

Quake damage to Jiuzhaigou tourist sites revealed [Local government](#) Friday revealed the scale of damage caused by a powerful earthquake to a national park and UNESCO World Heritage site in mountainous southwest China's Sichuan Province. The Jiuzhaigou national park was near the epicenter of the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that struck Tuesday night. The park has about 20 tourist sites, including plateau lakes, waterfalls and virgin forest. The provincial government reported that only the tourist sites north of Sparkling Lake and south of Five Flower Lake appear to have "sustained no major damage." The main belt of the scenic area lies between the two lakes containing about 12 tourist sites. The cliff that supports Nuorilang Waterfall, featured in the well-known television series Journey to the West, has partially collapsed.

Water has drained from Sparkling Lake through cracks in its surrounding mountain slopes. Torrents of water have also destroyed the natural barriers of Reed Lake and Double Dragon Lake, according to the provincial government "We can effectively say that Sparkling Lake no longer exists," Yang Xiaobo, head of the Hydrology and Water Resources Survey Bureau of Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, told reporters. Falling rocks have filled Mirror Lake and blocked access to Five Flower Lake. Photos taken by journalists showed some of the previously blue and turquoise lakes have turned murky due to mud and sand.