



Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark Information Factsheet

What is a Global Geopark?

Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark is one of a growing network of Global Geoparks around the world. Only regions with a geological heritage of outstanding international significance qualify to be chosen as a Global Geopark. Focusing on conservation, education and geo-tourism, Global Geoparks help local communities to celebrate the links between the unique geology of their area and its natural, historical and cultural heritages. Their purpose is not just to conserve the environment but also to encourage its enjoyment and understanding by the public through sustainable tourism.

Where are the Global Geoparks?

The Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark was one of the first 8 Geoparks to be recognised by UNESCO when they launched their Geoparks initiative in 2001. Initially focused on Europe and China, geoparks are now being established in many different parts of the world. At present there are 147 UNESCO Global Geoparks across 41 countries worldwide. Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geoparks is one of only 2 UNESCO designated sites in Northern Ireland and one of 4 cross border Global Geoparks throughout the World.

About the Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark

Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark inhabits the rugged mountainous uplands and gentle rolling lowlands of Counties Fermanagh and Cavan and showcases some of the finest natural landscapes on the Island of Ireland. The Geopark boasts over 50 stunning sites including breath-taking viewpoints, magical waterfalls, wonderful wetlands and fantastic forests; there's plenty to suit all ages and abilities; whether you fancy a quiet stroll on a leafy woodland path or a strenuous hike over high hills, or if you're a dedicated cave explorer or an intrepid rock climber, a novice canoeist or an expert bird watcher – there is something for everyone.

Some sites with the Geopark particularly worthy of noting are:

1. Marble Arch Caves

The Marble Arch Caves are one of Europe's finest showcaves and allow visitors to explore a fascinating, natural underworld of rivers, winding passages and lofty chambers. Lively and informative guides conduct tours past a bewildering variety of cave formations. Stalactites glisten above steamways and chambers, while fragile mineral veils and cascades of creamy calcite coat walls and create shimmering terraces. Spectacular walkways allow easy access while powerful lighting reveals the stunning beauty and grandeur of the caves. Electrically powered boats glide through the huge caverns carrying visitors along a subterranean river.

After your guided tour, take the time to explore the informative exhibition area in the Visitor Centre, watch the free audio-visual presentation, browse the diverse range of products available in the gift shop and take a leisurely stroll through the Marble Arch National Nature Reserve.

2. Cuilcagh Boardwalk, Cuilcagh Mountain Park

Cuilcagh Mountain Park is an area on the northern slopes of Cuilcagh Mountain which was formed in 1998. At 666m, the highest point in County Fermanagh and Cavan, Cuilcagh Mountain with its distinctive table top profile forms a natural focal point of an area rich in geology, archaeology, folklore, history and wildlife. The Cuilcagh Boardwalk has become extremely popular with walkers, as this 6.0km walking route traverses along some of the finest and rarest landscapes in Northern Ireland. We encourage all walkers to adhere to the principles of 'Leave No Trace' whilst visiting this sensitive Geopark site.

3. Lough Navar Forest

Lough Navar Forest is a spectacular forest extending across 2,600 hectare of bog, heath woodland and open water. Most of the forest is dominated by coniferous woodland. The area has a rich, geological and archaeological heritage. The forest boasts a network of walking paths and trails of varying lengths. A 7 mile long scenic drive enables visitors to explore this spectacular forest by car. The jewel of the forest is undoubtedly the Magho Cliffs Viewpoint where the views are breathtaking. On a clear day, Lower Lough Erne, the Sperrin Mountains, Slieve League, the Atlantic Ocean and the Bluestack Mountains can be seen. Correl Glen National Nature Reserve at the entrance to the Forest is also worth a visit. Toilet facilities are located at the bottom of the Magho Cliffs along the A34 Enniskillen to Belleek Shoe Road.

4. Cavan Burren Park

Cavan Burren Park is a unique landscape of geological and archaeological features in an open natural setting. Whether it's Cavan Burren's wide open landscapes, fascinating visitor centre, the perfectly preserved glacial erratics, spectacular megaliths, bog-bridge walking trails, limestone pavement or encyclopaedic local guides, a visit to Cavan Burren Park is an opportunity to experience a vast yet accessible world of natural and manmade history

Events & Education Programmes

An on-going programme of events takes place in the Geopark where people can explore our landscapes and enjoy our natural environment. The Geopark also offers a comprehensive educational programme throughout the year.

For more information please contact us on:

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