

The UNESCO World Heritage Site Criteria for Selection

Requirements to become a...

World Heritage City

1. The mayor of the city must sign and send a letter of application to the Secretary General of the OWHC.
2. The city must have within its territory a site which represents a living urban ensemble or a property within an urban context inscribed on the World Heritage List with Outstanding Universal Value.
3. The city must also adhere to the values of the OWHC as they appear in the OWHC Charter, a 26 page document.

Organization of World
Heritage Cities (OWHC)
By-Laws



One qualification needed to be a...

World Heritage Site

- **Cultural Masterpiece:** Represents a masterpiece of human creative genius.
- **Cultural Interchange:** Exhibits an important interchange of human values.
- **Cultural Tradition:** Bears a unique or exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition.
- **Historical Significance:** Illustrates a significant stage in human history.
- **Natural Beauty:** Contains superlative natural or architectural phenomena or areas of exceptional aesthetic importance.
- **Scientific Value:** Represents major stages of earth's history, including the record of life.
- **Ecological Importance:** Contains the most important natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity.
- **Human Interaction:** Represents a traditional human settlement or land-use that is representative of a culture.
- **Geological Processes:** Represents significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms and bodies of water.
- **Biological Processes:** Represents significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of ecosystems.

abridged list



ORGANIZATION OF
WORLD HERITAGE CITIES