


SIGGEN SEMINAR 2018

18th – 21st March



Interpreting natural heritage, as part of our cultural identity
in Europe's Protected Areas
in partnership with Interpret Europe

Photo: German-Dutch Maas-Schwalm-Nette Nature Park

FREE to EUROPARC members

Sharing experiences from across Europe to explore the role of protected areas in interpreting heritage for cultural identity as well as share best practise in interpretation

Interpretation of natural and cultural landscapes is something inherent in most protected areas of Europe. Whether this be in the form of panels, exhibition in visitor centres or art installation. Helping visitors understand their cultural heritage and connect to nature is fundamental to European parks

Cultural Identity is rooted in the connection to the land. It is reflected in architecture, crafts, literature, and art and of course the food we eat. Cultural identity however is not always as fixed as it may seem. Interpretation can be a powerful tool to help communities appreciate their history, even if fractured by major forces such as war, translocation, politics, modern travel and connectivity. We will discuss and explore how protected areas can use interpretation sensitively to help understand, appreciate how our cultural identities form, their connection to nature and landscape and indeed how they change

2018 also will be the European Year of Cultural Heritage. Following the motto: **“Our heritage: where the past meets the future”**, the aim of the

Year is to encourage more people to discover and explore Europe's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and to reinforce a sense of belonging to a common European space. The Year will pursue an integrated approach to heritage, and put people at the centre.



Europe's cultural heritage surrounds us in the buildings of our cities; our landscapes and our archaeological sites. It is preserved not only in literature, art, and objects but also in craft skills, stories, food and films. In its diversity, **cultural heritage brings us together.**

At European level, implementation of the Year will be a joint effort of the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council and also the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee. The Year is supported by a Stakeholder Committee of European initiatives and NGOs dedicated to culture and heritage.

EUROPARC is pleased to join forces with Interpret Europe the network of professional interpreters to focus on this important topic for the Siggen seminar, which will contribute to the *European Year of Cultural Heritage*.



Draft Programme

A full programme will be published prior to the seminar

Sunday 18th March participants arrive

- Arrival of participants
- Dinner from 18.30 to 19.30 (a cold dish can be left for late arrivals)
- Evening – Welcome and introduction of participants to seminar

Monday 19th March Heritage interpretation

- Ice breakers
- Scene setting: aim of the seminar and key questions (needs and expectations)
- EUROPARC general introduction to seminar
- Interpret Europe: an introduction to heritage interpretation : Principles of good interpretation
- Exploration of some case studies

Lunch

- Share examples from the participants
- Identify key themes and issues from protected areas in relation to heritage and identity: What are the challenges and sensitivities? What are the solutions and rewards.
- What works? Analysis of the common aspects that make good interpretation for natural and cultural heritage and identity
- The days conclusions

Evening to relax. *Participants can bring material from their park to show if they wish.*

Tuesday 20th March Interpretation in practise practical tips and ideas.

Day of practical ideas touching on different forms of interpretation, such as interpretive guiding, interpretive writing and interpretive hosting exercises.

With participants possibly designing/devising a piece of interpretation about the culture/identity of their place. Choose from 2 subgroups (oral and written interpretation). Each subgroup would then work on how to interpret a specific phenomenon of their “heritage” in an interpretive way and finally present these.

Show and tell.

Final session: Reflecting on culture and identity and the practise of interpretation what Recommendations would the group offer to interpreters, parks, policy makers and EU commission.

Wednesday 21st March participants leave



Important information

Travel arrangements to the Seminar Centre Gut Siggen, Germany

Registration closes on March 2nd (or when places are filled)

Places are limited so please book early!

Location: The Siggen Estate (Gut Siggen), Siggen, Germany

Costs: The seminar is **FREE** for members of the **EUROPARC Federation**. Participants will therefore **ONLY cover their own travel to and from the event.**

Location

The [Siggen Estate](#) belongs to the **Alfred Toepfer Foundation** and lies on the north-eastern coast of Germany in the county of Holstein. It is a 20 minutes taxi ride from the nearest train station, **Oldenburg (Holst)**, and a five minute bike-ride to the nearest beach. Please contact EUROPARC with any questions you might have.

By car You can find the Siggen Estate on Google by searching for 'Siggen, Heringsdorf, Germany'. Alternatively please [follow this link](#) and it should take you to a google map on which the estate is marked.

By plane The two nearest airports are Hamburg or Lübeck (Lübeck is slightly nearer but is smaller). From these you will need to take a train (see below) which takes a bit more than an hour.

By train The nearest train station to Siggen **Oldenburg (Holst)**. Please note: there are two Oldenburg's in Germany, one on the east coast and one on the north coast. The Oldenburg you need is on the east coast and should be followed by the word Holstein when booking a train.

You can book your tickets at: <http://www.bahn.de/>. The easiest way to book is to use the option for electronic tickets. They will be sent to you per email and you can just print them out. Travel with the Deutsche Bahn is otherwise fairly uncomplicated, everything is well sign posted and most conductors should speak a little English.

From the train station Oldenburg **(Holst)** you will need to take a taxi. When we know more about peoples arrival times we will be able to see whether taxi sharing is possible. We suggest taking a print out of the google map above because not all of the Taxi drivers are aware of exactly where Gut Siggen lies.

