

# WIENERWALD BIOSPHERE RESERVE WE LIVE DIVERSITY!



## WE SHAPE OUR FUTURE

### Conservation

Forest hills, meadows, pastures and vineyards shape the Wienerwald's landscape with its outstanding variety of species; 27 different forest habitats and 17 different types of grasslands are home to over 2.000 plants and 150 breeding bird species. Rare bat species and many other mammals like red deer, wild boar, European ground squirrel or beaver can be found in the area. Rare amphibians, reptiles as well as various types of butterflies, grasshoppers, flies and bees have made their habitat in the Wienerwald. By protecting natural habitats and species, as well as by maintaining cultivated landscape, we ensure biodiversity and ecological balance in the region.

### Sustainable Regional Development

Our aim is to support marketing and merchandising local products, organic products and wines. Environmental awareness, social responsibility and fairness are the criteria to become a partner in the regional provider's network of the Biosphere Reserve. Purchasing products

from local farmers helps to increase the region's economic value, to reduce emissions and to maintain precious cultivated landscapes. Sustainable forest management ensures wood and energy supply for the next generations as well as natural habitats. The area is also popular for recreational activities such as walking, hiking, biking and other outdoor activities. We look for solutions and ideas to resolve conflicts and develop concepts for an environmental healthy touristic infrastructure.

### Environmental Education & Research

Discover and experience nature, learn about culture and tradition of the region, participate in a social and sustainable way are the topics of our school projects, guided tours and learning events to increase awareness for the Biosphere Reserve. Our education partners and tour guides are especially trained in sustainable concerns. Scientific research and international relationships are the foundation to provide new information and guidance in ways to act.



## WIENERWALD BIOSPHERE RESERVE – MODEL REGION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The Wienerwald was designated as a Biosphere Reserve in 2005 by UNESCO. This standing protects the great variety of natural and cultural elements that make this region so unique and valuable. Wide range of wooded hills alternates with vast meadows, pastures and fruit orchards as well as vineyards and dry grasslands – the products from centuries of cultivation by humans. Four Nature Parks and the Viennese Lainzer Tiergarten, an extensive game park, are among the 15 nature preserves in this region.

Together with local partners and authorities, the states of Lower Austria and Vienna develop a model region for sustainability to address the challenges of the 21st century. Present and future generations can benefit from:

- Biological and cultural diversity
- Ecological, sustainable economic and social development of the region
- Environmental education and research

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# BIOSPHERE RESERVE WIENERWALD

Lower Austria

Vienna



Maps: Biosphere Reserves worldwide – Biosphere Reserves in Austria – Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve (Schubert & Frantze 2013)

## BIOSPHERE RESERVE WIENERWALD

part of the worldwide network of 621 UNESCO Biosphere Reserves including 117 countries (yd 2013)

The Wienerwald, one of seven Biosphere Reserves situated in Austria, covers an area of about 45 kilometers (28 miles) length and about 25 km (15 miles) width. It is located in the northeastern foothills of the Alps and covers parts of Lower Austria and Vienna. Its highest peak reaches an altitude of 893 meters (2.930 feet). Bounded by the Danube river to the north and the Triesting river to the south, it comprises 51 communities and seven municipal districts. Its population counts more than 750.000 inhabitants. Located so close to the nation's capital Vienna its outstanding natural environment, rich cultural heritage and great cultivated landscapes make the Wienerwald a popular recreational as well as an exceptional residential area.

### Main traffic routes:

West Highway A1 from 'Wien-Auhof' to 'Altengbach'  
Highway A21 from 'Brunn am Gebirge' to 'Knoten Steinhäusl'

**Public transportation:** West Railway from 'Wien Westbahnhof' to 'Neulengbach' (east-west bound)  
Baden Railway from 'Vienna Opera' to 'Baden' (south-bound)



### Three zones for nature conservancy and sustainable development

**Core areas:** 5% of the biosphere reserves are nature preserves, protected by law and scattered in the forest areas throughout the region. Priority is on the conservation of natural habitats and species. Basically free of human influence, the Wienerwald core areas shall become primeval forests in the future and offer opportunities for research.

**Buffer zones:** Covers 19% of the total area where focus is made on ecologically balanced cultivation and use of resources. Natural, though man-made habitats like meadows and pastures, vineyards and dry grasslands with their outstanding diversity of species shall be maintained.

**Transition area:** Comprises 76% of the region where priority is given to sustainable economic and recreational activities. Innovative ways to promote sustainable development and lifestyle shall be established in order to enhance the local economy and improve people's quality of life.