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Within the **NGORONGORO - LENGAI UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** lies a garden of world-famous natural wonders where Maasai, Datoga, Hadzabe, and Iraqwi communities live in harmony with nature. Oldoinyo Lengai, the sacred “Mountain of God” is an active volcano, which erupts an extremely rare black carbonatite lava, turning to white within a few hours. Known as the cradle of humankind, the Olduvai Gorge bears treasures of early human fossils, unearthed from sediments and volcanic ashes.

© Clem23 (Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0) TANZANIA



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UNESCO Global Geoparks are living laboratories and open classrooms. Visitors and local school children can learn about the natural, cultural and intangible heritage of **LANGKAWI UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** in Malaysia through the Geopark School and the Geopark Community Programme. Also you can become one of Earth's best ambassadors by discovering the stories behind all wonders of the Geopark.

© UNESCO / Margaret Patzak MALAYSIA



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Geosites of the **MIXTECA ALTA, OAXACA UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** in Mexico are selected on their scientific, cultural, historical and aesthetic values as well as on their unique relationship with people. They are included in touristic and educational geotrails. Workshops for kids, where pieces of pottery are made with pigments obtained from different soils of the region of the Mixteca Alta, integrate geological materials and art.

© Mixteca Alta, Oaxaca UNESCO Global Geopark MEXICO



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Striking red sandstones and conglomerates make up the landforms which characterize the landscape of the **DANXIASHAN UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** in China. The Geopark was named for the resemblance of its rocks to rosy red clouds. The shapes of the mountains seem to have been created by master sculptors, but in fact, they have been crafted over time by geological processes.

© Liu Jiaqing CHINA



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Set in the heart of Saudi Arabia, **SALMA UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** showcases dramatic volcanic landscapes shaped over 740 million years. Its geological formations offer a window into deep Earth processes, while its desert ecosystems reveal remarkable resilience. Anchored in a land crossed for centuries by pilgrims and traders, the geopark also fosters a strong connection between natural heritage and cultural identity through community-led education and outreach.

© Salma Geopark / Antar Cave SAUDI ARABIA



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**ARARIPE UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** in Brazil, is known as a «cultural melting pot» that celebrates the colourful traditions of its ancestors. The isolated region with a mix of various peoples (indigenous, European and African) shaped a distinct cultural identity with particular folkloric dances, songs, religious and artistic expressions.

© Araripe UNESCO Global Geopark BRAZIL



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Geopark and sustainable lifestyle education are integrated into the daily activities of the local **DONG VAN KARST PLATEAU UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** schools in Viet Nam. Educational methods are varied using local presenters, panels, brochures, guide books, posters and visual aids and that promote both global citizenship, but also value the local cultural diversity.

© Dong Van Karst Plateau UNESCO Global Geopark VIET NAM



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In the **MUDEUNGSAN UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** (Republic of Korea), you can witness this fortress, located on Mt. Geumseng ridge, Damyang County, about 350-600 m above sea level. It was built in the mid-13th century. To put it in perspective, Mt. Mudeung was formed by Cretaceous volcanic activity about 87 million years ago!

© Mudeungsan Area Geopark REPUBLIC OF KOREA



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You can discover breath-taking landscapes while hiking or even horse-riding in **THE MASSIF DES BAUGES UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK**. Reconnect with an awe-inspiring nature on a morning trip before enjoying an open air lunch with local french products!

© Massif des Bauges UNESCO Global Geopark FRANCE



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The best way to visit the **BURREN AND CLIFFS OF MOHER UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** in Ireland is by bicycle. Indeed, to promote the Geopark as a bicycle-friendly destination, several businesses offer a free cup of tea to anyone who rides to their business. This acts as an incentive for visitors to drop motorized vehicles and pick-up bikes to explore the Geopark. This sustainable tourism initiative, good for the people and the planet, helps foster harmony between humans and nature.

© The Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark / Arthur Ellis, IRELAND



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Situated in the northern Italian Alps, the **ADAMELLO-BRENTA UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** encourages low-impact tourism activities and climate-change awareness. Indeed, over the last 40 years, the surface area of the 41 glaciers within the Geopark has decreased by a third. On-site, local guided tours will allow you to witness first-hand the beauty of these great frosted giants and their slow disappearance.

© Giuliana Pincelli ITALY



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The art of Golabaton, needlework and portraying of mostly flower patterns, is a long tradition passed on from mother to daughter in the **QESHM ISLAND UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** in Iran. You can take a small piece of this tradition home as these traditional handicrafts are sold by the local women's cooperative of the Star Valley visitor centre. This way the local women can actively contribute to the life of the community and benefit from an additional source of income.

© Asghar Besharati IRAN



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**YANGAN-TAU UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** is a unique place at the junction of Europe and Asia, where two continents and two civilizations meet. One of the outstanding geological features of the Geopark is the Yangan-tau Mountain with unique thermal anomalies, creating geothermal springs without the presence of magmatic activity. Come and learn about the history of this special region of the world history with local geoguides in geological exhibits!

© Yangan-Tau UNESCO, Bashkortostan RUSSIAN FEDERATION



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Discover **RIO COCO UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** in Nicaragua and its rich geological heritage such as wetlands, highland springs and canyons. Immerse yourself in nature with bird watching and cultural tourism with Taguzgalpa heritage, numerous pre-Hispanic settlements and cave art.

© Monica Bueno, Rio Coco Geopark Manager NICARAGUA



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The local Jomon-Ainu tribe in the **TOYA-USSU UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** in Japan has always lived with the philosophy of “living together with an ever-changing Mother Earth”. Their records and memories of past disasters actively teach us about ways to reduce disaster risks for future generations.

© Toya-Ussu UNESCO Global Geopark JAPAN



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The presence of high karst islands, lagoons, and beautiful coral clusters gave **RAJA AMPAT UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** the name “The Emerald Karst of the Equator”. It contains the oldest exposed rock unit in the country (Silurian-Devonian) and the beauty of the underwater world makes this geopark one of the world's best diving destinations.

© The Raja Ampat UNESCO Global Geopark INDONESIA



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An essential task of UNESCO Global Geoparks is to educate the community, students, and visitors about the Earth in a fun and engaging manner. Come explore and discover Earth's history in the **STONEHAMMER UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** of Canada.

© Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark, Canada CANADA



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Children in the **AROUCA UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** in Portugal learn how to make bread by hand. The children, who turn the flour to dough to a warm bread with a crunchy crust, experience a lifestyle in harmony with nature which values local products and sustainable living.

© Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark PORTUGAL

## WHAT IS A UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK?

A UNESCO Global Geopark is a single, unified geographical area where landscapes and geological formations of **international value** are identified, protected, and promoted.

These territories are managed with an integrated approach that connects the **protection of natural heritage** with **scientific research**, public education, and sustainable local development.

UNESCO Global Geoparks  
3 functions

- **Protecting geological heritage**
- **Raising public awareness**
- **Promoting sustainable development**

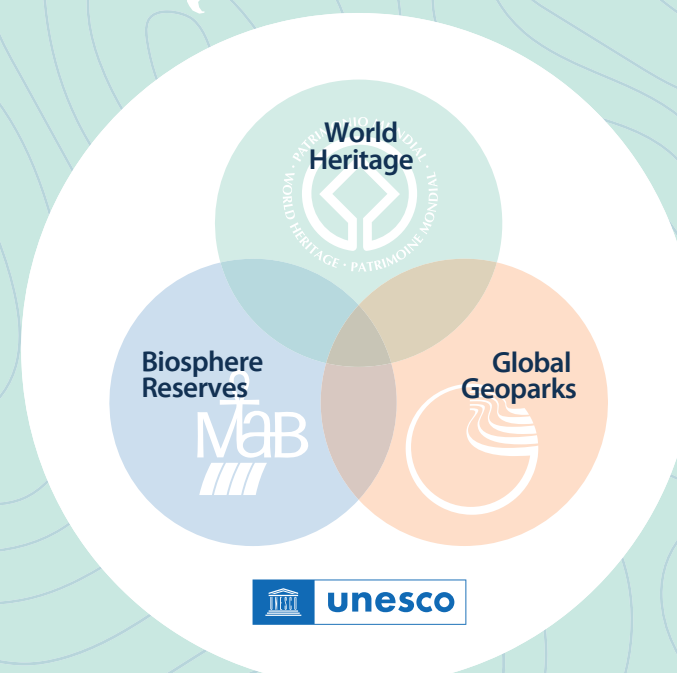
By involving **local communities**, Global Geoparks become living laboratories for sharing **knowledge**, encouraging **innovation**, and supporting environmentally responsible economic activities, such as **geotourism**.

### How to become a UNESCO Global Geopark?



## UNESCO DESIGNATED SITES

Integrating heritage and science for a sustainable planet and resilient communities



Explore our shared heritage with the World Site Navigator:



<https://whc.unesco.org/en/wh-geo/>



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Celebrate Geodiversity.

Look closely at the land beneath your feet:  
ridgelines, river gorges, ancient seas turned to stone...  
...let them tell you a story that began 4.6 billion years ago.

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# UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

2025  
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