

Version anglaise

39 : the number of French sites included on UNESCO's World Heritage List

On **June 22, 2014**, UNESCO added the **Grotte Chauvet** to the **World Heritage List**. The cave was rediscovered by three cavers 20 years ago after being closed off for nearly 20,000 years. Located in the **Ardèche**, the cave contains **more than 1,000 drawings dating back 36,000 years**. They are some of the **earliest images created by mankind**.

This key site became the **39th French site to be included on UNESCO's World Heritage List**. Thanks to the **diversity of its landscapes and its historic wealth**, France is **one of the countries with the most cultural and natural properties inscribed on this prestigious list**. Religious buildings feature prominently on the list with the inclusion of 4 cathedrals and numerous abbeys. Three natural sites have been listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites : the Gulf of Porto in Corsica, the Pitons, Cirques and Remparts of Réunion Island as well as the Lagoons of New Caledonia.

France is the world's top tourist destination. In 2012, **83 million tourists** discovered the richness of our country. The cultural properties inscribed on the World Heritage list, such as the **Banks of the Seine** and the **Canal du Midi** are **veritable showcases for the quality and diversity of French tourism**. **The tourism sector is currently undergoing a radical transformation and is one of the key sectors of the French economy, accounting for 7% of GDP**. **The promotion of tourism is a priority for Laurent Fabius, who has just made several concrete proposals to improve tourist reception facilities**.

Here is a complete list of **French cultural and natural properties inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list** :

- Abbey Church of Saint-Savin sur Gartempe (1983)
- Cistercian Abbey of Fontenay (1981)
- Arles, Roman and Romanesque Monuments (1981)
- Vézelay, Church and Hill (1979)
- Nord-Pas de Calais Mining Basin (2012)
- Belfries of Belgium and France (1999)
- Bordeaux, Port of the Moon (2007)
- Canal du Midi (1996)
- Amiens Cathedral (1981)
- Bourges Cathedral (1992)
- Chartres Cathedral (1979)
- Cathedral of Notre-Dame, Former Abbey of Saint-Remi, and Palace of Tau, Reims (1991)
- Historical center of Avignon : Papal Palace, Episcopal Ensemble and Avignon Bridge (1995)
- Routes of Santiago de Compostela in France (1998)
- Episcopal City of Albi (2010)
- From the Great Saltworks of Salins-les-Bains to the Royal Saltworks of Arc-et-Senans, the Production of Open-pan Salt (1982)
- Fortifications of Vauban (2008)
- Decorated cave of Pont d'Arc, known as Grotte Chauvet-Pont d'Arc, Ardèche (2014)
- Jurisdiction of Saint-Émilion (1999)

- Le Havre, the City Rebuilt by Auguste Perret (2005)
- The Causses and the Cévennes, Mediterranean agro-pastoral Cultural Landscape (2011)
- Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay (1979)
- Palace and Park of Fontainebleau (1981)
- Palace and Park of Versailles (1979)
- Paris, Banks of the Seine (1991)
- Place Stanislas, Place de la Carrière, and Place d'Alliance in Nancy (1983)
- Pont du Gard (1985)
- Provins, Town of Medieval Fairs (2001)
- Historic site of Lyon (1998)
- Prehistoric pile dwellings around the Alps (2011)
- Prehistoric Sites and Decorated Caves of the Vézère Valley (1979)
- Strasbourg – Grande île (1988)
- Roman Theatre and its Surroundings and the "Triumphal Arch" of Orange (1981)
- The Loire Valley between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes (2000)
- Historic Fortified City of Carcassonne (1997)
- Gulf of Porto : Calanche of Piana, Gulf of Girolata, Scandola Reserve (1983)
- Lagoons of New Caledonia : Reef Diversity and Associated Ecosystems (2008)
- The Pitons, Cirques and Remparts of Réunion Island (2010)
- Pyrénées - Mont Perdu (1997)

In addition, **French gastronomy** has been inscribed on the **List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**, singling out our country's art of eating and drinking well.