





The UNESCO Global Geopark Thuringia Inselsberg - Drei Gleichen

comprises sections of two different landscape areas: the Thuringian Forest and the Thuringian Basin.

On the one hand, the name of the geopark refers to its highest elevation, the Grosser Inselsberg (916.5 metres above sea level), a prominent hill that rises above the low mountain range of the Thuringian Forest. On the other hand, the name refers to an ensemble of three medieval castles in the lower hilly landscape of the Thuringian Basin, which are also known as the 'Drei Gleichen'.





The Earth today and around 255 million years ago, at the time of the supercontinent Pangaea.

The Geopark's motto is "Pangaea - Tracing the supercontinent in the centre of Thuringia".

It represents a tiny section of this once world-spanning continent, which existed for around 100 million years. Pangaea was the last giant continent in the history of the earth, uniting all of today's continents.

The great variety of rocks and fossils in the Geopark, allows scientists to reconstruct the formation of Pangaea in the Carboniferous period and its disintegration in the Jurassic period in an impressive way. The 'geological weld' of this ancient continental fusion is still visible in the Geopark today.

You can also get very close to many of the inhabitants of Pangaea, including the famous tetrapods from the Bromacker fossil site.



Skeleton of the tetrapod Orobates pabsti

Discover and experience the diversity of nature with its fascinating past. Join us on a journey of discovery and immerse yourself in the geological history of the UNESCO Global Geopark Thuringia Inselsberg - Drei Gleichen.

Have we aroused your curiosity? Take a look at the Geopark film and come and visit us soon!





We look forward to meeting you!

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To improve readability, the masculine form is used for personal designations. This is not a judgement. Corresponding terms apply in principle to all genders.



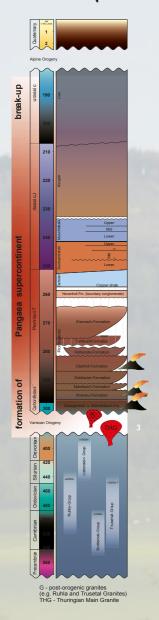








Timeline of the geological development in the Geopark



Here you can see which different rock strata occur in the Geopark and at what time they were formed. The majority of the rocks here were formed on the supercontinent 'Pangaea'.

GeoMuseums, Geolnfocentres and Geolnfopoints

The GeoMuseums, GeoInfocentres and GeoInfopoints are your first port of call for more information about the Geopark.

The Geopark's six GeoInfocentres are located throughout the Geopark area. In addition to a geoscientific exhibition, they also offer personalised advice from qualified tourist staff. Each GeoInfocentre is unique and has an individual thematic



Exhibition in the GeoInfocentre on the Inselsberg



Castle Ehrenstein, Ohrdruf sance castle

There is a Geomuseum in the Geopark at Ehrenstein Castle in Ohrdruf. Under the motto 'When dinosaurs swam through Ohrdruf', you can immerse vourself in the fantastic living world of the middle Triassic sea and admire the restored Renais-

The **GeoInfopoints** present local features of the Geopark. In the interactive stone parks in Floh-Seligenthal, for example, you can familiarise yourself with the local rocks. The Geo-Infopoints can be used free of charge.

Other special features of the Geopark include six show caves and visitor mines, which provide fascinating insights into the Thuringian Forest's more than 1000 years of geological and mining history and the use of the region's natural resources.

Fluorite and barite as well as various iron, manganese and non-ferrous metal ores were mined. Subsurface mining in the Thuringian Forest came to a complete standstill around 1990.



Crystal grotto in the Cave Marienglashöhle Friedrichroda

Exciling GeoRoutes with unique geosites await you!

Well-signposted and informative GeoRoutes allow you to explore the Badlands in the Thuringian castle region of Drei Gleichen, which have been designated a national geosite in Germany.

They characterise the landscape on the southern slopes of the three castle mounds of Wachsenburg Castle, Gleichen Castle and Mühlburg Castle. The badlands consist of red to greengrey clay and marl stones from the Upper Triassic period that are around 220 million years old.



Southern slope of Gleichen Castle with Badlands

Another special feature of the Geopark is the Saurian Discovery Trail with the globally unique Bromacker tetrapod fossil site between Georgenthal and Tambach-Dietharz. Here, both the tracks of tetrapods and the skeletons of their producers from the Lower Permian period (approx. 290 million years ago) have been preserved together.

Even more highlights await you on the numerous GeoRoutes with a total length of over 500 kilometres: romantic rock gates. cool mountain streams, a tropical island, extinct volcanoes. healing springs and culinary specialities.

You can find out more about the variety of GeoRoutes

in the Geopark brochure. Each GeoRoute also has its own leaflet, which is available at the local tourist information offices and GeoInfocentres.



Guided hike on the Seeberg Route

let our expert Geopark guides accompany you

Model region for sustainable development

In 2021, the National GeoPark Thuringia Inselsberg - Drei Gleichen was officially recognised by UNESCO and has since been integrated into the worldwide network of UNESCO Global Geoparks.

One of the main tasks of UNESCO Geoparks is the preservation and popular scientific communication of the internationally significant geological heritage.

UNESCO Geoparks holistically combine the natural with the cultural heritage. At the same time, they are model regions for sustainable development and are committed to realising the 17 global sustainability goals.



The 17 global sustainability goals

More about the Global Geoparks Network https://www.visitgeoparks.org

More about the European Geoparks Network https://www.europeangeoparks.org

The Geopark is increasingly working on communicating sustainable development to different target groups, whether for children in schools or extracurricular activities as well as in adult education and teacher training.

In 2023, a multi-day programme for schoolchildren will be held for the first time: the 'Forest and Water Week' in Ruhla. The aim is to raise children's awareness of sustainable forest management and the economical use of the valuable resource of drinking water (see photo).



Since 2022, the Geopark has been part of the international GEOfood programme, in which UNESCO Geoparks network with each other worldwide. The aim is to support local and sustainable food producers and suppliers and to recognise them with a seal of quality.



The Rosenhof Holzhausen and the Anno 1700 restaurant in Bad Tabarz currently carry this special award. Further businesses are to follow.

Code of conduct in the Geopark For your safety and to protect nature

If you are a visitor to the UNESCO Global Geopark Thuringia Inselsberg - Drei Gleichen and enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings, we would like to share a few rules that you should follow. This is first and foremost for your safety, but also to protect and preserve nature so that many generations to come can enjoy it and find recreation here.

Please take note:

- For safety reasons, keep your distance from rock faces and observe the barriers.
- Please help to ensure that this extraordinary site of geological heritage is preserved and protected. Therefore, it is not permitted to dig and remove rocks, minerals and fossils (outside of research excavations)!
- If you suspect that you have made a geological find of significance, please report it.
- Geosites are usually also biotopes and harbour rare and protected animal and plant species. Therefore, please show consideration for nature, avoid making noise, stay on the designated paths and do not damage or remove any plants.
- · Do not leave any waste or rubbish behind.
- If you notice any damage to signs, signposts or other Geopark facilities, please report this to the Geopark Management Office (email: info@thueringer-geopark.de).

Thank you very much for your support!







Globeflowers in Floh-Seligenthal. Spring at Mühlburg Castle and the now rare stag beetle

Getting here



By bus and train

Public transport is a convenient and inexpensive way to get to all popular excursion destinations in the Geopark.

All holders of a spa card from the towns of Finsterbergen. Friedrichroda, Georgenthal, Bad Tabarz, Tambach-Dietharz and holders of a guest card from Floh-Seligenthal are entitled to use the regional public transport system free of charge. With a bit of luck, you can catch the 'Inselsberg bus', which runs as a regular bus service across the Geopark region.

The largest railway station near the Geopark is Gotha main station. From here you can reach the sights by bus. From Eisenach main station, the western areas of the Geopark are particularly easy to explore by bus, bike and on foot. The best way to reach the southern areas of the Geopark is via Schmalkalden station and the eastern areas via Arnstadt station.

Plan your next visit to the Geopark here with the route planner from Bus & Bahn Thüringen e.V.:



You can reach the Geopark by car via the A4 and A71 motorways. From these motorways, the B88 and its side roads lead through several Geopark municipalties. From the B19, you can reach the Geopark from the west.



Rock Gateway