

## UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

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United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

UNESCO  
Global  
Geoparks

# UNESCO Global Geoparks

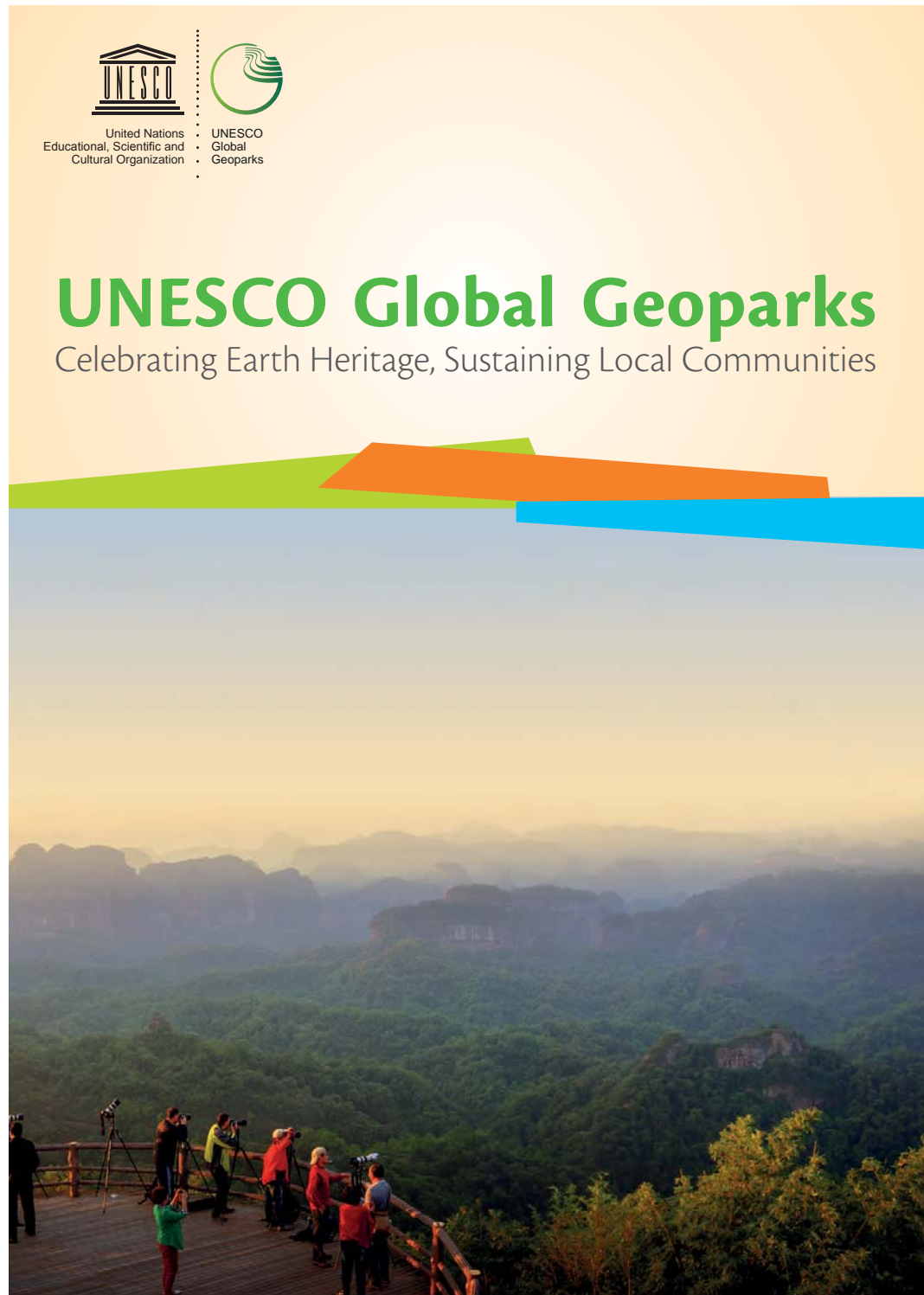
## Celebrating Earth Heritage, Sustaining Local Communities

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

UNESCO Global Geoparks  
Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences

UNESCO  
7, place de Fontenoy  
75352 Paris 07<sup>SP</sup>  
France

[unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/  
pj.mckeever@unesco.org](http://unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/pj.mckeever@unesco.org)



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.

## 2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development

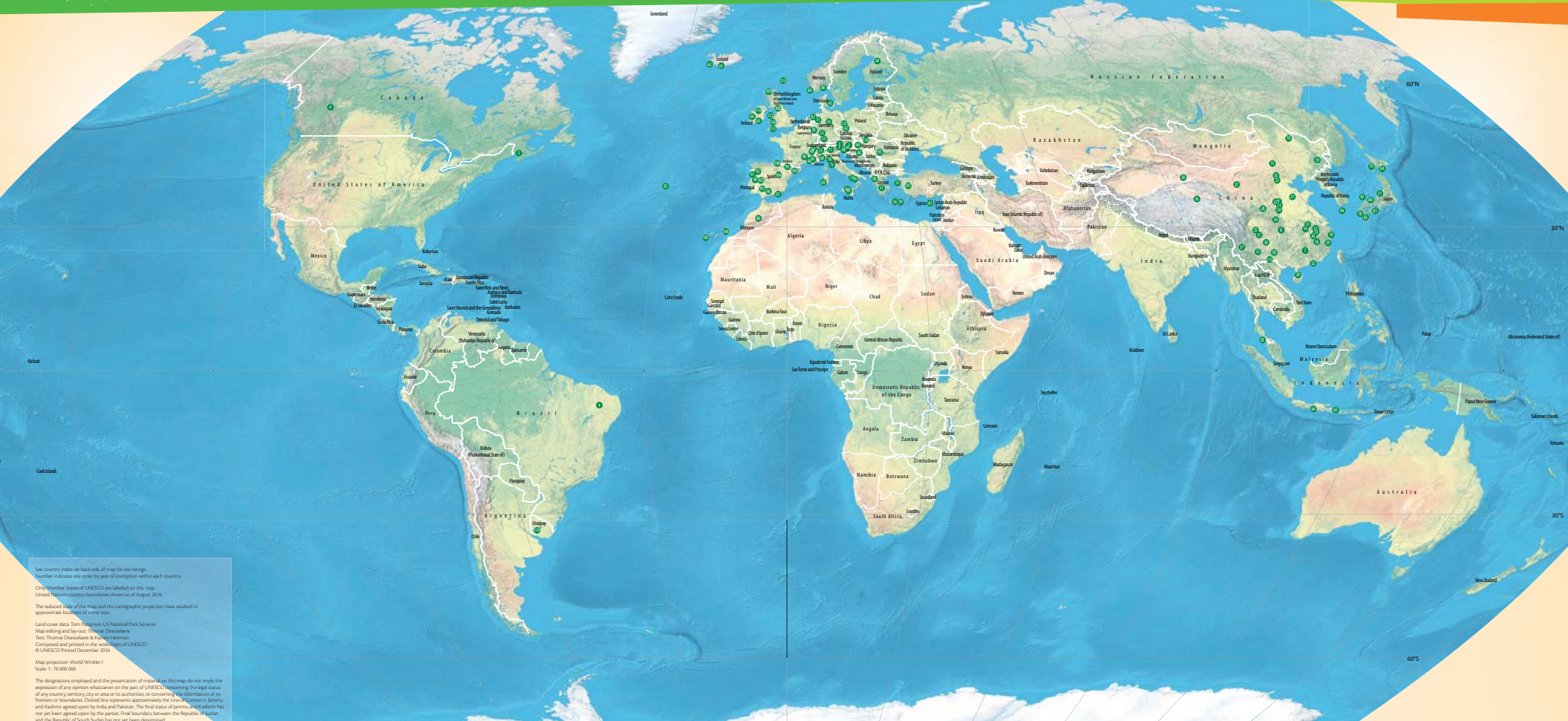
UNESCO Global Geoparks showcase the beauty and diversity of planet Earth in 119 extraordinary places spread out across the world. Explore the magnificent cliffs of the Basque Coast, Spain; admire dinosaur fossils millions of years old in Zigong, China; or hike around one of the largest volcanic calderas 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.





See country index on back side of map for site listings.  
Number indicates site order by year of inscription within each country.  
Only Member States of UNESCO are labelled on this map.  
United Nations country boundaries shown as of August 2016.  
The reduced scale of the map and the cartographic projection have resulted in approximate locations of some sites.  
Land cover data: Tom Patterson, US National Park Service.  
Map editing and design: Thomas Dorschmann.  
Text: Thomas Dorschmann & Kathrin Hermsen.  
Compiled and printed in the work 'Pages of UNESCO'.  
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Map projection: World Winkler I.  
Scale: 1:70,000,000.  
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The best way to visit the **BURREN AND CLIFFS OF MOHER UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** in Ireland is by bicycle. To promote the Geopark as a bicycle friendly destination, several businesses offer a free cup of tea to anyone who arrives to their business by bicycle. Stimulating visitors to explore the Geopark on a bicycle, this initiative encourages sustainable development of tourism in harmony with nature and local people.

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



Situated in the northern Italian Alps, the **ADAMELLO BRENTA UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** encourages low impact tourism activities and tries to enhance climate change awareness. The total area of the 41 glaciers on the Geopark's territory has decreased by at least a third in the last 40 years. Guided glacier-tours allows you to witness the impact of climate change on the glaciers.

© Giuliana Pinotti



People living in the Shimbara Peninsula in Japan have coped repeatedly with the volcanic eruptions of Mount Unzen. The **UNZEN VOLCANIC AREA UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** features this active volcano along with the natural blessings of a volcanic active region which include a natural environment rich in spring water, fertile soil and hot springs, which all help to encourage local people to live in coexistence with nature.

© Unzen Volcanic Area Geopark Promotion Office



**ITOIGAWA UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** is surrounded by the Sea of Japan and the towering Japanese Alps. The elevation ranges from 0 to nearly 3000 meters, creating a beautiful landscape treasured by hikers, campers and other eco-tourists.

© Itoigawa Geopark Council / Theodor Braun



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 history in the **STONEHAMMER UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** of Canada. Here, two children are being taught about different lifeforms that lived during the Earth's past.

© Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark



Striking red sandstones and conglomerates make up the landforms which characterise the landscape of the **DANJIASHAN UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** in China. The Geopark is named for the resemblance of its rocks to 'rosy red' clouds. You can admire the shapes of the mountains and landscapes created since ancient times. Mountain formation and which seem to have been created by master sculptors, but in fact this has been crafted by sublime geological processes.

© Liu Jiaqing



For thousands of years, the South Wuzui, located in the **QINLING ZHONGNANSHAN UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** in China, has been known for the monastery of Avalokitesvara. These magical granite mountains have been considered sacred since ancient times. Mountain formation and landscapes created this outdoor 'geological museum' where you can discover this old temple, which reflects the profound essence of Buddhist culture.

© Qingling Zhongnanshan Geopark / Yinsheng Wei



The local Jomon-Ainu tribe in the **TOYA-USU 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-Usu UNESCO Global Geopark



You can discover breath-taking landscapes from a different perspective on horseback and enjoy a morning reconnection to nature in the **MASSIF DES BAUGES UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** in France. You can enjoy an open-air lunch made up from the local breads, cheeses, hams and honey for which the area is renowned.

© Patrick Mc Kewer



Prehistoric artists painted geometric shapes on the rocks of the **GRUTAS DEL PALACIO UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** in Uruguay thousands of years ago. Now you can taste history! The cave paintings inspired local cheese producers and instead of painting rocks, they now draw these pictographs on the locally produced cheese.

© Casas del Palacio UNESCO Global Geopark / César Coto



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.

© Patrick Mc Kewer



Women actively contribute to the life of Geoparks communities and obtain an additional income on their own terms by selling, for example, handicrafts. **AROUCA UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK** in Portugal, in particular, has a special connection between women and geology. A special type of rock which spontaneously 'gives birth', pops out of a granitic outcrop and has been attributed magical properties in terms of fertility.

© Arouca Geopark Association / Anabela Vieira