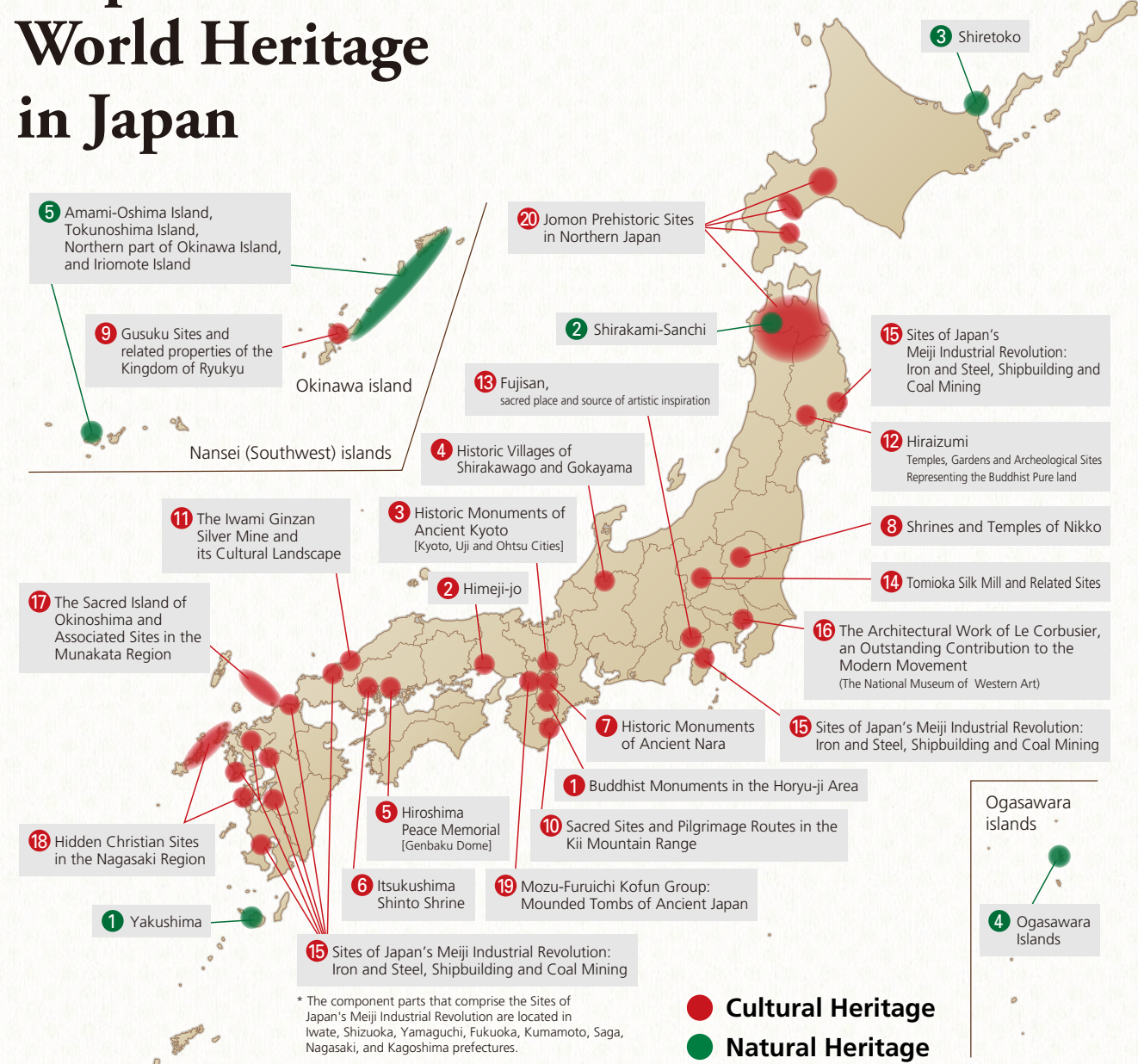


Map of World Heritage in Japan



To be inscribed on the World Heritage List, nominated properties must meet at least one of the following criteria prescribed in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, as well as meeting standards for authenticity and integrity, and must be protected and managed under appropriate systems.

Criteria for the assessment of outstanding universal value

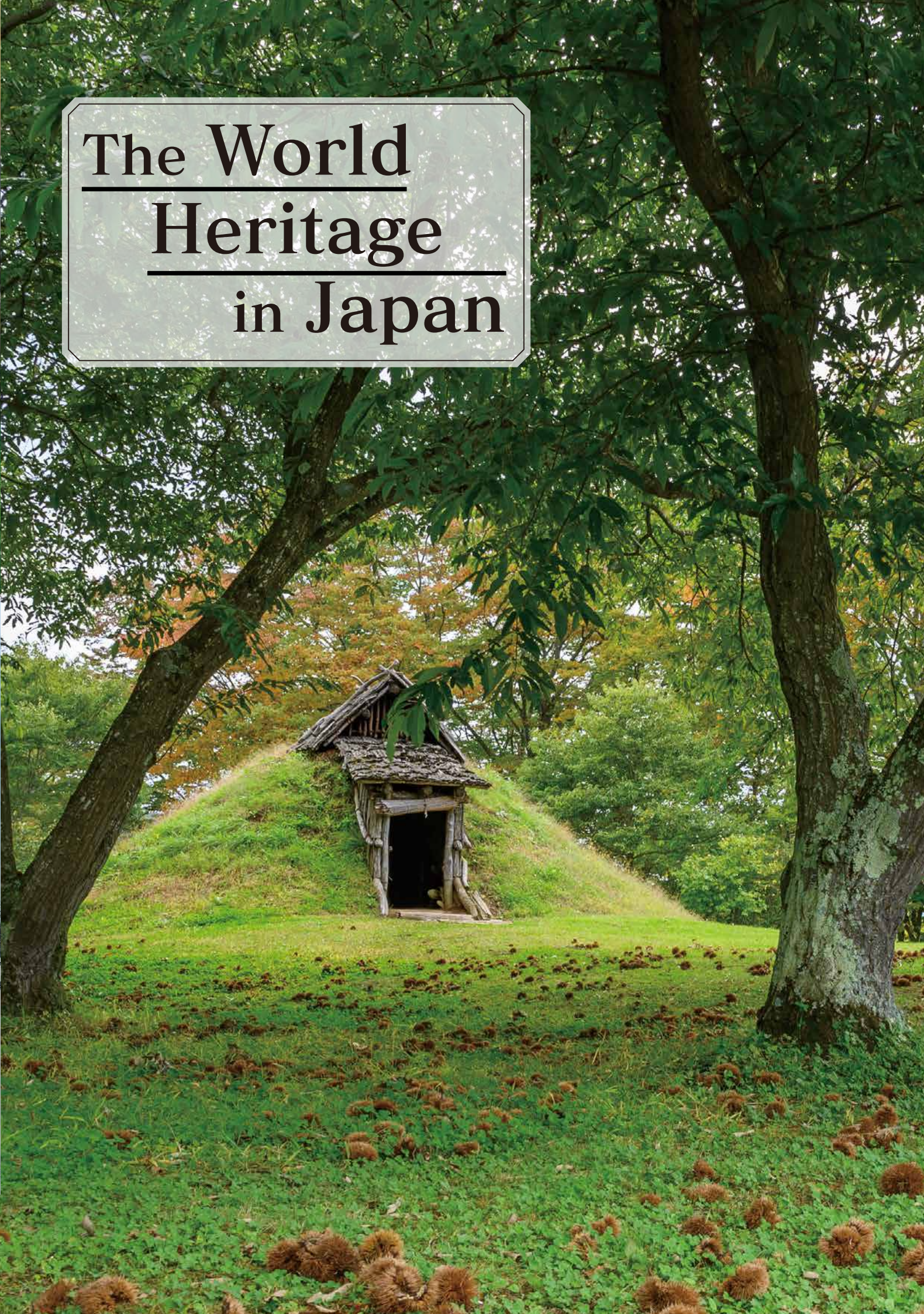
- (i) represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- (ii) exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
- (iii) bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
- (iv) be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
- (v) be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
- (vi) be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);
- (vii) contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
- (viii) be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
- (ix) be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
- (x) contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.



COVER: Goshono Site, Iwate Prefecture (source: JOMON ARCHIVES)
 BACK COVER: Top: Kitakogane Site, Hokkaido Prefecture (source: JOMON ARCHIVES)
 Bottom: Sannai-Maruyama Site, Aomori Prefecture (sources: JOMON ARCHIVES, Aomori Prefectural Board of Education Photograph)

Agency for Cultural Affairs
 TEL 03-5253-4111

The World Heritage in Japan



The World Heritage in Japan

Located at the eastern edge of the Asian continent and surrounded on four sides by the sea, Japan is blessed with a rich nature, which shows a great variety throughout the seasons. In its long history, Japan has adopted culture from abroad, especially from the Continent, as well as developing its own culture rooted in the sensibility nurtured by the colors of nature. Cultural properties in Japan are preserved and utilized under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, as well as the cultural properties protection ordinance of each local government, in order to contribute to the advancement of national and world culture.

In this way, each tangible and intangible heritage is protected under appropriate protection measures to each category. In order to protect the rich nature and biological diversity of our land, the Nature Conservation Law and the Natural Parks Law have been enacted.

In addition, cultural properties and nature are getting more accessible to people, through local activities of volunteers and NPOs, and the interest in conservation activities is growing. In line with spirit of the WH Convention, we will pass on this wonderful heritage to future generations and to share it with people all over the world.



Omori Katsuyama Stone Circle, Aomori Prefecture (sources: JOMON ARCHIVES, Hirosaki City Board of Education Photograph)

The World Heritage Convention

The World Heritage Convention (The 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage) was adopted in 1972 by the General Conference of UNESCO, and has been concluded by 194 countries at present (2021. 7). Japan also accepted this convention in 1992, and has contributed to the establishment of a system of international cooperation and support, based on the recognition that it is important to protect cultural and natural heritage from such threats as damage and destruction and to preserve

them as the world heritage of all humankind. Sites are inscribed on the World Heritage List through a process in which nominated properties from each country are examined by the World Heritage Committee, which consists of 21 countries. As of July 2021, 1154 properties have been inscribed on the list, of which 897 are cultural sites, 218 are natural sites, and 39 are mixed sites. Among them are 25 World Heritage properties in Japan, including 20 cultural sites and 5 natural sites.



Oyu Stone Circles, Akita Prefecture (source: JOMON ARCHIVES)



Ofune Site, Hokkaido Prefecture (sources: JOMON ARCHIVES, Hakodate City Board of Education Photograph)

