

Facts about the Nature Park

Formation

1972 (hence the oldest nature park in Baden-Württemberg)

Area

15,600 hectares (ha) = 156 km²

Funding sources

The state of Baden-Württemberg, represented by the Tübingen Regional Council and 22 regional authorities (4 districts, 18 cities and municipalities)

Ownership structure

- 63 % State
- 34 % Districts
- 3 % Private

Land use

- 86 % Forest
- 13 % Agricultural
- 1 % Miscellaneous

Wood use

Near-natural forestry activities take place over approximately 90% of the forested area in the Nature Reserve. The wood harvested here is less than the annual net growth. The remaining forested area is under full protection from forestry because of special conservation status (e.g. protected forest).

Tree species composition

- 64 % Deciduous (incl. 31 % beech, 14 % oak)
- 36 % Coniferous (incl. 17 % spruce, 12 % pine)

Protected areas

- 5 % Nature reserve
- 92 % Protected landscape
- 65 % FFH area (Fauna-Flora-Habitat)
- 83 % Bird sanctuaries and other conservation area categories (protected forests and forest reserves, forest refuges, natural monuments)
- 99 % of the nature reserve area is protected through at least one of these conservation status categories
- 3 Protected forest (a total of 101 ha)



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SCHÖNBUCH NATURE RESERVE

Schönbuch Nature Reserve comprises close to 156 km² and is almost 86% forested; as such, it is one of southern Germany’s largest enclosed forests. Approximately 200-250 animals inhabit the red deer territory that makes up around 40 km² of the area. Representatives of particularly sensitive and rare species are also found within Schönbuch. With a little patience at the right time of year, visitors with a keen eye can spot crested newts, hermit beetles, brown hairstreak butterflies, barbastelles and Alcahoes bats, wasp spiders, cranberries, Hungarian vetchling (Lathyrus pannonicus) or oak ceramic fungus. A remarkable seven of the nine species of woodpeckers are present here – the wryneck is particularly worth noting – and 16 of the 21 species of bat. A special feature of the state’s oldest nature reserve is the more than 240 small monuments (stone crosses, memorial stones, deer stones, soldiers’ graves, wells etc.) and many cultural and historical points of interest, including the former Cistercian monastery and the Bebenhausen hunting lodge. Visitors can learn more about these special features right on site using the free app, “Schönbuchführer” [Guide to Schönbuch]. Celtic entrenchments and grave sites, as well as an historical transport link (Via Rheni) are also located within the vast woodlands between Tübingen, Reutlingen, Aichtal, Waldenbuch, Böblingen and Herrenberg.

Located close by for more than 2 million residents of the central Neckar region who use the nature reserve as a recreation area and with close to 4 million visitors each year, this readily accessible nature reserve plays a vital role. It features an outstanding infrastructure for recreational activities, including many cycling and hiking paths, training and educational trails, resting areas, water treading pools, expanses of water, game viewing enclosures, special vantage points and distinctive feature trees; Schönbuch is deservedly a favourite getaways destination and hiking region for both young and old. The Nature Reserve offers several barrier-free options for the disabled; these are described on the website.

The Nature Reserve Administration in Bebenhausen is supported through funding from the Förderverein Naturpark Schönbuch e. V. Each year, projects of cities, municipalities and districts within the Nature Reserve, as well as applications from private individual and associations, receive support from nature reserve development funds from the State of Baden-Württemberg and the EU.

Geology

Keuper landscape (formed more than 200 million years ago during the Triassic). The sandstones of Schönbuch have been used for construction projects such as the Cologne Cathedral (Kölner Dom), the Ulm Minster (Ulmer Münster) and the Tübingen Neckar Bridge. This resource is still extracted today in very small quantities for use in restoring historical buildings.

Climate

Warm, dry, submontane
Annual average temperature: 8.7 °C
Precipitation: 740 – 860 mm annually

Special flora and fauna highlights

Plants: Adder’s tongue, royal fern, cranberry, Hungarian vetchling (Lathyrus pannonicus), service berry, cup coral, oak ceramic fungus
Amphibians: fire salamander, crested newt
Beetles: hermit beetle, horned stag beetle
Butterflies and dragonflies: brown hairstreak, scarlet tiger moth, sombre goldenring
Bats: barbastelle, Bechstein’s bat, Alcahloe bat
Spiders: orange wheelweaving spider, wasp spider
Birds: wryneck, collared flycatcher, king-fisher, dipper



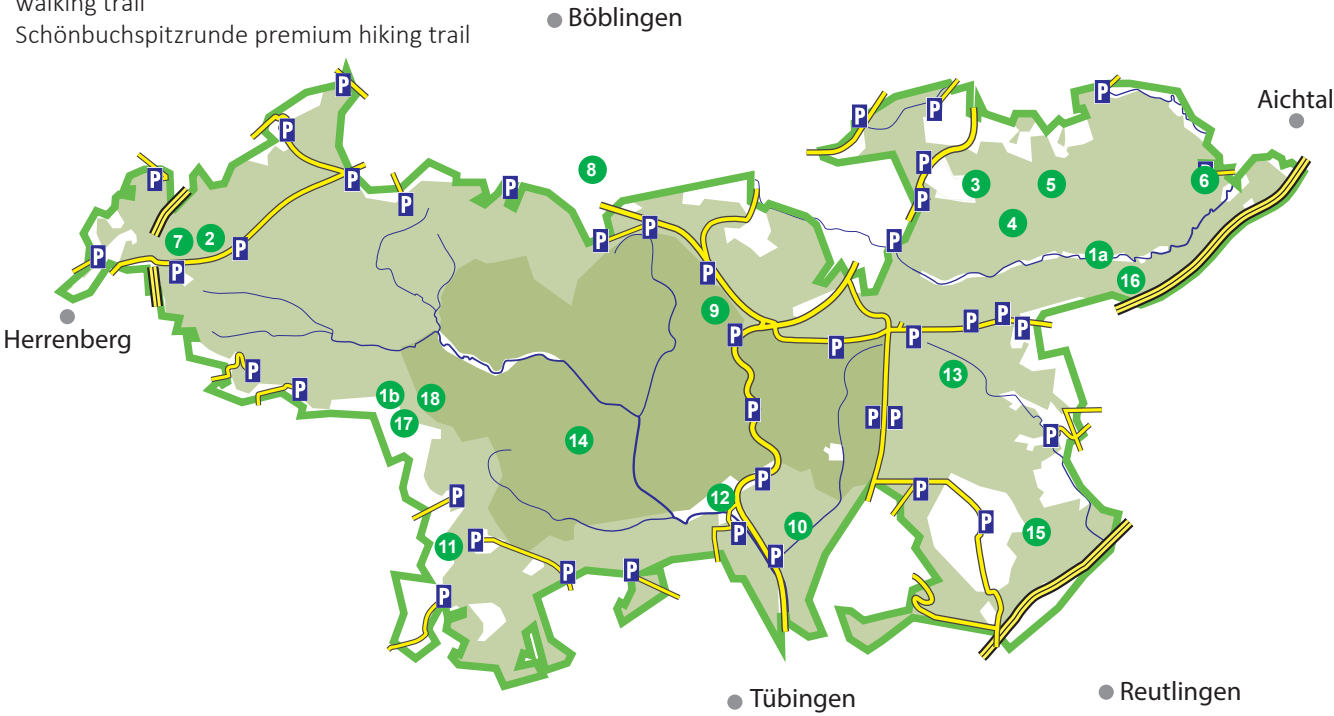
Service berry

Dipper

Fire salamander

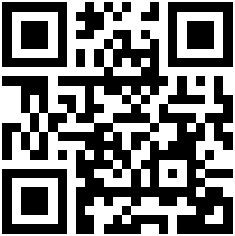
Points of interest

- 1 “Schaichtal” protected area (a) and “Schönbuch Westhang” (b)
- 2 Schönbuch observation tower Stellberg (opening in fall of 2018)
- 3 Braunäcker orchard district (with a Celtic entrenchment)
- 4 Historic Stubensandstein quarry at Waldenbuch
- 5 The “Herzog-Jäger-Pfad” premium hiking trail (opening in May 2018)
- 6 Historic Neuenhaus nature trail
- 7 Herrenberg forest rope adventure park
- 8 Orchard nature trail at the Schönbuch Golf Club
- 9 Red deer educational trail
- 10 Geology educational trail in Kirnbachtal
- 11 Hohenentringen Castle
- 12 Former Cistercian monastery and castle Bebenhausen with the Nature Park’s Infocentre
- 13 Eisenbachhain protected forest
- 14 Royal hunting lodge
- 15 Schloss Einsiedel and a history education trail
- 16 Sulzeiche natural monument (brown oak)
- 17 “Ammerbucher Gigelesweg” premium hiking and walking trail
- 18 Schönbuchspitzrunde premium hiking trail



Schönbuch App

The free “Schönbuchführer” [Guide to Schönbuch] app available in the Android (Play Store) and IOS (Apple) app shops provides visitors with QR codes linked to information about more than 50 points of interest in the Nature Reserve.



Guided Tours in the Schönbuch Nature Park

Forest rangers from the local forest authorities are the first point of contact for those interested in guided forest tours. Adventure tours can be arranged through trained environment and nature guides. Visit the Nature Park website for contact details.

Nature Park Information Centre

The Infocentre is located in the historical listed building, the Bebenhausen monastery “Schreibturm” (tower)



Event Programming

Every year, the Nature Park administration, together with the local district forest authorities, publishes a free programme brochure listing up to 100 events (see www.naturpark-schoenbuch.de).

Distinctions and Awards

- Woodland of the Year 2014 (in Germany)
- Quality Nature Park (awarded by the Verband Deutscher Naturparke [Association of German Nature Reserves])

Administrative Office

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