



since 2009: Regional Nature Park Candidate
373 km² area
2495 Inhabitants (status 2007)
Canton of Grisons

Where the Capricorn is at home

In the middle of the park the 2,998m high Piz Beverin dominates the landscape. The capricorn (Romansch for the ibex) is a hardy and undemanding type of mountain goat found around Piz Beverin, which forms the centre of the park perimeter. The Beverin Nature Park extends from the Via Mala gorge in Schams to Sufers in Rheinwald, and from over the mountain into Safien valley back to Tschappina in Heinzenberg.

On 18 February 2009, twelve member communities founded the sponsoring association Beverin Nature Park: Andeer, Casti-Wergenstein, Donat, Ferrera, Mathon, Lohn, Rongellen, Safien, Sufers, Tenna, Tschappina and Zillis-Reischen.

If you come from the direction of Thusis, the Via Mala gorge gives you not only a culturally historic introduction to the park area, but also a dizzying and vertiginous experience. In Zillis the "Sixtina of the Alps" awaits the nature park visitor with the completely preserved and unique painted wooden ceiling from the 12th century in St. Martin's church. The park follows the San Bernardino transit route through the Rofla gorge and further into Rheinwald. The section described here, being part of the Via Spluga, is certainly familiar to the experienced walker.

The Safien valley can be reached from Ruinaulta (Rhine Canyon) or on foot from Tschappina. This historical route

over the Glas pass was the most important link to the north for the people of Safien before the development of the transport system in the 19th century. Around 1300 AD Walser came out of the Rheinwald over the Safien mountain and settled in the inner Safien valley. Tranquility, seclusion, nature and the original character are today still the defining characteristics of the Walser valley.

The cultural variety of the Beverin Nature Park is evident in the in tact locations, the typical scattered villages, sustainably managed cultural landscapes and the variegated methods of construction and management of the Walser and Romansch peoples.

Wergenstein Tourism

The village of Wergenstein lies at an altitude of 1,489 m on Schamserberg, has a population of around 25 inhabitants and is a university location! Tourism has existed in Wergenstein since the 1930s, when the Hotel Piz Vizàn was built by the SMUV trade union. When the Fundaziun Capricorn took over the sponsorship of the hotel and restaurant in 2005, the idea for a nature park was again launched and a feasibility study was commissioned. Since February 2007 the Department of Tourism and sustainable Development has been a branch of the University of Zurich for Applied Sciences (ZHAW) in the "da Capricorn" centre in Wergenstein with 11 members of staff. The branch carried out the feasibility study and management plan and is now

responsible during the development phase for the management of the Beverin Nature Park branch office. Besides managing the park project, the branch is working on tourism projects throughout Switzerland, which are closely connected with nature and culture. In the canton of Grisons this type of tourism, which follows the demand for sustainable development of rural areas, is known as "Wergenstein tourism".

IUNR-Parks Group Wädenswil

The Wergenstein branch and other branches of the Institute of Environment and Natural Resources (IUNR) constitute the ZHAW Parks Group Wädenswil. This group is already the scientific partner of several ark projects. The branches of environmental planning, environmental training, landscape and regional development as well as wildlife and landscape management are the contacts for park-specific questions. These are not just treated theoretically, and the existence of their "own" Beverin Nature Park, the practical focus is guaranteed.

Beverin Nature Park is online

In the next three years the communities involved will be establishing their Nature Park. You can best follow the progress in the Beverin Nature Park by visiting the newly created homepage. All relevant information is posted here. www.naturpark-beverin.ch