

Section 04. Challenges in Environmental Protection

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Trends of Development and Popularization of Geological Tourism in Dnipropetrovsk Region

For a number of reasons, Dnipropetrovsk region is very important in terms of geological-mineralogical, and natural and geological tourism. Historical traditions, unique geological objects and rich raw-materials base are exceptionally attractive from the viewpoint of the tourism development.

Geological tourism is integrated touristic product including a demonstration of a number of diversified objects. Geomorphological, paleontological, stratigraphical, hydrological, historical, cultural and other objects may also be involved.

World practice of geological tourism. Geological-mineralogical tourism is very popular all over the world. You can find a number of Internet references to mineralogical tours and excursions. For example, one amethystine mine in Finland is visited by up to 20,000 tourists a year and Jurassic coast in Great Britain is extremely attractive. The deposits have every condition and possibility to make acquaintance with the object and to collect samples. According to criteria by the UNESCO, geological parks should:

- Be a masterpiece of human creative activity representing constructional, architectural, technological or landscape integrity;
- Provide sharing values, and safeguarding cultural traditions of different epochs;
- Demonstrate natural and traditional for this or that period settlement or wildlife management results; and eras in the Earth's progress etc.

Ways of implementing the ideas of geological tourism in Dnipropetrovsk region. It is required to create a development program and as an integral part of such touristic programs as “History and culture”, “Industry”, and “Nature”; interesting objects, advertising campaign, financial backing on the part of government and private business are also very important. If comprehensive approach, touristic offering may involve both demonstrating objects and the whole range of extra services: sales of specific souvenirs, collector minerals, maps and travel guides etc. Visiting facing studios (Gemological Centre of the National Mining University), Mineralogical Museum of the NMU, and “Svit kamenu” (“Jewel planet”) expositions is a splendid advantage. Thanks to it, tourists have unrivalled opportunity to see the process of transforming unrepresentable piece of rock into a work of art.

The concept proposes more than 40 unique natural and geological objects in Dnipropetrovsk region. Excursions may involve several objects. Deep-laid routs will make it possible to visit places being interesting from the viewpoint of getting information, transport, and time planning. Thus, we can see that Dnipropetrovsk region is rich in places of geological tourism; all one need to do is to advertize them.