

Pitons, cirques et remparts, Reunion Island, France

Key facts

- Recommended by IUCN for inscription on the World Heritage List in July 2010 at the World Heritage Committee in Brasilia, Brazil, for their superlative natural beauty and high degree of endemic biodiversity.
- Towering volcanoes, including the highly active Piton de la Fournaise, steep rock walls and natural amphitheatres, as well as deep forested gorges and escarpments form dramatic scenery of striking beauty.
- Subtropical rainforests, cloud forests, waterfalls and heaths create a remarkable mosaic of ecosystems and landscapes.
- The Island contains the most significant remaining natural habitats for the conservation of terrestrial biodiversity in the Mascarene Island Archipelago (Western Indian Ocean), including a range of rare forest types.
- The area covers 40% of the island or 100,000 ha, and protects key parts of a global centre of plant diversity, featuring an extremely high level of endemic species.

Key quote

- *“La Reunion contains an impressive mosaic of dramatic landscapes and very valuable ecosystems and also serves as a last refuge for the many threatened and endangered species on the entire Mascarene Archipelago”* says **Tilman Jaeger, IUCN World Heritage Project Management Officer**. *“Controlling alien invasive species will be an ongoing challenge in the management of this property.”*

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Photos

For photos of Reunion Island, please visit http://www.iucn.org/knowledge/news/focus/2010_worldheritage/
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Langevin cascade, la Réunion © Wendy Strahm

