







WELCOME!

We're delighted that you're interested in discovering the tremendous variety of the Bavarian Forest National Park. For a good place to start connecting with our wild natural landscape, look no further than our informative visitor facilities. They offer plenty of fascinating information on local flora and fauna, recount the history of the region and clarify our National Park philosophy of letting nature be natural. Many of our exhibitions also feature engaging multimedia elements geared towards all the family.

Moving outside, our visitor facilities' outdoor areas often border directly with the emerging pristine woodland. The forest playground – a real favourite with youngsters – is a prime example of this, while our animal enclosures are always worth a visit, no matter the season. The latter allow you to witness current and former animal inhabitants of the Bavarian Forest in enclosures designed to mirror their natural habitat. Seeing them here is the next best thing to encountering them in the wild.

Whatever you choose to explore, I'd like to warmly welcome you to the Bavarian Forest National Park.

Dr. Franz Leibl Head of the Bavarian Forest National Park Administration

LUSE	N NATIONAL PARK CENTRE	4
-	Hans-Eisenmann-Haus	4
-	Service	6
-	Animal enclosures	6 7
-	Tree top walk	9
-	Botanical site	9 9 9
_	Geological site	9
-	Map of the National Park Centre	10
FALK	ENSTEIN NATIONAL PARK CENTRE	12
-	Haus zur Wildnis	12
_	Service	14
_	Animal enclosures / Stone Age cave	15
-	Map of the National Park Centre	16
FORE	EST HISTORY MUSEUM	
ST. O	SWALD	18
ADDI	TIONAL FACILITIES	20
-	Forest playground Spiegelau	20
-	Map of the forest playground	22
-	Natural Kneipp hydrotherapy pool	24
_	Deer enclosure Scheuereck	24
-	Info points	25

IMPORTANT TIPS

26

REFERENCE MATERIAL

- Overview map
- National Park Partners
- Tour service
- Local public transport
- National Park app





The HANS-EISENMANN-HAUS forms the central hub of the National Park Centre Lusen. Informative, interactive and imposing throughout, the permanent exhibition "Ways into nature – A history of forest and people" offers insights into the secrets of the Bavarian Forest National Park. What's behind the philosophy "Letting nature be natural"? What emotions do people connect with the forest? How has the protected area developed since it was first established? And who or what actually lives in the wilderness the Park has created? Visitors can find out all this and much more inside the exhibition. There's even a designated children's route here with eleven audio stations explaining different aspects of the National Park in simple terms – adults can listen in and learn too!

TIP: Do you want to visit other destinations in the National Park besides the Hans-Eisenmann-Haus? If so, our friendly staff at the information desk have plenty of useful tips on what to see.

KIDS' ROUTE: Young adventurers can explore an exciting dedicated route through the exhibition specifically designed to feed young minds. There are a few teasing puzzles to solve along the way, and kids that succeed in unlocking the forest's secrets can even look forward to a small surprise at the end.

CINEMA: A varied range of films is shown on the big screen in our cinema room. This is the place to come for stunning footage of the National Park as well as clips featuring "Flotterlu" – our lovable kids' mascot.

READING GALLERY: Want to take time out with some interesting books on the natural world and the Bavarian Forest? Look no further than our cosy and inviting reading gallery!

ADMISSION

FREE!

HANS-EISENMANN-HAUS

SERVICE

HANS-EISENMANN-HAUS OPENING HOURS

26 December to 30 April, open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.1 May to 8 November, open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.9 November to 25 December, closed

FOOD & DRINK

Café Eisenmann and the Waldwirtschaft both offer excellent food and drink options. Find out more information and check the opening hours at www.erlebnis-gastronomiegmbh.de. In addition, the Waldstüberl snack bar is conveniently located directly next to the car park. Find out more on +49 (0) 8558 2647.

NATIONAL PARK SHOP

The National Park shop stocks books and games focusing on animals and the natural world as well as a range of regional souvenirs. More information on +49 (0) 8558 973404.



Easily accessible by Igelbus! Stop: Nationalparkzentrum Lusen

Address: Böhmstraße 39, 94556 Neuschönau Parking is subject to charges!

CONTACT

Hans-Eisenmann-Haus Tel.: +49 (0) 8558 9615-0 Fax: +49 (0) 8558 9615-22 heh@npv-bw.bayern.de





The lynx, Ural owl, wolf, European bison, otter, bear and capercaillie - all of these animals are indigenous to the Bavarian Forest, and while many still thrive in our forests, some have unfortunately disappeared. Our ANIMAL **ENCLOSURES** give you the chance to experience all these animals first hand. Set within an emerging wild woodland environment, the 200-hectare site is home to some 40 different species of mammals and birds. The animals are housed in large enclosures and aviaries designed to be as close to their natural habitat as possible, with enough space for our animal residents to withdraw from the public gaze whenever they choose. The best way to explore the enclosures is on the seven-kilometre circular path, which takes three to four hours to walk. The trail also includes a number of convenient short cuts, making it easy to find the ideal route for you. Suitable for both prams and wheelchairs, the trails are cleared in winter and the site is freely accessible all year round.

> ADMISSION FREE!

ANIMAL ENCLOSURES



Ever take a stroll through the tree tops? Now you can with our 1,300-metre **TREE TOP WALK**. You can see the forest from a whole new perspective up to 44 metres above the forest floor, with plenty of unique insights and incredible views across the Bavarian Forest National Park along the way.

Operator: Erlebnis Akademie AG, Bad Kötzting Opening hours and admission prices: www.baumwipfelpfad.bayern Tel.: + 49 (0) 8558 9740-74

TREE TOP WALK



The local flora is one of the most fascinating aspects of the National Park for many people. On a four-hectare site surrounding the Hans-Eisenmann-Haus, visitors have the chance to admire the sometimes rare flowers, grasses, shrubs, trees, ferns and mosses native to the Bavarian Forest in all their glory. The **BOTANICAL SITE** showcases several hundred species of plants in their natural habitats and communities, including some species planted in convenient raised beds. The site is freely accessible all year round.



BOTANICAL SITE

The Bavarian Forest is riddled with stones. The **GEO**-LOGICAL SITE therefore puts the geological history of the region firmly in the spotlight. Some of the rocks here were formed over 500 million years ago. Many of the blocks of stone have had a corner cut off to expose the inside, helping ensure that visitors don't confuse granite for gneiss, or vice versa! The site is accessible all year round.

GEOLOGICAL SITE





LUSEN NATIONAL PARK CENTRE





The HAUS ZUR WILDNIS forms the focal point of Falkenstein National Park Centre. The building's unique architectural design is fascinating in its own right, though it can't quite steal the show from the centre's stunning views of the 1,315-metre Großer Falkenstein. The emerging woodland wilderness within the Bavarian Forest National Park is the main focus of the building's exhibition. Genesis, growth and decay – this natural cycle is ubiquitous and tangible with all the senses here. The centre's root gallery is a particularly memorable experience, where you can stroll through the layers of soil under the ground, getting to know the small creatures that populate the subterranean world as you go. Kids are guided by Schratzl, our loveable mascot, as he leads the way between the centre's interactive exhibits and play stations.

TIP: Do you want to visit other destinations in the National Park besides the Haus zur Wildnis? If so, our friendly staff at the information desk have plenty of useful tips on what to see.

KIDS' ROUTE: Young adventurers can explore an exciting dedicated route through the exhibition specifically designed to feed young minds. There are a few teasing puzzles to solve along the way, and kids that succeed in unlocking the forest's secrets can even look forward to a small surprise at the end.

3D CINEMA: A varied range of films are shown on the big screen in our cinema room. These include a three-dimensional trip through the woodland wilderness, offering unique perspectives on the forest and National Park.

PLAYGROUNDS: Youngsters can let off some steam here no matter the weather. On sunny days, kids can head for the forest adventure playground in front of the Haus zur Wildnis, while the children's adventure playroom is the place to be if the weather takes a turn for the worse.

HAUS ZUR WILDNIS



SERVICE

OPENING HOURS HAUS ZUR WILDNIS

26 December to 30 April, open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.1 May to 8 November, open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.9 November to 25 December, closed

OPENING HOURS STONE AGE CAVE

1 May to 8 November, open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. 9 November to 30 April, open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

FOOD & DRINK

The in-house restaurant and café serves organic, fair and regional cuisine. Find out more information and opening hours at www.gastronomie-hauszurwildnis.de.

NATIONAL PARK SHOP

The National Park shop has everything from regional handcrafts made of wood or glass to high-quality children's toys. More information on +49 (0) 9922 5002-113.



Easily accessible by Igelbus and Waldbahn! Stop: Ludwigsthal/Haus zur Wildnis

Address: Eisensteiner Straße, D-94227 Ludwigsthal Parking is subject to charges!

KONTAKT

Haus zur Wildnis Tel.: +49 (0) 9922 5002-0 Fax: +49 (0) 9922 5002-167 hzw@npv-bw.bayern.de







In addition to the popular lynx and wolves, the **ANIMAL ENCLOSURES** are also home to two less well-known former inhabitants of the Bavarian Forest: wild horses and aurochs. While wild horses populated the steppe landscape here after the last ice age, aurochs inhabited the forests of Bavaria until the early Middle Ages. This seemingly unusual duo share the near-natural enclosure flanking the **STONE AGE CAVE**. In the latter, visitors are whisked back to the Palaeolithic era and surrounded by artificial rock walls in a place where they can experience the change in climate, landscape and fauna in the time since. An almost threekilometre circular trail visits every enclosure and takes around one and a half hours to walk. The terrain is suitable for prams and wheelchairs, and the trails are cleared in winter and freely accessible all year round.

ADMISSION

ANIMAL ENCLOSURES STONE AGE CAVE



FALKENSTEIN NATIONAL PARK CENTRE



FOREST HISTORY MUSEUM ST. OSWA



The locals (affectionately known as "Waidler") have always had a special bond with their home region. The FOREST **HISTORY MUSEUM** focuses on the interplay between the forest and people - a relationship which has shaped art and tradition, and been occasionally punctuated by darker days. The museum therefore not only provides insights into the geological origins of the region, but also gets to the heart of how humans have influenced the Bavarian Forest - from the glass industry and forestry work through to the establishment of the protected area. There are also plenty of fascinating insights into local traditions, contemporary history, literature and music along the way. Comfortable audio stations are dotted throughout the exhibition where you can lie back and listen to people sharing first-hand experiences. The tree-bound stairway connecting the three levels of the museum is always a hit with youngsters, spicing a visit to the museum with a dash of adventure.

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday to Sunday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Mondays! (Except on public holidays) Closed 23 to 25 December



Easily accessible by Igelbus! Stop: Gasthof Goldener Steig/St. Oswald



Address: Klosterallee 4, D-94568 St. Oswald

CONTACT

Waldgeschichtliches Museum St. Oswald Tel.: +49 (0) 8552 974889-0 Fax: +49 (0) 8552 974889-9 wgm@npv-bw.bayern.de



FOREST PLAYGROUND

Kids can connect with nature through play at the **FOREST PLAYGROUND** in the Bavarian Forest National Park. The 50-hectare site has numerous adventures in store for youngsters. It's the ideal place for a family excursion, no matter the season! There are three exciting areas to explore here.

NATURE DISCOVERY TRAIL: Visitors can gain a range of unique insights into the forest at ten interesting stations. Play music with natural materials, trace plant textures with your fingertips, walk barefoot over the forest floor, listen in on bird song, savour natural aromas or simply pause to take it all in – all this and more is possible on the roughly two-kilometre Nature Discovery Trail. Great fun for young and old alike.

PLAYGROUNDS: Feel like letting off some steam? Then there's no better place to be than our playgrounds. Kids can slide, climb, play and swing to their heart's content here. There's even a white-knuckle zip line to try out. Several of the attractions are accessible with assistance, as are large sections of the trail network in the forest playground. Please note that the majority of the play apparatus is removed during the winter.

FOREST MEADOW: In the heart of the site, the forest meadow offers lots of wide open space for running around. Seek out dragonflies in the ponds, observe the teeming activity in the insect hotel or even try your hand at being a woodpecker. On top of that, there's a campfire area and a sheltered section in case of bad weather. By the way, the meadow is also the perfect place to make snow sculptures in the winter!



Easily accessible by Igelbus and Waldbahn! Stop: Bahnhof Spiegelau

Address: Trosselweg 7, D-94518 Spiegelau





FOREST PLAYGROUND SPIEGELAU

NATURAL KNEIPP HYDROTHERAPY POOL SPIEGELAU



ADMISSION

The Natural Kneipp hydrotherapy pool near Spiegelau is not just a great source of

refreshment in warm weather, as its crystal-clear mountain water is always an experience in itself. Thanks to the paved ramps, the site is also suitable for wheelchairs, and you won't have to ask kids twice about playing in the water!



Easily accessible by Igelbus! Stop: Aufichtenwald-Steg



Address: Kurpark; D-94518 Spiegelau



The deer enclosure in Scheuereck is a special place for enjoying the natural world just down from Falkenstein. Here, visitors can admire the imposing deer from up close in their nine-hectare near-natural enclosure. In the warmer half of the year, a 300-metre walking path cuts directly through the compound, while a viewing platform offers a great view of the deer all year round.



Easily accessible by Igelbus! Stop: Scheuereck



Address: Scheuereck 1; D-94227 Lindberg



In addition to the main visitor facilities, the National Park also maintains a dense network of *INFO POINTS* in cooperation with local towns and communities in the region. These are great sources of information for excursions in the natural landscape, including useful tips for walking, cycling and snowshoe tours. In addition, they also offer plenty of interesting facts about the region, its animals and plants. Enjoy!

BAYERISCH EISENSTEIN:

Info point at the border train station Bahnhofstraße 54; D-94252 Bayerisch Eisenstein www.naturparkwelten.de

FRAUENAU

Info point in the glass museum Am Museumspark 1; D-94258 Frauenau www.ferienregion-nationalpark.de

FREYUNG

Info point in Schloss Wolfstein Wolfkerstraße 1; D-94078 Freyung www.jagd-land-fluss.de

маитн

Info point at the tourist information Mühlweg 2; D-94151 Mauth www.ferienregion-nationalpark.de

SPIEGELAU

Info point at the tourist information Konrad-Wilsdorf-Str. 1; D-94518 Spiegelau www.ferienregion-nationalpark.de

ZWIESEL

Info point at the Naturparkhaus Infozentrum 3; D-94227 Zwiesel www.naturpark-bayerischer-wald.de

HOW TO ENJOY THE PARK

Please note that you are prohibited from leaving the trails in particularly sensitive areas of our National Park, such as high-altitude areas and bogland zones. This measure is intended to protect endangered flora and fauna. Areas where this rule applies are indicated on walking maps and by signs in these zones.



If you are hiking in the National Park, always ensure that you come well equipped. Everyone should have a map, sturdy footwear, drinks, a mobile phone, first-aid kit and bad weather clothing to hand.

FI

The National Park aims to protect the natural process of genesis, growth and decay. As a result, dead trees are left to return to the natural cycle – an approach that makes falling trees and dead wood typical hazards here. Please be aware of these dangers and leave the forest in strong winds for your own safety. Please note that you always use the trails in the National Park at your own risk!



Some cycle paths and walking paths with gentle gradients, such as those linking the animal enclosures, are suitable for prams and wheelchairs. The respective maximum gradient is always indicated on our signs on these trails.



Please do not litter the landscape! This includes dog waste bags and tissues. Please help us to keep our wild woodland clean. Thank you!



The easy and environmentallyfriendly way to travel

In the National Park, the local rail and Igelbus services are the most relaxing way to travel between the key trailheads and visitor facilities. The GUTi (Gästeservice Umwelt-Ticket), the visitor card for environmentally-friendly transport, allows free travel on these services, while the Bayerwald-Ticket provides massive reductions on ticket prices. If you park your car at a point within the transport network, you can plan a route that links to a trailhead by bus or train before looping back to your car on foot.

Connections:

WALDBAHN AND ILZTALBAHN RAIL SERVICES

Four Waldbahn lines connect the dots in the National Park region, with Zwiesel forming the main hub in the heart of the area. Falkenstein National Park Centre in Ludwigsthal has its own small station on the Plattling-Bayerisch Eisenstein Waldbahn line. The IIztalbahn line with its additional bus connections is a great link from the south during the summer months.

IGELBUS SERVICE

The Igelbus service connects the trailheads of walking paths in the area surrounding Lusen and Rachel with the communities of Mauth, Hohenau, Spiegelau, St. Oswald-Riedlhütte, Grafenau and Neuschönau. The Lusen National Park Centre in Neuschönau is an important hub within the network and it is also served by its own stop. The Falkensteinbus connects Zwiesel with the top tourist destinations in the northern National Park area, such as the Zwieslerwaldhaus, the Schwellhäusl and Falkenstein National Park Centre.

MORE INFORMATION

Detailed timetables, information on the GUTi ticket and suggested excursions are available from tourist information centres, National Park centres and info points as well as online at www.bayerwaldticket.com.





A great way to enjoy your holiday

Check out our NATIONAL PARK PARTNERS!

A visit to the National Park starts with your choice of accommodation and your inbound journey with public transport – and for an authentically natural experience, look no further than our National Park Partners. These carefully chosen partners are synonymous with high quality, regionality and an environmentally-friendly approach, making it easy for you to enjoy a great visit to the National Park and contribute to the development of sustainable tourism in our region.

Our National Park Partners often use our visitor facilities and trails themselves, making them ideally positioned to advise you – they are always delighted to pass on their passion and knowledge to others. Our partners have the best information and personal tips on hand to ensure that your visit to the National Park is a memorable experience filled with wonder and discovery.

Our certified natural experience partners can even accompany you through the National Park or you could take a break at one of the National Park's lodges or inns. The Igelbus, Waldbahn and Ilztalbahn public transport services help link the most important places in the region. Our National Park Partners are also sure to have the perfect room for you – whether you're looking for a B&B, a hotel or an apartment, all partner accommodation comes with National Park passion as standard!

Partner

With our National Park Partners YOU'LL EXPERIENCE MORE - NATURALLY.

More on the cooperation here: www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.de/partner

Plan your holiday with our National Park Partners: www.nationalpark-partner.com





The Park's annual 1.3 million visitors can now use a new app to experience the Bavarian Forest National Park in a completely different way, thanks to the integrated 3D map and up-to-date trail informa-

tion. With plenty of visitor tips, tours, information on the National Park centres as well as a webcam, the app is a fantastic resource for exploring Germany's oldest National Park.



Guided through the wild woodland

Would you like our forest guides and rangers to show you the impressive natural woodlands? If so, our tours are just the ticket! These tours are organised on an almost daily basis throughout the National Park, including at both animal enclosure sites and at the forest playground. You can get more information at **www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.de/veranstaltungen** or by calling our guide service for free on our hotline **+49 (0) 800 0776650**.



LETTING NATURE BE NATURAL

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THE BAVARIAN FOREST NATIONAL PARK HOLDS

The Seal of Quality

The European Diploma (since 1986)







Nationale Naturlandschaften



Certification as a Transboundary Park together with Šumava National Park (since 2009)

Membership to EUROPARC Deutschland Umbrella organisation of Germany's major protected areas