

Byeonsanbando National Park

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Since Jeju Island became a member of the Global Geopark Network in 2011, the geopark concept has been rapidly developed and has generated both the official recognition of geoparks as distinctive areas, and the increase of interest of new territories to develop geoparks. Among superlative geological heritages of Korea, Byeonsanbando National Park would deserve another geopark in Korea. The park is located along 35 km of coast of southwestern Korea, covering a total area of 155 km². The park is appreciated as a multifunctional park with an excellent harmony between mountain and sea. Geologically the Cretaceous Kyokpori Formation and thick deposits of volcanic tuff outcrop over the area. The park is divided in two large sections i.e. the outer Byeonsan in the shore area, and the inner Byeonsan in the inland area. Among geological and geomorphological attractions at outer Byeonsan are the Chaeseokgang and the nearby Byeonsan Beach. Chaeseokgang is an eroded coastal cliff, thus it was named after sedimentary rocks that were eroded by the ocean waves, resembling hundreds of thousands of stacked books. Nearby, the Byeonsan Beach is one of the three most beautiful beaches on the west coast of Korea. Inner Byeonsan on the other hand is famous for its valleys, lush woodlands and waterfalls. Here there are about ten peaks, each over 400 m in height, including Uisangbong (508 m, the highest peak), Sinseonbong (486 m) and Ssangseonbong (459 m). Several historic ancient temples like Gaeamsa, Naesosa, and Wolmyeongam together with historic remains such as the ancient Yucheolli ceramic ware site, Guamni dolmen site are found in the area. Byeonsanbando National Park is characterised by its well-preserved natural ecosystem. A variety of rare animals and plants are distributed within the park and many of them are designated as natural monuments.

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