



Regional nature park candidate (since 2008)
Area 135.4 km²
Population 2140 persons
1 Municipality of Diemtigen
Canton of Berne

Our Valley, your Park

The municipalities of Diemtigen (130 km²) and Zweisimmen (5.4 km² with the natural wonder of the Seeberg lake) form the perimeter of the Diemtigtal nature park.

Thanks to its natural gateway at the entrance to the valley, the imposing head of the valley with the mountain chain of Vorderer Spillgerte to Männliflüh and the characteristic pre-alpine landscape between 650 and 2,652 m, Diemtigtal is the epitome of what the visitor would expect from a nature park.

Diemtigtal is the most significant alpine farming community in Switzerland. The variety of functioning alpine farms with their extensive and near-natural agriculture together with their products and services is unique. The mountain forest reserve planned in the rear part of the valley, although not spectacular, is another unique sustainable project of the highest value, and fully worthy of preservation.

Alpine and Mountain Agriculture

Diemtigtal can claim to be the most significant alpine farming community in Switzerland. Around 140 alpine farms put about 6000 livestock out onto the summer pastures. Alpine cheese is produced in more than 60 alpine farms, and is mostly AOC certified.

Alpine farming is a lively and traditional cultural and economic way of life and in Diemtigtal it is held in high esteem. Many years of extensive and sustainable

agriculture have resulted in a wide biodiversity and a broad and continuous cultural landscape.

The AlpFUTUR research project aims to promote sustainable development of the mountain agriculture on a wider basis.

Mountain Forest Reserve

In December 1999 the hurricane Lothar abruptly made us more conscious of the importance of the forests. Four "Lothar Forest Reserves" have been created, where the wood from the storm has not been cleared away and the next forest generation can develop without any disturbance. The nature trail which has arisen from this is one of the most important educational opportunities in the far end of Diemtigtal.

The regional forestry plan of Niderrimental-Diemtigtal plans on creating major forest reserves. The forest owners and the competent authorities from the Canton of Berne plan a minimum area of 500 hectares (about 1250 acres) in their "Mountain Forest Reserve Project". This would constitute the largest forest in the canton of Berne.

Tradition and living culture

With its intact and charming landscape, its traditional structure of scattered settlements, together with the pretty houses and groups of buildings Diemtigtal offers a wealth of carefully preserved and living architecture. In 1986 Diemtigen was awarded the Wakker prize. In 2011, this will be the 25th time

this event has taken place. This is reason enough to be conscious of the value of this traditional culture with the Diemtigtal building trail, the cultural inventories, chronicles and guides to the important cultural values in this jubilee year, and to preserve and support them.

In the municipality of Diemtigen and the eight subdivisions (Bäuerten - farmer's cooperatives) there is a marked association activity. Traditions are actively experienced and realised here.

Nature for the Family

Nature and landscape in Diemtigtal are harmonious and inviting and convey the feeling of security and home. The topographically interesting pre-alpine landscape with its high degree of biodiversity arouses an interest, particularly with families and the active over 50s, to explore and experience nature and the landscape.

The "Families Welcome" seal of approval awarded to Diemtigtal is particularly valuable. At present Diemtigtal is the only nature park (candidate) with this seal of approval.

www.diemtigtal.ch