

Highlights on Geotourism and Geoheritage in Libya

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Abstract

This paper presents an overview of notable geosites in Libya, highlighting their geological and cultural significance:

- 1 Al Jabal Al Akhdar (Northeast Libya): This region features numerous geosites enhanced by archaeological sites like Cyrene, Apollonia, and Athrun, recognized by UNESCO as world heritage sites. The Hawa Fteah Cave is notable for containing the earliest Stone Age remains.
- 2 Jabal Nafusa (Northwest Libya): Known for its diverse paleontological sites, this region hosts rudist reefs (Ayn Tobi Member, Sidi as Sid Formation) and dinosaur fossils (Chiclah and Cabao Formations). Prehistoric rock carvings, including depictions of elephants and rhinoceros, are also found near Nalut.
- 3 Sirt Basin: This area exhibits various tectonic features such as faults, folds, and joints. The As-Sahabi fossil site, rich in vertebrate remains and petrified wood, serves as an open-air museum. Additionally, Jabal Zaltan (Marada Formation) contains diverse fossilized invertebrates and vertebrates, while the Waw Al-Namus volcano and its lakes provide a unique landscape.
- 4 Murzuq Basin (Tadrart/Acacus Region): Known for its striking desert landscape, the area offers sand skiing, rock formations, and Paleozoic trace fossils (Cruziana, Rhizophycus, Zoophycos). The region's ancient rock art, dating back 21,000 years, is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- 5 Jabal Al Awinat and Arknu (Kufrah Basin): This region features impressive desert landscapes shaped by wind erosion, including stone forests and desert arches. Noteworthy elements include Banded Iron Formations (BIF) and ancient carvings. These geosites underscore the potential of geotourism and the importance of preserving Libya's geoheritage.