

World Heritage List

A World Heritage Site is a place (such as a building, city, complex, desert, forest, island, lake, monument, or mountain) that is listed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as being of special cultural or physical significance.

In November 1972, the UNESCO inaugurated the list by adopting a treaty known as the World Heritage Convention. Its continuing goal is to recruit the world community in identifying cultural and natural properties of “outstanding universal value”.

UNESCO officials do not see the sites as simply a list of superlative places; World Heritage status commits the home nation to protect the designated location.

The World Heritage programme has scored high-profile successes. It exerted pressure to halt a highway near Egypt’s Giza Pyramids, block a salt mine at a grey whale nursery in Mexico, and cancel a dam proposal above Africa’s Victoria Falls.

To be included on UNESCO’s World Heritage List, sites must be of “outstanding universal value” and meet at least one of the following ten selection criteria:

1. **Human creative genius** – to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
2. **Interchange of values** – to exhibit important human values, developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;



3. **Testimony to cultural tradition** – to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition



- or to a civilisation which is living or which has disappeared;
4. **Significance in human history** – to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
5. **Traditional human settlement** – to be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use, especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
6. **Heritage associated with events of universal significance** – to 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 or beauty** – to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
8. **Major stages of Earth’s history** – to be outstanding examples representing major stages of Earth’s history;
9. **Significant ecological and biological processes** – to 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. **Significant natural habitat for biodiversity** – to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for conservation of biological diversity.



1 Fill in the gaps with the correct words about an option for visiting World Heritage Sites with children. Some words are extra.

- animals ■ predators ■ waterholes ■ cameras ■ birds ■ mountain ■ protected ■ rhinos ■ skies ■ water ■ migration ■ carnivores ■ bees



Serengeti National Park, Tanzania

Kid Appeal: Camp out under African **1**, where the world's most spectacular animal **2** crosses this vast protected region of northern Tanzania.

The Site: Zebras, gazelles, and wildebeest, along with the **3** that track them, are the stars of Serengeti National Park, forming the world's largest community of migrating ungulates and its greatest concentration of large **4** Along with its

companion Ngorongoro Conservation Area, this 8,000-square-mile neighbouring **5** region is home base for safari-goers looking for impalas, buffalos, lions, hyenas, elephants, **6**, jackals, and other beasts. While grazing herds are constantly on the go in these grasslands and woodlands, the annual May-June migration from the central plains to permanent **7** in the park's western end is the moment visitors' **8** wait for.



2 Some customers of yours have requested you to suggest a few destinations which are World Heritage sites and would be good for a family trip – they have 2 kids, aged 8 and 11. Write a short reply highlighting the reasons why they should choose each destination, using the notes from activity 1.



3 Translate.

1. Può spiegarmi perché questo sito è così speciale?
2. Questo sito è un esempio unico di storia e cultura.
3. La Tour Eiffel è uno dei siti del patrimonio mondiale più famosi al mondo.
4. Cosa possono fare i turisti quando visitano il sito?
5. Ci sono attrazioni in particolare che ci raccomanda di visitare?
6. Quanti siti del patrimonio mondiale ci sono in Europa?

