



tats and working together with volunteers in observing rare species. The nature park works together with local partners to organize ecologically-sound and sustainable cultivation on the Schlaube and the orchid meadows on the Reicherskreuzer Heide, just to name one example. The very sparsely inhabited nature park, with its agricultural history, has three large farms and several pasturing facilities that take up just under one-fifth of the area. The former mills in the Schlaube, Oelse and Dorche valleys contribute striking testimony to the cultural history of the nature park with its 21 villages and the small town of Müllrose. The mills were built starting in the 15th century, but have now been long out of use. They are part of the protected, tourist attractions in the nature park. Many guesthouses and boardinghouses see their future in increasing tourism.

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Boloria aquilonaris



NATURPARK SCHLAUBETAL



Marsh Helleborine

large piece of gold, on which one could see a crowned snake. Grass snakes still teem on the Wirchenwiesen. But the wealth of the Schlaubetal is not measured in gold alone. The diversity of the landscape brought forth a richness of various habitats that are suitable for the requirements of different, rare and endangered species. There are 13 plant and animal species that occur in Brandenburg alone in the Schlaubetal Nature Park. To these belong the orchid species cypripedium calceolus and yellow coralroot, as well as the butterfly boloria aquilonaris. Beside the 1,000 plant species, among which today 13 orchid species exist, 140 breeding bird species have been identified in the nature park. Almost three-quarters of the macrolepidoptera (larger moths and butterflies) in Brandenburg live in the nature park. European otter, several bat species, white-tailed eagle, osprey, common kingfisher, and black storks can be spotted by the attentive observer. On the guided nature watch tours one can overhear tawny pipits, nightjars, great grey shrike as well as various insect species in the Reicherskreuzer Heide (Reicherskreuz Heathlands) or visit amphibian spawning grounds along the Schlaube.

Life in the Nature Park

Four staff members perform their duties at the Schlaubetal Nature Watch. The tasks include monitoring the area and landscape conservation as well as mapping precious habi-

and the Boberschenk as well as the Planfließ further to the north. Near-natural sessile oak and pine mixed forests grow on some spots in the Schlaubetal, such as in the Teufelssee (Devil's Lake) Nature Preserve near Schernsdorf. In this area, in which the Schlaube flows through a series of lakes, original beech forests are still preserved. In the northern valley the Schlaube turns into a meadow creek, snaking its way through a landscape with countless moors. To the east of the river's course, at Belenzsee (Lake Belenz), there is a brown moss moor, which is highly endangered in Germany. In this section of the river the Mahlheide Nature Preserve is also of note. Pines remain on dune locations with special growth forms. Agriculture was practiced here at the end of the Middle Ages. The pines divided multiple times – the roots grew into the earth back again.

Legendary World of Animals and Plants

The legend about the legacy of the snake queen is still told in the Schlaubetal today – the queen whose kingdom is said to have begun on the Wirchenwiesen (Wirchen Meadows). According to the legend a young farmer from Treppeln saw here a glorious palace in all its gleaming splendor – and inside it a mountain of gold. As he reached for it, the castle disappeared – for ever. In the boy's coat remained but a single

Ice Age

The face of the landscape in the eastern Brandenburg heathland and lake area was formed in the Brandenburg stage of the Weichselian glaciation, which began 90,000 years ago. The break-up of the ice created the elements which today dominate the landscape: the meltwater channel system, the Schlaube, Ölse, and Demnitz, and the outwash plains near Reicherskreuz. The valley of the Schlaube and the Reicherskreuz heathland form the heart of the nature park. They are complemented by the Dorchetal (Dorche Valley) with its transitions to the flood-plain landscape of the Oder and Nieße and to the south by the Guben local recreation area with its many swimming lakes.



Along the Schlaube

More than two-thirds of the nature park is covered with forests. Wirchensee (Lake Wirchen) lies in the north, not far from the source of the Schlaube, with the river passing through it, surrounded by mixed deciduous forests. Alder marshes, beech and hornbeam forests accompany the upper reaches of the Schlaube. Like a highland brook it winds there through steep, up to 30-meter-high gorges. Here one can find unregulated distributaries such as the Klautzkefließ, Kesselfließ,



Gate to the Nature Park

Locals and visitors alike praise the Schlaubetal (Schlaube Valley) as the most beautiful brook valley in eastern Brandenburg – and rightly so! On its 20-kilometer-long course in the valley the Schlaube loves variety. It winds its way through forests and gorges, flows through lakes and ponds, leaves streams and moors in its wake, and edges meadows and interior dunes. The place where the Schlaube empties into the Brieskow Lake and the Oder river lies slightly to the west of Müllrose. The march farming town, one-and-a-half hours by train from Berlin, forms the northern gate to the Schlaubetal. The nature park of the same name extends over 35 kilometers from here to the south to just before the brown coal area of Jänschwalde. The Schlaubetal was opened at the end of 1995 as the third nature park of Brandenburg. With its 227 square meters it belongs to the counties of Spree-Neiße, Oder-Spree, and Dahme-Spreewald.



Reicherskreuzer Heide

Extended heathlands in the southern part of the nature park were formed through decades-long use as military training grounds. An expansive nature preserve, 30-square-kilometers in size, was established to ensure the recharging of the groundwater and to protect many plant and animal species. In May the arid, infertile outwash plains that lie south of Reicherskreuz and Henzendorf are covered in yellow Scotch Broom blossoms and in September by the lilac-colored erica blossoms. In the Reicherskreuzer Heide and Schwansee Nature Preserves there is a nature trail with an observation tower that has been cleared of munition and is safe to enter. On the path from Henzendorf in the Heide there is both a boulder park and a geological nature trail.



There are several clear-water lakes away from the Schlaube in the Göhlenze and Fichtengrund Nature Preserves. Formed after the Weichselian glaciation these former, so-called dead-ice blocks can be identified by their various stages of moor formation.

Bremsdorfer Mill



PLACES

	Accommodations	Restaurants	Hiking trails	Charabanc
Bomstorf	•	•	•	
Bremsdorf	•	•	•	
Fünfeichen	•	•	•	
Groß Drewitz	•	•	•	•
Grunow/Dammendorf	•	•	•	
Henzendorf	•	•	•	•
Müllrose Resort	•	•	•	
Neuzelle Resort	•	•	•	
Pinnow	•	•	•	
Reicherskreuz	•	•	•	
Schernsdorf	•	•	•	
Treppeln	•	•	•	
Großsee	•	•	•	
Göhlen See	•	•	•	
Pinnower See	•	•	•	

OFFERINGS

Environmental Education

- Forest school/Jugendwaldheim Müllrose "Am Rogge-Busch" Tel: (03 36 06) 49 62, 635
- Youth hostel Bremsdorfer Mühle, Tel: (03 36 54) 272
- Schullandheim Schlaubetal Tel: (03 36 54) 320
- Forest school at the Kleinsee (Small Lake) Forsthaus Eichhorst Tel: (03 56 91) 42 23, 210

Natural Monuments

- Wild Pear near Henzendorf
- Kobbelner Stone
- 1000-year-old oak near Bärenklau
- Alley of red oaks near Treppeln
- old giant trees in the Bomstorf park
- four 200-year-old pines south of the Wirchen lake

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View from Klosterteich (cloister pond) to the Neuzelle baroque church.

