



Organisation
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la science et la culture

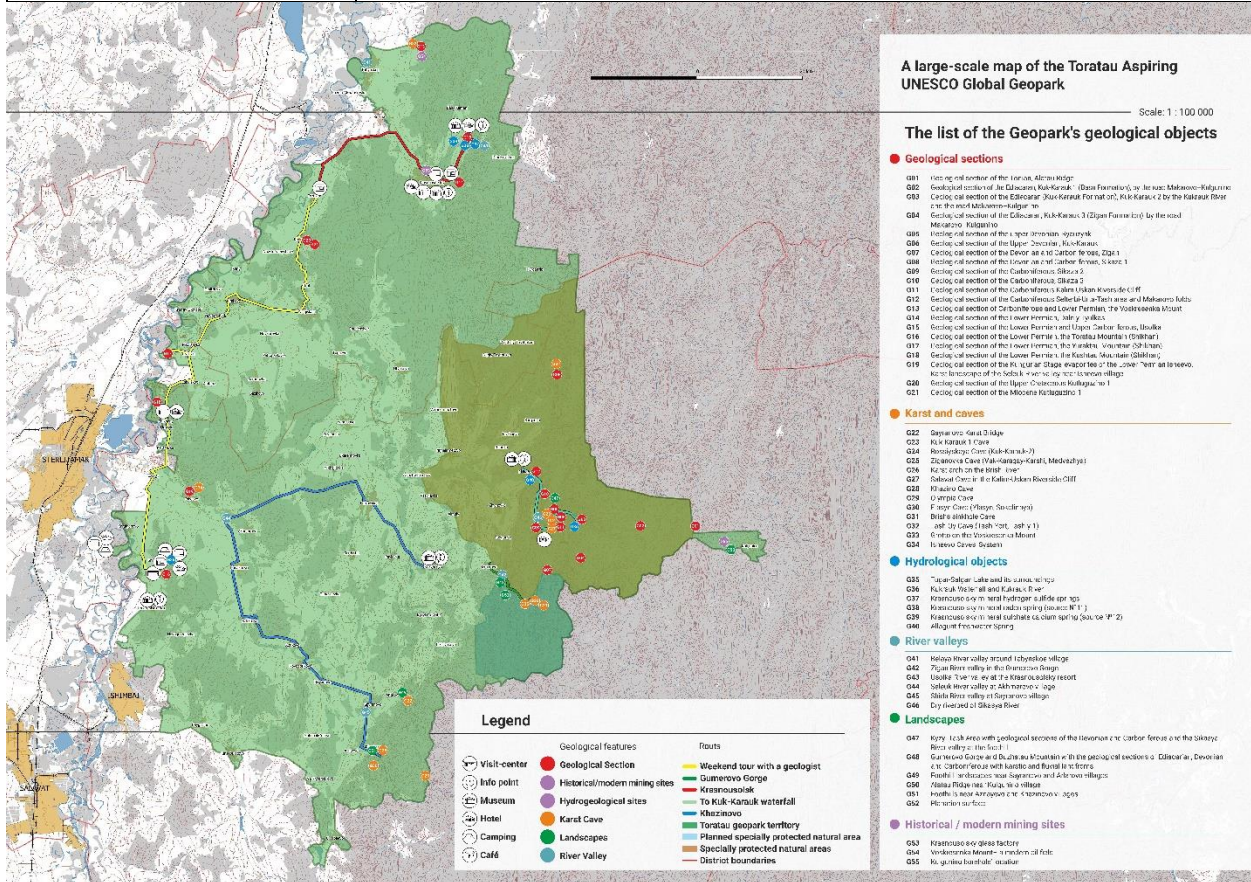


Géoparc
mondiaux
UNESCO

Applicant UNESCO Global Geopark

Toratau, Russian Federation

Geographical and geological summary



1. Physical and human geography

The area of the Geopark is 2289km²

The Geopark in the West borders with the major cities of the Republic of Bashkortostan – Ishimbay, Salavat, Sterlitamak. Distance to Ufa (the capital of the Republic of Bashkortostan) – 140 km, to Orenburg (the capital of the Orenburg region) - 240 km.

The relief began to form from the Mesozoic, but the modern appearance has acquired over the past 3 million years. The Eastern part of the territory of the Geopark is the Western slope of the southern Ural Mounts, covered with forest. The Western part territory of the Geopark is located in the area of the pre-Ural regional trough is the vast Kamsko-Belskaya erosion- accumulative plain and the hilly right Bank of the Belaya river (heights of 200-400 m) with developed agricultural. Typical mid-size landforms - single mountains, rocky cliffs, river valleys and intermountain depressions, complemented by microforms of relief - ravines, terraces, weathering outliers, karst landforms (sinkhole and caves) - create a unique flavor of the territory located on the eastern edge of Europe. The geopark is located on the territory of the Ishimbay, Sterlitamak and Gafuri administrative districts of the Republic of Bashkortostan (Russian Federation).

The population living on the territory of the Geopark is 38.7 thousand people.

Ishimbay district is industrial and agricultural. Gafuri district is agricultural. In the west of the Geopark, there is a developed grain and cattle-breeding direction of agriculture, in the east - meat and dairy. The population is actively raising bees. On the territory of the Geopark there are 79 settlements, 21 rural settlements. The territory has a developed road network (especially in the western part). Highways connecting the territory with major cities - Ufa, Sterlitamak, Salavat, Orenburg pass through Ishimbay and Krasnousolsky. The railway connects Ishimbay and Sterlitamak with the Ufa-Orenburg transport highway.

2. Geological features and geology of international significance

The territory of Geopark is geologically very diverse. It includes a foothill trough and a folded area, which reflects a sedimentary sequence formed over eight geological periods - from the Precambrian Riphean (Tonya) to the modern Quarter. Some of geological sites of the Geopark are unique, and the section of the Permian deposits of Usolka is a global stratotype of the tier boundary of the International Stratigraphic Scale. The remains of Permian reef structures with an abundance of paleontological remains near the cities of Sterlitamak and Ishimbay are also world famous. A variety of Precambrian and Paleozoic sedimentary complexes common in the Geopark are of great scientific importance. Wonderful geological outcrops reflecting the geological history of about 1 billion years, the variety of relief-forming elements, the abundance of caves, water sources, rocks, minerals and fossil remains make this area very valuable and attractive for organizing scientific, educational and other excursions; as well as for activities to preserve world-class geological heritage.