Infinitely wild

Here in the heart of Europe wild nature has found a home again.

Šumava, Bavarian Forest, Bohemian Forest - different names for one and the same ancient mountain range in the centre of Europe, depending on cultural, geographic or historical reference points.

State and linguistic boundaries between Germany and the Czech Republic run along to main ridge, which separates the catchment areas of Danube and the Elbe. The landscapes of the Bavarian Forest and Šumava National Parks are definitely differing, but not diverse.

The national parks are shaped by a forest, which is allowed to develop freely and undisturbed, and which highlights the impermanence, creativity and originally of nature again and again in new and surprise way. In the past, the people, unspoiled nature inspired writers, composers and artists with their stories, while today it often people seeking relaxation a rich and exciting experience of nature.

Key Facts

Bavarian Forest National Park
- Established in 1919, and thereby the oldest German national park
- 243 km², of which 67% in 2016 face no interference zones, in which natural processes are protected
- Area, nature conservation through the protection of national processes, education, recreation, research.
- IUCN Category II, European Union for Protected Areas
- A network of more than 500 km of marked trails
- 96% of the territory is forested – primarily mixed forest

Šumava National Park
- Established in 1991, the largest national park in the Czech Republic
- 400 km², of which 29% are non-interference areas (2014), in which natural processes are protected
- A Biosphere Reserve since 1990 (Dan and Bohemian)
- A network of more than 800 km of marked trails

Summer is high season for animals and plants, as well as for hikers and bikers. A network of several hundreds kilometres of marked hiking and cycling trails links all the characteristic landscapes of both national parks, including mountains peaks, glacial lakes and meadows, as well as meadows and pastures. Experimental trails and educational paths lead you to the most beautiful and attractive places. Information boards tell you about the interconnectedness of nature, culture and history.

In winter nature is covered by a thick, white blanket of snow, which muffles noise and strengthens the weak signals. Those animals that still select their environment can conserve their energy so that they can get through the winter months with this in mind please respect the winter peace, which nature needs and use only the marked trails.

Out and about in the forested wilderness

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Discover what's special

Throughout the year the Bavarian Forest and Šumava National Parks offer a wide range of events. Especially trained forest hikers, rangers and other national park staff accompany you on guided walks.

Stay safe in our parks

Bavarian Forest National Park
- +49 (0) 805 077660
- Šumava National Park
- +420 713 520 267

National Park for everyone

Uniqueness and constant change characterise nature, especially in national parks, where the motto “living nature is nature” is the top commandment. Even so, there is an excellent offer for people with disabilities, older people or families with small children. It ranges from accessible paths with limited noise to guided tours where you can experience nature through all your senses in national parks.

For information before you travel:
- D: +49 (0) 9922 5002-0
- +420 731 530 287
- rgf@npv-bayerischer-wald.de
- CZ: +420 388 435 544
- info@npvsumava.cz

For information during your stay:
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www.npsumava.cz
www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.de

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Bodíky, krychle, kolarství ani rybolov mohou být problémem v přírodních ekosystémech a v jejich životě. Je zvláště důležité, abychom se starali o manželství, které je tak všude, ale zvláště v Šumavě.

For more information please visit
- D: +49 (0) 9922 5002-0
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“Nature needs and use only the marked trails.”

- a touch of Taiga

Among the exceptional features are the natural spruce forests in the area of high altitude, which are cut to the boundary with the well-known artificial spruce forests across our countries. They stretch to the Šumava-Taiga forests of the high north and are bound to the highest coniferous forests of the mountains above 1,100m and in the Alps.

- a magic of old cultural landscapes

The wild mountain pastures and mountain meadows are areas of high interest to people. Natural grasslands and hay meadows are habitats, which is why some people provide tracts for a whole range of birds, reptiles and amphibians.

- a colourfull habitat

The southern and south western slopes between 1,100 and 1,500 m are covered by a fantastic high altitude mountain range. Characteristic trees, bushes and grasses dominate the landscape with mountain oaks and birches, upright and covered with snow, one of the most beautiful mountain landscapes in Europe.

- a wonderful of meadowlark

The upper parts of high altitude Alb and Bavarian Forest contain a touch of mythology into the forest landscapes. Mosses, stones and dwarf shrubs dominate the landscape with water-filled pools and bog beds, steeped itself snow, struggle for sunshine.

- In the middle of nature

Only rare weather is available in plants in the high mountain bogs at large permafrost, dry areas of other sources of water no more.

- a touch of mysticism

Mountain lake

The mountain lake is a special feature of the landscape in the mountain forest, which is well visible from below and offers a variety of activities. The mountain lake is a special feature of the landscape in the mountain forest, which is well visible from below and offers a variety of activities.

- wild nature

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- Bavarian Forest National Park
- Správa Národního parku Šumava

Pastures and mountain meadows
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- Šumava National Park
- Správa Národního parku Šumava

- Prague, Karlovy Vary, the Bohemian Forest, the Ore Mountains
- Eva Krala, Romantic Nature, the Unbridled Naturalists, Maria Hubert, Mountainous Nature of the Czech Republic
- Archiv Nationalparkverwaltung Bayerischer Wald
- Archiv Nationalparkverwaltung Bayerischer Wald
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- Imprint

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As a first place to go we recommend visiting our national park centres and information points. Here you can experience almost everything and gain initial insights into the national park idea, its history, as well as its flora and fauna.

In national parks the natural process of life, growth and decay in ecosystems is protected. Dead trees remain in the cycle of nature. Falling trees and branches are among the typical risks that can be encountered in our parks. Please pay attention to these dangers and leave the forest for your own safety when it's windy. The use of trails is at your own risk.

To protect endangered plant and animal species – particularly the capercaillie – you may only use marked trails in the core zone of the Bavarian Forest and Zone I of the Šumava National Parks. There may also be access restrictions at certain times. These access rules have been valid since the Schengen Treaty came into force.

Food service and accommodation
Emergency camping place
Public road
State border
Bavarian Forest National Park core zone (restricted access)
Šumava National Park Zone I (restricted access)

MANY THANKS! THIS IS HOW YOU CAN HELP NATURE

How to get there
Buses and trains enable you to get easily and in an environmentally friendly way to your starting points and destinations in the Bavarian Forest and Šumava National Parks.

Holidaymakers in many villages around the Bavarian Forest National Park can use buses and trains free of charge. Ask your host for further information.

Trains
With the Forest Railway (DB) and Czech Rail (ČD) you can get to the national park regions from further afield without using a car. You can also get around the region easily by train once you’re here.

Buses
From May to October the Green Buses in Šumava and the Igelbus service in the Bavarian Forest will transport you and your bicycle. Services run on an hourly basis. In winter you can get to many destinations on the German side with the Winter Igelbus service.

The right way to go
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Bayerischer Wald Nationalpark: Animal symbol on yellow background: Sign for a circular hiking trail, with the path leading back to the starting point. Plant symbol on white background: Sign for a hiking trail that leads in a particular direction. For a circular tour you will need to combine different marked trails or use buses or trains.

Bayerischer Wald Nationalpark: The pictogram for cycle paths shows a cyclist and often a number. The numbers indicate circular tours of varying degrees of difficulty. The National Park Cycle Path is signposted with the picture logo of the Bayerischer Wald Nationalpark.

Šumava National Park: Horizontal stripes on a yellow background or yellow signs with black numbers indicate the cycle path. Signposts along the course of a cycle path are yellow.

Visit us!

Bayerischer Wald and Šumava National Parks