



LANDSCHAFTSPARK BINNTAL

Regional Nature Park Candidate
 Area: 160 km²
 Inhabitants: 1200
 Canton: Valais



On the south side of Goms lie the three municipalities Binn, Ernen and Grengiols. Since 2002 they have been together following the idea of a regional nature park. In autumn 2008 they received the recognition from the Federal government as a candidate. Already in 1964 the voters of Binn decided to protect most of their valley. In 1977 the valley of Binn was accepted in the landscape inventory and natural monuments of national importance (BLN).

The valley of hidden treasures

The valley has become known particularly for its minerals, which enjoy world renown. No other region in the Alps is so rich in minerals. Almost 200 to the number have been found, more than a dozen of which are nowhere else to be found in the world. In the mineral quarry of Lengenbach near to the hamlet of Fäld minerals are still being excavated today. Guided tours are offered and in front of the quarry one can "hammer stones" and look for fool's gold, which is very popular particularly with children.

The landscape park is also well-known for its flowers. In the Twingi gorge the Valais stock and lady's slipper grow, on Breithorn there are whole fields of Edelweiss, and near to Grengiols in the second half of May the worldwide unique Grengjer tulip blooms, and in summer one can come across countless familiar and rare alpine flowers.

Sites of National Importance

One looks in vain for large tourist destinations in the Landscape Park Binntal, but at every turn one finds traditional cultural landscapes, which are even today cared for with great effort and love, and there are also several restaurants with superb cuisines. The old village centres and their hamlets have been so well-maintained, that they have been designated as Sites of National and Regional Importance.

In 1992 Binn was distinguished with the heritage award. The hamlet of Fäld was the first location in Switzerland to receive the medal of the "Architectura" foundation and has been the scene of many film productions. In the hamlet of Mühlebach one finds the oldest village centre in Switzerland of timber construction. Ernen, which is transformed into a music village every summer with classical concerts of international standing, received the Wakker prize in 1979 for its historical village squares.

Rambling and ski tour paradise

Around 200 kilometres of marked walking trails, and several winter walking trails and snowshoe trails invite one to explore the area on foot. The Landscape Park Binntal is also well-known by connoisseurs for its many ski-tour routes. Since 2006 from June to October the "Bus Alpin" runs in Binntal, which brings the

walker from Binn to Fäld and Brunnebiel as well as to Heiligkreuz. In this way the walking times are significantly shortened to the Binntal hut or to the neighbouring Italian national park "Parco Naturale Veglia-Devero".

Development in the regional economy

The municipalities and most of the population see the Landscape Park Binntal as an opportunity to strengthen the regional economy and to develop new proposals, for example in gentle natural and cultural tourism or by processing agricultural products and so stopping the exodus from the villages. Auf der Südseite des Goms liegen die drei Gemeinden Binn, Ernen und Grengiols. Seit 2002 verfolgen sie gemeinsam die Idee eines Regionalen Naturparks. Im Herbst 2008 haben sie die Anerkennung des Bundes als Kandidat erhalten. Bereits im Jahre 1964 hatten die Stimmbürger von Binn beschlossen, den grössten Teil ihres Tales unter Schutz zu stellen. 1977 wurde das Binntal in das Inventar der Landschaften und Naturdenkmäler von nationaler Bedeutung (BLN) aufgenommen.

www.landschaftspark-binntal.ch