

2008 List of 100 Most Endangered Sites

Click below to jump to that country's sites. A full index is located at the end of this document.

AFGHANISTAN

ALGERIA

ANTARCTICA

ARGENTINA

ARMENIA

AUSTRALIA

AZERBAIJAN

BANGLADESH

BOSNIA/HERZEGOVINA

BRAZIL

BULGARIA

BURKINA FASO

CANADA

CHILE

CHINA

CYPRUS

EGYPT

ERITREA

ETHIOPIA

FRANCE

GEORGIA

GHANA

GREECE

GUATEMALA

INDIA

INDONESIA

IRAQ

IRELAND

ITALY

JAMAICA

JORDAN

ISRAEL

LIBYA

MACEDONIA

MADAGASCAR

MALTA

MAURITANIA

MEXICO

MOROCCO

NIGERIA

PAKISTAN

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

PERU

RUSSIA

SENEGAL

SIERRA LEONE

SLOVAKIA

SOMALILAND

SPAIN

SRI LANKA

SWEDEN

SYRIA

TANZANIA

TURKEY

UKRAINE

UNITED KINGDOM

UNITED STATES

UZBEKISTAN

ZIMBABWE

Leh Old Town

LADAKH REGION, JAMMU & KASHMIR, INDIA

15TH-17TH CENTURIES A.D.



The Old Town of Leh, capital of the once-independent Himalayan kingdom of Ladakh, presents a rare example of an intact historic Tibeto-Himalayan urban settlement. Due to the region's formidable terrain and tradition of nomadic life, few urban centers (outside of fortified monasteries) ever existed in this area, and almost none survive today. Leh's first buildings—fortification walls, temples, and a royal residence—were built in the early fifteenth century. In the centuries that followed, many other important structures were erected there.

When the Indian government began building the first navigable roads through the region in the 1960s, many of Leh's Old Town gates and walls were demolished, some as recently as the 1980s. Nonetheless, Leh has managed to retain much of its historic character, comparable in scale and design to pre-1950 Lhasa, Tibet. A

2004 survey by the Tibet Heritage Fund revealed that 55 percent of the 189 historic or traditional buildings in the Old Town of Leh are in poor condition, requiring maintenance or repair if they are to survive another decade. The impacts of seismic activity and climate change, including increased rainfall in recent years, have accelerated the deterioration of traditional buildings in Ladakh. Melting glaciers in the Himalayas are also likely to cause problems for this region in the coming years, including glacial lake flooding and run-off as well as soil erosion. Measures must be taken to protect landmarked buildings, improve civic infrastructure and develop guidelines for sustainable development in the historic city. It is hoped that Watch listing will significantly increase the profile of Leh and help to draw attention to the rich cultural heritage of Ladakh that is at risk.

Srinagar Heritage Zone

SRINAGAR, JAMMU & KASHMIR, INDIA

14TH-19TH CENTURIES A.D.



Founded between the Jhelum River and Dal Lake in the mid-third century B.C., the city of Srinagar reached its apogee in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The city's most famous monuments, including the Shalimar and Nishat Gardens, were built after the Mughal emperor Akbar captured the province of Kashmir in the sixteenth century. During the

eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British occupation of Srinagar, colonial-style colleges, hospitals, and courts were constructed. In the downtown area of the city are less well-known residences, mosques, temples, *hammams*, and bazaars constructed in the local vernacular of timber and masonry architecture. Together, these buildings represent an unusually intact pre-modern urban environment.

Demand for land in historic areas of Srinagar is raising the commercial value of many residential buildings, which are being sold, demolished, and converted into modern dwellings or shopping malls. Unplanned and unregulated development schemes and a lack of basic amenities make Srinagar perhaps the most threatened yet valuable site in India. Several hundred buildings in downtown Srinagar have been identified for protection as part of a cultural resource mapping project, carried out by the Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage (INTACH). Ongoing conflict in the region continues to pose a threat to the city and its inhabitants. The effort to protect the historic areas of Srinagar is part of a new emphasis in the region on heritage tourism and the local arts and crafts industry, which already forms the backbone of the state's economy. Watch Listing may lend timely support to these efforts and help increase public awareness of this important historic city.

INDEX BY COUNTRY

AFGHANISTAN

- 1 Buddhist Remains of Bamiyan
- 1 Murad Khane, Kabul
- 2 Tepe Narenj, Kabul

ALGERIA

- 2 Medracen and el-Khroub
- Numidian Royal Mausolea, Constantine

ANTARCTICA

- 3 Scott's Hut and the Explorers' Heritage of Antarctica, Ross Island

ARGENTINA

- 3 Brener Synagogue, Moises Ville

ARMENIA

- 4 Kumayri District, Alexandropol

AUSTRALIA

- 4 Dampier Rock Art Complex, Burrup Peninsula

AZERBAIJAN

- 5 Khinalyq Village

BANGLADESH

- 5 Sonargaon-Panam City

BOSNIA/HERZEGOVINA

- 6 Sarajevo City Hall

BRAZIL

- 6 Porangatu Historic District

BULGARIA

- 7 Novae Archaeological Site, Svishtov

BURKINA FASO

- 7 Loropeni Ruins

CANADA

- 8 Herschel Island, Yukon

CHILE

- 8 Montemar Institute of Marine Biology, Vina del Mar

CHINA

- 9 Modern Shanghai
- 9 Xumishan Grottoes, Guyuan County

CYPRUS

- 10 Famagusta Walled City

EGYPT

- 10 Aqsunqur Mosque (Blue Mosque), Cairo
- 11 Shunet el-Zebib, Abydos
- 11 West Bank of the Nile, Luxor

ERITREA

- 12 Derbush Tomb, Massawa

ETHIOPIA

- 12 Mohammadali House, Addis Ababa

FRANCE

- 13 Epailly Chapel of the Order of the Temple, Courban

GEORGIA

- 13 Gelati Monastery and Academy, Kutaisi

GHANA

- 14 Wa Naa's Palace, Wa

GREECE

- 14 Lesvos Historic Churches
- 15 Pella Macedonian Tombs

GUATEMALA

- 15 Capitanes Generales Palace, Antigua Guatemala
- 16 Ceibal Archaeological Site, Sayaxche

INDIA

- 16 Amber Town, Rajasthan
- 17 Chettinad, Chennai
- 17 Jantar Mantar, Jaipur
- 18 Leh Old Town, Ladakh
- 18 Srinigar Heritage Zone

INDONESIA

- 19 Kotagede Heritage District

IRAQ

- 19 Cultural Heritage Sites of Iraq

IRELAND

- 20 Tara Hill
- 20 Vernon Mount, Cork

ITALY

- 21 Farnese Nymphaeum, Rome
- 21 Fenestrelle Fortress, Turin
- 22 Transhumance Cultural Landscape, Molise Region
- 22 Viscontian Bridge-Dam, Valleggio sul Mincio

JAMAICA

- 23 Falmouth Historic Town

JORDAN

- 23 Khirbet et-Tannur, Tafilah
- 24 Qusayr 'Amra, al-'Azraq

JORDAN/ISRAEL

- 24 Jordan River Cultural Landscape

LIBYA

- 25 Wadi Mathendous Rock Art, Fezzan

MACEDONIA

- 25 Mother of God Peribleptos Church, Ohrid

MADAGASCAR

- 26 Fianarantsoa Old City

MALTA

- 26 Fort St. Elmo, Valletta

MAURITANIA

- 27 Chinguetti Mosque

MEXICO

- 27 Chihuahua Missions
- 28 Huaca Historic Neighborhood, Veracruz
- 28 Monte Alban Archaeological Site, Oaxaca
- 29 Teuchtitlan-Guachimontones Archaeological Zone

MOROCCO

- 29 Al-Azhar Mosque, Fez

NIGERIA

- 30 Ikom Monoliths of Cross River State

PAKISTAN

- 30 Shikarpoor Historic City Center

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

- 31 Church of the Holy Nativity, Bethlehem

PERU

- 31 Laraos Terraces
- 32 Lima Historic City Center
- 32 Machu Picchu Historic Sanctuary
- 33 Macusani-Corani Rock Art
- 33 San Pedro Apostol de Andahuaylillas Church
- 34 Santa Catalina Monastery, Arequipa

RUSSIA

- 34 Icon of the Mother of God of the Sign Church, Teplovo
- 35 Mendeleev Tower, St. Petersburg
- 35 St. Petersburg Historic Skyline

SENEGAL

- 36 Saint Louis Island

SIERRA LEONE

- 36 Freetown Historic Monuments

SLOVAKIA

- 37 Banská Stiavnica Calvary Complex

SOMALILAND

- 37 Las Geel Rock Art

SPAIN

- 38 Joan Miró Foundation, Barcelona

SRI LANKA

- 38 Kandy Sacred City

SWEDEN

- 39 Ljungberg Hall, Borlange City

SYRIA

- 39 Cyrrhus (Nebi Houri), Azaz
- 40 Old Damascus

TANZANIA

- 40 Kilwa Historic Sites

TURKEY

- 41 Çukur Han, Ankara
- 41 Hasankeyf
- 42 Istanbul Historic Walls
- 42 Meryem Ana (Mother of God) Church, Göreme, Cappadocia
- 43 Red Church, Güzelyurt, Sivrihisar, Cappadocia

UKRAINE

- 43 Pidhirtsi Castle

UNITED KINGDOM

- 44 Mavisbank House, Midlothian, Scotland
- 44 Richhill House, Armagh City, Northern Ireland
- 45 St. Peter's College, Cardross, Scotland
- 45 Wilton's Music Hall, London

UNITED STATES

- 46 Florida Southern Historic Campus, Lakeland, FL
- 46 Historic Neighborhoods of New Orleans, LA
- 47 Historic Route 66
- 47 Main Street Modern
- 48 New York State Pavilion, Queens, NY
- 48 Salk Institute, San Diego, CA
- 49 Tutuveni Petroglyph Site, Hopi Tribal Land, AZ

UZBEKISTAN

- 49 Ayaz Kala, Ellikala
- 50 Madrasa Rashid, Bukhara

ZIMBABWE

- 50 Bumbusi National Monument, Matabeleland