UNESCO added “Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining” to its World Heritage List this year, bringing Japan’s total of registered cultural and natural properties to nineteen. The World Heritage Sites of Japan, which have evolved and accumulated traditions through this nation’s rich history, culture and natural environment, hold a unique and diverse appeal.

Our special feature this month will introduce some of the country’s most prominent sites from a variety of perspectives and offer a comprehensive portrait of Japan’s World Heritage Sites, as well as presenting examples of UNESCO’s Intangible Cultural Heritage.