

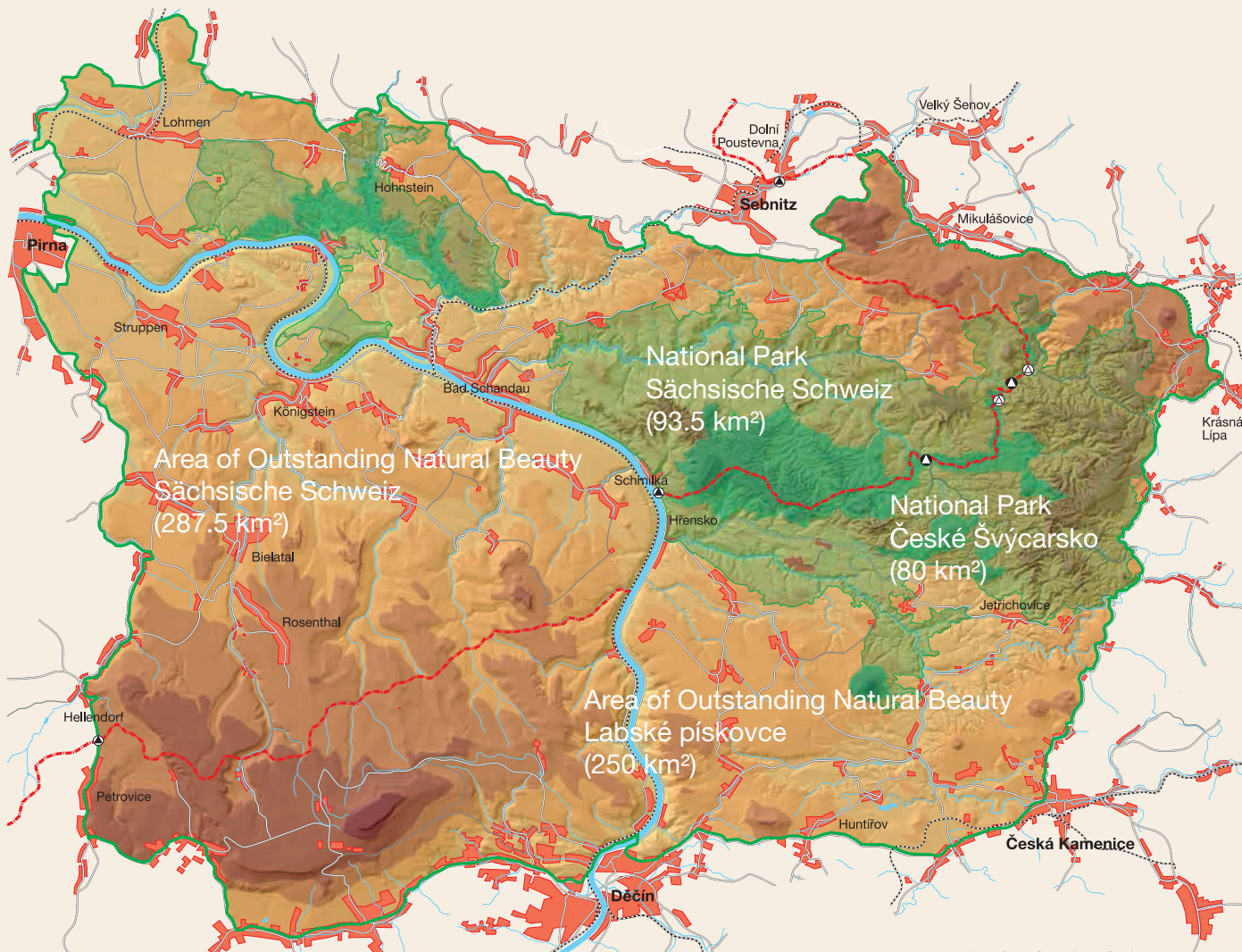


Preserving our natural heritage
Bizarre rock formations – wild gorges



Sächsische	Schweiz
České	Švýcarsko

Protected areas in the Elbe Sandstone Mountains



Since the Schengen Agreement came into force, anyone is permitted to cross the border any time at any place. Nevertheless, according to nature preservation regulations of both national parks, visitors must stay on sign-posted paths only (within the core zone) or use paths discernible in the area (outside the core zone).

- National border
- Border crossing (pedestrians)
- Border crossing (pedestrians and cyclists)
- Border crossing (vehicles)

1 2 3 4 5 km

- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- National Park
- Core zone of National Park

I've seen much beauty of this type on my earlier travels through southern Germany, Switzerland, Salzburg, and Silesia, but I have never come across fabulous rock landscapes such as these.

Carl Merkel, 1826

Unique in Central Europe



Aerial view of Grosser Zschand

The **Elbe Sandstone Mountains** – actually, the common name for the **Saxon and Bohemian Switzerland** area is misleading. Many will see this area as a mountain range. In fact a hundred million years ago it was the bottom of a Cretaceous sea. Once its water had run off, a hefty slab of sandstone in layers up to 600 metres thick remained. Millions of years of weathering carved notches and crevices into this sandstone plateau. The Elbe and its tributaries dug away at the crevices, clearing them out and leaving a broken, bizarre landscape made of friable sandstone which is very slowly disintegrating into sand again. The surface sandstone formations can be divided into three levels of height:

- the plateau mountains (or mesas) with stony and rocky areas
- level plains
- valleys and gorges.

The ruggedness of the top level and the discrepancies in height of up to 450 metres on a small area are especially characteristic of this highly unusual sandstone landscape. Conical basalt mountains bordered off by granite cliff faces complete the picture.

This area “works” in a unique way. In contrast to the microclimate of an actual mountain range, the gorges and valley floors have a cool, moist climate in summer (called “cellar climate”) while the weather is warm and dry at higher altitudes on the rocky ledges. This turns the usual fauna and flora system otherwise found in a mountainous region upside-down: plants usually living up a mountain you will find here in the lower parts of a valley. On the other hand, usual inhabitants of flat valley floors live on higher plateaus. Another phenomenon usually seen in high mountain

ranges only are short pines somewhat reminiscent of bonsai trees; they mark off the border between forest and rock face.

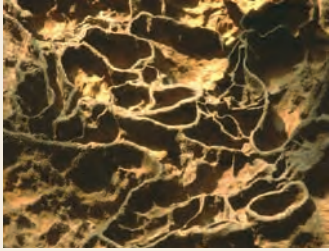
Water shortage is endemic to the Elbe Sandstone Mountains. The porous stone quickly absorbs flowing water like a sponge which is also indicated by the local reference to “desert streams”.

The history of land use in the area is also anomalous – a history dominated by Bohemia up to the fifteenth century with forestry, hunting and sandstone quarrying as well as shipbuilding as the main activities. There are old rock castles, mountain guesthouses, mills and defence installations, open clearings similar to those in the Bavarian mountains, a unique dialect...And not least 200 years of tourism and 140 years of mountain climbing have left interesting traces.

The awesome quality is not the finished structure, but the collapse that lends the structure its real beauty.

Paul Guessfeld

A wonderland in all shapes and sizes



Meandering iron tubes

The Elbe sandstone, subject to the destructive and creative forces of nature, is a versatile material that belies its simple construction. Quartz sandstone has a greyish-white colour with a tinge of amber.

The sandstone is coarsely grained in the southern part of



Distinctive iron weathering in the top region



Layered structure



Brosin needle



Honeycombs and iron bands



Sand glass

Saxon Switzerland, and finely grained in the northern part. This has an immense influence on the shape the rocks eventually take. The quartz crystals are held together with a binding material. This binding material can be dissolved, leaving interesting shapes behind – ranging from strange iron tubes to rock faces full of honeycomb structures.



Highly disintegrated surface of a rocky tor

Our Elbe Sandstone Mountains – a mountain landscape uniting the wild and the mild in a confined space, a piece of the living earth that is worth keeping as a single great nature protection park.

Paul Wagner, 1931

Nature preservation with a tradition and a future

You protect what you love. It comes as no surprise that the efforts to protect nature and landscape in Saxon and Bohemian Switzerland go back to the middle of the nineteenth century.

The Elbe Sandstone Mountains on both sides of the border between Saxony and the Czech Republic form a unit – not only in the natural surroundings. Both sides are working together towards developing a common major cross-border protection area that connects people and nature alike. Starting with land utilisation and human settlement up to now, a variety of protection aims has been developed, together with ways for getting there:

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The Elbe Sandstone Mountains comprise a cultural area that has been utilised and shaped by people for centuries with a characteristic interplay between forest and mountain areas, open plains, settlements – mostly villages – and traffic routes.

The task of preserving the natural landscape and habitat in its entirety and its suitability as an area of rest and recreation is part of the definition of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a task to be fulfilled by sustainable land utilisation and protection. This is where the importance of environmentally sound agriculture and forestry comes into the picture, especially focused on urban development limited to fulfilling local requirements and environmentally responsible tourism.

National Park

To the north and east of the River Elbe, large contiguous forest and mountain areas have remained largely untouched by human settlement and traffic. These areas still carry the features of a natural landscape and have therefore been classified as a National Park. They are to be led towards gradual, natural development without interference from utilisation and artificial protection.

On the Saxon side, the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Park together form the **Region of Saxon Switzerland National Park**. The National Park Administration is responsible for both protected areas together.

A brief history of nature protection

1877 Demand for limiting sandstone quarrying near the Bastei and other natural features

1873-1930 Successful appeal against the construction of cable cars to the Bastei and Lilienstein

1911 First nature conservation area near Hohnstein

1938/40 Designation of Bastei and Polenztal valley as nature conservation areas

1954 Discussion on classifying Saxon and Bohemian Switzerland as National Parks

1956/72 Designation of Saxon Switzerland and Labské pískovce (Elbe sandstone) as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

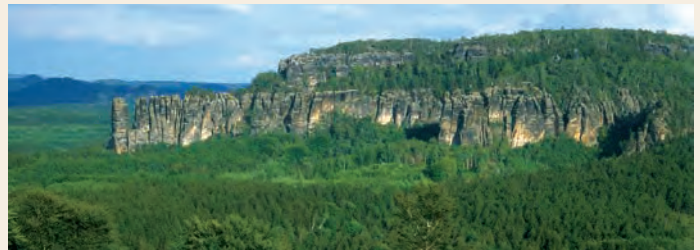
1961 Designation of further areas of nature conservation: Grosser Winterberg/Zschand, Kirnitzschklamm, Zeschnigleiten

1990 Designation of Sächsische Schweiz, or Saxon Switzerland, as a National Park

2000 Designation of České Švýcarsko, or Bohemian Switzerland, as a National Park



The village of Rathewalde in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Affensteine in the National Park

We can gain hope from the wonderful way in which nature takes care of itself. Let us leave nature to do just that – to create its own landscape, a natural landscape, at least here and there. You might also call it a wilderness.

Siegfried Lenz

National park – leaving nature to its own devices



Freedom and dignity are fundamental human rights. Does this also apply to nature?

Almost without exception, we protect and shape our natural habitat to our own human needs and standards; nature, in a manner of speaking, is second-hand. This applies to agriculture and forestry as much as it does to hunting and fishing.

But nature is turning more and more into a nursing case as a result of our own activities – for example, through global warming and forest damage – and we feel the need to step in and help with the best of

intentions. But nature does not stand still – it constantly changes and adapts according to its own laws. This dynamic cannot be replaced by land utilisation and protective intervention.

National parks are supposed to be places where nature is given back its freedom and dignity. National parks have the legally enforceable obligation to allow nature to develop according to its own devices while we consciously desist from utilisation and protective intervention. The main principle is **“to let nature be”**.

National parks are there to preserve nature for its own sake as national and international heritage for current and future generations. This is also an ethical requirement.

There are around 2200 members of the national park family spread all over the five continents. Our national park is one of fourteen in Germany, and the Czech Republic has four. Both national parks in the Elbe Sandstone Mountains are largely the property of the state.

In the public interest, the Free State of Saxony has desisted from commercial utilisation of the natural resources of the park (such as wood, water, wild animal life). The reason for that is the realisation that the cycle principle in living nature can only work if its components are not constantly taken away.

In future, natural processes should only be interfered with where the safety of people or valuable objects (such as houses, streets and bordering private properties) or forest fires make intervention absolutely necessary.

Freedom for forest development also means that forests can develop beyond the natural development phases of regeneration, growth, and maturation to become old. They should be able to collapse, decay, and thus provide the raw materials for their own rejuvenation. This takes time, a lot of time – around four to six centuries. This freedom also applies to the gradual reforestation of meadows not longer held open by cultivation or pasture as well as the natural development of rivers.

Nature does not have the concept of a catastrophe. Rockfalls, wind, snow, and weathering in forests, as well as mass destruction



by insect infestations should be seen as part of nature’s effective repair mechanisms. Old, dying and dead trees in the forest are not symptomatic of incapable forestry, but the signs of a transition from artificially protected woodland to natural forest.

Most questions and demands that our culture makes are actually the problems of the future. We are doing our share. Our grandchildren will have to finish the picture...

Wilhelm Bölsche, 1928

The national park as a development area

Natural development requires a certain level of integrity in the natural surroundings if sudden, dramatic changes (from a human point of view) in the natural habitat and landscape are to be prevented – changes such as a plague of bark beetles and the sudden collapse of whole coniferous woodlands.

The natural areas in the Elbe Sandstone Mountains are concentrated on rock ledges and plateaus, valleys and gorges that are difficult to reach, as well as mountain summits and cliffs in basalt and granite. These relatively secluded areas, some of which have been officially protected for a long time, have seen the preservation of a large variety of forests, rock biotopes and rivers.

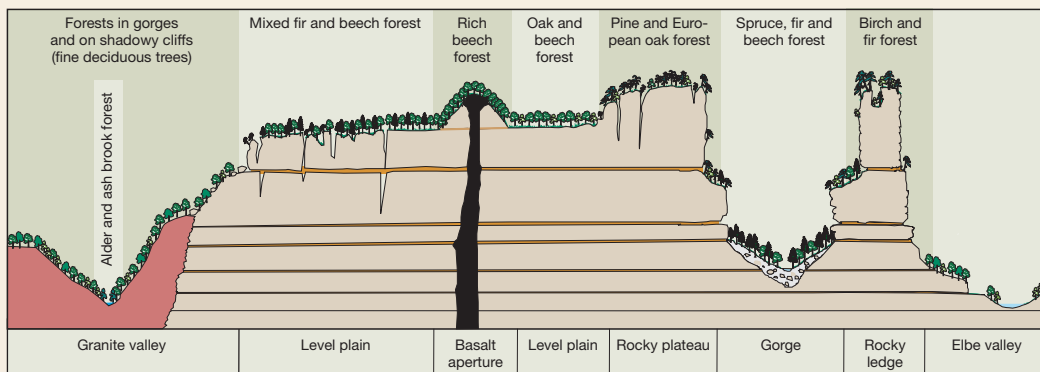


Timber ready for removal in the protected area

At the moment, around 54 % of the surface area is allowed largely free, natural development. These natural areas are especially located in the core zones marked in the area (see map).

During the next years around half of the total area will still require measures introducing natural development. This includes, for example, the promotion of local tree types (silver fir, oak, beech) in the large coniferous forests on the plains or the at least partial restoration of streams and rivers to their natural state.

In order to protect certain species, forestry measures are mainly confined to the winter half of the year. The resulting wood is still mostly used for commercial purposes.



Types of forest in the national park

Richter/1998



National park area with core zones

Control measures applied to by far the largest part of the area are to be diminished and abandoned within around thirty years. Long-term control of deer and wild boar in the interests of natural forest development will most probably be necessary for some time yet due to the lack of natural enemies such as wolves, and due to the changes in the way deer and wild boar live. On the other hand, one natural forest development cycle lasts centuries, so who knows what will actually happen...

If the biosphere has developed elements over the eons that we have not learned to understand, then only an idiot would do without those apparently dispensable components. Keeping every cog and every screw is the most important precautionary measure of any intelligent hobby mechanic.

Aldo Leopold, 1948

Protecting species and habitats



Pygmy Owl



Garden Dormouse (lost since 2007)



Beech Fern

Its rocks, peculiarities in the landscape's behaviour and the assurance of natural processes enable the national park to provide the unusual habitat that it offers. This includes rock ledges and valleys, ageing and decay phases of natural pine and beech forests, standing and lying pieces of dead wood, and natural rivers and streams. These provide shelter for many plant and animal species, some of which are highly specialised. For example, a quarter of all the bird species use the rocks to breed and raise their young.

The moist **valleys and gorges** provide a home for a wealth of ferns and mosses, e.g. the bright yellow sulfur dust lichen at the base of the rocks and the claspleaf twistedstalk otherwise only found in high mountains. Dippers, fire salamanders and brown trout are reliant on the natural rivers and streams. The warm, dry **ledge pinewoods** and their heathlands provide a habitat for cave-dwelling woodpeckers and owls, doodlebugs and labrador tea in its white blossom. If you're lucky, you might even come across a peregrine falcon or an extremely timid black stork. However, most vertebrates such as deer, lynx, otters, bats and owls are extremely sensitive to disturbance and only come out at dusk. The **beech woods on the basalt mountains** are especially impressive in their variety of spring blossoms such as wood anemone, nine-leaf coral root, and hollow fumitory. But they are also home to garden dormice, black woodpeckers and stock doves.

However, the national park is not about protecting any particular species, whether especially beautiful or rare, plant or animal, or indeed "useful" or "harmful" species, but the entire gamut of fauna and flora as a whole. This includes a wide range of lichens and algae, spiders and beetles, fungi and insects that feed off dead wood, worms, mites, and millions of micro-organisms in the soil.

Every single life form has a role to play in the eternal natural cycle of birth, existence, and death – even if there is a lot that we do not yet understand about it. Thus, bark beetles and peregrine falcon both have equal "rights" in the national park.

This Noah's Ark of a national park contributes to the sustenance of natural biodiversity as well as to biological stability – free of any utilitarian motives.



Sombre Goldenring



Doodlebug funnel



Waved Silk-moss



Gorge



Ledge



Beech forest on basalt



Claspleaf Twistedstalk



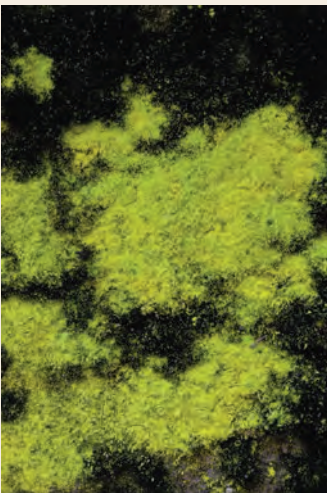
Labrador Tea



lat.: Coral hercium



Nine-leaf Coral Root



Sulfur Dust Lichen



Crowberry



Greater Spotted Woodpeckers



Hollow Root

...the effects that even a limited wilderness can have on the human condition are there for anyone with an open mind and an open heart: we are amazed, enthralled; we experience a thrill of excitement and expectation along with an indescribable feeling of permanence...

Siegfried Lenz

Providing the opportunity to experience nature

Since the world's first national park – Yellowstone National Park in the United States – was founded in 1872, national parks are symbolic of preserving nature in its entirety, but also of rest and recreation, inspiration and the enjoyment of nature.

Hiking and climbing are traditional activities in the Elbe Sandstone Mountains. The national park has some interesting possibilities in store for its visitors.

At the same time, the national park offers its guests a direct view of nature's workshop, the constant cycle of life, death and rebirth. The best opportunities to discover this can be found in the core zones of the national park.

The feeling of being at one with nature – this is a feeling you will experience in many places in the national park, filled with awe at the ancient valleys and gorges, amazement at the spectacular view, or elation at reaching the summit after an arduous climb if you are a mountain climber.

Guests who visit the national park are always welcome – guests who realise that they are nature's guests, not nature's conquerors, and behave with respect. This will insure that future generations can also experience the natural wonders of the national park.



In the national park you may enjoy the following activities:

- Access the area on all paths (outside the core zone). Within the core zone visitors must stay on sign-posted trails and paths only,
- Cycle on specially marked out cycling routes
- Climb mountains while adhering to the traditional Saxon climbing rules,
- Outside the core zone, you may spend the night amongst the rocks marked for this purpose (“Boofe”),
- Pick mushrooms and berries for your own use along the paths.

For further information please do not hesitate to ask the employees of the National Park Watch!

Offers for rest and refreshment

- Around 400 kilometres of marked out **hiking paths**, some with flights of stairs and bridges
- **Mountain paths** especially for experienced mountain hikers
- 755 authorised **climbing rocks** with around 13,500 climbing paths with varying levels of difficulty
- 50 kilometres of marked out **cycling tracks**
- A plethora of **vantage points with panoramic views** – for example, Bastei, Lilienstein, Gamrig, Brand, Waitzdorf Mountain, Schrammsteine rocks, Kipphorn, Kuhstall, Hinteres Raubschloss, Goldstein
- **Boat trip** on the upper sluice near Hinterhermsdorf and on Amsel lake
- Neurathen **rock castle**
- **Historical Kirnitzschtal valley railway trip**
- Visit **historical mountain inns**, at Grosser Winterberg, Brand, Kuhstall, and Bastei

Wilderness is nature's way of saying "No!" to human arrogance.

Hubert Weinzierl

Learning from nature

In these modern times of genetic engineering, experiencing wild, untouched nature has become a rare treat. And anyway, we have only an inkling of how natural processes actually happen. The national park serves as an opportunity for scientific research and exploration of natural structures and processes.

Amongst other things, 4 000 permanent observation areas have been set up in a network for the purpose of securing knowledge on long-term forest development. This monitoring also delivers information on the situation of the bark beetle in coniferous forests or the influence of deer on plant undergrowth and forest rejuvenation. This makes controlled development in the national park possible. In addition, the knowledge gained can also be applied outside the national park in using the forces supplied by nature for sustainable forest management and to save costs.

The national park also provides ideal conditions for a holistic approach to environmental education which has much to offer on both a scientific and an emotional level. The educational programmes are mainly targeted at children and young people from the region.

The introduction and promotion of natural development means that the inhabitants of the area will have to overcome their assumptions regarding "an orderly, tidy forest" and "forest pests", and absorb new images as an integral part of their home.

Maybe experiencing nature in its wild, "natural" state in the midst of our civilisation will add to the realisation that we are part of our natural habitat and, as such, are dependent on it. It takes some courage to resist the urge to intervene, to let things run as they are; the courage to control oneself and passively watch it happen instead of wading in...



An employee of the National Park Watch talking to visitors at Kipphorn vantage point near Schmilka

Welcoming the 100,000th participant of environmental education programmes for young people in May 2008 at Sellnitz near Lillienstein



Opportunities for *experiencing* nature – interpretation and information

- Guided walks with the National Park Watch and certified National Park Guides
- Special guided tours, excursions and presentations
- Educational programmes for children and young people, families and disabled people
- Saxon Switzerland National Park Information Centre in Bad Schandau
- Information Centres: Amselfall mountain hut, National Park Gallery at Bastei, Beize and Waldhusche in Hinterhermsdorf, Brand, Eishaus Grosser Winterberg, Zeughaus, Schmilka
- Tourist information boards in the area
- Brochures and leaflets providing information on nature and culture

Is it not ... our duty to return a small part of our intensively used cultural heritage back to nature? I am convinced that our children and coming generations will thank us for it.

Edmund Stoiber

Supporting the region

Contributions from National Park Administration to supporting the region

- **Relief of local authorities** by maintaining and marking of around 400 kilometres of hiking paths within the national park (e.g. "Malerweg")
- **Promotion of tourism** by offering information and support to visitors; further training of certified National Park Guides
- **Economic support** by placing of orders to local businesses (approx. 1.2 million euros per year; including path maintenance, forestry measures)
- **Encouragement of local public transport**; support of planning and measures in order to calm traffic
- Offers **advice on nature preservation** to local districts, authorities, associations and organizations
- The **national park employs** around 70 people

The national park is not only there for protecting nature and inspiring its guests. It should also encourage local development. National parks are increasingly becoming trademarks of environmentally and culturally responsible tourism, thus contributing to the positive image of the region. The two million overnight stays per year that the region of Saxon Switzerland is aiming at are a major factor in the economic capabilities of the region.

The National Park Administration has set the scene for active tourism by maintaining a functioning and effective network of hiking paths. By actively supporting the infrastructure of the whole region, the national park directly and indirectly contributes to securing jobs in the region.

The cross-border Saxon & Bohemian National Park Project is aimed not only at nature preservation, but also cohesion between the people on either side of the border. Those responsible for the project have not only agreed on frontier crossings for hikers and cyclists, but also organise joint events and public relations programmes.



The new network of the region. "We commit ourselves to strengthen the spirit of the national park with our daily work."



Partners for a good cause – National Park and Upper Elbe Transport Association "on the right path" together

Nature needs friends

Nature preservation and experiencing nature in the Elbe Sandstone Mountains rely on close cooperation based on trust between all those interested in nature. The National Park Administration also relies on your input. Please write to us:

Staatsbetrieb Sachsenforst, Nationalparkverwaltung Sächsische Schweiz, An der Elbe 4, 01814 Bad Schandau, Germany

poststelle.sbs-nationalparkverwaltung@smul.sachsen.de



The national park offers a chance for nature and people – A symbol of the first National Park Day on 29th May 2010 in Kurort Rathen



Local products – one of the main pillars of Saxon Switzerland

Observe the form closely, the small and the large form, and do not separate the large from the small – but keep pettiness from the whole picture.

Caspar David Friedrich

Bad Schandau National Park Information Centre



Bad Schandau National Park Information Centre

Covering an exhibition area of 700 m², this central meeting and education centre offers interactive information and events.

Opening hours

April – Oct: daily 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Nov – Mar: daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Closed on Mondays

Closed all January



Amselfallbaude National Park Information Centre

Exhibition in the Amsel valley between Rathen and Rathewalde; particularly interesting to children and young people

Topics

Gorge forest, national park, geology, fauna and flora, dead wood

Open daily

May – Sept: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

April & Oct: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Eishaus National Park Information Centre

Exhibition in a former cold storage depot next to the mountain lodge Grosser Winterberg; exhibition includes geological terrain model

Topics

Natural features and tourism in the Winterberg area.

Open daily

May – Sept: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

April & Oct: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Beize National Park Information Centre

Former ranger's lodge near Hinterhermsdorf with exhibition; one of the bases of National Park Watch

Topics

National park, forest reconstruction in the national park

Open daily

May – Sept: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

April & Oct: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Zeughaus NP Information Centre

Former district forest ranger's lodge at Grosser Zschand, one of the bases of National Park Watch

Topics

Core zone of national park and history of hunting

Open Daily

May – Sept: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

April & Oct: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Historical forestry exhibition ground "Waldhusche"

in Hinterhermsdorf; particularly suitable for families; varied learning stops; guided walks offered regularly by the NP Watch

Topics

Vivid exhibition of historical forest use features

Public access all year round



Brandbaude National Park Information Centre

Historic cabin at the Brandaussicht vantage point near Hohnstein; changing exhibitions

Open daily

May – Sept: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

April & Oct: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Swiss House National Park Gallery at Bastei

250 historical pictures and graphics of important artists of the past 300 years; information on "Malerweg"

Open daily

May – Sept: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

April & Oct: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Be ready for a continuous series of sights of natural beauty and rarity, each larger, more beautiful and more extensive than the last, the further you go.

Wilhelm Leberecht Götzinger, 1812

Places to see when hiking in the National Park

Bastei

The most famous view of Saxon Switzerland, has many visitors

Uttewalder Grund

One of the romantic Wehlen valley floors

Schwedenlöcher

Wild nature within impressive rock formations, long and steep series of steps

Hockstein

Vantage point high above Polenztal valley

Polenztal

A phenomenal rock valley with a wild stream

Waitzdorfer Höhe

Looking down into a world of sandstone

Brandaussicht

Fantastic panorama view

Lilienstein

The last word in mountain plateaus

Schrammsteine

Wild and rocky scenery stretching into the distance

Affensteine

Immense tor landscape with impressive views from towering heights

Kuhstall

Famous tor replete with traces of history

Kleiner Zschand

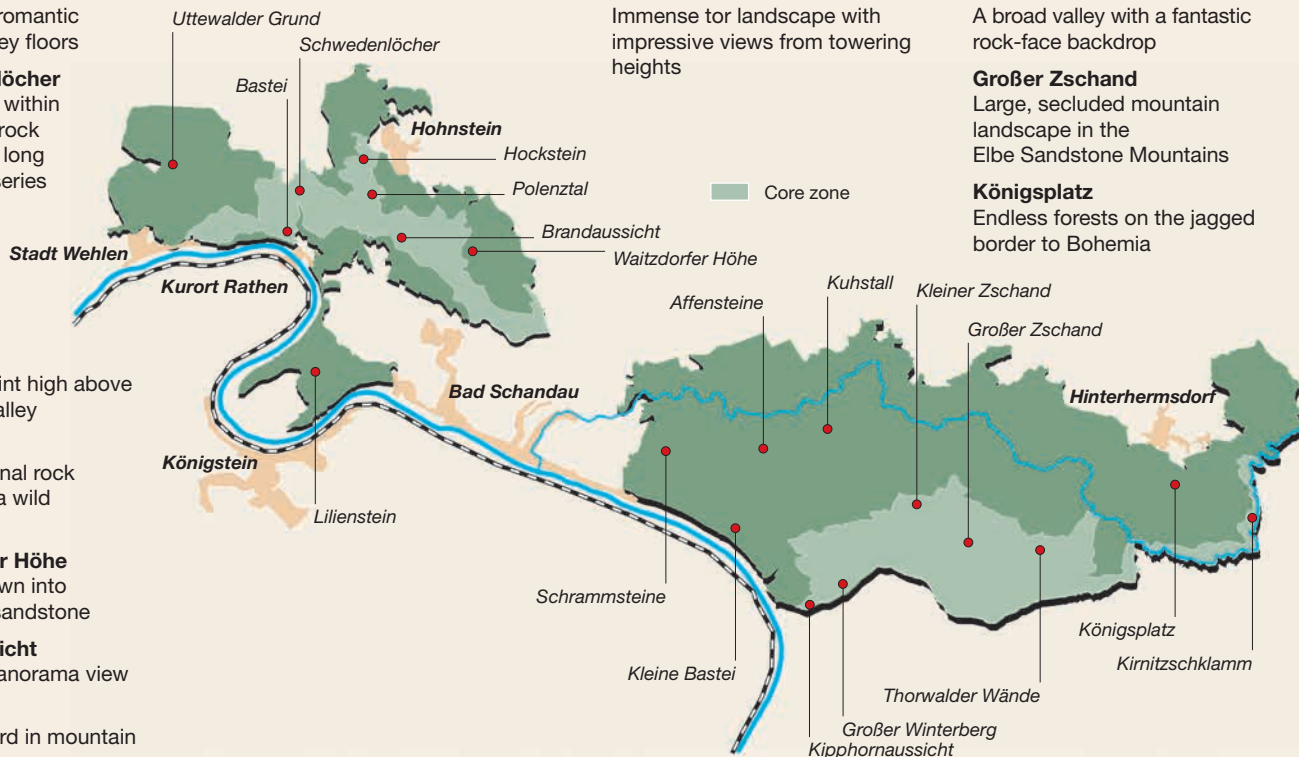
A broad valley with a fantastic rock-face backdrop

Großer Zschand

Large, secluded mountain landscape in the Elbe Sandstone Mountains

Königsplatz

Endless forests on the jagged border to Bohemia



Kleine Bastei

An amazing view of the Elbe valley

Großer Winterberg

Highest peak in the national park with a mountain guesthouse and a lookout tower

Kirnitzschklamm

The most ancient, wildest part of Saxon Switzerland

Kiphornaussicht

A breathtaking panorama view from high above the Elbe valley

For a calendar of guided hikes that take you to the most beautiful, exciting or relaxing spots in the national park, please pick up the brochure the National Park Administration publishes every year. Employees of the administration and certified National Park Guides will show you around in the unique forest and rock landscape of Saxony's only national park. Or go to our online calendar at www.nationalpark-saechsische-schweiz.de

Notes for climbers

- Mountain climbing might be a fascinating hobby, but you should not try it without a professional guide if you are no experienced climber.
- Saxon Switzerland has special rules for climbers.
- Magnesia and other chemical aids as well as climbing wedges are not permitted.
- Climbing is only permitted on freestanding tors.
- Climbing is only permitted on dry rocks.



Rococo tor "Garden of Eden" level Xc – Climbing at advanced level of difficulty

Notes for hikers

- Please keep to the paths.
- Keep a firm foothold on narrow paths; stay away if you are not good with heights.
- Be especially careful in wet weather (roots, mossy stones, steps).
- The rocks are often icy in winter. Avoid narrow, steep paths during the winter period.

Marks along paths



Hiking trail

With signposts and/or marks
Usually well-developed trails



Mountain path

Usually difficult path
Surefootedness is essential



Climbing access

No hiking path! Path for mountaineers and climbers; leads to climbing rocks

Watch out



Fall hazard

Watch out! Nature also means hazards!



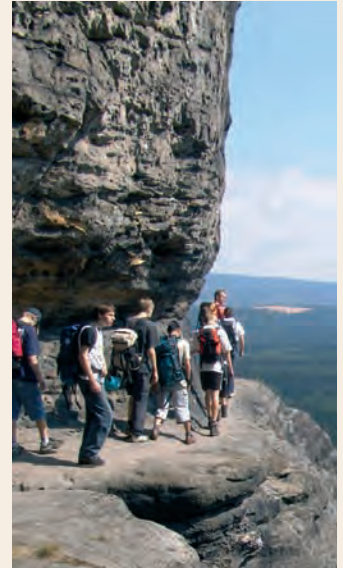
Dying and dead trees are only removed in cases of acute danger, so always watch out for collapsing trees and falling branches.

The Free State of Saxony will not take any responsibility for the associated dangers that arise in the forest.

You enter the National Park at your own risk.

Dear hiker,

the national park is part of tomorrow's ancient forest. In the interests of nature's development and experiencing of nature, forestry activity generally only takes place on a limited scale, or not at all in the core zones. Dying trees are left in the natural cycle, of which standing pieces of dead wood are important elements. Please move responsibly – not only in rocky areas. During storms and other extreme weather conditions please act with the utmost caution. You will find the latest relevant information at www.nationalpark-saechsische-schweiz.de.



For hiking in the national park surefootedness is essential.



Tips for your visit to the Elbe Sandstone Mountains

Why not get to know the national park on dry ground?

Saxon Switzerland National Park
Information Centre
(Nationalparkzentrum Sächsische Schweiz)
Dresdner Strasse 2b
01814 Bad Schandau
Phone: +49 (0)35022 50242
www.lanu.de

Tip: Admission fees are reduced if you hold a ticket of Upper Elbe Transport Association (VVO)

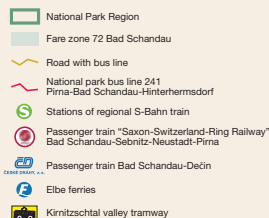


Alternative ways of getting here: by train, bus or bike

- National transport trains (ICE trains and night trains) call at Dresden and Bad Schandau
- Regional S-Bahn trains take 45 minutes from Saxon Switzerland to the county capital of Dresden
- Change trains at Bad Schandau to reach Sebnitz, Neustadt and Bohemian Switzerland National Park. Connections to

all points of interest by bus or Elbe ferry (tourist information in Bad Schandau's train station building)

- “National park bus line 241” takes you from Pirna through romantic Kitzschschal valley to Hinterhermsdorf.
- Tourist attraction: The world's only tramway in a national park operates between Bad Schandau and Lichtenhain waterfall.
- Tip: Spend a day in the national park with a VVO (Upper Elbe Transport Association) family ticket called “National park ticket fare zone Bad Schandau” (see ticket for the area within which it is valid)
- Find detailed information in the brochure “Public transport hiking schedules for Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland” (revised every year)
- Using the cycleway along the River Elbe is probably the most appealing way to approach the sandstone rocks. Cycling routes take you cross-border to both Saxon and Bohemian Switzerland National Parks.
- Busses with bike trailers operate on weekends.



Imprint

Edited by: Public Enterprise Sachsenforst
National Park Administration Saxon Switzerland
Phone: +49 (0)35022 900600
Fax: +49 (0)35022 900666
@: poststelle.sbs-nationalparkverwaltung@smul.sachsen.de
www.nationalpark-saechsische-schweiz.de

Text: Dr. Jürgen Stein
Concept and layout: Frank Richter
Revised typesetting: Taradesign, F. Höppner
Images: F. Richter, H. Riebe, Hp. Mayr, M. Meyer, M. Protze, F. Höppner, J. Weber, Archiv NLPV
Maps, graphics: F. Richter, H. Riebe, F. R. Richter
Printed by: Laske Druck Pirna
5. updated print edition 2012: 1,500
Printed on Circlematt white

Tourist information, places to spend the night, bookings

Please order hotel, B&B and guest house directory.

Information and booking office for the Saxon Switzerland tourism office (Tourismusverband Sächsische Schweiz e.V.)

Bahnhofstrasse 21/22
01796 Pirna

Phone +49 (0)3501 470147
Fax: +49 (0)3501 470148
info@saechsische-schweiz.de
www.saechsische-schweiz.de