

World Heritage Karst Sites

A listing initially prepared by Elery Hamilton-Smith and Rolf Hogan, April 2001 and updated to 2005 by EHS. Note that the criteria shown are from the earlier separate listings for cultural and natural heritage under which inscription occurred.

World Heritage Site	State Party		Key Features	Criteria
Tasmanian Wilderness	Australia	1982	Many areas of karst in limestone and dolomite. High geodiversity and biodiversity	i, ii, iii, iv C iii, v, vi
Lord Howe Island	Australia	1982	Small area of karst in aeolian calcarenite and coralline limestones	iii, iv
Central Eastern Rainforests	Australia	1986	A large number of relatively small reserves, some of which include areas of impounded karst	i, ii, iv
Shark Bay	Australia	1991	Located on karst, with zones of differential salinity within the bay and outstanding display of living stromatolites	i, ii, iii, iv
Australian Fossil Mammal Sites	Australia	1994	Vertebrate Fossil deposits at Riversleigh (Oligocene-Miocene) & Naracoorte (Pleistocene). Both have a diversity of karst landforms and Naracoorte has high current biodiversity.	i, ii
Greater Blue Mountains	Australia	2000	Includes Jenolan Caves and a number of smaller karst sites	ii, iv
Purnululu	Australia	2003	Karst landscape on quartzitic sandstones demonstrating clearly the process of cone karst formation on sandstone	i, iii
Pirin National Park	Bulgaria	1983	Various areas of karst, some of which have been shaped by glaciation	i, ii, iii
Nahanni National Park	Canada	1978	Spectacular karst landforms, including an immense gorge and caves	ii, iii
Canadian Rockies	Canada	1984	Includes Castleguard and other caves	i, ii, iii
Zhoukoudian	China	1987	Peking Man excavation site situated in ancient karst	C iii, iv
Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area	China	1992	At least one-third of the site is on limestone, with extremely large caves and two natural bridges, one of which is 357m. high.	iii
Huanglong	China	1992	Famous for its extensive and spectacular travertine deposits; many other karst features	iii
Jiuzhaigou Valley	China	1992	Largely on dolomite with calcareous travertine	iii

Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Karst	China	2003	Geological history of the last 50 million years associated with the collision of the Indian Plate with the Eurasian Plate, the closure of the ancient Tethys Sea, and the uplifting of the Himalaya Range and the Tibetan Plateau.	i, ii, iii, iv
Plitvice Lakes National Park	Croatia	1979 2000	Spectacular travertine barriers and lake systems; forest in excellent condition.	ii, iii
Viñales Valley	Cuba	1999	Karst landscape with conical hills (Mogotes) in a wide flat-floored valley. It is a 'type locality' of Mogote karst and has a rich subterranean biodiversity.	C iv
Desembarco del Granma National park and System of Marine Terraces of Cabo Cruz	Cuba	1999	Uplifted marine terraces and ongoing development of karst topography. Aesthetic value of stair-step terraces and cliffs	i, iii
Alejandro de Humboldt National Park	Cuba	2001	A large inland plateau which is one of the most biologically diverse island sites known. It includes both limestone karst and pseudokarst	ii, iv
Caves of the Vézère	France	1979	Some 147 identified and significant prehistoric sites, including the famous Lascaux and many other painted caves	C i, iii
Pyrenees-Mount Perdu	France/ Spain	1997 1999	Alpine karst site with lakes, gorges, waterfalls, cirques and canyons	i, iii C iii, iv, v
Caves of Aggtelek and Slovak Karst	Hungary/ Slovakia	1995 2000	712 caves. Variety and concentration of cave types, speleothems and an array of typical temperate zone karst features	i
Lorentz National Park	Indonesia	1999	Much of the park is high altitude karst, with spectacular landforms. Regrettably, the finest of the karst is adjacent to but not yet included.	i, ii, iii, iv
Tsingy de Bemaraha	Madagascar	1990	Pinnacle karst that is difficult to access; little investigation..	iii, iv
Gunung Mulu	Malaysia	2000	295km explored caves, Sarawak Chamber - world's largest; Speleothems with spectacular aragonite & calcite needles. 1.5 myo sediment sequence, giant doline-karst collapse, lateral planation; Bats & swiftlets energy transfer from forest to cave; Karst, bats, pinnacle forest Forest & cave biodiversity.	i,ii,iii,iv.

Chichen Itza	Mexico	1988	Religious Centre, situated around an immense cenote that was a major site of sacrificial rituals	C I, ii, iii
Luang Prabang	Lao PDR	1995	Built on karst with various landforms; a number of the caves are important temple sites.	C ii, iv, v
Sian Ka'an	Mexico	1987	Situated on the edge of the great cenote karst of the Yucatan Peninsula. Only a small part of this karst is within the WHA.	iii, iv
Te Wahipounamu	New Zealand	1990	Includes a number of small areas of karst, including the Aurora Cave at Te Anau.	i, ii, iii, iv
Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park	Philippines	1999	Spectacular karst landscape, underground river & caves. Most significant forest in Palawan Biogeographical Province.	iii, iv
Lake Baikal	Russian Federation	1996	A major part of the watershed (Irkutsk basin) is located on Karst.	i, ii, iii, iv
Western Caucasus	Russian Federation	1999	The Northern section consists entirely of karst with some of the world's great deep and extensive caves. Some of these have important Neanderthal sites and so are of considerable archaeological value.	i, ii, iii, iv
Skocjanske Jame	Slovenia	1986	Awesome river canyons, textbook portrayal of karst hydrogeology. On-going process; Collapsed dolines & caverns .	ii, iii
East Rennell	Solomon Islands	1998	A particularly large and diverse raised coral atoll.	ii
The Fossil Hominid Sites of Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, Kromdraai, and environs	South Africa	1999	A cluster of karst sites containing remains of some of the earliest humanoids.	C iii, iv
Altamira Cave	Spain	1985	One of the most famous and diverse collections of cave art	C i, iii
Atapuerca Caves	Spain	2000	Contains earliest and richest evidence of human beings in Europe.	C iii, iv
Södra Ölands Odlingslandskap	Sweden	2000	The only extensive area of limestone in Sweden – a large pavement with various surface karst features.	C iv,v
Thung Yai Hua Kha Khaeng	Thailand	1991		

Dong Phrayayen – Khao Yai Forest Complex	Thailand	2005	As the name suggests, basically a forest area but with some karst at the western end of the area	N iv
Pamukkale	Turkey	1988	Spectacular travertine terraces	N iii C iii, iv
Henderson Island	UK: Pitcairn Islands	1988	Relatively undisturbed example of a raised coral atoll.	iii. iv
Grand Canyon	USA	1979	Caves are found throughout the Redwall limestone beds and contain a great number of archaeological relics.	i, ii, iii, iv
Mammoth Cave National Park	USA	1981	Continuous cave formation (100 mya-present). Large level passages & jagged domepits. Rich troglobitic fauna.	i,iii,iv
Carlsbad Caverns National Park	USA	1995	81 caves. Huge caverns & decorative mineral features, scenic values esp. Lechuguilla. (Most types of limestone cave formation are found here, including long passages with huge chambers, vertical shafts, stalagmites, stalactites and gypsum 'flowers' and 'needles'. Excellent examples of karstification by sulphur acids. Rich microfauna.)	i, iii
Canaima National Park	Venezuela	1994	The most outstanding example in the world of karst in quartzitic sandstones.	i, ii, iii, iv
Ha Long Bay	Vietnam	1994 2000	Most extensive and best-known example of marine invaded tower karst and one of the most important areas of fengcong and fenglin karst in the world.	i, iii
Phong Nha Ke Bang	Vietnam	2003	One of the finest and most distinctive examples of a complex karst landform in SE Asia. Phong Nha displays an impressive amount of evidence of earth's history.	i
Durmitor National Park	Yugoslavia Montenegro	1980	Deep limestone beds span a remarkable geological sequence. Glacial lakes, caves and the Tara Canyon dominate the landscape.	ii,. iii, iv