UNESCO Global Geoparks

UNESCO Global Geoparks are areas that use the concept of geoparks to engage communities in understanding the importance of sustainable management and conservation of their geological heritage. The Global Geoparks Network (GGN), an international network of UNESCO Global Geoparks, was established in 2002 to promote the protection and sustainable development of geological heritage sites. UNESCO Global Geoparks serve as outdoor museums on the Earth and its processes, providing a unique learning opportunity for people of all ages to gain a deeper understanding of Earth's history and dynamics.

UNESCO Global Geoparks hold records of past climate change and are valuable in studying climate change in general, or assessing climate change in specific locations. They also serve as an asset in education and research, helping to raise awareness of the importance of geological heritage and its links to other aspects of our collective heritage, such as geodiversity, and to build capacity among UNESCO Global Geoparks to mitigate and adapt to the potential effects of climate change on the region, and provide local communities of the region with adaptive and innovative strategies to meet the challenges of a changing climate. UNESCO Global Geoparks promote awareness of geological hazards, including volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. They also participate in the territory's cultural revitalization as a whole. UNESCO Global Geoparks are capable of playing an important role in the creation of a cultural landscape, enhancing of a general image linked to the geological environment, and the conservation of local and indigenous knowledge.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are engaged with local people and communities, respecting their human rights and dignity, empowering them and involving them in the territory's revitalization and cultural development as a whole. UNESCO Global Geoparks are a platform for the development of science, monitoring, education, awareness-raising, research, capacity building, networking, and the exchange of good practice between UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The Global Geoparks Network is not only a platform for the exchange of good practice, but also a mechanism to support visitor's access and interpretation of the geological heritage sites through the creation of new enterprises and the employment of young people in their territories. UNESCO Global Geoparks promote themselves as sustainable tourism destinations offering a diversity of guided full-folds and nature tourism activities, such as cycling, hiking, geology and nature tourism, or special expeditions for schools or other special activities for children through “Nature Camp”, “Kids Club” or special “Focus Fun Activities”. They also offer education, both formal and informal, for skills and people.

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A UNESCO Global Geopark is a single, unified geographical area where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. It is a network of geoparks that aims to protect, preserve, and promote the geological heritage of designated areas worldwide. UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. A UNESCO Global Geopark uses its geological heritage, in combination with all other aspects of the area’s natural and cultural heritage, to enhance awareness and understanding of key issues facing society, such as energy and water resources, biodiversity, climate change, and reducing natural disaster-related risks. By raising awareness and offering educational opportunities, UNESCO Global Geoparks aim to foster a sense of identity and pride in their region and strengthen their identification with the area. The creation of innovative local enterprises, new jobs and high-quality training courses in connection with new sources of revenue are generated through geotourism, while the geological resources of the area are protected.

List of UNESCO Global Geoparks

- **Austria**: Carnic Alps UNESCO Global Geopark, Styrian Eisenwurzen UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Brazil**: Itapuã UNESCO Global Geopark, Tucano UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Canada**: Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark
- **China**: Daxingliao UNESCO Global Geopark, Jiulongshan UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Croatia**: Kvarner Gulf UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Cyprus**: Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Czechia**: Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Denmark**: Odsherred UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Cyprus**: Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Estonia**: Kakumäe UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Finland**: Riihimäki UNESCO Global Geopark
- **France**: Hautes Pyrénées UNESCO Global Geopark, Catalan Pre-Pyrenees UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Germany**: Hessische Rhön UNESCO Global Geopark, Harz UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Greece**: Ore of the Alps UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Croatia**: Kvarner Gulf UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Czechia**: Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Denmark**: Odsherred UNESCO Global Geopark
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- **Germany**: Hessische Rhön UNESCO Global Geopark, Harz UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Greece**: Ore of the Alps UNESCO Global Geopark
- **India**: Ajanta UNESCO Global Geopark, Kanheri Caves UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Indonesia**: Granitic Massif of Java UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Ireland & United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**: Limestone Coast UNESCO Global Geopark, Boyne Valley UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Italy**: Aversa UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Japan**: Toya Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Korea**: Seoraksan UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Malaysia**: Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Mexico**: Campana Marina, Heligal UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Netherlands**: De Hoge Veluwe UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Poland**: Muskauer Faltenbogen / Łuk Mużakowa UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Portugal**: Aspual/Schist Belt UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Russian Federation**: Kholochnaya Cherepovetskaia and Rostovskaya Oblasts UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Ireland**: Lismore UNESCO Global Geopark
- **United Kingdom**: North Pennines AONB UNESCO Global Geopark, Scilly UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Ukraine**: Curonian Spit UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Viet Nam**: Kê Băng Co UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Turkey**: Kula Volcanic UNESCO Global Geopark
- **United Kingdom**: Lake District UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Ireland**: Lismore UNESCO Global Geopark
- **United Kingdom**: North Pennines AONB UNESCO Global Geopark

* List of International UNESCO Global Geoparks

- **Austria**: Trattenbach UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Brazil**: Itapuã UNESCO Global Geopark, Tucano UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Canada**: Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark
- **China**: Daxingliao UNESCO Global Geopark, Jiulongshan UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Croatia**: Kvarner Gulf UNESCO Global Geopark
- **Cyprus**: Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark
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