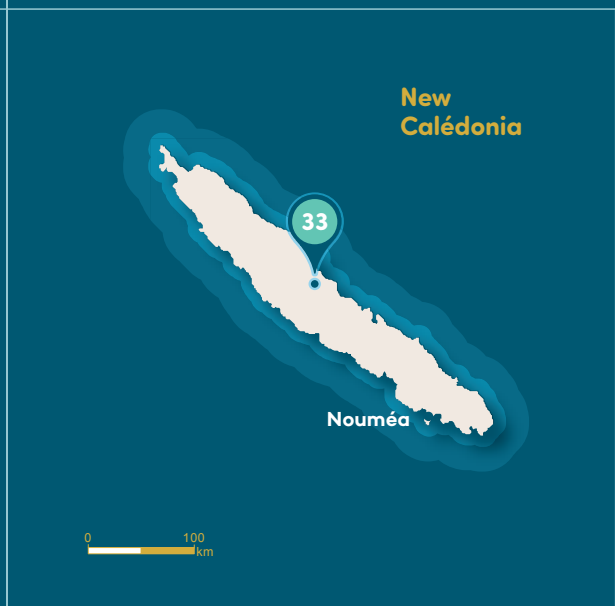
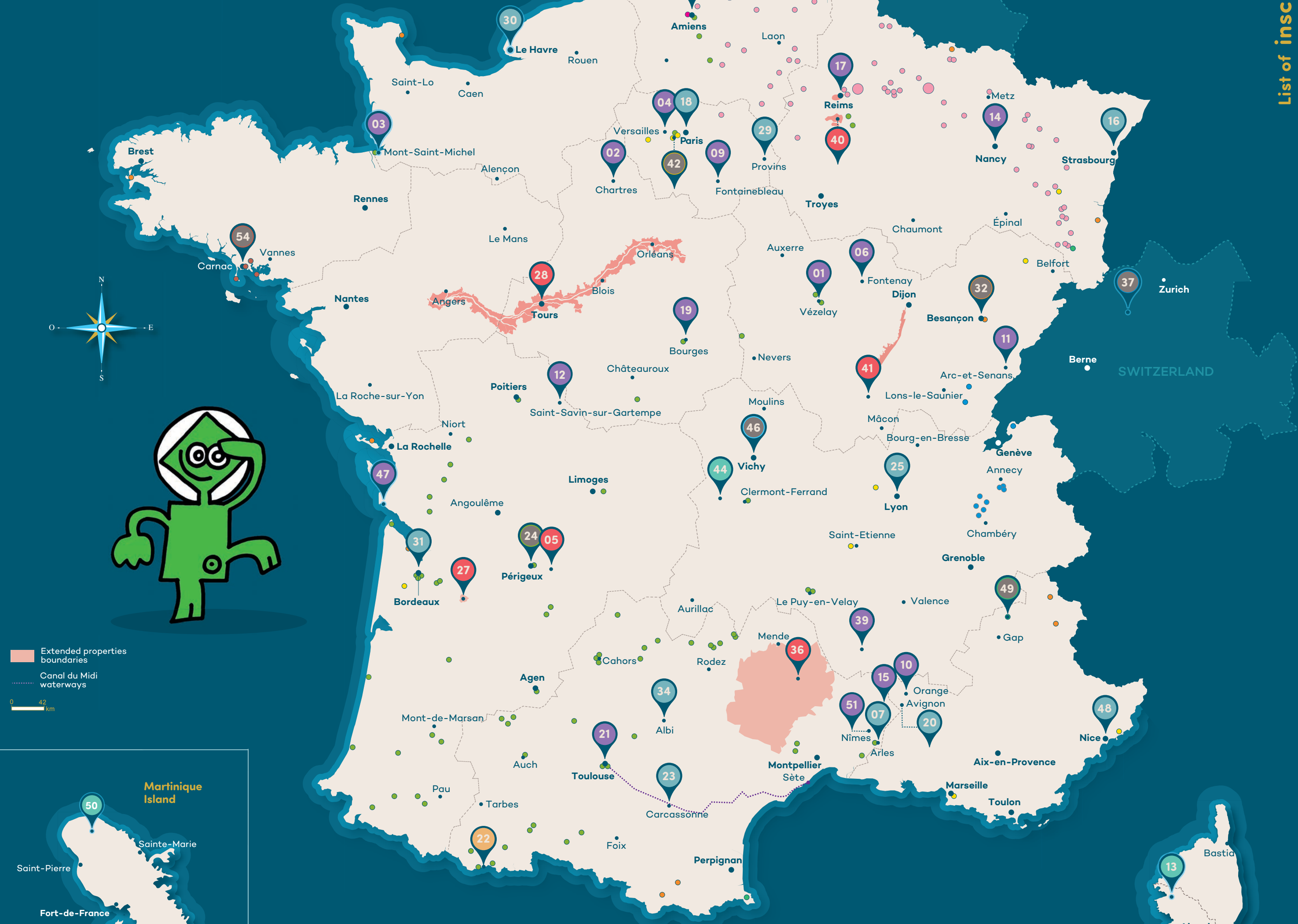


French properties
inscribed on the UNESCO
World Heritage List



List of inscribed properties

MONUMENTS AND ENSEMBLES

- 01 Basilica church and hill of Vézelay - 1979
- 02 Chartres Cathedral - 1979
- 03 Mont-Saint-Michel and its bay - 1979
- 04 Palace and park of Versailles - 1979
- 06 Cistercian Abbey of Fontenay - 1981
- 08 Amiens Cathedral - 1981
- 09 Palace and park of Fontainebleau - 1981
- 10 Roman theatre and its surroundings and "Triumphal Arch" of Orange - 1981
- 11 From the great saltworks of Salins-les-Bains to the royal saltworks of Arc-et-Senans, the production of open-pan salt - 1982 / Extension: 2009
- 12 Abbey Church of Saint-Savin sur Gartempe - 1983
- 14 Places Stanislas, de la Carrière and d'Alliance, Nancy - 1983
- 15 Pont du Gard - 1985
- 17 Cathedral of Notre-Dame, the former Abbey of Saint-Remi and the Palace of Tau, Reims - 1991
- 19 Bourges Cathedral - 1992
- 21 Canal du Midi - 1996
- 39 The decorated cave of Pont d'Arc - 2014
- 47 Cordouan lighthouse - 2021
- 51 The Maison Carrée of Nîmes - 2023

CITIES & HISTORIC CENTERS

- 07 Arles, Roman and Romanesque monuments - 1981
- 16 Strasbourg, Grande-Île and Neustadt - 1988 / Extension: 2017
- 18 Paris, banks of the Seine - 1991
- 20 Historic centre of Avignon: Papal Palace, episcopal ensemble and Avignon Bridge - 1995
- 23 Historic fortified city of Carcassonne - 1997
- 25 Historic site of Lyon - 1998
- 29 Provins, Town of Medieval Fairs - 2001
- 30 Le Havre, the city rebuilt by Auguste Perret - 2005
- 31 Bordeaux, Port of the Moon - 2007
- 34 Episcopal city of Albi - 2010
- 48 Nice, Winter Resort Town of the Riviera - 2021

EXTENDED PROPERTIES & CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

- 05 Prehistoric sites and decorated caves of the Vézère valley - 1979
- 27 Jurisdiction of Saint-Émilion - 1999
- 28 Val de Loire, between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes-sur-Loire - 2000
- 36 The Causses and the Cévennes, Mediterranean agro-cultural landscape - 2011
- 38 Nord-Pas de Calais mining basin - 2012
- 40 Champagne Hillsides, Houses & Cellars - 2015
- 41 The Climats, terroirs of Burgundy - 2015
- 43 Taputapuātea - 2017

SERIAL PROPERTIES

- 24 The routes of Santiago de Compostela in France - 1998
71 monuments and ensembles and 7 walking trails: ●
- 26 Belfries of Belgium and France* - 1999 / Extension: 2005
56 components in 2 countries / 23 in France: ●
- 32 Fortifications of Vauban - 2008
12 components in France: ●
- 37 Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps* - 2011
111 components in 6 countries / 11 in France: ●
- 42 The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier* - 2016
17 components in 7 countries / 10 in France: ●
- 46 The Great Spa Towns of Europe* - 2021
11 components in 7 countries / 1 in France: ●
- 49 Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe* - 2007 / Extension: 2011, 2017, 2021
94 components in 18 countries / 3 in France: ●
- 52 Funerary and memory sites of the First World War (Western Front)* - 2023 - 139 components in 2 countries / 96 in France : ●
- 54 Megaliths of Carnac and of the shores of Morbihan - 2025 - 4 components : ●

NATURAL PROPERTIES

- 13 Gulf of Porto: calanche of Piana, gulf of Girolata, scandola Reserve - 1983
- 33 Lagoons of New Caledonia: diversity of reefs and associated ecosystems - 2008
- 35 Pitons, cirques and remparts of Reunion Island - 2010
- 44 Chaîne des Puys - Limagne fault tectonic arena - 2018
- 45 French Austral Lands and Seas - 2019
- 50 Volcanoes and Forests of Mount Pelée and the Pitons of Northern Martinique - 2023

MIXED PROPERTIES

- 22 Pyrénées - Mont-Perdu* - 1997 / Extension: 1999
- 53 Te Henua Enata - The Marquesas Islands - 2024 - 7 components

* Transboundary property

inscribed on UNESCO
World Heritage List
French properties

association des
biens français
PATRIMOINE
MONDIAL

association des
biens français
PATRIMOINE
MONDIAL

MAME, Cité de la création et de l'innovation
49 boulevard Preuilly - 37000 Tours
Mail : chloe.campo@asso-france-patrimoine-mondial.org
www.asso-france-patrimoine-mondial.org

Scan the QR code below to access the internet site and discover world heritage through images.

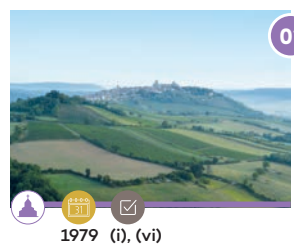


Find all the World Heritage sites in France and information about their current activities on the ABFPM Internet site:

Since 2007, the Association of French World Heritage Sites has been working to improve the protection and promotion of France's World Heritage properties. The Association plays an important role in bringing together site managers to discuss issues and share know-how relating to heritage management and promotion in France. The Association strives to increase its sites' positioning globally and enhance cooperation with cultural and natural sites around the world. As of 2025, France has 54 properties inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Association works in close collaboration with the French ministries of Culture and Environment, responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention at national level.

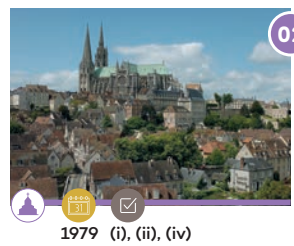
association des
biens français
PATRIMOINE
MONDIAL

Brief description of the 54 french sites



01 BASILICA CHURCH AND HILL OF VÉZELAY

Shortly after it was founded in the 9th century, the Benedictine monastery of Vézelay acquired the relics of Saint Mary Magdalene and became an important pilgrimage site. The basilica, a monastic 12th century church, is a masterpiece of Romanesque Burgundian art.



02 CHARTRES CATHEDRAL

Chartres Cathedral, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is known as an important pilgrimage destination. It is one of the most authentic examples of early 13th century medieval architecture.



03 MONT-SAINT-MICHEL AND ITS BAY

Perched on a rocky islet surrounded by an immense sandy bay rises the "Wonder of the West", Saint-Michel-au-Péril-de-la-Mer. This Benedictine abbey, founded in 966, was built on the site of a sanctuary dedicated to the Archangel Michael, and had to adapt to a difficult natural site.



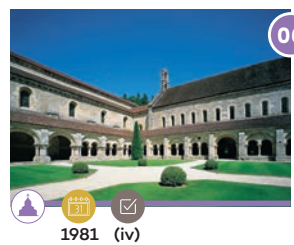
04 PALACE AND PARK OF VERSAILLES

Versailles was the residence and seat of power of the French monarchy from Louis XIV to Louis XVI, and was a model for Europe for more than a century. Its gardens, designed by André Le Nôtre, typify the formal French-style gardens.



05 PREHISTORIC SITES OF THE VÉZÈRE VALLEY

This region contains more than 150 prehistoric sites dating from the Palaeolithic including approximately 30 decorated caves. The wall paintings are of particular interest, notably those of the Lascaux cave, which was discovered in 1940.



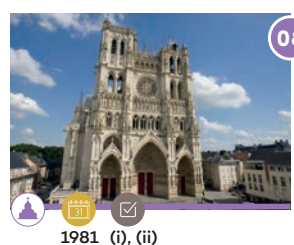
06 CISTERCIAN ABBEY OF FONTENAY

Founded in 1118, this Burgundian abbey illustrates of the austere architecture and the ideal of self-sufficiency practised by Cistercian monks. The church, built between 1139 and 1147, was consecrated by Pope Eugène III, a Cistercian and former disciple of Saint Bernard.



07 ARLES, ROMAN AND ROMANESQUE MONUMENTS

Arles has eight Roman and medieval monuments, tightly woven into its historic urban fabric. The earliest monuments date back to the 1st century BC. It is an outstanding example of how Roman cities adapted to the civilization of medieval Europe.



08 AMIENS CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Amiens, in Amiens is the largest church in France. It demonstrates both medieval and Gothic architecture of the 13th century.



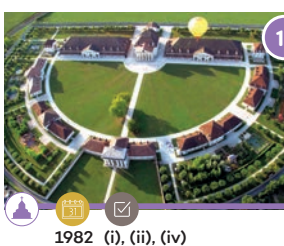
09 PALACE AND PARK OF FONTAINEBLEAU

Fontainebleau had been used as a hunting lodge by the kings of France since the 12th century and was embellished by François I, who wished to make it a "new Rome". It combines Renaissance art and French traditions, and all the sovereigns who resided there, up to Napoleon III, left their mark.



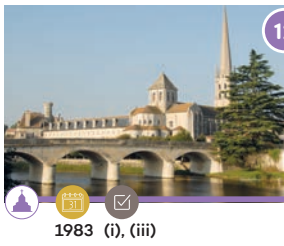
10 ROMAN THEATRE AND "TRIUMPHAL ARCH" OF ORANGE

This outstanding Roman theatre, on the hill of Saint-Eutrope, and the stage wall is more than thirty metres high and a hundred metres long. The Triumphal Arch at the entrance to the town was built during the reign of Augustus and bears witness to the Roman occupation of Gaul.



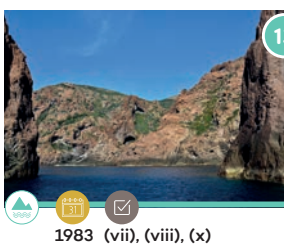
11 ROYAL SALTWORKS OF ARC-ET-SENSANS

Completed in 1779, the Royal Saltworks were designed by the architect Claude-Nicolas Ledoux. As the first large-scale work of industrial architecture, the site reflects the Age of Enlightenment and was a modern extension of the Great Saltworks of Salins-les-Bains.



12 ABBEY CHURCH OF SAINT-SAVIN SUR GARTEMPE

This former Benedictine abbey, the "Romanesque Sistine Chapel", founded during the time of Charlemagne, highlights the Romanesque architecture of Western Europe, and its 11th and 12th century paintings and decorations bear witness to medieval civilization.



13 GULF OF PORTO: CALANQUE OF PIANA, GULF OF GIROLATA, SCANDOLA RESERVE

The Gulf of Porto is located at the northern-most point of the indentations on the west coast of Corsica. The nature reserve combines magnificent panoramas and a richly diverse land and marine life.



14 PLACES STANISLAS, DE LA CARRIÈRE AND D'ALLIANCE, IN NANCY

These squares form a unique ensemble, a masterpiece of 18th century urban planning. They constitute one of the most harmonious townscapes of the period and are an exemplary illustration of the concept of the royal square as a central and monumental urban space.



15 PONT DU GARD

The Pont du Gard, built in the middle of the 1st century, is the main element of the 50 kilometres-long aqueduct that supplied Nîmes with water. This three-level aqueduct/bridge is an astonishing technical feat and masterpiece that has transformed the landscape.



16 STRASBOURG, GRANDE-ÎLE AND NEUSTADT

Grande-Île and Neustadt, a new town created under German administration, form an urban ensemble that is characteristic of the Rhine region. It is organized around the cathedral, a masterpiece of Gothic art.



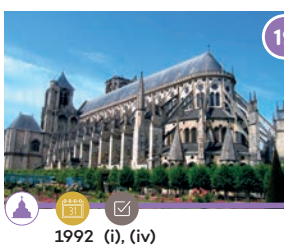
17 CATHEDRAL OF NOTRE-DAME THE FORMER ABBEY OF SAINT-REMI AND THE PALACE OF TAU, REIMS

These monuments in Reims are closely linked to the history of France, as it is here that the kings of France were crowned. This rich history is perfectly illustrated in the outstanding architectural quality of the property.



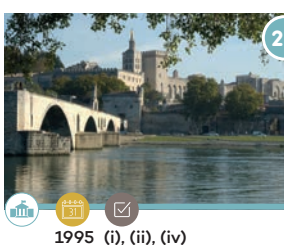
18 PARIS BANKS OF THE SEINE

From the Louvre to the Eiffel Tower, and from the Place de la Concorde to the Grand Palais and the Petit Palais, the evolution of Paris and its history can be seen from the Seine. Many of the main monuments of the French capital were built on the banks of the river.



19 BOURGES CATHEDRAL

Bourges cathedral, dedicated to St Stephen, was built between the end of the 12th century and the 13th century. It is one of the great masterpieces of Gothic art and bears testimony to the power of Christianity in medieval France.



20 HISTORIC CENTRE OF AVIGNON

The historic centre of Avignon was established when the seat of the Popacy moved there from Rome for a hundred years. It also provides an outstanding example of religious, residential and defensive medieval architecture.



21 CANAL DU MIDI

This 360-km network of navigable canals, linking the Atlantic to the Mediterranean, and its 328 structures (locks, bridge, etc.) were designed by Pierre-Paul Riquet in the 17th century. This remarkable feat of modern-era engineering paved the way for the Industrial Revolution.



22 PYRENEES MONT-PERDU

This outstanding mountain landscape, straddling Spain and France, is centred on the peak of Mont-Perdu, a limestone massif (3,352 meters). It is also a pastoral landscape reflecting an agricultural way of life that was once widespread in the mountainous regions of Europe.



23 HISTORIC FORTIFIED CITY OF CARCASSONNE

Carcassonne is a well preserved fortified medieval city with a massive defence system. Its importance is also due to the restoration work carried out between 1853 and 1879 by Eugène Viollet-le-Duc, one of the founders of modern conservation science.



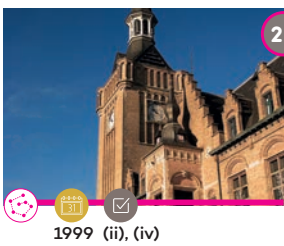
24 THE ROUTES OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA IN FRANCE

Throughout the Middle Ages, Santiago de Compostella was a major destination for pilgrims from the whole of Europe. Evidence of the spiritual and material aspects of the pilgrimage can be found in buildings all along these routes.



25 HISTORIC SITE OF LYON

Since its creation in 43 BC, Lyon has played an important role in the exchange of goods and ideas. Its specific character is due to its remarkable location, combined with a unique lifestyle materialized in its urban layout and architecture.



26 BELFRIES OF BELGIUM AND FRANCE

Constructed or reconstructed between the 12th and 20th centuries, these 56 belfries represent both civil and civic architecture. The belfry embodied the birth of municipal power in the Middle Ages and became the symbol of the town's power and prosperity.



27 JURISDICTION OF SAINT-ÉMILION

The wine-growing history of this beautiful cultural landscape of Saint-Émilion dates back to the 4th century. The wine culture shaped the monuments, architecture and landscape, and it was granted its Jurisdiction status in the 12th century.



28 VAL DE LOIRE, BETWEEN SULLY-SUR-LOIRE AND CHALONNES-SUR-LOIRE

The Val de Loire is a cultural landscape shaped by centuries of interaction between the river, the land that it irrigates, and the people who settled there. It has been the meeting ground of cultural influences. Its monuments and castles bear witness to the political and social history of France.



29 PROVINS TOWN OF MEDIEVAL FAIRS

This fortified market town with medieval houses and an urban layout provides visitors with an insight into the architectural design of medieval towns built for trade.



30 LE HAVRE, THE CITY REBUILT BY AUGUSTE PERRET

Le Havre was heavily bombed during the Second World War, and its reconstruction by Auguste Perret showcases post-war architecture and urban planning, marked notably by the pioneering use of concrete.



31 BORDEAUX PORT OF THE MOON

The historic centre of this port town is an outstanding urban and architectural ensemble created during the Age of the Enlightenment, whose values persisted up to the first half of the 20th century. The city has also been a centre for the exchange of cultural values for more than 2,000 years.



32 FORTIFICATIONS OF VAUBAN

Vauban's fortifications epitomize rational military architecture and its development during the 17th century. The twelve major sites reflect the diversity of the work of this remarkable architect, whose influence spread throughout the world.



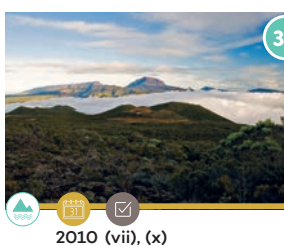
33 LAGOONS OF NEW CALEDONIA

These tropical lagoons and coral reefs are known for their extremely varied ecosystems, and they form one of the three largest reef systems in the world. The site contains a remarkable variety of coral and fish species, together with a continuum of natural habitats.



34 EPISCOPAL CITY OF ALBI

The city of Albi represents urban development from the Middle Ages to the modern and contemporary periods. It bears testimony to the work of Christian bishops following the crusade to eradicate the Cathar heretics in the 13th century.



35 PITONS, CIRQUES AND REMPARTS OF REUNION ISLAND

This property has a wide variety of rugged terrains and escarpments, forested gorges and basins, forming a picturesque landscape. It plays a major role in the conservation of terrestrial biodiversity in the Mascarene archipelago.



36 THE CAUSSES AND THE CÉVENNES

Almost every type of pastoral system practised around the Mediterranean can be found in the Causses and the Cévennes which have shaped the landscape over the course of three thousand years.



37 PREHISTORIC PILE DWELLINGS AROUND THE ALPS

These 111 pile-dwelling sites, situated in 6 countries around the Alpine and Sub-Alpine regions of Europe, comprise the remains of prehistoric settlements dating from 5,000 to 500 BC, situated under water, on lake shores, along rivers or in wetlands.



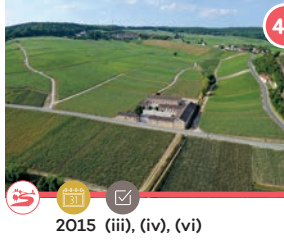
38 NORD-PAS DE CALAIS MINING BASIN

This living cultural landscape was part of the French coal-mining area of North-West Europe and shows the impact of two centuries of intensive mining activity on urban development.



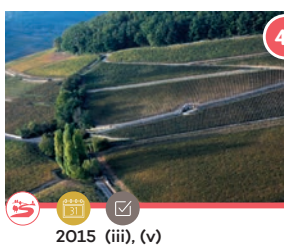
39 THE DECORATED CAVE OF PONT D'ARC

This cave contains the earliest known figurative drawings in the world, and the best-preserved expressions of artistic creation of the Aurignacian people (30,000 BP), providing an outstanding example of prehistoric cave art.



40 CHAMPAGNE HILLSIDES, HOUSES & CELLARS

This unique agro-industrial landscape emerged from a long process of development, technical and social innovations, and industrial and commercial transformations, accelerating the shift from an artisanal culture to the world-wide trade of the wines of Champagne.



41 THE CLIMATS, TERRIORS OF BURGUNDY

The Climats are parcels of vines in the Côte de Nuits and the Côte de Beaune, each with its own unique identity based on geological and climatic features. They are the product of natural conditions and of 2,000 years of skilled knowledge.



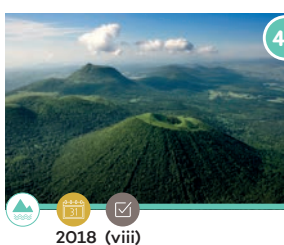
42 THE ARCHITECTURAL WORK OF LE CORBUSIER

The components of this transnational series reflect Le Corbusier's architectural responses to the needs of modern society. The Series as a whole bears witness to the internationalisation of his work.



43 TAPUTAPUĀTEA

Taputapuātea, on the island of Raiatea, bears witness to 1000 years of māhōi civilization. Lying at the heart of the marine cultural landscape is the marae, a political, ceremonial and funerary space at the intersection of the world of the living and the world of the ancestors.



44 CHÂÎNE DES PUYs LIMAGNE FAULT TECTONIC ARENA

The Chaîne des Puys – Limagne fault tectonic arena is an emblematic segment of the West European rift, created in the aftermath of the Alps 35 million years ago. Within a single area, the property provides an overview of all the processes at stake in continental rifting, which are downthrow, volcanism and uplift.



45 FRENCH AUSTRAL LANDS AND SEAS

The French Austral Lands and Seas comprise the largest of the rare emerged landmasses in the southern Indian Ocean. This 'oasis' supports one of the highest concentrations of birds and marine mammals in the world. The remoteness of these islands makes them extremely well-preserved showcases of biological evolution.



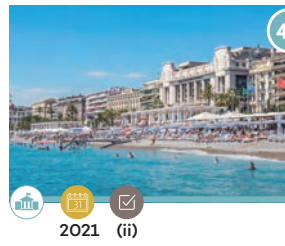
46 THE GREAT SPA TOWNS OF EUROPE

The 11 Great Spa towns of Europe, including Vichy, bear an exceptional testimony to the European spa phenomenon through ensembles of spa buildings and visitor facilities, all integrated into a green therapeutic and recreational landscape.



47 CORDOUAN LIGHTHOUSE

Built in the open sea on the fringes of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gironde estuary, Cordouan has served since 1611 as a maritime signalling station for commercial ships. Designed as a monument, Cordouan lighthouse has also been a place of scientific experimentation which revolutionised the lighting technology of lighthouses.



48 NICE, WINTER RESORT TOWN OF THE RIVIERA

The city of Nice bears witness to the evolution of the winter climatic resort from the middle of the 18th century. The cultural influences of the winter residents and their desire to make the most of the climate and scenery of the place, shaped the urban planning and architecture of the city, contributing to its renown as a cosmopolitan winter resort.



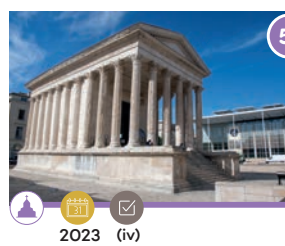
49 ANCIENT AND PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND OTHER REGIONS OF EUROPE

The 94 components of this property, spread over 18 countries, represent an outstanding example of complex and relatively undisturbed temperate forests, and exhibit a wide spectrum of comprehensive ecological patterns and stands processes of European beech. These forests contain an invaluable genetic reservoir.



50 VOLCANOES AND FORESTS OF MOUNT PELÉE AND THE PITONS OF NORTHERN

Covering almost 14,000 hectares, the volcanoes and forests of Montagne Pelée and the Pitons du Nord in Martinique are precious witnesses to the planet's volcanological history and the guardians of one of the world's most important areas of biological diversity.



51 THE MAISON CARRÉE OF NÎMES

Built in the 1st century AD in the Roman colony of Nemausus - now the town of Nîmes - the Maison Carrée is one of the earliest examples of a Roman temple dedicated to imperial worship in the provinces of Rome. It is dedicated to Augustus' heirs Caius and Lucius Caesar.



52 FUNERARY AND MEMORY SITES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR (WESTERN FRONT)

The transnational serial site (139 components in Belgium and France) brings together a significant group of funerary and memorial sites resulting from the First World War, a major break in human history. They were created during or after the tragedy of 1914-1918, on the Western Front (North Sea-French-Swiss border).



53 TE HENUA ENATA THE MARQUESAS ISLANDS

Located in the South Pacific Ocean, this mixed serial property bears an exceptional testimony to the territorial occupation of the Marquesas archipelago by a human civilisation that arrived by sea around the year 1000 CE. It is also a hotspot of biodiversity that combines irreplaceable and exceptionally well conserved marine and terrestrial ecosystems.



54 MEGALITHS OF CARNAC AND OF THE SHORES OF MORBIHAN

The shores of Morbihan reveal a unique Neolithic landscape, with an exceptional concentration of megaliths. Erected between 5,000 and 2,300 BC, these monumental stone structures bear witness to remarkable cultural traditions and architectural expertise.



Photo credits: ©Office de tourisme de Vézelay - ©Ville de Chartres - ©Centre des monuments nationaux / Philippe Berthé - ©Château de Versailles / Ch. Millet - ©Jussieu Savours - ©Hélène Gaud - ©Ville d'Arles - ©Laurent Rousselin ©Giovanni Ricci Novaro-FMR / Château de Fontainebleau - ©Philippe Gromelle - ©culturspaces - ©EPCO Saline royale d'Arc-et-Senans - ©EPCO Abbaye de Saint-Savin et Vallée des Fresques / Rémy Berthoin - ©Christian Quast (Ville de Nancy - ©EPCO Parc du Gard / S. Barber - ©P. L. Ligeois - ©D. Cossac - Ville et CUS - ©Ville de Reims / J. Driol - ©Ville de Paris - ©Ville de Bourges - ©Ville d'Avignon - ©VNF/Sud-Ouest - ©Pierre Meyer - ©Ville de Carcassonne - ©S. Vaisiere / ACIR - ©Ville de Lyon / Muriel Chazlet - ©Eiffage et patrimoine mondial - ©Matthieu Mazière - ©Mission Val de Loire - ©CDT77 / J-P Chasseau - ©Ville du Havre / Laurent Béard - ©Thomas Sanson / Mairie de Bordeaux - ©Ville de Saint-Martin-de-Ré - ©Martial Daudene - ©Pierre Béhar - Ballade et Christophe Bouthé - ©Parc national de la Réunion / Jean-François Bague - ©EICC - ©Laténum - ©Jean-Michel André / Mission Bassin Minier - ©Jean Clottes - Centre national de la préhistoire - ©Michel Jolyot / Association des Paysages de Champagne - ©Jean-Louis Berny - ©Fondation Le Corbusier - ©Matania - ©Pierre Sotiaux / PhotoBrique OdG - ©Bruno Marie - ©Bath and North East Somerset Council - ©Dominique Abit - ©Ville de Nice - ©Laurent Demeure - ©Jean Baptiste Barret et Parc naturel régional de la Martinique - ©Ville de Nîmes - ©MMDamien - ©dcp - ©Franch Galvès

The Heritage Convention

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. This is embodied in an international treaty called the **Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage**, adopted by UNESCO in 1972.

Outstanding Universal Value (the concept on which World Heritage rests on) means cultural and/ or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity. As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole.



Unesco's criteria

To be included on the **World Heritage List**, sites must be of Outstanding Universal Value and meet at least one out of ten selection criteria.

(i) To represent a masterpiece of human creative genius.

(ii) To 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.

(iii) To bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared.

(iv) 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.

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

(vi) 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 (the Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria).

(vii) To contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.