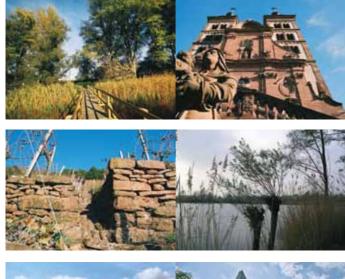
## **Experience the Landscape**

All over the cultural landscape of the Geopark, you will encounter the rocks that make up our region. Forest, vineyards or fields – land use depends on the underlying rocks.

You will find 'Granite and Sandstone' in famous buildings such as Heidelberg Castle and the UNESCO World Heritage Site Lorsch Abbey. The red sandstone characterises whole villages along the Main valley and in the High Odenwald.

The Rhine Valley plain is a place of extremes: natural riparian landscapes and sand dunes next to intensively used agricultural land. The link between earth history and current land use is both astonishing and manifold. Discover our landscape – the Geopark will open your eyes!



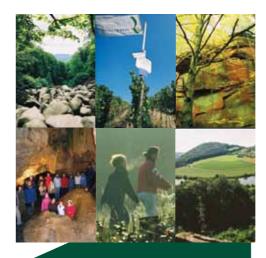






Globaler-Europäischer-Nationaler Geo-Naturpark Bergstraße-Odenwald Nibelungenstraße 41 64653 Lorsch Fon 06251/707990 Fax 06251/7079915 info@geo-naturpark.de www.geo-naturpark.de www.europeangeoparks.org





# The Geo-Naturepark Bergstrasse-Odenwald

*Earth History, Nature and Culture Discoveries* 

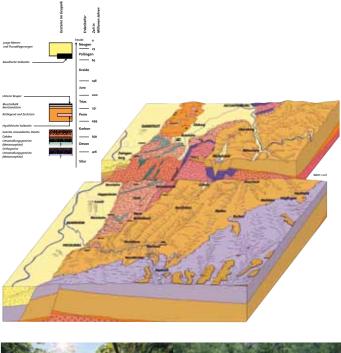


Globaler-Europäischer-Nationaler Geopark

Frankfurt Rhein Main Airport

## **Between Granite and Sandstone**

Our landscape between the rivers Rhine, Main and Neckar took millions of years to evolve. In the Geopark, earth history lies just underneath your feet. Each rock can reveal a part of this long story. The traces of ancient rivers are preserved in the red rock faces of the Bunter Sandstone. The rocks you find on a walk through the Crystalline Odenwald were formed several kilometres deep in the earth's crust during the collision of two ancient continents. The Rhine Rift Valley and the steep slopes of the Bergstrasse were formed during huge downward movements of the crust. Then there is the world famous Messel Pit UNESCO World Heritage Site, also known as the 'Pompeii of Palaeontology'.





#### **Geotrails und Geosites**

Geotrails and Geosites open the window to the geological past, provide an insight into the local plant and animal life and into the cultural history of our region. A stroll through the Geopark can be like to perusing a book of regional history describing millions of years of active geology as well as man's effect on the landscape.









## Entrance Gates, Information Centres and Environmental Pedagogic Centres

Start your trip in one of the Geopark Entrance Gates, Infocentres or Environmental Pedagogic Centres. Each facility focuses on a particular landscape-related topic and will provide you with all the information you require for your own trips and excursions. Delve into the subterranean world in the Buchen-Eberstadt Caves, enjoy the unique combination of flowers, rocks and wine at the Bunter Löwe in Zwingenberg, visit the regional museums in Reichelsheim or Lichtenberg Castle with it's special rural history display. Each Geopark facility grants an insight into the diversity of our region.





## Ambassadors of the geopark – the rangers

Join a ranger on a discovery tour through our landscape, which is the (intermediate) result of a million year old story and unravel the secrets behind the ever-present signs of the past. Our knowledgeable 'ambassadors' will show you everyday marvels, precious treasures and tranquil reservoirs to replenish your soul. An outing with a ranger – this means both excitement and relaxation for your very special day in the Geopark.





GEO-NATURPARK Bergstraße-Odenwald

DER "BÜRGERPARK" UND DER "BEYER-SEE"

## Natureparks and Geopark

The Geopark operates within the infrastructure of the natureparks Bergstrasse-Odenwald and Neckartal-Odenwald: over 10,000 km signposted footpaths, 300 visitor car parks and numerous youth camp grounds are available to visitors for discovering the landscape between the rivers Rhine, Main and Neckar. Orientation in the Geopark is easy with the set of detailed 1:20.000 scale naturepark maps, which cover the whole region. These are augmented by walking books containing route descriptions.

