

World Heritage in Action (Batalha, 29–31 Oct 26)

Batalha Monastery, Portugal, Oct 29–31, 2026

Deadline: Jun 15, 2026

artisihaflul.wixsite.com/worldheritage/call-for-papers

ARTIS-Instituto de História da Arte da Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Lisboa

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "WORLD HERITAGE IN ACTION: CRITERIA, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND EMERGING CHALLENGES".

Intervening in sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List demands a highly qualified technical and conceptual framework, underpinned by rigorous methodologies and the normative principles of the World Heritage Convention, adopted in 1972. This Convention defines the typology of properties with Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), recognising in their singularity, authenticity and integrity the fundamental references for any action involving conservation, restoration or adaptation to new uses. Encompassing monuments, built ensembles, archaeological sites, cultural landscapes and natural formations, these properties require informed processes of analysis and decision-making, capable of balancing safeguarding, contemporary use and resilience in the face of growing pressures, without compromising their OUV.

The protection of these values entails adherence to the international heritage instruments that regulate intervention in properties recognised as the shared heritage of all Humankind. These instruments underpin the assessment, management and decision-making concerning any interventive action, ensuring that no adverse impacts are incurred upon listed properties. Responsibilities are shared between the States Parties – upon whom falls the duty to identify, protect and transmit these sites to future generations – and the international community, whose cooperation is essential for the preservation of a heritage that transcends national boundaries.

In a rapidly transforming global context, World Heritage sites face increasingly demanding challenges: urban pressures, mass tourism, climate change and growing needs for adaptation to new uses and functions. These realities call for integrated, interdisciplinary management strategies oriented towards sustainability and resilience, acknowledging the interdependence between nature and culture and the dynamic character of listed heritage.

It is within this framework that this congress seeks to open a space for critical reflection and the sharing of experiences on decision-making processes, the principles that ought to guide interventions, and the responsibilities incumbent upon States Parties, professionals, institutions and communities alike. We invite researchers, practitioners and decision-makers to contribute papers that explore, question and enrich the debate surrounding the protection and valorisation of World Heritage.

PANELS

1. Monuments
2. Cities
3. Cultural landscapes
4. Archaeological sites

HOW TO APPLY

Oral presentation. Proposals for communications (in English) should contain the following information:

- Name of the Author(s)
- Affiliation
- E-mail
- Link to ORCID or an online international CV platform
- Thematic line addressed by the proposal [preferably one; maximum two]
- Title [maximum 160 characters]
- Abstract [250 words maximum]
- Paper [minimum 1000 to maximum 1500 words]
- 5 keywords
- Short biography of each author [maximum 150 words]

The language of the congress is English to encourage both constructive communication between participants and international dissemination. Presentation 15 minutes; discussion 5 minutes.

Proposals must be submitted to the following email address: congress.artis@fl.ul.pt. In the subject line please write: World Heritage Congress.

Proposals will be selected by the Scientific Committee, based on their merit according to the following criteria: relevance, innovation, scientific quality, and pertinence of the theme.

All authors whose communications are accepted must be present at the Congress. The Congress is presential with no virtual participation.

If you have any queries about the Congress, please feel free to contact us: congress.artis@fl.ul.pt

Reference:

CFP: World Heritage in Action (Batalha, 29-31 Oct 26). In: ArtHist.net, May 13, 2026 (accessed May 13, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/52438>>.