



European Day of Parks 2011 in the Eifel National Park



On May, 21st 2011 the Eifel National Park (DE) invited visitors and locals on a variety of guided hikes through the fully accessible Wild Kermeter Area for Experiencing Nature that was opened at the beginning of the month. The National Park Rangers were happy to pass on their knowledge and provide the participants with anything they needed for a memorable and relaxing visit to the Eifel National Park.

The Wild Kermeter Area for Experiencing Nature was created to enable everyone, with or without disabilities, to experience the protected area. Since the establishment of the Eifel National Park the park administration has focused on making the experiences in the natural surroundings accessible for everyone. The guided hikes in the context of the European Day of Parks were the official opening of the Wild Kermeter to the public. The event was a great success - more than 500 people took part. Amongst them were visitors in wheelchairs, senior citizens, people with hearing impairments and families with pushchairs.

The Wild Kermeter area was the perfect setting for the visitors to find out about the idea of "wilderness". Here giant beeches grow, which are the original forest type in middle Europe. Moreover the guided hikes led to the view point "Hirschley", where the guests had a great panoramic view over the wooded hills and lakes, the typical landscape of the Eifel National Park.

The European Day of Parks is a permanent event at the national park since the protected area was established in 2004. Every year the park administration organises a program which attracts visitors from near and far to experience the park and its natural beauty. This year the opening of the Wild Kermeter area for experiencing nature was a mile-stone in the development of the Eifel National Park as a protected area that is accessible to all.

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The opening of the Wild Kermeter at the European Day of Parks 2011 attracted more than 500 visitors. Picture: S. Wilden