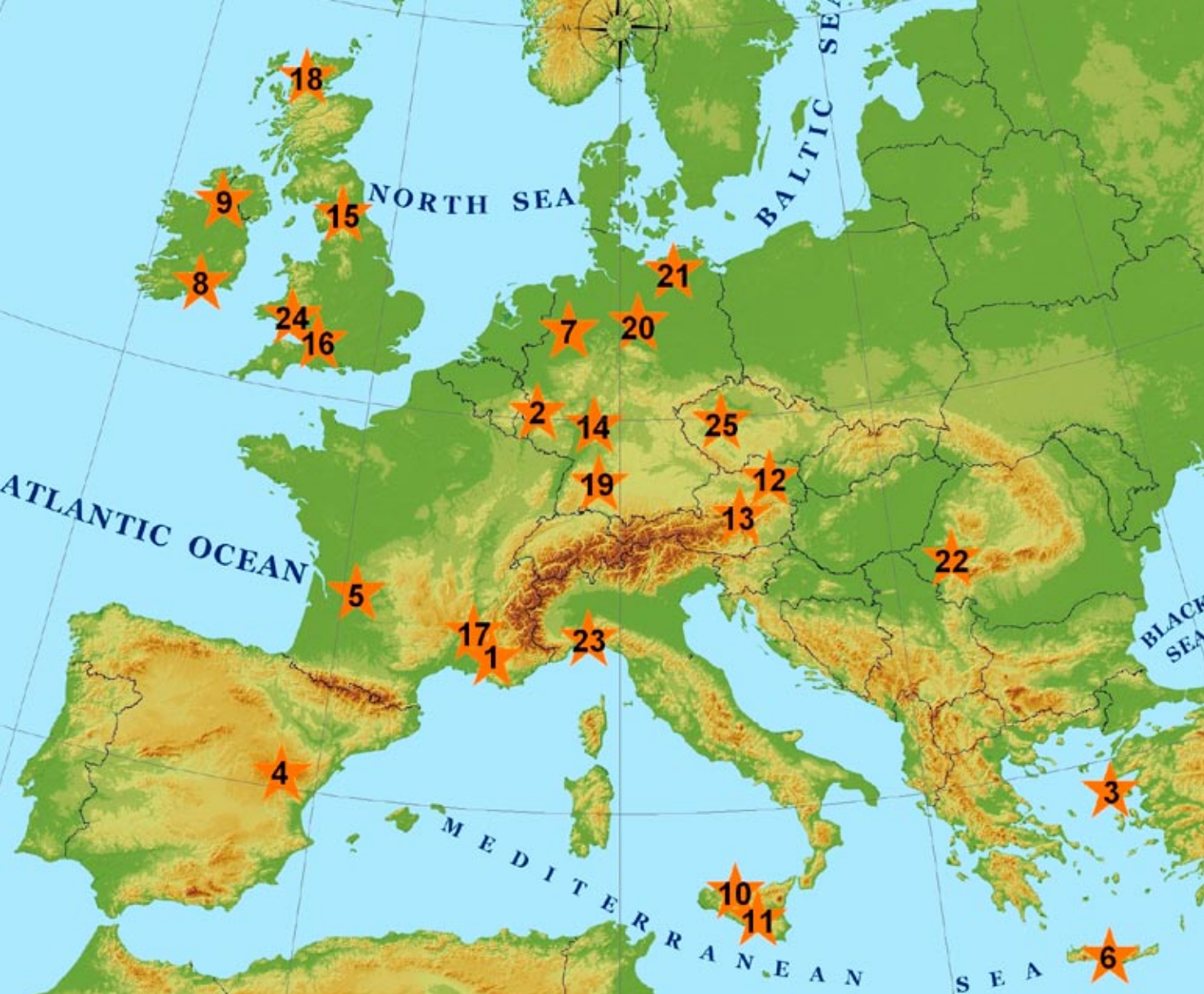


The European Geoparks Network



> European Geoparks to date in 2005

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Réserve Géologique de Haute Provence - FRANCE | 10. Madonie Geopark - ITALY | 19. Geopark Swabian Albs - GERMANY |
| 2. Vulkaneifel European Geopark - GERMANY | 11. Rocca di Cerere Geopark - ITALY | 20. Geopark Harz Braunschweiger Land Ostfalen Geopark - GERMANY |
| 3. Petrified Forest of Lesvos - GREECE | 12. Kulturpark Kamptal - AUSTRIA | 21. Mecklenburg Ice Age Park - GERMANY |
| 4. Maestrazgo Cultural Park - SPAIN | 13. Naturpark Steirische Eisenwurz - AUSTRIA | 22. Hateg Country Dinosaurs Geopark - ROMANIA |
| 5. Astrolème Châtaigneraie Limousine - FRANCE | 14. Naturpark Bergstraße-Odenwald - GERMANY | 23. Beigua Geopark - ITALY |
| 6. Psiloritis Natural Park - GREECE | 15. North Pennines AONB, England - UK | 24. Fforest Fawr Geopark, Wales - UK |
| 7. Terra Vita Naturpark - GERMANY | 16. Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark - UK | 25. Bohemian Paradise - CZECH REPUBLIC |
| 8. Copper Coast Geopark - IRELAND | 17. Parc Naturel Régional du Luberon - FRANCE | |
| 9. Marble Arch Caves European Geopark, NI - UK | 18. North West Highlands, Scotland - UK | |

4 billion years of Earth history to serve tomorrow

In Cooperation with UNESCO



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> What is the European Geoparks Network?

It is a network of geological heritage sites with something exceptional to offer in terms of interpretation of their own parts of the history of Earth over the last 4,000 million years.

Who are they for?

Anybody who is interested in gaining insights into what they see about them and the physical foundation 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 to present.



The European Geoparks Network was set up in 2000 with four members. By 2005, it had more than 20 with many other applications in progress. www.europeangeoparks.org



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 twelve such parks in China. www.unesco.org
www.worldgeopark.org



> What would I expect to see in various geoparks?

- Breathtaking sceneries with rich geological heritage
- Spectacular fossil sites recording life and past environments
- A 200 million years old meteorite impact crater
- An ancient forest turned into stone
- Landscapes carved by glaciers
- Ancient volcanoes
- Old desert formations
- Caves and karstic landscapes
- Visual evidence of Earth forces
- The lithified border of two ancient continents
- Witnesses of past tropical seas
- Mineral resources mined by men through time
- Dinosaur bones, eggs and tracks
- Some of the oldest rocks to be found in Europe and many more...

All these are presented and interpreted for non-specialists, generally in spectacular landscapes, which are also rich in fauna, flora and cultural heritage.

TAKE A JOURNEY BACK THROUGH 4000 MILLION YEARS OF EARTH HISTORY - VISIT A GEOPARK!

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

- Northern and Southern Europe were once separate land masses
- Southern Europe was once near the South Pole
- We are now together and moving away as a plate from America
- We've been hit by meteors from outer space
- We've been twisted and buckled into mountains which were then eroded away
- We've been shattered by earthquakes, had forests buried in lava, and been rocked by volcanoes
- We've been sea beds, deserts, polar landscapes and swept by floods
- Geologically, people only appeared seconds ago
- The process is 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

> Volcanism throughout Europe

