

## Values of the Alliance of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes

The Alliance of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes is an association addressed to increase the added value of these World Heritage sites, aiming to contribute, consolidate and enhance the World Peace at the same time by means of their cultural resources.

Naming a site as a UNESCO's World Heritage site must not be only considered as a privilege, but also as a commitment for the sustainable use of its resources, allowing the development and conservation of those sites.

By upholding the States Sovereignty, the Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage concludes that cultural and natural heritage preservation is an ethical must and the International Community is committed to cooperate in its protection. The Alliance of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes embodies this fundamental commitment which, under the common denominator of taking part of a same category, and therefore, owning very similar standpoints, intends to work not only for keeping the outstanding and universal values, but also for enhancing the World Peace.

The members of the Alliance show common elements in their Management Plans, while they are different due to their specific features. Their experiences on management broaden the global value of of heritage. Summing up, networking in a higher scale adds the international point of view to local, regional and statewide policies.

### The Alliance has set a series of basic objectives:

- The active cooperation among every involved parties with the main purpose of reaching an agreement for the World Heritage Cultural Landscapes' conservation via the rational, and consequently, sustainable use.
- The encouragement of research, knowledge and training in terms of natural and cultural Heritage in general, and Cultural Landscapes in particular.
- The promotion of education, dissemination and information, aimed to increase the civic awareness and their social involvement.
- The fostering of an active international cooperation in this field, based on bilateral and multilateral programs, and the proactive participation in every initiative aimed to a better conservation of World Heritage sites.

## Alliance of Cultural Landscapes



World Heritage



Alianza de  
Paisajes  
Culturales

**Eivissa, Biodiversity and Culture**  
**The Palmeral of Elche**  
**The Alhambra and El Generalife**  
**The Médulas, Cultural Landscape**  
**Aranjuez Cultural Landscape**  
**Serra of Tramuntana**  
**Sintra Cultural Landscape**



Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura



Patrimonio Mundial  
en España



## Eivissa, Biodiversity and Culture



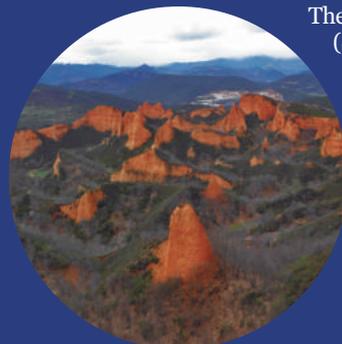
Eivissa [Ibiza] is located in the south of the Balearic Islands and favored by marine currents. It has been since antiquity a strategic place of the Mediterranean sea routes between East and West countries. This fact supported the establishment on the island of different cultures throughout History (Phoenicians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs and Christians) that left an impact on the Ibizan city, where nowadays the Renaissance town walls and the Punic necropolis of Puig d'es Molins, whose origin lies on Sa Caleta, are well preserved. Along its shores, posidonia (natural element of the declaration) turns its sea water and shore into a life-burst. These are the three elements included in UNESCO World Heritage List.

## The Palmeral of Elche



The origins of the Palmeral of Elche has been traditionally attributed to the Phoenicians and/or to the Carthaginians, since palm dates were a key element on their diet. Nevertheless, the discovery of more ancient date seeds has cast light on the presence of palms in the area before these expeditions. Palms had already been represented on Iberian ceramics found at the archaeological site of la Alcudia, -where the Lady of Elche was discovered-, used for ritual purposes. However, it was the Arabs after the invasion of the Iberian Peninsula in the eighth century, who managed the design and functionality of the Palmeral, as we know it nowadays.

## The Médulas, Cultural Landscape



The Médulas Cultural Site, northeast placed on León Province (Spain), is a landmark as a cultural landscape. It is the largest gold mine of the Roman Empire, starting its systematic exploitation at the end of the first century a.C. The mining process created multiple transformations on the land, that affected both natural elements and the existing social and economic structure. This Cultural Landscape assembles different vestiges of alluvial gold sediment exploitation systems.

## Sintra

Sintra Mountain viewed from an aerial standpoint seems to be much more a natural landscape than a cultural one, where it is possible to identify a granite hill covered by forest and country side and it seems to be more distant from Lisbon and the seashore than it actually is. But if we get closer, the traces on the mountain reveals a great amount of cultural wealth and diversity, that spans several centuries of Portugal's History.



## Serra of Tramuntana



Among the elements of Serra of Tramuntana that prove its Outstanding Universal Value, we mainly highlight two of them: the dry stone constructions and the water pipes. The Serra is an exceptional example of a Mediterranean agricultural landscape, thanks to its unique combination of Islamic hydraulic systems applied to irrigation, used for the cultivation of orchards and citrus trees. Apart from this, we must add the dry land areas, especially olive trees, delimited by terraces on the mountain slopes.

## The Alhambra and El Generalife



The citadel, placed in Granada city, has become its main aesthetic claim. Throughout History, it has been one of the most beautiful and relevant landscape sets world wide. When visiting the Alhambra, the unique experience of enjoying heritage gets even more enriched with a sensitive and emotional factor that does address neither to frontiers, nor to historic or religious conventionalities. There is a historic reality that goes even beyond, finding Alhambra in a current reality full of diverse contents that highlights and enriches its social and cultural dimension.

## Aranjuez Cultural Landscape



Aranjuez Cultural Landscape is located in the heart of the Iberian Peninsula. Its wide botanic diversity and fauna, and its privileged location encouraged King Felipe II, back in the sixteenth century, to place in Aranjuez one of his royal residences, a tradition that Royalty continued during the next centuries. The Royal Palace of Aranjuez, the Parterre Garden, the Island and Prince's Garden, the Baroque Town, and the Historic Groves and Orchards are examples of the great interest and estimation of the Spanish Royalty for Aranjuez over time, resulting in Aranjuez Cultural Landscape World Heritage site, which is, in fact, a powerful and universal exponent of the transformation of a living landscape by means of human hand.