

What is a nature park?

The Dobratsch Nature Park measures 7250 hectares in total and comprises several areas of outstanding natural beauty, nature preserves and Natura 2000 sites, namely Villacher Alpe, Schütt, Dobratsch and Graschelitzen.

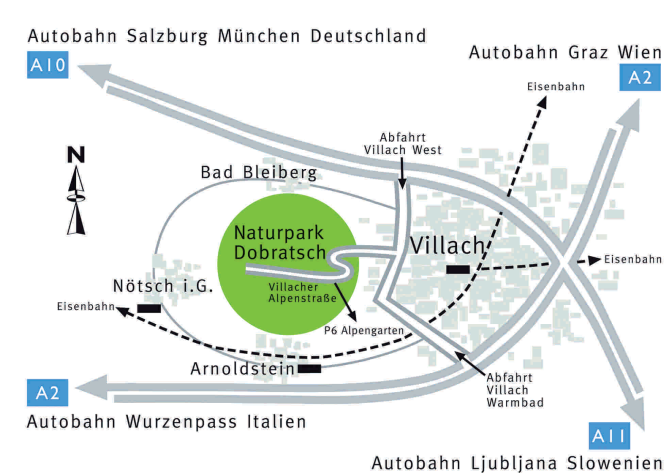
Its cultural landscape is being actively protected to maintain it for future generations, but the Nature Park still offers experiences for all the senses. In fact, the nature park helps to raise awareness for sustainability and nature as well as for safeguarding our quality of life.

Whether it is being used for recreational purposes or as a territory for exploring and understanding nature close up – the diversity of Carinthia’s oldest nature preserve (since 1942) raises it a step above run-of-the-mill leisure, culture or educational sites. The nature park enables visitors to really dive into its outstanding setting and experience it with all the senses, giving them the unique opportunity to become one with the elements.

The highly sensitive eco-system of the nature park also requires visitors to respect a few rules:

- Only use the signposted hiking routes.
- Animals in the wild have a highly developed sense of hearing. Leave them in peace. If you get the chance to observe animals in their natural habitat, keep your distance and make as little noise as possible.
- Keep dogs on a leash at all times.
- Do not feed the grazing animals.
- Take your rubbish back with you.
- Wear sensible shoes.
- Use high-factor sun screen both in summer and winter.
- Take a rain coat.

How to get there:



Further information:



Kärntens 1. Naturpark

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Villach



Arnoldstein



Nötsch  
im Gailtal



Bad Bleiberg



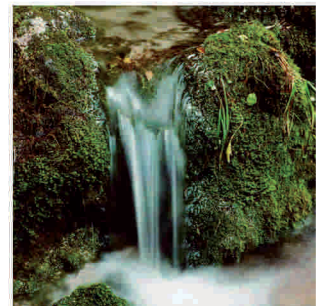
Villacher  
Alpenstraße



EDERVILLACH



NATURE'S  
SHOW  
GROUND





NATURE

The forces of nature were the master builders of the unique landscape below the Dobratsch south face. Two rock slides, the last one triggered by an earth quake in 1348, shaped the valley and created new habitats for rare, protected animal and plant species.

More than 700 vascular plants, sand vipers, scorpions, bats, more than 1100 butterflies and 125 species of birds live in the Dobratsch Nature Park. The mountain is the basis for the drinking water supply for the surrounding municipalities. Here, nature looks after everyone, which is why it enjoys special protection. In 1942, the area of today’s nature park was made into Carinthia’s first nature preserve.

SHOW

Numerous vantage points constantly open up new perspectives. The impressive viewing platform next to car park 6/Alpengarten lets visitors hover above the so-called “Red Face” (Rote Wand). On Rosstratten Mountain, you can enjoy the unique mountain panorama while relaxing on a sun lounger, and the state-of-the-art info-point in the 10er-Hütte chalet provides both fantastic insights and outlooks that can only be topped with the amazing sense of elevation and vastness at the Dobratsch summit. Whether you look at the ascent as a conquest or a leisurely hike – there are concise hiking routes provided for all levels of fitness and taste.

SPACE

The power of the mountain can also be felt in the region surrounding Dobratsch Mountain, for instance in the vibrancy of the city of Villach, whose southern flair makes for cultural highlights in the border triangle, or in Bad Bleiberg, which has combined its ancient mining tradition and thermal springs to offer a unique selection of wellness and health services, for instance with its therapy tunnels. Nötsch im Gailtal has brought forth many internationally renowned artists. The market town of Arnoldstein, where the lines of the Austrian-Italian-Slovenian border triangle meet, is still a vibrant melting pot of Alpine-Adriatic culture.





