

# Welcome to Bavarian Forest National Park

Unspoilt nature has priority over human use in national parks. Nature can flourish here according to its own laws.

As our motto **"LET NATURE BE NATURE"** suggests, forested landscapes unique in respect of their structure and animal and plant kingdoms and clearly different

## DISCOVER THE VIRGIN FOREST OF TOMORROW

from the familiar commercial forests, have been growing and evolving in Bavarian Forest National Park for more than five decades. Part of this is that the natural processes of growth and decay in forest ecosystems are given free rein here and that dead trees or trees uprooted by storms remain in their natural environment.

Allowing this wild nature to grow, to research it, but also bringing this experience to life for people is part of the work of our national park.

We invite you to explore the wild forests and the unspoilt nature of our national park. **You are warmly welcomed as our guest.**

*Franz Leibl*  
**Dr. Franz Leibl,**  
Director of Bavarian Forest National Park

## Facts and Figures



**TASKS:**  
Conservation through protection of natural processes, research, education, and recreation

## GENUINELY A NATIONAL PARK

Established in **1970**, Bavarian Forest National Park is Germany's first and oldest national park.

Through to the year **2027** nature is to be left to its own devices on **75 %** of the park's territory and as such be free of human influence. Currently, this is the case for approximately **70 %** of the national park area. This comprehensive protection of natural processes is the most important internationally recognised seal of quality for evaluating large protected areas.



## Typical habitats and their residents

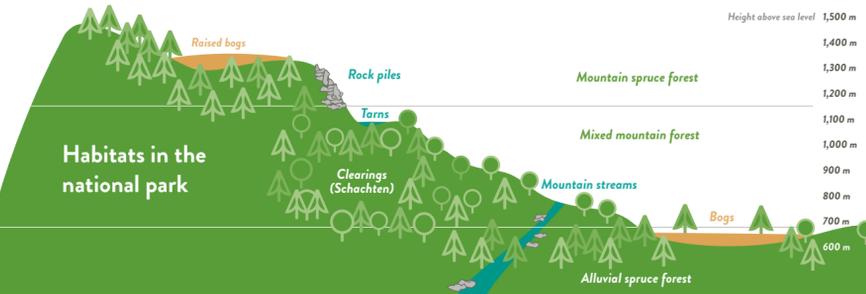
**MOUNTAIN SPRUCE FOREST – a touch of Taiga**  
Among the exceptional features of Bavarian Forest National Park are the natural spruce forests in the areas at higher altitude. They remind us of the Taiga forests and are found only in the higher, harsher locations of the mountains above 1,100 vertical meters and in the Alps. Snow can often be found in these areas well into the early summer months.



**RAISED BOGS – a place for survival artists**  
Raised bogs have an aura of the unusual: mosses, grasses and dwarf shrubs predominate here in alternation with water-filled pools and dwarf pines. Only rain water is available to plants in the high raised bogs as large peat bodies cut them off from other sources of water and nutrients.

**SCHACHTEN (CLEARINGS) – the magic of old cultural landscapes**  
Known as "islands in the forest sea" the Schachten are high altitude unforested areas that came into being as a result of historic pasture use. Matt-grass and flower rich meadows as well as gnarled, often centuries old trees display their particular charm and provide varied habitats for numerous and rare species of insects, birds, reptiles, and bats.

**ALLUVIAL SPRUCE FOREST – living on wet ground**  
Cold air flows down from the mountain slopes and comes to rest in damp valley basins. Here, ground frosts even occur in summer and, as in the higher areas, the spruce characterises the forest. Damp and low temperatures mean that only very few firs, rowans and moor birches get to grow old with the spruce.



**AWARDS:**  
The national park has received many awards. Its distinctions include ...  
... the European Diploma, which recognises protected areas with outstanding scientific, cultural and aesthetic characteristics as well as a commensurate conservation concept.  
... the Transboundary Park Certificate together with Sumava National Park, with which it forms Europe's largest protected forest area.

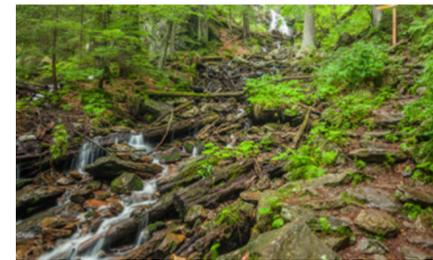
**VISITOR FACILITIES:**  
2 national park centres, each with an information centre and animal enclosures, 1 forest history museum, 1 red deer enclosure, 6 tourist information points in national park municipalities, 2 youth education facilities, 1 forest playground, 1 hiking park with a lynx playground, 1 youth camping site

**VISITOR NUMBERS:** 1.4 million per year  
**PROPRIETOR:** Free State of Bavaria



## Scenic in all seasons

Summer is the high season for animals and plants in our national park, just as it is for hikers and bikers. A network of many hundred kilometres of hiking and cycling trails makes our national park accessible. Our experience trails with their many information boards enable you to get to know the most beautiful and attractive places.



In winter the nature is very much snowbound and many plant and animal species hibernate, waiting for spring. The national park offers our visitors many attractive opportunities in the cold time of year. Now you can explore the wild winter forest on cross country skies, hiking or on snow shoes. Please respect the winter peace, which nature needs, and use only the marked trails. Information on the prepared cross country skiing tracks, ploughed winter hiking trails and other winter activities can be found in the national park centres as well as in all tourist information points.

## You have not yet experienced forest like this

### DISCOVER THE EXTRAORDINARY

With our guided tours and events programme that runs throughout the year we would like to make our national park yet more accessible and draw your attention to its special characteristics.

National park experts can accompany you on a range of guided hikes and bicycle tours. In personal conversations you can learn many exciting things directly in the field and have the opportunity to ask your own questions.

Special events for children, vivid expert lectures as well as cultural events in the national park centres round out the national park's programme.

An overview of current events can be found on the calendar on our homepage:  
[www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.de](http://www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.de)



**LOCATION:** around 50 km north east of Passau along the main ridge of the Bavarian Forest mountains, directly on the border to the Czech Republic

### TRAIL NETWORK:

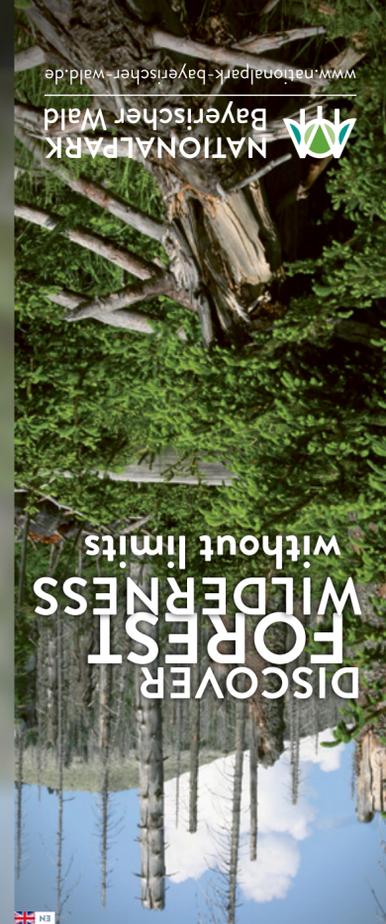
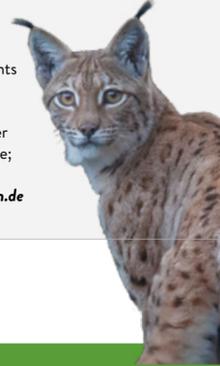


### NATIONAL PARK FOR ALL

The national park centres as well as our forest history museum can be experienced with all senses, at any age and in all seasons. Safe paths with limited inclines make it easier for people with a disability, senior citizens and families with pushchairs to visit the nearby natural attractions.

Our staff members in the park are happy to discuss your individual requirements and help further.

We're also happy to answer questions before you arrive; just send an e-mail to:  
[npfueralle@npv-bw.bayern.de](mailto:npfueralle@npv-bw.bayern.de)



Nationalparkverwaltung Bayerischer Wald  
www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.de

DISCOVER FOREST WITHOUT LIMITS

## The App! For national park explorers.

- Hiking tips
- Trails
- National Park for All
- Visitor centres
- Animal enclosures
- Events
- Trail condition reports
- Public transport information
- Hotels and guesthouses

Downloads for iPhone and Android.

Scan the QR code with your smartphone and you'll receive the FREE national park app. All information is provided in German.

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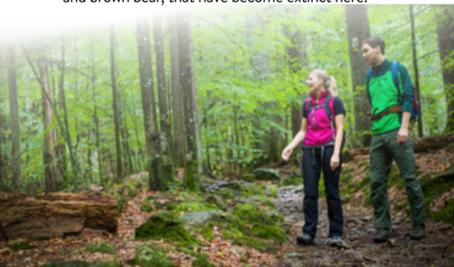
Nationale Naturlandschaften  
Membership to the "Nationale Naturlandschaften e.V.", the umbrella association for large nature protection sites in Germany



## Always well informed

Begin your national park experience in the Lusen National Park Centre, the Falkenstein National Park Centre, the Forest History Museum in St. Oswald, or visit one of the national park tourist information points. Here you can obtain many tips and recommendations and initial insights into the national park idea, the history of our national park as well as our native flora and fauna.

Our animal enclosures in particular are worth a visit at any time of year: they invite you to observe shy and sometimes also very rare wild animal species up close, which can only be spotted with a lot of luck in the wild, such as lynx and capercaillie, or species, such as wisent and brown bear, that have become extinct here.



## Visitor facilities



### Falkenstein National Park Centre

**HAUS ZUR WILDNIS**  
with permanent and temporary exhibitions  
**ANIMAL ENCLOSURES**  
with 3.5 km of hiking trails presenting 4 different species  
**STONE AGE CAVE**  
to travel back in time into the region's ancient history

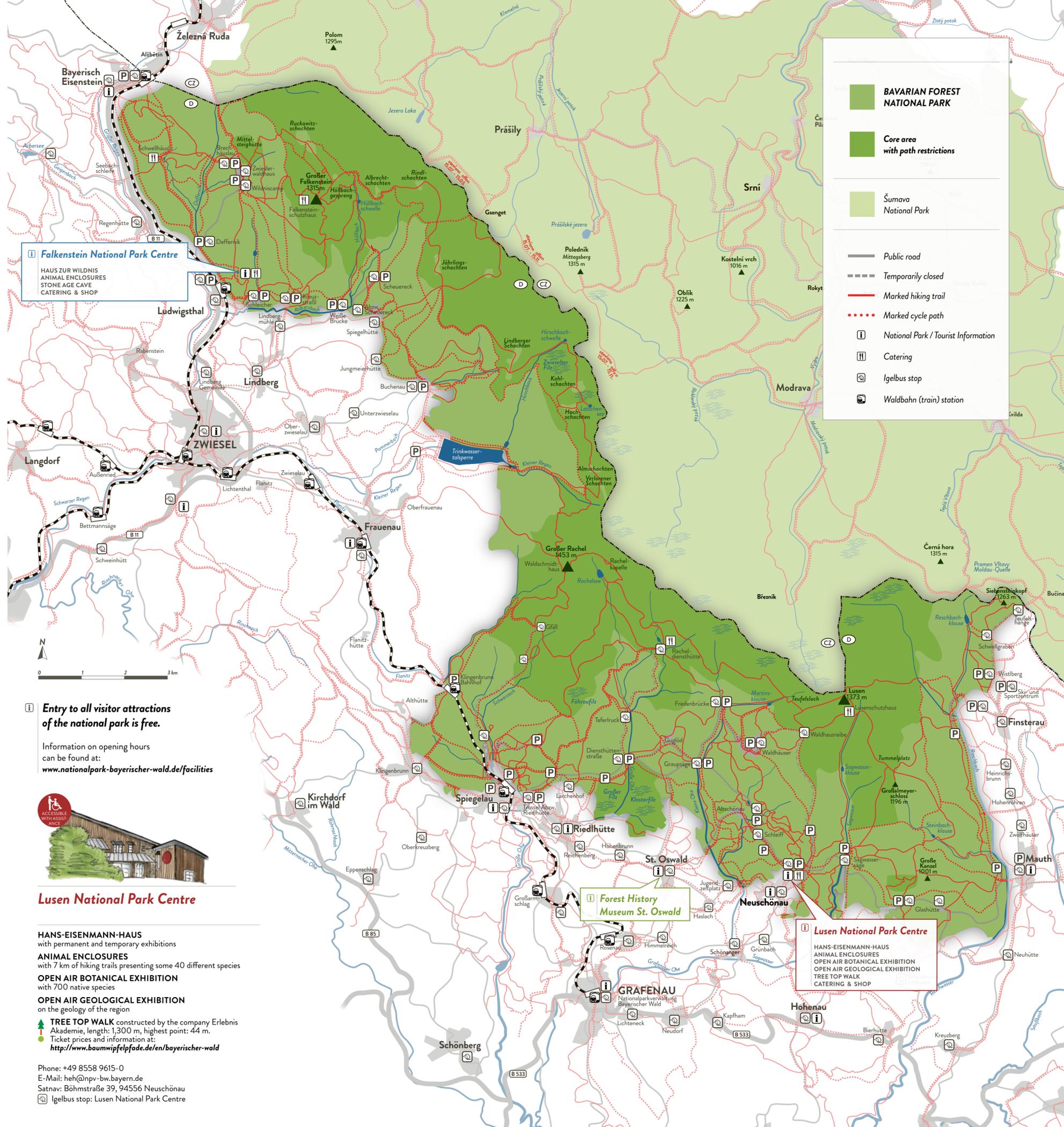
Phone: +49 9922 5002-0  
E-Mail: hzw@npv-bw.bayern.de  
Satnav: Eisensteiner Straße, 94227 Lindberg  
Igelbus stop and Waldbahn station: Ludwigsthal



### Forest History Museum St. Oswald

Permanent exhibition on the origins, land use and cultural history of the national park region as well as different temporary exhibitions

Phone: +49 8552 974889-0  
E-Mail: wgm@npv-bw.bayern.de  
Satnav: Klosterallee 4, 94568 St. Oswald  
Igelbus stop: St. Oswald Gh. Goldener Steig



**Falkenstein National Park Centre**  
HAUS ZUR WILDNIS  
ANIMAL ENCLOSURES  
STONE AGE CAVE  
CATERING & SHOP

**Entry to all visitor attractions of the national park is free.**

Information on opening hours can be found at:  
[www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.de/facilities](http://www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.de/facilities)



### Lusen National Park Centre

**HANS-EISENMANN-HAUS**  
with permanent and temporary exhibitions  
**ANIMAL ENCLOSURES**  
with 7 km of hiking trails presenting some 40 different species  
**OPEN AIR BOTANICAL EXHIBITION**  
with 700 native species  
**OPEN AIR GEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION**  
on the geology of the region  
**TREE TOP WALK** constructed by the company Erlebnis Akademie, length: 1,300 m, highest point: 44 m.  
Ticket prices and information at:  
<http://www.baumwipfelpfade.de/en/bayerischer-wald>

Phone: +49 8558 9615-0  
E-Mail: heh@npv-bw.bayern.de  
Satnav: Böhmstraße 39, 94556 Neuschönau  
Igelbus stop: Lusen National Park Centre

**BAVARIAN FOREST NATIONAL PARK**

**Core area with path restrictions**

Šumava National Park

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Public road

Temporarily closed

Marked hiking trail

Marked cycle path

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National Park / Tourist Information

Catering

Igelbus stop

Waldbahn (train) station

## Doing the right thing and going the right way: Conduct and Signposting

Visitors belong in the national park just like the nature that they've come to experience. For your own safety and for the protection of the national park there are some rules though. Corresponding information signs can be found in the park. Here is a selection of the most important advice:

- Always be well equipped: bring a map, sturdy footwear, drinks, first aid kit, weatherproof clothing.
- Beware of falling trees and dead branches! The use of the trails is at your own risk; when there are strong winds you are advised to leave the forest for your own safety!
- There are path restrictions in certain areas of the park for the protection of endangered animal and plant species.
- Cycling only on marked cycle routes.
- Parking only in designated car parks.
- Do not take anything.
- Don't leave anything behind.
- Dogs should not be off the lead.
- Feeding the animals is forbidden.
- Do not disturb the animals.
- Campfires only in designated spots.
- No overnight stays in the open air.
- No bathing allowed.

To help you find your way when hiking and cycling we have carefully signposted tours of the national park. Here are the most important details about our signs:

- Animal symbol on a yellow background: signposts a circular hiking trail with the path leading back to the departure point.
- Plant symbol on a white background: signposts a linear hiking trail; the path does not lead back to the departure point. For a circular tour you will need to combine a number of marked routes or use the Igelbus service.
- Different symbols and backgrounds: long distance hiking trail, which extends beyond the national park boundaries.
- Cyclist, possibly with a number of a cycle tour: designated cycle path.

## Experience more, naturally: National Park Partners



When it comes to your holiday in Bavarian Forest National Park, our National Park Partners are very knowledgeable contact persons. In the gastronomy, accommodation and public transport branches they are well known for environmental awareness and providing quality services. They also feel a special bond to the national park and the region.

Detailed information can be found at:  
[www.nationalpark-partner.com](http://www.nationalpark-partner.com)

We would really like to draw your attention to the public transport services in the national park region, which facilitates environmentally friendly travel in the area:

The **Waldbahn railway** opens up the national park region to visitors very well. From May to October, the **Igelbus service** will carry you and your bike almost every hour to the national park's visitor attractions and also to many excursion and hiking departure points. You can also get to many destinations in winter by using the winter Igelbus service.

With the **Guest Service - Environment Ticket (GUTi)** holidaymakers can use the bus and train free of charge. The GUTi is valid as a ticket for any number of journeys in the whole of the Bayerwald-Ticket tariff area for the duration of your stay. Your hosts or the nearest tourist information centre will be able to provide you with information.

Further details at:  
[www.bayerwald-ticket.com](http://www.bayerwald-ticket.com)

