

# Regional nature park Gantrisch Brief portrait



Regional nature park candidate since 2008

28 municipalities  
33,500 inhabitants  
395 km<sup>2</sup> park area



## In the triangle of Berne – Freiburg – Thun

The Regional nature park Gantrisch lies in the greater region of Berne, around 20 km from the capital city, and includes 26 Bernese municipalities and two Freiburg municipalities. The municipality of Belp constitutes a special case; as an agglomeration municipality it cannot participate as a park municipality in the strict sense of the word, but it is however involved in the park area as a gateway municipality.

All 28 municipalities have endorsed the nature park, so that the label can be expected to be allocated by the federal government in 2011.

## Nature and Landscape

The Gantrisch mountain range and the Schwarzsee lie in the south. At the top of the Gurnigel pass there wide extend moor landscapes, and bordering on these lies one of the largest continuous areas of forest with over 50km<sup>2</sup>. Further important landscape areas are Guggisberg with its noted Guggershörnli, the Schwarzenburg region with gentle plains and the Sense-Schwarzwasser riverscape with its impressive canyons, and the diversified regions of Längenberg and Gürbetal.

## Management

The park region lies on the edge of the urban agglomerations of Berne, Freiburg and Thun. Compared to the cantons of Berne and Freiburg and to the Swiss average, the region is characterised by agriculture and forestry. 12% of the working population are employed in the primary sector (Swiss average is around 3%). 18 municipalities are typical agricultural municipalities, accounting for 39% of the population. There are a series of industrial tertiary municipalities outside the rural core zones. Tourism has a special economic significance in the upper municipalities and of course in the Schwarzsee region. It is particularly the economic sector of tourism which has a high development potential in the park region.

## Cultural Assets

In the Gantrisch regional nature park there are a wide number of cultural historic objects of particular value such as the castles in Gürbetal, the baths in the Gurnigel region (old bathing culture), the Way of St. James with the Rüeggisberg Monastery, the Schwarzenburg Chapel, the churches in the various villages, the Grasburg, the farmhouses so typical of the area, or the bridges in the Sense and Schwarzwasser region. In the park region there are in all eight museums (with partially international charisma) and three observatories.

## The Freiburg Municipalities in the Park

In the south-west the perimeter of the nature park includes the two Freiburg municipalities Oberschrot and Plaffeien. This is for both geographical and social-economic reasons: the active inclusion of the Schwarzsee region upgrades the nature park. This is true concerning both agricultural and also for social-economic aspects. The upgrading of the park area with the two Freiburg municipalities strengthens the aspect of tourism, since the Schwarzsee region is a tourist attraction. An amalgamation is a win-win situation for both sides.

## Gantrisch near to nature – near to town

[www.gantrisch.ch](http://www.gantrisch.ch)