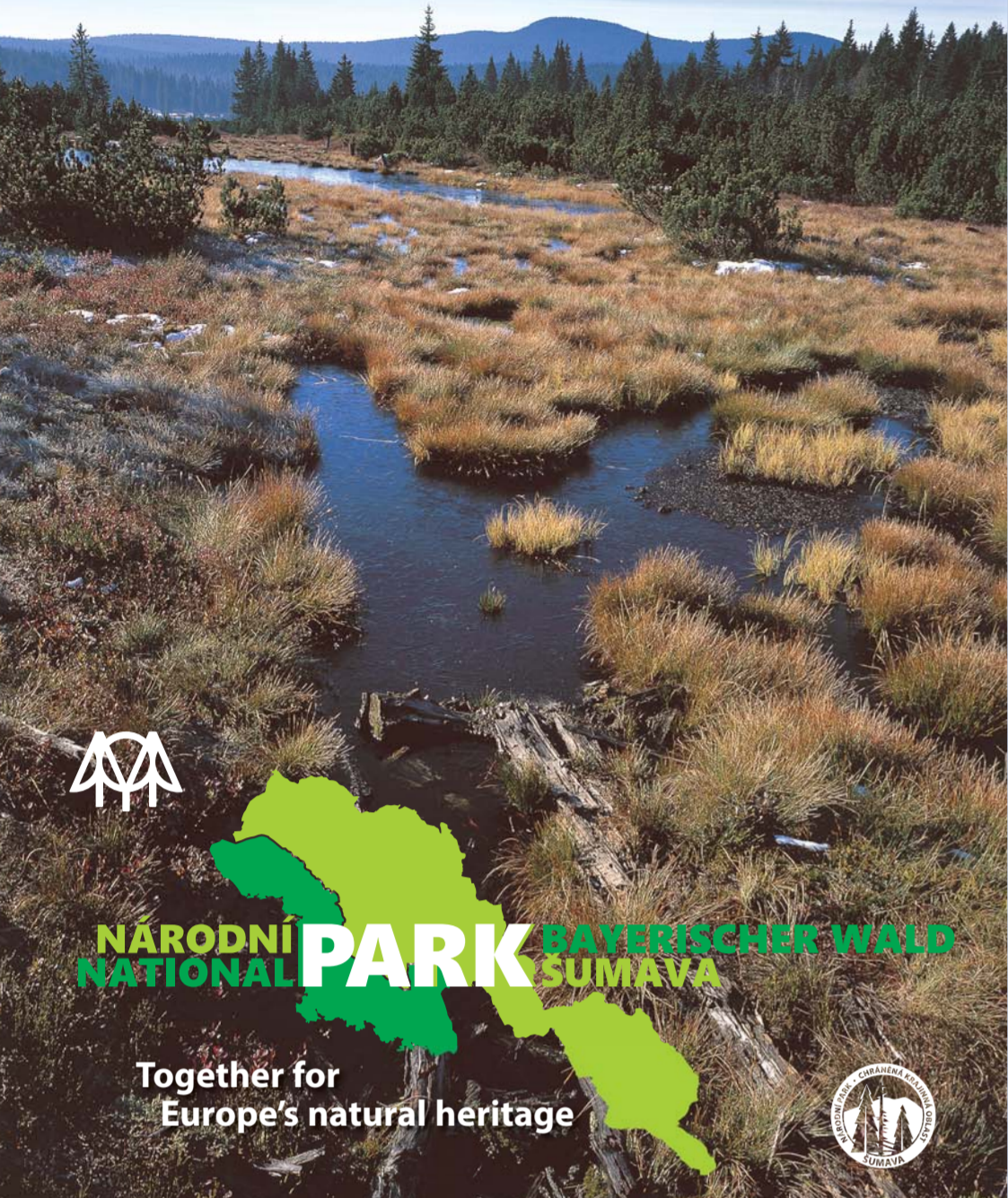


Infinitely wild



NÁRODNÍ PARK BAYERISCHER WALD
NATIONAL PARK SUMAVA

Together for Europe's natural heritage



Here in the heart of Europe wild nature has found a home again.

Šumava, Bavarian Forest, Bohemian Forest – different names for one and the same ancient mountain range in the centre of Europe, depending on cultural, geographic or historical reference point.

State and linguistic boundaries between Germany and the Czech Republic run along its main ridge, which separates the catchment areas of the Danube and the Elbe. The landscapes of the Bavarian Forest and Šumava National Parks are definitely siblings, but not twins.

The national parks are shaped by a forest, which is allowed to develop freely and uninfluenced, and which highlights the impermanence, creativity and originality of nature again and again in new and surprising ways. In the past the wild, unspoiled nature inspired writers, composers and artists working with glass, while today it offers people seeking relaxation a rich an exciting experience of nature.

Key Facts

Bavarian Forest National Park

- ➔ Established in 1970, and thereby the oldest German national park
- ➔ 243 km², of which 67 % (in 2016) is non-intervention zone, in which natural processes are protected
- ➔ Aims: nature conservation through the protection of natural processes, education, recreation, research
- ➔ IUCN Category II, European Diploma for Protected Areas
- ➔ A network of more than 500 km of marked trails
- ➔ 99 % of the territory is forested – primarily mixed mountain forest, followed by mountain spruce forest, 1% open raised bogs (Filze) and abandoned mountain pastures (Schachten)

Šumava National Park

- ➔ Established in 1991, the largest national park in the Czech Republic
- ➔ 683 km², of which 23 % is non-intervention zone (2014), in which natural processes are protected
- ➔ A Biosphere Reserve since 1990 (Man & Biosphere)
- ➔ A network of more than 890 km of marked trails
- ➔ 80 % of the territory comprises forest habitats, 19 % open habitats, primarily mountain meadows, pastures and raised bogs, 1 % bodies of water

Out and about in the forested wilderness

Summer is high season for animals and plants, as well as for hikers and bikers. A network of several hundred kilometres of marked hiking and cycling trails links all the characteristic landscapes of both national parks, including mountain peaks, glacial lakes and mires, as well as meadows and pastures. Experiential trails and educational paths lead you to the most beautiful and attractive places. Information boards tell you about the interconnectedness of nature, culture and history.

In winter nature is covered by a thick, white blanket of snow, which muffles noise and strengthens the weak sunlight. Those animals that are still active must conserve their energy so that they can get through the hard winter. With this in mind please respect the winter peace, which nature needs and use only the marked trails.

Discover what's special

Throughout the year the Bavarian Forest and Šumava National Parks offer a varied programme of events. Specially trained forest and tour guides, rangers and other national park staff accompany you on guided walks.

TOUR SERVICE CENTRES:

- ➔ Bavarian Forest National Park: +49 (0) 800 0776650
- ➔ Šumava National Park: +420 731 530 287



National Park for everyone

Uniqueness and constant change characterise nature, especially in national parks, where the motto "Leaving nature to nature" is the top commandment. Even so, there is an excellent offer for people with disabilities, older people or families with small children. It ranges from accessible paths with limited inclines to guided tours where you can experience nature through all your senses to national park exhibitions.

For information before you travel:

- ➔ D: +49 (0)9922 5002-0
npfueralle@npv-bw.bayern.de
- ➔ CZ: +420 388 435 544
iskvilda@npsumava.cz

At a glance

www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.de
www.npsumava.cz

INFORMATION POINTS:

- ➔ **Lußen National Park Centre** ☎
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NAVI: Böhmerstraße 41, 94556 Neuschönau
- ➔ **Falkenstein National Park Centre** ☎
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NAVI: Eisensteiner Straße, 94227 Lindberg
- ➔ **Kvilda Information Centre** ☎
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NAVI: Kvilda 14, 384 93 Kvilda
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Typical habitats and their inhabitants

Imprint

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Alluvial spruce forest

– living on wet ground

On clear nights, cold air flows down from the mountain slopes and comes to rest in damp valley basins. Ground frosts occur here even in summer. As in the higher areas the spruce characterises the forest here. Wet conditions together with a lack of nutrients mean that very few pines, rowans and downy birches get to grow old with the spruce.

Through their widely spread root plates the spruce tries to find a foothold on this ground. In spite of this, storms often fell whole areas of forest. Among thick cushions of peat moss new generations of spruce sprout from decaying tree trunks.

Boulder fields

– where the devil lost his sack

The areas of boulders, such as the Lußen summit, are seemingly hostile to life but are in fact an Eldorado for lichens and ground beetles – many of them genuine relics to the Ice Age. In particular, the green-yellow map lichen cannot be missed – it covers much of the granite blocks with its characteristic patterns. Scattered islands of dwarf pines and shrubs protrude from among the boulders.

Mountain spruce forest

– a touch of Taiga

Among the exceptional features are the natural spruce forests in the areas at higher altitude, which are not to be confused with the well-known artificial spruce forests across our countries. They are related to the Taiga forests of the high north and are found only in the higher, rarer locations of the mountains above 1,100m and in the Alps.

Snow, which often covers the ground in these areas well into the early summer months, allows only specialists to flourish. Carpets of woolly reed grass and wavy hair grass complete the picture.

Mires

– eerily beautiful and full of melancholy

The unspoiled mires of the high areas of the Bohemian Forest, which mark the watershed between Elbe and Danube, conjure a touch of mysticism into the forest landscape. Mosses, grasses and dwarf shrubs dominate the landscape with water-filled pools and bog lakes; crippled dwarf trees struggle for survival here.

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.

Pastures and mountain meadows

– the magic of old cultural landscapes

The wonderful grasslands and hay meadows with their wealth of insects are habitats, created by people in the forest through very hard work. Particularly impressive are the "Schachten", high altitude abandoned mountain pastures. Gnarled old maple trees and field stone cairns provide valuable structures for a whole range of insect, bird, reptile and bat species.

The hay meadows, which provided either hay as winter feed or bedding for cattle, are very different. Magnificent colourful blooming plants and dancing butterflies give these meadows their own unique character.

Mixed mountain forests

– a colourful habitat

The southern and south western slopes between 650 and 1200 metres are much warmer than the areas at high altitude. In addition to the spruce, silver fir and beech can be found here, with sycamore maple thriving on the stony ground. These mixed forests are the most significant habitat in size on the Bavarian side.

On the forest floor very little blooms, but the first impression of a lack of species is deceptive! Buried under the bark of mouldy trunks and in decaying wood a gigantic army of insects leads a secret existence. The number of insect species is only exceeded by the rich number of fungi.

Bodies of water

– mountain streams, rivers and glacial lakes

From quiet and calm to fast flowing and furious – the variety of habitats in and around water in the Bohemian Forest appears to be inexhaustible. Glacial lakes with their deep, dark water are witnesses of the Ice Age. In this rather undulating landscape their steep rock faces almost create an Alpine feeling. Springs that become roaring mountain streams, ponds and mountain lakes are home to charismatic animals such as trout, dippers and otters.

Legend:

- Spruce
- Mountain ash
- Dwarf pine
- Pine
- Sycamore maple
- Fir
- Birch
- Alder
- Norway maple
- Beech
- Dead wood

Vertical Scale (Right Side): 1400m, 1300m, 1200m, 1100m, 1000m, 900m, 800m, 700m, 600m

Habitat Labels: Alluvial spruce forest, Mountain stream, Species rich mixed mountain forest, Mountain pastures / Schachten, Mountain spruce forest, Mountain lake, Raised bogs (in mountains), Pine forest remnants, Species-poor mixed mountain forest, Mountain hay meadow, Alder ash alluvial forest, Raised bogs (in valley)

Bavarian Forest and Šumava National Parks



Visit us!

As a first place to go we recommend visiting our national park centres and information points. Here you can experience almost everything and gain initial insights into the national park idea, its history, as well as its flora and fauna.

Legende

- National Park Information Points and Exhibitions
- Experience trails and learning paths through especially unspoilt nature
- Bus stop for Igelbus and other services (D)
- Bus stop for Green buses (CZ)
- Railway station
- Parking area (some with charges)
- Information
- Museum
- Food service
- Food service and accommodation
- Emergency camping place
- Marked hiking trail
- Marked cycle path
- Public road
- State border
- Bavarian Forest National Park core zone (restricted access)
- Šumava National Park Zone I (restricted access)

MANY THANKS! THIS IS HOW YOU CAN HELP NATURE

To protect endangered plant and animal species – particularly the capercaillie – you may only use marked trails in the core zone of the Bavarian Forest and Zone I of the Šumava National Parks. There may also be access restrictions at certain times. These access rules have been valid since the Schengen Treaty came into force.

- Cycling only on marked cycling trails
- Do not take anything away
- Do not leave anything behind
- Campfires and smoking prohibited
- Parking only in designated parking areas
- Dogs must be kept on the lead
- Do not disturb animals
- Camping in designated places only

How to get there

Buses and trains enable you to get easily and in an environmentally friendly way to your starting points and destinations in and around the Bavarian Forest and Šumava National Parks.

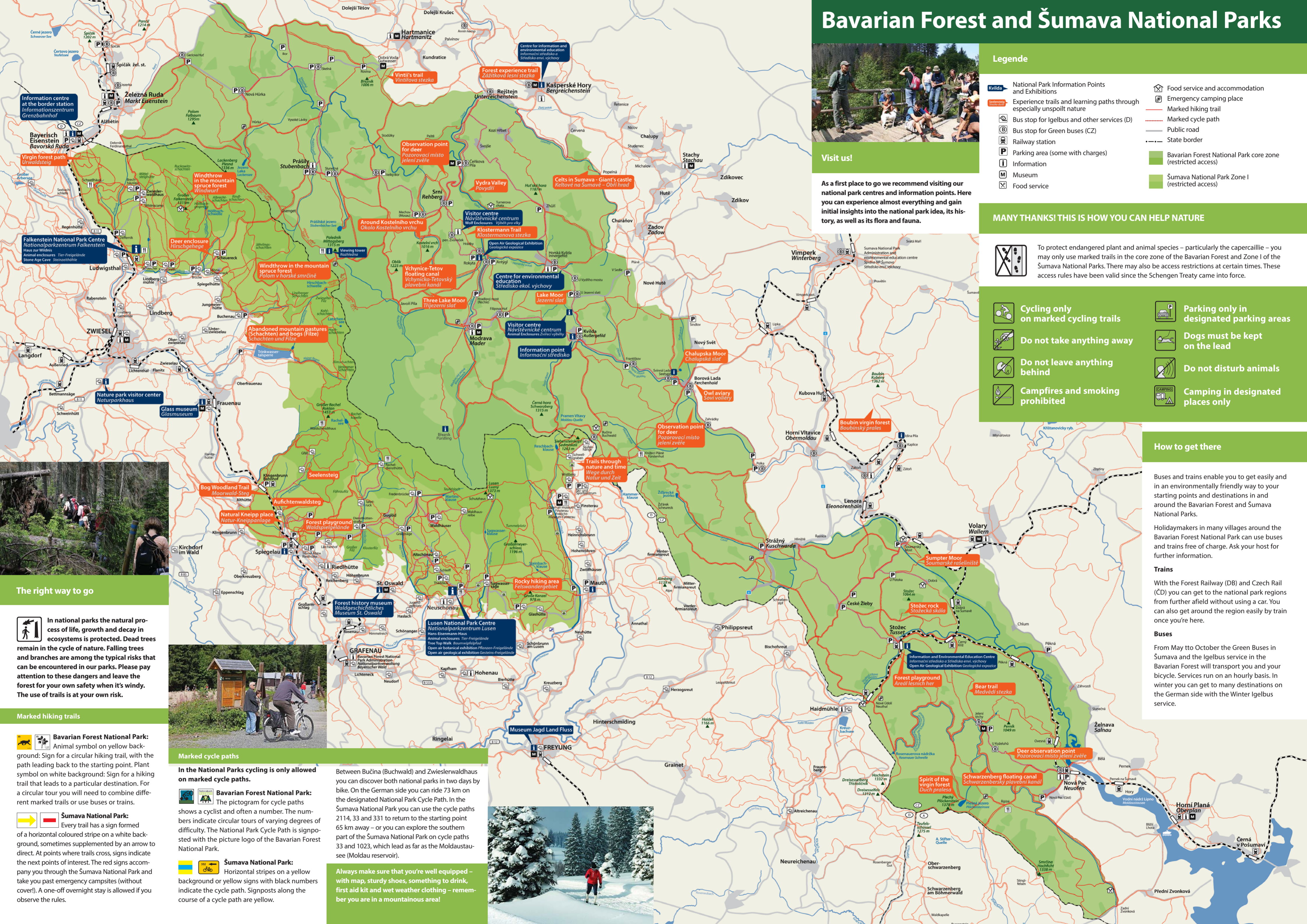
Holidaymakers in many villages around the Bavarian Forest National Park can use buses and trains free of charge. Ask your host for further information.

Trains

With the Forest Railway (DB) and Czech Rail (ČD) you can get to the national park regions from further afield without using a car. You can also get around the region easily by train once you're here.

Buses

From May to October the Green Buses in Šumava and the Igelbus service in the Bavarian Forest will transport you and your bicycle. Services run on an hourly basis. In winter you can get to many destinations on the German side with the Winter Igelbus service.



The right way to go

In national parks the natural process of life, growth and decay in ecosystems is protected. Dead trees remain in the cycle of nature. Falling trees and branches are among the typical risks that can be encountered in our parks. Please pay attention to these dangers and leave the forest for your own safety when it's windy. The use of trails is at your own risk.

Marked hiking trails

Bavarian Forest National Park: Animal symbol on yellow background: Sign for a circular hiking trail, with the path leading back to the starting point. Plant symbol on white background: Sign for a hiking trail that leads to a particular destination. For a circular tour you will need to combine different marked trails or use buses or trains.

Šumava National Park: Every trail has a sign formed of a horizontal coloured stripe on a white background, sometimes supplemented by an arrow to direct. At points where trails cross, signs indicate the next points of interest. The red signs accompany you through the Šumava National Park and take you past emergency campsites (without cover). A one-off overnight stay is allowed if you observe the rules.

Marked cycle paths

In the National Parks cycling is only allowed on marked cycle paths.

Bavarian Forest National Park: The pictogram for cycle paths shows a cyclist and often a number. The numbers indicate circular tours of varying degrees of difficulty. The National Park Cycle Path is signposted with the picture logo of the Bavarian Forest National Park.

Šumava National Park: Horizontal stripes on a yellow background or yellow signs with black numbers indicate the cycle path. Signposts along the course of a cycle path are yellow.

Between Bučina (Buchwald) and Zwieslerwaldhaus you can discover both national parks in two days by bike. On the German side you can ride 73 km on the designated National Park Cycle Path. In the Šumava National Park you can use the cycle paths 2114, 33 and 331 to return to the starting point 65 km away – or you can explore the southern part of the Šumava National Park on cycle paths 33 and 1023, which lead as far as the Moldaustausee (Moldaau reservoir).

Always make sure that you're well equipped – with map, sturdy shoes, something to drink, first aid kit and wet weather clothing – remember you are in a mountainous area!

