



Since 2008: Regional Nature Park Candidate
600 km² area
6000 Inhabitants
Canton of Grisons



Discover and experience the variety

The Ela Park is the largest nature park in Switzerland. It is 3.5 times larger than the national park or about the same area as the canton of Glarus. It lies in the heart of the Grisons and includes the Albula and Surses valley. 200 km² of the park area are mostly unspoiled nature with mighty mountains, impressive glaciers and enormous relief differences. The Kesch-Ducan region belongs to the park just as Piz Mitgel does with the via ferrata or the mountain that gives the area its name - Piz Ela. Bears and wolves could be found in the area.

21 municipalities constitute the park: Alvaneu, Alvaschein, Bergün/Bravuogn, Bivio, Brienz/Brinzauls, Cunter, Davos-Wiesen, Filisur, Lantsch/Lenz, Marmorera, Mon, Mulegns, Riom-Parsonz, Salouf, Savognin, Schmitten, Stierva, Sur, Surava, Tiefencastel and Tinizong-Rona.

Cultural crossing area

The area is rich in natural and cultural treasures. The cultural variety arose due to the location in the area of important alpine passes. It became a cultural and linguistic melting pot. Already the Romans used the Julier pass and the

Septimer pass. Later the Albula became important. The mother tongue of the park inhabitants is Romansh – mainly Sursimran -, German or Italian.

The three-way watershed on Piz Lunghin also symbolises that the Ela Park is a geographical and cultural crossing area: From here water flows into the Black Sea, the North Sea or the Mediterranean.

The most famous construction in the park is probably the Albula Railway with its spectacular viaducts and loop tunnels: Since 2008 it belongs to the UNESCO World Heritage. In the park there are also ten sites of national importance to be found.

Variegated fauna and flora

The rich fauna and flora make the park ideal for expeditions and adventure tours. Geologically, too, the region is variegated and unique. Here the eastern central Alps meet the southern Alps and the western Alps with the eastern Alps. Traces of dinosaurs have been discovered several times, and this brings new knowledge about them.

Encounter of continent and ocean

Above the Julier pass there is a zone visible, which is not accessible anywhere else on the earth and which is of great interest for the geologists: The tectonic transition of a continent into the ocean. Normally such regions lie thousands of metres under sea level and are covered by thick sedimentation layers. The park is also rich in jewellery stones and ores.

The cultural geological and biological variety can be experienced by inhabitants and visitors to the Ela Park over 1080 kilometres of walking trails, on theme paths and guided walks. In order to maintain the biodiversity and make the population and visitors of the park aware, the Ela Park management coordinates events with school classes, courses for farmers and offers support for school camps. Thus there is an explorer course for primary school children, a geology ramble with experiments, and voluntary work camps are organised by school classes. Already there is a ramblers' map and two books about the culture nature and walking in the park have been published.

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