

What Is a Geopark?

Have you ever thought about what lies under the ground beneath your feet? Human beings are part of the natural world, and the Earth's topography has shaped where we live, what we eat, and how we spend our time. The natural environments that we inhabit were created by geological forces over millions of years, a process that can still be seen today.

A geopark is an area that is determined to have geological significance, such as unique natural features, and that is sustainably managed by an involved community. In order to be recognized as a geopark, a region must be managed following holistic guidelines of conservation, education, and sustainable development. Unlike World Heritage sites, geoparks are intended to be both used and protected, supporting local communities while protecting the environment.

Diagram text:

Bottom left: Earth Heritage—Education

Top: Earth Heritage—Conservation

Bottom Right: Earth Heritage—Sustainable Development

Explore humanity's relationship with the natural world here at Hagi Geopark.

See how the dynamic, volcanic Japanese archipelago has shaped the daily lives of its inhabitants.

How to Enjoy Hagi Geopark

Each location in the geopark has unique geological characteristics and offers a vision of how plants, animals, and humans can coexist. Examining the region's natural landscape can give us new perspective on our lives.

Diagram text:

Left: Regional Characteristics—Regional Beauty

Center: Geology—Topography

Right: Human Wisdom