



WORLD MONUMENTS FUND

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LAST CHANCE TO NOMINATE YOUR SITE TO THE 2010 WORLD MONUMENTS WATCH

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS MARCH 15, 2009

WORLD MONUMENTS FUND WILL ANNOUNCE ITS LIST OF 100 MOST ENDANGERED SITES IN FALL 2009

New York, NY, February 25, 2009 . . . The deadline for nominating a site to the 2010 World Monuments Watch is **March 15, 2009**. The Watch, a biennial list of 100 most endangered sites, is an urgent call to action on behalf of cultural heritage sites at risk across the globe, and the World Monuments Fund's most successful advocacy tool. Since the Watch was launched in 1996, hundreds of sites—from the famous and familiar to the unexpected and remote—have been saved or are now out of danger, thanks to intervention inspired by Watch listing.

“The World Monuments Watch is our flagship advocacy program. It gives us a global picture of the state of cultural heritage every two years,” said **Bonnie Burnham, president of the World Monuments Fund (WMF)**. “There are hundreds of fascinating, important buildings and places facing the threat of imminent ruin from war, flooding, vandalism, decay, and even just plain indifference. Each new Watch list presents us with the challenge and the opportunity to broaden the public's awareness of both the richness and the fragility of cultural heritage. The Watch allows us to encourage and support local efforts to save this extraordinary legacy.”

“The World Monuments Watch is such an important program,” said actress **Jeanne Tripplehorn**, who has just become a spokesperson for the World Monuments Fund. “We all take for granted that the places we love will be around forever, but that's not always the case. Route 66, a place that is close to my heart, runs through my hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and ends not too far from where I now live in Los Angeles. Its iconic American landscape has slowly been falling into ruin, the victim of decay, demolition, and development. It was placed on the 2008 Watch list, and the World Monuments Fund is now working to help save this great slice of Americana. There are so many treasured sites like Route 66 all over the world, and I hope people

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across the globe will step up and nominate a place close to their hearts to the 2010 World Monuments Watch.”

The 100 sites on each Watch list are selected from hundreds of nominations by an independent panel of experts convened by WMF every other year. Anyone can nominate a site, from governments, NGOs, and conservation professionals, to site caretakers and concerned individuals. The selection is based on the site’s significance, the urgency of its threat, the viability of both advocacy efforts and conservation solutions, and whether the challenges at the site advance the heritage field at large. Through this process, WMF gathers news about endangered sites of all types and from all time periods, from antiquity to the 20th century, and is able to highlight emerging issues and opportunities in the field of historic preservation, confront urgent challenges, foster community engagement, and build capacities and constituencies for sustaining heritage protection in the long run.

Watch listing provides opportunities for sites and their nominators to raise awareness, encourage local participation, advance innovation and collaboration, and demonstrate effective solutions. Whether through financial or technical assistance, capacity building, or advocacy, the Watch works as an important vehicle for international cooperation and support.

Many Watch sites have been rescued or are now well on their way to being saved. Previous Watch lists have included sites ranging from such well-known landmarks as the Taj Mahal, the Great Wall of China, Pompeii, Teotihuacan, and the Valley of the Kings to lesser-known places such as the Larabanga Mosque in Ghana and the National Art Schools in Cuba. Some of the sites on the 2008 Watch, including Ireland’s fabled Tara Hill and two modern sites—St. Peter’s College in Cardross, Scotland, and the New York State Pavilion, built for the 1964 World’s Fair in Queens, New York—have used their Watch listing as a platform for media attention, thereby generating public support around the world. Other sites, such as Scott’s Hut on Antarctica’s Ross Island, have been able to leverage additional funds with WMF support, enabling conservation efforts to move forward to a successful conclusion. For sites like Route 66 in the U.S., the World Monuments Fund has been working closely with local organizations and government agencies to both leverage additional investment and build capacity that will ensure long-term management.

Since 1996, some 550 sites in almost 80 countries have been included on seven Watch lists; nearly half of them have received WMF assistance totaling more than \$50 million. These funds have leveraged an additional \$150 million in assistance from other sources as a result of the momentum created by Watch listing. World Monuments Fund raises funds from private donors, foundations, and corporations to support the Watch program and efforts inspired by Watch listing. As the flagship advocacy program of the World Monuments Fund, the Watch is

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emblematic of WMF's commitment to inspiring heritage stewardship, forging partnerships, and advancing conservation.

How to Nominate a Site to the 2010 Watch

To nominate a site, download the nomination form along with detailed guidelines at www.wmf.org/watch. You will need [Adobe Reader version 9](#) (version 8 is also acceptable), which can be downloaded for free. Nominations may be submitted electronically and are due by **March 15, 2009**. Please note that, for WMF administrative reasons, nominations should be submitted in English. If this is a serious impediment to your participation, please contact WMF at watch@wmf.org to explore alternatives.

[Guidelines](#) (printable PDFs in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#), [Italian](#), [Chinese](#), and [Arabic](#) requires [Adobe Reader](#))

[Nomination Form](#)

[Signature Sheet](#)

The deadline for 2010 nominations is March 15, 2009. The sites selected for the 2010 World Monuments Watch will be announced in New York City in the fall of 2009.

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