

National Recreation and Preservation: Office of International Affairs

The United States was the world leader in the creation of the World Heritage Program in 1972 and the first to ratify the Convention in 1973. Yellowstone National Park and Mesa Verde National Park were among the first 12 sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. In recent years, the Monumental Earthworks of Poverty Point in Louisiana, the San Antonio Missions in Texas, and eight Frank Lloyd Wright sites spanning the country were inscribed.



The San Antonio Missions, including Mission Espada shown here, encompass a group of five complexes along the San Antonio River basin in south Texas, as well as a nearby ranch. The San Antonio Missions are excellent examples of 18th century Spanish and Coahuiltecan architecture, decorative arts, and cultural elements. The San Antonio Missions were designated a World Heritage Site in 2015.

PHOTO COURTESY ROBERT HOWEN/NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Background

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) within the National Park Service (NPS) works to protect and enhance parks, protected areas, and cultural sites with outstanding cultural and natural resources and critical habitats. Among other responsibilities, OIA responds to issues relating to 24 existing World Heritage sites in the United States, 19 of which are managed by the NPS. OIA is also responsible for selecting sites for the World Heritage Tentative List and shepherding them through the detailed nomination process. Examples include Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks in Ohio; Bethlehem Moravian Church in Pennsylvania; and Civil Rights Movement Sites in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, and Mississippi. OIA is also a liaison to other federal agencies, including the State Department, on international park and heritage issues.

FY 2023 Appropriations Request

Please support \$2.25 million for the Office of International Affairs in the FY 2023 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: National Park Service

ACCOUNT: National Recreation and Preservation

ACTIVITY: International Park Affairs, Office of International Affairs

Recent Funding History:

FY 2020 Enacted Funding:	\$1.903 million
FY 2021 Enacted Funding:	\$1.924 million
FY 2022 Enacted Funding:	\$1.924 million
FY 2023 President's Budget Request:	\$1.990 million
FY 2023 NTHP Recommendation:	\$2.25 million

JUSTIFICATION: An increase in funding for the Office of International Affairs is necessary to ensure robust engagement during the 50th anniversary of the World Heritage Program and to support the multiple communities and sites across the country seeking nomination to the World Heritage List. Designation as a World Heritage site brings communities and sites substantial social, cultural, and economic benefits. The World Heritage Program builds mutual respect for the cultural and natural heritage and peaceful coexistence of all humanity.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Current U.S. World Heritage Tentative List

CULTURAL SITES

Brooklyn Bridge, New York

Central Park, New York

Civil Rights Movement Sites, Alabama
[other sites to be considered for inclusion]

- Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, Montgomery
- Bethel Baptist Church, Birmingham
- 16th Street Baptist Church, Birmingham

Dayton Aviation Sites, Ohio

- Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park

Early Chicago Skyscrapers, Illinois
[other properties may be added]

- The Rookery
- Auditorium Building
- Monadnock Building
- Ludington Building
- Marquette Building
- Old Colony Building
- Schlesinger & Mayer (Carson, Pirie Scott) Department Store
- Second Leiter Building
- Fisher Building

Ellis Island, New Jersey and New York

Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, Ohio

- Fort Ancient State Memorial
- Hopewell Culture National Historical Park
- Newark Earthworks State Historic Site

Moravian Bethlehem District, Pennsylvania (an extension to Christiansfeld, a Moravian Church Settlement, Denmark)

Mount Vernon, Virginia

Serpent Mound, Ohio

Thomas Jefferson Buildings, Virginia (an extension to the Monticello and the University of Virginia Historic District)

- Poplar Forest
- Virginia State Capitol

NATURAL SITES

Big Bend National Park, Texas

California Current Conservation Complex, California

- California Coastal National Monument
- Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary
- Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
- Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
- Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge
- Point Reyes National Seashore
- Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Marianas Trench National Monument, U.S. Territory, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam

National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa/Rose Atoll National Marine Monument (formerly Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary)

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Georgia

Pacific Remote Islands National Monument, U.S. Territorial Waters

Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona

White Sands National Park, New Mexico



The U.S. World Heritage Tentative List includes a proposal to inscribe Petrified Forest National Park. Found on the southern part of the Colorado Plateau in Arizona, Petrified Forest National Park showcases paleontological resources of the Late Triassic period (roughly 225 to 205 million years ago), most notably vast, colorful, and well-preserved deposits of petrified wood found nowhere else in the United States, such as the Rainbow Forest (pictured above).

PHOTO COURTESY T. SCOTT WILLIAMS/NATIONAL PARK SERVICE