

2023 Dunhuang Global Geopark Work Report

1. Park location

Park name: Dunhuang UNESCO Global Geopark

Year of acceptance as UNESCO Global Geopark: 2015

Previous evaluations took place in: 2019, 2023

2. Representative work

Re-evaluation of the Global Geopark



Group photo of UNESCO experts at the main monument of Dunhuang Global Geopark

Dunhuang Global Geopark submitted a one-page summary and a complete set of A and B tables to UNESCO in December 2022. At the beginning of 2023, based on the evaluation criteria and operational guidelines, a re-evaluation work plan for Dunhuang Global Geopark was formulated, an organizational structure and the leadership group were established, the responsibilities and tasks of each department and unit were clarified, the timeline and the work system were formulated, and special funds were applied for. Prior to the formal evaluation, the renovation and improvement of park infrastructures, the museum, etc., the construction of the park display, the construction of websites in Chinese and English, database construction, the selection and cooperation of partners, the implementation of science popularization and education activities, scientific research, and resource conservation measures were completed. The park officially received acceptance inspection by UNESCO experts from July 23 to July 27.



UNESCO experts conducting a field inspection at the Yardang Park of Dunhuang Global Geopark



UNESCO experts conducting an on-site inspection on a study tour

Geological heritage protection and construction

On the basis of normalized monitoring, inspection, and protection of the mountains, waters, sands, Gobi, Yardangs, and geological relics of natural resource areas, ecological protection areas, the parks promoted the orderly progress of geological research and protection in 2023.

(1) With an investment of more than 3 million yuan, the Mingsha Mountain Crescent Spring Scenic Area completed the maintenance of the water supply pipeline network of the emergency water level management project for the Mingsha Mountain Crescent Spring, the replacement of the fences on the north bank of Mingsha Mountain Crescent Spring, and the environmental remediation project in the East Gobi region. The Scenic Area invest about 3.5 million yuan to launch the construction project of a smart scenic area. It also completed the construction of tourist centers and connecting roads in the eastern and western areas of Mingsha Mountain Crescent Spring Park, and continuously improved and enhanced the infrastructures of the Scenic Area.

(2) Yardang Scenic Area completed the internal functional upgrade and renovation of the Great Man service area, as well as the overall internal decoration of the Peacock service area with an investment of 5.55 million yuan. It spent 20 million yuan on building 10 new Yardang dormitories. With 1

million yuan, the Scenic Area implemented the real-life 3D modeling of yardangs. It also invested 3.8 million yuan to implement the park informatization and security projects, as well as the fence project. The Scenic Area strengthened deep cooperation with the Northwest Institute of Eco-Environment Resources, focusing on comprehensive dynamic monitoring of the ecological environment such as water level, meteorology, and wind direction in the park, to assist in the efficient implementation of the scientific research, innovation and development of the park.

(3) The Park actively applied for and received a grant of 1.362 million yuan. With this grant, the Park purchased one high-definition full-color LED electronic screen, 50 special trash cans for the scenic areas, installed 320 meters of fence, set up 6 surveillance cameras, installed a 30-ton water storage tank, replaced 900 roadside boundary posts along the scenic area, replaced and added 233 signs and signboards, installed 16 kilowatts of photovoltaic panels, paved 1000m² of gravel on the road from Small Square City (Yumenguan Pass) to the Han Great Wall, upgraded the scenic areas' gate access systems, and at the same time set up service stations for trade unions and outdoor laborers, and purchased a batch of fitness and medical facilities and service facilities for employees.

Contribution to GGN network work

The Park actively participated in the 7th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium (online). To celebrate Earth Day on April 22, the Park offered 300 tickets as prizes for the lucky draw event, and joined hands with more than 20 global geoparks across the country in organizing online and offline promotional and exhibition activities. The Park actively participated in the 6th China Education Innovation Expo, the 5th National Science Popularization Education Forum and Guangdong Science Popularization Platform Seminar, and the Global Geopark Summer Study Tour. During the Science Popularization Week, a series of activities titled "Celebrating the 20th National Congress of the CPC and Advancing Science Popularization towards the Future" was jointly organized with 23 global geoparks across China. In addition, the Park signed "sister park" agreements with Mount Cangshan Global Geopark Dali, Funiu Mountain Global Geopark, and Yimengshan Global Geopark to carry out exchange and learning activities, and participated in the 10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks held in Morocco in 2023.



Representatives of the Park participated in the 2023 International Conference on UNESCO Geoparks in Morocco



Representatives of the Park participated in the 2023 Annual Conference of the UNESCO Global Geoparks in China

Strategic partners

Cooperating with research institutes such as the Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, China University of Geosciences, and Gansu Institute of Geological Environment Monitoring, the Park regularly monitored, inspected, and protected the mountains, waters, sands, Gobi, Yardangs, and geological relics of natural resource areas and ecological protection areas. The Park signed an agreement with Gansu Reader Group to develop study tour manuals for children, junior middle school students, and senior middle school students based on the history of Yumenguan Pass. In terms of cooperation with local enterprises, the Park invited members of China Association of Travel Services to visit the Park, experience the study tour courses and activities on-site, and provide feasible suggestions for the courses.

Sustainable tourism (geoscience tourism)

We excavated natural and cultural resources, actively sought projects and funding, strengthened the construction of the study tour system, made greater efforts in the development of relevant courses, and developed a series of courses such as "Mingsha · Science Fiction Moon Spring", "Gobi Water Extraction, Finding Time, Shaping Yardang, Drawing Yardang Hats, Museum Pass Breaking", "Construction of Ancient Passes", "Excavation and Protection of Historical Relics", and "Ancient Customs Supervision and Clearance Experience". We comprehensively fostered the development the study tour industry and compiled study tour manuals for children, junior middle school students, and senior middle school students, developed over 40 experiential activities, and launched study tours featuring the performance of Dunhuang Quzi Opera, an intangible cultural heritage.

In conjunction with the themes of study tours, the parks conducted 8 training sessions on topics such as geoscience knowledge, tourism culture, intelligent systems for scenic spots, and Mandarin, with over 200 people trained. Currently, there are 3 national-level study tour mentors at Yardang Geopark, 11 mentors at Mingsha Mountain and Crescent Lake, and 11 mentors at Yangguan Pass and Yumenguan Pass. Mingsha Mountain and Crescent Lake received 2,820,000 study tour visitors

throughout the year, Yardang Geopark received 37,973 visitors on study tours, Yangguan Pass received 75,384 visitors on study tours, and Yumenguan Pass received 40,078 study tour visitors. The total income from ticket sales was 23,827,967.5 yuan.

In 2023, the city received a total of 16.8293 million tourists, an increase of 427.05% compared to 2022 and 21.77% compared to 2019. The tourism revenue of 2023 was 15.622 billion yuan, an increase of 639.68% compared to 2022 and 21.86% compared to 2019.

Promotional and marketing activities

While ensuring daily online and offline publicity, we have actively engaged with the municipal party committee, and the municipal government as well as competent administrative departments since 2023.

Firstly, we visited cities such as Chongqing and Chengdu to promote our resources for park-based study tours, exhibition resources, and resources for filming movies and TV shows.

Secondly, we participated in an exchange event of the tourism alliance of five cities in three provinces (namely, Ruoqiang of Xinjiang, Mangya, Da Qaidam and Geermu of Qinghai, and Dunhuang of Gansu) held in Ruoqiang County, Xinjiang, and the first conference of the regional cultural and tourism alliance of 12 cities in Gansu, Xinjiang, Mongolia, and Qinghai held in Dunhuang City, laying a solid foundation for the coordinated development of regional tourism.

Thirdly, as the main park of the Global Geopark, we collaborated with the Large Dunhuang Scenic Spot Administration Committee in carrying out on-campus campaigns of the Global Geopark in schools such as Dunhuang Xiguan Primary School, Dunhuang No. 5 Primary School, and Dunhuang Art Tourism Secondary School, reaching over 1,000 participants and donating 450 copies of various science popularization books.