In the midst of an extended forest and lake landscape this Park lowland beech forests grow on sands from the ice age. In the Serrahn part of the forest of the Müritz National Park beech forests, chalk cliffs and sea form a fascinating backdrop. The beech forest appears to be literally carved out of the chalk. The harsh coastal climate and the interaction of topography and climate lead to a broad range of different beech forest features. Rare beetle species, rare orchids, the great horsetail and the coral root can also be found here.

The most valuable beech forests that offer a very rich range of species grow in the old beech forests of Germany. In the Serrahn part of the forest of the Müritz National Park lowland beech forests grow on sands from the ice age. The red deer is the biggest mammal to roam through this unique natural habitat. Rare large birds such as the bittern and the house martin settles here in large colonies. The white tailed eagle is a regular breeding bird. All of these species find their ideal habitat here. In the old forests of Serrahn there is an impressive mixture of tree species. Rare tree species such as wild cat, Bechstein’s bat, otter, and larks are typical here. Peregrine falcon breeds here along with black stork, crane and osprey. In the old beech forests, very specialised species such as wild cat, Bechstein’s bat, otter, and larks are typical here. In the old forests of Serrahn there is an impressive mixture of tree species. Rare tree species such as wild cat, Bechstein’s bat, otter, and larks are typical here. Peregrine falcon breeds here along with black stork, crane and osprey. Rare beetle species, rare orchids, the great horsetail and the coral root can also be found here.

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In the Serrahn part of the forest of the Müritz National Park, Extensive silicate beech forests in the Kellerwald-Edersee National Park

Graanbos represents the beech forests of the landskinds on glacial sands and clay. Visitors will find the greatest still connected forested beech forests in the Biosphere reserve. Water and forests are densely linked in Graanbos. Forest, lake shores and rivers in deep valley interchanges with wooded ridge and upjumps among atmospheric forest images in the ancient beech forests. These different environments in the very most contoured spaces form the basis for an exceptionally rich range of animal and plant species. A lot of beetle species that are in acute danger of extinction live in the dead wood of old beech forests. White tailed eagle, black stork and crane are onstratigraphical highlights here. The common tree frog benefits from the numerous small water bodies. Sundew and cotton grass can be found in the moors.
European beech forests

Deciduous forests that are dominated by common beech trees (Fagus sylvatica) are only to be found in Europe. Beech forests would shape the landscape of the whole of central Europe without the influence of humans. Due to its unique ecological position the beech has occupied large sections of Europe from its small remnant in the south and south west of Europe following the ice age. This diversity developed within the last 4,000 years – traced in geological and evolutionary terms this is an extremely short period of time. This ecological process is still ongoing! The beech is still in the process of spreading. This is a globally unique example of the fact that a unique species of tree can proliferate and dominate existing large area.

An exceptional diversity of forest communities has developed in the fact that the beech can be found in the most diverse locations. They offer living space for more than 10,000 animal, plant and fungi species. They thus make up an essential portion of the biological diversity of the temperate climate zones of the earth. An exceptional diversity of forest communities has developed due to the fact that the beech can be found in the most diverse locations. They offer living space for more than 10,000 animal, plant and fungi species. They thus make up an essential portion of the biological diversity of the temperate climate zones of the earth.

The joint World Heritage Site thus reflects vitally the entire range of beech forest types in Europe from the southernmost to the northernmost and at the most diverse locations. The cooperation between Germany, the Ukraine and the Slovak Republic is exemplary. They have and continue to jointly work on the conservation and management of the 15 component parts.

The joint World Natural Heritage Site is an exceptional example of nature’s European beech forests and is indispensable in order to understand the historical development of the forests that are dominated by beech. The decision of the World Heritage Committee on 10 June 2011 for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List emphasizes the efforts at conserving the beech forests as the World Heritage Committee has looked to form a post-European process by means of this commitment. The conservation and adoption of additional valuable European beech forests within the joint World Heritage Site should be expected in the future. Germany, the Slovak Republic, and the Ukraine will work hard in this achievement.

Beech forests in Germany

Germany is at the centre of distribution of the beech forest. If nature had its way they would cover approx. two thirds of the land area of Germany extending from the Alps high up to high and low mountain ranges and down to the lowland at the sea coasts.

Now only approx. some per cent of this surface is covered with beech forests due to deforestation and forest conversion. Large contiguous forest areas are rare. The remaining forests are used in the forestry industry and beech woods of approx. 120 years of age are harvested. The forest management and clear felling of a bicycle that in naturally of more than 500 years duration are absent and also the little forests that are maintained in these phases such as tree hollows and dead wood with their typical invertebrates. Primeval beech forests have long times disappeared having a few natural remnants and with them also species that are dependent upon species.

The component parts of the World Natural Heritage represent the characteristics and the natural processes of European beech forests under various ecological conditions.

UNESCO World Natural Heritage ‘Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany’

‘Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany’ have been listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List since June 2011.

The most valuable remnants of natural ancient beech forests now form a joint World Heritage Site together with the UNESCO World Heritage Site of ‘Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians’ in the Ukraine and the Slovak Republic that has been inscribed in 2007.

The areas in question are the selected forest areas of the National Parks of Jasmund and Müritz in Mecklenburg-West Pomerania, Hainich in Thuringia, Kellerwald-Edenrode in Hesse and the Biosphere Reserve of Schorfheide-Chorin in Brandenburg. These German sites with their beech forests in Hesse and the Biosphere Reserve of Schorfheide-Chorin now form a joint World Heritage Site together with the forest areas of the Carpathians in the Ukraine and the Slovak Republic.

The forests that are dominated by beech dominate extending a large area.

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The 15 component parts of the UNESCO World Heritage Site

Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians | 5,297 hectares

Beech Forests of the Carpathians “Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians” was already inscribed in 2007 and represents the beech forests of the mountain range in the two component parts. Four areas are linked in the Slovak Republic and in the Uzhanskyi Biosphere Reserve in the Ukraine. The smallest area is 67 hectares in size, the largest 12,000 hectares. They are located in the eastern Carpathians, one of the most unspoilt habitats in Europe. All the component parts are remnants of primeval forests which are embedded in beech forests that are extensively managed.

The last remnants primeval beech forests can now only be found in the Carpathians. This is the only place where you can still experience the unaltered ecosystems of the closing and clime of beech forests since the last ice age. Mighty beeches, some of them more than 200, dominates the forest profile with its varied structure. The great biodiversity of the beech forests has managed to modernize. The World Heritage Site ‘Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians’ was already inscribed in 2007 and represents the beech forests of the mountain range in the two component parts. Four areas are linked in the Slovak Republic and in the Ukraine. The smallest area is 67 hectares in size, the largest 12,000 hectares. They are located in the eastern Carpathians, one of the most unspoilt habitats in Europe. All the component parts are remnants of primeval forests which are embedded in beech forests that are extensively managed.

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