

UNESCO Global Geoparks

Press Kit – ITB Berlin 2026

Hall 4.1, Stand 216

Press talk on the 04.03.2026 digital and in person
hub 27, room Gamma 7



www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org

Press contact: National German Forum of UNESCO Global Geoparks, Speaker: Dr. Jutta Weber,
UNESCO Global Geopark Bergstraße-Odenwald, 64653 Lorsch, Germany, E-Mail: j.weber@geo-naturpark.de,
Dr. Andreas Schüller, UNESCO Global Geopark Vulkaneifel, 54550 Daun, Germany, E-Mail: andreas.schueller@vulkaneifel.de

International contact: Global Geoparks Network, Lesvos (Greece)
E-Mail: secretariat@globalgeoparksnetwork.org, www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org

Content

1. ITB Hybrid Press Conference of the Global Geoparks Network	3
2. Development of GGN Member Numbers.....	7
3. List of the UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGps)	8
4. UNESCO Global Geoparks: Adventure and Educational Tourism Destinations	17
5. PRESS RELEASE: 16 New UNESCO Global Geoparks 2025	18
6. UNESCO Global Geoparks at ITB 2026.....	20
Hong Kong (China).....	21
Naturtejo (Portugal)	21
Gea Norvegica (Norway).....	22
Lesvos Island (Greece)	22
Sitia (Greece)	23
Salpausselkä (Finland)	24
Karawanken/Karavanke (Austria/Slovenia)	25
Bergstrasse-Odenwald (Germany).....	25
Harz . Braunschweiger Land . Ostfalen (Germany).....	26
Muskau Arch / Łuk Mużakowa (Germany/Poland).....	27
Vulkaneifel (Germany)	27
7. National representation: Eight UNESCO Global Geoparks in Germany	29
8. Members of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) Executive Board 2026.....	30

Travel guides, photos, leaflets are available from the GGN Website – ready to download:

www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/news/global-geoparks-network-itb-2026



1. ITB Hybrid Press Conference of the Global Geoparks Network

The press talk provides a targeted platform to directly inform international decision-makers, specialist journalists, and partners from tourism, politics and academia. It strengthens the visibility of the Global Geoparks Network as a driver of innovation and development and creates concrete opportunities for cooperation.

Press Talk of the Global Geoparks Network

as part of ITB Berlin, on 4 March 2026

In person and via digital broadcast

hub 27, Room Gamma 7

UNESCO Global Geoparks: Taking responsibility – shaping regions – enabling the future

Programme

14:00 Opening of the press conference, moderation

Sabine Kummer, M.Sc. Geology

Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany

Welcome remarks

Dr Andreas Schüller

Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany

Managing Director

Prof Dr Artur A. Sá

University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro (Portugal)

President, Global Geoparks Network

Prof Dr Nikolaos Zouros

University of the Aegean, Lesbos, Greece

Secretary-General, Global Geoparks Network

Dr Jutta Weber

Bergstraße-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany

Spokesperson, Forum of German UNESCO Global Geoparks

Spokesperson of the Working Groups “Sustainable Development Goals” of the Global

Geoparks Network and the European Geoparks Network

Managing Director

14:20 Your questions

Language of the press talk: English

Your partners

Prof. Dr. Artur A. SÀ, Präsident des Global Geoparks Netzwerks
Associate Professor at the Institute of Geology of the University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro (Portugal). Holder of the UNESCO Chair in 'Geoparks, Sustainable Regional Development and Healthy Living'.

Prof. Sà is a member of the board of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), scientific coordinator of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Arouca (UGGp), UNESCO senior expert for UGGps, member of the scientific advisory boards of the UGGps of Arouca, Terras de Cavaleiros and Estrela (Portugal), Molina and Alto Tajo (Spain) and Araripe (Brazil). UNESCO has appointed him as an advisor for the 'UNESCO Global Geoparks Network Grant for Geoparks in Africa and the Arab States' programme and he is an expert on numerous UGGps evaluation and revalidation missions worldwide.

As an invited advisor to UNESCO on missions to areas seeking UGGps certification in Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Mexico and Peru, he supports geopark development, which he also promotes as president of the Portuguese National Committee for UNESCO's International Geoscience Programme. He is the author and co-author of numerous books, book chapters, articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals and abstracts in conference proceedings.



Prof. Dr. Nikolaos ZOUROS, Generalsekretär des Globalen Geoparks Netzwerks

University of the Aegean, UNESCO Chair in Geoparks and Sustainable Development of Island and Coastal Areas (Lesbos, Greece)

Professor Zouros has contributed to the development of geoparks in many countries since the establishment of the European Geoparks Network and the UNESCO International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP). Since 2004, Nickolas Zouros has worked closely with UNESCO to promote and develop the geopark concept in Europe and other parts of the world. He has carried out numerous expert and evaluation missions for geoparks in many countries.

In June 2014, he was one of the founders of the GGN Association and made a significant contribution to the establishment of UNESCO Global Geoparks within the framework of the International Geosciences and Geoparks Programme. He was coordinator of the European Geoparks Network for 14 years (2003-2018) and president of the Global Geoparks Network from 2014 to 2025. He currently holds the position of Secretary General of the GGN.

He has been coordinator and scientist in a number of research projects on seismic hazards in the Aegean Islands and neotectonic studies in Greece and abroad. He is also the author of numerous scientific articles in international magazines and conference proceedings. His publications focus on geoparks, earthquake geology, neotectonics and raising awareness of geo-risks, as well as geo-conservation and geotourism.

He is also the organiser of the International Intensive Course on Geoparks.



Dr. Jutta WEBER, Managing Director Bergstraße-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark, Deutschland
Speaker of the National German Forum of UNESCO Global Geoparks

Speaker of the Working Groups “Sustainable Development Goals” of the GGN and of the EGN

Dr. Jutta Weber is Managing Director of the UNESCO Global Geopark Bergstrasse-Odenwald (Germany).

Dr. Weber acquired her degree in geology and her doctorate in natural sciences at the University of Cologne, where she worked for several years as a geoscientist in research and teaching.



The holistic approach, which connects Earth history, nature, culture, cultural heritage and people, is the backbone of the geoparks philosophy and forms a direct bridge to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This is one of her main concerns.

Based on the SDGs, she focuses on the sustainable development of geoparks as regional platforms for landscape management and networking, as well as on the preservation of geological heritage and education for sustainable development.

Since 2002, she has been a delegated member of the Coordination Committee of the European Geoparks Network (EGN) and an individual member of the Global Geoparks Network. She is the catalyst for the EGN and GGN working group on the SDGs and oversees the EGN newsletter and EGN activities for the annual Mother Earth Day. As spokesperson for the UNESCO Geoparks Forum in Germany, she is a member of the GGN Advisory Board. Since 2005, as a senior member of the UNESCO evaluator directory, she has carried out numerous geopark evaluation and revalidation missions worldwide. In collaboration with international organisations, she is active as an author, lecturer, guest speaker, scientific partner and co-organiser of international conferences.

Sabine KUMMER, M. Sc. Geology, Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany, Moderator

Sabine Kummer is a geoscientist at the UNESCO Global Geopark Vulkaneifel and has been responsible for the technical supervision of geological conservation and education projects since 2021. Her work combines geological heritage, geoconservation, and sustainable regional development with modern digital knowledge transfer.

Through her work in the UNESCO context and close cooperation with scientific partners, local authorities, and international networks, she brings a well-founded perspective on the role of UNESCO Global Geoparks as development areas for sustainable tourism and regional value creation. As moderator of the press conference, she will guide the discussion and place the contributions of the international speakers in the context of the strategic development of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.



Dr Andreas SCHÜLLER, Managing Director of Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark and Nature Park

Dr. Schüller was an highly interested observer of the development of geoparks during the 1990ies. Then since 2001 he got involved in the Vulkaneifel European Geopark, first as scientific consultant and then since 2009 as the full responsible mangaging director for Vulkaneifel Geopark and later also for the Nature Park since its subsequent foundation in 2010 within the borders of Vulkaneifel geopark.

Dr. Schüller looks back on a long-standing experience in geopark management and regional development. He is member of the Advisory Committee and Coordination Committee of the European Geopark Network. As member of the UNESCO roster of evaluators Dr. Schüller was send to numerous aspiring and established geoparks worldwide to conduct evaluation and revalidations missions. He gained profound experience as lead-partner and co-operation partner under the framework of the European funding programs.

Dr. Schüller studied Applied Physical Geography/Geoscience at the University of Trier and acquired his PH.D. at the Technical University Berlin. In his scientific career he worked on water resources from volcanic aquifers and sedimentological processes in German Wadden Sea environments.

Before his engagement in geoparks he collected deep insights and experience in the structures and decisions making processes in regional administration and communal parliaments due to his involvement in a county administration in the 1990ies.

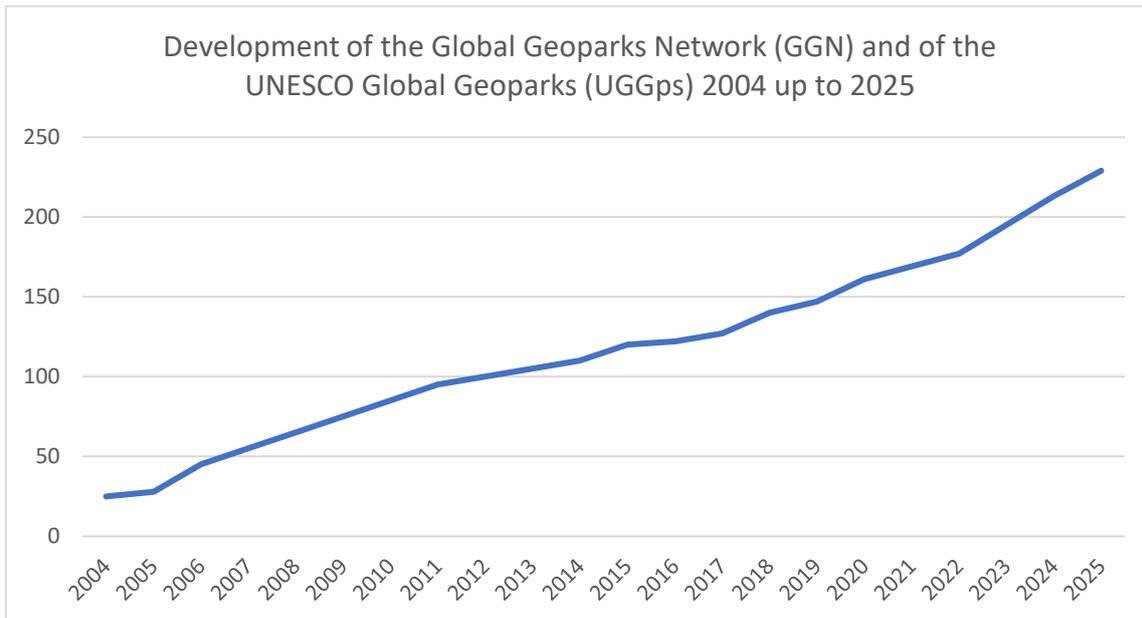
From 2015 - 2024 he was member of Nature Conservation Advisory Board at Struktur- und Genehmigungsdirektion Nord of Federal State of Rhenania-Palatinate. Since 2016 he is also member of Advisory Board of German Nature Park Association and incorporates therein the themes and aspects of geoparks.



2. Development of GGN Member Numbers

Development of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) 229 UNESCO Global Geoparks from 50 nations worldwide

from 2004 to 2025 – with European, Asia-Pacific and Latin America-Caribbean Global Geoparks Networks, African Union and Canadian Global Geoparks Network



Currently, the European Geoparks Network (EGN) has 105 members, the Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) has 95 members, the Latin America-Caribbean Geoparks Network (GeoLAC) has 22 members, the African Union Global Geoparks Network (AUGGN) has two members, and the North American Geoparks Network (NAGN) in Canada has five members.

3. List of the UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGps)

www.unesco.org/en/igpp/geoparks?hub=67817#full-list-of-unesco-global-geoparks

Black writing – not underlined: new UGGps in 2025

Austria*

[Ore of the Alps UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Styrian Eisenwurzen UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Karawanken / Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark* \(Austria and Slovenia\)](#)

Belgium*

[Famenne-Ardenne UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Schelde Delta UNESCO Global Geopark*](#)

(Belgium and Kingdom of the Netherlands)

Brazil

[Araripe UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Caçapava UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Quarta Colônia UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Seridó UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Southern Canyons Pathways UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Uberaba UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Canada

[Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Discovery UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Percé UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Chile

[Kütralkura UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

China

[Alxa Desert UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Arxan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Dali-Cangshan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Danxiashan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Dunhuang UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Enshi Grand Canyon-Tenglongdong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Fangshan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Funiushan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Press contact: National German Forum of UNESCO Global Geoparks, Speaker: Dr. Jutta Weber,
UNESCO Global Geopark Bergstraße-Odenwald, 64653 Lorsch, Germany, E-Mail: j.weber@geo-naturpark.de,
Dr. Andreas Schüller, UNESCO Global Geopark Vulkaneifel, 54550 Daun, Germany, E-Mail: andreas.schueller@vulkaneifel.de

International contact: Global Geoparks Network, Lesvos (Greece)

E-Mail: secretariat@globalgeoparksnetwork.org, www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org

[Guangwushan-Nuoshuihe UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Hexigten UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Huanggang Dabieshan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Huangshan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Jingpohu UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Jiuhuashan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Kanbula UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Keketuohai UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Leye Fengshan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Linxia UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Longhushan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Longyan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Lushan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

China - Continuation

[Mount Changbaishan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Mount Kunlun UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Ningde UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Qinling Zhongnanshan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Sanqingshan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Shennongjia UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Shilin UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Songshan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Taining UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Taishan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Tianzhushan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Wangwushan-Daimeishan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Wudalianchi UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Wugongshan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Xiangxi UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Xingwen UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Xingyi UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Yandangshan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Yimengshan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Yuntaishan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Yunyang UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Zhangye UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Press contact: National German Forum of UNESCO Global Geoparks, Speaker: Dr. Jutta Weber,
UNESCO Global Geopark Bergstraße-Odenwald, 64653 Lorsch, Germany, E-Mail: j.weber@geo-naturpark.de,
Dr. Andreas Schüller, UNESCO Global Geopark Vulkaneifel, 54550 Daun, Germany, E-Mail: andreas.schueller@vulkaneifel.de

International contact: Global Geoparks Network, Lesvos (Greece)

E-Mail: secretariat@globalgeoparksnetwork.org, www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org

[Zhijindong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Zigong UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Croatia

[Biokovo-Imotski Lakes UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Papuk UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Vis Archipelago UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Cyprus

[Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Czechia

[Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

[Mt Paektu UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Denmark

[Odsherred UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[The South Fyn Archipelago UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Vestjylland UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Ecuador

[Imbabura UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Napo Sumaco UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Tungurahua Volcano UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Finland

[Impact Crater Lake – Lappajärvi UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Lauhanvuori-Haameenkangas UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Rokua UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Saimaa UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Salpausselkä UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

France

[Armorique UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Beaujolais UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Causses du Quercy UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Chablais UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Haute-Provence UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Luberon UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Massif des Bauges UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Monts d'Ardèche UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Normandie-Maine UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Germany*

[Bergstraße-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Harz, Braunschweiger Land UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Swabian Alb UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[TERRA.vita UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Thuringia Inselsberg -Drei Gleichen UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Muskauer Faltenbogen / Łuk Mużakowa UNESCO Global Geopark* \(Germany and Poland\)](#)

[Ries UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Greece

[Chelmos Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Grevena – Kozani UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Kefalonia-Ithaca UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Lavreotiki UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Meteora Pyli UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Psiloritis UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Vikos – Aaos UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Hungary*

[Bakony-Balaton UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Bükk Region UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark* \(Hungary and Slovakia\)](#)

Iceland

[Katla UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Indonesia

[Batur UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Belitong UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Ciletuh – Palabuhanratu UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Gunung Sewu UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Ijen UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Kebumen UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Press contact: National German Forum of UNESCO Global Geoparks, Speaker: Dr. Jutta Weber,
UNESCO Global Geopark Bergstraße-Odenwald, 64653 Lorsch, Germany, E-Mail: j.weber@geo-naturpark.de,
Dr. Andreas Schüller, UNESCO Global Geopark Vulkaneifel, 54550 Daun, Germany, E-Mail: andreas.schueller@vulkaneifel.de

International contact: Global Geoparks Network, Lesvos (Greece)
E-Mail: secretariat@globalgeoparksnetwork.org, www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org

[Maros Pangkep UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Merangin Jambi UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Meratus UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Raja Ampat UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Rinjani-Lombok UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Toba Caldera UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Iran (Islamic Republik of)

[Aras UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Tabas UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Ireland*

[Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark* \(formerly Marble Arch Cave; Ireland & United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland\)](#)

Italy

[Adamello-Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Alpi Apuane UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Aspromonte UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Cilento, Vallo di Diano e Alburni UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Madonie UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Maiella UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[MurGEopark UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Pollino UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Rocca di Cerere UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Sesia Val Grande UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Tuscan Mining Park UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Japan

[Aso UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Hakusan Tedorigawa UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Itoigawa UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Izu Peninsula UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Mt. Apos UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Press contact: National German Forum of UNESCO Global Geoparks, Speaker: Dr. Jutta Weber,
UNESCO Global Geopark Bergstraße-Odenwald, 64653 Lorsch, Germany, E-Mail: j.weber@geo-naturpark.de,
Dr. Andreas Schüller, UNESCO Global Geopark Vulkaneifel, 54550 Daun, Germany, E-Mail: andreas.schueller@vulkaneifel.de

International contact: Global Geoparks Network, Lesvos (Greece)
E-Mail: secretariat@globalgeoparksnetwork.org, www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org



GLOBAL
GEO PARKS
NETWORK

GERMAN
GLOBAL GEO PARKS
NETWORK



GLOBAL
GEO PARKS
NETWORK

[Toya - Usu UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Luxembourg

[Mëllerdall UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Malaysia

[Kinabalu UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Mexico

[Comarca Minera, Hidalgo UGGp](#)

[Mixteca Alta, Oaxaca UGGp](#)

Morocco

[M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Netherlands (Kingdom of the)*

[De Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Schelde Delta UNESCO Global Geopark*
(Belgium and Kingdom of the Netherlands)

New Zealand

[Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Norway

[Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Magma UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Sunnhordland UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Trollfjell UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

The Fjord Coast UNESCO Global Geopark

Nicaragua

[Rio Coco UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Peru

[Colca y Volcanes de Andagua UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Philippines

[Bohol Island UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Press contact: National German Forum of UNESCO Global Geoparks, Speaker: Dr. Jutta Weber,
UNESCO Global Geopark Bergstraße-Odenwald, 64653 Lorsch, Germany, E-Mail: j.weber@geo-naturpark.de,
Dr. Andreas Schüller, UNESCO Global Geopark Vulkaneifel, 54550 Daun, Germany, E-Mail: andreas.schueller@vulkaneifel.de

International contact: Global Geoparks Network, Lesvos (Greece)
E-Mail: secretariat@globalgeoparksnetwork.org, www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org

Poland

[Holy Cross Mountains UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Land of Extinct Volcanoes UNESCO Global Geopark

[Muskauer Faltenbogen / Łuk Mużakowa UNESCO Global Geopark*](#)

(Germany and Poland)

Portugal

[Azores UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Arouca UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Estrela UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Oeste UNESCO Global Geopark

[Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Republic of Korea

[Cheongsong UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Danyang UNESCO Global Geopark

Gyeongbuk Donghaean UNESCO Global Geopark

[Hantangang UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Jeonbuk West Coast UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Mudeungsan UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Romania

[Buzău Land UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Hațeg UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Russian Federation

[Yangan-Tau UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Saudi Arabia

North Riyadh UNESCO Global Geopark

Salma UNESCO Global Geopark

Serbia

[Djerdap UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Slovakia*

[Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark* \(Hungary and Slovakia\)](#)

Slovenia*

[Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Karawanken / Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark* \(Austria and Slovenia\)](#)

Spain

[Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Cabo de Gata-Níjar UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Cabo Ortegal UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Calatrava Volcanoes. Ciudad Real UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Central Catalonia UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Costa Quebrada UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Courel Mountains UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[El Hierro UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Granada UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Las Loras UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Maestrazgo UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Molina-Alto Tajo UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Origens UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Sierra Morena de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark \(formerly Sierra Norte de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark\)](#)

[Sierras Subbéticas UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Sobrarbe-Pirineos UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Villuercas Ibores Jara UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Sweden

[Platåbergens UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Tanzania

[Ngorongoro Lengai UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Thailand

[Khorat UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Satun UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Turkey

[Kula-Salihli UNESCO Global Geopark](#) (formerly known as Kula Volcanic UGGp, extended and renamed in 2020)

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[Arran UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Black Country UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark* \(formerly Marble Arch Cave; Ireland & United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland\)](#)

[English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[GeoMôn UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[North Pennines AONB UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[North-West Highlands UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Shetland UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Uruguay

[Grutas del Palacio UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Vietnam

[Dak Nong UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Dong Van Karst Plateau UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Lang Son UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

[Non nuoc Cao Bang UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Transnational UNESCO Global Geoparks

Austria and Slovenia

[Karawanken / Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Belgium and Kingdom of the Netherlands

[Schelde Delta UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Germany and Poland

[Muskauer Faltenbogen / Łuk Mużakowa UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Hungary and Slovakia

[Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

Republic of Ireland & United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark](#)

4. UNESCO Global Geoparks: Adventure and Educational Tourism Destinations

within the **Global Geoparks Network**

«Geoparks connect worlds – Sustainable Multi-Destinations - Routes from northern to southern Europe and Asia»

Our geoparks offer unique travel experiences that combine nature conservation, culture and sustainable value creation. From the fjords of Scandinavia and the spectacular landscapes of North America to the Mediterranean, the South American rainforest and the Asian jungle, we create environmentally friendly, sustainable tourism solutions for global tour operators.

«Sustainability with impact – SDG certification promotes local communities and offers economic added value»

Every geopark is a living example of sustainable tourism: it supports communities and the local economy through cooperation with certified partners, creating long-term prospects for all involved and preserving travel destinations for future generations.

«Over 4.7 billion years of Earth's history – immersive geopark stories as a unique selling point for tourism»

Our geoparks tell fascinating stories about the formation of the Earth and its diverse, spectacular landscapes, which emotionally connect travellers and inspire them with unique cultural and natural experiences. Geoparks turn travellers into time travellers.

«Business Boost 2026 – Global Geopark Routes Increase Bookings and Extend Seasonal Periods»

Data-based insights show that multi-destination routes extend the travel season by 20 per cent, which means a significantly measurable ROI for tour operators and buyers worldwide.

«A global network for sustainable tourism – UNESCO Global Geoparks combine quality, innovation and cooperation»

The Global Geoparks Network offers a highly qualified, networked system of diverse travel destinations, developed with state-of-the-art cooperation tools and equipped with experienced local partners to make tourism future-proof, profitable and sustainable at the same time.

5. PRESS RELEASE: 16 New UNESCO Global Geoparks 2025

16 new members – A total of 229 Global Geoparks from 50 countries –
Number increased ninefold in 21 years

Berlin, 4 March 2026. In 2025, UNESCO recognised sixteen additional Global Geoparks.

These are: Kanbula and Yunyang (People's Republic of China), Napo Sumaco and Tungurahua Volcano (Ecuador), Kebumen and Meratus (Indonesia), MurGEopark (Italy), The Fjord Coast (Norway), Mt. Paektu (North Korea), Danyang and Gyeongbuk Donghaean (South Korea), North Riyadh and Salma (Saudi Arabia), Costa Quebrada (Spain), Arran (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and Lang Son (Vietnam).



In 2004, the 17 members of the European Geoparks Network met in Beijing. With the support of UNESCO and eight Chinese geoparks, they founded the Global Geoparks Network (GGN). The GGN currently has 229 members in 50 countries. Without exception, all of

them meet the requirements for the "UNESCO Global Geopark" seal of approval, which was awarded for the first time in 2015 to all members of the network at that time.

As an international partnership, the GGN is the operational platform for realising the goals set by the certified regions. Quality and development are reviewed by the UNESCO Secretariat and the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council.

For the first time, the seal of approval has been awarded to the North Riyadh and Salma UNESCO Global Geopark in Saudi Arabia and to Mt. Paektu in North Korea.



The Fjord Coast (Norway)



North Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)

This supports the regions in developing best practice models. These quality standards contribute to peaceful coexistence as well as the protection and preservation of the geo-natural heritage of the countries and territories. They thus guarantee sustainable security for the future.

Close cooperation between UNESCO Global Geoparks is of immense importance. The bottom-up community communicates worldwide at the local level and strengthens peaceful coexistence.

The focus is on developing and implementing programmes for visitors of all ages, schoolchildren and holidaymakers. Neighbours and residents of UNESCO Global Geoparks are actively involved in shaping and developing their region and projects. This includes specially developed offers for people with limited mobility as well as the inclusion of cultural and intangible heritage. In addition to close cooperation for sustainable development, with numerous projects supporting the goals of Agenda 2030, the predominantly rural areas of the UGGPs are attractive destinations for adventure and educational tourism.

Photos:

UNESCO Global Geopark Napo Sumaco in Ecuador
UNESCO Global Geopark The Fjord Coast in Norway
UNESCO Global Geopark North Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Global Geopark Network Origin and objective:

The first steps towards protecting Europe's geological heritage were taken in Digne les Bains (France) in the late 1980s. The geopark concept was developed in the early 1990s in Gerolstein/Vulkaneifel (Germany) with the aim of preserving geological sites and landscapes of international geoscientific importance, raising their profile and using them for sustainable development, in particular sustainable adventure and educational tourism. In 2004, 17 members of the European Geoparks Network, founded in 2000, and eight Chinese geoparks came together to establish the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) as an ad hoc initiative of UNESCO. In November 2025, following the decision of the UNESCO General Conference to introduce the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP), 120 GGN members jointly received the "UNESCO Global Geopark" seal of approval. The quality of their work and activities is assessed on a regular basis.

The international partnership, which currently has 229 members from 50 countries, uses the development of the Earth in the UNESCO Geopark areas and the philosophy of the "past-present-future concept" to provide examples for the creation of jobs, for example. It thus contributes to securing the future and peace.

Further information is available at globalgeoparksnetwork.org

6. UNESCO Global Geoparks at ITB 2026

UNESCO Global Geoparks at ITB 2026 – Discover Earth’s Living Stories

UNESCO Global Geoparks combine spectacular geology, sustainable tourism and cultural heritage to create unique travel experiences. From volcanoes and glaciers to fossilised time, these regions invite you to experience the secrets of our planet up close.

Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (China)

Salpausselkä UNESCO Global Geopark (Finland)

Karawanken–Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark (Austria-Slovenia)

Bergstraße–Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany)

Harz . Braunschweiger Land . Ostfalen (Germany)

Muskauer Faltenbogen / Łuk Mużakowa UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany-Poland)

Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark (Germany)

Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark (Greece)

Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark (Crete)

Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark (Norway)

Visit us at ITB 2026, Hall 4.1, Stand: 217 – where geosciences become an adventure! Discover sustainable tourism destinations which link nature, sciences and culture in an extraordinary way with international significant geological heritage.

Portraits of the ITB-Participants 2026

GGN - Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network - APGN

Hong Kong (China) - Where Nature Tells the Story of Time

Just a short journey from Hong Kong's vibrant cityscape lies a fascinating world shaped by 370 million years of Earth history. Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark spans 15,000 hectares and includes 30,000 residents who live in harmony with nature's wonders. From tranquil coastal flatlands to rugged islands with striking sea cliffs, the geopark invites travellers to explore the seamless connection between geological heritage, diverse ecosystems, and local culture.

The geopark showcases spectacular formations dating from the Devonian to the Paleogene periods — a record of shifting landscapes from ancient river deltas to fiery volcanic fields and tropical lagoons. Among its highlights are the rhyolitic columnar joints in Sai Kung East Country Park, recognized as one of the *First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites*. Unlike the basalt columns found elsewhere in the world, these light-coloured rhyolitic columns are uniquely rich in silica, creating a natural masterpiece that is both rare and breathtaking.

Visitors can walk the High Island Geo Trail to see these formations up close or take a boat tour to enjoy panoramic views along the coast. On Tung Ping Chau Island, the youngest rock formation in Hong Kong reveals delicate shale patterns and fascinating erosion features along a scenic 6 km coastal trail. Meanwhile, Kat O is a tranquil island with traditional temples, a heritage trail and a story room where visitors can appreciate the rich stories of the local fishermen and Hakka farmers.

Whether hiking, boating, or simply soaking in the scenery and villages, every journey in Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark tells the story of our planet's dynamic evolution and local history — and invites visitors to protect and celebrate its natural and cultural beauty.

www.geopark.gov.hk/en/about_us/geopark/

GGN - European Geoparks Network – EGN:

Naturtejo (Portugal) - Portugal's Largest Geological Wonder

Just 12 km after crossing from Spain into Portugal, the **Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark** – continental Portugal's largest at **506,700 hectares** and home to **86,700 people** – welcomes visitors with one of Europe's most dramatic river landscapes. Here, the mighty **Tagus River**, Iberia's longest, meets the imposing quartzite ridge of **Talhadas Mountain** and executes a breathtaking **90-degree turn**. For less than 4 km it flows north before slicing through the rock barrier at **Portas do Ródão** near Vila Velha de Ródão – creating the illusion that Iberia's greatest river is born from these very cliffs.

Spanning more than **600 million years** of Earth history, Naturtejo reveals its ancient secrets at the **Penha Garcia Ichnological Park**. Here, **36 different trace fossils** from **460 million years ago** illuminate life on the Ordovician seafloor during the **Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event** – one of Earth's pivotal evolutionary turning points.

Perched dramatically atop a **350-metre granite inselberg**, the village of **Monsanto** blends human history with geological majesty. Its houses and streets weave around enormous, gravity-defying granite boulders, while 360-degree panoramic views made it a Templar stronghold. This unique landscape even captured Hollywood's imagination, serving as a filming location for *House of the Dragon*.

From river gorges and fossil trails to granite villages rising from the plains, **Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark** transforms 600 million years of geological drama into unforgettable travel experiences – where Portugal's wild interior reveals the beating heart of our dynamic planet.

www.naturtejo.com/en/

Gea Norvegica (Norway) - Scandinavia's First Journey Through 1.5 Billion Years of Earth History

Located in south-eastern Norway on the western side of the Oslofjord, **Gea Norvegica UNESCO Global Geopark** spans the municipalities of Kragerø, Bamble, Porsgrunn, Skien, Siljan, Nome and Larvik in Vestfold and Telemark counties. Here, visitors explore a landscape often described as the place “**where old Scandinavian geology meets the younger geology of continental Europe**” – a compact region that records around 1.5 billion years of Earth's evolution across two eons, five eras and eleven periods.

Within a relatively small area, highly diverse rock terrains reveal ancient Precambrian mountain belts, fossil-rich Palaeozoic sea floors and the magmatic rocks of the Carboniferous–Permian Oslo Rift, including **larvikite**, Norway's national stone. The world-famous **Fen carbonatite complex**, type locality for carbonatitic magmatic rocks, highlights the region's global scientific importance, while Quaternary glaciations have sculpted gentle hillsides, low coastal plains and rich agricultural soils.

Across Gea Norvegica, visitors can follow themed trails to coastal moraines at Mølen, fossil coral reefs near Skien, mining landscapes on Langøy and island scenery at Jomfruland, each site linking dramatic natural forms with cultural and industrial history. From family-friendly viewpoints to hands-on educational experiences, the geopark showcases how geological diversity underpins biodiversity, settlement, resources and everyday life in this part of Norway.

As Scandinavia's first UNESCO Global Geopark, **Gea Norvegica** invites travellers to explore, discover and be inspired by a landscape where deep time, coastal culture and modern communities come together in a single, unforgettable outdoor classroom.

www.geoparken.no/en

Lesvos Island (Greece) – The Living Memory of Fire and Life

Embracing the entire island of Lesvos in the northeastern Aegean Sea, the Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark spans 163,600 hectares and is home to nearly 84,000 inhabitants. This Mediterranean island invites visitors to explore an extraordinary landscape where ancient volcanic forces, marine deposits, and the passage of time have crafted one of the most geologically diverse environments in Greece.

Press contact: National German Forum of UNESCO Global Geoparks, Speaker: Dr. Jutta Weber, UNESCO Global Geopark Bergstraße-Odenwald, 64653 Lorsch, Germany, E-Mail: j.weber@geo-naturpark.de, Dr. Andreas Schüller, UNESCO Global Geopark Vulkaneifel, 54550 Daun, Germany, E-Mail: andreas.schuller@vulkaneifel.de

International contact: Global Geoparks Network, Lesvos (Greece)

E-Mail: secretariat@globalgeoparksnetwork.org, www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org

Lesvos reveals a fascinating geological record that includes metamorphic rocks, ophiolitic sequences, Miocene volcanic formations, and Neogene marine and lacustrine sediments. Together, they have shaped a terrain rich with hot springs, fault-controlled valleys, waterfalls, and rugged coastal cliffs—each telling a chapter of the island’s dynamic geological story. Among its most iconic sites is the world-famous Petrified Forest of Lesvos, a natural monument of stunning beauty and scientific importance. Around 20 million years ago, powerful volcanic eruptions buried a subtropical forest in ash and volcanic flows. Torrential rains later created mudflows that preserved the trees in life position—some trunks stretching up to 20 metres long with root systems extending seven metres underground. Today, visitors can wander through this open-air “forest in stone,” where fossilised trunks, branches, fruits, and leaves reveal a perfectly preserved Miocene ecosystem frozen in time.

Lesvos also holds key palaeontological discoveries, including fossils of *Prodeinotherium bavaricum*, representing the oldest known occurrence of *Prodeinotherium* in Europe, dating back 19 million years. Across the island, remnants of volcanic craters, thermal springs, and tectonic features testify to the ongoing geological activity that continues to shape this Aegean gem.

In addition to its geological wealth, Lesvos hosts an extensive network of wetlands of high ecological value, including coastal lagoons, salt pans and freshwater marshes that serve as vital habitats for migratory birds and rare species, highlighting the close interconnection between the island’s geological evolution, water systems, and biodiversity.

For travellers, the Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark offers more than a journey through landscapes—it offers a journey through deep time, where the story of Earth’s evolution unfolds in every rock, forest, and shoreline. Local products by women cooperatives transfer geoheritage and time with gastronomy in a special taste of landscape experience.

www.lesvosgeopark.gr/en/

Sitia (Greece) – The Eastern Soul of Crete

At the far eastern edge of Crete lies the Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark, a land of rugged beauty and timeless stories carved in stone. Covering 71,350 hectares and home to about 20,300 people, the region is defined by the imposing Zakros Mountains and a spectacular, lace-like coastline that frames its diverse geological and cultural landscape.

The geopark holds exceptional geological significance, revealing more than 300 million years of Earth’s history through its rich sedimentary formations and fossil-bearing deposits. It is especially renowned for its Pleistocene mammal sites, where fossils of *Deinotherium giganteum*—a colossal, elephant-like creature—have been unearthed. Along the coast, remains of deer, hippos, and elephants further illuminate the island’s ancient ecosystems. Beneath these layers lie Neogene marine sediments rich in fossilized sea life, while older strata preserve plant remnants dating back to the Carboniferous period, offering a rare window into life long before the age of humans.

Sitia’s landscape is also shaped by its impressive karst system, formed within extensive limestone bedrock. With more than 170 caves and numerous gorges, it is one of Crete’s most remarkable

speleological regions. These underground worlds harbor unique ecosystems and provide natural laboratories for research in karst processes, biospeleology, and hydrology.

Around Zakros, ancient palaeo-shorelines tell another part of the story—recording past sea levels and climate changes that have sculpted the island across millennia. From its mountain peaks to its hidden caverns and crystal coves, the Sitia UNESCO Global Geopark is a living archive of Earth’s evolution, inviting travellers to journey through the depths of geological time in one of the Mediterranean’s most enchanting corners.

sitia-geopark.gr/?page_id=1812&lang=en

Salpausselkä (Finland) – A Landscape created by water

Located in the southernmost part of the Finnish Lakeland, the **Salpausselkä UNESCO Global Geopark** encompasses 450,600 hectares and is home to more than 176,000 residents. It takes only an hour by train from the capital Helsinki to Lahti, the main city of the geopark. The defining features of the geopark, the **Salpausselkä ridges**, form a spectacular system of glacial landforms extending over 600 kilometres across southern Finland — a natural legacy of the last Ice Age.

These impressive ice-marginal ridges were mainly deposited by meltwaters at the ice sheet margin when its retreat paused during the Younger Dryas toward the end of the last Ice Age. The ridges are evidence of this dramatic cold period some 12,900 to 11,600 years ago. Today, they remain among the most studied and admired geological landmarks in Finland. The unique Salpausselkä terrain can be experienced right in the city of Lahti, as well as central areas of Hollola and Asikkala. The porous structure of the gravel and sand ridges stores and filters naturally pure groundwater, providing the region with some of the world’s finest drinking water.

The very name *Salpausselkä*, carrying the meaning “to block,” reflects how these ridges mark the southern border of Finland’s vast lake district. To the north, the ridges give way to a maze of lakes — including **Lake Päijänne**, Finland’s second largest — and internationally significant eskers such as **Kelvenne Island** and **Pulkkilanharju** in Päijänne National Park. Formed by powerful meltwater rivers flowing beneath ancient ice sheet these long, winding ridges of gravel and sand are the lifelines of the Finnish Lakeland.

Among the geopark’s many geological treasures, **Pirunkirkko (“Devil’s Church”)** stands out as a site of international significance. This striking 40-metre-wide cliff, polished smooth by glacial ice, reveals the story of the **Ahvenisto rapakivi granite** pluton, formed 1.63 billion years ago from the magma chamber of an ancient volcano. The name *rapakivi*, first defined by Finnish geologist J.J. Sederholm in 1891, is now used worldwide to describe this distinctive granite type. Located in the **Paistjärvi Nature Reserve** in Heinola, Pirunkirkko is accessible via a scenic four-kilometre hiking trail, inviting visitors to experience the timeless beauty of Finland’s glacial past.

In Salpausselkä Geopark, the deep history of stone, ice and water offers travellers a journey through landscapes shaped by nature’s most powerful forces.

www.unesco.org/en/igpp/salpausselka-unesco-global-geopark?hub=67817
visitlahti.fi/en/frontpage/salpausselka-geopark/

Karawanken/Karavanke (Austria/Slovenia) – One Landscape, Two Nations, Infinite Discoveries

Straddling the border between Austria and Slovenia, the **Karawanken–Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark** spans 1,067 km² and unites five Slovenian and nine Austrian municipalities. This vibrant cross-border destination invites visitors to explore a landscape where geology tells stories of deep time, and culture, nature, and adventure seamlessly intertwine. Venture into the **underground world of Mt. Peca / Petzen**, where you can bike or kayak through the fascinating old mine tunnels (*Podzemlje Pece*). Marvel at the jeweled halls of the **Obir dripstone caves**, where water and stone have shaped surreal formations over millennia. Seek serenity on **St. Hema Mountain / Hemmaberg**, one of Central Europe's oldest pilgrimage sites, or discover science and storytelling combined at the **GEO.DOM**, the Geopark's interactive exhibition center on Mt. Peca / Petzen.

For those craving adventure, ride the **Flow Country Trail**—one of Europe's longest mountain bike routes—or feel the thrill of the **cross-border zipline from “Europe to Africa”** above Črna na Koroškem. Then slow the pace with a **Drava River timber raft (Draufloß)** cruise, drifting gently between Austria and Slovenia while soaking in panoramic alpine views.

The **Karawanken–Karavanke Geopark** is not only a place of adventure but also of purpose. Its mission is to:

Preserve geological, natural, and cultural heritage across all member communities.

Educate and inspire, deepening public awareness of the Geopark's unique value.

Foster sustainable growth, particularly through eco-friendly tourism initiatives.

Strengthen cross-border collaboration, supporting regional development and unified stewardship of this shared natural treasure.

In the heart of the Alps, the Karawanken–Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark invites visitors to journey beyond borders—where mountains connect people, and every experience is shaped by the power of nature and time.

www.geopark-karawanken.at/en ; www.geopark-karawanken.com

GGN - European Geoparks Network - Germany

Bergstrasse-Odenwald (Germany) – Between Granite and Sandstone

Nestled between the Upper Rhine Plain and the ancient Odenwald mountains, the **Bergstrasse-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark, a territory of around 3,800 km² with about 1.2 million inhabitants**, invites visitors to explore a landscape where geology, biodiversity, and human history converge. Here, millions of years of Earth's evolution are written into rocks, valleys, and forests — forming an open-air archive of the planet's dynamic past.

One of the Geopark's most striking natural wonders is the **Felsenmeer (“Sea of Rocks”)** in the Odenwald. Thousands of massive boulders — some as large as trucks — cascade down the hillside, formed by crystalline rocks forged deep within the Earth's crust when the supercontinent **Pangea was formed, about 340 million years ago**. Sculpted by tectonic forces and Subtropic weathering, finally excavated during the Ice Ages, the Felsenmeer fascinates both scientists and visitors alike.

Press contact: National German Forum of UNESCO Global Geoparks, Speaker: Dr. Jutta Weber, UNESCO Global Geopark Bergstraße-Odenwald, 64653 Lorsch, Germany, E-Mail: j.weber@geo-naturpark.de, Dr. Andreas Schüller, UNESCO Global Geopark Vulkaneifel, 54550 Daun, Germany, E-Mail: andreas.schueller@vulkaneifel.de

International contact: Global Geoparks Network, Lesvos (Greece)

E-Mail: secretariat@globalgeoparksnetwork.org, www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org

The site also reveals traces of Roman quarrying activity, with roughly 300 unfinished stone blocks that tell the story of early craftsmanship. The **Felsenmeer Information Centre** offers interactive exhibits and guided walks, which bring this geological and cultural heritage to life.

Another globally significant site within the Geopark is the **Messel Pit Fossil Site**, UNESCO World Heritage since 1995. Once a shale and oil mine near Darmstadt, Messel holds the world's most important fossil record from the **Eocene epoch**, around 47 million years ago. Its extraordinarily preserved fossils — including entire skeletons with fur, feathers, and even soft tissue — open a rare window into early mammalian evolution. Recorded species are ancient horses, bats, pangolins, and marsupials, offering unparalleled insight into the subtropical life of prehistoric Europe.

Whether hiking through the boulder fields of the Odenwald, exploring Messel's time capsule of ancient life, or discovering how geology has shaped centuries of human settlement, the Bergstrasse-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark connects visitors to the deep history of our planet — in one of Germany's most scenic and scientifically rich regions.

geo-naturpark.net

Harz . Braunschweiger Land . Ostfalen (Germany) - Germany's Landscape of Deep Time

Spanning an impressive 964,600 hectares and home to around 1.4 million people, the **Harz . Braunschweiger Land. Ostfalen UNESCO Global Geopark** is Europe's largest geopark. Stretching from the dynamic industrial city of **Wolfsburg** in the north to the historic town of **Allstedt** in the south, it unites landscapes of striking geological contrasts, rich cultural heritage, and living nature.

At its heart rise the **Harz Mountains**, a low mountain range built of ancient Palaeozoic rocks uplifted some 300 million years ago. The **Brocken**, the park's highest peak at 1,142 metres, is famed for its windswept plateau, subalpine climate, and atmospheric legends. Surrounding it, the **Harz National Park** protects pristine forests and raised bogs that date back to the last Ice Age and shelter rare species such as the **lynx**, **wildcat**, and **black stork**.

The geopark tells the story of over **450 million years of Earth's history**, from the Ordovician period to the most recent glacial cycles. To the north, the **Braunschweiger Land and Ostfalen** regions reveal fossil-rich Mesozoic and Cenozoic sedimentary layers shaped by powerful salt tectonics. These geological processes created mineral resources—iron ore, brown coal, salt, and oil—that have long influenced the region's economy and identity.

A highlight for geologists and visitors alike is the legendary **"Classic Square Mile of Geology"** near **Goslar**, where the dramatic contact between the ancient Variscan basement and younger

Mesozoic strata can be observed in natural outcrops. This meeting of ages encapsulates the extraordinary geological diversity that defines the geopark.

From mountain summits and Ice Age wetlands to fossil sites and mining traditions, the **Harz . Braunschweiger Land . Ostfalen UNESCO Global Geopark** invites travellers to explore a landscape where nature, time, and human history are deeply intertwined.

harzregion.de

Press contact: National German Forum of UNESCO Global Geoparks, Speaker: Dr. Jutta Weber, UNESCO Global Geopark Bergstraße-Odenwald, 64653 Lorsch, Germany, E-Mail: j.weber@geo-naturpark.de, Dr. Andreas Schüller, UNESCO Global Geopark Vulkaneifel, 54550 Daun, Germany, E-Mail: andreas.schueller@vulkaneifel.de

International contact: Global Geoparks Network, Lesvos (Greece)

E-Mail: secretariat@globalgeoparksnetwork.org, www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org

Muskau Arch / Łuk Mużakowa (Germany/Poland) – A Landscape Shaped by Ice and Man

Straddling the border between Germany and Poland, the Muskauer Faltenbogen / Łuk Mużakowa UNESCO Global Geopark covers 578,8 km² and is home to around 50,000 people. Located between Berlin, Dresden, and Zielona Góra, this transnational geopark unites nature, geology, and cultural heritage in a truly cross-border experience.

At its heart lies the Muskau Arch, one of Central Europe's most scenically beautiful push moraines. Formed about 340,000 years ago during one of the continent's last ice ages, this

geological structure tells the story of immense glacial power. As the glacier advanced, it compressed the subsoil to depths of nearly 300 metres, deforming horizontal layers of Tertiary sediments. Due to this compression, important raw materials (especially lignite, glass sand, ceramic clays, and alum clays) came to the surface. These formed the basis for location-based raw material extraction and the development of a processing industry.

Today, the geopark is a forest- and water-rich cultural- and post-ming landscape characterised by hundreds of colourful lakes, deep valley incisions, and river terraces, as well as countless erratic boulders. Together, these features create a vibrant landscape that bridges geology, ecology, and human activity — a living testimony to Europe's Ice Age legacy and the shared history of Germany and Poland. Today, visitors can explore this unique geological wonder through scenic trails, viewing towers, and interpretive sites that bring the ice age story to life.

www.muskauer-faltenbogen.de

Vulkaneifel (Germany) – A Destination Shaped by Volcanic Forces and Water

Located in western Germany, within the Rhenish Slate Mountains, the Vulkaneifel UNESCO Global Geopark covers around 129,000 hectares and is home to approximately 105,000 people. The region is internationally renowned for its volcanic heritage, shaped by more than 350 eruption centres that formed crater lakes, scoria cones, lava flows and deeply incised valleys.

The Vulkaneifel is particularly famous for its maar volcanoes — circular craters created by explosive interactions between rising magma and groundwater. Volcanic activity occurred in

two main phases, culminating in the formation of the Ulmener Maar about 10,900 years ago, the youngest volcano in Central Europe. Many maars later filled with water or evolved into peat bogs, preserving exceptional environmental archives. Volcanic activity can still be experienced today at numerous mineral water springs, locally known as "Drees", where naturally carbonated waters rise along deep fault systems.

Sediments preserved in the maars provide one of Central Europe's most important natural climate archives, spanning more than 130,000 years. Fossils from the Eckfeld Maar, including a prehistoric horse and the world's oldest known honey bee, offer rare insights into ancient ecosystems. Ongoing

ground uplift of around one and a half millimetre per year highlights the region's continued geological activity.

As a UNESCO Global Geopark, the Vulkaneifel combines the protection of its geological heritage with education, sustainable tourism and regional development. Guided tours, exhibitions and hands-on geo-experiences make Earth history accessible and engaging for visitors and local communities alike. More than 750 kilometres of high-quality hiking trails, complemented by cycling routes and certified Geopark guides, offer immersive encounters with volcanic landscapes, maar lakes and valleys. By placing Earth history at the heart of the destination, the Vulkaneifel delivers a unique blend of science, landscape and sustainable tourism.

www.geopark-vulkaneifel.de

8. Members of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) Executive Board 2026

New elected GGN Executive Board – 12. September 2025:

GGN President – Prof. Dr. Artur A. Sà (Portugal)



Vice-President – Kana Furuwasa (Japan)



Vice-President – Prof. Dr. Jianping Zang (China)



GGN-General Sekretary - Prof. Dr. Nikolaos Zouros (Greece)



GGN-Treasurer – Dr. h.c. Guy Martini (France)



New elected Members of the GGN Executive Board – 12. Sept. 2025:

[ACHBAL Driss](#) (M Ghoun UGGp, Morocco)

[RANGNES Kristin](#) (GeaNorwegica UGGp, Norway)

[CALDER John](#) (President of the Canadian Geoparks Network, Canada)

[FREY Marie – Luise](#) (GGN Individual Member, Germany)

[JIN Xiaochi](#) (Chinese Academy of Geosciences, China)

[AMRIKAZEMI Alireza](#) (Qeshm UGGp, Iran)

[PASKOVA Martina](#) (Bohemian Paradise UGGp, Czechia)

[Azmil Munif Mohd Bukhari](#) (Langkawi UGGp, Malaysia)

[SALMAN Karmah](#) (Chair-Woman of the Spanish National Global Geoparks Network)

Press contact: National German Forum of UNESCO Global Geoparks, Speaker: Dr. Jutta Weber,
UNESCO Global Geopark Bergstraße-Odenwald, 64653 Lorsch, Germany, E-Mail: j.weber@geo-naturpark.de,
Dr. Andreas Schüller, UNESCO Global Geopark Vulkaneifel, 54550 Daun, Germany, E-Mail: andreas.schueller@vulkaneifel.de

International contact: Global Geoparks Network, Lesvos (Greece)

E-Mail: secretariat@globalgeoparksnetwork.org, www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org

MARINHO Thiago (Uberaba UGGp, Brazil)

International Geoscience and Geoparks Program (IGGP) of UNESCO

Ordinary Members of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council – January 2026

Ordinary members have the right to vote within the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council.

Mr Alireza Amrikazemi (Iran, Islamic Republic of)
Mr Carles Canet (Mexico)
Mr Charalampos Fassoulas (Greece, Vice-Chairman)
Ms Martina Pásková (Czechia)
Ms Sarah Gamble (Canada, Rapporteur)
Mr Setsuya Nakada (Japan, Chairman)
Mr. Ahmed El-Barkooky (Egypt)
Mr Jianping Zhang (China)
Ms Agness Onna Gidna (United Republic of Tanzania)
Mr Allysson Pinheiro (Brazil)
Ms Kirstin Lemon (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Mr José Maria Barrera (Spain)

Ex officio Members

Ex officio Members of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council have no right to vote.

UNESCO Director General (or his/her representative)
GGN president (or his/her representative) – Prof. Dr. A. SÀ
IUGS Secretary-General (or his/her representative)
IUCN Director-General (or his/her representative)