



Dry as Dust

Before a protective layer of vegetation was formed after the end of the last ice age, the exposed sand was blown into dunes. This is how the typical interior dune areas originated; primarily on the sandar in the south (e.g. Schönow Heide or »Schönow Heath«) and in the west of the nature park and at the edge of the Eberswald Glacial Valley between Melchow and Biesental (Melchower Schweiz). During geological surveys a 12,000 year old, cambisol layer was found buried under the dunes, named after the discovery site »Finow soil.« This attests to an interim warm period and vegetation growth toward the end of the last ice age.

A trail with an observation tower was built through the Berlin forests in the Schönow Heide. Today's heathland was formed by a military training ground. Where earlier tanks rolled by, there is now a large nature reserve of over 500 hectares. The heath is kept free of brush and tree growth in order to maintain for visitors the lilac vista and the endangered species of this now rare habitat. Around one-third of the broodstock of hoopoe and European nightjar in Germany are located on former Brandenburg military training grounds.



Common kingfisher



Western marsh orchid



European fire-bellied toad



Two States – One Park

The circa 750 square kilometer Barnim Nature Park is a joint, large reserve in the states of Brandenburg and Berlin. 5.4% of the area is located in the northern Berlin neighborhoods of Pankow and Reinickendorf. The Brandenburg portion of the nature park lies between Bernau, Bad Freienwalde, Eberswalde, Liebenwalde, and Oranienburg. Regardless of whether one approaches the »geological« Barnim from the south through the Berlin Glacial Valley, from the east through the Oderbruch (Oder swamp), from the north through the Eberswald Glacial Valley, or from the west from the Havel Lowland: it is – here more, there less – an outstanding plateau. The Barnim Nature Park is not congruent with this geological unit. In addition it comprises the so called West Barnim, next to it a portion of the Eberswald Glacial Valley, and the Havel Lowland, which at this point divides from the Schnelle Havel (Fast Havel). During the last glaciation (Weichselian glaciation), 18,000 years ago, Barnim was located at the edge of a relatively »tired« glacier. It gave the plateau, formed in the previous Wolstonian Stage, only the finishing touches. The escarpment of the Barnimkante (Barnim Ridge) into the Berlin Glacial Valley is especially impressive, among others, on the B1/B5 (Berlin, Alt-Kaulsdorf) as it is in the Oderbruch in Falkenberg (Karlsburg) where it offers a wide view of the Lowlandregion.

Water and Forest

More than half of the nature park is forested. Pines dominate; on some locations there is near-natural forest stock: beech forest on Liepnitzsee (Liepnitz Lake) and in the Barnimer Heide (Barnim Heath), mixed oak forest in Kreuzbruch, alder marshes in Finow and Bries Valleys. Characteristics for the nature park are also its lakes, kettles and rivers, whose origins are partially very different. They all have one thing in common: they owe their existence to the last ice age. The small, often round kettles are habitats for the heraldic animal of the nature park, the fire-bellied toad. In collaboration with farmers the kettles were restored, which has led to the stabilization of the amphibian stock and the increase in species diversity in the bordering agricultural landscape. In the Wandlitz Lake and the Liepnitzsee small vendace are fished as a treasured delicacy. In contrast, European brook lamprey, European bullhead, and spined loach are taboo for gourmets, fish which live in the near-natural rivers and are under protection. Those with ornithological interest can observe common kingfisher, Grey Wagtail, and White-throated Dipper there. A bit of luck is needed to see the shy European otter and the Elbe beaver. Traces of Europe's largest rodent are, however, – e.g. on the Langer Trödel (Finow Canal) – highly visible.

History(-ies)

The legend goes that the Count Albrecht I von Ballenstedt named »the bear,« who came from the House of the Ascanians (=Aschersleben), was bear hunting in the thick Barnim forests in the middle of the 12th century. He got lost and came to a tavern. The excellent beer and the beautiful surroundings moved him to found Bernau. The fact is that Barnim, which was settled by Slavs and coveted by many others, first came into Ascanian hands in the middle of the 13th century. At that time the »progenitor of the march,« who had taken over the Slavic Brennaburg (Brandenburg) in the middle of the 13th century and was the first Brandenburg margrave from 1157 to 1170, had already lain in his crypt in Ballenstedt for more than 70 years. The edge of Barnim is an ancient settlement area. Finds from the Neolithic Era and the Bronze Age are exhibited in the local history section of the Agricultural Museum. During the Migration Period most of the – at this time Germanic – inhabitants of the area left in the 4th/5th centuries. Following this Slavic tribes migrated to the area. Their traces are still present in many place and field names. The German conquest began at the end of the 12th century. The castle in Beisenthal belongs to those built by the Brandenburg

margraves. Wall fragments are extant on the castle hill. In the vicinity the 4 meter high Reiherberg was built on a sand island in the Finowaue: a Slavic circular rampart with a 45 meter circumference. The toponym Biesenthal comes from settlers out of the Altmark. The original Slavic name remains lost to eternity.

Ministry of Environment, Health and Consumer Protection of the Federal State of Brandenburg
Editors: Office of Press and Public Relations
14476 Potsdam, OT Groß Glienicke, Seeburger Chaussee 2, Tel. (033201) 422-0 and Barnim Nature Park
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Naturpark
Barnim



Nationale
Naturlandschaften

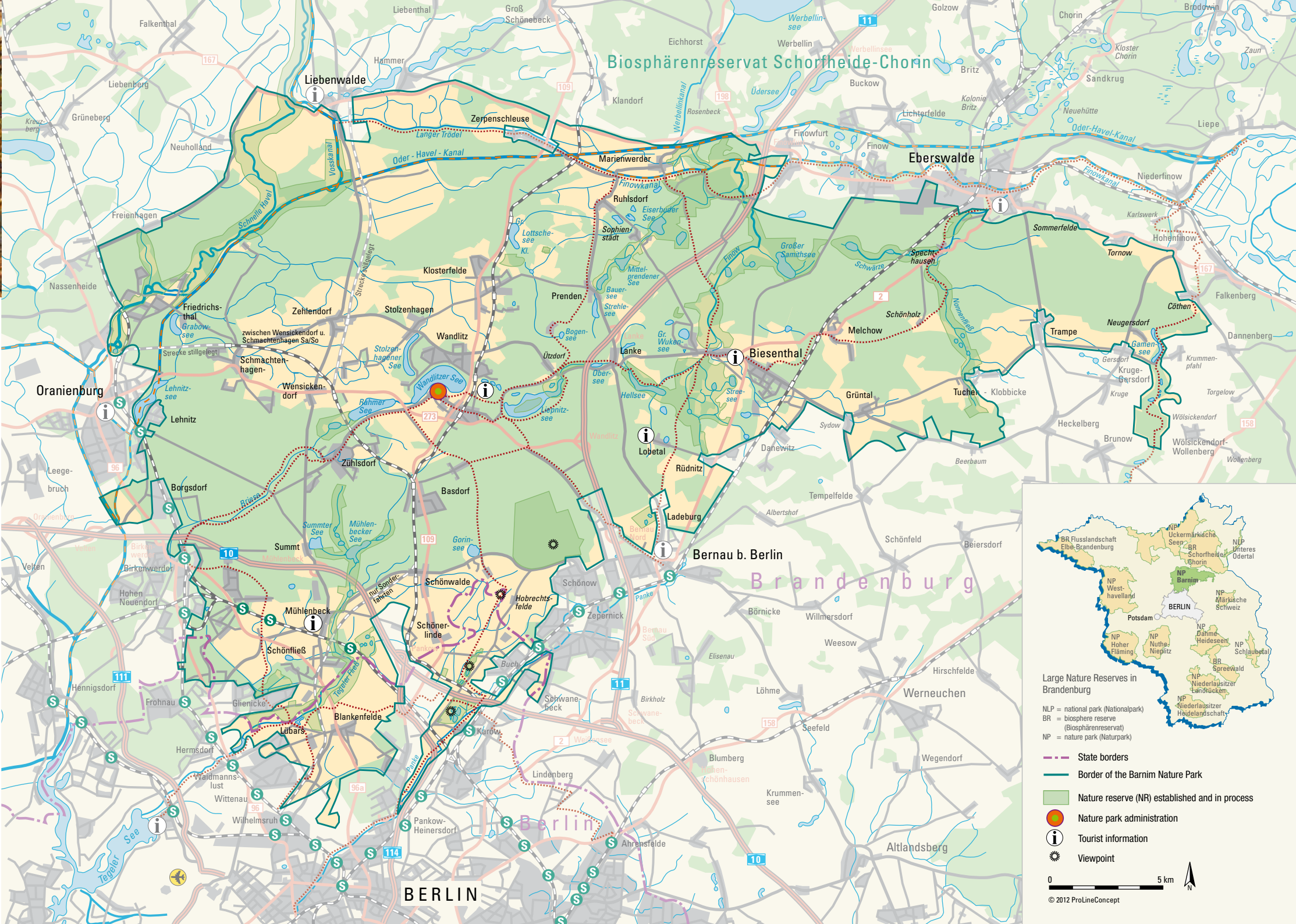


Barnim Nature Park



Just a Stone's Throw Away

Famous destinations can be reached with the S-Bahn light rail lines S1, S2 and S8: e. g. Briesetal, Bucher Forest and, especially beloved by ornithologists, Karower Teiche (Karow Lagoons) and the Hobrechtsfelder Rieselfeldlandschaft (Hobrechtsfeld Sewage Field Landscape). The »Heidekrautbahn« (»Heather Train«; NE 27) takes its passengers into the middle of the nature park. From Berlin-Karow it travels to such classic destinations as Wandlitz and Lottschsee (Lottsch Lake). On the weekends the Wensickendorf stretch of the Heidekrautbahn travels to the Oberhavel farmers' market. The nature park is also conveniently reached with the OE 60. Whether the romantic Nonnenfließ River or the interior dunes of the Melchower Schweiz: both can be reached from the nature park train station Melchow. With the Melchhof in Melchow, Hof Eichhorn in Rüdnitz and the Hiram Heim in Klosterfelde there are organic farms, like the AGRA Schmachtenhagen (Oberhavel Farmers' Market) and the goat farm in Marienwerder, which market their products directly: on site, for instance or respectively at Berlin farmers' markets. The forested areas of the nature park which belong to the Pankow Forestry (Berlin forests) are managed according to the guidelines of a near-natural silviculture: all the stocks here have the FSC and the Naturland certificate. The Brandenburg state forest in the nature park is PEFC-certified.



Diverse: the staff of the nature watch are the contact persons for visitors and inhabitants of the nature park. They implement biotope and species protection projects, conduct long-term monitoring of rare species such as beaver, European otter and orchids, run project days and offer guided hikes. Under the motto »Adventure Barnim« an annual school project is begun that is supervised by the nature watch.

Nature Park Information

Barnim Nature Park – Administration
Breitscheidstraße 8–9,
16348 Wandlitz
Tel: (033397) 2999-0, Fax: -13
np-barnim@lugv.brandenburg.de
www.naturpark-barnim.brandenburg.de

Barnim Nature Watch
Tel: (033395) 71160, (0175) 7213079
barnim@naturwacht.de
www.naturwacht.de

Friends of the Barnim Nature Park
www.naturimbarnim.de

Tourist Information

Tourismusverein Naturpark Barnim e.V.
Bahnhofplatz 2, 16348 Wandlitz
Tel: (033397) 67277
Zweigstelle:
Berliner Straße 1, 16359 Biesenthal
Tel. (03337) 490718

Tourism Office Bernau
Bürgermeisterstraße 4,
16321 Bernau b. Berlin
Tel: (03338) 761919

Tourist Information Eberswalde
Steinstraße 3, 16225 Eberswalde
Tel: (03334) 64520

Information Tourism Center im Familiengarten
Am Alten Walzwerk 1, 16277 Eberswalde
Tel: (03334) 384920

Liebenwalder Tourism Association
Havelstraße 1a, 16559 Liebenwalde
Tel: (033054) 90772

Tourist Information Mühlenbecker Land
Hauptstr. 9, 16567 Mühlenbecker Land,
OT Mühlenbeck
Tel: (033056) 28947

Tourismusverein Oranienburg und Umland e.V.
Bernauer Straße 52,
16515 Oranienburg
Tel: (03301) 704833

Tourist Information Reinickendorf
Alt Tegel 6, 13507 Berlin
Tel: (030) 2911773

Museums (selection)

Train Museum
An der Wildbahn 2 A, 16352 Wandlitz,
OT Basdorf
Tel: (033397) 72656

International Artists Museum
Liebenwalder Straße 2
16348 Wandlitz, OT Klosterfelde
Tel: (033396) 272

Wandlitz Agricultural Museum
Breitscheidstraße 22, 16348 Wandlitz
Tel: (033397) 21558

PLACE

PLACE	Zoo/animal park	Botanical facility	Amusement park	Museums	Camping	Boat rental	Golf course	Farmers' market	Farm shop
Basdorf				•					
Berlin (Blankenfelde)		•							
Berlin (Lübars)			•					•	
Bernau b. Berlin				•				•	
Biesenthal						•		•	
Birkenwerder				•					
Danewitz								•	
Eberswalde	•	•	•	•					
Finowfurt				•		•			
Klosterfelde				•				•	
Kreuzbruch								•	
Lanke					•	•			
Lehnitz						•			
Liebenwalde				•		•			
Lobetal								•	
Marienwerder						•			
Melchow								•	
Oranienburg	•		•	•		•			
Prenden							•	•	
Rüdnitz								•	
Ruhlsdorf					•	•			
Schmachtenhagen								•	
Schönwalde					•				
Stolzenhagen						•			
Tuchen-Klobicke								•	
Wandlitz				•		•			
Zerpenschleuse						•			
Zühlsdorf					•	•			

Environmental Education

Bucher Forst Forest School
Wiltbergstraße 55, 13125 Berlin
Tel: (030) 94114733
www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de
/forsten/waldschulen/buch

Youth and Family Farm in the Lübars Recreation and Leisure Park
Alte Fasanerie,
13469 Berlin-Reinickendorf
Tel: (030) 21466735

Bogensee Forest School
Platz der Freundschaft
16359 Wandlitz, OT Lanke (Bogensee)
Tel: (033397) 29214
www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de
/forsten/waldschulen/bogensee

Briesetal Forest School
Briese Nr. 13, 16547 Birkenwerder
Tel: (03303) 402262
www.waldschule-briesetal.de

Wald-Solar-Heim Eberswalde
Brunnenstraße 25, 16225 Eberswalde
Tel: (03334) 289245
www.waldsolarheim.de