



Dear journalist / Earth scientist.

We are writing to you from the press office of the **The First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites** announcement event, a great landmark to designate geological sites from around the world that are iconic and recognized by all geoscience community as a reference for their impact in understanding the Earth and its history. This event will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS).

More than 200 specialists from almost 40 nations and ten international organisations have participated in this collaborative process of selection. The list will be presented in Zumaia (Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark), home of one of the most impressive stratigraphic outcrops on Earth, from October 25 to 28.

The IUGS aims to get high international visibility with this global and unique announcement. This is a great challenge that will need the participation of global media. You can be part of this endeavour giving visibility to those sites designated within your country.

For this reason, we would like to extend our invitation to you to attend and cover our event in Zumaia. In case you are unavailable to travel, we would really appreciate if you could spread the uniqueness of the First 100 in your media channels (newspaper, webpage, journals, newsletters...). For our part, we would help you in everything related to the management of interviews, reports, etc., that's what we are for.

A new press release with more detailed information about the list of the First 100 and the sites of your country will be distributed a few days before the event.

We are looking forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you very much in advance and best regards.

Irati Kortabitarte  
Press manager

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Contact: Irati Kortabitarte  
Phone: +34 688 860 706  
[i.kortabitarte@elhuyar.eus](mailto:i.kortabitarte@elhuyar.eus)

PRESS RELEASE

## The First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites to be announced in October

**Zumaia (Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark), home of one of the most impressive stratigraphic outcrops on Earth, will host in October the presentation of The First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites**

Zumaia /26.09.2022. The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) is one of the World's largest scientific organizations with 121 national members representing over a million geoscientists. It is celebrating its 60th anniversary and the main IUGS 60th Anniversary Event will take place in Zumaia, Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark (Spain) with the presentation of *The First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites*. This announcement will kick off an endeavor to designate geological sites from around the world that are iconic, recognized by all geoscience community for their impact in understanding the Earth and its history.

The scientific community has long demanded the establishment of a global program with global standards for the recognition of sites of high international importance. The *IGCP - 731 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites* (IUGS - UNESCO) has created the proper conditions of collaboration towards this great milestone that will inspire the work of this ambitious program in the near future.

An IUGS Geological Heritage Site is a key place with geological elements and/or processes of scientific international relevance, used as a reference, and/or with a substantial contribution to the development of geological sciences through history. Some of the oldest rocks on Earth from South Africa, traces of primitive life from Australia and China, some of the best dinosaur fossil remains from Canada, the first evidences of early hominin development from Tanzania, the marine rocks of the top of the World from Mount Everest and iconic sites like the impressive Grand Canyon (USA), Perito Moreno glacier (Argentina), Santorini Caldera (Greece) or Uluru in Australia are only a few examples of this impressive list.

More than 200 specialists from almost 40 nations and ten international organisations, representing different disciplines of Earth Sciences, have participated in the selection of sites. 181 candidate sites from 56 countries were proposed and were evaluated by 33 international experts. The result of this challenging and collaborative process is the list of the First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites that will be presented in Zumaia by most of the authors. The final program of the event is available at <https://geoparkea.eus/iugs-globalgeosites>

IUGS recognition gives visibility to those sites. It identifies them as being of the highest scientific value. They are sites that served to develop the science of geology, particularly its early history. They are the world's best demonstrations of geologic features and processes. They are the sites of fabulous discoveries of the Earth and its history.

Adapt this paragraph at your convenience: The following sites from XXXXX (WRITE THE NAME OF YOUR COUNTRY) have been included into the list of the First 100:... (write the name of your site or the sites of your country and add the logo of your institution at your convenience at the bottom of this page)

More detailed information about the list and the sites will be provided in a wider press release a few days before the event. Contact our press manager if you want to get direct information.

Many of the "First 100" are well protected in national parks, geoparks, and natural reserves, but many are not. Recognition and visibility of the "First 100" IUGS Geological Heritage Sites can lead to their further appreciation, to their use as educational resources, and, most importantly, to their preservation.

The "First 100" aspires to be a memorable event that culminates in a spectacular celebration on October 25-28th in Zumaia, Basque Coast UGGp. Registration is available in [www.geoparkea.eus/iugs-globalgeosites](http://www.geoparkea.eus/iugs-globalgeosites). We hope to see you soon. Save the dates!

<https://iugs60.org/100-geosites/>



# EUSKADI BASQUE COUNTRY

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