

The Outcropedia

The Outcropedia is a new initiative of TecTask. The aim is to make a central, public database of all important and beautiful outcrops in the World. The main focus is to record where beautiful deformation structures are to be seen, but other outcrops can also be submitted. The setup will be similar to Panoramio (<http://www.panoramio.com/>) and other sites to share photographs, but with an emphasis on structural geology and with detailed descriptions. The Outcropedia will be accessible to all registered members of TecTask.

The Outcropedia has two main purposes:

(1) we aim to make outcrops in unfamiliar places accessible to other geologists who would like to organise a fieldtrip or just a holiday to visit new places and look at nice rocks and structures.

(2) we aim to increase protection of our geological heritage. Many beautiful outcrops are built over or bulldozed away simply because nobody knows that they are interesting to geologists. A central database of interesting outcrops will increase chances of getting previous warning when certain sites are endangered. In this sense, the initiative is coupled to GeoHeritage which already exists on our web pages

How to access Outcropedia

The preferred platform for the project is presently GoogleEarth, where Outcropedia will be accessible as .kml layers. The Outcropedia will consist of one file in .kml or .kmz format for each Continent. The files can be downloaded from the TecTask site and they will then open automatically in GoogleEarth on any computer. Each file will be marked with the date on which it was last updated. Files will be regularly updated by TecTask staff.

What material will be presented?

We aim to present three types of data;

(1) *Outcrops*; these will usually be in the form of marked points, i.e. a single pair of coordinates. It is also possible, however, to present them as a polygon if the outcrop is large.

(2) *Excursions*. If outcrops can be used as part of an excursion, or if they are best visited in a certain sequence, a "*track*"- or "*excursion*" path can be given that connects the outcrops. These paths can be downloaded separately.

(3) *Facilities*. If you know a cheap hotel or nice restaurant, a touristy attraction or nice beach, you can also add it to the database. Especially cheap hotels or campsites which can be used for excursions will be appreciated by all geologists. Facilities can be downloaded separately.

How to submit material

New outcrops for the Outcropedia can be added by submission to TecTask by email. In the pdf files which you can download below, we describe how new files can be written in GoogleEarth, saved, and sent to TecTask. We will make sure that the new outcrops will be added to the database.

Language and content, authors and contact information

Contributions may be in any language, but a short English summary will be appreciated. There is no preset style or length for entries, and even, very short contributions are welcome for those with little time to spare; a name and a few sentences are sufficient to indicate an interesting outcrop. Authors who wish can sign their contributions, and add an email address for further information. However, this is not required.

Disclaimer

Visiting outcrops can be dangerous. We advise any visitors of outcrops mentioned in the Outcropedia to take proper care of their safety. The use of helmets and, along roads, reflective and brightly coloured warning vests is advised. TecTask, the officers and members of TecTask and the authors of contributions to the Outcropedia are in no way responsible for any accidents that may happen when visiting one of the indicated outcrops.