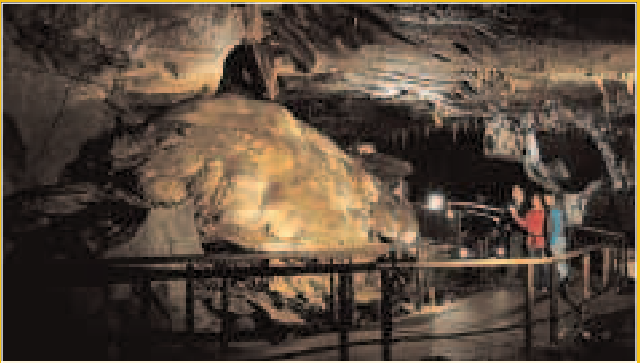


Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark

The Counties of Cavan and Fermanagh not only share a stunning range of natural and cultural heritage, but they are also home to Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark, the first international cross-border Geopark in the world.

Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark stretches from the rugged landscapes on the northern shores of Lower Lough Erne, right down to the rolling lowlands of Lough Oughter. In between there is a profusion of geological heritage including many kilometres of winding, underground caverns nestled beneath the majestic cliffs of Cuilcagh Mountain, both of which span the Cavan and Fermanagh border.





But what is a Geopark? Well, a Geopark is an area recognised by UNESCO to have exceptional geological heritage; whether this is because it has a natural landscape that is good for education, which is of great scientific value, that is particularly rare, or that is simply beautiful to look at. What sets Geoparks aside from designations such as World Heritage Sites is that they have a commitment to benefit the local economy. They do this by attracting tourists to the region, increasing the need for jobs and also increasing the need for new businesses such as restaurants and accommodation.

Geoparks aren't just about geology though, they also include sites of archeological interest, historical importance, cultural significance, noteworthy folklore or superior wildlife and habitat. Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark contains many examples of such sites such as the brooding middle slopes of Cuilcagh Mountain that are home to one the largest expanses of rare blanket bog in Europe. The Geopark also contains a wealth of archeological sites, such as the Giant's Grave wedge tomb in the evocatively atmospheric Burren Forest, as well as sites of noteworthy folklore such as the mystical Shannon Pot, source of the longest river in Ireland and the UK.

Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark offers a wide range of activities such as walking, cycling and not forgetting scenic tours, all of which highlight the breathtaking scenery and the patchwork of landscapes that make up this undiscovered corner of Ireland. Special events are held regularly throughout the year including guided nature walks, laidback lectures, Geopark safaris and many others. For more information on events or any other Geopark information please visit **www.marblearchcavesglobalgeopark.com**.

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