

Dunhuang Geopark of China is striving to be a member of GGN

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With an area of about 2067 km², Dunhuang geopark is located in Dunhuang, Gansu Province, where the climate is extremely droughty. Special geological history and natural environment have created the amazing geological wonders. Yardang landform looks like fleets on voyage or mysterious castles. The crisscross gullies appear like streets, the stone pagodas and pillars like building clusters. Also some Yardang landforms are lifelike. However, when the monsoon blows, the voice sounds like roaring of numerous horrific beasts, so this area is named as the "Ghost City". Mount Mingshashan, composed of a series of lofty sand peaks, when climbed up, the sands slide down with huge sound.

Crescent Moon-shaped Lake Spring is clear and quiet, surrounded by sand peaks of Mount Mingshashan, it will never be buried by sands. The coexistence of Yardang landform, singing sand and clear spring in the heartland of vast desert constitutes the wonderful landform composition in the extremely droughty area in west China.

Dunhuang has a high reputation due to its profound history, and the numerous cultural sites that have witnessed the past glory of an important city on the ancient Silk Road. Mogao Grottoes, the birthplace of Dunhuangology, is an art palace and the Buddhism treasure of the ancient architectures. Sculptures and murals are largest in scale and richest in collection in the world. The historical ruins of Yangguan Pass, Yumenguan Pass and Han-dynasty Great Wall show the vicissitudes of history.

To establish Dunhuang Global Geopark of China is the best way to make full use of natural and cultural resources. It has great significance in geoheritage protection, geoscience popularization, Dunhuang resources promotion and local sustainable economic development. With the infrastructure continuously improving, Dunhuang geopark will leave no stone unturned to be a member of UNESCO.

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