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Treasure map

for the Sauerland Rothaar Mountains Nature Park



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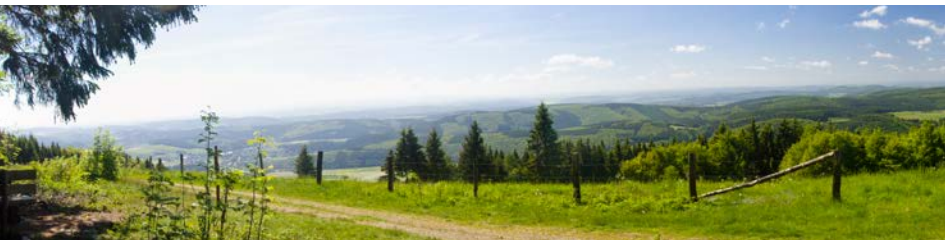
Treasure hunting in the Sauerland Rothaar Mountains Nature Park

Welcome to the Sauerland Rothaar Mountains Nature Park! Our new treasure map leads you to the most beautiful and exciting places in the region. These are true jewels, proposed by the inhabitants and guests of the nature park in a competition and exclusively selected for you. People in all participating communities were called upon to name places that touch them personally, that tell a story or want to be discovered.

Your treasure hunt leads you to

underground cave worlds, impressive cliffs and moors, rare species of animals and plants, historic factory buildings, castles and fortresses.

For a total of 35 jewels now fill our six information centres, the so-called "treasure chests", in Bad Berleburg, Hemer, Lennestadt & Kirchhundem, Medebach, Meinerzhagen and Burbach (from 2021). Here you will learn everything about the natural and cultural treasures of the largest nature park in North Rhine-Westphalia, where famous



rivers such as the Ruhr, Eder and Sieg have their source. Discover the scenic diversity of the typical low mountain range region and set off to explore the most exciting places yourself. At interactive tables you can click your way through the information about our jewels and get great tips and suggestions for your next trip to the Sauerland Rothaar Mountains Nature Park. So start your own personal treasure hunt!

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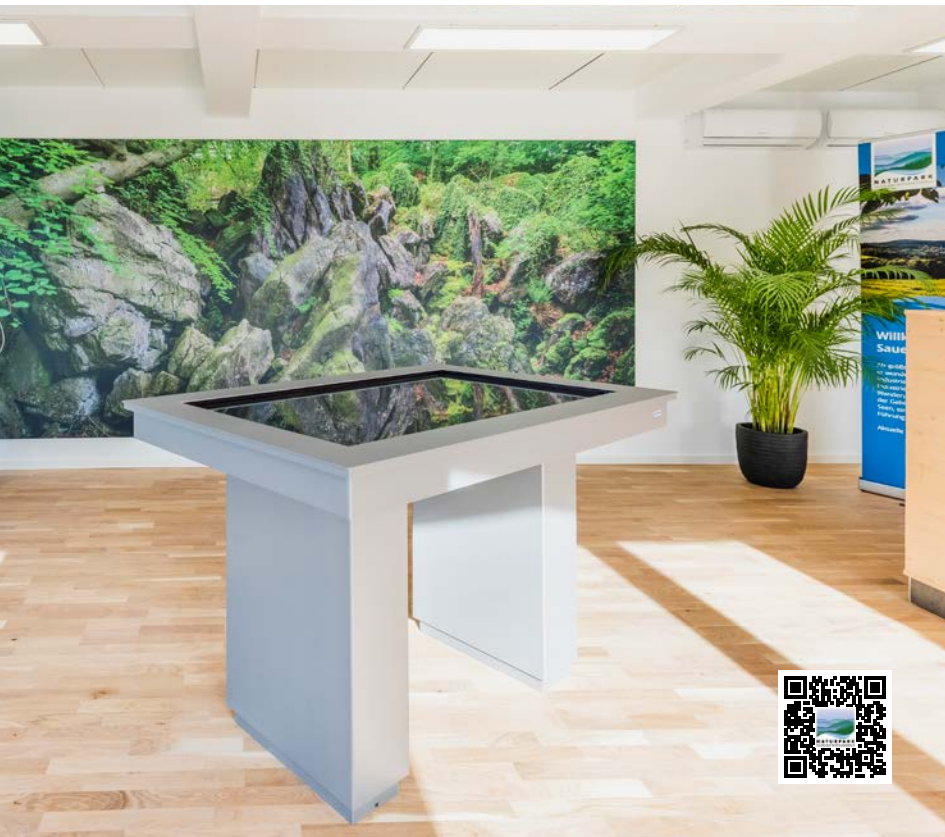
Info centre Hemer

The Nature Park Information Centre Hemer is located directly at the Deilinghofer Straße entrance to the Sauerland Park in Hemer, the former Blücher barracks. It was built in 1937. Shortly afterwards the eventful history of the barracks began with the frequent conversion of the buildings. The Federal Armed Forces used the barracks in connection with the Apricke training area as a tank barracks until 2007. Today, the Sauerland Park in Hemer is the destination for families, nature lovers, sports enthusiasts and knowledge-hungry people. The information centre at the park is to be available to visitors of the nature park who are interested in nature and culture as a contact point for inspiration and orientation.

Address:

Deilinghofer Straße, 58675 Hemer









Sorpe Reservoir with promenade and air adventure trail

Nestled in the idyllic Sauerland countryside, Sorpe Reservoir is to be found in the north of the nature park. Built between 1926 and 1935, the dam supplies electricity and water to the Sauerland and Ruhr regions, but is also a popular local recreation area. Around Sorpe Reservoir you will find many sports and leisure activities. You can swim, row, sail or surf in the water. On the shore you can meet friends for beach volleyball or for a barbecue or take a leisurely walk along the newly designed waterside promenade in Langscheid. On the "Airlebnisweg", opened in 2015, you will also learn a lot of interesting things about water.

Address:

Zum Sorpedamm, 59846 Sundern



Altena Castle and German Wire Museum

The adventure lift takes you barrier-free to Altena Castle, one of the most beautiful high-altitude castles in Germany. On the way you will experience legends and stories from the region up close. Once at the top, you can walk in the tracks of knights, nobles and peasants in the mighty 12th century fortress or take the knight's test yourself. A must during your visit is also a look into the oldest youth hostel in the world, which was inaugurated in 1914 in the walls and is preserved in its original state. Three hundred metres below the castle you can learn a lot about wire making in the German Wire Museum, past and present, and you can also experiment for yourself.

Address:

Fritz-Thomee-Straße 12, 58762 Altena









Luisenhütte Balve with Museum of Pre-History and Early History

The Luisenhütte Balve-Wocklum is the only museum in Germany that can present a complete ensemble of smelters including an iron foundry, tapping hall, blower house and labourer's dwelling. During the tour you follow the path of the raw materials to the tapping of the glowing iron. Heat lamps, effective light stagings and sound film clips ensure that you experience the sweaty work of the labourers up close and with all your senses. The journey back in time takes you even further, right next door, in the Museum of Pre-History and Early History. Under the motto "Earth Treasures – Traces of Man" you will encounter remains of dinosaurs, among other things.

Address:

Wocklum 10, 58802 Balve



Dechen Cave and German Cave Museum Iserlohn

Discovered by railway workers in 1868, the Dechen Cave in Iserlohn today takes you into a fascinating underground world of stalagmites and stalactites, stone curtains and glittering crystals. One of the most beautiful stalactite formations in the only German show cave with its own railway stop is the majestic stalactite emperor, along with the organ, mermaid pool and palm column. Explore the Dechen Cave with guided tours or go on an adventure tour with helmet and flashlight. In the adjoining German Cave Museum you will be greeted by a lifelike replica of a cave bear. Here you can learn interesting things about the work of the speleologists.

Address 4 Iserlohn







www.woodenwalk.com



Hemer Block Field and Museum

Three hundred and eighty million years ago a tropical body of water covered large parts of Westphalia. One of the coral reefs, which later formed mighty rock formations of massive limestone, can be found on the outskirts of Hemer: the felsenmeer or block field. Experience the wildly romantic character of the wave-like limestone blocks, caves and collapses up to ten metres deep during a walk through the nature reserve or a visit to the Heinrich Cave. Experienced speleologists will accompany you into the underground vault. You can find out more about the origin of the block field and the 1000-year-old ore mining in the Felsenmeer Museum in the former Villa Grah.

Address:

Felsenmeerstraße 33, 58675 Hemer



Meinerzhagen Information Centre

In a town centre location in the direct entrance area of Meinerzhagen pedestrian zone, the new premises are being built, which will be used both by the tourist information centre that has moved in here and by the Sauerland Rothaar Mountains Nature Park to inform locals and guests about the nature park, but also about the numerous tourist highlights in and around Meinerzhagen. The information centre is located in a former fashion house within walking distance of the railway station.

In 2018, the interior and exterior were completely renovated so that this information centre shows its best side!

Address:

Zur Alten Post 1, 58540 Meinerzhagen



Bigge-Lister Reservoir Schnellenberg Castle

The “Biggeblick” rises above the treetops at Attendorn, at a height of 90 metres. So overcome your fear of heights and venture on Skywalk. You will be rewarded with a breathtaking view over the Sauerland and Bigge Reservoir with Gilberg Island and Waldenburg castle ruins. The Bigge Dam, created in 1965, is the fifth largest in Germany and, like the Lister Dam, once served as a water reservoir for the Ruhr area. Today you can watch from the shore how hundreds of grey herons and cormorants breed on the “bird island”. From there it is easy to reach Schnellenberg Castle, one of the largest castles in Westphalia.

Address:

Waldenburger Bucht 11,
57439 Attendorn







Schlüsen Nature Trail Junkernhöh

Even the ancient Romans knew: Via est vita. The road is life. What happened in the Middle Ages on the many hollowed-out paths or trade routes in the Drolshagen region is best experienced during a walk through the “Schlüsenbündel” at Junkernhöh/Germinghausen. In dialect, the Schlüsen refer to the unpaved but important trade routes such as the Iron Route, which ran from Frankfurt via Drolshagen to Hagen. On the one-kilometre long nature trail over the remains of this once important lifeline you dive into the past and get to know the hard everyday life of the carters.

Address:

Am Frohnen Wenden,
57489 Drolshagen - Junkernhöh



Nordhelle

At 662 metres above sea level, the Nordhelle is the highest mountain in the Märkischer Kreis. But it goes even higher. From the top of the 18-metre-high Robert Kolb Tower you can enjoy a magnificent view over the Ebbe Mountains. Emperor Napoleon had a tower erected on the Nordhelle almost 200 years ago, but it fell victim to autumn storms in 1904. Thanks to the main route warden at the time of the Sauerland Mountain Association (SGV), Robert Kolb, the new design was inaugurated nine years later. Next door, the SGV runs the "Herscheid Hut", where you can eat after the descent. Or you can make a detour to the Ebbemoore, where with a little luck you might even be able to observe a black stork.

Address:

Nordhelle 1, 58849 Herscheid-Nordhelle







Stilleking Nature Reserve with ox tour

Since the tanks disappeared, flora and fauna have taken command of the Stilleking in Lüdenscheid. The former military training area is now a 150-hectare nature reserve where you can discover rare animals and plants such as the meadow pipit, the honey buzzard and the mountain sandbell. But don't be afraid of big animals: Because on the "Ochsentour", an almost eight-kilometre-long circular route, you will also meet some Heck cattle. The descendants of the extinct aurochs graze in the "Stilleking" and are accustomed to humans.

Address:

Werkshagener Straße,
58515 Lüdenscheid



Sauerland light railway

Please board the train and close the doors! On a trip with the “Sauerland light railway” you will experience the travel feeling of our ancestors. The legendary narrow-gauge railways with a gauge of 1,000 mm used to be an important transport vehicle for industry and agriculture in the mountainous Sauerland. Today the historic trains, pulled by a steam or diesel locomotive, run regularly from May to October on the disused railway line between Hüinghausen and Köbbinghauser Hammer. During a special trip you can relax in a historical ambience and enjoy the passing landscape of the Else Valley.

Address:

Elsetalstraße 46,
58849 Herscheid-Hüinghausen



Attendorn stalactite cave

Discover one of the greatest natural wonders on earth in Attendorn. The Attendorn stalactite cave, also known as the Atta cave, takes you into a labyrinth of artfully grown stalagmites and stalactites that no sculptor could have created more beautifully. During a guided tour you will immerse yourself in this subterranean wonder world, which was discovered by chance in 1907 during quarrying work at the Biggetal lime works. Today the Atta Cave is considered one of the largest and most beautiful stalactite caves in Germany due to its diversity and colourfulness. It was named after Princess Atta, who gave her name to the Hanseatic town of Attendorn.

Address:

Finnentroper Straße, 57439 Attendorn







Lennestadt/Kirchhündem Information Centre

A varied cycle and hiking trail connects the two stations of the Nature Park Information Centre “Fire and Water – the Moving Treasure Chest”. At the Lennestadt-Saalhausen site, everything revolves around the flowing water habitat. Landscape and water experiences can be found right next door on the Lenne in the TalVITAL.

At the site in Kirchhündem-Oberhündem you will learn exciting things about the meadows and their “healing effect”. An exhibition in the visitors’ centre “Haus des Gastes” there is also dedicated to the craft of charcoal making, which is cultivated and kept alive in Oberhündem.

Saalhausen site:

Fasanenweg 3, 57368 Lennestadt

Oberhündem site:

Grubenweg 18, 57399 Kirchhündem





Upper basin

You can enjoy one of the most beautiful panoramic views over the densely wooded Sauerland from the top of the Dahlberg mountain (570 metres). From the Lenne Valley, the route leads via the “Sauerland-Höhenflug” hiking trail up to the upper basin, which has been generating regenerative energy here since 1969. Through an underground pressure tunnel, 44,000 litres of water per

second are pumped into the basin before the ball valves are opened at peak times. You can find out more about the function and performance of the pumped storage plant on a guided tour of the power house (only after registration) and on the new nature trail at the upper reservoir.

Address:

Oberbecken, 57413 Finnentrop





Schrabbenhof Cultural Heritage Site

Do you smell the fragrance of fresh bread? Then you are at the cultural heritage site of Schrabbenhof in Silberg. A regularly run bakery is part of the village centre, where the MiniCartClub Deutschland e.V. and the MuT-Sauerland Kultur association organise cultural events not only for children. Among other things, there is a cabaret stage, a flea market and theatre barn as well as a nostalgically furnished café. In the community local museum in the former stable of the farm complex “Schrabben Gut” you can get to know how the people in the Sauerland lived more than a hundred years ago.

Address:

Silberger Str. 32,
57399 Kirchhundem-Silberg



Rhine-Weser Tower

The 24-metre-high Rhein-Weser Tower directly on the Rothaarsteig can already be seen from a distance. Built at the beginning of the 1930s as a refuge for forest workers, the observation tower with its adjoining hotel and restaurant is today a striking symbol of the Sauerland. From up here, directly on the watershed between Rhine and Weser, you can enjoy a wonderful panoramic view of the region, which also includes the Schwarzbachtal nature reserve. Along the widely ramified Schwarzbach, you will hike through lush alder forests, spring fens and species-rich wet meadows. And in winter you might even discover the tracks of a wildcat in the snow.

Address:

Rhein-Weser-Turm 2, 57399 Kirchhundem





Sauerland Pyramids, Sicilia Shaft, Slagheap Garden

In the spirit of the famous scientist Galileo Galilei, the Sauerland pyramids high above the Lenne Valley invite you to marvel and wonder. By entering the knowledge and puzzle world "Galileo Park" in four of the seven pyramids in total you will learn new and unknown things in a playful way. So take a seat in the time machine, enter the labyrinth of the unexplainable and track down unsolved puzzles. You can also immerse yourself in a different world by visiting the neighbouring Sicilia Shaft with the Slagheap Garden. In the old mines, where ore was mined until 1992, you will learn a lot about the everyday life of the miners.

Address:

In den Sauerland Pyramiden 4 -7,
57368 Lennestadt-Meggen



Hohe Bracht

In October 1930, the first words from the Sauerland region crossed the ether from the observation tower “Hohe Bracht”, built high above the district of Olpe. Westdeutscher

Rundfunk broadcast live from the opening of the building, which was completely covered in slate. Today the tower is a popular destination for hikers and skiers, especially



because of its fantastic views. From the viewing platform you can see large parts of the Sauerland and in the distance you can even see the Kahler Asten with the Astenturm.

Address:

Auf der Hohen Bracht,
57368 Lennestadt



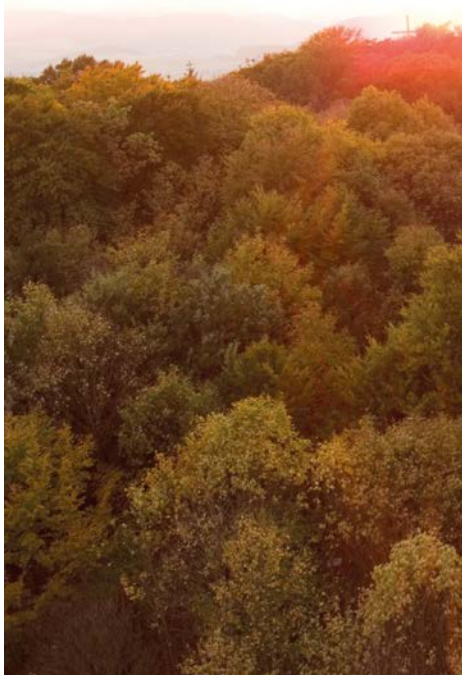


Wilzenberg

Whether a count of Wilzenberg ever lived on the mountain of the same name in the Rothaar Mountains is not known. During excavations, however, archaeologists discovered remains of two hill forts (circular walls) from the Iron Age and the early Middle Ages, which you can visit there today. On the way to the summit, where the Wilzenberg Tower rises up 17 metres, you will sometimes meet pilgrims. Because the “Holy Mountain of the Sauerland” is a popular place of pilgrimage. Passing several Stations of the Cross, the path leads you to the Chapel of the Virgin Mary and to the 28-metre-high High Cross, which was erected in 1972 on the occasion of the 900th anniversary of the monastery and the town of Grafschaft.

Address:

Am Wilzenberg 32, 57392 Schmallenberg









Bad Berleburg Information Centre –

Varied citizens' forum

From a threshing hall to a fire station to today's interactive communication centre: The development of Berleburg's market square and community centre is multi-faceted. Since 1987, the building has functioned as a concert and theatre hall, offering space for group rooms and a multicultural youth centre. The community centre was extended in 2012 and converted into a barrier-free building. In the meantime it has become a modern meeting place and an important contact point for citizens and tourists.

Address:

Marktplatz 1a, 57319 Bad Berleburg

Kyrill Path Schanze

Hurricane Kyrill swept across the country with destructive force at the beginning of 2007 and devastated large parts of the forests in the Sauerland. Trees folded like matches and whole areas were levelled to the ground. On the Kyrill Path at Schmallenberg-Schanze you can still see today what damage the heavy storm caused. On an uncleared area of storm wood, you'll hike along narrow paths and have to climb over fallen trees. You have a good view from above of the bizarre landscape, the Kyrill area and the already reforested forests from the specially built platform on the path.

Address:

Schanze 8, 57392 Schmallenberg









Wisent Wilderness at the Rothaarsteig

Don't be afraid of big animals! In the Wisent Wilderness in Bad Berleburg-Wingeshausen you meet the king of the forests at eye level. In December 2011, Fasel and Faye, the first two bison cows, moved into the 20-hectare fenced enclosure at the Rothaarsteig. Today you can watch the whole herd from a safe distance on the circular path. The three-kilometre-long path leads through a tunnel in the form of a roof structure. From the path you can take a look at the gentle giants without disturbing them.

Address:

Weidiger Weg 100, 57319 Bad Berleburg

Kahler Asten

The Kahler Asten rises 841 metres above sea level above the nature park west of Winterberg. On the flat mountain ridge of the slate mountains you will find yourself in the middle of the highest high-altitude heath of northwest Germany. The view from the flat, arched dome sweeps far over the typical dwarf shrub heathland and the historic Hude, before the landscape merges into dense beech forests. On the heath nature trail and in the natural history exhibition in the Astenturm you will get exciting information about the special topography of the Kahler Asten and the diversity of species in this special biotope complex.

Address:

Astenturm 1, 59955 Winterberg







ForestSculpturesPath

A giant golden egg in the middle of the forest? A canvas of mirrors that move gently in the wind? Welcome to Germany's only open-air gallery. Between Bad Berleburg in Wittgenstein and Schmalleberg in the Sauerland, the ForestSculpturesPath takes you past impressive works of art that blend in uniquely with nature. Let yourself be impressed by a landscape dominated by spruces and mixed forests and discover many extraordinary places on the 23-kilometre trail over the Rothaarkamm.

Address:

Poststraße 44, 57319 Bad Berleburg
Unterm Werth 1, 57392 Schmalleberg

Bad Berleburg Castle

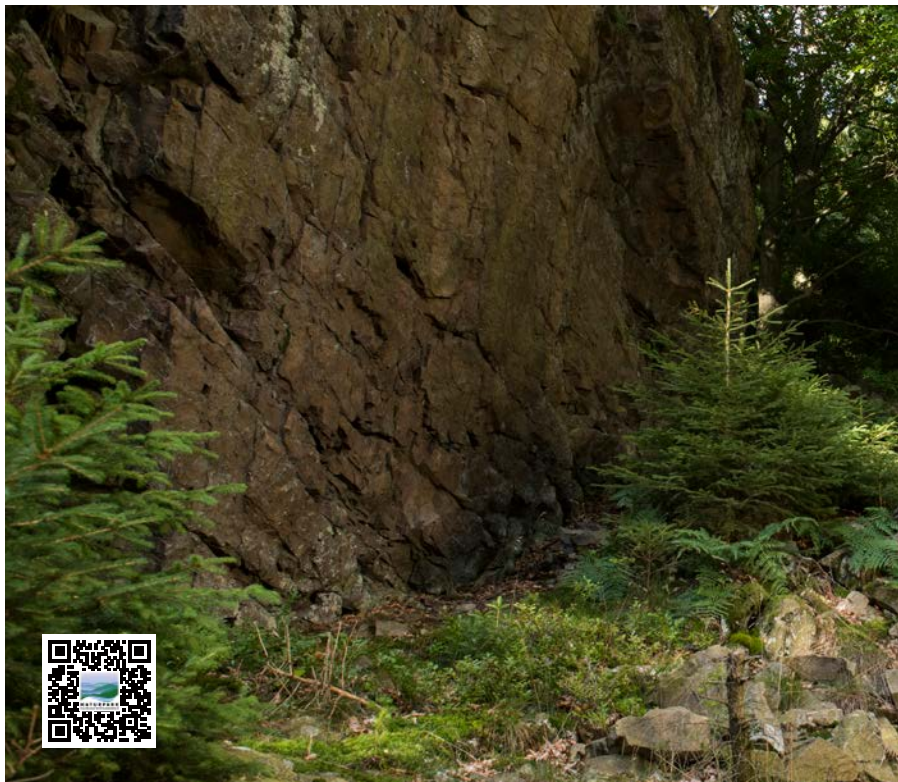
As one of the few noble residences in Germany, Schloss Berleburg has now been inhabited by the same family for 750 years: the zu Sayn-Wittgenstein family. However, the family does not stay among themselves, but invites you to visit the baroque castle with the Corps de Logis, completed in 1733. On a tour of the ceremonial halls, the large hall and the chapel, you will learn about the long family history of the Princely House and may also take a look at some of the private rooms. The ambience of the castle, where public concerts take place regularly, is particularly atmospheric during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Address:

Goetheplatz 8, 57319 Bad Berleburg









Hörre mine site

For centuries Wittgenstein slate from the Raumland district was in demand all over the world. Until the last mine Hörre I was also closed in the 1950s. Since then, nature has regained its place in the 5,000-metre-long tunnel system around Bad Berleburg, Raumland and Dotzlar. It is estimated that several thousand bats spend the winter inside the Hörre. Remains of the slate mining can be found by visiting the show mine in Grube Delle and on the Wittgenstein slate path. The premium hiking trail leads past rocky cliffs, overgrown slate quarries and flowering meadows along the natural course of the Eder.

Address:

Raumländer Straße, 57319 Bad Berleburg



Burbach Information Centre (from 2021)

The listed half-timbered buildings of the “Alte Vogtei” and the neighbouring “Zehntscheune” in the centre of Burbach form the spatial framework for the nature park information centre. It brings together the unique natural and cultural treasures of the region and embeds them in a comprehensive meeting, visitor and experience centre. The centre aims to link education, encounters and experiences with and around the themes of regional nature, culture and identity/ identities with each other and supplement them with offers. In the historic building, current questions on the development of society and the environment will be explored.

Address:

Ginnerbach 2, 57299 Burbach







Ginsburg and Ginsberg Heath

High above Ginsberg Heath near Hilchenbach is the Ginsburg castle ruin. Where William of Orange gathered his army for the fight for the liberation of the Netherlands in 1568, today an exhibition commemorates the historically important chapter of German-Dutch history. During your visit you will probably also meet numerous hikers on the Rothaarsteig or to the nearby Gillerturm. In good weather, the view from the viewing platform of the tower extends as far as the Siebengebirge in the Rhineland and the Hohe Acht in the Eifel.

Address:

Ginsberger Heide, 57271 Hilchenbach

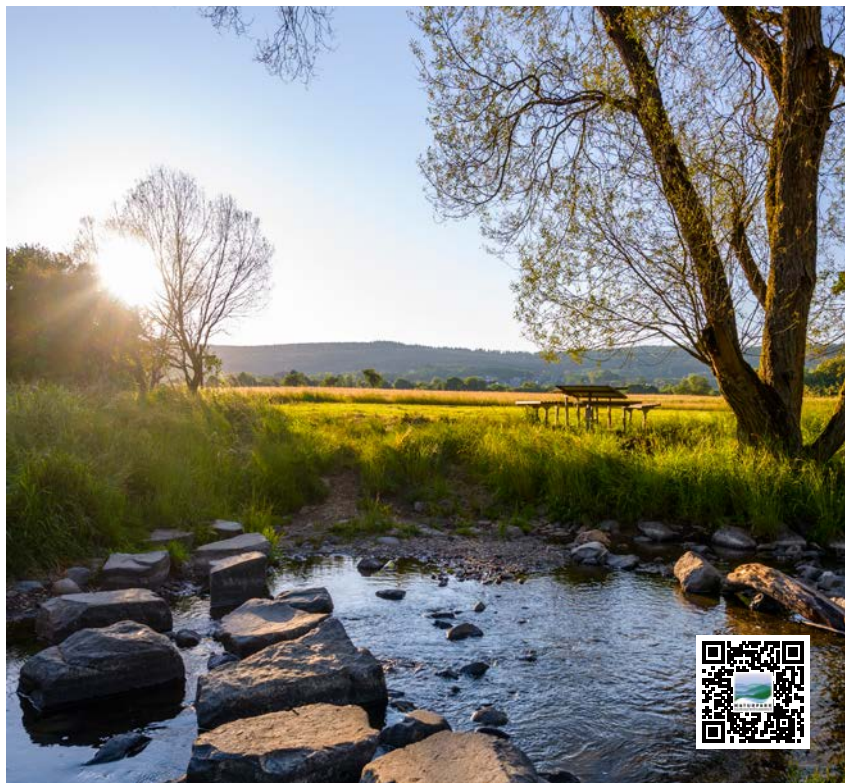


Wetterbach Valley Nature Reserve

Spring plunges Wetterbach Valley into a sea of white and pink. Then the blossom of the apple trees transforms the valley into one of the most beautiful excursion areas in the Holzhausen region. In summer, up to 250 meadow plants and flowers bloom in the valley and you can listen to the song of the whinchat and the meadow pipit. With a bit of luck you can also watch the colourful kingfisher and watch the black stork and the red kite circling in the sky. The starting point of the meadow nature trail with informative boards on the historical use of the meadows is the “Old School” in Holzhausen.

Address:

Westerwaldstraße, 57299 Burbach-Holzhausen







Kindelsberg Tower

Exactly 18,557.44 Reichsmark was the price paid by the Sauerland Mountain Association in 1907 to build an observation tower on the wooded hilltop of Kindelsberg near Kreuztal. Thanks to numerous donors, the association was able to raise the money. And still today you can enjoy a wide view over the Siegerland up to the Siebengebirge near Bonn from the 22-metre-high viewing platform of the Kindelsbergturm. Four panorama boards tell you exactly what you can see in the distance. On the ground the Kindelsbergpfad, a 14-kilometre-long circular trail with interesting information on the mining history of the Siegerland, awaits you.

Address:

Grubenstraße, 57223 Kreuztal



Historic Hauberg Fellinghausen

Over thousands of years ore mining and iron smelting were a tradition in the district of Siegen-Wittgenstein. However, in order to prevent the overexploitation of timber and to conserve resources, people here developed the so-called “Siegerland Haubergswirtschaft”, a special form of coppice forestry, at an early stage. Since the end of mining in the region, the Historic Hauberg Fellinghausen association has continued this cultural and historical tradition. Depending on the season, you can be there when typical Hauberg work such as the extraction of charcoal and tannins or the cultivation of winter rye and buckwheat is carried out on the forest area of the Fellinghausen Forest Cooperative.

Address:

Luisenstraße / Am Hauberg,
57223 Kreuztal-Fellinghausen







Hohenroth woodland

An eight-ton boulder in the middle of the Hohenroth woodland marks the centre of the Siegen-Wittgenstein district. From here it is only a few steps to the forest information centre in Forsthaus Hohenroth, the linchpin for numerous activities relating to forestry, nature conservation, forest education and forest encounters. Among other things, you can observe red deer and Mesopotamian fallow deer in their enclosure from a barrier-free observation point. The information centre in the Hohenroth forest ranger's office, first mentioned in 1854, also offers conference and accommodation facilities.

Address:

Hohenroth, 57250 Netphen

National Natural Heritage Site Trupbach Heath

Trupbach Heath between Freudenberg and Siegen served as a military training area for more than 50 years. With the disappearance of the last tanks and thanks to the compatible grazing of sheep, the largely forest-free mountain range has developed into a true paradise for rare animal and plant species. On the way on one of the three marked hiking trails you will discover the woodlark, for example. It is the characteristic bird of the landscape overgrown with broom and gorse heath. The flower-rich meadows and pastures are also a habitat for endangered butterfly species such as the silver-washed fritillary and the Argus blue.

Address:

57258 Freudenberg-Trupbach









Medebach Information Centre

In 2005, the tourist information centre moved into the centrally located building on the market square of the Hanseatic town of Medebach. It is the contact point for all questions concerning holidays, leisure time, recreation, hiking and cycling in the officially recognised resort. On the upper floor of the building is the free exhibition on the European Bird Sanctuary at Medebach Bay. The multimedia exhibition presents the special features and habitats of the nature reserve. The exhibition will be supplemented by the establishment of this information centre in the Sauerland-Rothaar Mountains Nature Park.

Address:

Marktstraße 1, 59964 Medebach



Hallenberg nature paradise, Kump, Ice House, Liese Valley

More sun is not possible! Thanks to its favourable location in the Rothaar mountains, Hallenberg is one of the sunniest places in the country and offers a wide range of leisure activities in the countryside. From sport climbing in the Steinschab quarry to cross-country skiing in the Pastorenwiese cross-country skiing centre to hiking and mountain biking in the woods: There are no limits to your sporting ambition around the attractive half-timbered town. You can find out more about the offer in the monument “Kump” on the market square, which is also home to the town’s information centre. Before you set off for a walk in the species-rich Liese Valley, you should definitely stop by the Ice House (“Eishäuschen”) – probably the smallest and coolest museum in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Address:

Petrusstr. 2, 59969 Hallenberg







Henne Dam with stairway to heaven

Exactly 333 steps lie before you when you stand at the foot of the Henne Dam and want to climb the stairway to heaven. It leads up to the top of the Henne Dam on the southern outskirts of Meschede. From up here you have a wonderful view over the reservoir, on which the stylish passenger ship MS Hennesee regularly sails during the summer months. The eastern shore is also a popular destination for walkers, cyclists and hikers, as well as an excellent fishing area. You should definitely pack your swimming costume or swimming trunks! Because the many coves invite you to jump into the water in good weather.

Address:

Hennesee, 59872 Meschede



The Bruchhausen Stones

Originating 390 million years ago from a submarine volcanic eruption with magma flow, the Bruchhauser Stones are today among the most important geotopes in Germany and were distinguished as the first National Natural Monument in North Rhine-Westphalia.

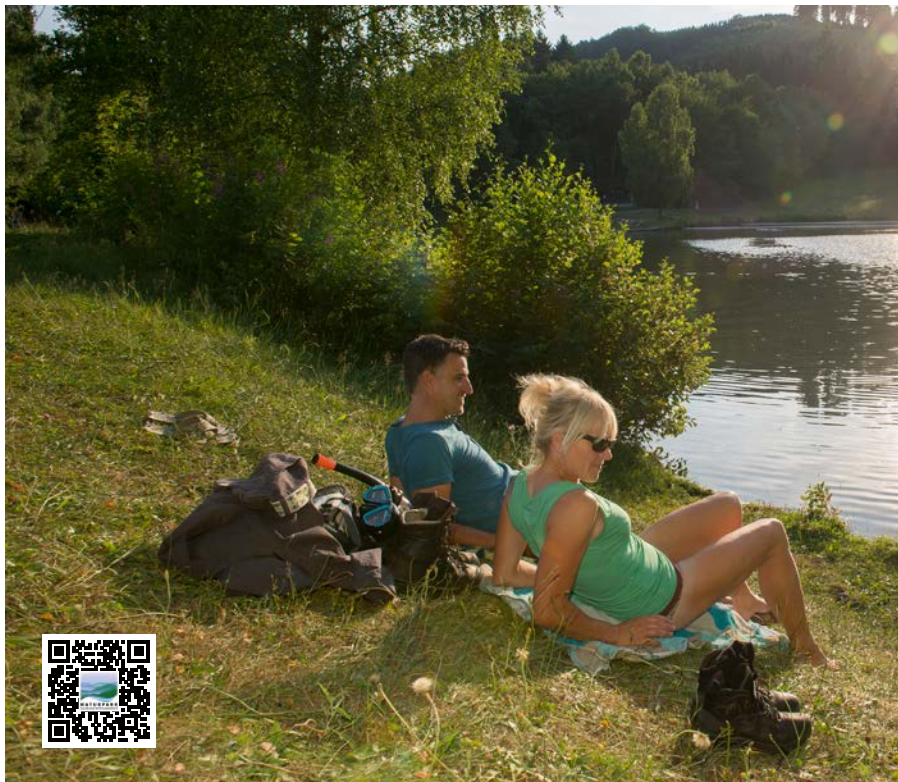
The Info-Center features an interactive exhibition where you can learn everything about the exciting history of the origin of the Bruchhauser stones. In the unique beauty of the nature reserve you can find rare plants as Ice Age relics and once again since 1989 the breeding place of the peregrine falcon. Themed trails provide detailed information about geology, archaeology, forest and trees, land cultivation and hunting. Special spots along the side of the trail feature dioramas for a glimpse of what life was like in the fortified village 2,500 years ago. From the summit cross at an altitude of 756 m you have a breathtaking view of your entire surroundings and the mountains of the Sauerland.

Address:

Bruchhauser Steine, 59939 Olsberg-Bruchhausen









Wenne path with Esmecke Dam

Your tour on the Wenne path starts at the “Wenneplatz” in the centre of Wenholthausen. On the 1.2-kilometre-long walk along the river you will learn a lot about the landscape change in the region, about the operation of old water mills and the use of the Wenne for the people. The destination is the Esmecke Dam with a cove for swimming and a large lawn for sunbathing. Well, don't forget the picnic basket and swimsuits!

Address:

Königstraße 1,
59889 Eslohe-Wenholthausen



Medebach Bay

Medebach Bay between the Rothaar Mountains and the Hessian border used to be an area of poor agriculture. Acidic soils, little precipitation and a significantly warmer climate made it difficult for people to use the flat hilly landscape. The nowadays rare diversity of low-nutrient meadows and pastures, mountain heaths and gorse-covered summits, field gardens and hedges, however, offers a special habitat for animals and plants. Of Europe-wide importance are, for example, the occurrences of the red-backed shrike, the black stork and Tengmalm's owl, which you can observe while visiting the bird sanctuary.

Address:

Marktplatz 1, 59964 Medebach









High-altitude heath in Niedersfeld

Once a year, a large herd of goats and Heidschnucke sheep roams the “Niedersfeld high-altitude heath”. Their “gentle bite” ensures that the nature reserve in the east of the Sauerland region is preserved in all its beauty and biodiversity. At an altitude of 800 metres, slowly growing dwarf shrubs such as heather, blueberry and cranberry dominate the almost treeless landscape. But you can also find the rare crowberry and the bog bilberry as well as the medicinal plant arnica, whose golden yellow flowers are a blaze of colour in the summer. And with a bit of luck you can even hear the call of the cuckoo, which has become rare in many places.

Address:

Niedersfelder Hochheide,
59955 Winterberg-Niedersfeld

Imprint

Publisher:

Naturpark Sauerland Rothaargebirge e.V.
Johannes-Hummel-Weg 2
57392 Schmallenberg, info@npsr.de

Editors:

Detlef Lins / Georg Schmitz

Design:

TEAM WANDRES Werbeagentur, Sundern

Photos:

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Print:

www.becker-druck.de, 59821 Arnsberg

Supported by

Ministerium für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft,
Natur- und Verbraucherschutz
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



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