

Why was Mt. Fuji not nominated for the UNESCO Natural World Heritages?

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The Mount Fuji area, which consists of 25 sites reflecting the essence of the sacred and artistic landscape, was inscribed on the Cultural World Heritage list of UNESCO in 2013. However, Mount Fuji has outstanding beauty of a solitary stratovolcano, which is well known around the world, and still has many important geomorphological, geological, and biological features in spite of the urbanization of surrounding areas and the existence of many alpinists and hikers. Why was Mt. Fuji not nominated for Natural or Mixed World Heritages, but for Cultural World Heritages? This study critically reexamined the records of the working group, which was established by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the Forestry Agency of Japan in 2003 for selecting Natural World Heritage candidates, and reevaluate the value of the Mount Fuji area as a candidate for Natural or Mixed World Heritage and also for global geopark.

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