

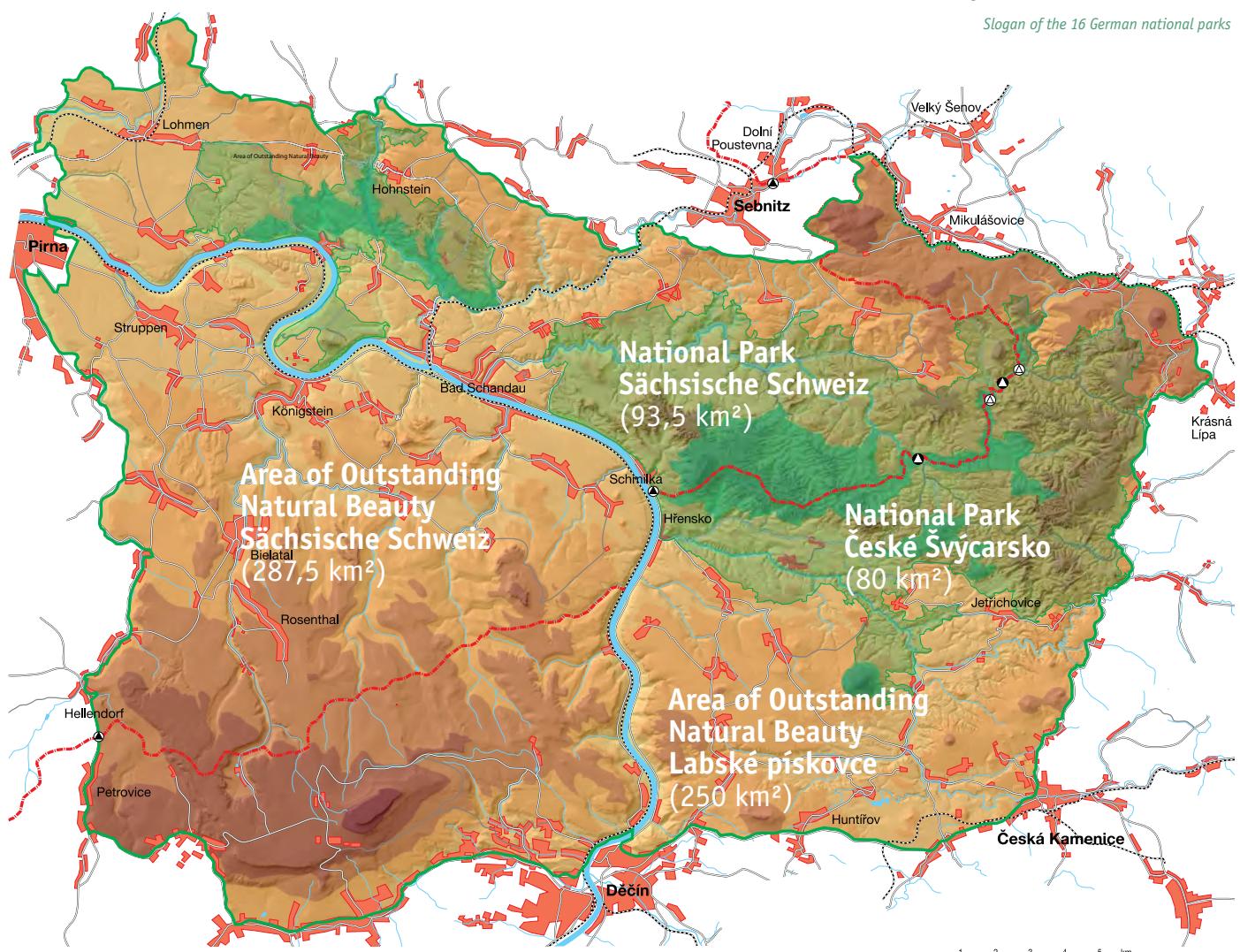
The National Park of Saxon Switzerland Bizarre rocks, rugged gorges



Conservation areas in the Elbe Sandstone Mountains

National parks in Germany - wild and beautiful

Slogan of the 16 German national parks



With the implementation of the Schengen Treaty, anyone can cross the national border anytime and anywhere. Independent of this, according to conservation law only marked hiking paths in the core zone and recognisable tracks (outside the core zone) can be used in both national parks.

- ◆ National border
- Crossing point (pedestrians)
- ▲ Crossing point (pedestrians and cyclists)
- ▲ Crossing point (motor vehicles)

- Nature conservation area
- National park
- National park core zone

Unique in Central Europe

I saw on my earlier journeys through southern Germany, Switzerland, Salzburg, Austria and Silesia many beautiful things of this kind, but I have never come across such magnificent rock formations.

Carl Merckel, 1826



View of the "Großer Zschand"

Elbe Sandstone Mountains – actually this common term for **Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland** is misleading. To some it may look like a mountain range. In reality it is the bed of a Cretaceous sea - 100 million years old. After this drained off, up to 600 m of strong sand layers remained. Over millions of years this superstructure has been deeply fissured. The Elbe and its tributaries ate through it and smoothed it out. The result is a wonderous ruined landscape of **block sandstone**, which daily crumbles into sand. The upper surface sandstone forms are divided into three "**storeys**":

- Mesas, stone and rock formations
- Plateaus
- Valleys, gullies and gorges

The cragginess of the highest "storey" and height differences of up to 450 m in a small

area give the sandstone landscape its special character. Conical basalt mountains and adjacent slopes of granite complement the scenery.

This landscape "functions" in a unique way: In contrast to the climatic sequence of a real mountain range, in the gullies and gorges a damp, cool **cellar-like climate** reigns. In the higher areas, on the rocky ridges, it is by contrast warm and dry, so the distribution of plants and animals is practically reversed from the norm: Mountain inhabitants settle at basement level and plainsmen have taken over the mountains. As is only normal in high mountains, low-growing pines, which call to mind Bonsai trees, mark out the battle zone between forest and rock. A typical feature of the Elbe Sandstone Mountains is the lack of water. The sponge effect of

the porous stone causes water courses to quickly drain away, and the term "Barren Creek" is apt to describe the result.

There are also interesting features in the area's land use history - a history, that up to the 15th century was influenced by Bohemia and in which forestry, hunting and sandstone quarrying and shipping played dominant roles. There are old castles on the cliffs, mountain inns, mills and weirs, the Saxon form of the alpine farm, an individual dialect....

Last but not least 200 years of tourism and 150 years of mountain climbing have left an interesting mark on the area.

Magic world of shapes



Disintegrating side of a towering rock

Elbe sandstone, a material that contains both the destructive and creative powers of nature, can, despite its simple composition, take on many different forms. Quartz sandstone is grey-white to yellowish in colour.

In the South of the region it is rough- and in the North fine-grained. This has a great influence on the shape of the rocks.

The quartz grains are kept together by extremely diverse types of binding materials.

If these are dissolved, impressive shapes are created, which range from shell-shaped imprints to cliff walls of honeycomb structure.

What we admire is not the finished construction, but rather the collapsing building, which first owes its real beauty to its ruins.

Paul Güßfeld



Hourglass shape



Striking effects of iron weathering at the summit



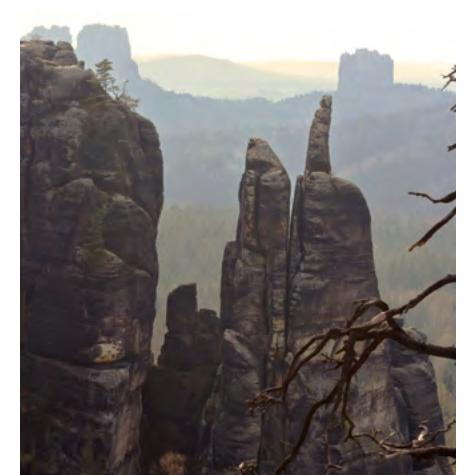
Shell imprint



Layered structure



Honeycombs and iron bands



Brosin Needle

Nature protection - both traditional and modern

Our Elbe Sandstone Mountains - a mountain world that unites both the wild and the tame in a small area, is a piece of native soil that deserves to be cherished as one large nature conservation area.

Paul Wagner, 1931

Short chronicle of nature protection

- 1877** Call to limit sandstone quarrying near Bastei and other natural scenic attractions
- 1873-1930** Successful protests against the construction of mountain railways to Bastei and Lilienstein
- 1911** First nature conservation area at Hohnstein
- 1938/40** Designation of Bastei and Polenztal as nature conservation areas
- 1954** Discussion on the designation of Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland as a national park
- 1956/72** Establishment of the nature conservation areas Saxon Switzerland and Labské pískovce (Elbe Sandstone)
- 1961** Designation of further nature conservation areas: Großer Winterberg/Zschand, Kirnitzschklamm, Zeschingleiten
- 1990** Designation of Saxon Switzerland as a national park
- 2000** Creation of České Švýcarsko (Bohemian Switzerland) National Park



Rathewalde in the nature conservation area



Affensteine (Monkey Rocks) in the national park

Elbe Sandstone Mountains

What one loves, one also protects. So it is no wonder that efforts to protect the landscape and nature in Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland date back to the middle of the 19th century.

The Elbe Sandstone Mountains, lying both sides of the border between Saxony and the Czech Republic, not only form a unit in the natural environment - both sides of the border there is a mutually supporting system of conservation areas for their preservation and development. At the same time, based on previous land use and settlement, specific protection goals and approaches are pursued.

Nature conservation area

The Elbe Sandstone Mountains presents as a whole a cultural landscape that has been used and moulded by humans for centuries, with a characteristic interplay of forest and rock, open land, mostly village settlements and transport routes.

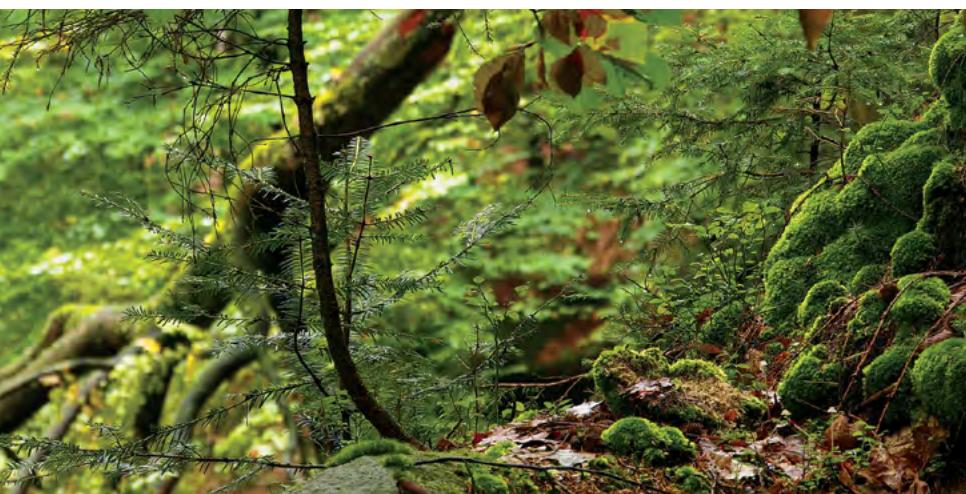
Related to its designation as a nature conservation area, is the task of preserving the nature and landscape in their entirety and retaining the area's suitability for recreation. This should follow from sustainable land use and management. As part of this, sustainable agriculture and forestry, a settlement limited to the needs of the area, as well as respectful tourism, are particularly important.

The national park

To the right of the Elbe, large connecting forest and rocky areas remain despite land use. These are either unpopulated or very sparsely settled and scarcely developed in terms of traffic. These areas today still possess features of a natural landscape and were therefore designated as a national park. They should be guided step by step towards natural development without human exploitation and management.

On the Saxon side, the nature conservation area and national park together form the **national park region** of Saxon Switzerland. The national park administrative body is equally responsible for both conservation areas.

The national park – giving freedom to nature



Freedom and dignity are basic rights of man. Doesn't that also apply to nature?

Almost without exception we use, shape and protect nature according to our own human needs and measures. Practical "second-hand nature". This applies to agriculture and forestry just as much as to hunting and fishing. Moreover, as the result of our own actions (e.g. forest destruction, climate change), we view nature increasingly as an invalid, whom we want to help in good faith. But nature is not static; in fact it constantly changes according to its own laws. This dynamic cannot be replaced by exploitation and management.

In national parks nature should get back its freedom and dignity. National park administrations have the mandatory obligation to let nature develop freely according to its own laws over the widest possible area and

to renounce exploitation and management. The maxim is "**let nature be nature**".

Worldwide the national park family has around 2,200 members on five continents. Our national park is one of 16 in Germany; in the Czech Republic there are 4. Both national parks in the Elbe Sandstone Mountains are as far as possible state-owned.

In the public interest, the Free State of Saxony has renounced the use of natural resources (e.g. wood, water, wild animals) for commercial purposes in the national park. Underlying this policy is the realisation that the active cycle of nature can only function when components are not constantly removed.

Another guiding principle is that we should only interfere in future with natural processes when personal safety or the security of significant material assets (for example buildings, streets, adjacent private property) or forest

What (...) can give us reason to hope is (...) the wonderful assertiveness of nature. Let us confer in her, the creation, at least here and there, of a natural landscape. You can also call it wilderness.

Siegfried Lenz

fires absolutely requires this.

Freedom for forest development means that forests - over and above the usual phases of regeneration, growth and maturity - can become old. They may even decay and regenerate in the natural recycling process. However, to do that they need an enormous amount of time - about 400 to 600 years.

This freedom also applies to the gradual re-forestation of pasture meadows kept open by mowing or grazing and the development of watercourses.

Nature knows no disasters. Like rockslides, wind blasts and blizzards in forests or outbreaks of insects must be recognized as natural processes and effective methods for the repair of nature. Old, dying and dead trees in the national park are therefore not a sign of incompetent forestry, but signposts along the path from cultivated forest to natural forest.

The national park as a development area

To enable nature to take its own course, a certain naturalness must be present in the forests to prevent - from the human perspective - sudden and dramatic changes in nature and the landscape, for example, the large outbreak of pine beetles and the large-scale collapse of spruce forests.

In the Elbe Sandstone Mountains the nearly wild areas are concentrated on hard-to-reach rocky ridges and plateaus, gullies and gorges of sandstone, and hilltops and slopes of basalt and granite. In these areas, some of which have been relatively shielded as nature reserves for a long time, numerous natural forest communities, rock biotopes and watercourses have been preserved.

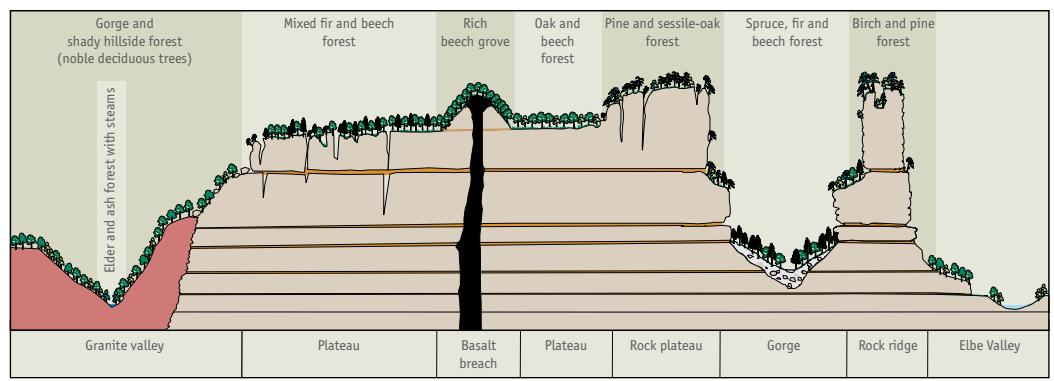


Lumber ready to be hauled off in the managed area

Currently nature can unfold largely freely in around 53% of the area. Such untouched areas are found mainly in the designated core zones (shown on the map).

On approximately one-third of all areas, more measures to initiate natural development will be necessary in the next few years. This refers to, for example, the promotion of native tree species like the silver fir, oak, and beech in the large spruce forests on the plateaus or the restoration of some water courses.

For species protection, forestry management activities are limited to the six cooler months. The resultant lumber is still largely commercially exploited.



Forest types in the national park



By 2030 guidelines in most of the area should also be minimised and set up. In the interest of natural forest development, hooved game (e.g. roe deer, red deer and wild boar) will continue to require long-term regulation due to the lack of natural predators and these animals' altered habits. However, who is really able to make predictions today in view of the length of the natural cycle of forest development over several hundred years?

Most of the questions and requirements of our culture are actually problems of the future. We do our part. Our grandsons must complete the task. ...

Wilhelm Bölsche, 1928

Protecting habitats and species

If the biospheres, in the course of aeons, have produced elements which we (...) have not learned to understand, then only a fool would renounce the seemingly unnecessary parts.

Aldo Leopold



Pygmy owls



Garden dormouse (disappearing since 2007)



Beech fern

With its cliffs, special aspects of landscape management and protected natural processes, the national park offers numerous natural habitats that are now usually rare. Among these are rock ridges and gullies, old-growth and decay phases in semi-natural pine and beech forests, standing and lying deadwood and near-natural watercourses. These are safe havens for many plant and animal species, some of which are highly specialized. A quarter of all bird species use the cliffs for breeding and rearing their young.

Among the moist **gullies and gorges** there is a striking wealth of ferns and mosses, and at the foot of the cliffs is the bright yellow *Psilolechia lucida* lichen or twisted stalk (*Streptopus*), which is usually only found on mountains. Dipper, fire salamanders and brown trout attach themselves to the near-natural rivers. The warm and dry **ridge pine forests** with their heaths offer, for example, a habitat for antlions, cave-dwelling woodpeckers and owls, or the marsh Labrador tea plant with its decorative white flowers. With a little luck, you will come face-to-face with the peregrine falcon or even the shy black stork. Most vertebrate species are highly sensitive to disturbances and reliant on the twilight (e.g. the red deer, lynx, otter, eagle owl, and bat). The **beech forests on the basalt hills** impress the visitor above all with their many spring flowers, such as anemones, the nine-leaved toothwort (*Cardamine*) and holewort (*Corydalis cava*). The black woodpecker and stock dove also live here.

However, the national park is not here to protect certain very beautiful or rare plants and animals, and equally not "useful" or "harmful" types, but instead the whole interlinked natural spectrum of plant and animal species. This also includes a wide variety of lichens and algae, beetles and spiders, countless fungi and insects attached to deadwood, worms, and mites, as well as millions of micro-organisms in the soil.

Each and every living thing has its function in the eternal cycle of becoming, being and passing on - even if we still do not understand much of it today. Seen like this, bark beetles and the peregrine falcon in the national park have the same "rights".

As part of a "Noah's Ark" the national park therefore contributes to the preservation of the natural biodiversity and biological stability, and utilitarianism has no part.



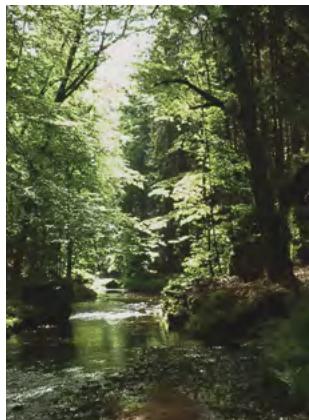
Sombre goldenring (*Cordulegaster bidentata*)



Antlion pits



Silk moss (*Plagiothecium*)



Gorge



Ridge



Beech grove on basalt



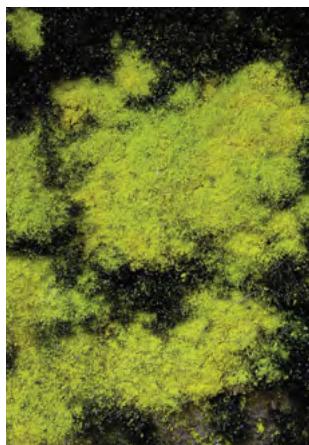
Clasping twisted-stalk



Marsh Labrador tea plant



Alpine bearded-tooth mushrooms



Psilolechia lucida lichen



Crowberries



Greater spotted woodpecker



Nine-leaved toothwort (*Cardamine*)



Holewort (*Corydalis cava*)

Creating ways of experiencing nature

Since the world's first national park, Yellowstone, was founded in 1872 in the United States it has held true that in addition to protecting all the forms of nature within them they should be conducive to relaxation and inspiration and provide an experience of nature.

Hiking and climbing have a great tradition in the Elbe Sandstone Mountains. The national park offers visitors interesting things to do.

Visitors to the national park gain an insight into the workshop of nature, into the constant cycle of life, death and new growth. In particular the core zones offer the best opportunities for these experiences.

The feeling of being at one with nature can be experienced at many places in the national park; reverently in the unspoiled gullies and gorges, marveling at a spectacular view or, as a climber, enjoying the achievement of reaching the top.

Visitors are very welcome - if you think and act like a **guest of nature** and not as its conqueror. Then experiencing nature will always be possible.

... the effects of even a limited amount of wilderness on men - common sense has recognised them everywhere: We wonder and feel uneasy, we are excited and shiver, we feel a longing and a mysterious feeling of continuity ...

Siegfried Lenz



In the national park it is allowed:

- To access the area on all paths (outside the core zone),
In the core zone, only to use the signposted tracks and paths (paths-only rule),
- To cycle on specially marked cycling routes,
- To climb mountains following the climbing rules of Saxony,
- Outside the core zone to sleep overnight at the designated places, called "Boofen", under the cliffs,
- To pick berries or mushrooms for your own needs along the way.

The national park rangers are happy to assist all visitors with any further information. Please talk with them!

Possibilities for recreation and retreat

- 400 km of marked **hiking trails**, with more than 20 kilometres of climbing and bridging
- specially marked **mountain trails** for experienced mountain walkers
- Walks with certified **national park guides**
- 755 approved climbing faces with around 13,500 climbing routes of various difficulty levels
- Numerous **vantage points** with **panoramic views**, such as Bastei, Lilienstein, Gamrig, Brand, Waitzdorfer Berg, Schrammsteine, Kipphorn, Kuhstall,
- **Boat trip** on the upper sluice at Hinterhermsdorf and on the Amselsee
- Rides on the **historical Kirnitzsch valley tram**
- Visits to **historical mountain inns** such as at Großer Winterberg, Brand, and Bastei

Wilderness is the rejection of the arrogance of the people.

Hubert Weinzierl

Experiences with practically untouched, unchanged "wild" nature have mostly disappeared in the age of genetic engineering. It is also largely unknown how natural processes really work. The national park therefore also acts as a laboratory for scientific observation and study of nature's structures and processes.

For example, with our network of over 4,000 permanent observation plots we aim to gain long-term insights into natural forest development. Such monitoring also provides information on the development of the bark beetles in spruce forests and the influence of roe deer and red deer on the vegetation and the rejuvenation of the forest. This enables controlled development in the national park. This knowledge can also help others outside the confines of the national park to use the free powers of nature sustainably for natural forest management and thereby save costs.

Nature experience options - interpretation and information

- Guided walks with certified national park guides and employees of the national park administration
- Special guided tours, excursions and lectures
- Educational programmes for children and young people, families and people with disabilities
- Saxon Switzerland National Park Centre in Bad Schandau
- Information points:
Amselklaube, National Park Gallery Schweizerhaus Bastei, Beizehaus and Waldhusche Hinterhermsdorf, Brandbaude, Eishaus Großer Winterberg, Zeughaus and Schmilka
- Open-air visitor information panels
- Brochures, leaflets with information about nature and culture



Each year the Forest Youth Games at Sellnitz at the foot of the Lilienstein mark the start of the season for youth education work.

Learning from nature

At the same time, the national park provides ideal conditions for holistic environmental education, where knowledge and emotions can be conveyed equally. Priority will be given to children and young people from the region.

The introduction and promotion of natural development means, above all for the locals, overcoming previous conceptions - for example, of a "neat, tidy forest" or "forest pests" - and associating some new images with the idea of home.

Perhaps the experience of mostly untouched, "wild" nature in our civilisation can help us understand that we are also part of nature and as such are dependent on it. Having a courageous approach to the wild therefore springs from the courage to overcome one's preconceptions and to look rather than to do.



National park rangers in conversation with visitors on the Kipphorn lookout tower at Schmilka

Promoting the region

Contributions of the national park administrative authority to regional promotion

- Assuming the following roles from the local authorities:** maintenance, signposting and marking of approx. 400 km of hiking trails in the national park (e.g. the Malerweg, or Painters' Path)
- Promotion of tourism** via programmes, visitor information and support, training of certified national park guides
- Promotion of the economy** via contracts for regional businesses (approx. Euro 1.2 m per year, for example forest road construction, forest maintenance activities)
- Promotion of public transport**, participation in measures for traffic calming
- Expert advice on nature conservation** for the local authorities, government agencies, associations and clubs
- Employer of approximately 70 people**

In the Saxon Switzerland-East Ore Mountains district (Sächsische Schweiz-Osterzgebirge), over half the population lives in rural areas. I see it as our task to make the rural zones attractive and liveable, so that they remain sustainable in the future. The national park plays an essential role in this - both for people and for nature.

Michael Geisler, District Administrator, Saxon Switzerland-East Ore Mountains

Since 2009 there are partners standing behind the national park, committed to supporting the protected area. These are hotel and restaurant businesses, tourist information centres, holiday flat operators, a museum and a theatre, public transport operators, and the Elbe steamship company. These national park partners have pledged themselves to providing information on the conservation area to their guests and to engaging in regional promotional activities. Special attention is given to advertising the local public transport system. Germany's first national park station is not without reason in Bad Schandau – it was a joint effort!

In addition, regional products are supported in the food and beverage outlets. A seal is one unifying symbol of this project. Many regional producers have now connected under this regional seal, obtaining a common platform. Almost every day more join them.

The constantly updated database is available for everyone. Please test it yourself!

In these ways the national park is playing its part in adding value to the region.



A symbolic gesture for the first National Park Day on 29 May 2010, in Ratten health resort. The national park is seen and experienced as an opportunity for nature and man.



www.gutes-von-hier.org

Saxon Switzerland National Park Centre in Bad Schandau

On 700 sq. meters of exhibition space the central information centre educates the public with interactive experiences and offers year-round events.

Opening hours

April - October: daily 09:00 - 18:00

November - March: 09:00 - 17:00
(closed on Mondays and in January)

Contact

Saxon State Foundation for Nature and the Environment

Saxon Switzerland National Park Centre
Dresdner Str. 2 B, 01814 Bad Schandau
Tel.: 035022 / 50240

www.lanu.de, nationalparkzentrum@lanu.de



Observe the form exactly, the smallest as well as the large, and do not separate the small from the large; but from the entirety take out the prettiness.

Caspar David Friedrich

Information points



National park information Schmilka

Exhibition on the hiking trail to the Großer Winterberg, base of the national park rangers

Topic: Mountain sports and nature conservation

Open daily:

April and October: 10:00 - 16:00
May - September 10:00 - 18:00



National park information Amselfallbaude

Exhibition in the Amselgrund Gully between Rathen and Rathewalde,

Topics: Gorge forest, National parks, geology, flora and fauna, deadwood

Open daily:

April and October: 10:00 - 16:00
May - September 10:00 - 18:00



National park information Ice house

Exhibition in the former cool house next to the Berghotel Großer Winterberg.

Topics: Natural resources and tourism in winter mountain areas, forest development

Open daily:

April and October: 10:00 - 16:00
May - September 10:00 - 18:00



Outdoor forest history area "Waldhusche"

In Hinterhermsdorf, especially suitable for families with children, with a variety of stopping points, regular guided tours with the rangers included

Topic: clear presentation of historical forest utilisation

Opening hours:

Freely accessible



National park information Zeughaus (armoury)

Former forester's range in Großer Zschand, base of the national park rangers

Topics: Core zone of the national park and traditional hunting

Open daily

April and October: 10:00 - 16:00
May - September 10:00 - 18:00



National park information Beizehaus (Falconry house)

Former forester's lodge with exhibition at Hinterhermsdorf, base of the national park rangers

Topics: National parks, forest reconstruction in the national park

Open daily

April and October: 10:00 - 16:00
May - September 10:00 - 18:00



National park information Brandbaude (Brand Mountain Inn)

Exhibition about Saxon Switzerland on the balcony of the historic mountain inn

Topics: Saxon Switzerland National Park, system of protected areas

open daily

all year round: 10:00 - 18:00



The National Park Gallery Schweizerhaus on the Bastei

Historical landscape representations by major artists of the last three centuries, with 250 images and graphics, as well as information about the Malerweg (Painters' Path)

Open daily

all year round: 10:00 - 18:00

Hiking destinations in the national park region

From now on, be prepared to see a continuous series of natural beauties and rarities, which increase in size, beauty and range the further one goes.

Wilhelm Leberecht Götzinger, 1812

Bastei

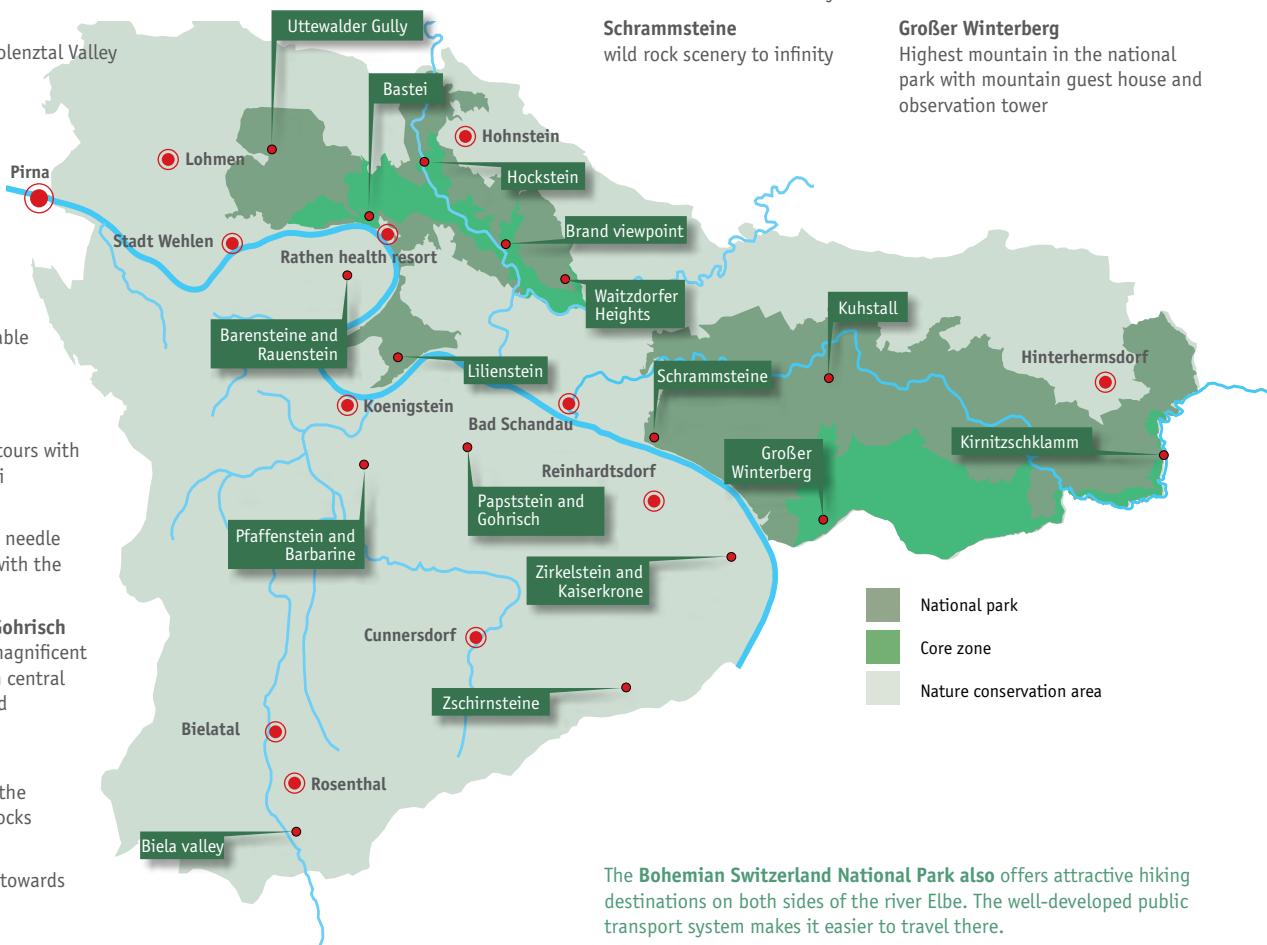
The most famous view of Saxon Switzerland

Uttewalder Grund

One of the romantic Wehlener gullies

Hockstein

Vantage point high above the Polenz valley



Lilienstein

The king of the table mountains

Bärensteine and Rauenstein

Breezy beginner tours with view of the Bastei

Pfaffensteine

On the eye of the needle in close contact with the Barbarine rocks

Papststein and Gohrisch

Short ascent to magnificent vantage points in central Saxon Switzerland

Zirkelstein and Kaiserkrone

At eye level with the Schrammsteine rocks

Zschirnsteine

Magnificent view towards Bohemia

Biel Valley

Hiking, climbing and cycling paradise for everyone

Waitzdorfer Höhe

Look down from the heights onto the sandstone world

Brand Viewpoint

Great panoramic views over the Polenz valley

Schrammsteine

wild rock scenery to infinity

Kuhstall

Famous rock archway, rich traces of history

Kirnitzschklamm

The wildest and most pristine part of Saxon Switzerland

Großer Winterberg

Highest mountain in the national park with mountain guest house and observation tower

The Bohemian Switzerland National Park also offers attractive hiking destinations on both sides of the river Elbe. The well-developed public transport system makes it easier to travel there.

Make enquiries about the current connections and try out the public transport services. International trains stop in Děčín, as well as at the national park station Bad Schandau.

Information on hiking and climbing

Rock climbing

- As fascinating as rock climbing is, amateurs should not do it without expert guidance.
- In Saxon Switzerland, there are special climbing rules which must be followed.
- The use of chalk or similar chemicals as well as chocks/nuts is forbidden
- Only free-standing rocks may be climbed. (Climbing is not allowed on wet or damp rocks.)



Climber on the "good weather wall", VIIc, at Falkenstein in the Saxon Switzerland.

Hiking

- Hikers are required to stay on designated paths.
- You need to be sure-footed on narrow trails and have no problem with vertigo.
- Please take care in wet weather when navigating roots, moss-covered stone and steps. In Winter the rocks are often icy. Narrow and steep trails should then be avoided.

Signposted hiking paths	
	HIKING PATH Signpost and/or coloured milestone Mostly well constructed
	MOUNTAIN TRAIL Mostly difficult trail, Steadiness when walking essential – watch your step
	CLIMB ENTRANCE Not a hiking path! Trail for mountain climbers to the climbing cliffs



When hiking in the national park you must be steady on your feet.

Beware! Nature also means danger!	
	Dying and dead trees will only be removed in case of immediate danger. So please be prepared for toppling trees and tree parts breaking off.
The Free State of Saxony takes no responsibility for the dangers present in the forests of the national park. You therefore enter the park at your own risk.	

Dear hikers

In the national park we are working to create the "primeval forest of tomorrow". In the interest of encouraging natural events and experiences, forestry activities no longer take place in the core zone or do so only on a limited basis. Trees that are dying off are allowed to remain within the cycle of nature. We believe that standing deadwood has a right to be here. Please use reasonable care in the rocky areas and elsewhere in the park. During storms and other extreme weather the greatest caution is advised. For the latest information please visit www.nationalpark-saechsische-schweiz.de.



Danger can come from falling tree trunks or breaking branches of deadwood.

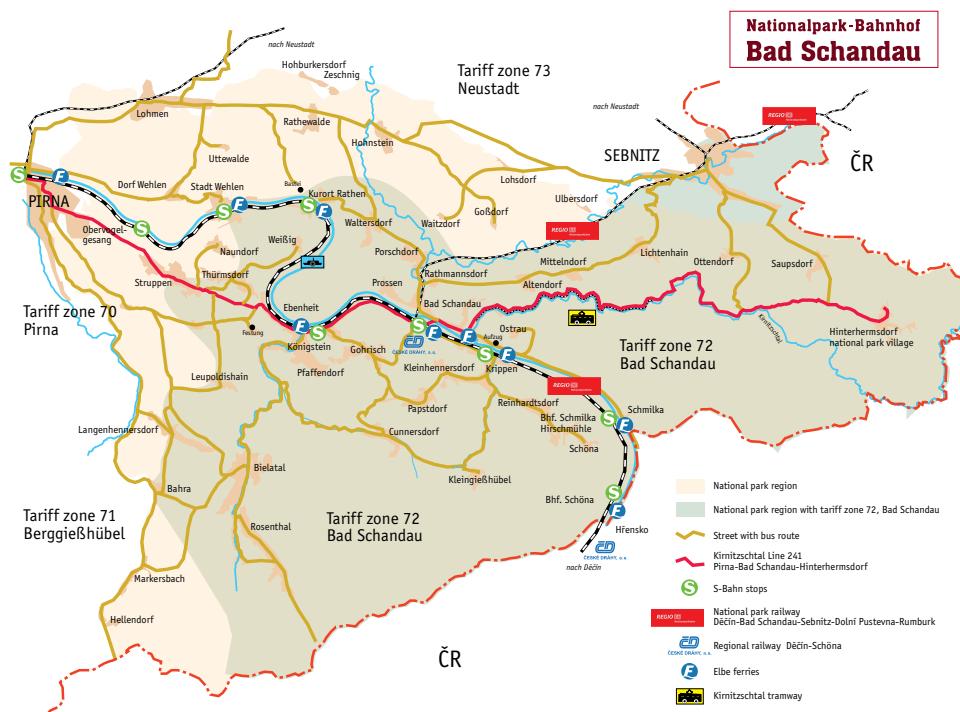
Tips for visiting the Elbe Sandstone Mountains

Arriving with the alternatives: Train, bus and bike

- The **national park station of Bad Schandau** is an ideal transfer point for the National Park Train to Sebnitz and Děčín as well as the National Park of Bohemian Switzerland. From here you can reach all the interesting tourist attractions by bus and ferry and the

- tourist information office is directly at the station.
- You can comfortably reach Bad Schandau with **EC and night trains**.
- The S-Bahn connects Saxon Switzerland with Dresden in less than 45 minutes.

- The "Kirnitzschtal-Linie 241" is our central **bus connection** from Pirna through the romantic Kirnitzschtal valley to Hinterhermsdorf.
- Attraction:** The tram from Bad Schandau to the Lichtenhainer waterfall is the only one in the world to run through a national park.
- Tip:** Spend a day in the national park with the **VVO Family Ticket** "Nationalparkticket Tarifzone Bad Schandau". (See the map to check the validity.)
- You can find detailed information in the yearly updated "**Hiking Schedules for Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland**".
- Cycling along the **Elberadweg** bicycle path is the nicest way of getting near the sandstone rocks. On cycling paths the national park region of Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland can be explored totally freely.
- Buses with bicycle trailers** run at the weekends.



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Tourist information - accommodation

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The Saxon Switzerland National Park
is a "Nature Destination Area".