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 United Kingdom  
 National Commission  
 for UNESCO

# UNESCO in the United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has been involved in the work of UNESCO since its very inception in London in 1945.

The UK continues to contribute to, and shape, UNESCO's global policy and programmes in education, the sciences, culture, and communication & information. The UK has a place on the UNESCO Executive Board, alongside 57 other Member States.

There are 64 UNESCO Sites in the United Kingdom, Crown Dependencies, and Overseas Territories, covering the four land-based UNESCO designation types: Biosphere Reserves, Creative Cities, Global Geoparks and World Heritage Sites.

Collectively, these Sites tell the story of the British Isles in an unparalleled way: its creation, formation, biodiversity, occupation, invasion, monarchy, religion, industry, culture, scientific invention, and creativity. The city of Bath is unique in the UK by having two separate inscriptions onto the World Heritage List.

In addition to the land-based designations, the following UNESCO programmes and initiatives operate in the United Kingdom: Associated Schools Programme (ASPnet), UNESCO Chairs & UNITWIN network, Global Network of Learning Cities and Memory of the World Register.

The UK's Designated Sites and other programmes play a vital role in the future of our global communities and planet; from acting as pilots for initiatives to tackle climate change to safeguarding intangible ('living') cultural heritage, or from supporting learning throughout communities to leading scientific research into the earth's water supply.

Through its myriad activities, the UK is embedded in UNESCO's global goal of building lasting peace through the 'intellectual and moral solidarity of humankind', relying on the common goods of education, culture, science and information.

