

Steirische Eisenwurzten

My Nature- and Geopark

careful use of resources, cultural and natural
landscape as well as excursion destinations
in the Unesco global geopark
styrian eisenwurzen

Recommendations



Organisation
der Vereinten Nationen
für Bildung, Wissenschaft
und Kultur



Steirische Eisenwurzten
UNESCO
Global Geopark



Interreg



EUROPEAN UNION

Danube Transnational Programme

Danube GeoTour

Project co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA)

www.interreg-danube.eu/danube-geotour

1. General advices

Recommendations



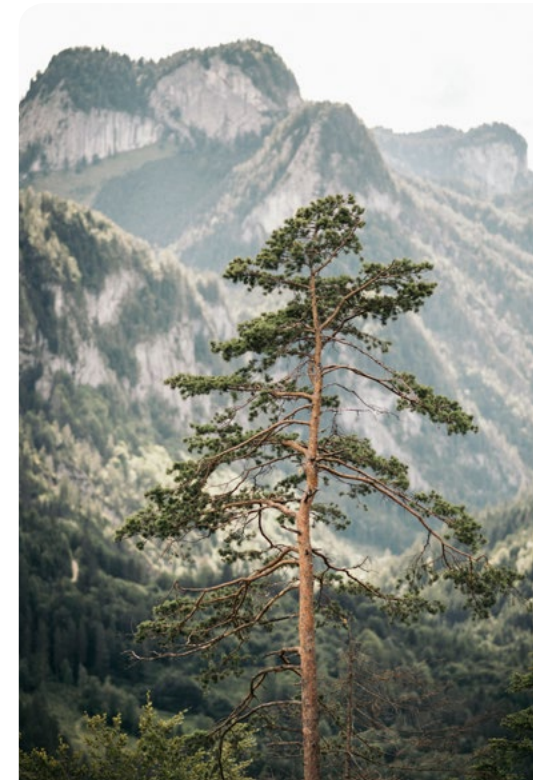
- **Take care of our nature and geology.** Handle it carefully in all areas. **Stones, plants and other natural objects are observed with respect** and only with one's eyes. Leave nature and geology where you find it – you also won't be taken anywhere, right?
- Many **roads and paths** lead through the Nature and Geopark and its excursion destinations. Especially in protected areas, we recommend to **move on the marked trails**, for example in the »Wasserlochklamm« or in the Kraus cave.
- **Take care of the flora and fauna.** At home, you also prefer it more tranquil and pleasantly quiet. **You can watch wild animals also quite good from a distance. A pair of binoculars is recommended.** One can not only explore the animals, but also the unique landscape. **Wild animals know best what they like.** Treat yourself to a snack at our Gesäuse partners.

1. General advices

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- Again, think of your „home“. Is there any waste or other garbage just lying around? **Please take care not to leave any garbage.** We also try to keep pure water and soils for future generations.
- **If you visit the Nature and Geopark with your dog please keep him on a leash.** Other visitors are also on the trails and furthermore we do not want to scare the wildlife. In addition, the „**Sackerl for the Gackerl**“ is not for nothing. Please always take one with you because your dog’s waste is not the best fertilizer for a natural environment.
- As a nature protection institution, the **Styrian Mountain and Nature Watch** can be found in the Styrian Eisenwurzen. Its members are **declared organs** which **take care for our environment and our Natura and Geopark.** Their concern is the conservation and protection of geology. They know the directives in this protected area. Furthermore, **the employees of the Nature and Geopark and its excursion destinations are a good informant source.** Our goal is to keep the peculiarities of the Eisenwurzen for our future generations.



2. Anything about our geological features: caves, gullies, fossils and minerals

2.1. Look into the cave



- **Cave are very special with unique geology, flora and fauna.** Therefore, caves are **protected**. Only some of them are designated as a **show cave**. For example, the Kraus cave in the Geovillage Gams or the Arzberg cave in Wildalpen.
- Therefore, caves can only be **visited without endangering the cave inventory and the cave's wildlife**. **Trained cave guides** will show you the special features of the show caves during a guided tour.
- The **Kraus cave** can be experienced on a good path. Nevertheless, **warm clothing and good footwear is a must have** when visiting the cave. In addition, cave guide will borrow you a **lamp** so you can find our way through the darkness.
- The **Arzberg cave** is a little **bit more special**, therefore visitors need a **very good level of fitness and good equipment**: a minimum are **gloves, a helmet, warm clothes and good shoes**

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- **There are some rules to follow:**

- **Move very carefully through the cave** so as little changes as possible will happen. For example, **do not touch dripstones or crystals at all**. Our hands can destroy the work of millennia all by only one touch.
- Certainly, you'll be disappointed if your usual environment is broken and valuables are missing. The same applies for the cave. **Please do not steal anything from the cave.**
- Caves aren't only geology, they are also **home for a various wildlife**. Especially **bats** like to find their shelter here. Therefore, we ask you to **behave calmly** and to not disturb the maternity or hibernation areas of bats. **Please be careful by handling the lamps.**
- **And now the last request: Again - a cave is not a dustbin.** Human traces aren't the best for natural cave conditions. So please take all your things back outside.



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2.1. Look into the cave

- As already mentioned **caves** are regulated by law. If one is interested in visiting another cave than an show cave a **permission is required**. The best way is to consult the competent authority (**district Liezen**) - especial if one will do scientific field researches.
- If **film or photo projects** are planned **in our show caves**, we usually don't have a problem. Since these caves can only be visited with guides, **prior consultation with the operators is the first step**.
- "**Cave guide**" is a special education. Therefore, we recommend **listening to all instructions** during the tour. The guide would like to show you not only the beauty of the cave and to convey knowledge, but also bring you back to light safely.
- Usually **taking photos** in the cave is no problem, however it is important to pay attention to our **bats**. We do not want to scare them.



2. Anything about our geological features: caves, gullies, fossils and minerals

2.2. Old but beautiful: Minerals and fossils

- **Minerals and fossils** are something very special therefore protected within our Nature and Geopark. Both tell a lot about the earth history, therefore fossils and minerals have also a **high scientific value**. Some initial discoveries were made at the GeoDorf Gams. In Großreifling it came to so called ammonite founding. This founding describes now **it's own time period in the earth history**: The aniseed stage describes the period 234-241 million years ago and comes from the Latin name of the Enns (Anisus).

- As you can see now such finds have a high value. In addition, the „hotspots“ in the Geopark are at the same time **legally designated „natural monuments“** such as the Spitzenbach gorge or the Pitzengraben in GeoDorf Gams. Therefore Any change is forbidden by law.

- However, if you discover **something special**, we ask you to get in touch with **the guides of the excursion destinations** or the **Styrian Mountain and Nature watch**. We will do some researches and maybe you'll be part of a **unique historical discovery**.



3. Hiking is the visitor's desire

- There exist of course **official hiking trails**, which can be found all over Austria: **Red marked with yellow or gray signposts**. Just stick to them, then you do something good to nature, because many areas remain untouched.
- There are also **themed trails, nordic walking routes or climbing routes**. The same rules of course apply to them. A cautious approach to the environment is required: **stay on the trails, leave no garbage and do not hike too noisy** - then nothing stands in the way of the unique nature experience.



- Significant on all alpine routes: **use at your own risk**. A liability for any damage is not taken over by the supervisors and the Nature and Geopark. It requires **absolute good alpine condition** as well as the necessary **alpine experience** on all roads. In some climbing systems natural deficiencies can appear, although the bridges in our gorges are built very solid. **With time-related damage due to weather-related influences and natural processes (rockfall) one has to expect anytime.**

3. Hiking is the visitor's desire

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- To learn more about the gorges, climbing, biodiversity or geology, we recommend guided tours hold by our trained staff.
- **Mountin biking** increases more and more popularity. The rules also apply for the bikers: Biking is only **allowed along designated routes**. Also a mindful, the environment appropriate driving conditions are necessary.
- Above forest boundary exists a **general freedom of wayuse**, however the **respectful handling of natural environment** also applies in this area. Below the tree boundary, there are the designated paths along reasons that are private or public. **That's why we ask you not to leave paths**. This can be compared to our garden, because you don't want to have a stranger use it or?!



4. Delicacies from the natural garden: mushrooms, berries and Co

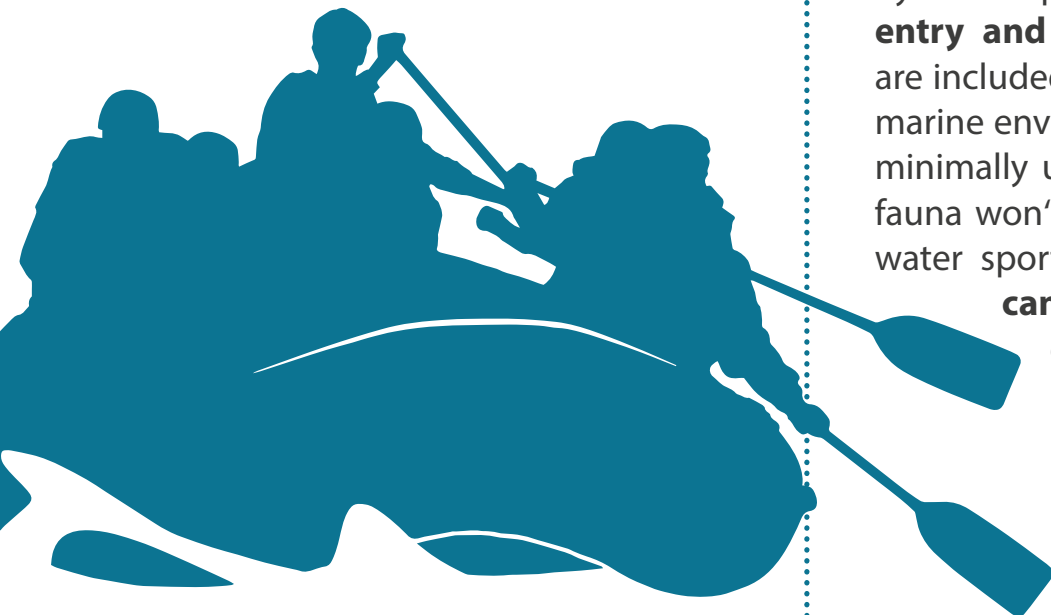


- In Styria **the protection of plants and animals** is regulated by law. Certain animals and plants are **very rare** and therefore it needs a special protection to avoid extinction. Concrete information about the protected flora and fauna can be found on the Internet on also **on the homepage of the Department of Nature Conservation of Styria (www.verwaltung.steiermark.at)**. Moreover you will find useful information about nature conservation.
- Of course, there are some plants, such as **berries, mushrooms or flowers**, which one likes to take for home use. There are certain **upper limits**, which apply to personal use. **For protected plants a maximum of one handset is allowed to be picked.**
- There exist a “golden rule”: Mushrooms, berries and other forest fruits (eg sweet chestnuts) are always the property of the forest owner. However, if the forest owner does not expressly prohibit, limit or charge for the collection of mushrooms or fruits of the forest (for example by means of information boards), the acquisition of mushrooms and fruits is permitted under civil law and free of charge. **The permission of the forest owner to collect (for his own use)** is expected if he tacitly tolerates it. **Mushrooms have an upper limit of 2 kg per day.**

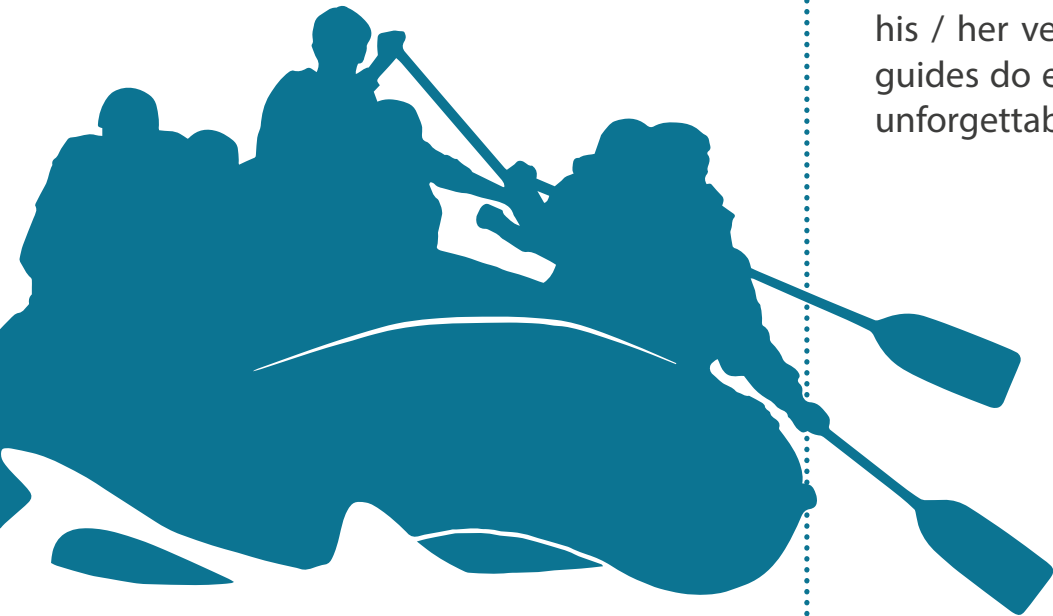


5. Whitewaterfun: rafting, kajak und Co

- In **sensitive waters (eg small mountain lakes, small forest lakes)** and in habitats of endangered plant and animal species, swimming and one's behavior are **explained or forbidden by means of information boards**. Otherwise, a jump into the cool water is permitted
- Along the major rivers **whitewater sports** are very common. A corresponding **guidance system** along the **Salza** helps to **strengthen the coexistence of man and nature**. By the help of this system **special entry and exit points for boats** are included. So all other nearshore marine environment should remain minimally untouched. So flora and fauna won't get affected by whitewater sport. **The river landscape can be explored on a boat trip at it's best.** Please use the specific entry and exit points for rafts, boats and other vessels as well as the maximum number of boats per day (set by PPs)



5. Whitewaterfun: rafting, kajak und Co



- **Sanitary facilities** and **garbage cans** are found **along the exits and entrances** are or will be installed soon. We ask you to use them, to protect the our environment.
- **Only with commercial providers rafting is possible.** A **rafting guide** can be found on every boat. **Its instructions and explanations must be followed.** He or she knows the river like his / her vest pocket. In addiont these guides do everything to ensure you an unforgettable day on the Salza.

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