

# GEO PARKS IN GERMANY

## Unique (cultural) landscapes and rocks

There are rocks all over the world. No wonder, because our earth's crust is up to 70 kilometers thick and has a diverse composition. Some regions, however, are characterized by a very special geological significance.

Geoparks are established in such areas. Here, geoscientific rarities and scenic beauties invite visitors to follow in the footsteps of planet Earth's past and to better understand the connections between geology, nature and life.

Geoparks have interesting geological sights worthy of protection, so-called „geotopes“. As windows into the Earth's history, they offer exciting insights into the geological formation of the respective landscape. Preserving and communicating these special features is one of the main tasks of a geopark.

There are currently 19 certified National Geoparks in Germany. The GEOPARK „Sachsens Mitte“ has been certified since November 2021.

-  UNESCO Global Geopark
-  National Geopark
-  Geopark initiative (without certification)

Map basis:  
General map GeoUnion  
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geopark  
SACHSENS MITTE



## GEO PARK SACHSENS MITTE

The formation of the Earth in „Saxon“



Cover photo: Robert Michael

Photo: Robert Michael

# A GEOPARK IN SAXONY'S CENTER

## Background and goals

Since 2001 there has been the vision of developing the region around the Tharandt Forest, located between the Saxon state capital Dresden and the university and mining town of Freiberg, into a geopark. In July 2015, the GEOPARK Sachsens Mitte e. V. was founded in order to inspire and advance this idea.

## Fascination geology

The heart of the GEOPARK is the Tharandt Forest whose geological development reflects the entire geological history of Saxony. The oldest rocks in GEOPARK are up to 570 million years old.

Besides the high geoscientific importance of the region which was already recognized in the 18th century by Bernhard von Cotta, an important German geologist and mining scientist, there is a lot to experience in the GEOPARK. Our GEOPARK rangers - certified nature and landscape guides - will take you along on interesting tours in the region.



hiking on the geological theme trail  
Photo: Robert Michael

## Destinations and experiences

Former mining sites, fascinating geotopes, themed trails and a well-signposted network of hiking, cycling and bridle paths guarantee relaxation and recreation. With Germany's oldest narrow-gauge railway - the Weißeritztalbahn - you can cross the GEOPARK quite comfortably.

In summer, numerous open-air and swimming pools guarantee pleasant cooling, and in winter, a visit to „Christmasland“ is worthwhile. Then, many typical Christmas markets attract visitors with regional specialties and handicrafts.



## contact

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We cordially invite you to explore the GEOPARK Sachsens Mitte and look forward to your visit!



GEOPARK-mobile, Photo: GEOPARK

Our GEOPARK-mobile „Saxificus“ is particularly popular with children of all ages. Interesting knowledge about the secrets of stones is imparted in playful experiments and with microscopes, in educational institutions or outdoors.

**Our GEOPARK is mobile!**



Scan the QR code for more information about our GEOPARK offers:



national geotope „porphyry fan“  
Photo: Robert Michael