Experience the workings of nature.

experience – protect – educate – research
Welcome to the Gesaeuse National Park!

The Gesaeuse is a rugged mountain landscape of limestone which has long been famous for its breathtaking beauty and remoteness. From the early days of alpine activities, the Gesaeuse has stood for a unique experience of nature for climbers, water sports enthusiasts and those relishing ski-tours through the mountains. Over millions of years the river Enns, with its cascading waters, has carved deeply into this mountain mass, creating a steep valley with sheer walls of up to 1,800 metres in height. The Gesaeuse is home to the last unregulated stretches of this major alpine river. The thundering and rushing of the river (the old German word "Gseis" meant rushing and foaming) have given their name to the region – the Gesaeuse. Since 26th October 2002 this mountain jewel has proudly borne the official title of "National Park". As an internationally recognised Category II protected area according to IUCN (The World Conservation
Union) guidelines it is committed to the following four tasks: nature protection and the conservation of species diversity, recreation and the experience of nature, education in matters of nature and the environment, and scientific research.

The many and varied events held as part of our summer, winter and school programmes provide you with profound insights into the relationship between the natural world and its management.

We look forward to welcoming you to the park!
Space for living!

... rocky crags

... blossoming alpine pastures
The rocky habitats, alpine pastures, woodlands and waters are the formative elements of the Gesaeuse National Park. The key tasks of the park are the protection of its flora and fauna as well as the improvement of their natural habitats – achieved primarily by allowing natural processes to continue, unimpeded by human interference as far as possible.
A wealth of species!

- Around 900 species of plants, including 50 orchid species
- 80 to 90 species of breeding birds
- At least 46 species of mammal
- 14 species of fish
- 8 species of amphibians and 7 species of reptiles
- To date we have discovered 119 spider species, 53 cicada species and 57 bug species on our alpine pastures
The Gesaeuse National Park is characterised by diversity. Enormous differences in altitude, open reaches of varying steepness and exposure, as well as a foundation of limestone and greywacke all serve to support a wide variety of species. Where else can one see alluvial forests and chamois at the same time? Unspoilt mixed woodlands, alpine pastures rich in insects and rock specialists are just some of the Gesaeuse’s highlights. The rare wild pink is one of our botanical treasures and amongst the insects we have even discovered a previously unknown stonefly species.
THE WONDERS OF NATURE
Developing special skills and learning to take on responsibility.

The National Park is not only a habitat for flora and fauna but also an important and attractive recreational environment for humans. The aim of our visitor management system is to conserve the habitat for our animals and plants and the unspoilt beauty of the landscape in order to provide our visitors with a high quality experience of nature.

OUR SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS:
- Orchid walks
- Wildlife observation
- Introduction to climbing for groups
- Historical hiking tours
- Photography workshops
- Geological hiking tours
- GEO biodiversity day
- Nature hikes
- Junior Ranger camps
- Summer camps with the Alpine Association

ASK FOR A FREE COPY OF OUR CURRENT SUMMER PROGRAMME!
OUR WINTER HIGHLIGHTS:
- Wildlife observation
- Snowshoeing tours
- Snow and avalanche courses
- Photographic walking tours in winter

Black grouse and wood grouse observation
Wide variety of lectures

ASK FOR A FREE COPY OF OUR CURRENT WINTER PROGRAMME!
Whilst we march across the landscape from peak to ridge for pleasure, winter is a time in which wildlife is fighting for survival. Although the snow grouse’s white apparel and feathered legs are designed to cope with the climate, its meagre food supplies and the intense cold pose a constant challenge. Every additional human disturbance can be a matter of life or death. Please be considerate and stick to the marked pathways!
CONVERTING SPRUCE STANDS INTO MIXED FORESTS
CONSERVATION OF OLD AND DEAD WOOD
MANAGING ALPINE PASTURES TO PROTECT SENSITIVE HABITATS
RETURNING THE SULZKARSEE LAKE TO ITS ORIGINAL STATE
Getting to know and respect the habitat of animals and plants.

One of our most important tasks at the national park is nature conservation. Our goal is an unspoilt and unaffected natural wilderness, where this is permitted by infrastructure and settlements. Over the long term, commercial spruce stands will be replaced with more natural mixed forests. Older trees, with their own micro-cosmos of lichens, mosses, fungi and insects, will further enrich our ecological diversity.
IMPROVING HABITATS ON THE RIVER ENNS
ECOLOGICAL RENATURATION OF THE JOHNSBACH CREEK
REINTRODUCTION OF THE TAMARISK
REINTRODUCTION OF THE SOUFIE
The river Enns, more than 200 km in length and largely developed, displays its natural course and flow dynamics only in the area of the national park. The gravel banks in the Gesaeuse are habitats for those absolute specialists that can cope with the water’s dynamics – small reed grass, tamarisks, ground beetles, sandpipers and many others.
Buildings for educational purposes, modelled on the aesthetic examples provided by nature.

WILLOW DOME:
Research station at the Willow Dome
Journey into nature’s micro-cosmos
Link to the themed nature trail "Lettmair Au"
Link to the "Rauchbodenweg" trail
Link to the "Sagenweg" trail
A demanding and diversified range of educational elements should help
visitors to learn about the philosophy of the national park. Fascinating ad-
ventures and experiences stimulate enthusiasm for the work of the park in the field of nature conservation, and spark interest in the diversity and beauty of nature.

NATIONAL PARK PAVILION GSTATTERBODEN:
Information point, staffed from May to October
Geological exhibition
Restaurant and small shop
Starting point for the ”Hochscheiben mountain-bike tour”
Link to the ”Rauchbodenweg” trail
Component of the GeoLine tour destinations
The National Park comes to school
Ranger camp
School project on Alpine ecology
Nature experience weeks in summer and winter
Alpine pasture and mountain hut hiking tours

Cave tours
Trips on the river Enns
Night hikes
Group packages
(including bed, board and transfers)
Nowhere else can you experience the beauty and diversity of nature as directly as in an Austrian national park. These provide examples of a holistic nature experience, and serve to combine knowledge and emotion. This makes our national parks essential components in natural and environmental education, connecting exemplary experience with the knowledge of natural relationships.

We love only what we understand – we conserve only what we love.
Sharpening your senses to complex relationships

Research carried out in the national park serves primarily to create the tools required in nature conservation. How many species are there in the park? There are great gaps in our knowledge about many of the animal groups as well as fungi, mosses and lichen. Our aim is to fill in these gaps. Where are our endangered species and habitats? What can we do to secure their
future in the national park? And, last but not least, the important question of the future – what developments can we expect? From climate warming through to changes in land use. What effect will this have on the natural environment? These answers are of great importance for the national park, the surrounding regions and further afield.

FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH: WHAT IS HIDDEN IN THE GESÄUSE?
LONGTERM OBSERVATION: HOW IS THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT CHANGING?
RESEARCH INTO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: HOW CAN WE HELP?
The national park works closely with universities on its projects. Many students’ theses deal with aspects of the Gesaeuse. We provide the onsite infrastructure and the universities contribute their specialised expertise to national park research.

The Eisenwurzen Research Platform was established as a result of coopera-
HARMONISING FUNCTIONALITY AND BEAUTY

...with other research institutions in the area. Together we strive to work on the most pressing questions in the region and come up with new solutions. Incorporated into an international research environment, all the partners (protected areas, Federal Environment Agency, the EU etc.) contribute to successful joint research.
Gesaeuse National Park partner organisations are active in the following fields:

- Direct marketing
- Catering
- Handicrafts and trades
- Individual industries
- Snack huts
- Mountain refuges
- Holidays on organic farms

"regional – ecological – creative"

The Gesaeuse National Park partner companies are "regional – ecological – creative" and keep visitors informed about all the current events on offer in the national park. The partner companies have made it their job to create added value in a sustainable manner outside the protected areas of the park. They work closely with one another in a range of fields and together with the national park’s management.

Look for the logo "National Park Gesaeuse Partner" and take pleasure in the quality and environmental awareness of these businesses. www.nationalpark-partner.at
Accomplishing joint tasks and growing together as a team.

A national park is, as the name suggests, a national concern. Every visitor to an Austrian national park takes on a little responsibility for the protection and conservation of the beauty of this unique landscape. Hikers, climbers, mountain-bikers, water sports enthusiasts, those enjoying mountain ski-touring and winter climbers all revel in the grandiose mountain world of the Gesaeuse National Park. Each of these guests must respect their environment so that we can proudly hand on an unspoilt natural treasure to our children.

We all bear responsibility!
Details about the Gesaeuse National Park:
The Gesaeuse National Park is the newest and third largest Austrian national park. It lies in the Austrian province of Styria in the Ennstal Alps and largely encompasses the two mountain massifs Buchsteinstock and Hochtor Group. The northern border of the park directly adjoins the Eisenwurzen Nature Park and is only a few kilometres away from the Limestone Alps National Park in Upper Austria.

Total area: 11,054 ha
Natural zone: 86.0%
Conservation zone: 14.0%
Established: 26 October 2002
Internationally recognised: 5 December 2003

Habitats:
- Forests: 50.0%
- Rock and gravel: 22.0%
- Dwarf pine shrubs: 15.0%
- Alpine meadows and pastures: 10.0%
- Water: 0.7%
- Other habitats: 2.3%

Ownership structure:
- Province of Styria: 99.3% (Styrian Provincial Forestry Commission)
- Public water bodies: 0.5%
- Private land owners: 0.2%

National Park municipalities and corresponding percentage of National Park area:
- Johnsbach: 51.0%
- Weng: 30.0%
- Admont: 7.0%
- Land: 6.5%
- Hieflau: 4.5%
- St. Gallen: 1.0%

REACHING US: The railway line traversing the park provides the best preconditions for travelling to the Gesaeuse National Park in an environmentally friendly manner! In addition, the stretch between Admont and Hieflau is regarded as one of the most beautiful railway routes through the Alps. The shortest route to the Gesaeuse for those travelling from Vienna, Linz or St Pölten is via Amstetten or St Valentin, Kleinnreifling and Hieflau, and from Graz and Salzburg via Selzthal and Admont. You’ll find information about travelling on public services at: www.xeismobil.at

DEAR VISITORS!
Please take note that many of the guided tours and especially individual tours are taking place in an alpine landscape. Sudden weather changes and cold spells are very real possibilities in the mountains, and therefore suitable clothing and equipment is not only advisable but absolutely essential!

Translation: by PROHAMMER, Graz.
VISIT OUR HOMEPAGE AT www.nationalpark.co.at or request the following free brochures.

FURTHER INFORMATION IN GERMAN LANGUAGE:
In Gseis – a bi-annual magazine issued by the National Park
Summer, winter and schools programmes – three annual programme
brochures

Special information folder – opening times for the Willow Dome,
the National Park Pavilion and route directions
Brochure about National Park partners
Flyer on mountain bike route and water sports
Flyer on marked ski touring routes
Fairplay code of conduct summer/winter
Accommodation service and information brochures published by
the tourism association
Information & Registration:
Admont Information Office
A-8911 Admont, Hauptstraße 35
Tel: +43 (0)3613 / 211 60-20
Fax: +43 (0)3613 / 211 60-40

Opening hours:
May – October: Mon – Fri 08:00 – 18:00
Sat 10:00 – 16:00
November – April: Mon – Fri 09:00 – 17:00

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