

UNESCO's Global Geopark Network

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Art & Culture

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UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) endorsed the addition of 18 new Geoparks to the Global Geoparks Network (GGN).



[Ref: UNESCO]

Recent Additions to UNESCO Global Geoparks:

- **Meteora and Pyli, Greece:** This geopark spans 2,409.5 km² and features the Pindos mountains and Meteora's rock formations with ancient monasteries, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- **Uberaba, Brazil:** Nicknamed the 'Land of the Giants', Uberaba is famed for its paleontological sites rich in dinosaur fossils, highlighting its prehistoric significance.
- **Linxia, China:** Home to paleontological sites like the Bingling Cave Temple, Linxia boasts a rich history linked to the **Ancient Silk Road** and the unique Hua'er music tradition.
- **Biokovo-Imotski Lakes, Croatia:** Located in central Dalmatia, this geopark is known for the **Red Lake**, Blue Lake, and Biokovo Mountain, showcasing nature's marvels.
- **Impact Crater Lake, Finland:** Distinguished as Europe's largest impact crater lake, it was formed 78 million years ago due to a meteorite impact.

About UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGPs):

- UGGPs are unique areas with global geological importance, managed with a focus on **protection, education, and sustainable development**.
- The UGGP concept started in the **mid-1990s**, officially forming in **2015**.
- Governed by entities recognized **legally under national legislation**.
- The title of a geopark lasts four years before reassessment.
- Joining the **Global Geoparks Network (GGN)** is **compulsory**, promoting local pride, area identification, and geotourism revenue.

About Global Geopark Network (GGN):

- Established in **2014** and governed by **French law**, the Global Geopark Network (GGN) is an NGO that encompasses all **UNESCO Geoparks globally**.

- Initially set up in **2004** as an international initiative under UNESCO, it now serves as UNESCO's official partner for geopark operations, comprising **213 geoparks across 48 countries**.