Dandelion Discovery Path
The Dandelion Discovery Path in Drei Annen Hohne is ideally suited for a family outing. Near the Brocken Railway train station it winds through the National Park with eight interpretation stations for investigation and research. We built it together with the German TV channel ZDF: for children who want to know much more; for adults who do not know enough; for families who go on voyages of discovery not only by watching television. In one to two hours you can discover a lot at the various stations. What mysterious tracks lead through the woods here? What can be heard with the ears of an owl? What am I going to dream about on the dreamer’s bench under the old oak? Shall we play forest memory? Can I jump as high as a flea can? After visiting the water station, finish off with a visit to the Hohne Hof Nature Adventure Centre. Here groups or school classes can also arrange dates for guided walks on the path.

From November to Easter, the stations are dismantled. During this time, the information panels and their equipment are renovated in the National Park workshop.

Nature Myths Path
Myths are one of the mankind’s oldest cultural assets. They provide an insight into thoughts and feelings and express how the environment was explained. The Nature Myths Path in Braunlage, with its ten interactive stations, invites adults and children to follow the mythical traces of the relationship between man and nature. Who’s afraid of the big bad wolf? Or is it man who is scary? Are man and wolf perhaps connected much more than we realize? What symbolic power emanates from a tree? And why enchant us with beauty and the singing of birds? Listen to the singing of water nymphs. Make a wish come true at the wishing tree. And find yourself in the maze.

For those who want to know more, each station has a designated book – the „Forest Library“. The 4-kilometre-long circular trail is very accessible.

About three hours of walking leads through varied landscapes and vegetation. You can reach the path from the National Park meeting point at Braunlage youth hostel after about 600 metres (car parks in Braunlage at the weather station and the sports field in Von-Langen-Straße). Group tours of the path can be arranged at Sankt Andreasberg National Park House.

During the winter months, the stations are dismantled.
Brocken Primeval Forest Path
On the way to Brocken, take a short trip to the Primeval Forest Path. The 200-metre-long dead-end branches from Brocken Street and gives a wonderful insight into the mysterious ancient woodland. It is accompanied by verses that the poet Bernd Wolff wrote specifically for the Primeval Forest Path. They are thoughtful verses. But the Primeval Forest Path not only gives us something for the soul. Here we can experience a forest as nature meant it to be. All its stages of development can be seen: the young spruce trees, which as seedlings grew in the rotten wood of the previous generation of trees, maturing trees, old and dying trees, among them strange tree shapes. The cycle of life and decay is closed; man no longer intervenes here, as it probably was for a long time. But, it’s not just the relic, the remainder of the previous Primeval Forest, as is so typical of the Brocken area, but it is also the image of the forest, as it may again be in the future in the National Park.
For more information, please contact the rangers at Schierke National Park House.

Altenau Wilderness Path
Situated near the village Altenau, an 800-metre-long path winds through the woods – here you can experience the National Park wilderness in miniature! In the National Park, and so also along the path, nature can develop freely again. You are invited to witness this momentum. You can be there, as the forest that was heavily influenced by mining is once again „wilderness“. Of course, not all of this happens overnight. Nature takes its time in its work. It will therefore only be after many years that this path will experience true wilderness. So in the future it will be worth a visit! You will be surprised at what changes nature is capable of, if it can act unaffected by humans.

At the entrance of the path you will find a general information board summarising to our little „Wilderness path“. The path leads through all the forest communities that are found throughout Harz National Park. Information boards along the way teach you about these different forest areas.

Drive from Altenau on the B 498 towards Dammhaus. Directly behind the village on the left, behind the large lawn, is Rose car park. The signs to the wilderness path start at the upper end of the car park. From there it is about 100 metres.
Bark Beetle Path in Ilsenburg
Visitors to the Bark Beetle Path in Ilsenburg learn how a new forest is created, how opportunities arise for nature from a supposed catastrophe, and where the bark beetle is actively fought, or not, in Harz National Park. The walk begins in Ilsetal not far from the large car park. Along the way there are three interactive stations with attractive information boards that explain the local bark beetle activity, their biological background and the reasons for this development. You can also observe how quickly the seemingly dead forest comes back to life. More information is available at the beginning or at the end of your walk from the rangers in Ilsetal National Park Visitor Centre.

Torfhaus WaldWandelWeg
We invite you to take a walk on the WaldWandelWeg at Schubenstein near Torfhaus. At about 180 metres you can experience at first hand the dynamic forest development of the “primeval forest of tomorrow”. The path is easily accessible from TorfHaus National Park Visitor Centre with a walk of 1.5 kilometres. Six stations describe the bark beetle as a natural inhabitant of the mountain spruce forest and its role in forest development as well as the future of the National Park forest. Further information about the bark beetle can be found at our information point at Quitschenberg on your walk from Torfhaus to the Brocken, and of course at TorfHaus National Park Visitor Centre.

Spirit Path in Herzberg
You can unwind in the magnificent beech forests of the southern Harz on a short circular route of 1.2 kilometres near the HELIOS clinic in Herzberg. Twelve stations with information boards and benches allow reflection on the topic of forest and soul. In some especially beautiful locations you can find benches and signs with poems and sayings. Visitors here can find both rest and relaxation in nature.

The White Roe Deer
On our fairy tale trail from Schierke to Brockenhaus, children can go with the boy Albert on an exciting journey through Harz National Park. The fairy tale of the white deer is told at six stations on the 6.5 kilometre walk, with an ascent of 500 metres. The last stop of the tale is at Brockenhaus. Here Albert tells the last part of the fairy tale and reveals the secret of the white deer. A leaflet about the trail is available at Schierke National Park visitor centre and the Brockenhaus. During the winter months, the stations are dismantled.
Do you want to experience, try or understand something in your explorations in Harz National Park? Then a visit to our eight nature trails is the right thing for you. Your walks, which are partly on narrow paths or boardwalks, combine enjoyment of nature with information and fun. Various topics are graphically presented for different age groups.

Has a visit to one of the paths whetted your appetite for more? Then visit one of our national park visitor centres or houses. Here your questions will be answered and you can learn more in our exciting exhibitions.

For more information and addresses of the National Park houses mentioned, please contact

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