

Description of pre-conference excursions SER 2016 (Freising)

2. Touring the Bavarian and Bohemian Forests

Landscape, vegetation and culture at the German-Czech border including forest disturbances (wind throw, bark beetle outbreak)

Date: Thursday, 18 August to Sunday, 21 August 2016 (four days)

Excursion leader: Prof. Dr. Anton Fischer (Technical University of Munich)

Maximum number of participants: **28**



Costs (estimate as of 10.12.2015 – if fully booked): Around 320 € per Person, including breakfast, drinks and snacks on the bus

Requirements: Hiking experience, good physical condition, hiking boots and weatherproof clothing.
Note: International border crossing – It is the participant's responsibility to observe VISA requirements for both Germany, and the Czech Republic.

Introduction: The mountain range Bavarian Forest (German side) and Bohemian Forest (Czech side) hosts the largest forest area in Central Europe. Because of the high degree of naturalness of these forests, the first German national park was founded here in 1970, the 'Bavarian Forest National Park'. Adjacent to it, in the Czech Republic, the 'Šumava National Park' was established in 1991. Together, the two national parks contain a huge area of near-natural forest stands, encompassing an altitudinal gradient from cold and wet valley bottoms (Norway spruce forest) to warmer slopes (mountain mixed forest) up to the cold and snowy high mountain areas (again Norway spruce forest), including bog as well as rock ecosystems.

Even in unmanaged protected areas like national parks, forest stand development is sometimes interrupted by disturbance. In managed forests as in most Central European forests, such disturbance-affected stands are soon logged and replanted; therefore, until some decades ago, our

knowledge on forest stand regeneration after natural disturbances was extremely limited. In a national park, however, ecosystem development following such disturbances is allowed, and we there are able to learn about the self-regeneration process of 'destroyed' forest stands after disturbance. Two large-scale disturbances in the two national parks enabled us to witness the self-regeneration process of disturbed forest stands: (i) windstorm and uprooting of trees in 1983, and (ii) bark beetle attack since the middle of the 1990s. The Technical University Munich established long-term permanent plots in the region to analyze the regeneration processes. We will present the results of such long-term permanent plot studies on spontaneous forest stand regeneration, probably the longest time series of the kind in Central Europe. Additionally, we will visit bog restoration sites and learn about rewetting techniques employed there.

In addition to exciting walks in the wild, you may look forward to an introduction to the fascinating history and culture of the Bavarian-Bohemian Forests and a variety of historic heritage sites.



The backbone of the Bavarian-Bohemian Forest range with regenerating spruce forests

Excursion programme

Day 1 (Thursday, 18 August 2016)

Leave Freising at 8:00 am

Visit [Niederalteich Monastery](#) (guided tour) (10 am)

Visit the Information Center of the Bavarian Forest National Park (['Hans-Eisenmann-Haus'](#)): introduction into the concept of the national park

Walk along a [canopy pathway](#) in the mountain mixed forest

Watch native animal species (from bird to bison) in the animal enclosures

At one of the evenings: visit the [Forest History Museum in St. Oswald](#) (guided tour)

Day 2 (Friday, 19 August 2016)

Do a day walk from the mountain mixed forest belt to the Norway spruce forest belt (900–1372 m a.s.l.) with natural forest communities, former forest utilization, forest regeneration following large scale bark beetle outbreak.

Note: 10-12 km hike on uneven ground.

Day 3 (Saturday, 20 August 2016)

Forest and bog communities on the valley bottom ('Klosterfilz') and lower mountain slopes with natural Norway spruce forest, raised bog, raised bog regeneration, forest regeneration following the local 1983 windthrow (managed and not managed; three decades of observation), mountain mixed forest and a 'soul trail'.

Tour to the 1997 enlargement area of the national park: options and problems.

Day 4 (Sunday, 21 August 2016)

Visit [Šumava National Park](#) in Czech Republic including the 'Boubin virgin forest area'. At the end of the tour visit a typical Bohemian village (either Český Krumlov or Prachatice).

Around 3 pm: go back to Freising; arrival around 6 pm

