

Attractions and activities

Guided tours

Explore by yourself

Exhibitions

Lectures

Caves and mines



Experience Germany's Geoparks

Excursions to the Earth's history
Sense nature and gain knowledge
Geology at your fingertips

Front photo: Dauner Maare, Eifel Mountains; Archiv Mountains; Archiv Natur- und Geopark Vulkaneifel

The National Geoparks in Germany work under the auspices of:



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Geoparks in Germany: 14 regions with a common idea

**NATIONALER
GEOPARK** Geoparks are purposefully designated areas whose geological characteristics are presented to visitors in a particularly interesting way. Essential elements of the

geoparks are so-called "geotopes", i.e. geological landmarks of particular interest and protection status that serve as windows into the earth history of a given geological landscape. These geotopes can be rocks, quarries, caves, lakes, maars, clay or gravel pits, mines or other special geo-features.

Beyond the presentation of the geotopes, geoparks inform and entertain visitors with signposts and plates along thematically designed walkways, in information centres and by exhibitions that explain the region's geological history. Human interaction with the environment is also highlighted, through an integrated focus on archaeology, cultural and economic history which demonstrates how, in the past and at present, humans have taken advantage of the potential of the region, through mining, agriculture and industry.



The right to designate "National GeoParks" in Germany was given to GeoUnion Alfred-Wegener-Stiftung, which awards the title to geoparks promoting sustainable resource usage and geotourism in addition to presenting their outstanding natural landscapes and geological sights. Since 2003, 14 geoparks have been chosen to become National Geoparks in Germany – and there are more to come.



National Geoparks in Germany:

- Bayern-Böhmen: www.geopark-bayern.de
 - Bergstraße-Odenwald: www.geo-naturpark.net
 - Eiszeitland am Oderrand: www.geopark-eiszeitland.de
 - GrenzWelten: www.geopark-grenzwelten.de
 - Harz, Braunschweiger Land, Ostfalen: www.geopark-braunschweiger-land.de
 - Inselsberg – Drei Gleichen: www.thueringer-geopark.de
 - Kyffhäuser: www.geopark-kyffhaeuser.com
 - Muskauer Faltenbogen: www.muskauer-faltenbogen.de
 - Ries: www.geopark-ries.de
 - Ruhrgebiet: www.geopark-ruhrgebiet.de
 - Schwäbische Alb: www.geopark-alb.de
 - TERRA.vita: www.naturpark-terravita.de
 - Vulkanland Eifel: www.geopark-vulkaneifel.de
 - Westerwald-Lahn-Taunus: www.geopark-wlt.de
- www.nationaler-geopark.de

GeoUnion Alfred-Wegener-Stiftung

GeoUnion is the umbrella organisation of all geoscientific associations and institutions in Germany. It includes the academic corporations and societies representing not only Geology, Mineralogy, Geophysics and Paleontology, but also Meteorology, Soil Science, Hydrology and Geography. In addition, the large geoscientific research institutions are members and supporters of GeoUnion, including: GeoForschungs Zentrum Potsdam, IFM-GEOMAR, Alfred-Wegener-Institut, Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, and also a number of Germany's natural history museums and the Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe (Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources). At present, GeoUnion encompasses 36 organisations, representing ca. 50,000 individual members. GeoUnion promotes the interdisciplinary cooperation between the geosciences and with other fields. The knowledge of the member organisations is predominantly applied to tasks relating to the exploration of the Earth system and to finding solutions for urgent global challenges such as resource security, loss of natural habitat, climate change and natural hazards.

One particular focus of GeoUnion's activities is the communication of geoscientific knowledge to the wider public, to stakeholders in economic, political, administrative and public realms. It is for this purpose that the GeoUnion holds conferences for the general public, releases publications and takes care of the "National GeoParks" programme in Germany.

