

The Kalkalpen National Park (meaning Limestone Alps) presently covers 20,856 hectares in the **Sengengebirge** and **Reichraminger Hintergebirge** (-gebirge means mountains). Four-fifths of this area is forested and the woods are diverse: three dozen different varieties of trees are found in the Kalkalpen National Park in deep brook ravines, above gentle valley basins, or in near-barren chalk fields at the forest's edge. They are home to uncountable plants and animals. 50 species of mammals, 80 species of breeding birds, 1,500 different butterflies and moths, more than 1,000 different flowering plants, mosses, ferns and fungi can be found in this particular area.

Kalkalpen National Park basics

Opened: 25th July 1997

Size: 208 km²

Zones: 89 % natural, 11 % managed

Ownership: 88 % The Republic of Austria (Österreichische Bundesforste AG), 11 % private, 1 % local government

International recognition: IUCN category II (since 1998), Natura 2000 and Ramsar site

Natural features:

81 % forest, 11 % alpine pasture and bare rock, 8 % dwarf pine, 800 springs and a natural river system of more than 200 kilometres.

Elevation: 385 to 1,963 metres a.s.l. (Hoher Nock)

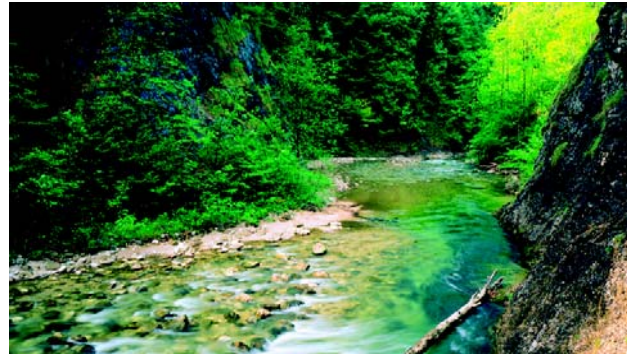
Man and Nature

Here in the National Park, nature is able to breathe again - freely, without human constraints. Trees should germinate, grow and fall, animals live and die in their own fashion. A paradisiac notion? For many, a fear-instilling concept: We are not accustomed to allowing nature to be strong. Here in the mountains Man has been using and moulding forests and watercourses for 14,000 years: the woods as hunting-ground and cattle-pasture, the trees for structural timber and for fuel, the streams as a means of transport. And each generation has made its own demands: once it was natural grazing areas in the highlands, then cleared pastures in the woods, beechwood for charcoal or spruce for building. And time after time old utilizations are abandoned.

So it is no giant step to a National Park. For the Kalkalpen National Park should not belong to nature alone, but rather also be of benefit to Man.

- One should find **relaxation** here and experience nature with all its senses.
- The National Park should serve to environmental **education**.
- **Research** should be feasible: not as analytic "Nature second-hand" but rather in living spaces with change in accord to the laws of creation.

All of this with one stipulation: the most important principle in the National Park is the protection of nature. All Man's requirements must be kept subordinate to this objective.



See Something Special?

An eagle is part of the logo of the Kalkalpen National Park. He delimits his range in great circles above the high plateaus of Sengengebirge. A symbol for us, a symbol to show that nature knows other borders than Man: the hunting range of an eagle pair can cover more than a hundred square kilometres. We are also proud of our wood grouse and black grouse: here in the Limestone Alps they have found their last secure habitat in Upper Austria. Will we also see these creatures in the National Park?

A happy thought: visitors can experience the Kalkalpen National Park on many well-marked trails and hiking-paths. In the Reichraminger Hintergebirge managed dairy farms extend an invitation for snacks and simple overnight lodging. But one must be a good walker if one wants to get to know the Kalkalpen National Park in its entire colourful diversity:

Nature takes priority.

Special offers in the National Park

- Guided mountain bike and hiking tours with National Park rangers.
- The enjoyment of learning: one-day excursions and week-long excursions for schoolchildren: "The forest ecosystem - a world of its own", "water-wonder-world"
- Guided cave tours
- Bird watching tours
- Game watching: "Visiting the red deer in Bodinggraben"
- Snow-shoe tours
- "A night in the National Park" sleeping overnight at bivouac sites or on an alpine pasture.
- National Park thematic trails
- Carriage rides

For Sale in the National Park Shop

- Photographic books of the National Park
- Maps of trails for bikers and hikers, books
- National Park T-Shirts and sweaters
- National Park umbrella
- Magnifying glasses, postcards,...

Natural and Cultural Trails

Our four thematic trails are perfect for family excursions

"Auf den Spuren der Waldbahn"

"Tracing the path of the forest railway" - bicycle route, Reichraminger Hintergebirge, Ennstal.

Starting Point: Train station Reichraming

Length: 46 adventurous kilometres

Time: Circa 3.5 hours

Characteristics: Family friendly biking tour, just one big ascent, swimming possibilities.

Lunch break possibilities: At the Anlaufalm (982 m a.s.l. - 30 minutes walk). Open from May till October.

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"Auf der Alm" (Hengstpaß, near Windischgarsten)

"On the alpine pasture" - a circular-walk connecting four alpine pastures.

Starting Point: Egglalm, Karlhütte, Puglalm or Laussabaueralm at the Hengstpaß near Windischgarsten

Length: 4 easy-going kilometres

Time: Circa 2 hours

Characteristics: pleasant circular-walk, easy to reach

Lunch break possibilities: various alpine pastures at the Hengstpaß, open from mid-May till mid-October.

"Im Tal des Holzes" (Ennstal, Reichraming)

"In the forest valley" - This tour tells the history of the woodcutters and charcoal-burners as well as the development from natural forest to commercial forest and back again to natural forest in Kalkalpen National Park.

Starting Point: Parking lot Weißenbach near Reichraming.

Length: 6 eventful kilometres

Time: Circa 3.5 hours

Characteristics: Family friendly walk.

"Wollgras, Alm und Wasserschwinde"

(Steyrtal, Bodinggraben)

"Cotton-grass, alpine pasture and sink-holes" - walk to the moors, following a brook disappearing into the ground

Starting Point: Ebenforstalm in Reichraminger Hintergebirge, ascent from Molln/Bodinggraben (1.5 h)

Length: 2.5 interesting kilometres

Time: Circa 1.5 hours

Characteristics: easy passable, partly on wooden boardwalks.

Lunch break possibilities: Ebenforstalm, open from mid-May till mid-October.

Detailed theme-trail brochures in German available in the National Park Info Centres!

Information Service Centres

The **National Park Centres** offer:

- Information on the Kalkalpen National Park
- Booking Office for guided tours with National Park rangers
- Exhibitions, National Park Shop



National Park Centre Molln

Exhibition *Hidden Waters*

A-4591 Molln, Nationalpark Allee 1

+43 (0) 75 84 / 36 51, Fax 36 54

nationalpark@kalkalpen.at

Visitor centre Ennstal

Exhibition *Wonderful Woodland Wilderness*

A-4462 Reichraming, Eisenstraße 75

+43 (0) 72 54 / 84 14-0, Fax 84 14-614

info-ennstal@kalkalpen.at

Panorama Tower Wurbauerkogel

Visitor centre, Exhibition *Ravishing Rocks*

A-4580 Windischgarsten, Dambach 152

+43 (0) 75 62 / 200 46

panoramatum@kalkalpen.at

Nationalpark Hotel

Villa Sonnwend

Education, seminars, accomodation for groups and individuals.

A-4575 Roßleithen, Mayrwinkl 80

+43 (0) 75 62 / 205 92, Fax 206 14

villa-sonnwend@kalkalpen.at

Knappenhaus Unterlaussa

May to October, exhibition *Mining*

A-8934 Unterlaussa

+43 (0) 36 31 / 322

www.kalkalpen.at

www.wildniserleben.at



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KALKALPEN**

Wildnis erleben erforschen begreifen bewahren



**NATIONALPARK
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**Kalkalpen
National Park**

**Reichraminger Hintergebirge/
Sengengebirge**

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

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