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WHTour.org adds 80 New World Heritage Sites in 360°

Brussels, Belgium, March 10, 2008: WHTour.org is delighted to announce that 80 World Heritage sites shot in the Middle East and East Africa are being uploaded in full-screen format on its new website. Currently, Israel is being explored by thousands of visitors daily. Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Oman, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania are following each week.

During the 7 years already committed to this unique project, which is sponsored by the J. M. Kaplan Fund in New York, Belgian Tito Dupret has helped produce some of the most impressive panographies -- 360 degree imaging -- ever seen of some of the most historic, rare and sometimes unreachable sites across the planet in full-color, full-screen splendor.

“For the last 15 months I have not published a single image,” explains Dupret. “Around 8 of these were spent on the roads shooting 80 new World Heritage sites. An additional 7 months were needed to build a new website and to post-produce the panographies. The site now includes significant new areas, including the Middle East and East Africa. These are regions, which attract a lot interest in the news, but unfortunately hardly ever for good news. What I want to present is a peaceful message on the rich heritage and natural beauty of these regions.”

In addition, the site is now available in French as well as English. There is also a new search engine, different viewing formats, including QuickTime® & Flash Player, plus a Print mode. “There are also cubes that you can print, cut, fold and put together with your kids on your knee,” explains Dupret. “This is a fabulous way to help them learn more about what World Heritage is.”
About WHTour.org: WHTour.org is a non-profit organization documenting the UNESCO World Heritage List in panographies -- 360-degree imaging. Today 298 sites have been visited across the world: 226 are available online and 72 are currently in post-production and are being uploaded weekly.

Out of these 298 sites, 216 are World Heritage sites (25% of all 851 registered by UNESCO - 1408 panographies), 15 are on the World Monuments Fund Watch List (71 panographies) and 67 are additions by WHTour.org (162 panographies). Altogether there are 1641 panographies.

WHTour.org is alive thanks to the loyal support of the J. M. Kaplan Fund in New York and is currently looking for new grants and sponsors to further its mission. Or is looking for a bigger structure to join, in order to share its field experience as well as to further its mission. Ideally an university, but all proposals are welcome.

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Panography on the first page is Uneishu’s tomb in Petra, Jordan. Second here is a Dhasanech’s tribe in the Omo valley, Ethiopia.

For free-of-use photos, further details and an interview with Tito Dupret: contact@whtour.org.