

LONGHUSHAN

CHINA

GEOLOGY

Longhushan Geopark in Jiangxi Province spans nearly 1,000 km² and showcases stunning mountainous terrain, picturesque valleys, and majestic waterfalls. The park's centrepiece is Longhushan Mountain, rising to 1,474 m. It exhibits a late mature stage Danxia landform, with granite peaks, deep gorges, and meandering rivers offering insights into the region's geological evolution, particularly erosional processes. One notable geological wonder is the *Fairy Maiden Rock*, an erect cave formed by extensive water erosion along vertical joints. It features a unique funnel-like shape, narrow at the top and widening as it descends. The lower section of the cave features a contour resembling the classic female form.

HIGHLIGHTS

1) The *Tortoise Back Stone* presents an enchanting pattern resembling a tortoise's shell on the weathered surface of fine-grained red sandstone. 2) The *Danxia Perforate Natural Bridge*, known as *Elephant Trunk Hill* is formed by water erosion along joint groups in a stone girder. 3) The region is the birthplace of Taoism, China's national religion, where the *Tianshi Mansion*, the *Shangqing Palace*, and *Zhengyi Temple* play fundamental roles.

ABOUT THE PARK

Area: 997 km²

When to visit: May–Oct.

Geopark since: 2008

(RIGHT) KAYAKERS ON THE LUXI RIVER. GREEN WATER HARMONIOUSLY SURROUNDS AND REFLECTS THE RED CLIFFS.

