

OUR THREE LANDSCAPES



EICHSFELD

The picturesque Eichsfeld is characterised by its medieval castles and ornate pilgrimage churches in half-timbered villages. A mountainous cultural landscape featuring lacustrine limestone plateaus and numerous cliffs, Eichsfeld also features one of the most significant yew tree populations in Germany.



HAINICH

Covering an astounding 13,000 ha, Hainich is the largest contingent deciduous forest in Germany. The southern area became a national park in 1997 and a section was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2011 as part of the 'Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany'.

WERRATAL

The Werratal valley is distinguished by the course of the river and its natural wetland pastures. Steep, lofty rock faces tower over the river banks and create habitats for rare plants usually found in warmer climates, such as orchids. The Werratal is home to peregrine falcons, eagle owls, beavers and many other animal species.



Welcome to the Naturpark Eichsfeld-Hainich-Werratal

Central Germany boasts a landscape once rapturously praised by the writer Theodor Storm in 1856, when he gazed over Eichsfeld from the Teufelskanzel rock, saying, "I do not think I have ever been so profoundly inwardly moved by the enchanting beauty of a small corner of the earth". Unforgettable experiences of nature are also in store in Hainich, part of which is now a UNESCO Heritage Site. The Werratal valley, with its steep cliff faces and natural wetland pasture landscapes, promises the very best setting for active holidays in the heart of Germany.

FÜRSTENHAGEN INFORMATION CENTRE (8)

The information centre in Fürstenhagen supplies visitors with a wealth of information on the nature park and its goals and characteristic features. The adventure tree house in our neighbouring forest discovery area is a particular highlight for children.

INFORMATION

FÜRSTENHAGEN INFORMATION CENTRE

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ACCOMMODATION

EICHSFELD TOURISM ASSOCIATION

Tel. (+49) 036074 - 62 16 50
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WORLD HERITAGE REGION

WARTBURG HAINICH

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LEGAL NOTICE

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Nationale
Naturlandschaften

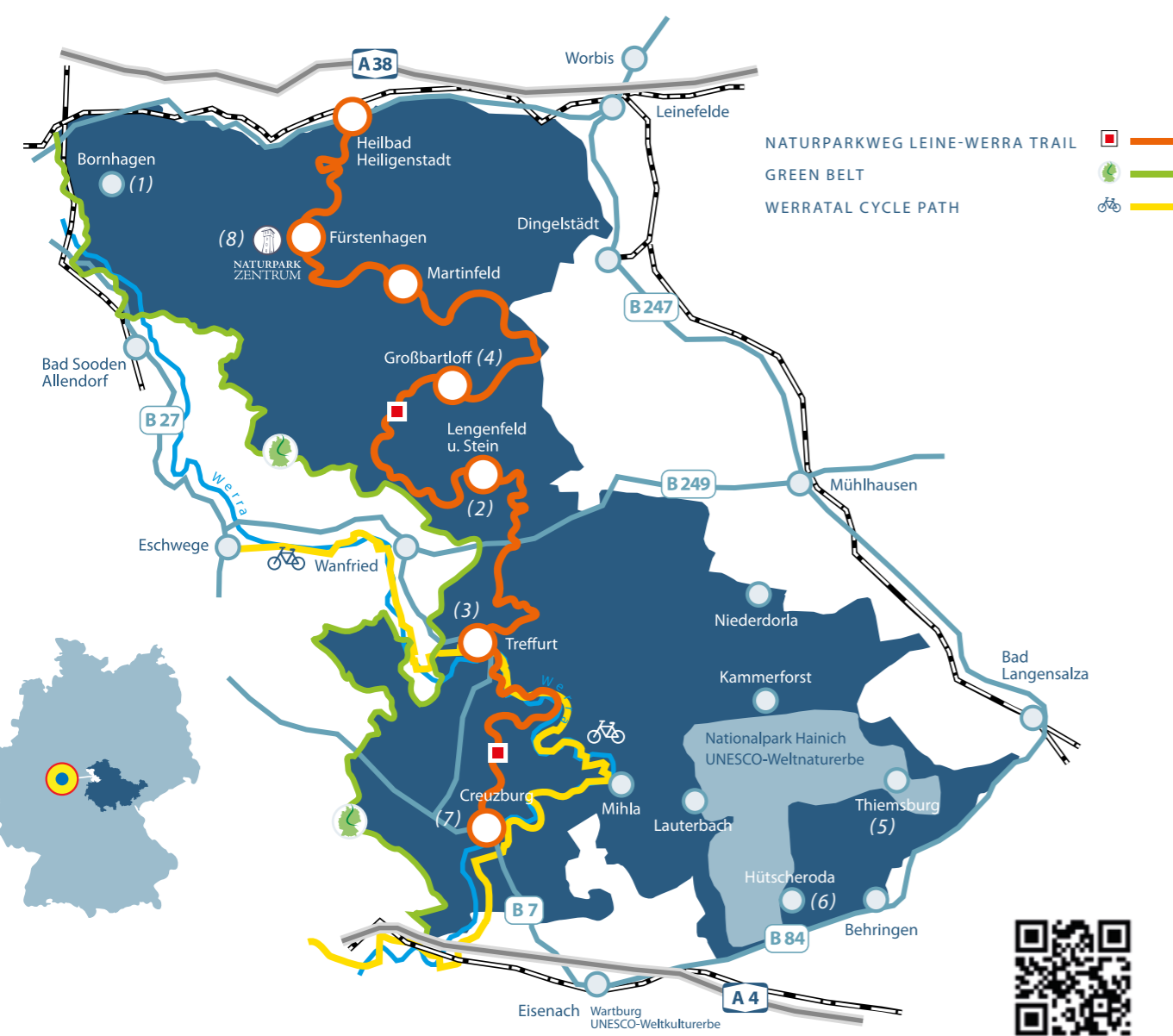
Nature Park Eichsfeld-Hainich-Werratal is a member of the 'Nationalen Naturlandschaften', the umbrella organisation for German national parks, biosphere reserves and nature parks formed by EUROPARC Deutschland: www.europarc-deutschland.de

AN OVERVIEW OF THE NATURE PARK

In the heart of Germany


Naturpark
Eichsfeld - Hainich - Werratal






HIKING TRAILS AND CYCLE PATHS



NATURPARKWEG LEINE-WERRA HIKING TRAIL  Steep ascents, inviting valleys, sparse plateaus and lush river landscapes – a hiking trail could not be more varied! Awarded the title of ‘Quality trail’ by the German Hiking Association, the trail leads you through traditional half-timbered villages, visits medieval castles and most notably, promises quality time in nature.

BORDER HIKING TRAIL – THE GREEN BELT  The land running along former inner German border is now a valuable habitat worthy of protection, and can be explored on hikes along the old patrol roads. Learn more about this period of history at the ‘Schiffersgrund’ border museum near Bad Sooden-Allendorf.

WERRATAL CYCLE PATH

The 276km-long Werratag cycle path is excellently built and opens up idyllic landscapes to cyclists. It is ranked among the top 10 long distance cycle paths. The route winds its way through the nature park villages of Creuzburg, Frankenroda, Treffurt and plenty more.

EXCURSIONS IN THE NATURE PARK

HANSTEIN CASTLE (1)

The Hanstein castle is featured in sagas and legends. It is considered the most stunning castle ruins in central Germany and its unmistakable silhouette establishes it as a landmark in the Eichsfeld landscape. Guided tours, events and concerts are available all year round.

DRAISINE RAIL TROLLEY EXPERIENCE (2)

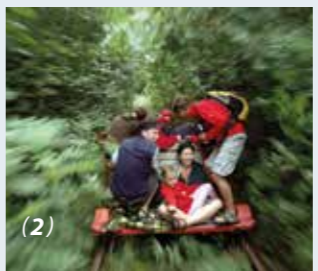
Speed through tunnels and over bridges along the historic Kanonenbahn railway track on a wheeled trolley – a unique nature park experience! A choice of track sections between 7 and 26 km are available, and guided tours are available for groups. Advance booking is recommended.

THE HALF-TIMBERED TOWN OF TREFFURT (3)

With its narrow side-streets and magnificent half-timbered buildings, Treffurt’s special charm has been well preserved. The market square at the foot of the town hall tower and the Burg Normannstein castle are the perfect spots to take a break. Hiking paths, cycling routes and the Werra itself invite you to experience nature at its finest.

GROSSBARTLOFF WATERFALL (4)


Standing at around 10 metres tall, the waterfall was formed naturally and is distinct in the nature park. It is made of hard travertine rock, a form of limestone and a deep hollow below the waterfall has formed a habitat for a variety of bird species including dippers, wrens and wagtails.




WORLD HERITAGE REGION WARTBURG HAINICH bit.ly/Film-Welterberregion



One of the most fascinating aspects of the world heritage region in the south of the nature park is how closely history and culture are intertwined the unique natural areas. Cultural delights in the town triangle of Mülhausen, Eisenach and Bad Langensalza can be combined with trips to the ‘virgin forest at the heart of Germany’ in Hainich which is a UNESCO world heritage site, along with the nearby Wartburg castle. For more information, please visit: www.kultur-liebt-natur.de / www.culture-loves-nature.com

BAUMKRONENPFAD TREE-TOP TRAIL (5)  Discover Hainich from a bird’s perspective. The tree-top trail offers two circular walks, 238m and 308m long, as well as a treetop observation tower with a tree house. A number of boards provide information along the way, and this is one unique experience of nature which is not to be missed – if you’ve got a head for heights!

WILDKATZENDORF HÜTSCHERODA (6)  Observe rare and shy animal of the wildcat from a range of perspectives in this wildcat village, including the wildcat woodland clearing. Find out everything you need to know about wildcats in the barn and take a walk down the wildcat path (7km) to discover the wildcat’s habitat.

CREUZBURG CASTLE (7)

With its museum and local history room, the ‘Heimatstube’, the castle is a particular treasure in central Werratal. The well-maintained atmosphere and 500 years old lime trees make the castle’s inner courtyard the perfect setting for a wide range of events (Middle Ages Festival, Arts Evening, Summer Festival, Michael Praetorius Day).