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Applicant UNESCO Global Geopark

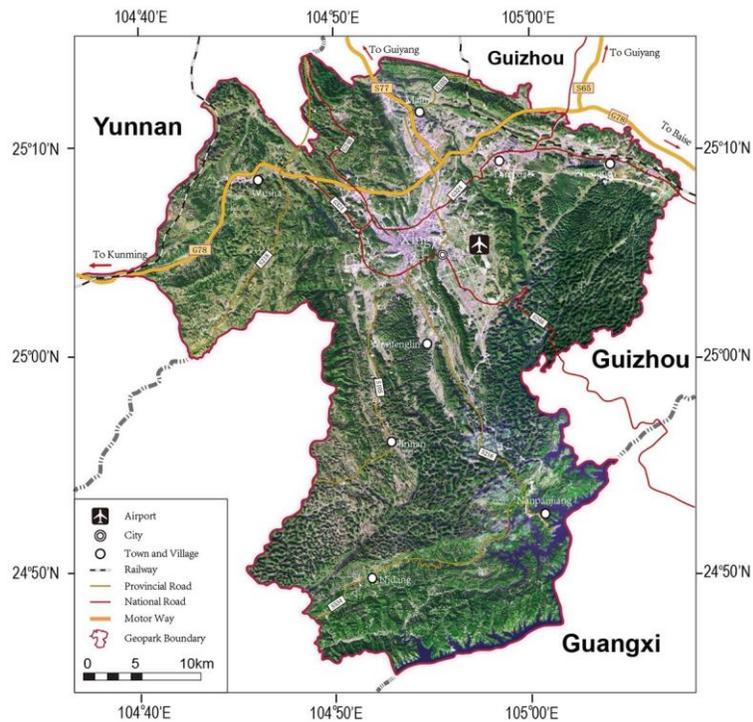
Xingyi Geopark, China

Geographical and geological summary



● Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark

According to the UNESCO Geopark application and revalidation procedure, this map is a standard map downloaded from the UNESCO official website and does not represent the position of the Chinese government on relevant issues.



1. Physical and human geography

Xingyi Geopark is located in Xingyi Municipality, Qixinan Buyi & Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Guizhou Province, China, and to the north of Nanpanjiang catchment area of Pearl River water system (24°45'02"-25°14'12"N, 104°36'58"-105°07'53"E), with a total area of 1456 km². Xingyi Municipality, is situated at the centre of the three provinces of Yunnan, Guizhou and Guangxi, featuring a good transport network integrating railway, highway, aviation and shipping being only 357km away from Guiyang, 362km away from Kunming and 525km away from Nanning.

Xingyi Geopark is in the transitional zone between the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau and the Guangxi

Basin. It is strongly cut in the east, south and west by the Malinghe River, Nanpanjiang River and Huangnihe River respectively, and features karst plateau mountain landscape with the terrain gradually decreasing in height from northwest to southeast. It is more than 1800m above sea level in the western mountainous area of the geopark, extending northeastward is generally less than 1000m a.s.l. in the southern mountainous area of the geopark. The geopark belongs to the midsubtropical humid monsoon climate zone. The annual average temperature is 16.1 °C and the average annual rainfall is 1520.9 mm. There are 77 different size of rivers within the catchment area. The population is 533,600 in the whole of the geopark, accounting for 62.92% of the total population of Xingyi Municipality. It is a gathering place of many ethnic minority groups including Buyi, Miao, Yi, Bai, Dai and Zhuang and has rich culture heritages.

2. Geological features and geology of international significance

Xingyi Geopark is a part of the "Yangtze Block" of the "Qiangtang-Yangtze-South China Plate"; The stratigraphic division covers the Yangtze stratigraphy region and the Youjiang stratigraphy region; The Permian and Triassic strata are mainly exposed in the geopark, of which the Triassic strata are widely distributed. Its stratigraphic sequence is complete and the platform-foreslope-basin sedimentary facies zone are clearly distributed. The Triassic strata has an area of 1288.25 km², accounting for 88.47% of the geopark, of which the carbonate rock stratum covers 1066.88 km², accounting for 73.27% of the geopark.

Xingyi Geopark is characterized by the Triassic "Xingyi fauna", the Triassic sedimentary facies boundary, Wanfenglin fengcong and fenglin, and Malinghe Karst Gorge of international and very national significance.

Xingyi Fauna is the only known late Ladinian (Middle Triassic) Fossil Lagerstätte characterized by exceptionally well-preserved marine reptiles and fishes in the world. It is the only paleo-fauna site completely preserving turnover of Ladinian- Carnian marine reptiles from nearshore to deep ocean. This indicates that the faunal types feature a turnover from nearshore to offshore in association with the paleoenvironmental changes of global sea level variation and volcanic activities.

In addition, the Xingyi Geopark exhibits two classic aesthetic examples, i.e., Wanfenglin consisting more than 20,000 magnificent peaks, and Malinghe River Gorge featuring 100 waterfalls and more than 2 million square meters bio-tufa on both sides.