



that it was piled up by glaciers in the Wolstonian Stage some 150,000 years ago. In the north the Fläming plunges up to 60 meters into Baruth Glacial Valley. The power of this glacier is attested by the many glacial erratics, such as that in Grubo. Glaciers pushed these boulders out of Scandinavia. Cold periods and erosion left behind a further distinctive feature: the Rummeln (valleys). These branched, narrow dry valleys only carry water after strong rains or during snow melts. In the middle ages, when logging didn't even stop at the edges of the valleys, wind and water cut them up to 12 meters deep. The Neuendorfer Rummel, the Steep Kiete near Bad Belzig and the legendary Bride's Rummel invite to hikes.

Land of Valleys and Boulders

Time-honored castles, gentle hills, colorful meadows and expansive forests: these are the characteristic elements of the High Fläming Nature Park, founded in December 1997. Over 90% of the 827-square-kilometer area in the south-west of the state of Brandenburg is designated as nature and landscape reserves. The beauty of their homeland, as the Fläming citizens often say, can be first seen upon a second look. The name Fläming is thanks to the Flemings who settled there, summoned by the German princes, starting in the 12th century. The county's seat Belzig is the »gateway to the nature park.« The Castle Eisenhardt gives the city a medieval atmosphere. Berlin is around 80 kilometers away. About 70 locales lie in the nature park that, with around 30 inhabitants per square kilometer, is very sparsely populated. Thus the nature park is a paradise for »quiet-seekers.« The High Fläming is also called, half ironically, »the smallest low mountain range in Germany.« With the Hagelberg, a »two-hundreder,« one of the highest rises in the state of Brandenburg, is located there. What is so phenomenal is



Fine Crabs and Great Bustards

The High Fläming is arid. On its edges, however, there are numerous springs. The river network is composed of a few rivers and rivulets and many streams and rills. The brown trout is native to the cool, oxygen-rich headwaters. The »trout water« of the Fläming has been under protection since 1975. This is also home to the rare European brook lamprey. Further zoological treasures are the few exemplars of crayfish, which died out in most European waters a hundred years ago during the »crayfish plague«. Among others, grey wagtail and, on steep banks, the common kingfisher breed alongside the rivers and streams. The shy black stork goes foraging here. In recent years several waters have been renatured so that visitors can await an unchanged biotope diversity. The Fläming Beeches and Spring Nature Reserves are located as beech islands in the huge forest area of Brandtsheide south of Wiesenburg. On new hike trails like the »Findlingswanderweg« (Boulder Hike Trail) one can explore these natural wonders of the nature park. The beeches that grow here are genetically distinct from all others. Foresters reach for the well-adapted Fläming beech for new plantings; seeds are especially gathered on the spot for this purpose. The lowlands of the circa 41-square-meter »Belziger Landschaftswiesen«



(»Belzig Landscape Meadows«) lies in the Baruth Glacial Valley, which borders the High Fläming to the north-east. It was formed around 15,000 years ago by the meltwaters of the Weichselian glaciation. Located there is one of the most important meadow breeding areas in Brandenburg. Of significance are the landscape meadows, also as a resting place for wading birds and as a habitat for the Great Bustard, whose roosters can weigh up to 17 kilograms. When in the winter months thousands of Nordic geese and ducks stop here on their migration one can expect an impressive picture.

A Legendary Region

The Koboldstein, Engelsstein, Riesenstein ... the Fläming is a region rich in both boulders and legends. When the castles of Eisenhardt, Wiesenburg, and Rabenstein were all simultaneously built by giants Eisenhardt grew faster. Envious, the two other »builders« threw rocks against it. Castle Rabenstein, the best preserved mountain castle in the Brandenburg march, is built out of field stones taken from the immediate area. Under its protection the village of Raben arose in the 14th century. Angerdörfer (villages built around a communal square), round villages, street villages, and forestry encampments are still recognizable to this day. The »typical Fläming« is not only its legends and medieval castles, but also many late romantic field stone churches. They were built in the first



half of the 13th century. The building material came from the glacial erratics and field stones transported by the glaciers; stones which for centuries had been gathered from the fields during tilling. The mills in Fläming are also worth seeing. The restored Borner Bockwindmühle (Born post windmill) stretches its nine-meter-long sails in the wind atop the 156-meter-high Mühlenberg. Like the mill in Cammer it is designated a technological monument.

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Naturpark Hoher Fläming



Nationale Naturlandschaften



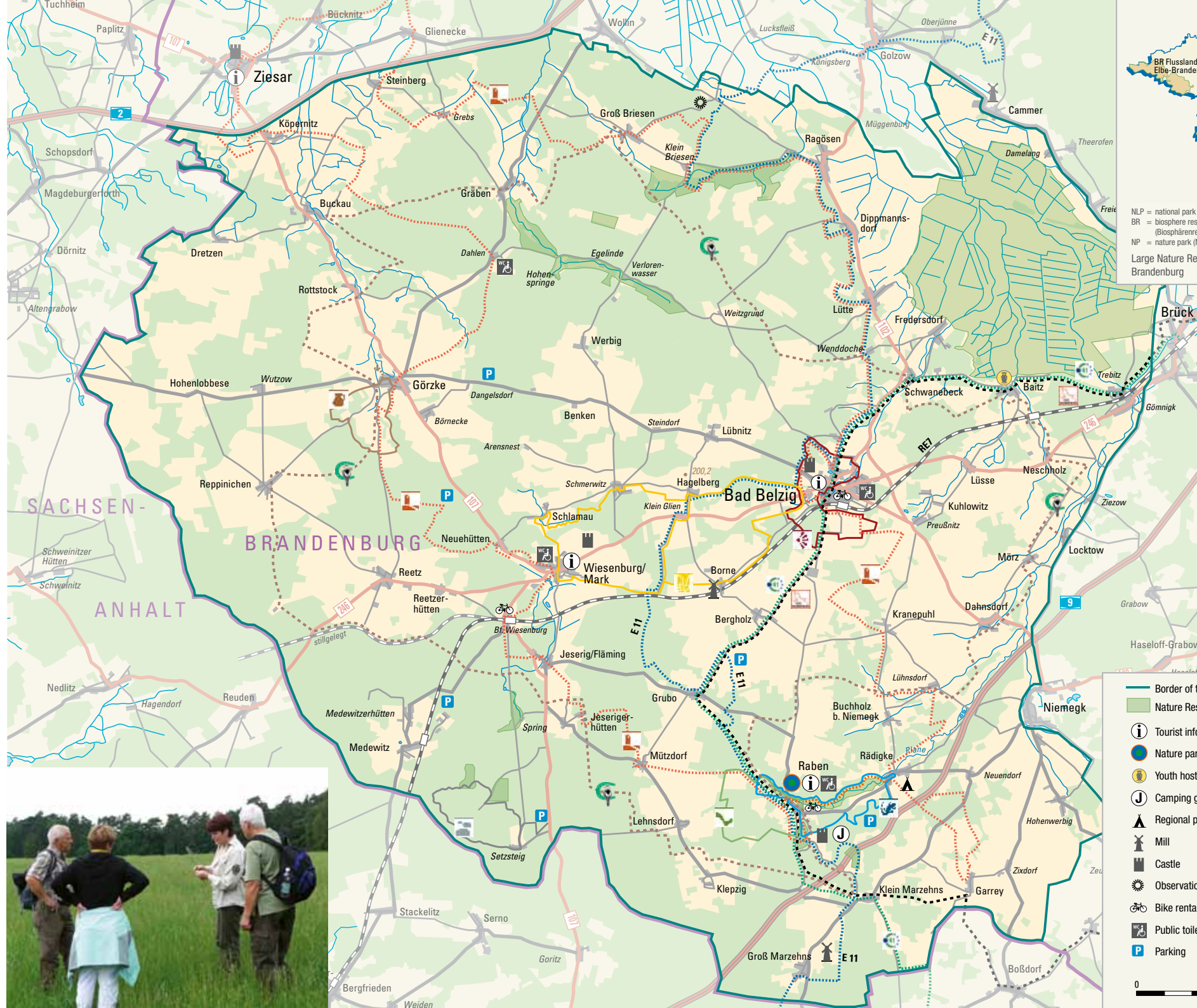
Hoher Fläming Nature Park

On the way with Backpack, Wheelchair, Bike and Horse

The central point of contact for all visitors of the nature park is the completely barrier-free Nature Park Center in Raben with its interactive exciting exhibition and the Garden of the Senses. There one can also get more information about barrier-free offers in the nature park. On Sundays and on holidays the Nature Park Bus offers a direct connection from the station Bad Belzig. Hikers can explore natural resources and cultural diversity on well sign-posted paths: The 147 kilometers long Castle Hike Trail, awarded as a »Quality Trail for Hikers in Germany«, leads in eight recommended day trips (for information on bookings please contact the Tourist Information Fläming e. V.) through wide woods, idyllic villages and over gentle hills to the four Fläming-castles. On more than 30 preofessional signposted round hike trails one can roam through the most attractive landscapes of the High Fläming also on halfday- or day trips. The train stations Brück, Bad Belzig, Wiesenburg and Medewitz of the line RE 7 are good options to start. Horse lovers will love the 110 kilometers long riding round trail. More than a dozen riding stables and riding pensions as well as »equestrian friendly« restaurants and hotels line it. Starting from the main trail five more round trails connect nature, culture and palates like the famous Fläming trout. The flyer with a map for tours and informations is available in the nature park center, on the internet or you download it as a pdf.

One can explore the nature park also by bike. The European Hiking Trail R1 crosses coming from Wittenberg the nature park Hoher Fläming, passing Raben and Bad Beelzig direction Potsdam and Berlin.

The work of the ranger is varied: cooperation on programmes for species protection, monitoring and controlling areas are all part of the job, along with expert guided tours for nature tourists. The work with children and youths in the »Junior Ranger Programme« is a focus for environmental education in the region.



Close to the castle Eisenhardt – near the Burgbräuhaus, where beer is being brewed and tapped again – one can find old distance informations on the electoral saxony post mile column.

Inside the stone thermal springs in Belzig the thermal water wells up at 34 degrees. With its 20-percent salt content the 160-million-year-old brine heals skin and muscle sicknesses.



The visitors' center »Alte Brennerei« (»Old Distillery«) in Raben in the nature park houses a barrier-free, interactive nature park exhibition



»Schloss Wiesenburg« and its landscaped park with grottos, water features and over 50 different species of trees make it an inviting place to take a walk.



You will rarely meet real wolves in the High Fläming but you can come very close to those on the Art walk.



Nature Park Information



Nature park center High Fläming
Besucherinformationszentrum
Brennereiweg 45

14823 Rabenstein/Fläming, OT Raben
Tel: (03 38 48) 6 00 04; Fax: 6 03 60
Mo–So 9.00–17.00 Uhr
info@flaeming.net; www.flaeming.net

**High Fläming Nature Park
Administration**
Brennereiweg 45
14823 Rabenstein/Fläming, OT Raben
Tel: (03 38 48) 60001; Fax: 600 02
np-hoher-flaeming@lwg.brandenburg.de
www.naturpark-hoher-flaeming.
brandenburg.de

**High Fläming Nature Watch
Baitz Base**
Im Winkel 13, 14822 Brück, OT Baitz
Tel./Fax: (033841) 43734
baitz@naturwacht.de
www.naturwacht.de

Tourist Information



Fläming Tourism Office
Küstergasse 4, 14547 Beelitz
Tel: (03 32 04) 62870
info@reiseregion-flaeming.de
www.reiseregion-flaeming.de

Tourist Information Bad Belzig
Marktplatz 1, 14806 Bad Belzig
Tel: (03381) 38799-11
info@bad.belzig.com
www.bad.belzig.com

High Fläming Tourist Office
Info point in the castle tower
Wiesenburg
Schloßstr. 1b, 14827 Wiesenburg/Mark
Tel: (03 38 49) 30980
www.flaeming-burgen.de

Niemegker Land Castle Rabenstein
Tourist Office
 Info point Castle Rabenstein
 Zur Burg 49
 14823 Rabenstein/Fläming, OT Raben
 Tel.: (03 38 48) 6 00 29
 info@niemegker-land.de
 www.niemegker-land.de

The High Fläming is well-suited for riding tourism.

Tourist Information Ziesar

Burg Ziesar
Mühlentor 15 A, 14793 Ziesar
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www.burg-ziesar.de

Tourist Information Brück e.V.
Ernst-Thälmann-Str. 59, 14822 Brück
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www.fvv-brueck.de

Approach

Journey there with bus + train

From Berlin main station with the RE7 direction Bad Belzig/Dessau, from Dessau-Rosslau direction Berlin/Wünsdorf to the hike train stations Brück, Baitz, Bad Belzig, Wiesenbrüg/Mark and Medewitz.
Goes without changing hourly between Brück and Bad Belzig as well as between Wiesebrüg/Mark and Medewitz (Mo–Fr, Sa/So in 2-hour-intervals).

On Sundays and hoiildays the **Nature Park Bus** (Outing line 592) from Bad Belzig over Raben to Rädigke with connection to the RE7 Berlin-Dessau, room for 7 people, bigger groups need to book beforehand. At weekends there is a "call bus" along the Art Trail, too. More buses go in direction Görzke and Ziesar (only Mo–Fr) and Brandenburg/Havel. Find more information about bus and train for Berlin+Brandenburg on www.vbb-fahrinfo.de, Tel: (030) 25 41 41 41.

Journey there by car

A 9 Berlin-Leipzig (exit Brück,
Niemegk, Klein Marzehns or Köselitz)
A2 Magdeburg-Berlin (exit Ziesar, Wollin
or Brandenburg)

Hiking maps
(also available in the nature park centre):

Topographic freetime map nature park
Hoher Fläming measure 1:50.000
Landesvermessung und Geobasisinfor-
mation Brandenburg (publisher)

Tourism and freetime map nature park
Hoher Fläming measure 1:75.000
Cartographically and advertisement
service (publisher)