Discover Harz National Park

Come in and gather as many impressions of the park as possible! Talk to our rangers and employees of our visitor centres. Use our offers of environmental education and visit our exhibitions. You can discover the national park on numerous tours, guided by our employees. You can find details on www.nationalpark-harz.de/en/.

Visitor attractions

Brocken Garten on the summit of the Brocken
- More than 1500 botanical species from all over the world
- Lynx enclosure at the Rabenklippe near Bad Harzburg
- Public feeding on Wednesday and Saturday at 2.30 p.m.
- Watch besides capercaillie black and hazel grouses, too
- Animal watching stations at Molkenhaus and in Oderteich
- With a little bit of luck you experience the animals of the forest in the open countryside

Nature experience trails

Bark Beetle Path in Ilsenburg (Borkenkäferpfad)
- Information about bark beetles
- Dandelion Discovery Path in Drei Annen Hohne (Löwenzahn-Entdeckerpfad)
- Experience path for kids and families
- Nature Myths Path near Braunlage (Naturnythenpfad)
- Walk on mythical traces through nature
- Spirit Path near Herzberg (Seelenpfad)
- Soothe your soul in the beech forests of the southern Harz
- Primeval Forest Path on the Brocken (Urwaldstieg)
- A short walk allows you to look at the primeval forest of the Brocken
- Forest transition trail Torfhaus (WaldWandelWeg)
- How will the forest look like in the future?
- The White Roe Deer (Weißes Reh)
- Fairy tale path for children from Schierke to the Brocken
- Wilderness Path Altenuau
- Accompany nature on its way back to wilderness

*Harz National Park*
of two already existing national parks: the Hochharz National Park came into being in 2006 by the merger of Harz National Park and Brocken National Park. This new national park is one of the largest forest national parks in Germany a unique experience. A harsh climate and a varied geology leave their mark on the landscape of the Harz makes your visit to one of the largest forest national parks just as the scientific observation of natural processes.

Harz National Park

Harz National Park is one of the biggest forest national parks in Germany. Huge wild animals like red deer, wild boar and red fox live in the forest. From the red beech forests in the lower regions of the Harz and the mixed forests (beech, fir and spruce) in the middle areas to the unique spruce forests of the higher regions – the variety of forest structures is impressive.

The summit of Mount Brocken

Unique among German low mountain ranges: the Mount Brocken peak is naturally treeless. The storms which pass the plateau do not allow trees to grow over 1,100 meters. On the summit dwarf bushes survive among the grassy heath. You can here the singing of birds, one of which belongs to the ring ouzel.

Valuable Harz bogs

The Harz bogs have kept their originality. Today, they are of Europe-wide importance for nature conservation and science. Particular climate conditions were responsible for their formation: damp cool conditions and the subsoil cause water logging after the last ice age, so plants could only partially decompose. The bogs emerged from deep peat moss – up to a depth of over seven meters. The conically raised surface is a characteristic of a raised bog. In its top layer has no connection to the mineral soil, so it is exclusively moistened and nourished by rainwater.

Streams

In Harz National Park clear mountain streams are to be found everywhere. The rushing streams are continually forming the mountain range – with an elemental force which becomes apparent at high water. The water of the Harz mountain streams is cold and rich in oxygen. Their river flows show diverse structures: near the source, at the headwater, rocks and boulders are a characteristic feature. Highly-specialized insect larvae live in the water. Fascinating bird species like the dipper and the grey wagtail are inhabitants of this biotope. Many creeks originate from the bogs of the higher areas and carry along undecomposed plant remains. As a result some of them look brown, the water is acidic and white crusts appear.

Rocky wilderness

In many places, wild rocky landscapes alternate with meadows: steep cliffs, towering rock formations, jumbled granite blocks as though thrown together in disorder. This is the realm of rare mosses and lichens – one is reminded of the Alps or the high north.