Ur, Iraq
One of the Earliest Cities in the World

Site Significance
The site of Ur in southern Iraq is famed as the birthplace of Abraham – the founding father of Judaism, Christianity and Islam – and contains the best preserved ziggurat in the Middle East. Occupied over the course of 4000 years before being abandoned around 400 BC, the site reached its peak during the so-called Ur III period 4000 years ago and is the time when the ziggurat was first built by the king Ur-Nammu, who is also credited with creating a law code that predates the famous Code of Hammurabi by some 300 years.

Project Goals
Preservation by Design®
Planning
In addition to comprehensive site documentation, the creation of an informed and scientifically grounded Master Plan to guide the site’s long-term conservation and management will enable sustainability and can serve as a model for other sites’ stewardship.

Project Partnerships
- Iraq Ministry of Culture
- State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH)
- Dhiqar Antiquities Office

Conservation Science
A number of structures at Ur have been identified as facing grave threats, and it is proposed that the current project initially focus on stabilizing and conserving two of them:

1. Royal Cemetery:
   Threatened by soluble salt mobilization as well as rain, sand and wind damage.

2. Ziggurat:
   Stabilization needed at base and summit.

Start Date
2009
Community

Training in site conservation and tourism management will be provided to the local communities, while the creation or updating of site interpretation panels and/or the production of a visitors’ guidebook will allow tourists to gain the most from their visit.

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