

World Heritage Day

**18TH APRIL
2024**

Theme: "Discover and Experience Diversity"

Heritage refers to the cultural, historical, and natural assets inherited from past generations, which are preserved and passed down to future generations. It encompasses tangible elements such as monuments, buildings, artifacts, and landscapes, as well as intangible aspects such as traditions, languages, rituals, and knowledge systems. Heritage represents the identity, values, and collective memory of communities and societies, shaping their sense of belonging and contributing to cultural diversity and continuity.

About World Heritage Day

World Heritage Day, also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites, was established by the UNESCO General Conference in 1983. It aims to raise awareness about the diversity of cultural heritage and the efforts required to protect and conserve it. The date, April 18th, was chosen to coincide with the day when the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) was founded in 1982.

Since then, World Heritage Day has been celebrated globally with various events, exhibitions, and initiatives to promote heritage preservation and appreciation.

Did you know?

The country with the most world heritage sites is Italy with 54.

Importance of World Heritage Day

- ***Cultural Preservation:*** It raises awareness about the importance of preserving cultural heritage sites, monuments, and traditions for future generations. These sites often carry historical, artistic, and cultural significance that contribute to the identity of communities and nations.
- ***Global Unity:*** Celebrating World Heritage Day globally, promotes unity among nations in recognizing and safeguarding the world's shared heritage. It emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in preserving cultural treasures that transcend political boundaries.
- ***Tourism and Economy:*** Many heritage sites attract tourists, contributing to local economies. World Heritage Day highlights the economic value of cultural heritage and encourages sustainable tourism practices that respect and protect these sites while benefiting local communities.
- ***Education and Awareness:*** World Heritage Day serves as an educational platform, fostering appreciation and understanding of diverse cultures, histories, and traditions. It encourages people to learn about the significance of heritage sites and the efforts needed to conserve them.
- ***Environmental Conservation:*** Heritage sites often encompass natural landscapes and ecosystems. Celebrating World Heritage Day underscores the interconnection between cultural and natural heritage, promoting efforts to conserve both for the benefit of present and future generations.

Some Heritage sites in Nagaland

- ◆ ***Kachari Ruins:*** The Kachari Ruins are ancient remnants of the Kachari Kingdom, dating back to the 10th century. These ruins consist of mushroom-like pillars and monoliths, believed to be part of the Kachari palace and temples. They provide insight into the architectural and cultural heritage of the region.
- ◆ ***Kohima War Cemetery:*** Located in Kohima, the capital of Nagaland, this cemetery commemorates the soldiers who lost their lives during the Battle of Kohima in World War II. It is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made during the war.
- ◆ ***Langpangkong Caves:*** The Langpangkong Cave is a significant geological and archaeological site located in the Mokokchung district. These caves hold historical and cultural importance, believed to have been inhabited by early Naga tribes. These caves are known for their intricate rock formations and are believed to have served as shelters for ancient inhabitants. While Langpangkong caves are not as well-known as other heritage sites in Nagaland, they remain an important part of the region's cultural and geological heritage.
- ◆ ***Longwa Village:*** Longwa Village is a unique and culturally rich village located in the Mon district, near the border with Myanmar. It is renowned for its distinct traditional practices, architecture, and the unique lifestyle of the Konyak Naga tribe. This village offers visitors a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage of the Konyak Naga tribe. Visitors experience traditional dances, music, crafts, and cuisine, gaining insights into the tribe's customs, rituals, and way of life.

Ways to Preserve Our Heritage

- **Education and awareness:** Educating people about the importance of heritage and its preservation fosters a sense of responsibility and pride in their cultural legacy.
- **Legislation and policies:** Implementing laws and regulations to safeguard heritage sites and artifacts from development, vandalism, and trafficking.
- **Community involvement:** Engaging local communities in the preservation process fosters a sense of ownership and ensures sustainable conservation efforts.
- **Tourism management:** Balancing tourism activities with preservation needs to prevent overuse and damage to heritage sites while still allowing visitors to appreciate their significance.
- **Survey resources from the recent past:** Identifying which recent past sites merit protection is one of the first steps toward preserving and protecting them.

Did you know?
Currently, there are about 1092
World Heritage sites.



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Environment Education Programme
Nagaland Pollution Control Board

