

Facts and Figures

Key statistics

Most national park statistics are a work in progress and are subject to change. The figures given here were valid as of the date of issue. In this fact sheet we show exact figures, whereas in publicity material we often use rounded figures, e.g. 12,000 ha for the total area.



Nothing touches us like the untouched

General facts

Park founded: 10/26/2002

The only national park in Steiermark/Styria

In the Gesäuse region are the last unregulated sections of the Enns, which at 254 km is the longest inland river in Austria. It copes with a drop of more than 150 m in the 16 km long breakthrough valley (the river Enns cut a gorge through the mountains and rocks).

Lowest point: Enns riverbank near Hieflau 481 m

Highest point: Hochtorn summit 2,369 m

(height difference: 1,888m)

Protection status: internationally recognized
IUCN Category II

The national park is funded:

1/3 by the state of Styria

1/3 by the Republic of Austria and

1/3 by own funds and EU projects

Partnerships

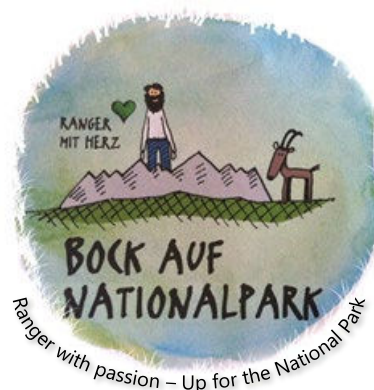
Research partner: BOKU (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences), University of Graz, University of Vienna, University of Salzburg, Eisenwurzen research platform, eLTER etc.

Memberships: National Parks Austria, Europarc, Alparc, Interpret Europe, klima:aktiv, Styria Climate Alliance Styria, Eisenwurzen Research Platform (LTSER), Birdlife International

Approx. 100 regional partner businesses from various sectors (Gesäuse Partners).

Awards

- ISO9001 quality certificate
- Austrian eco-label
- Pilot region for ecological networking in the Alpine region (Alpine Convention)
- European Destination of Excellence
- Austrian Climate Protection Prize (ecological footprint)
- UN Decade Project for Sustainable Development (ecological footprint)



Surface area

Total area: 12,300 ha

Current natural and preservation zone: 11,410 ha
Planning zone (no official NP-Status): 890 ha
current non-intervention area: 7.981 ha

The majority of the land which forms the national park is owned by the public sector:

State of Styria	12.111 ha	98,5%
Austrian Railways (ÖBB)	113 ha	0,9%
public water	55 ha	0,4%
private owners	21 ha	0,2%

Exemption to bark beetle control (§32a, Forestry Act) applies to 85% of the total area or 70% of the forest area.

Land cover

Forest	6,440 ha	52.4 %
Rock/scree	2,970 ha	24.1 %
Dwarf pine/bushes	1,600 ha	13.0 %
Alpine meadows/pastures	1,230 ha	10.0 %
Water	60 ha	0.5 %
Gesamt	12,300 ha	100 %

Species recorded so far:

8,548 animals (6,305 animals of that)

7 new species discovered

225 endemic species

The region

National Park municipalities and their share of the National Park area:

Admont 88 %

Landl 10 %

St. Gallen 2 %

Residents of National Park municipalities: 9,500

The Gesäuse tourism region (Gesäuse Tourism Association) is larger and reaches from Lassing to Wildalpen.

Available beds: 4.100 (average of 20 beds per accommodation provider')

Number of overnight stays: 230.000 (20% Winter)

Number of visitors: 100.000

Economic contribution

The national park is an important economic contributor in several ways:

1. The national park administration employs 25 people (full-time equivalents, incl. state forests and ranger).
2. The National Park brings significant funding to the region from the federal government, state government and EU.
3. The "National Park" brand and what the National Park offers attracts tourists.
4. The network of partner companies strengthens businesses in the region.
5. There are no specific calculations of the positive socio-economic impact of the Gesäuse NP (tourism) or the monetary value of its conservation services. However, such calculations exist in other countries and they show a clear economic added value of national parks.
6. Without the NP, the tourism association would have been too weak to remain as one of only 11 tourist regions after the structural reform in 2020. The Gesäuse region would have become part of another tourist region and disappeared from the tourist map as an independent region.

Further information

Nationalpark Gesäuse GesmbH

Weng 2, 8913 Admont

www.nationalpark-gesaeuse.at/en

Visitor numbers

We don't know how many people visit the Gesäuse region for hiking, mountaineering or for a day out, but we have the annual figures for visits to the following National Park attractions:

- Weidendom Visitor Centre: 30,000
- Nationalpark-Pavilion: 10,000
- 'Passion for Nature' Exhibition: 30,000
- Participants in youth programs: 5,000