glacier Bay National Parks, together with the Canadian protected areas Klauane and Tatshenshini-Alesek, contain a huge chain of glaciers, comprising the first bi-national entry on the World Heritage List. Here, gargantuan ice sheets continue to move, shaping and transforming the landscape. It is a phenomenon that has been occurring since the last Ice Age 11,000 years ago.

The icefields and the 2,000 glaciers that radiate from them are fed by 20 feet of snow each year created by the moist Pacific air running into the high coastal mountains. The glaciers grind and scour the rock beneath as they move slowly under their own weight, generally traveling only a few inches or feet a year. Glaciers that work their way to the ocean's edge create gigantic icebergs. Over eons of time, some glaciers have gradually retreated leaving a sculpted landscape of valleys, peaks and lakes. In addition to representing an incredible on-going geological process, this premier wilderness contains extensive bird, animal and marine mammal habitats where trumpeter swans, Daal sheep, bison, sea lions and much more are protected. Inscribed in 1979 as a Natural site, under Criteria N (ii), (iii) and (iv). Further inscriptions to extend the designation to cover additional protected areas came in 1992 and 1994. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/wrst/ and www.nps.gov/glba/



Yellowstone National Park
Yellowstone, the world's first national park, was established by act of the United States Congress in 1872. As a source of public recreation and renewal, as one of the world's great scientific laboratories, and as an exemplar of a global conservation movement, Yellowstone is a unique natural and cultural resource. Originally set aside to preserve geological and geothermal wonders, such as several hundred geysers, many thousands of hot springs, and a complex volcanic and glacial landscape, Yellowstone's purposes have multiplied and broadened throughout its long life. It quickly became one of the world's foremost wildlife refuges, launching more than a century of ecological research and on-the-job training for generations of managers.

As ecological awareness grew, the park became a testing ground for new approaches in the management of predator-prey systems and native vegetation communities, as well as a leading presence in scientific inquiries into

ecosystem management. Most recently, microbiological treasures from park hot springs have again redefined Yellowstone's role in human society. In a hundred ways, Yellowstone has challenged its stewards and the public with great questions about our relationship with nature. All these additional roles have only heightened the pleasure, enrichment, and education received by ever-increasing numbers of park visitors, who now total in excess of 130 million since the park's creation. Inscribed in 1978 as a Natural site, under Criteria N (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv). For more information, visit www.nps.gov/yell/

Yosemite National Park
Yosemite is located in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains. The alpine wilderness, groves of giant Sequoia trees and the spectacular valley landscape of Yosemite make it a pre-eminent natural marvel. In articulating the beauty of this place, the naturalist John Muir said, "No temple made with hands can compare to Yosemite."

Yosemite was made by glaciers. During the last Ice Age, the granite bedrock was gouged and shaped into bare peaks, sheer cliffs, rounded domes and huge monoliths. The flat valley floor evolved from a large meltwater lake that slowly filled with sediment. Now flowering meadows fill the valley and dramatic waterfalls surround it. Geological evolution is ongoing here, as lakes continue to silt up. Biological adaptation is evident also in the Giant Sequoia trees which are resistant to fire and for which periodic fires are, in fact, necessary to clear the dense undergrowth and make way for young sequoias. Breathtaking panoramas of rugged scenery and huge variety of plant and animal life are protected in this incomparable valley. Inscribed in 1984 as a Natural site, under Criteria N (i), (ii) and (iii). For more information, visit www.nps.gov/yose/



Location of U.S. World Heritage Sites



The United States established Yellowstone as a national park in 1872 and initiated the worldwide movement to protect such areas as national treasures. One hundred years later, during the Nixon Administration, the United States introduced the concept of the World Heritage Convention to the international community and was the first nation to ratify it. The World Heritage Convention, the most widely accepted international conservation treaty in human history, is the American national park idea being carried out worldwide.

The Convention is based on key principles. Each nation retains sovereignty and control over its World Heritage Sites. All participating nations pledge to identify and protect their key natural and cultural sites as part of the heritage of humanity and to cooperate with each other to achieve that goal.

By the World Heritage Convention's 30th anniversary in 2002, over 175 nations had ratified the agreement and placed nearly 800 sites on the World Heritage List.

Additional Information

The World Heritage Committee is a 21-nation body elected from among all those that have ratified the Convention to carry out its program of recognition and mutual assistance. The Committee reviews nominations by member countries to the World Heritage List and designates World Heritage Sites.

Through the World Heritage Fund, the Committee can provide countries requesting assistance with studies, advice, training, and equipment in order to eliminate problems, restore damaged areas, and set up safeguards.

The Committee also places properties on a List of World Heritage in Danger. This action may be taken in view of specific and proven imminent danger to the sites such as man-made factors, natural disasters or civil strife.

The Committee's role, however, is limited to placing sites on both lists and offering technical advice and assistance. Inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger imposes no legal requirements, but can alert others of international concern about threats or damage to a site. For more information, visit <http://whc.unesco.org/>.

Voluntary Nominations

All nations signing the World Heritage Convention voluntarily nominate their own sites embracing superlative natural or cultural attributes. Among other requirements, the sites must be authentic and meet at least one of several highly stringent criteria for outstanding universal value. (see Sidebar for Criteria)

Each signatory to the Convention maintains sovereignty over its sites, is responsible for their protection, and pledges to assist others in preservation efforts. Direct authority over individual sites remains with the ownership, whether it be national, state, tribal, territorial or local government or private.

The Secretary of the Interior, through the National Park Service, is responsible for identifying and nominating U.S. sites to the list. Proposed U.S. sites must be either federal property, such as national wildlife refuges and national parks, or sites already designated as national historic landmarks or national natural landmarks. Properties not owned by the Federal Government are nominated only if their owners agree to do so and pledge to protect their properties in perpetuity.

Most U.S. World Heritage Sites are administered by the National Park Service. The others are managed by states, a foundation, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and a Native American tribe.

While maintaining authority over their own parks, the United States and Canada jointly nominated two World Heritage Sites: Waterton-Glacier, and Wrangell-St. Elias/Glacier Bay/Tatshenshini-Alesek/Kluane. These designations underscore the mutually beneficial interaction among these bordering parks in long-term resource management and in such day-to-day activities as mountain and river rescue operations.

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.



World Heritage Criteria

The World Heritage Convention provides for the protection of those cultural and natural sites deemed to be of outstanding universal value. The World Heritage Committee applies two sets of criteria: one set for cultural sites and another set for natural sites.

Sites nominated under the cultural criteria should:

- (i) represent a masterpiece of human creative genius; or
- (ii) 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
- (iii) bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared; or
- (iv) be an outstanding example of a type of building or architec-

tural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history; or

- (v) be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement or land-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change; or
- (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 (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);

Sites nominated under the natural criteria should:

- (i) 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; or

- (ii) 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; or
- (iii) contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance; or
- (iv) 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.

For more information about the World Heritage Convention, write to: Chief, Office of International Affairs, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20005. The National Park Service web page at <http://www.nps.gov/oia/topics/heritage.htm> also contains additional information.

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