

# FROM A STORM TO THE WILDERNESS, A FOREST EMERGES ANEW

## THE LOTHAR TRAIL



## TIPS FOR VISITING

### FOOTPATH RULES

In the national park, always keep to the marked paths. Nature has priority. And wild animals have a right to privacy.

### CHECK AHEAD



Before you visit the national park check the national park website or the national park Centre in Ruhstein to find out about any path closures due, for instance, to snow-related hazards or the designation of wildlife quiet zones.

### DOGS ON LEADS

In the national park, dogs need to keep to the paths too. They should therefore never be taken off their leads.

### LEAVE NOTHING, REMOVE NOTHING



In the national park, you can watch, smell and listen – but you mustn't pick, displace or collect anything. Just remember to take your own waste with you – even the decomposable stuff.

### AT HOME IN THE FOREST



Roll out the mattress and dream away next to the campfire? No! Not even bivouacking is allowed in the national park because we want to make sure that the wild animals have as much peace as possible. The only way to spend the night in the park is by booking a pitch in one of the camps run by Trekking Schwarzwald.

## LOOK FOR A TREE TRUNK FULL OF LIFE

In the winter of 1999, the **deafening whistling** sound of Storm Lothar filled the air. Branches cracked and even trees with thick trunks were **uprooted**, changing the forest landscape completely.



NEW HABITATS WERE CREATED HERE

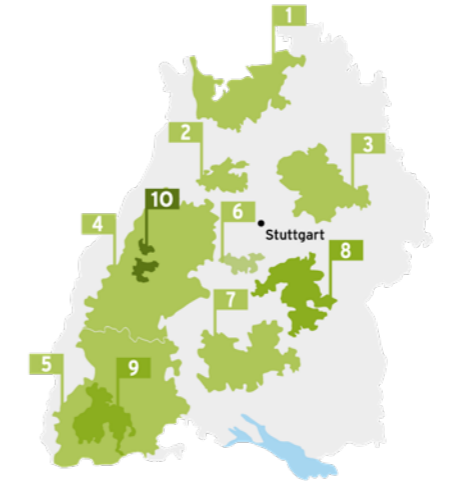
AND WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TODAY?  
TAKE A CLOSER LOOK!



Compare the old photo with what you see now: New **life is growing** where **dead trees** once lay – some animals, plants and fungi have made themselves at home on the fallen trunks. It's also the ideal spot for insects to **hide**. Birds find this very exciting as they love **to eat** insects.

Have you spotted a tree that is full of life? Then send us your photo to: [wildnisbildung@nlp.bwl.de](mailto:wildnisbildung@nlp.bwl.de). We will publish the best pictures on our wilderness blog at [www.nationalpark-schwarzwald.de/wibidigi](http://www.nationalpark-schwarzwald.de/wibidigi).

## THE MAJOR CONSERVATION AREAS IN BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG (PART OF THE NATURAL NATIONAL LANDSCAPES)



### Nature Parks

- 1 Neckartal-Odenwald
- 2 Stromberg-Heuchelberg
- 3 Swabian-Franconian Forest
- 4 Central/North Black Forest
- 5 Southern Black Forest
- 6 Schönbuch
- 7 Upper Danube

The aim of nature parks is to bring human behaviour and economic activity in line with nature, to develop the region and to establish sustainable tourism.

### Biosphere Reserves

- 8 Swabian Alb
- 9 Southern Black Forest

Biosphere reserves are cultural landscapes of national importance that should act as models for sustainable development and for the coexistence of humans and nature.

### National Parks

- 10 Black Forest

In national parks, one golden rule applies: leave nature to nature. They are refuges for wild animals and plants and therefore essential for biodiversity.



National Natural Landscapes is a governing body for all German national parks, biosphere reserves and certified wildlife habitats, as well as a number of nature parks. Further information can be found at [www.nationale-naturlandschaften.de](http://www.nationale-naturlandschaften.de)

## HOW TO FIND US

**National Park Centre Ruhstein**  
Ruhstein 1, 72270 Baiersbronn  
[info@nlp.bwl.de](mailto:info@nlp.bwl.de) · [www.nationalpark-schwarzwald.de](http://www.nationalpark-schwarzwald.de)

### Travelling by public transport



Many attractions in the national park and the national park centre in Ruhstein can be reached on public transport. Up-to-date information can be found at: [www.nationalpark-schwarzwald.de/de/anreise-kontakt](http://www.nationalpark-schwarzwald.de/de/anreise-kontakt) or [www.efa-bw.de](http://www.efa-bw.de)



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# A GROWING WILDERNESS

Welcome to the Lothar Trail (Lotharpfad) - the shortest and most popular circular path in the Black Forest national park. Here, nature has been left to its own devices ever since Storm Lothar struck in 1999. Insects and fungi have developed new habitats in the dead wood while young trees now grow wild. After negotiating boardwalks, steps and ladders, the Northern Black Forest will be at your feet, and you'll be rewarded with a fabulous outlook. On a good day, the view stretches to the Vosges and sometimes even as far as the Alps.

## How it all began ...

On 26 December 1999, the most powerful storm ever measured here, Storm Lothar, swept across Central Europe with wind speeds of up to 200 kilometres per hour. Lothar changed the forest landscape dramatically. It uprooted millions of trees and left behind a wilderness-like chaos in the Black Forest. In order to observe how a forest naturally develops after such an event, the authorities at the time decided to leave a small area in its post-storm state and allow nature to take control.



## Decaying and redeveloping

A storm creates space for new life - such as plants that require plenty of light and would otherwise be unable to survive in a dense forest. Or for species that need dead wood for their habitats - such as ants and beetles. Other species then follow these such as wrynecks, a species of woodpecker that are rarely found at high altitudes and feed almost entirely on ants. Birds, on the other hand, bring new seeds with them, in particular mountain ash. In the moist hollows created by uprooted trees, birches now grow, a tree type that rarely grew here before.

**Image 1:** Being steady on your feet is a must for the Lothar Trail

**Image 2:** Boardwalks protect the moorland from being trampled

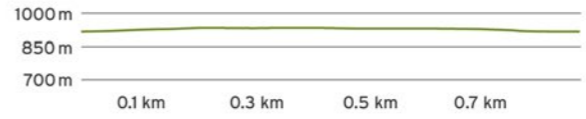
**Image 3:** Wryneck

**Image 4:** Far-reaching views can be enjoyed on clear days

easy
  30 mins

900 m
  30 m
 30 m

Lotharpfad car park
   
 Lotharpfad bus stop



## Walking the Lothar Trail

Enjoy your time in a growing wilderness, be enchanted by the little wonders close to the path and the splendid, far-reaching views. Walking the Lothar Trail will take you around 30 minutes. The walk can be extended by taking a detour along the Panoramaweg path. Walking from the Lothar Trail to Schliffkopf and then on to Ruhestein is also an appealing stretch. Sturdy footwear and weatherproof clothing are recommended.

