

Henan

Songshan World Geopark

◎ Profile

Songshan (Songshan Mountain) World Geopark, on of the first batch of the national geoparks approved by the Ministry of Land and Resources of P.R.C., was listed in "the world geoparks" by UNESCO on February 13th, 2004. The park is located in Dengfeng City, and covers a total area of 464 sq km.

The main geological remains in the park are geologic section (including structural section). On the view of the earth structure, Songshan Mountain lies on south fringe of the paleo-continent of north China. Within the area of less than 20 sq km, the stratum of 3,500 million years in five geological periods of Archeozoic Erathem, Proterozoic Eon, the Paleozoic Era, the Mesozoic Era, and the Kainozoic era is exposed successively and completely. The stratum is in clear sequence, and with typical tectonic feature, so it's called "five generations under the same roof" in geology circles. The park is an integrated "stone book" on the evolution of the earth.

◎ What to See (the Main Attractions)

【Shaolin Temple】 The extant buildings were mostly rebuilt in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). It has played an im-



Songshan Mountain

portant role in developing and spreading Chinese Kungfu, and is praised as "the number one temple in the world".

【Pagoda Forest】 The pagodas in Shaolin Temple are the tombs of the eminent monks through the ages. The body or mantle was buried in the pagoda. The extant pagoda group is the largest in scale, and with the largest amount of pagodas in China.

【Luya Cliff】 Located at the southeastern foot of Taishi Mountain, the Luya Cliff is close to Xuanlian Peak ("Xuanlian" means "the hanging chain"). It is a very high cliff. According to legend, in Xuanzong's Reign (712-756) of the Tang Dynasty, Lu Hongyi had no intention of being an official, so he called on the talents around the country, and gave lectures to them. Therefore, the cliff was called "Luya Cliff".

【Songyue ("yue" means "mountain") Pagoda】 It is in a valley 4,000 m northwest to Songyang Academy. It is the oldest pagoda remained in China. There is a two-metre high stone-carving pillar with Indian style.

【Songyue Zhongyue Temple】 It is one of the earliest Taoist temples in China. The emperors of past ages used to worship the god of Zhongyue here. There are more than 300 old cypresses planted during the Han Dynasty to the Song Dynasty. The important historical relics include: the stone tablets in the Wei and Tang Dynasties, and four cast-iron statues in the Song Dynasty.

◎ Tourist Service

▲ Traffic Tips

Take train or airplane to Zhengzhou. There is bus of special line from Zhengzhou Railway Station to the park.

▲ Consultant Centre

Songshan Scenic Area Administrative Committee
Tel: 86371-62872138

Yuntaishan World Geopark

◎ Profile

Yuntaishan (Yuntai Mountain) World Geopark, one of the second batch of the national geoparks approved by the Ministry of Land and Resources of P.R.C., was listed in "the world geoparks" by UNESCO on February 13th, 2004. The park is located in Xiuwu County, Jiaozuo City, and covers an area of 556 sq km.

It's a comprehensive geopark composed mainly of rift valley structure,

water dynamic system, and geo-landscape, and mixed with natural habitat and man-made landscape. The main geological remains include: Danxia cliff, cliff waterfall, and karst landforms, which represent as monoclinical hill, waterfall dropping from cliff, and clear spring in the deep valley. Yuntai Mountain is a famous mountain in north Henan. The high and steep peaks are surrounded by clouds all year round. The scenery is so beautiful that it is considered as the integrity of the grand feature of Taishan Mountain, the dangerous situation of Huashan Mountain, the elegant profile of Emei Mountain, the unique scene of Huangshan Mountain, and the quiet environment of Qingcheng Mountain.

◎ What to See (the Main Attractions)

【Spring Gorge】 There is Nine-dragon Stream composed of nine pools, namely, Head Dragon, Black Dragon, Cyan Dragon, Yellow Dragon, Lying Dragon, Sleeping Dragon, Woken Dragon, Younger Dragon, and Swimming Dragon.

【Tianmen Valley】 Tianmen Valley is at the foot of Tianmen Mountain. The stratum is composed of quartzite-like red sandstone in the category of Yunchushan Series, Jixian System. The rocks are jagged and mixed together, extending about 3,000 m from south to north on each side of the valley.

【Baijia Cliff】 Baijia Cliff has been a famous scenic spot since the ancient time, with lots of man-made buildings, like the Summer Resort Platform where Liuxie, the emperor of the late Han Dynasty, used to visit, the Sandongtai relics, and "seven talents in bamboo grove", "the pond where Jikang got drunk", and "the pond where Liuling sobered up" in the Wei and Jin periods (220-420).

【The Sacred Summit】 The highest peak of Yuntai Mountain, also named Zhuyu Peak rising 1,304 m above sea level. Climbing up along the steps from the foot of Yanwangbi Hill, you may appreciate the magnificent mountains of north China, the thousand-year-old *Ormosia hosiei* and the maple trees, and enjoy the "bath of the forest".

【Black Dragon Gorge】 Composed of seven scenic spots, namely, Black Dragon Valley, Jingying Gorge, Yingsi Basin, Double Temples, Rhesus Monkey Valley, Matoushan, and Dashannao. The amazing landforms can be seen everywhere, like peak, cliff, ridge, summit, platform, ditch, valley, ravine, waterfall, pool, stream, and cave.

【U-Shaped Valley】 U-Shaped Valley is in the centre parts of Laotan Valley, and Xiaozhai Valley. The landscape is developed from two series of vertical joints of limestone and dolomite in thick stratum, upper and middle Cambrian system, which were cut deeply, experienced bottom-erosion and side-erosion, and finally lost the balance and collapsed under the action of the climate and the water on the earth's surface.

◎ Tourist Service

▲ Traffic Tips

Take train to Jiaozuo City, and then transfer to bus to Yuntai Mountain.

▲ Consultant Centre

Yuntaishan Scenic Area Administrative Bureau

Tel: 86391-7709001

Web: www.yuntaishan.net

Neixiang Baotianman National Geopark

◎ Profile

Neixiang Baotianman National Geopark, one of the second batch of the national geoparks approved by the Ministry of Land and Resources of P.R.C., is located in Neixiang County in west Nanyang City, from Fushanzhai to the mountain area of the north of Mashankou. The park covers an area of 1,087 sq km.

The main geological remains are metamorphic stratum, the inner-dynamic

geological action, structural erosion geomorphy, karst cave, waterfall, and gorges. The metamorphic stratum has recorded the stratal structure in the past 3,000 million years. Baotianman mixes the beautiful, elegant, strange, and dangerous spots together. It's an ideal place for scientific research, exploration, tourism, and leisure and holiday-making.

◎ What to See (the Main Attractions)

【Baotianman Nature Reserve】 There are 2,911 kinds of higher plants, including 29 kinds of key-protected plants. Particularly, there are rich medicinal herbs, including the precious *Dendrobium Stem*, *Gastrodiaelate*, and glossy *ganoderma*.

【Saoshouchang】 It is one of the highest peaks of Funiu Ridge, rises 1,780 m above sea level. There are more than 1,000 kinds of wild plants and animal, 900 kinds of medicine herbs. It's a scientific base for studying the flora and fauna, and the natural sub-forest.

【Niuxinduo】 The rock in the hill is made up of Donggang rock and marble of Caledonian which were formed 400-600 million years ago. Many rare trees make up a natural forest where has been the habitat of wild animals. There are also lots of rare and precious medicinal herbs.

【The Government Office of Neixiang County】 It's a group of buildings in large scale, with unique style and well-knit layout. It's a kind of mixed style of the north and the south Yangtze River. The atmosphere in the buildings is solemn, deep, and ever-changing. It's the first museum of government office in China.

【Five-dragon Pools】 Five-dragon Pools, namely, the Yellow, Red, White, Purple, and Black Dragon Pools. They are like five pearls glittering among the mountains and valleys. The scenery is wonderful with these "treasures" hidden in the deep mountains.

Yuntai Mountain



◎ Tourist Service

▲ Traffic Tips

There are trains from many big cities to Nanyang, and then take long-distance bus along No. 312 National Highway from Nanyang to Neixiang County. Take train to Zhengzhou, and transfer to long-distance bus to the scenic spot.

▲ Consultant Centre

Neixiang Baotianman Administrative Office
Tel: 86377-65313938

Wangwushan National Geopark

◎ Profile

Wangwushan National Geopark, one of the third batch of the national geoparks approved by the Ministry of Land and Resources of P.R.C., is located at the southern foot of Taihang Mountains, in the north of Jiyuan City. The park covers a total area of 867 sq km, and the conservation area of geologic remains is 263 sq km.

The park features rift valley structure, and the landscape of geological project, together with typical geological section, paleontologic fossil, and geological landforms, forming an integrated geopark with both ecological landscape and cultural characteristic. It is a typical and rare integrated network of precious geologic remains. It is an ideal place for studying the evolution law of the crust, and for tracing the evolution history of the earth.

◎ What to See (the Main Attractions)

The park is composed of four scenic areas as Tiantan Hill, the Black Dragon Gorge, the Three Gorges, and Xitan. It well presents the geologic remains in five geologic periods, namely, Archaean, Proterozoic Eon, the Paleozoic Era, the Mesozoic Era, and the Cenozoic era. The special deposit structure developed in the rock can be seen everywhere, such as the huge wave mark, nut-like limestone, bean-like limestone, oolitic limestone, etc. It is just like a natural book of stone recording the geologic history.

The hundred kinds of rocks in three categories, and dozens of minerals in four categories have made up a "natural geologic exhibition". Wangwu Mountain is really a data base of geologic information for its rich mineral resources, ecological resources, and cultural resources. It's a huge mine of geo-science, popular science education, and tourism resources.

◎ Tourist Service

▲ Traffic Tips

There are special tourist buses at Jiyuan Bus Stop which directly arrive there.

▲ Consultant Centre

Wangwushan Scenic Area Administrative Bureau
Tel: 86391-6733358

Xixia Funiushan National Geopark

◎ Profile

Xixia Funiushan National Geopark, one of the third batch of the national geoparks approved by the Ministry of Land and Resources of P.R.C., is located in Xixia County, and covers a total area of 954.35 sq km. The geologic remains protection area is 338 sq km. The park features the paleoflora and paleofauna, geologic structure, and geologic remains.

◎ What to See (the Main Attractions)

【The Fossil Colony of the Dinosaurs' Eggs】 With vast distribution, large quantity, and diverse types, the perfectly reserved eggs' fossils can be called

"the superbrness" on the earth. It is the wonder of paleofauna, and the treasure in the nature.

Besides, there are magnificent peaks – Funiu Peaks, which are high and steep, layer upon layer, together with the intertwining river, quiet valley and dangerous ravine, running stream and green pool, ladderlike waterfall, imposing precipice, and virgin forest, forming the charming scene of the unique mountains and beautiful water.

The natural ecological environment is enchanting. The long history and the old culture have also left Xixia valuable relics and touching legend.

◎ Tourist Service

▲ Consultant Centre

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