



On the Bear Trail: Gorge of the Große Kamp

The Waldviertel – a walker's paradise

The Waldviertel has a dense network of well-marked trails which, step-by-step, offer you an intensive nature experience. It is not for nothing that four of Austria's many long-distance trails cross the region. The Bear Trail (Bärentrail) is a network of trails where you can experience the Waldviertel's highlights in their purest form: granite rock, cool forests, pristine streams, ancient villages.

The Bear Trail benefits in many ways from its location on the Waldviertel plateau. Here you can cool off in hot summers. In foggy autumn weeks, with some luck, you can smile down from 700-900 metres on the clouds blanketing the valleys. The rolling landscape offers you endless options.

Strip fields at Groß Gerungs



The Bear Trail is a walking trail, not a mountain bike route. Every Bear Trail (Great, Small and Teddy) takes you along a defined route marked with a bear's paw in ONE direction.

Beartrail walkers love nature and animals. Please keep to the trails, don't leave the marked route. Heed signs like 'Privatgrund' (Private) and 'Achtung Weidevieh! Hunde an die Leine' (Grazing cattle! Keep your dog on leash). Never leave litter in the forest and don't make noise. Thank you.



Daisies at Klein Wetzles



Strip fields at Wiesensfeld



Forest idyll, Große Kamp



Gorge of the Große Kamp



herzkreislauf...
zentrum GROSS GERUNGS

KOLM

HOLZ
HAHN

Raiffeisenbank
Region Waldviertel
Meine Bank in Arbesbach

GASTHAUS
MATHE

HOTEL
ROCKENSCHAU
Auszeit 1000 METER ÜBER DEM ALLTAG

KASTNER

Around the BÄRENWALD bear sanctuary at Arbesbach you'll discover unique natural treasures: moss-covered granite rocks, waterfalls hidden under huge boulders, placid forest streams, fragrant forests. And unspoiled countryside, peace and quiet in abundance.

To acquaint a wider public with these natural beauties embedded in a picturesque landscape created by human hands over centuries, the BÄRENWALD Arbesbach, a project of the animal welfare NGO VIER PFOTEN, and the municipalities Altmelon, Arbesbach, Groß Gerungs and Rappottenstein jointly created the Bear Trail.



The **Great Bear Trail** starts and ends at the BÄRENWALD Arbesbach bear sanctuary. You can get there by car or bus. Take ample time for the 6 stages (4, 5 or 6 days, depending on your fitness level). The indicated hours refer to actual walking time. Set aside enough time for breaks and simply enjoying the landscape.



If you have little time, there is the **Little Bear Trail**. Here, the BÄRENWALD is both start and finish as well. Its 25k. can be walked in a day - or in two days, if you stay the night in Altmelon or Arbesbach.



Six family-friendly circular walks are available as options along the Trails. Being much shorter, these give you the option of walking a miniature Bear Trail. We've therefore called them **Teddy Bear Trails**.



The **Sidesteps** 'Felsengarten' and 'Arbesberg' are detours to grotesque rock formations and have GREY markings.

The Waldviertel Bear Trail

From one wonder of nature to another, from one village to another: 107 k. of trekking in 6 stages on the Waldviertel plateau around the BÄRENWALD Arbesbach bear sanctuary.

Ever heard of the Höllfall - Hell Cascade?
Have you visited the Meloner Au moor?
No? High time to do something about it!



The Lohnbach Falls
natural monument



The Klause narrows
in the Zwettl valley

The Schütt rockfalls,
Kleine Kamp

www.baerentrail.at

Getting there: most of the region can be reached by car from Vienna in 2-3 hours; there is a frequent train service (Vienna Heiligenstadt-Gmünd/České Velenice) to the Northern Waldviertel. For bus connections, please see the Öffi-Guide on the website.

Being there: under the tag Essen/Schlafen the website informs you (in German) about catering and overnight facilities. If you enjoy the Bear Trail – tell others about it! Relax and enjoy many happy moments on the Bear Trail!

Info/contact:

BÄRENWALD Arbesbach
Schönfeld 18, 3925 Arbesbach
T/F: +43 (0)2813/7604, info@baerentrail.at
www.baerentrail.at or www.baerenwald.at



Colophon:
Förderverein zur Unterstützung des Natur-, Freizeit- und Tourismusprojektes Bärentrail, ZVR 1774682876, Vereinssitz 3925 Arbesbach 35.
Idea/concept/editing: Mag. Sigrid Zederbauer, Matthias Schickhofer.
Cover photo 'Gorge of the Große Kamp' Matthias Schickhofer,
Photos: Matthias Schickhofer, Gerlinde Mairhofer, Martin Lugmayr.
Map: arge kartographie. Translation: Paul Hesp
Graphics/design: art.waldsoft. Information as of March 2025.
All information subject to change.

waldsoft

The Waldviertel Bear Trail

so near
and yet
so far



A multi-day marked trail
connecting you with places from another era

BÄRENWALD
Arbesbach



The Waldviertel Bear Trail

From one wonder of nature to another,
from one village to another, 107 k. in 6 stages
around the BÄRENWALD Arbesbach bear sanctuary.



Great
Bear Trail

Little
Bear Trail



A treasure: traditional
cultivated landscape
at Klein Wetzles

Etzen



Emma the bear, BÄRENWALD
bear sanctuary Arbesbach

Great Bear Trail

Total: 6 stages. 107k., 32hrs. (variants possible)

Stage 1: BÄRENWALD – Waldhofmoor – across the Upper Austrian border to Liebenau, Rubner Teich – Tannermoor – Rammelhof – Arbesbach (21k., 6.5hrs.)

Stage 2: Arbesbach – Lehrmühle – Große Kamp – Idyllic Kamp forest – Antenfeinhöfen – Klein Wetzles – Zwettl valley – Klauskapelle – Groß Gerungs (22k., 6.5hrs.)

Stage 3: Groß Gerungs – Zwettl valley – Weißmühle – Friesenhof – Wiesensfeld – Griesbach – Hammerschmiede – Kamp – Arbesbach (18k., 5hrs.)

Stage 4: Arbesbach – Kamp – Hammerschmiede – ‘Sieben Sakramente’ shrine – Höllfall – Hausmühle – Gorge of the Große Kamp – Paradies – Kirchbach – Rappottenstein (16k., 5hrs.)

Stage 5:
Variant 1 to Petrobruck: Rappottenstein – Waldbad – track below Rappottenstein castle – Schütt – Wiesmühle – Lohnbach falls – Zeller Steg – Petrobruck (12k., 3.5hrs.)

Variant 2 to Altmelon: Rappottenstein – Waldbad – track below Rappottenstein castle – Schütt – Wiesmühle – Lohnbach falls – Zeller Steg – Renngasse – Perwolfs – Luaga Lucka – Altmelon (19k., 6hrs.)

Stage 6:
Variant 1 from Petrobruck: Petrobruck – Roßberg – Renngasse – Perwolfs – Luaga Lucka – Altmelon – Meloner Au – Auwächter – Purra – BÄRENWALD (19k., 6hrs.)

Variant 2 from Altmelon: Altmelon – Meloner Au – Auwächter – Purra – BÄRENWALD Arbesbach (10k., 3hrs.)

Little Bear Trail

1 stage, 25k., 8hrs.

BÄRENWALD – Glashüttenhäuser – Rosenegg – Galgen – Arbesbach – Arbesberg – Teufelsmauer – Altmelon – Meloner Au – Auwächter – Purra – BÄRENWALD Arbesbach

6 Teddy Bear Trails

2.9-8.5k., 1-2.5hrs.

Family friendly circular walks, the Bear Trail in miniature: Lohnbach falls, Arbesbach, Altmelon, Kirchbach, Rappottenstein and Klein Wetzles. (Klein Wetzles is possible with ‘off-road’ buggies).

2 Sidesteps

Felsengarten rock garden (near Hausbach/Rappottenstein):

6.5. in ca. 1.5hrs.,

Arbesberg (between Arbesbach and Altmelon): 1k. in ca. 20 min.



The Große Kamp on the Bear Trail



The Waldviertel

Real, pure, authentic.

The Waldviertel (literally: forest quarter) is the northwestern part of the Land (state) Lower Austria, situated north of the Danube on the ancient Bohemian Massif. Its forest is a treasure, a source of power and identity, a hallmark and linking element of the region. It is a climate saver, source of life, green oasis and – now more than ever – a landscape to relax. Here you can wind down and find yourself.

Take a deep breath, top up your energy.

In the Waldviertel there are still places where you can feel what it is to be close to nature. Shimmering forests, ponds and lakes, fjord-like reservoirs, dark moors, remote forest tracks and moss-covered granite giants which have become symbols of Waldviertel’s vibrant, authentic nature.



Following the bear's paw,
near Antenfeinhöfen

Höllfall - Hell Cascade



Naturschutzauflage: Weg durch
Au (nördlich) 20. Juni bis 30. Nov.
erlaubt, sonst südliche
Variante am Güterweg

0 km 1

Brown: Great Bear Trail
Orange: Little Bear Trail
Blue: Teddy Bear Trails
Grey: Bear Trail Sidesteps

www.barentail.at