



Stac Pollaidh in North West Highlands Geopark, Scotland

What can I expect to see in the European Geoparks?

- Breathtaking scenery with rich geological heritage
- Spectacular fossil sites recording past life and environments
- An ancient forest turned into stone
- Landscapes carved by glaciers
- Ancient volcanoes
- Old deserts created by past climatic conditions
- Caves and limestone landscapes shaped by water
- Visual evidence of the Earth's forces
- The border of two ancient continents set in stone
- Remnants of ancient tropical seas
- Mineral riches and their use by local people throughout human history
- Dinosaur bones, eggs and footprints
- The influence of earth heritage on daily life past and present
- Art and cultural endeavours inspired and informed by earth heritage
- Some of the oldest rocks to be found in Europe and so much more...

All of these are presented and interpreted for non-specialists and all age groups, in the midst of spectacular landscapes, which are also rich in unique flora, fauna and cultural heritage.

Do you know what has been happening beneath our feet in Europe?

- Northern and Southern Europe were once separate continents
- Southern Europe was once near the South Pole
- Scotland and Norway were once part of the same continent as North America
- Europe is now one continent and moving further away from America all the time
- We've been hit by meteors from outer space
- The land has been twisted and buckled into mountains which were then eroded away over millions of years
- We've been shattered by earthquakes, had forests buried in lava, and been rocked by volcanoes
- These landscapes have been sea beds, deserts, polar icefields and inundated by great floods
- Geologically, people only appeared seconds ago
- These processes are still happening: North Africa is slowly colliding with Europe, creating the mountains of the Alps

you can see the evidence of all this in the european geoparks network

European Geoparks Network

The European Geoparks Network was set up in 2000 with four members. By 2008, it had more than 30 members with many other applications in progress.

www.europeangeoparks.org

UNESCO

From the beginning, UNESCO, the United Nations Organization for Education, Culture and Science, has established close ties of cooperation with the European Geoparks Network applying the European model of high standards of excellence in a global context. Under UNESCO, the European Geoparks are also part of a Global Network, which includes more than another 20 such parks.

www.unesco.org
www.worldgeopark.org



Photography courtesy of Sutherland Partnership, Iain Sarjeant, Mike Roper, Isie MacPhail, Scottish Natural Heritage.



North West Highlands
GEO PARK
Iar-Thuath na Gàidhealtachd



Suilven in North West Highlands Geopark, Scotland

welcome to the
european geoparks network



Petrified Forest of Lesvos, Greece

www.pelican-design.com



Mamore Mountains viewed from Ben Nevis, Lochaber Geopark, Scotland

What is the European Geoparks Network?

It is a network of geological heritage sites with something exceptional to offer – showcasing the part each site has played in the history of the Earth over the last 4,000 million years.

Who are they for?

Anyone who is interested in gaining insights into what they see about them and understanding a little more about the Earth beneath their feet.

Is it only about rocks?

No! It is also about the use people have made of what lies beneath their feet, from Palaeolithic times right up into the present day.

take a journey back through
4,000 million years of earth
history - visit a geopark!



European Geoparks to date 2008

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|---|--|---|
| 1. Réserve Géologique de Haute
– Provence – FRANCE | 7. Copper Coast Geopark–
IRELAND | 13. North Pennines AONB
– ENGLAND, UK |
| 2. Vulkaneifel European Geopark
– GERMANY | 8. Marble arch caves & Cuilcagh
Mountain Park – NORTHERN
IRELAND, UK | 14. Abberley and Malvern Hills
Geopark, UK |
| 3. Petrified Forest of Lesvos
– GREECE | 9. Madonie Geopark – ITALY | 15. Park Naturel Régional du
Luberon – FRANCE |
| 4. Maestrazgo Cultural Park
– Aragon – SPAIN | 10. Kulturpark Kampthal
– AUSTRIA | 16. North West Highlands
– SCOTLAND, UK |
| 5. Psiloritis Natural Park
– GREECE | 11. Naturpark Steirische
Eisenwurzten – AUSTRIA | 17. Geopark Swabian Albs
– GERMANY |
| 6. Terra.Vita Naturpark
– GERMANY | 12. Naturpark Bergstrasse
Odenwald – GERMANY | 18. Geopark Harz Braunschweiger
Land Ostfalen Geopark
– GERMANY |



Dinosaur footprints in the Terra Vita Geopark, Germany

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| 19. Mecklenburg Ice age Park –
GERMANY |
| 20. Hateg Country Dinosaurs
Geopark –
ROMANIA |
| 21. Beigua Geopark – ITALY |
| 22. Parc Daearegol Fforest Fawr –
CYMRU – UK |
| 23. Bohemian Paradise Geopark –
CZECH REPUBLIC |
| 24. Cabo de Gata – Nijar Natural
Park – Andalucia – SPAIN |
| 25. Naturtejo Geopark
– PORTUGAL |
| 26. Sierras Subbéticas Natural Park
– Andalucia – SPAIN |
| 27. Sobrarbe Geopark – Aragon
– SPAIN |
| 28. Gea Norvegica – NORWAY |
| 29. Sardenia Geominerario Park
– ITALY |
| 30. Papuk geopark – CROATIA |
| 31. Lochaber Geopark
– SCOTLAND, UK |
| 32. English Riviera Geopark
– ENGLAND, UK |