

Paths to understanding nature

Interpretive trails at Weidendom Visitor Centre



In order for interpretive trails to work, they have to be designed with a lot of thought. In addition to a good "story" - the subject matter – they must be created sensitively! Designed with respect, our interpretive trails are never intended to instruct visitors, but rather tempt them to observe and discover their surroundings.

Wild John (Der Wilde John)

This interpretive trail is a folk-tale walk. It leads along the Johnsbach river and tells the story of Wild John, which is also the story of the Johnsbach.

The Johnsbach was once a wild mountain river, then tamed, i.e. straightened and contained -and then, once part of the national park – rewilded and allow to flow freely. With funding from the European Union (LIFE) fund and working with the "Torrent and Avalanche Control" service, the Johnsbach became attractive to fish again and the river allowed to flow freely without threatening the road that runs alongside it.



John's (he represents the Johnsbach river) appearance evolves during the course of the story. The childlike, carefree boy becomes a wild, impetuous youth who later matures into a healthy, strong man.



His imprisonment (human-made river restrictions) left a strong mark on him and he began to age, and he became ragged... but in the end visitors are able to free John from this imprisonment and give him back a life as a boisterous and wild giant.

The finished interpretive trail was opened on July 31, 2010 and was awarded interpretive trail of the year in 2014.

From the end of the interpretive trail, an extension of the trail leads to the Johnsbach village (follow the "Sagenweg" – folk-tail trail).

"Wild John" Trail

- Starting point:** Weidendom car park
Length: "Wilder John" 1.5 kilometers (3 km there & back). Another 3.5 km to the climbers' cemetery in Johnsbach
Rest areas: several places to sit along the trail
Gradients: medium
Surface: forest path sometimes with alpine character

Not accessible to pushchairs and wheelchair-users .

Lettmair Au

The "Lettmair Au" interpretive trail takes you to one of the few remaining floodplain or 'alluvial' forests on the river Enns. The interpretive stopping points along the way invite you to take part, illustrating the value of the alluvial forest for plants, animals and also us humans.

It is named after a small farm that used to be in the area of the Lettmair Au car park.

The finished interpretive trail was opened in 2006 (awarded interpretive trail of the year 2014).



"Lettmair Au" Trail

Starting point: Weidendom Visitor Centre
Length: 1.5 km (round trip)
Gradients: gentle
Surface: hard-packed gravel path, boardwalks

Seating available along the trail.
Accessible to pushchairs and wheelchair-users.

Leierweg – barrier-free

Barriers in nature and the issue of accessibility itself form the basis of the Leierweg Trail. The following motto applies to the adventure trail: "Exceptional challenges require exceptional solutions." This applies not only to people, but also to plants and animals. The aim is to offer mobility impaired people the opportunity to experience nature.

At the same time, non-disabled people should be able to see nature from a different perspective, so that they can take a different point of view and develop alternative perspectives.



In addition, barriers in nature and "barriers in the mind" are also dealt with. The Leierweg Trail features five adventure stopping points, each of which addresses a barrier in nature and communicates the overall theme of "barriers in nature":

- Non-disabled visitors are consciously encouraged to change their perspective in order to put themselves in the position of a disabled visitor.
- Wheelchair-users are able to experience nature directly, including interactive sensory experiences.
- Physically-disabled visitors can borrow wheelchairs and traction equipment for a small charge.
- Barriers in nature (mostly man-made, but also natural) are communicated.
- The project is embedded in the Auwald and Enns habitats.

"Leierweg" Trail

Starting point: Weidendom Visitor Centre
Length: 2.5 km (round trip)
Gradients: low, the last stretch to the vantage point is a bit steeper
Surface: hard-packed gravel path, boardwalks, asphalt

Seating available along the trail.
Accessible to pushchairs and wheelchair-users.

What can I do?

- Stream and river banks are particularly sensitive areas in the national park and must not be entered - keep to the paths.
- Access to water, including bathing opportunities, is available at the Johnsbachsteg (Enns bridge to the Johnsbach train station) and at a point on the "Wild John" Trail.

Further information

Available at www.nationalpark-gesaeuse.at/en/ or on site at the Admont information office (all year round), in the Gstatterboden National Park Pavilion and in Weidendom Visitor Centre (summer season).

Interpretive trails open: May to October