

Salkhan Fossil Park

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Salkhan Fossil Park Latest News

Recently, the Salkhan Fossil Park has been added to UNESCO's Tentative List for World Heritage Sites.

About Salkhan Fossil Park

- It is also known as **Sonbhadra Fossils Park** located in the **state of Uttar Pradesh**.
- It is nestled amidst the verdant embrace of the **Kaimoor Wildlife Sanctuary** and within the **Vindhyan mountain range**.
- It is home to a rich repository of fossils dating back **approximately 1.4 billion years**, making it one of the oldest and most well-preserved fossil sites in the world.
- The site's fossil assemblage, scattered across various formations, primarily features an exceptional **collection of stromatolites**, i.e. formations created by communities of **cyanobacteria or blue-green algae**.
- It is home to **Prehistoric stromatolites** and **living relics of the Mesoproterozoic**.
- Salkhan is much older than sites like Shark Bay in Australia and Yellowstone the USA.

- The site's Proterozoic stromatolites illustrate a critical watershed in the early history of life on Earth: **The Great Oxidation Event**.
- **Salkhan Fossil Park Significance:** The diversity of **stromatolite morphologies** at the park—ranging from domal to columnar structures—reflects dynamic environmental conditions in the Proterozoic, including variations in **water depth, sedimentation, and wave activity**.
- It falls under one of the key geo-heritage interest categories indicated by IUCN – **'Evolution of life'** – in the 2020 **'Guidelines for geoconservation in protected and conserved areas'**.

Source: TOI

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