Regierungspräsidium Darmstadt

Schulinsel Köhkopf Environmental Education Centre

SCHULISSEL KÖHKOFP

HILFEND HINTERHALTUNG

Opening times:
- May 1st - Sept. 30th: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Oct. 1st - April 30th: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Closed on Mondays.

Tel.: +49 (0) 6158 180451
schulinsel-kuehkopf@forst.hessen.de
www.schulinsel-kuehkopf.de

If you are interested in:
- Art and culture in rural areas
- Informative lectures and tours
- ... then please pay us a visit!

Hofgut Guntershausen e. V.

Haus & gallery at Hofgut Guntershausen

former estate manager's house including the Stockstadt am Rhein Museum of Local Heritage, permanent and temporary exhibitions, rooms for seminars available

Opening times between March and October:
Sat, Sun, public holidays:
1 p.m. – 5 p.m. and by arrangement

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Regierungspräsidium Darmstadt

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> Shaped by man

Almost all the Central European landscapes we see today bear witness to a long history of human activity. In addition to entirely natural habitats essentially left untouched by human hand, man-made elements of Köhkopf-Knoblochsaue Nature Reserve are also among the areas most worthy of protection.

- Meadows are one of the nature reserve's most important plant communities. Low-lying meadows subject to regular flooding are home to large populations of saw-wort, mouse garlic and sulphurweed. These species have adapted to not only long periods of flooding, but also extreme drought during the summer months. They once created colourful meadows throughout the Hessian Ried, but are now only found in nature reserves.

- An area of around 150 hectares is characterised by pollarded willows, the majority of which were planted in the old bed of the Rhine in order to promote the accumulation of silt. Some of the willows on the Köhkopf are now cared for as cultural relics and habitats for hole-dwelling species.

- Over 2,000 fruit trees remind us of the economic importance of the Köhkopf in the past. Apple trees alone come in around 30 different varieties, many of which are now rarely encountered. They are tended to using nature conservation funds.

Förderverein Hofgut Guntershausen e. V.

Schatzinsel Köhkopf

ADVENTURE HIDEOUT KÖHKOFP

Legend

Forest
Meadow
Water
Reeds
Parking
Shelter
Playground
Hide
Observation point
Hofgut Guntershausen
Restaurant
R6 long-distance cycle path
Boundary of the nature area

Köhkopf-Knoblochsaue Nature Reserve

Location of Köhkopf-Knoblochsaue Nature Reserve

Regierungspräsidium Darmstadt

Information on Köhkopf-Knoblochsaue Nature Reserve

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Dear Visitor,

We invite you to discover the flora and fauna of the largest nature reserve in the state of Hessen. An extremely rare landscape of unspoiled nature is nestled in an area of around 24,000 hectares.

The quality and significance of the reserve are reflected in its classification as a “reserve of European importance” by the German section of the International Council for Bird Preservation. The reserve also forms part of the EU-wide “Natura 2000” network of protected areas.

Make sure you pay a visit to Schatzinsel Kühkopf!

We hope you have a great time on the Kühkopf!

Sincerely

The Kühkopf-Knoblochsaue Nature Reserve

A landscape in a state of flux

As part of the Upper Rhine Plain, Kühlkopf-Knoblochsaue Nature Reserve is situated in a landscape upon which settlements and industry have left a considerable mark. Past interventions in the course and flow of the Rhine have had a dramatic impact on the river’s floodplain.

The regulation of the river in the 19th century (which led to the separation of the Kühkopf from the left bank of the Rhine to form an island), the artificial narrowing of the Kühkopf from the end of the 20th century and the expansion of the Upper Rhine between 1728 and 1730 have all contributed to the present status of the Kühkopf.

The neighboring buildings are maintained by the Hubgut Society and feature exhibitions on regional history, art and culture. Over 60 of trills enable you to explore the nature reserve on foot by bicycle. We also recommend taking a look at the current program of events at Schatzinsel Kühkopf.

We hope you have a great time on the Kühkopf!

The Kühkopf-Knoblochsaue Nature Reserve

The Kühkopf arrives on the Kühkopf floodplain. As a result of altering periods of flooding and drought, the river is home to a diverse variety of species such as water plants and plants as well as floodplain forests of softwood and hardwood.

Declining water levels when and how long each area is flooded, and in turn the species and structures that develop within the floodplain, then start the evolution of the unique landscape. To find out more, visit the “Wissen im Fluss” exhibition.

We need floodplains

Floodplains provide habitats and means of propagation for many specially adapted animal and plant species. They are therefore an indispensable part of the European network of protected areas “Natura 2000.” What a few floodplains act as a natural reservoir for flood-water, which would otherwise threaten settlements, and filter sediment-laden water out of the water body, natural river-basin treatment plants when flooding occurs. They also function as green lungs within our man-made landscapes. The “Wissen im Fluss” exhibition highlights the value of unspoiled floodplains in terms of both nature conservation and human society.

The Kühkopf-Knoblochsaue Nature Reserve

The Kühkopf-Knoblochsaue Nature Reserve is located in the natural floodplain of the Upper Rhine. As a result of alternating periods of flooding and drought, the river is home to a diverse variety of species such as water plants and plants as well as floodplain forests of softwood and hardwood.

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The Old arms of the Rhine such as the Schusterwörther Alt-Rhine, Aachenum and Schipperswörther differ from the alluvial deposits of the upper Rhine characterized by a denser soil structure at the current time. As a result, they are home to a wealth of aquatic plants including water lilies and various species of fern. These bodies of water serve as nurseries for most fish species of the Rhine and are ideal location for the floating nests of aquatic birds.

Small bodies of standing ground water and ponds that dry out during the summer months provide habitats and breeding grounds for amphibians (e.g. the Moor frog, common brown frog, smooth newt and great crested newt) and a multitude of invertebrates. Bodies of water that dry out during the summer are home to a wealth of specialised flora and fauna able to withstand periods of drought in the form of eggs, larvae or in a state of deep sleep.