The UNESCO World Heritage Site “Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Capitoli- anna and Other Regions of Europe” reflects nearly the entire spectrum of beech forest types from the mountains to the sea.

Diverse

HANICH [1,577 ha]
Thomas Schreiber (Rehabilitation)  |  www.naturpark-hanich.de

Hanich Forest – impression and cultural spine. Sporty first-visit raps of European sun-sneakingithing eagles, swifts of pinkish-coal color and white gallin live graciously in the forest floor. Then the ancient beech forest conservation cage will return with sunlight. The great variety of deciduous tree species invites to a fantastic display of colors.

Hanich National Park impresses with its great diversity of tree species, and its size, integrity and character of its old-growth formation forests are unique. Highly specialised species, such as the European voles, broccoli-like mosses, pinkish wood anemones and highly endangered saproxylic beetles, orchids, and numerous species of fungi are found here.

KELLERWALD [1,467 ha]
Jens Schernewski (Director)  |  www.nationalpark-kellerwald-edersee.de

The ancient beech forest that has been preserved in the Kellerwald nature reserve provides a glimpse into the past, what the primeval beech forests of Germany looked like. Here, the ancient beech forest on glacial sandy soils grows very well.

The ancient beech forest here is characterized by a wide variety of unusual fungi and insects. Rodent species, such as the Eurasian beaver and the marten, improve the relations. White-tailed eagles and Taiga Owls are also at home here.

JASMUND [493 ha]
www.naturpark-jasmund.de

In the Nazi-forest landscape, dotted with lakes and rivers, newly formed Tvuleshag-grain spices are excelling in the natural vegetation and winter’s cool and rugge climate.

Here, bird’s-eye views of the Undedeck is visible, the white chalk cliffs, the water’s edge and forest’s green, and the blueish-green sea could not look like what it looked like.

This stunning backgound exenlchted the artistes of the Romantic era. The contrast between the white chalk cliff, the forest’s green, and the blueish-green sea could not be more spectacular.

Here, this beech forest comes into the play. Strong dark chalk peck and sea in the waves on the rocky cliff. Ancient beech forest on clay soils, close to the coast and coastal, and coastal and oceanic elements.

The UNESCO World Heritage Site “Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Capitolliana and Other Regions of Europe” reflects nearly the entire spectrum of beech forest types from the mountains to the sea.

The five German areas are also of a fascinating diversity:

- Stocky dwarf varieties
- Structurally rich
- Tall tree structures

The beech is multi-faceted: depending on climate, soils, and location, each area intrigues with decaying ancient beech trees and other Regions of Europe” reflects the entire spectrum of beech forest types from the mountains to the sea.

In the north, brownial trees and rocky slopes and emphasise Lake Edersee’s blue glow.

In Grumsin’s terminal moraine formations, the valleys are closely intertwined with the beech forest and create atmospheric forest landscapes.

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Grumsin represents the beech forests on glacial sand-loam soils. Here, such structural diversity in such a confined space provides the foundations for an unusual wealth of plant and animal species. The mosses, lichens, flora and fauna all thrive. Numerous species of woodpeckers and bats bear testimony to the structural diversity. Ecologists, woodpeckers and bats bear testimony to the structural diversity.

The ancient beech forest that has been preserved in the Kellerwald nature reserve provides a glimpse into the past, what the primeval beech forests of Germany looked like. Here, the ancient beech forest on glacial sandy soils grows very well.

Jasmund: Mires & water bodies in abundance

In Grumsin’s terminal moraine formations, the valleys are closely intertwined with the beech forest and create atmospheric forest landscapes.

EUCALYPTUS WILDERNESS

UNESCO World Heritage

EUROPE’S WILDERNESS

UNESCO World Heritage

BEETH CORSES

www.weltnaturerbe-buchenwalder.de
We are Europe’s wilderness

“Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe”

Beech forests are Europe’s natural wilderness. If left to nature, the beech would cover the central areas of our continent. However, all but the smallest remnants of European primeval beech forests have disappeared. Ancient, near-natural beech forests have become very rare these days. Which is why the most valuable of them belong to UNESCO’s World Heritage.

A heritage of humankind that connects 78 unique beech forest areas in 12 countries and joins them like a jigsaw puzzle. Like a book with many chapters, where each single one has its own significance, but only together they form a story: the story of an extraordinary tree and its unusual expansion – the story of the European beech (Fagus sylvatica).

Fascinating

It only exists in Europe, nowhere else in the world. It is an extremely successful tree, which characterises an entire continent. Its success story begins 12,000 years ago, at the end of the last glacial period.

Back then, a thick layer of ice covered large sections of Europe. Beech forests had only survived as small remnants in Southern Europe. When the ice melted, the beech began to expand northwards from its isolated refuge areas. This process is still ongoing today, even though the ice age is long gone. UNESCO regards this as globally unique and of such importance that it was the reason for the beech forests’ inclusion in UNESCO’s World Heritage List.

A tree that pushes its boundaries.

The re-colonisation of large sections of a continent by a single tree species is a globally unique phenomenon. Beyond borders

In this still ongoing process of expansion, the European beech does not adhere to man-made borders. Thus, the World Heritage Site transcends borders and connects Europe in equal measure.

Unifying

But the World Heritage Beech Forests also tell another story. The history of international understanding, of peaceful cooperation between nations, and of people who are passionately committed to preserving Europe’s last precious beech forests.

Fragile

It is not just the rainforest that is at risk from logging, but also the few remaining primeval European beech forests.

They are unique, beautiful, and fragile – and of particular biological diversity. Once cleared, their soul and original state are lost forever. The states parties to the World Heritage Convention have to guarantee the forest’s protection and conservation as World Heritage. Thereby, they are held accountable.

World Heritage Beech Forests means:

Let it be. Let the forest have its freedom. Grant its peace.

Through its recognition as World Heritage, UNESCO has reinforced protection efforts for the beech forests throughout Europe. This is an incentive for other countries to protect what remains of their unique beech forests.

Who’s in it?

Beech forests are Europe’s natural wilderness. Today, near-natural beech forests are rare and must be protected.

GBR, DEU, ITA, ESP, AUT, ROU, SLO, SLO, SVK, SLO, CRO, ALB, BUL, RUS, UKR

More than 12,000 years ago, the beech forests covered 10% of Europe’s surface area.

Facts

Today

0.02 % of Europe’s surface area consists of near-natural beech forests.

More than 12,000 years ago, the beech forests covered 10% of Europe’s surface area.

Facts