

STRASBOURG

CANDIDATE FOR INSCRIPTION ON THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST
#STRASUNESCO



FROM THE GRANDE-ÎLE TO NEUSTADT
A EUROPEAN URBAN SETTING

FROM THE GRANDE-ÎLE TO *NEUSTADT* A EUROPEAN URBAN SETTING

WHAT IS UNESCO

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, better known as UNESCO, is an international organisation with 195 member states, which fosters the protection of our cultural and natural heritage. The UNESCO World Heritage list comprises natural and cultural sites of **outstanding universal value**, of interest to the whole of humanity and unique in the world. The list currently comprises 1052 sites, including 52 in France.





© R. Baudru

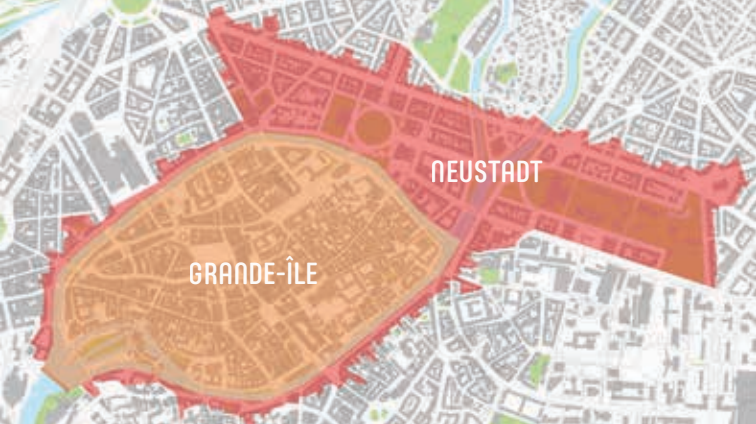
A NEW APPLICATION FOR INSCRIPTION

UNESCO inscribed Strasbourg's Grande-Île district on the World Heritage List in 1988. This was one of the first inscriptions to involve not just an outstanding property, but also the surrounding urban tissu. As it is now apparent that the outstanding heritage of Strasbourg is not restricted to the cathedral and the historical part of the city, Strasbourg is seeking to extend this inscription to that part of the city which was built from 1870 onwards by the Germans, around the historical centre, in the German district also called Neustadt. The application for the extension of the inscription from Grande-Île to Neustadt takes in the whole of the urban environment.

Strasbourg's application, made under the title Strasbourg, a "European Urban Setting", explains how the site proposed for inscription is unique and outstanding.



© D. Cassaz



WHAT DOES IT ACTUALLY COVER? (SCOPE AND NEW BOUNDARIES)

Grande-Île, the historical centre, was already listed as a World Heritage Site in 1988 and the area has been extended to include the part within the waterways running around the Grande-Île, including the first built-up area along these waterfronts and stretching to the oldest part of Neustadt, the late 19th century urban development project. This includes Place de la République, the University, Avenue de la Liberté, Avenue des Vosges, Avenue d'Alsace and Avenue de la Forêt-Noire.

OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

The Grande-Île and Neustadt provide an outstanding urban ensemble characteristic of Rhineland Europe, with its cathedral, a masterpiece of Gothic art, as the centrepiece. The cathedral dominates what used to be the bed of the Rhine before the great canal was built, and is the focal point for a coherent pattern of streets and houses which reaches out to create a unified urban structure crisscrossed by waterways.

The singularity of this urban landscape owes much to the city's French and German influences and the buildings reflecting the major periods of European history, running from the Roman occupation, the Middle Ages and the Rhine Renaissance, through the French classical 18th-century and then the 19th and early 20th centuries, which saw the emergence of the modern city, a capital and symbol of the new German state.

These buildings, all designed for specific purposes, offer an outstanding urban ensemble representative of a genuinely European city and culture, which has taken on greater significance as the scene of past confrontations and a present-day symbol of Franco-German reconciliation.

WE HAVE A GREAT CHANCE! INSCRIPTION CRITERIA

For a site to qualify for inscription on the World Heritage List, it has to meet at least one of the 10 criteria set out by UNESCO to establish its “Outstanding Universal Value”. Strasbourg’s application meets 3 of these:

Criterion n°I: A masterpiece of human creative genius

The Grande-Île and Neustadt form a masterpiece of urban design, set out around the cathedral, itself an outstanding architectural and technical achievement, which had no equal until the 19th century.

Criterion n°II: 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

The Grande-Île and Neustadt were fashioned by the city’s French and German influences. They reflect a unique expression of the two cultures, which is particularly visible in the architecture and urban planning.

Criterion n°IV: An outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history

The private and public buildings that make up the urban ensemble are symbolic of the political, social and cultural changes that the city has experienced, and its passage from a Free City of the Germanic Holy Roman Empire to a Free City of the Kingdom of France and then regional capital, before becoming a European capital.

APPLICATION SCHEDULE

JANUARY 2016: The application is sent to UNESCO by the French government

MARCH 2016: The application is accepted by UNESCO

SEPTEMBER 2016 TO MAY 2017: International experts consider the application

JULY 2017: Strasbourg-European Urban Setting is put before the 41st World Heritage committee in Krakow. If the committee gives a favourable opinion, Neustadt will be added to the UNESCO world Heritage list.

An added plus in 2017, the privilege of representing France will be shared with Polynesia, which will be applying for the inscription of the sacred Taputapuātea marae, typical of the Mā’ohi culture.



PRESERVE, PROMOTE AND COMMIT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Strasbourg has managed to preserve its unique urban environment, dominated by its cathedral. The whole of the Grande-Île and Neustadt area is in a good state of conservation and bears witness to the unchanged chronological history of its development, while the properties of outstanding universal value within the site are still in regular use as administrative buildings, businesses and accommodation.

In keeping with the new UNESCO perimeter, the city's protected sector has also been extended.

The application for the listed site has given rise to new partnerships and projects, including research work and publications, such as "**De la Grande-Île à la Neustadt, un patrimoine urbain exceptionnel**", and an ongoing systematic inventory of the urban architectural and movable heritage within Neustadt, which started 7 years ago and is run by the inventory and heritage department of the Région Grand-Est, in partnership with the city of Strasbourg.





TRANSMISSION, RAISING AWARENESS AND SHARING

A number of actions have been undertaken to raise awareness of the Outstanding Universal Value, and to develop transmission and cultural mediation tools, used in conjunction with the Ville d'Art et d'Histoire (City of Art and History) label. Tour guides have undergone specific training, while special activities for schools have also been scheduled.

The local authority is actively engaged in exchanging experience and expertise with other cities which have an outstanding historical heritage and which are already inscribed or have applied for inclusion on the World Heritage List. These cooperations are also instrumental in bringing together institutional, local and charity networks.

INSCRIPTION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST MEANS...

- › Protecting and showing the world the unique heritage of the city
- › Supporting its modernisation
- › Fostering its dynamism and attractiveness
- › Ensuring its transmission to future generations





All those of you who love Strasbourg and admire its architectural heritage, we need your support and encouragement!

YOU TOO CAN SUPPORT STRASBOURG'S APPLICATION

ON [UNESCO.STRASBOURG.EU](https://unesco.strasbourg.eu)
📘 STRASUNESCO - #STRASUNESCO