

World Heritage Sites in the U.S.



INDICATIVE LIST, UNITED STATES (by state)

ALASKA

[Wrangell-St. Elias](#) National Park and Preserve **INSCRIBED**

1979

[Glacier Bay](#) National Park and Preserve **INSCRIBED 1992**

ARIZONA

[Grand Canyon](#) National Park **INSCRIBED 1979**

CALIFORNIA

[Redwood National Park](#) **INSCRIBED 1980**

[Yosemite](#) National Park **INSCRIBED 1984**

COLORADO

[Mesa Verde](#) National Park **INSCRIBED 1978**

FLORIDA

[Everglades](#) National Park **INSCRIBED 1979**

HAWAII

[Hawaii Volcanoes](#) National Park **INSCRIBED 1987**

ILLINOIS

[Cahokia Mounds](#) State Historic Site **INSCRIBED 1982**

KENTUCKY

[Mammoth Cave](#) National Park **INSCRIBED 1991**

MONTANA

[Waterton-Glacier](#) International Peace Park **INSCRIBED 1995**

NEW JERSEY/NEW YORK

[Statue of Liberty](#) National Monument **INSCRIBED 1984**

NEW MEXICO

[Carlsbad Caverns](#) National Park **INSCRIBED 1995**

[Chaco Culture](#) National Historical Park **INSCRIBED 1987**

[Taos Pueblo](#) **INSCRIBED 1992**

NORTH CAROLINA/TENNESSEE

[Great Smoky Mountains](#) National Park **INSCRIBED 1983**

PENNSYLVANIA

[Independence](#) National Historic Site **INSCRIBED 1979**

VIRGINIA

[Monticello](#) **INSCRIBED 1987**

[University of Virginia Historic District](#) **INSCRIBED 1987**

WASHINGTON

[Olympic](#) National Park **INSCRIBED 1981**

WYOMING/MONTANA

[Yellowstone](#) National Park **INSCRIBED 1978**

PUERTO RICO

[La Fortaleza-San Juan](#) National Historical Site **INSCRIBED 1983**

Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:54 pm EDT

MLO





Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Alaska

A Joint Site with Kluane National Park, Yukon Territory, Canada



Located on the border between Alaska and Canada, the Wrangell-St. Elias and Kluane National Parks contain a huge chain of glaciers. Here, gargantuan ice sheets continue to move, shaping and transforming the landscape. It is a phenomenon that has been occurring since the Ice Age 11,000 years ago. The icefields and the 2,000 glaciers that radiate from them are fed by 20 feet of snow each year created by the moist Pacific air running into the high coastal mountains. The glaciers grind and scour the rock beneath as they move slowly under their own weight, generally travelling only a few inches or feet a year. Glaciers that wrok their way to the ocean's edge create gigantic icebergs. Over eons of time, some glaciers have gradually retreated leaving a sculpted landscape of valleys, peaks and lakes. In addition to representing an incredible on-going geological process, this premier wilderness contains extensive bird, animal and marine mammal habitats where trumpeter swans, Daal sheep, bisons, sea lions and the like are protected. (Inscribed in 1979)

Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:50 pm EDT

MLO





Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Alaska

Located on the border between Alaska and Canada, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve contains a huge chain of glaciers. Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve was designated a national monument in 1925. Its purpose was to preserve the glacial environment and plant communities for public enjoyment, scientific study and historic interest. Expanded several times, Glacier Bay was redesignated a national park and preserve in 1980. In 1986 the park was named a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO.

Great tidewater glaciers, a dramatic range of plant communities from rocky terrain recently covered by ice to lush temperate rain forest, and a large variety of animals, including brown and black bears, mountain goats, whales (including humpbacks), seals and eagles can be found within the park. Also included are Mount Fairweather, the highest peak in southeast Alaska and the U.S. portion of the Alsek River. (Inscribed in 1992)

Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:54 pm EDT

MLO





Grand Canyon National Park



The Grand Canyon is among the earth's greatest on-going geological spectacles. Its vastness is stunning, and the evidence it reveals about the earth's history is invaluable. About 65 million years ago in the earth's shifting, a huge area of land was lifted a mile and a half above sea level, forming what is now the Colorado Plateau. For the last 6 to 10 million years, the Colorado River has been slowly carving its way down through the many layers of rock. The river, together with the erosive forces of wind, rain, snow, heat and cold, has formed a spectacular gorge one-mile deep and at some points 18 miles across. The colorful strata of the canyon walls reveal the rock formations of the earth's evolution from nearly 2 billion years ago; they contain fossils of the earliest living things from 500 million years ago. The river continues to carve into the earth's surface. (Inscribed in 1979)

Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:52 pm EDT

MLO



Redwood National Park, California



Redwood National Park contains the tallest living things on earth, evergreen trees that grow to 350 feet. The park was established specifically to protect these trees, because it is only here and in Oregon that they now survive. Descendants of the giant evergreens that grew during the age of the dinosaurs, redwoods thrived in moist temperate regions of the world. They take 400 years to mature and some of the survivors are more than 2,000 years old. Their thick, sapless bark protects them from fire, but landslides and wind can topple old trees. The Indians used fallen redwood trees to build canoes and houses; commercial logging began during the gold rush era. Logging of redwoods continues and is debated by the timber industry and environmentalists. The trees stand as majestic reminders of the slow evolution of nature. Redwood National and State Parks represent a cooperative management effort of the National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Together these parks are a World Heritage Site and International Biosphere Reserve protecting resources cherished by citizens of many nations. (Inscribed in 1980)

Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:56 pm EDT

MLO



Yosemite National Park, California



Yosemite is located in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains. The alpine wilderness, groves of giant Sequoia trees and the spectacular valley landscape of Yosemite make it a pre-eminent natural marvel. In articulating the beauty of this place, the naturalist John Muir said, "No temple made with hands can compare to Yosemite." Yosemite was made by glaciers. During the last Ice Age the granite bedrock was gouged and shaped into bare peaks, sheer cliffs, rounded domes and huge monoliths. The flat valley floor evolved from a large meltwater lake that slowly filled with sediment. Now flowering meadows fill the valley and dramatic waterfalls surround it. Geological evolution is ongoing here, as lakes continue to silt up. Biological adaptation is evident also in the Giant Sequoia trees which are resistant to fire and for whom periodic fires are, in fact, necessary to clear the dense undergrowth and make way for young sequoias. Breathtaking panoramas of rugged scenery and huge variety of plant and animal life are protected in this incomparable valley. (Inscribed in 1984)

Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:58 pm EDT

MLO



Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado



In the sixth century A.D., the Anasazi, or "Ancient Ones," established villages on the high, flat land in southwestern Colorado. At first, they lived in caves and in low shelters built over pits on the mesa top. In the late 1100s they began constructing multi-story stone apartment houses or pueblos tucked in on ledges and under rock overhangs. One particular complex, today called the Cliff Palace, contained more than 200 rooms: religious spaces called *kivas*, rooms for sleeping and crop storage. The reason the Anasazi moved to these cliffs is not known; perhaps it was for shelter from their enemies. Also unknown is why they abandoned their new homes scarcely 100 years later at the end of the 13th century -- perhaps due to war, drought or their own depletion of resources. (Inscribed in 1978)

Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:54 pm EDT

MLO





Everglades National Park, Florida

Mangrove



The everglades, or River of Grass as the Native Americans called it, is a fragile ecosystem that demonstrates the delicate balance within nature and the threats from humankind. It is formed by a river of fresh water 6 inches deep and 50 miles wide that flows slowly across the flat expanse of land at the southern tip of Florida. Sawgrass marshes, pine forests and mangrove islands support a variety of wildlife. In 1947, the Everglades National Park was established and now covers 1.4 million acres. More than 300 species of birds live in the park. Several of them, such as herons and egrets, are protected from plume hunters. Alligators, manatees and Florida panthers are also protected. The terrestrial and aquatic plant and animal communities have adapted to each other and to the climate of wet summers and dry winters. They are, however, dependent on the flow of water which has been severely altered by urban and agricultural development in south Florida beginning at the turn of the century. Half of the original Everglades has been drained and water to the national park sector is harnessed through canals and

floodgates. Scientists and engineers are planning ways to re-establish a more natural flow of water to meet the area's environmental needs. (Inscribed in 1979)

In December 1993, Everglades National Park was included on the list of properties of World Heritage in danger. It is hoped that increased attention to the threats posed to the long-term health of the park will lead to better conservation of this fragile ecosystem.

Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:52 pm EDT

MLO



Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii



Several of the volcanoes that formed the Hawaiian islands are still active, providing a place for scientists to study the mysteries of volcanic eruptions and the earth's formation. It is thought that the Hawaiian islands were created when molten rock pushed through the earth's crust, forming volcanoes. Over millions of years, eruptions built up these volcanoes until their tops emerged from the sea as islands. Measured from the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, these volcanoes are among the greatest mountain masses on the earth. Kilauea and Mauna Loa, two of the active volcanoes in the park on the Big Island of Hawaii, usually give ample warning before they spew forth hot lava (molten rock); their eruptions sometimes add new land area to the island. These volcanoes are evidence of the powerful forces of nature. (Inscribed in 1987)

Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:52 pm EDT

MLO





Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, Illinois



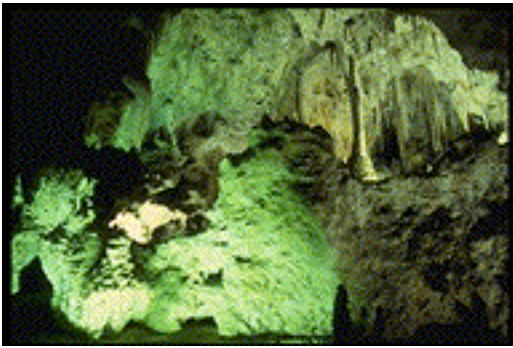
Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site is located on the Mississippi River across from St. Louis, Missouri. This area was first inhabited by Indians of the Woodland culture about A.D. 700. By about 900 the Cahokia site was the regional center for the Mississippian culture with satellite settlements around it. After about 400 years, the population began to decline and the site was abandoned by 1500. In the late 1600s the Cahokia Indians came to the area; it is from these later Indians that the current name is derived. However, it is the building accomplishments of the earlier Indians that make this site significant. They constructed more than 100 earthen mounds, 87 of which have been documented. It is estimated that these industrious people moved 50 million cubic feet of earth in woven baskets to create this network of mounds. Monk's Mound, for example, covers an area of 14 acres and rises in 4 terraces to a height of 100 feet. Atop this would have been a massive building another 50 feet high. As the largest prehistoric earthen construction in the Americas, Monk's Mound is a testament to the sophisticated engineering skills of these people. (Inscribed in 1982)

Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:50 pm EDT

MLO



Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky



Mammoth Cave, as its name suggests, is the world's most extensive cave system, with 300 miles of passages that are known and more that have not been explored. Located in central Kentucky, this subterranean phenomenon was created more than several million years ago as water worked its way through limestone deposits, dissolving the rock and carving underground passageways to connect with the nearby river. Over the ages, the water table slowly dropped leaving narrow horizontal tunnels, broad caverns and giant vertical shafts linked in a many-leveled labyrinth. The lower passageways are still being enlarged by streams and rivers. Water seeping into the cave creates stalactites, stalagmites and white gypsum crystal formations that decorate some of the passages and rooms. Rare and unusual animals, such as blind fish and colorless spiders, demonstrate adaptation to the absolute blackness and isolation. Having evolved over millennia, 50 species of cave creatures are now threatened by pollutants that are entering the cave system from today's water supply. Mammoth Cave is an incredible natural phenomenon that continues to challenge humankind. (Inscribed in 1981)

Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:54 pm EDT

MLO



Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Montana, U.S.A. and Alberta, Canada



Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, which comprises Glacier National Park in northwestern Montana on the United States side and Waterton National Park in Alberta on the Canadian side, was designated by law as the world's first International Peace Park in 1932. The park is traversed by the Lewis Range and contains outstanding glacial lakes and alpine scenery and is significant as a habitat exceptionally rich in plant and mammal life.

Glacier National Park, Montana has mountain peaks exceeding 10,000 feet and this site includes nearly 50 glaciers, many lakes and streams. The two parks sustain exceptionally diverse and productive habitat, reflected by the natural populations of large mammals and carnivores, including wolves, bears and mountain lions. Glacier National Park is the only location in the 48 contiguous states where these three major predator populations still occur naturally. The park has a wide variety of wild flowers and wildlife, including bighorn sheep and bald eagles. The area has been designated a Biosphere Reserve. The park met the following criteria for inclusion as a World heritage Site: it is an outstanding example of significant geological processes, and it contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park protects an important biological crossroads at the point where the Rocky Mountains reach their narrowest width. The park straddles the frontiers of two nations: the

United States and Canada and serves as a reminder that our natural resources have no boundaries. It is also a celebration of the longest undefended contiguous border between two nations. (Inscribed in 1995)



Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:52 pm EDT

MLO



Statue of Liberty National Monument New York City



Standing at the entrance to New York harbor is a 151-foot statue of a woman holding a book and a torch on-high. "**Liberty Enlightening the World**" was a gift of friendship from the people of France to the United States to commemorate the 100th anniversary of American independence. After Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi prefabricated the figure in Paris by molding sheets of copper over a stainless-steel framework, it was shipped to the United States in 241 crates in 1885. Some of the money to erect the statue was contributed by American school children. The sculptor intended his work to be an immense and impressive symbol of human liberty. It was certainly that for millions of immigrants who came to America in the 19th century seeking freedom and fulfillment of their dreams. It has continued to inspire people across the world, as in 1989 when the Chinese students at Tiananmen Square made a model of the Statue of Liberty to symbolize their revolution. For more information (and images) about the Statue of Liberty, [click here](#). (Inscribed in 1984)



Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:54 pm EDT

MLO



Carlsbad Caverns National Park

New Mexico



Located in the Chihuahuan Desert in Southeastern New Mexico west of the Pecos River, Carlsbad Caverns National Park is outstanding in its profusion, diversity and beauty of mineral formations that occur in a network of more than 80 limestone caves. The Lechuguilla Cave, in particular, constitutes an underground laboratory where geological processes can be studied in a virtually intact setting.

The park was established to preserve Carlsbad Cavern and numerous other caves within a Permian-age fossil reef. The park contains 83 separate caves, including the nation's deepest - 1,597 feet - and third longest. Carlsbad Cavern, with one of the world's largest underground chambers and countless formations, is also highly accessible, with a variety of tours offered year-round. Established first as a National Monument on October 25, 1923, it was made a National Park on May 14, 1930.

The inclusion of Carlsbad Caverns on the World Heritage List was based on the following criteria: it is an outstanding example of significant geological processes, and it contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty. (Inscribed in 1995)

Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:50 pm EDT

MLO



Chaco Culture National Historical Park, New Mexico



In Chaco Canyon, a desert valley in northwestern New Mexico, between the early AD 900s and the late 1100s, the Anasazi created a civilization whose architecture, social organization and community life reflected a high degree of sophistication. Large multi-story stone villages and an impressive 400-mile road system exemplify their engineering and construction talents. A central settlement, Chaco was connected with approximately 75 outlying communities. It is thought that these agrarian people may have developed this political and economic center to manage and distribute the food supply that varied, due to the vagaries of wet and dry growing seasons. These Anasazi constructed their pueblos with large oversized rooms and also developed a masonry technique that allowed them to build more than 4 stories high. Several of the resulting complexes contained hundreds of rooms and dozens of kivas. A prolonged drought between the 1130s and 1180s may have contributed to the disintegration of Chaco. The architectural ruins remain as a strong testament to the accomplishments of this vanished civilization. (Inscribed in 1987).

Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:52 pm EDT

MLO



Taos Pueblo, New Mexico



Located in the valley of a small tributary of the Rio Grande, Taos comprises a group of habitations and ceremonial centers which are representative of a culture largely derived from the traditions of the pre-historic Anasazi Indian tribes who settled near the present borders of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado. Pueblo de Taos is thought to have appeared before 1400 and is the best preserved of the pueblos north of the border defined by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848).

Taos Pueblo, New Mexico, has been a center of Native-American culture since the 17th century. The pueblo of Taos, still active today, symbolizes Indian resistance to external rule. The mission of San Geronimo, one of the earliest in New Mexico, was built near Taos Pueblo in the early 17th century. During the 18th century, Taos played an important role in resisting Spanish colonization.

As the need for defensive structures relaxed, certain European architectural traits were adapted. These included: fireplaces, exterior doors and a more extensive use of windows. Nevertheless, Taos is a remarkable example of a traditional type of architectural ensemble from the pre-hispanic period of the Americas unique to this region. Taos Pueblo is an outstanding collection of structures and a brilliant model of a traditional human settlement. It is representative of a culture which has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change. (Inscribed in 1992). Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:56 pm EDT

MLO

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

North Carolina and Tennessee



Place of Blue Smoke was the name given by the Cherokee Indians to the Appalachian Highlands on the border between North Carolina and Tennessee. The forest here exudes water vapor and oily residues which create a smoke-like haze that surrounds the peaks and fills the valleys. Great Smoky Mountains National Park, encompassing more than 800 square miles, protects one of the world's finest temperate deciduous forests and is a reminder of the tree-rich landscape of pre-Columbian America. Due to the fertile soil and abundant rain, this area boasts 1,520 flower species, 130 varieties of trees, 50 mammal species and 27 different kind of salamanders. The plants are related to those found across the Pacific, testifying to the ancient migration of trees and flowers from Asia by way of the Bering land bridge. The Smokies also represent an important period in the earth's development when 300 million years ago, supercontinents collided and the earth's crust pushed upward forming high, jagged mountains. Over the course of time these mountains have been smoothed and softened by erosion. The geographical evidence, biological evolution and diversity make this park a superlative natural preserve. (Inscribed in 1983)

Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:52 pm EDT

MLO



Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Independence Hall in Philadelphia can be considered the birthplace of the United States of America, as it was here that the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776, the Articles of Confederation uniting the thirteen (13) colonies were ratified in 1781 and the Constitution setting out the nation's basic laws was adopted in 1787. The building was designed by Andrew Hamilton to house the Assembly of the Commonwealth (colony) of Pennsylvania. Finished in 1753, it is a modest brick structure with a steeple that was intended to hold a 2,080 pound bell. The bell, however, has cracked twice and stands silently on the ground in a special shelter (a reproduction now hangs in the steeple). Independence Hall is important

not for its architectural design but for the documents drafted and debated here that formed the democracy of the United States. (Inscribed in 1979)

Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:54 pm EDT

MLO



The Architecture of Thomas Jefferson

Monticello

Charlottesville, Virginia



Thomas Jefferson gave form to the nascent United States by his writings, his service to the country and more literally his architecture. Between 1784-1809 he designed, built and then remodeled his home, Monticello, perched atop a hill in the Piedmont of Virginia. A low, red-brick structure with a white dome and doric portico, it served as a laboratory for his ideas and reflected his interest in the neo-classical style, an architectural movement that he learned about during his years as American Ambassador in Paris. In 1819 Thomas Jefferson founded the University of Virginia to provide educational opportunity for all. His design for the campus included a central domed Rotunda, which served as the library with classrooms, and two rows of Pavillions containing student rooms and faculty lodgings on either side of the "Lawn." He modeled his buildings on the Roman republic. Thomas Jefferson was a man of creative genius whose writings and architecture embody ideals of universal freedom, self-determination and self-fulfillment that continue to inspire humanity. (Inscribed in 1987)

University of Virginia's Academical Village



The Jeffersonian Precinct of the University of Virginia covers a plot of land measuring 28 acres. The complex is situated on an elevated site, with a gentle slope running down toward the south. The original plan for the University consists of a U-shaped configuration of buildings, with the L-shaped Rotunda placed at the northernmost part of the curve. Rows of five pavilions with connecting dormitory rooms run along the east and west sides of the central Lawn and terminate at the foot of the Rotunda. Paralleling the two inner ranges are rows of outer ranges of dormitory rooms and eating facilities. The ground between the inner and outer ranges are devoted to gardens bounded by serpentine walls.

The Rotunda measures 78' wide and is designed of pure geometric shapes with dimensions one-half those of the Pantheon. The height of the dome is determined by the diameter of the plan. The circle of the Rotunda is placed tangent to the floor of the basement in order to differentiate its height from that of the Pantheon. From the Lawn, the Rotunda is entered through a portico made up of six Corinthian columns supporting a triangular pediment. The portico extends out from the building by four rows of Corinthian columns. The drum of the Rotunda is constructed of red brick and white wood trim. The dome is built of tile, roofed in tin plate, and surfaced internally with plaster. The width of the Rotunda walls is 2'8".

The ten pavilions are numbered I to X, with the odd numbers on the west and the even numbers on the east. They represent the ten original separate schools, each with classrooms, professors' living quarters, and single story dormitories. The ten pavilions are connected by a continuous loggia which offers shelter from the weather and screens the utilitarian dormitories from view. Each of the pavilions is designed with elements drawn from classical models as published by Palladio, Fréart de Chambray, and Charles Errard. Each of the pavilions is different, thereby offering a separate lesson in classical orders and architecture. For example, Pavilion VIII provides an example of the Corinthian architectural order of the Diocletian Baths as interpreted in Chambray's pattern book.

The widths of the pavilions of the inner ranges facing onto the Lawn vary from 38 feet (Pavilion II) to 46 feet (Pavilions I and V). In order to create an illusion of distance along the ranges, the pavilions nearer the Rotunda are sited closer to each other than those farther from the Rotunda. For example, Pavilion II, near the foot of the Rotunda, is 64' from Pavilion IV, whereas Pavilion VIII is 117' from Pavilion X. The length of the gardens in between the inner and outer ranges to the east side of the Lawn is 174'. The length of the gardens in between the inner and outer ranges on the west side is 152'. The difference between the length of the gardens is compensated for by the width of the buildings of the outer ranges, which vary from 38' to 44' on the east side to 52' to 61' on the west side.

Three stories were built into the Rotunda. The first two stories consist of oval rooms. A dome room is located at the third story.

Lined with rows of trees, the Lawn measures 740' in length and 192' in width. The Lawn is terraced in gradual steps from the north to the south. The tree plantings are not original and efforts are underway to determine and reinstate the original design concept. The Jeffersonian Precinct is separated from the rest of the University by roads on the west, north, and east sides and by a wide walkway on the south side.

The full-text world heritage nomination form for these sites can now be accessed on-line.

Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:54 pm EDT

MLO





Olympic National Park, Washington State



The 1,400 square miles of Olympic National Park in northwestern Washington state encompasses not only snow-capped Mount Olympus, glaciers, alpine meadows and rocky Pacific Mountain coastline but also one of the few temperate rain forests in the world. The luxuriant forest is created by the warm, moisture-laden air from the Pacific, meeting the mountains and dropping more than 12 feet of rain a year. This cool, perpetually damp environment results in a dense, green, jungle-like world. It is home to some of the world's largest conifers, towering 230 feet; moss-enshrouded maple trees with 40 foot spans; and a dense undergrowth of shrubs, wildflowers, ferns and lichen. All are vying for light and room to grow. The cycle of growth and decay is abundantly demonstrated here, for example when new trees sprout up along the decaying trunks of fallen trees. The biological evolution, the ecological variety and the sheer splendor of the coastline, forests and mountains of Olympic make it a special place. (Inscribed in 1981)

Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:56 pm EDT

MLO



Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming and Montana



The first national park established anywhere in the world is Yellowstone National Park which was authorized in 1872 by the United States Congress. Its hot springs, ten-thousand (10,000) geysers and geyser basins, lava formations, lakes, waterfalls, rivers and river canyons make it a place of unrivalled beauty. It is also a place to study volcanic forces and heat flow within the earth. Yellowstone sits on top of a hot spot where a thermal plume or column of molten rock rises from deep within the earth and feeds into a large chamber 11,000 feet below the earth's surface. The 1,000F-degree heat from this molten rock in the chamber warms water from rain and snow that seeps down; the resulting steam and hot water rise again to the surface, forming hot springs and geysers such as Old Faithful. It is known that a similar chamber with molten rock burst forth in a volcanic eruption 600,000 years ago to form what is now Yellowstone. The question remains: When will Yellowstone erupt again? But, at present, it is a gentle and wondrous reminder of the volcanic forces that shape the earth. The park is a tribute to the foresight of those who created it and started a movement in conservation that has spanned the entire globe. (Inscribed in 1978).

In December 1995, Yellowstone National Park was included on the list of properties of World Heritage in danger. It is hoped that increased attention to the threats of over-use and pollution will lead to better conservation of the Yellowstone's natural resources.

Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:52 pm EDT

MLO



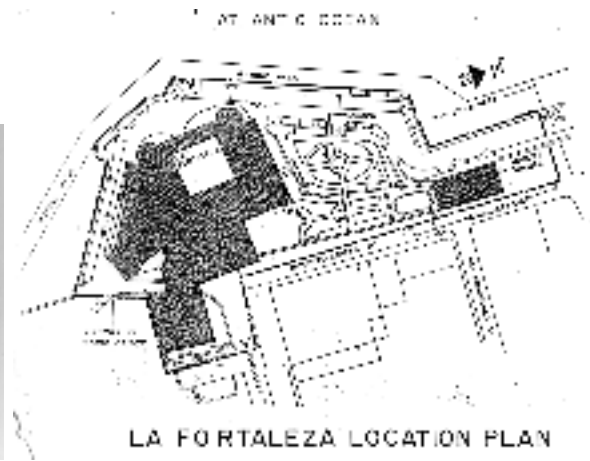
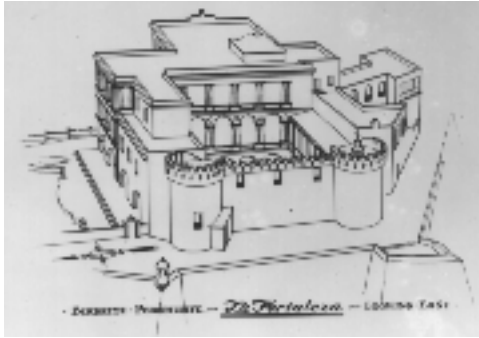
San Juan, Puerto Rico

National Historic Site



The system of fortifications in San Juan begun in the late 16th century gave Spain strategic control of the Caribbean until the late 19th century. It includes two (2) large forts and a system of fortified city walls. La Fortaleza was built between 1533 and 1540 to control access from the harbor to the town of San Juan. It was remodeled over the years and served as the residence for royal officials and the treasury for documents. The second fort was El Morro, built to protect San Juan Bay: it eventually developed into a masterpiece of military engineering with stout walls, carefully planned steps and ramps for moving men and artillery. By the end of the 18th century more than 400 cannon defended the fort, making it almost impregnable. Over the centuries, these fortifications protected Spain's empire from Carib Indians, pirates and the warships of other countries. They are reminders of the power of Spain and the role of Puerto Rico in the exploration and colonization of the New World. (Inscribed in 1983)





Last Modified: Fri, Sep 11 1998 04:25:52 pm EDT

MLO

