



Rules and regulations in nature reserves

What is a nature reserve?

A nature reserve (german: „Naturschutzgebiet“ / abbreviation: NSG) is a specially protected area. Very strict regulations apply in these areas, as nature should remain as undisturbed as possible. Thus, no plants may be taken and no habitats may be destroyed or altered. According to this, all actions that lead to a lasting disturbance are also prohibited.



Sign for protected areas

The appropriate behaviour in a german nature reserve

In nature reserves, the following rules should be followed:

- > Do not swim or sail in the lakes and rivers!
- > Do not use drones, kites or model planes!
- > Do not leave any litter or other objects behind!
- > Only use the marked paths and trails!
- > Do not pick, dig up or trample any plants!
- > Do not camp inside the nature conservation area!
- > Do not disturb the wildlife!
- > Always keep dogs on a leash!
- > Do not ride horses or bikes in the nature conservation area



*early marsh-orchid
~ an endangered species ~*

As long as the above-mentioned rules are respected, there is are no restrictions on visiting a publicly accessible nature conservation area. **However, if the areas do not have "marked paths". Please don't enter these areas!**

A brief note to the younger generation:

No number of likes and followers could bring back an "endangered" species. So always assume that it could be the last plant of its kind.

As tempting as a selfie with a flower may be, every step off the beaten track leads to a potential loss of biodiversity. Because where there is one new step, many will follow. Even if rare plants can make beautiful photo motives, the following basic rule still applies:

"I stay on the marked paths. Because I want to protect the plants for future generations as well."

Should our children only learn about these rare plants from biology books?



*burnt-tip orchid
~ an endangered species ~*

What is improper behaviour in nature reserve?

1. Leaving marked paths for a "perfect photo"

Despite the signs at the entrance to the nature reserve "Eriskircher Ried" on Lake Constance, the following scenes occur. These are repeated every year during the flowering season of the siberian iris. Unfortunately, the signs and barriers erected do not stop people from "trampling" whole areas. This fails to respect the idea of protecting the nature reserve.

2. Moving noisily through areas

Most of the signs about the rules of conduct in the areas ask you to avoid unnecessary noise. Without loud conversations, you might also encounter a deer or observe a rare animal species. After all, this is what you have come to the "wilderness" for, isn't it?



3. Horse riding and mountain biking

The following rule applies to all nature reserves: "Riding is prohibited." However, this does not only apply to horse owners but also to bicycles and mountain bikes. Otherwise situations like the one shown in the picture will arise. Nobody would really want that.

4. Camping in a nature conservation area?

Camping overnight in a nature reserve is strictly forbidden!

5. Picking or digging up plants?

As beautiful as some plants may be. Please leave them in their original habitat. They have adapted to the microclimate there. Most species will not be able to survive a relocation to the garden at home. Therefore: "Just look at them, don't pick them."