

PRESS RELEASE - NATIONAL PRESS

DISCOVER 58 UNIQUE UK UNESCO SITES ON NEW ILLUSTRATED MAP

Release Date (embargoed until): 24 July 2023

- *New map launched that includes all 58 UK UNESCO sites for the first time*
- *Map illustration by artist Tom Woolley*
- *Visitors encouraged to discover new sites and destinations on their doorstep*

Ignite your summer adventures and discover 58 unique UNESCO sites in the UK and crown dependencies thanks to a newly illustrated map, now available to download for free from the UK National Commission for UNESCO.

From expansive mountain ranges and stunning coastlines to vibrant cities and rural landscapes - the UK's UNESCO sites are destinations of world-class natural and cultural heritage. For the first time a map, designed by Birmingham-based creative cartographer *Tom Woolley*, brings together all of the Biosphere Reserves, Creative Cities, Global Geoparks and World Heritage Sites across the British Isles that are waiting to be discovered.

Visitors to the sites are invited to immerse themselves in the spectacular vistas of the slate landscape of Northwest Wales or the Scottish Highlands. Dive into the literary heritage of Manchester or Edinburgh. Scale the mountains of the English Lake District or the peaks of Fforest Fawr. Uncover legends and folklore along the Giant's Causeway or Stonehenge. Breathe in the sea air of Brighton and Lewes, North Devon or the English Riviera. Tackle the northernmost frontiers of the Roman empire by foot or by bike. Stroll around one of the great spa towns of Europe in Bath or a landed estate at Blenheim Palace. And dance the night away in an iconic concert hall in Belfast or at a festival under the stars at one of the world's largest deep space observatories at Jodrell Bank.

The new map, released online this week, includes 29 World Heritage Sites, 13 Creative Cities, 9 Global Geoparks and 7 Biosphere Reserves that cover 13% of the UK's landmass. Most of the sites are free to enter and conveniently accessible by public transport offering the public new experiences to discover UNESCO sites in the UK and mark this summer with a visit to one of the world's most special places.

James Bridge, Chief Executive and Secretary-General of the UK National Commission for UNESCO said: *"This new UNESCO in the UK map will inspire people for places to visit. It shows at a glance the breadth of amazing natural, cultural and built heritage designated by UNESCO as internationally significant in the UK. This great map highlights places to explore, on your doorstep and further afield, both the famous and those to discover for the first time."*

First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford said: *"I'm immensely proud that Wales is home to four UNESCO World Heritage Sites. This new map beautifully illustrates our world class destinations, and as we continue to protect these sites, their significance will be enjoyed by generations to come. Wales is an open and welcoming nation, one that invites the world to discover our natural wonders, culture and heritage which UNESCO sites have to offer."*

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay, Minister for Arts & Heritage in the UK Government said: *"The UK is home to so many extraordinary cultural and natural heritage sites – from Stonehenge and the North Pennines to the Giant's Causeway, Fforest Fawr and Wester Ross. I hope this beautiful new map will encourage even more people to get out this summer and explore the wide range of wonderful locations recognised by UNESCO in every corner of our country."*

Andy Pike, GREAT Campaign Director, said: *"The UK's UNESCO sites are places to share ideas, be inspired and see things differently. This map is an invitation to the world to take part in the UK's insatiable thirst for discovery that naturally aligns with the GREAT Campaign's own mission. We want to encourage more people from the UK and from around the world to visit the designated sites and explore the full breadth of world class nature, culture and heritage that the UK has to offer."*

Stuart McLeod, Director of England - London & South at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: *"We are delighted to support this project which, thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, will help to inspire more people to visit the fantastic UNESCO sites across the UK. Heritage has a huge role to play in bringing people together and any way that we can enable and inspire this to happen is hugely positive."*

John McGrillen, Chief Executive of Tourism Northern Ireland, said: *"The new UNESCO map will encourage visitors to discover new destinations on their doorsteps and further afield, and in Northern Ireland we have breathtaking natural beauty in abundance. Visitors will feel inspired by the many special locations on offer in Northern Ireland, including the Global Geoparks in Fermanagh and in the Mourne, and this new map will show just how accessible they are."*

Richard Lochhead MSP, Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade, said: *"The new UK map will be a helpful pointer to encourage visitors to discover Scotland's UNESCO treasures and explore our own dedicated trail. Scotland's UNESCO trail is a global first, taking visitors on a cultural journey across the country, experiencing everything from history to science, music, design and literature to nature and cityscapes. The trail is internationally recognised for encouraging responsible tourism. It includes environmentally friendly travel options like cycling or public transport and partners with businesses which are accredited for their green credentials. Scotland's UNESCO trail promotes longer visits and wider exploration, all year round, of all the riches on offer. This in turn contributes to the sustainable quality of life of those communities surrounding the designated sites."*

The map was produced by the UK National Commission for UNESCO as part of its Local to Global project, made possible with the GREAT Campaign and The National Lottery Heritage Fund, with thanks to National Lottery players. Local to Global aims to develop a resilient network for UNESCO Designated Sites in the UK.

The map can be downloaded from: <https://unesco.org.uk/our-sites>

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

About the UK National Commission for UNESCO

The UK National Commission for UNESCO (UKNC) is a constitutional part of the UK's membership of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). UNESCO harnesses the power of education, culture, science, communication and information to advance global peace, sustainable development, intercultural dialogue, and poverty eradication.

An independent body, UKNC is funded by the UK Government primarily to bring the benefits of UNESCO programmes and international agreements to the UK government, academic community and broader civil society. It also ensures that these elements fully contribute to and shape UNESCO's global aims and activities.

www.unesco.org.uk

Biosphere Reserves

UNESCO Biosphere Reserves are 'learning places for sustainable development'. They are sites for testing interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems. Each site promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use.

<https://en.unesco.org/biosphere/about>

Creative Cities

UNESCO Creative Cities have placed imagination and creative talent at the heart of its strategy for local economic and social development. The United Kingdom counts 13 of these, each with a unique perspective, economy and culture. What these cities have in common is their desire to put creativity at the heart of their future.

<https://unesco.org.uk/creative-cities/>

Global Geoparks

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education, and sustainable development.

<https://en.unesco.org/global-geoparks>

World Heritage Sites

UNESCO World Heritage Sites are designated by UNESCO for having cultural, historical, scientific, or other form of significance. The sites are judged to contain cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>

Further information

For further information, please contact Liam Smyth, Project Implementation Manager, UK National Commission for UNESCO, liam.smyth@unesco.org.uk

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we Inspire, lead and resource the UK's heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities, now and in the future.

www.heritagefund.org.uk.

Follow @HeritageFundUK on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #HeritageFund #NationalLottery

Since The National Lottery began in 1994, National Lottery players have raised over £43 billion for projects and more than 635,000 grants have been awarded across the UK.

About The GREAT Campaign

The GREAT Britain and Northern Ireland campaign (GREAT) is the UK's international promotional program. It works closely with UK businesses, not-for-profit organisations and high-profile figures to promote the very best of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, inspiring the world to visit, study, live and do business with the UK.

<https://greatcampaign.com>

Instagram: @greatcampaign

Twitter: @GREATBritain

#SeeThingsDifferently

IMAGES

Please see a hi-resolution version of the illustrated MAP for digital use here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yKUQdb4Ldjz4tm88G1nGPO7JY2Mz1TGO?usp=sharing>

Please see a full version of the map with index here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/142dYHZjLlqpee-cdUcz172gGbO7Pnl5d/view?usp=sharing>

LOGOS

- UK National Commission for UNESCO
- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- GREAT

Available here: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1H-xB5jSy4xUoLR3jJ_zukAWftlKHZPcw?usp=sharing