

# WHAT ARE GEOPARKS?

These are geographic areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance, and other places with cultural, ecological, historical, prehistoric, touristic or educational relevance. This area should have a management plan based on **geoconservation** (geological heritage protection), **education** and **local development**, with the active participation of the **resident community**. UNESCO Global Geoparks have the same status as World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves. We, from the Costões e Lagunas Geopark Project aim to receive the designation of UNESCO Global Geopark, and for this, we are working hard.

## Geoparks Are Not Environmental Conservation Units!

The management of a Geopark is based on the territory's characteristics, focusing on **Geotourism** and **Education**, with a view to **Geoconservation**. However, more than anything else, it must promote a **local development** project aimed at the resident population. It must be firmly engaged in constructing the Geopark so as to generate job and income opportunities in creative projects, as well as formulating a heritage education policy. Public and private organizations and individuals in all areas, including education, culture, economy and social projects, are welcome to compose our Geopark project.

# COMPOSITION

The territory of the Municipalities of:

- Araruama
- Armação dos Búzios
- Arraial do Cabo
- Cabo Frio
- Campos dos Goytacazes
- Carapebus
- Casimiro de Abreu
- Iguaba Grande
- Macaé
- Maricá
- Quissamã
- Rio das Ostras
- São Francisco de Itabapoana
- São João da Barra
- São Pedro da Aldeia
- Saquarema



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[geoparquecostoeselagunas.com/  
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The **educational project** of the Costões e Lagunas Geopark is based on characters, **"The SuperFeras"**, geological superheroes who tell the story of our planet in a fun and exciting way!



**DISSEMINATION AND CONSERVATION  
OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE  
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EAST  
AND NORTH COAST OF THE  
RIO DE JANEIRO STATE, BRAZIL**



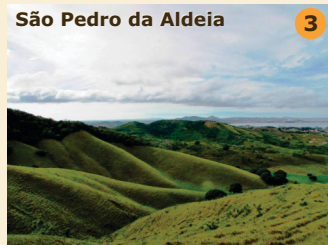
The Costões e Lagunas Geopark region exhibits a spectacular geological evolution. Metamorphic and igneous rocks from about 2 billion to 50 million years old occur on rocky shores. Connecting these promontories, the sediments and sedimentary rocks have different compositions and origins: fluvial, deltaic, marine, lagoon and eolian. The boundary between the Campos and Santos sedimentary basins, Brazil's largest oil and gas producers, takes place in the adjacent maritime area. The last portion to close during the formation of the paleocontinent Gondwana and, later, the opening of the Atlantic Ocean is recorded on the coastal area. There are recent stromatolites in hypersaline lagoons, which are rocks built by microorganisms.

### These rocky shores and lagoons draw the attention of the world!

It has endemic fauna and flora, which led to the creation of federal, state and municipal Conservation Units, in addition to Private Natural Heritage Reserves. It was visited by naturalists such as Charles Darwin, Saint-Hilaire and Prince Maximilian. Sambaquis (shell mounds) and lithic workshops are known, as well as records from the discovery of Brazil, the exploration of brazilwood, the hereditary captaincies, the French invasion. *Quilombos* tell the story of slavery.

The landscape of salt flats, lighthouses, farms and churches, legends and myths, music and dance, gastronomy and handicraft stand out. It has a wide network of Environmental Education, in addition to museums and interpretation centers open to visitors. The tourism infrastructure is quite diverse. That is, we have many riches and we are working to receive the UNESCO Global Geopark nomination.

### People, Nature and Culture. We are Costões e Lagunas Geopark!



### Location Map - Territory of the Costões e Lagunas Geopark do RJ

