

Aspects of Franconia - the “Brucker Lache” and the “Walderlebniszentrum”

I think most of us will be familiar with the “Brucker Lache”, an area lying between the southern edge of Erlangen and the suburb of Tennenlohe. Driving out of Erlangen on the B4 towards Nuremberg it lies to our right, before we reach the A3 motorway. It is a wooded area criss-crossed with paths much used by dog-walkers, cyclists and joggers, and depending on the season and recent rainfall it can in places become rather like a wetland. It became, in 1964, the first “*Naturschutzgebiet*” (Nature Conservancy Area) in Central Franconia.

The name of this area, “Lache”, does indeed suggest a good deal of standing water, not lakes, admittedly, but land which, being flat, doesn’t drain quickly.

One of the principal paths or tracks through the Brucker Lache bears the name “Franzosen-weg”, a curious name perhaps until you remember that this was the shortest link between the church in Tennenlohe and the **French**-Reformed Church at the Huguenottenplatz in Erlangen. I believe that one could once see the spire of the one church from the other, but with urbanisation that possibility has long disappeared. It was built around 1820, so has nothing to do with Napoleonic troops marching south to Nuremberg, as I remember being told when I first arrived in Erlangen.

Another reason why you might be familiar with part of the Brucker Lache is that it lies directly next to the “*Walderlebniszentrum*” (Woodland Education Centre) which began life in 1975 and is usually full of happy children, either with their parents or in school groups, learning about the vital importance of caring for our woodland and forests spaces. Forestry management is explained, the forest biotope, the various trees and the different types of wood they produce and their historical uses, including the various woodland animals we might encounter in a forest or woodland setting. It even has a section on bees in the forest and the role of the charcoal burners of yesteryear.



The easiest way to get there is to take a bus to the Roncalli-Stift, or to the *Walderlebniszentrum* close to Tennenlohe. Have fun.

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