

# Introductory Course to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage



**InforMEA**  
UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON  
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS



## Course Syllabus

### Learning Objectives

Cultural and natural sites are very diverse, yet they have in common the fact that they constitute, together with many others, a common heritage to be treasured as unique testimonies to an enduring past. Their disappearance would be an irreparable loss for humanity.

This course introduces you to the World Heritage Convention, which is one of the most complete international instruments that exist in the field of conservation. It is based on the recognition that parts of the cultural and natural heritage of various nations are of outstanding universal significance and need to be preserved as part of the world heritage of humankind as a whole.

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Describe the importance of conserving our common heritage.
2. Identify the core components and mechanisms established by the World Heritage Convention.

### Content & Duration

This online course is composed of 3 lessons which are organized in interactive modules that combine course theory with exercises and interactions to facilitate the learning process. The core content of the lessons is complemented with references to primary sources and additional resources on external websites.

It will take you approximately 1 hour to complete the course, excluding additional materials. This is a self-paced course that allows you to manage your time as you wish. You can navigate the lessons at your convenience and retake them whenever you wish.

## Completion Certificate

Take the quiz at the end of the course to assess your learning progress. You are required to answer at least 80% of the assessment questions correctly in order to obtain a course certificate.

Before obtaining the certificate you also need to submit the course survey (your feedback). This survey helps us to improve the course, develop new courses, and assess if you are achieving your learning objectives.

## Course Outline & Content

### Lesson 1: Introduction

The World Heritage Convention; natural heritage; cultural heritage.

### Lesson 2: International System of Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage

The international system of protection; the World Heritage Committee; the World Heritage List; the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### Lesson 3: Implementation

International assistance; advisory bodies; reporting; national implementation.