Tourism for Development

Travel to one of the 127 UNESCO Global Geoparks recognized around the world and experience the extraordinary Geoparks. A unique place that protects the geological, natural, cultural and intangible heritage of people, the UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, iconic landscapes that promote sustainable tourism which contributes to global peace.

UNESCO Global Geoparks

Celebrating Earth Heritage, Sustaining Local Communities

For further information, please contact:

UNESCO Global Geoparks
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For more information on the UNESCO Global Geoparks, visit our website:

unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/

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UNESCO Global Geoparks include sites and landscapes of international geological significance which are managed in a way that promotes sustainable tourism which respects both local people and the traveller, geological, natural, cultural and intangible heritage and the environment.

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 connection with all other aspects of the area’s natural and cultural heritage, to enhance awareness and understanding of key issues facing society, such as using Earth’s resources sustainably, mitigating the effects of climate change and reducing the impact of natural disasters. By raising awareness of the importance of the area’s geological heritage in history and society today, UNESCO Global Geoparks give local people a sense of pride in their region and strengthen their identification with the area. The creation of innovative local enterprises, new jobs and high quality training courses is stimulated as new sources of revenue are generated through geotourism, while the geological resources of the area are protected.

UNESCO Global Geoparks showcase the beauty and diversity of planet Earth in 127 extraordinary places spread out across the world. Explore the magnificent cliffs of the Basque Coast, Spain; admire dinosaur fossils of millions of years old in Zigong, China; or hike around one of the largest volcanic calderas in Indonesia. Go beyond the usual tourist experience!

All UNESCO Global Geoparks combine geology with the empowerment of local communities and create opportunities for sustainable tourism. By declaring 2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, implemented under the guidance of the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations recognized the importance of tourism and sustainable development for the wellbeing of people.

By creating greater awareness of the rich natural, cultural and intangible heritage of people around the world, UNESCO Global Geoparks contribute to a better understanding of the inherent values of different cultures. They work together under the umbrella of UNESCO, and as such contribute to global peace building.
One of the essentials of all UNESCO Global Geoparks is to educate the community, students and visitors about the Earth in a fun and engaging manner. You can explore, discover and enjoy Earth’s diversity in the STOER GEOPARK, UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK of Germany, where children are being taught about different colours that lived during the Earth’s past.

FILE: [Image: STOER GEOPARK, UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK, Germany, children being taught about different skin colours that lived during the Earth’s past.]

UNESCO Global Geoparks are educational initiatives that promote the understanding of geological processes. They are living laboratories and open spaces that encourage people to learn about the Earth and its history. UNESCO Global Geoparks are educational initiatives that promote the understanding of geological processes. They are living laboratories and open spaces that encourage people to learn about the Earth and its history. UNESCO Global Geoparks are educational initiatives that promote the understanding of geological processes. They are living laboratories and open spaces that encourage people to learn about the Earth and its history.

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You can discover breathtaking landscapes from a different perspective on footpaths and enjoy a unique experience of geological diversity. You can feel your spirit soar as you traverse the barriers that once confined you. This is your chance to become a geopark expert and visit the many places where you can see the Earth's history in action.

FILE: [Image: A child exploring a geological formation in a UNESCO Global Geopark.]

UNESCO Global Geoparks are places of natural beauty where you can experience the geological processes that have shaped our planet. They are living laboratories where you can learn about the Earth's history and how it has evolved over millions of years. UNESCO Global Geoparks are places where you can experience the geological processes that have shaped our planet. They are living laboratories where you can learn about the Earth's history and how it has evolved over millions of years. UNESCO Global Geoparks are places where you can experience the geological processes that have shaped our planet. They are living laboratories where you can learn about the Earth's history and how it has evolved over millions of years.

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