

## **UNESCO Global Geopark Swabian Alb**

### **Discover – Experience – Understand**

At first glance, the Swabian Alb is a fascinating karst landscape. At second glance, it is a unique window into the past—and at third glance, a precious treasure that must be preserved. Since 2015, this extraordinary landscape has held UNESCO status and is thus one of 229 UNESCO Global Geoparks worldwide (as of 2026). As part of an international network, it engages in dialogue with regions around the globe that are committed to the protection and sustainable development of their geological heritage.

Water has been the primary shaper of the Alb—from the Jurassic period, when a tropical sea once existed here, right up to the present day. Numerous fossil sites bear witness to the former biodiversity of this long-vanished habitat. To this day, water continues to shape the landscape, giving rise to impressive natural phenomena: sparkling blue spring pools, majestic waterfalls, and mysterious caves. The Swabian Alb is one of Europe's most significant karst landscapes.

The unique karst landscape brings some 200 million years of Earth's history to life in a compact area. Spanning an area of approximately 6,200 square kilometers, geopoints throughout the region invite visitors to discover this history step by step. It becomes clear that the development of the landscape and human history are closely intertwined—from humanity's oldest works of art from the Ice Age to today's cultural landscape.

The 24 Geopark information centers offer a variety of ways to explore the region's natural and cultural history. Each one highlights a specific aspect—together, they paint a multifaceted picture of the UNESCO Global Geopark Schwäbische Alb. This offering is complemented by a broad network of certified Geopark guides who bring geological and cultural connections to life.

This knowledge is currently being passed on to future generations at 13 Geopark schools. These schools foster an understanding of the region's unique characteristics and make an important contribution to sustainable development. Education for sustainable development is a central focus of the Geopark.

The UNESCO Global Geopark Schwäbische Alb stands not only for discovery but also for preservation: treating nature and its geological heritage with respect is the foundation of all our actions.

Discovering the rich heritage, experiencing it with all the senses, and understanding the connections—that is the triad of the UNESCO Global Geopark Schwäbische Alb.