

# *European Wilderness Network*

## *Hainich WILDForest*



2018

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*Let's get Wild!*

# Hainich WILDForest, Germany

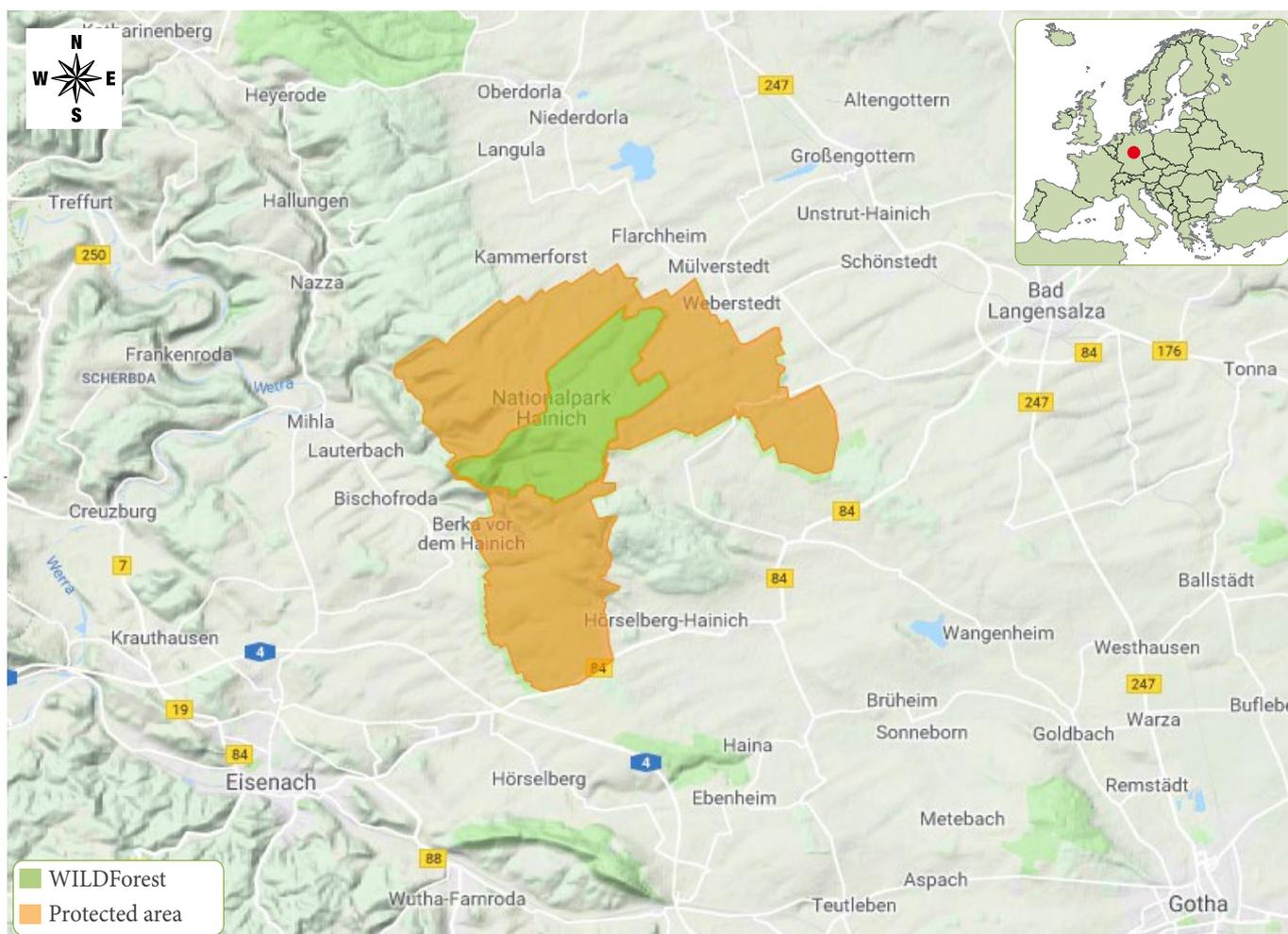
The 1 570 ha Hainich WILDForest is embedded into the Hainich National Park, Germany. The Hainich National Park was founded in 1997, as the 13th national park in Germany and the only one in Thuringia. Over 90% of Hainich National Park is without any economic use, where nature is returning to its roots. In contrast to commercial forests, the woodland in Hainich WILDForest may develop back, untouched, into a primeval woodland in the heart of Germany, true to the motto of the German national parks “Let nature be nature”.

One of the main objectives of the park is the protection of native beech forest. Recently, the park was added to the UNESCO World Heritage Site – Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe.

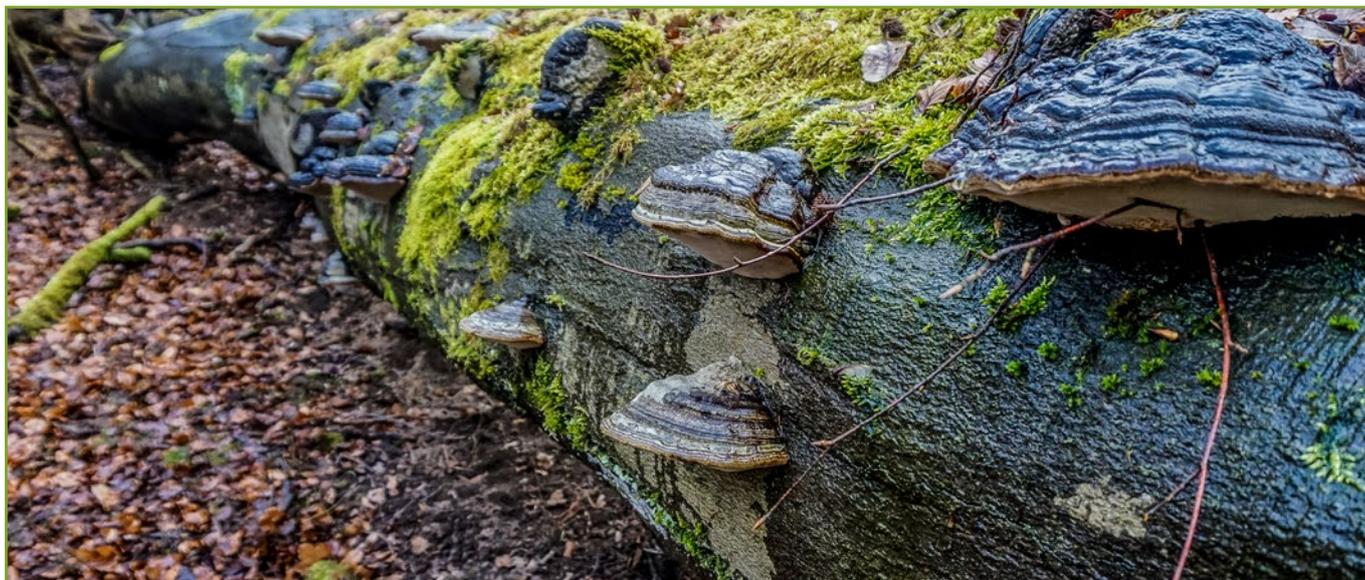
## European Wilderness Quality Standard Audit System

The 1 570 ha Hainich WILDForest was subject to a Quick-Audit in 2017 and meets the Silver Wilderness Quality Standard. The WILDForest has the potential to be enlarged by an additional 1 500 ha.

Wilderness information	
Protected area	Hainich National Park
Wilderness	Hainich WILDForest
Country	Germany
Size of the protected area	7 500 ha
Size of the WILDForest	1 570 ha
European Wilderness Quality Standard Audit	2017
Wilderness Uniqueness	Large contiguous area of broadleaf and mixed forest.
Number of visitors per year to the protected area	approx. 300 000
Number of visitors per year to the WILDForest	approx. 20 000



Map scale 1 : 440 000



## Biodiversity

In Hainich WILDForest people can find the largest contiguous deciduous forest in Germany, uninfluenced by mankind. It is not the typical German oak, but the beech tree that dominates here. An important source of biodiversity is the forest's deadwood. Deadwood does not mean that there is no life in it, on the contrary. About one quarter of all the forest's inhabitants depend on deadwood for nesting places or food sources. Also bats often make their home under the peeling bark. The area is home to the wolf, lynx, wildcats and badgers, together with the roe and red deer as well as the black woodpecker, chaffinch and pied flycatcher.

## Wilderness Tourism Experience

The Hainich WILDForest offers a wide spectrum of activities, including a Wilderness experience. A very special adventure is the Canopy Walk. The Canopy Walk winds along a length of 530 m from the lower crown section up to the tops of the primeval woodland canopies.

Besides the National Park Centre, the park offers programmes such as Wildcat Woodland for Kids, Primeval Woodland Wild Camp or walking and cycling tours.



## Contact

**Hainich WILDForest**  
 Hainich National Park  
 Bei der Marktkirche 9  
 99947 Bad Langensalza, Germany  
 Phone: +49 361/57 3914 000  
 Website: [www.nationalpark-hainich.de](http://www.nationalpark-hainich.de)



Let's  
Get  
Wild!

## European Wilderness Society

Founded on more than 20 years of Wilderness work by our members, the European Wilderness Society is the only Pan-European, Wilderness and environmental advocacy non-profit, non-government organisation.

It has a dedicated multi-cultural and experienced team of Wilderness and wildlife specialists, nature conservationists, researchers and scientists, tourism experts, marketing and business professionals, legal advisors and Wilderness advocates, whose mission is to:

- ▶ identify
- ▶ designate
- ▶ steward
- ▶ promote

Europe's last Wilderness, WILDCoasts, WILDForests, WILDIslands and WILDRivers. Here non-human intervention leads to open-ended, dynamic processes.

This is conveyed through a range of projects that facilitate Wilderness knowledge exchange, including education, culture and science, from local community through to scientific and governmental level.

## European Wilderness Network

The European Wilderness Network connects Europe's wildest places. Certified by the European Wilderness Quality and Audit System, these unique areas host diverse wild ecosystems governed by dynamic open-ended processes, with no or minimum human-intervention. The Network includes, for example, Europe's last primeval beech forests, the arctic tundra, and mountain landscapes in different climate conditions. It aims to promote Europe's last Wilderness, WILDCoasts, WILDForests, WILDIslands and WILDRivers, with a comprehensive marketing strategy. The European Wilderness Network offers a platform to share Wilderness Stewardship best-practice examples and Wilderness research. It connects like-minded Wilderness managers and advocates and fosters the exchange of ideas and knowledge across Europe and the world through the European Wilderness Exchange Programme.

For more information please see <http://european-wilderness.network>

### European Wilderness Society

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Dechant-Franz-Fuchs Str. 5 | A-5580 Tamsweg

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