



State of Israel



The Tentative List
&
World Heritage Sites
of the State of Israel

The inscribed World Heritage Sites and Tentative List of properties for inscription to the World Heritage List according to Article 11 of the Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

June 2000
Updated September 2005

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Printed by: Peles Printing Services, Jerusalem

Published by: Publication Dept., Ministry of Education, Culture & Sports

2nd edition 2005

front page: mosaic in the villa of dionysus, zephoris

Introduction

Israel ratified the Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972 on 6 January 2000, then joining the 157 countries already party to the convention. Today, there are 181 countries signed on the convention, giving evidence to its universality with 812 inscribed sites in 137 countries.

The Israel National Commission for UNESCO established a Public Committee to consider the potential sites to be proposed by Israel to the World Heritage Committee according to the approved operational guidelines.

The aims of the Public Committee are:

- to solicit comments from and the involvement of professionals and academics in the protection of cultural and natural heritage
- to generate a wider public interest in heritage
- to prepare and update the Tentative List
- to nominate Israel's sites for inscription on the World Heritage List
- to establish an educational framework, both formal and informal, for the encouragement and valorization of the heritage of the region.

The wealth of culture and the origins of histories in the region represent a meeting place of west and east, north and south. It must be the collective responsibility of the communities of the region to generate the consensus so needed in ensuring that this heritage, cultural and natural, will be preserved and enjoyed by the world community.

Israel is at a crossroads of universal cultures in time and place reflected in her world heritage sites. It is the cradle of world religions and living traditions of ideas and beliefs, among them Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Druze, and Bahai. These cultural sites are associated with important historic events of religions which represent the ongoing interchange of human values and cultural traditions.

The varied natural sites exhibit significant ongoing geological processes and superlative natural phenomena as well as areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance displaying outstanding universal value.

This submission represents the proposals for the Tentative List in four parts:

A. Tentative List in Israel;

those sites exclusively in Israel listed geographically from north to south;

B. Tentative List for Trans-National Sites;

those sites within the boundaries in Israel but shared with neighbouring countries;

C. Tentative List for Trans-Boundary Serial Sites;

those sites in Israel that could be inscribed as part of a wider serial nomination;

D. Tentative List for Cultural Itineraries;

those sites that could be inscribed as heritage routes and cultural landscapes.

The fifth part includes the sites, to date, inscribed on the World Heritage List.

E. Inscribed World Heritage Sites;

The next working phase of the Israel World Heritage Committee will be to develop the bi-national and regional sites of common universal interest as proposed in list B, C and D, in collaboration with partners.

During the past five years, Israel has been an active participant in the World Heritage Committee meetings, and is promoting regional and thematic cooperation. The first five sites have been inscribed - the Old City of Acre, Masada, the White City of Tel Aviv, the Incense Route - the Desert Cities of the Negev and the Biblical Tels - Megiddo, Hazor, Beer Seba. Four other sites are in process of evaluation. The added value to the comprehension of cultural significance is being felt in Israel while World Heritage is providing a new dimension for conservation.

The Israel World Heritage Committee now consists of over 30 members, including representatives of Ministries, Authorities, Professional Bodies, NGO's and the Academia, and has become a platform for discussion on issues of conservation.

To this end, eight Think Tasks have now been constituted (i) The Tentative List, (ii) Monitoring, (iii) Education, (iv) The Great Rift Valley, (v) National Register, (vi) Cultural Landscapes, (vii) Modern Heritage and (viii) Israel Heritage Centre.

The report will pave the way to the establishment of Israel Heritage Authority. The public debate provides an on-going deliberation on the protection of heritage and the development of a national policy for conservation of maintainance of sites.

The sites proposed in this list, represent the convergence of two processes: local public support and comment ('bottom-up') and regional and national interest ('top-down'). The Israel Chapters of ICOMOS (the International Council for Monuments and Sites) and IUCN (the International Union of Conservation of Nature) are professional advisory bodies to the Israel World Heritage Committee, parallel to the process taken by ICOMOS International, ICUN and ICCROM to the World Heritage Committee at UNESCO.

The Israel Antiquities Authority as well as the Nature and Parks Authority and the Council for the Conservation of Sites provide the committee with the on-going professional advise to promote the World Heritage Convention in Israel.

Thanks are extended to all the friends and colleagues who have helped to put this work together and have strenghten the public interest in the World Heritage Sites for Israel.

The Tentative List continues to be the basis for raising thoughts, questions and dialogue. The Committee therefore welcomes public reaction to the proposed heritage list and it is hoped that these comments will be integrated with those of the World Heritage Centre at UNESCO in Paris.



Prof. Michael Turner, Architect,
Chairman, Israel World Heritage Committee



synagogue mosaic

State Party: The State of Israel

Prepared by:

The Israel World Heritage Committee,
Israel National Commission for UNESCO,
Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports

Date: June 2000, updated July 2005

A. THE TENTATIVE LIST IN ISRAEL

in geographic order from north to south

1. THE ANCIENT TRIPLE ARCHED GATE AT TEL DAN & THE SOURCES OF THE JORDAN RIVER
2. THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY / MIGRATORY SPECIES– the hula
3. EARLY SYNAGOGUES IN THE GALILEE
4. THE JOURNEYS OF JESUS & THE APOSTLES
5. SEA OF GALILEE & ITS ANCIENT SITES
6. HURVAT MINNIM
7. ARBEL - arbel, nebe shueb, horns of hittim
8. THE BAHAI HOLY PLACES
9. PRE-HISTORIC SITES - 'ubeidiya, gesher b'not ya'acov , sha'ar hagolan, mount carmel
10. DEGANIA & NAHALAL
11. BET SHEARIM
12. DECAPOLIS - BET-SHEAN/
13. CAESAREA
14. WHITE MOSQUE IN RAMLE
15. JERUSALEM
16. REGION OF THE CAVES & HIDING
17. THE FRONTIERS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE
18. THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY / GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS - makhteshim country
19. MOUNT KARKOM
20. TIMNA
21. THE BIBLICAL TELS (extension) - Lachish, Hasi/ Keshet/Nagila/Shekef, Gat, Bet Shemesh, Arad
22. THE CRUSADER FORTRESSES – ateret montfort, belvoir, atlit, arsusuf

B. TENTATIVE LIST FOR TRANS-BOUNDARY SITES

1. THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY
the river jordan and its sources
the dead sea
arava valley & industrial archaeology
gulf of aqaba / eilat

C. TENTATIVE LIST FOR TRANS-NATIONAL SERIAL SITES

1. THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY
geological formations
migratory routes
pre-historic sites
2. ROCK ART
3. THE BIBLICAL TEL
4. DECAPOLIS
5. THE FRONTIERS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE
6. DESERT MONASTERIES OF BYZANTIUM
7. Umayyad PALACES
8. CRUSADER FORTRESSES
9. PORT CITIES OF THE LEVANT

D. TENTATIVE LIST FOR CULTURAL ROUTES

1. VIA MARIS
2. IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ABRAHAM
3. WANDERINGS OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL
4. IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS AND THE APOSTLES
5. IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MOHAMMED BETWEEN THE HOLY CITIES
6. THE PILGRIMS' ROUTES – Jerusalem, Mecca
7. THE INCENSE ROUTE
8. THE OTTOMAN RAILWAYS

E. INSCRIBED WORLD HERITAGE SITES

1. ☉ THE OLD CITY OF ACRE
2. ☉ MASADA
3. ☉☉ THE WHITE CITY OF TEL-AVIV - the modern movement
4. ☉☉☉ THE INCENSE ROUTE - THE DESERT CITIES OF THE NEGEV – ovdatt, mamshit, halutsa, shivta
5. ☉☉☉ THE BIBLICAL TELS - megiddo, hazor, beer-sheba

☉ Inscribed, Helsinki, Finland, December 2001

☉☉ Inscribed, Paris, France, July 2003

☉☉☉ Inscribed, Durban, South Africa, July 2005