UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee’s 44th session has been chaired from Fuzhou (China) taking place online from 16 to 31 July, combining current work and issues left outstanding since last year, when the annual meeting was postponed due to COVID-19. Many new cultural heritage sites around the world have been approved for inscription on the World Heritage List.

New sites in Asia and Europe include:

- Austria / Belgium / Czechia / France / Germany / Italy / United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, The Great Spas of Europe
- Belgium / Netherlands Colonies of Benevolence
- China, Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan China
- France, Cordouan Lighthouse
- Germany, Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt
- India, The Glorious Kakatiya Temples and Gateways – Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Palampet, Jayashankar Bhupalpally District, Telangana State
- Italy, ‘Padova Urbs picta’, Giotto’s Scrovegni Chapel and Padua’s fourteenth-century fresco cycles
- Netherlands, Dutch Water Defence Lines [extension of “Defence Line of Amsterdam”, inscribed in 1996]
- Romania, Roşia Montană Mining Landscape
- Spain, Paseo del Prado and Buen Retiro, a landscape of Arts and Sciences
- France, Nice, capital of Riviera tourism
- Germany, ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz
- Germany / Netherlands, Frontiers of the Roman Empire – The Lower German Limes
- India, Dholavira: A Harappan City
- Japan, Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan
- Italy, The Porticoes of Bologna
In addition, several natural sites in Asia and Europe were approved for the World Heritage listing.

The Committee decided to delete the property “Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City” (UK) from the World Heritage List, due to the irreversible loss of attributes conveying the outstanding universal value of the property.

*Image: Spa Colonnade - Mariánské Lázně (Czechia), part of the World Heritage site The Great Spa Towns of Europe © Ceská centrála cestovního ruchu – CzechTourism / Ladislav Renner*