

## What has been changed in Jeju Island since designation of global geopark

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Jeju is a volcanic island formed from Quaternary volcanic eruptions and is well known for its outstanding beauty and natural value. In addition to being designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and World Natural Heritage, the entire island, covering 1,849.3km<sup>2</sup>, has 12 geosites and was made a member of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) in 2010. After joining GGN, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province (hereafter Jeju Government) has pursued various initiatives in the past 4 years to promote Jeju Island Global Geopark. These initiatives include: building a more structured management process through a dedicated team responsible for Jeju Geopark; increasing the number of geosites and upgrading their infrastructure; holding educational programs on geoheritage; setting up consultative bodies for local economic development; organizing geotrail events; developing various geoproductions; and engaging in public outreach activities. Jeju's membership in GGN has brought about significant changes to local tourism trends. What were basically sightseeing tours are now evolving into experiential, exploratory, and educational tours. As the leading tourist destination of Korea, Jeju Government continues to focus its efforts on expanding Geopark tourism programs. Jeju Island Global Geopark strives to be an exemplary Geopark, serving to promote the value of geoheritage, contributing to the conservation of geological diversity, and supporting the development of local communities.