



Leading Quality Trails – Best of Europe

DAY WALK

Criteria – Overview



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A Leading Quality Trails – Best of Europe, DAY WALK (Quality DAY WALK) ...

- ... is a **half-day or day hike** (recommendation 4 - 20 km in length, max. 25 km, family pleasure and comfortable hike from 2 km in length).
- ... provides hikers with a **perfect hiking experience**
- ... is adapted to the specific **wishes of the respective target group**
- ... is (as far as possible) a **circular trail**
- ... meets **quality criteria**

Recommendation:

A perfect hiking experience usually involves more than just meeting the quality criteria. If possible, short thematic quality trails should also offer

- at least one **refreshment stop** on or near the trail (max. 1,000 m away)
- sufficient **rest and relaxation facilities** (if possible, a bench, rest area or hut every 2 kilometers).
- high-quality **information** material

The following applies to the **marking** in general:

- 100 % hiker-friendly marking in accordance with the guidelines Leading Quality Trails – Best of Europe
- recommendation: specific waymarking sign (max. 3 different signs when combining the tour on differently marked trails)
A specific waymarking sign is particularly recommended for family pleasure, discover tour and comfortable hike.

Quality DAY WALKs can have a thematic focus. Each thematic focus is based on the interests and wishes of a defined target group. Quality DAY WALKs with a thematic focus therefore require a catalogue of criteria that is adapted to the respective target group.

Quality DAY WALKs are possible for the following themes:

- dream tour *all around good*
- cultural experience *culture along the way*
- nature delight *experience nature actively*
- family pleasure (from 4 years) *hiking together with fun*
- discover tour *on the trail of the unknown*
- comfortable hike (barrier-free) *simple and beautiful*
- winter bliss *hiking in the cold season*
- urban walk *discover cities in a different way*

Note: When selecting criteria, the focus is on the trail or hiking route. The route should be as close as possible to the interests of the respective target group. Only recommendations can be given for the other features of the Quality DAY WALKs, e.g. information boards, experience stations, quality of refreshment stops and information material.

CRITERION	LIMIT VALUE
natural trails (criterion 1)	min. 35 % of the total itinerary
constructed trails with non-sealed surface (criterion 2)	<i>neutral</i>
rough but passable trails (criterion 3)	max. 5 % of the total itinerary
sealed surfaces (asphalt, concrete, cobblestone pavement) (criterion 4)	max. 20 % of the total itinerary <i>(max. 25 % with application of the special regulation)</i>
on busy roads (criterion 6)	max. 300 m in one stretch
alongside busy roads (criterion 7)	max. 10 % of the total itinerary
variety/change of scenery (criterion 11)	on average, min. 1 landscape change per 2 km <i>special regulation: 1,000 m in one stretch in an attractive natural landscape = 1 landscape change</i>
natural and cultural attractions (criteria 13-19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> on average, min. 1 natural or cultural attraction per km (<i>local curiosities are included in the count</i>) balanced repartition: < 10 km: min. 1 attraction per ¼ of the total itinerary > 10 km: min. 2 attractions per ¼ of the total itinerary <i>special regulations:</i> 500 m silence in one stretch = 1 natural attraction 500 m walking path in one stretch = 1 natural attraction
experience factor (criteria 11, 13-19 and 21-23)	on average min. 2 experience points per km <i>(natural and cultural attractions as well as landscape changes and infrastructure count)</i>
intensively used environment (criterion 20)	max. 500 m in one stretch and max. 5 % of the total itinerary

<p>clear guidance for walkers (signage and waymarking) (criterion 8)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 % hiker-friendly marking in accordance with the guidelines Leading Quality Trails – Best of Europe • clear indications in the case of a change in the signage • uniform and continuous signage
<p>network management with signposts (criteria 9 and 10)</p>	<p>directional signs (goal and distances directly related to the Quality DAY WALK) at 50 % of all crossroads/network knots. Overall, min. 2 directional signs with arrows in both directions</p>
<p>easily recognizable starting point</p>	<p>start at identified hiking departure points (dedicated car park, train stations, locality centre) with informative trail signs (Quality DAY WALK included) and directional signs</p>
<p>further requirements</p>	<p>min. 1 cultural or landscape curiosity of interest (indications and explanations)</p>
<p>recommendations</p>	<p>marking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specific waymarking sign • if a change of signage occurs: max 3 different signs on a combination of tours from different labelled itineraries

CRITERION	LIMIT VALUE
natural trails (criterion 1)	min. 30 % of the total itinerary
constructed trails with non-sealed surface (criterion 2)	<i>neutral</i>
rough but passable trails (criterion 3)	max. 0 % of the total itinerary
sealed surfaces (asphalt, concrete, cobblestone pavement) (criterion 4)	max. 35 % of the total itinerary <i>(no special regulation)</i>
on busy roads (criterion 6)	max. 300 m in one stretch
alongside busy roads (criterion 7)	max. 10 % of the total itinerary
variety/change of scenery (criterion 11)	on average, min. 1 landscape change per 2 km <i>special regulation:</i> 1,000 m in one stretch in an attractive natural landscape = 1 landscape change
natural and cultural attractions (criteria 13-19)	<p>1 point local curiosity (e.g. wayside shrine, chapel) regional curiosity (enclosed, accessible from the outside)</p> <p>2 points regional curiosity (accessible, open from the outside) (e.g. castle, ruins, museums, church with outstanding feature, picturesque village...) national curiosity (e.g. castles, historical ancient towns)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on average, min. 1 point of cultural valorization per km balanced repartition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < 10 km: min. 2 points of cultural valorization in each ¼ of the total itinerary > 10 km: min. 4 points of cultural valorization in each ¼ of the total itinerary <i>special regulations:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 m silence in one stretch = 1 natural attraction 500 m walking path in one stretch = 1 natural attraction

experience factor (criteria 11, 13-19 and 21-23)	on average min. 2 experience points per km <i>(natural and cultural attractions as well as landscape changes count)</i>
intensively used environment (criterion 20)	max. 500 m in one stretch and max. 5 % of the total itinerary
clear guidance for walkers (signage and waymarking) (criterion 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 % hiker-friendly marking in accordance with the guidelines Leading Quality Trails – Best of Europe • clear indications in the case of a change in the signage • uniform and continuous signage
network management with signposts (criteria 9 and 10)	directional signs (goal and distances directly related to the Quality DAY WALK) at 50 % of all crossroads/network knots. Overall, min. 2 directional signs with arrows in both directions
easily recognizable starting point	start at identified hiking departure points (dedicated car park, train stations, locality centre) with informative trail signs (Quality DAY WALK included) and directional signs
further requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. dominant cultural theme 2. public curiosities 3. accessible information with interesting description of every relevant topic (ex: information brochure) 4. information on all objects with min. 2 points of cultural valorization 5. min. 1 guesthouse available near the itinerary (max. distance for signage: 1,000 m)
recommendations	marking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specific waymarking sign • if a change of signage occurs: max 3 different signs on a combination of tours from different labelled itineraries

CRITERION	LIMIT VALUE
natural trails (criterion 1)	min. 55 % of the total itinerary
constructed trails with non-sealed surface (criterion 2)	<i>neutral</i>
rough but passable trails (criterion 3)	max. 5 % of the total itinerary
sealed surfaces (asphalt, concrete, cobblestone pavement) (criterion 4)	max. 10 % of the total itinerary <i>(no specific regulation)</i>
on busy roads (criterion 6)	max. 300 m in one stretch
alongside busy roads (criterion 7)	max. 10 % of the total itinerary
variety/change of scenery (criterion 11)	on average, min. 1 landscape change per 2 km <i>special regulation: 1,000 m in one stretch in an attractive natural landscape = 1 landscape change</i>
natural and cultural attractions (criteria 13-19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> on average min. 1 point natural attraction per km (e.g. view, rock, natural monument, water), attractive natural landscape counts as 1 point and can be re-evaluated with every kilometre balanced distribution: min. 1 attraction in each quarter of the route <i>special regulations:</i> 500 m silence in one stretch = 1 natural attraction 500 m walking path in one stretch = 1 natural attraction
experience factor (criteria 11, 13-19 and 21-23)	on average min. 2 experience points per km <i>(natural and cultural attractions as well as landscape changes and infrastructure count)</i>
intensively used environment (criterion 20)	max. 300 m in one stretch and max. 3 % of the total itinerary

<p>clear guidance for walkers (signage and waymarking) (criterion 8)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 % hiker-friendly marking in accordance with the guidelines Leading Quality Trails – Best of Europe • clear indications in the case of a change in the signage • uniform and continuous signage
<p>network management with signposts (criteria 9 and 10)</p>	<p>directional signs (goal and distances directly related to the Quality DAY WALK) at 50 % of all crossroads/network knots. Overall, min. 2 directional signs with arrows in both directions</p>
<p>easily recognizable starting point</p>	<p>start at identified hiking departure points (dedicated car park, train stations, locality centre) with informative trail signs (Quality DAY WALK included) and directional signs</p>
<p>further requirements</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. on average min. 1 attractive natural landscape per 5 km 2. overall, min. 2,000 m crossing natural landscape (not necessarily in one stretch) 3. min. 500 m of natural silence in one stretch or min. 3 sections immersed in natural silence
<p>recommendations</p>	<p>marking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specific waymarking sign • if a change of signage occurs: max 3 different signs on a combination of tours from different labelled itineraries

CRITERION	LIMIT VALUE
natural trails (criterion 1)	min. 45 % of the total itinerary
constructed trails with non-sealed surface (criterion 2)	<i>neutral</i>
rough but passable trails (criterion 3)	max. 5 % of the total itinerary
sealed surfaces (asphalt, concrete, cobblestone pavement) (criterion 4)	max. 15 % of the total itinerary <i>(no specific regulation)</i>
on busy roads (criterion 6)	max. 10 m in one stretch (safe road crossing - on cleared and low traffic roads, even unsecured)
alongside busy roads (criterion 7)	max. 10 % of the total itinerary
variety/change of scenery (criterion 11)	on average, min. 1 landscape change per 2 km <i>special regulation: 1,000 m in one stretch in an attractive natural landscape = 1 landscape change</i>
natural and cultural attractions (criteria 13-19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on average, min. 1 natural or cultural attraction per km • balanced repartition: min. 1 attraction per ¼ of the itinerary • <i>special regulations:</i> 500 m silence in one stretch = 1 natural attraction 500 m walking path in one stretch = 1 natural attraction
experience factor (criteria 11, 13-19 and 21-23)	on average min. 2 experience points per km <i>(natural and cultural attractions as well as landscape changes and infrastructure count)</i>
intensively used environment (criterion 20)	max. 300 m in one stretch and max. 3 % of the total itinerary

<p>clear guidance for walkers (signage and waymarking) (criterion 8)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 % hiker-friendly marking in accordance with the guidelines Leading Quality Trails – Best of Europe • clear indications in the case of a change in the signage • uniform and continuous signage
<p>network management with signposts (criteria 9 and 10)</p>	<p>directional signs (goal and distances directly related to the Quality DAY WALK) at 50 % of all crossroads/network knots. Overall, min. 2 directional signs with arrows in both directions</p>
<p>easily recognizable starting point</p>	<p>start at identified hiking departure points (dedicated car park, train stations, locality centre) with informative trail signs (labelled itinerary included) and directional signs</p>
<p>further requirements</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. max. 300 m on a straight stretch 2. min. 20 % of footpaths 3. no dangerous paths (traffic, fall risks) 4. min. 2 resting areas adapted to children in safe places with playing space (natural if possible) 5. min. 1 natural playing opportunity per 2 km (natural spaces alongside the path adapted to children’s games, e.g. stream, ponds, trees, slopes) 6. guesthouse must be welcoming towards children (children-size food portions, playing space, adapted chair) 7. for itineraries longer than 7 km, shortcuts must be available
<p>recommendations</p>	<p>marking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specific waymarking sign • if a change of signage occurs: max 3 different signs on a combination of tours from different labelled itineraries

CRITERION	LIMIT VALUE
natural trails (criterion 1)	<i>neutral</i>
constructed trails with non-sealed surface (criterion 2)	<i>neutral</i>
rough but passable trails (criterion 3)	max. 5 % of the total itinerary
sealed surfaces (asphalt, concrete, cobblestone pavement) (criterion 4)	max. 35 % of the total itinerary <i>special regulation: for every 0.2 points more in the experience factor, an increase of 1 % each in the composite ceiling share is possible.</i>
on busy roads (criterion 6)	max. 300 m in one stretch
alongside busy roads (criterion 7)	max. 10 % of the total itinerary
variety/change of scenery (criterion 11)	on average, min. 1 landscape change per 2 km <i>special regulation: 1,000 m in one stretch in an attractive natural landscape = 1 landscape change</i>
natural and cultural attractions (criteria 13-19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on average, min. 1 natural or cultural attraction per km (<i>local curiosities are included in the count</i>) • balanced repartition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < 10 km: min. 1 attraction per ¼ of the total itinerary > 10 km: min. 2 attractions per ¼ of the total itinerary • <i>special regulations:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 m silence in one stretch = 1 natural attraction 500 m walking path in one stretch = 1 natural attraction
experience factor (criteria 11, 13-19 and 21-23)	on average 3 experience points per km <i>(natural and cultural attractions as well as landscape changes and infrastructure count)</i>
intensively used environment (criterion 20)	max. 500 m in one stretch and max. 5 % of the total itinerary

<p>clear guidance for walkers (signage and waymarking) (criterion 8)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 % hiker-friendly marking in accordance with the guidelines Leading Quality Trails – Best of Europe • clear indications in the case of a change in the signage • uniform and continuous signage
<p>network management with signposts (criteria 9 and 10)</p>	<p>directional signs (goal and distances directly related to the Quality DAY WALK) at 50 % of all crossroads/network knots. Overall, min. 2 directional signs with arrows in both directions</p>
<p>easily recognizable starting point</p>	<p>start at identified hiking departure points (dedicated car park, train stations, locality centre) with informative trail signs (Quality DAY WALK included) and directional signs</p>
<p>further requirements</p>	<p>active, creative cooperation with (selection of possibilities):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gastronomy/local production • local history and culture association • museum/exhibition • information centre • other facilities along the trail • ... <p>cooperation includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refreshment/establishment/object on or in the immediate vicinity (up to 200 m with signpost) of the trail • explanation/information on cooperation on information board at starting point • design or connection to active, creative cooperation can be recognized/experienced along the route <p>connection to public transport (bus or train connection) on the trail or in the vicinity (with signposts up to max. 1,000 m from the trail)</p> <p>from a length of 15 km a designated shortcut option</p>
<p>recommendations</p>	<p>min. 1 guesthouse/supply point on the trail or nearby (with signposts up to max. 1,000 m from the trail) or within approx. 10 minutes reach by public transport or car</p>

comfortable hike

DAY WALK



CRITERION	LIMIT VALUE
natural trails (criterion 1)	avoid if possible, natural soil can be uneven and slippery
constructed trails with non-sealed surface (criterion 2)	<i>neutral</i>
rough but passable trails (criterion 3)	0 % of the total itinerary
sealed surfaces (asphalt, concrete, cobblestone pavement) (criterion 4)	<i>neutral</i>
on busy roads (criterion 6)	max. 10 m in one stretch <i>(safe road crossing - on cleared and low traffic roads, even unsecured)</i>
alongside busy roads (criterion 7)	max. 10 % of the total itinerary
variety/change of scenery (criterion 11)	on average, min. 1 landscape change per 2 km <i>special regulation: 1,000 m in one stretch in an attractive natural landscape = 1 landscape change</i>
natural and cultural attractions (criteria 13-19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on average, min. 1 natural or cultural attraction per km • balanced repartition: min. 1 attraction per ¼ of the itinerary • <i>special regulations:</i> 500 m silence in one stretch = 1 natural attraction 500 m walking path in one stretch = 1 natural attraction
experience factor (criteria 11, 13-19 and 21-23)	on average min. 2 experience points per km <i>(natural and cultural attractions as well as landscape changes and infrastructure count)</i>
intensively used environment (criterion 20)	max. 300 m in one stretch and max. 3 % of the total itinerary

comfortable hike

DAY WALK



<p>clear guidance for walkers (signage and waymarking) (criterion 8)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 % hiker-friendly marking in accordance with the guidelines Leading Quality Trails – Best of Europe • clear indications in the case of a change in the signage • uniform and continuous signage
<p>network management with signposts (criteria 9 and 10)</p>	<p>directional signs (goal and distances directly related to the Quality DAY WALK) at 50 % of all crossroads/network knots. Overall, min. 2 directional signs with arrows in both directions</p>
<p>easily recognizable starting point</p>	<p>start at identified hiking departure points (dedicated car park, train stations, locality centre) with informative trail signs (Quality DAY WALK included) and directional signs</p>
<p>further requirements</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 100 % safe without any major fall risks (exception made for transverse gutters) 2. seating possibilities (max. distance between benches: 1,000 m) 3. min. 1 toilet area per itinerary (e.g. in guesthouses, recommendation barrier-free) 4. in steep sections, handrails must provide safety 5. max. 300 m in one stretch of shared spaces with non-hiking users (bikers, skaters, mountain bikers)
<p>recommendations</p>	<p>itinerary max. downward slope 6 % and max. upward slope: 2 %</p> <p>waymarking specific signage</p> <p>others accurate and up to date information/description of the itinerary</p>

CRITERION	LIMIT VALUE
natural trails (criterion 1)	<i>neutral</i>
constructed trails with non-sealed surface (criterion 2)	<i>neutral</i>
rough but passable trails (criterion 3)	0 % of the total itinerary
sealed surfaces (asphalt, concrete, cobblestone pavement) (criterion 4)	<i>neutral</i>
on busy roads (criterion 6)	max. 10 m in one stretch <i>(safe road crossing - on cleared and low traffic roads, even unsecured)</i>
alongside busy roads (criterion 7)	max. 10 % of the total itinerary
variety/change of scenery (criterion 11)	on average, min. 1 landscape change per 2 km <i>special regulation: 1,000 m in one stretch in an attractive natural landscape = 1 landscape change</i>
natural and cultural attractions (criteria 13-19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on average, min. 1 natural or cultural attraction per km • balanced repartition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < 10 km: min. 1 attraction per ¼ of the total itinerary > 10 km: min. 2 attractions per ¼ of the total itinerary • <i>special regulations:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 m silence in one stretch = 1 natural attraction 500 m walking path in one stretch = 1 natural attraction
experience factor (criteria 11, 13-19 and 21-23)	on average min. 2 experience points per km <i>(natural and cultural attractions as well as landscape changes and infrastructure count)</i>
intensively used environment (criterion 20)	max. 300 m in one stretch and max. 3 % of the total itinerary

clear guidance for walkers (signage and waymarking) (criterion 8)	100 % user-friendly waymarking, easily traceable under snowy conditions
network management with signposts (criteria 9 and 10)	not required
easily recognizable starting point	start at identified hiking departure points (dedicated car park, train stations, locality centre) with informative trail signs (Quality DAY WALK included) and directional signs
further requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. regularly cleared, groomed and maintained 2. iced passages must be taken care of 3. warning signs must be displayed when the itinerary crosses ski slopes, ski lifts and sledding slopes 4. informations on guesthouse presence must be displayed at the starting point of the itinerary 5. if the length of the itinerary is greater than 12 km, a shortcut must be available (alternative path, shuttle, cable car...)

CRITERION	LIMIT VALUE
natural trails (criterion 1)	<i>neutral</i>
constructed trails with non-sealed surface (criterion 2)	min. 30 % of the total itinerary
rough but passable trails (criterion 3)	0 % of the total itinerary
sealed surfaces (asphalt, concrete, cobblestone pavement) (criterion 4)	max. 70 % of the total itinerary
on busy roads (criterion 6)	max. 10 m in one stretch <i>(safe road crossing - on cleared and low traffic roads, even unsecured)</i>
alongside busy roads (criterion 7)	max. 10 % alongside busy roads (local main road, highways, county roads...) in one stretch
variety/change of scenery (criterion 11)	<i>neutral</i>
natural and cultural attractions (criteria 13-19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on average, min. 1 natural or cultural attraction per km • balanced repartition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < 10 km: min. 1 attraction per ¼ of the total itinerary > 10 km: min. 2 attractions per ¼ of the total itinerary • <i>special regulations:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 m silence in one stretch = 1 natural attraction 500 m walking path in one stretch = 1 natural attraction
experience factor (criteria 11, 13-19 and 21-23)	<i>neutral</i>
intensively used environment (criterion 20)	max. 10 % of the total itinerary
clear guidance for walkers (signage and waymarking) (criterion 8)	100 % hiker-friendly marking in accordance with the guidelines Leading Quality Trails – Best of Europe

network management with signposts (criteria 9 and 10)	on average, min. 1 signpost per km
easily recognizable starting point	start at identified hiking departure points (dedicated car park, train stations, locality centre) with informative trail signs (Quality DAY WALK included)
further requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. starting and ending points located close to public transportation (500 m max.) 2. min. 1 escape point located near the middle of the itinerary 3. min. 20 % of sidewalks and cycled paths without massive use (see training manual - criterion 6, dangerous situations), park paths, small connecting paths, far from any busy roads)
recommendations	marking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specific waymarking sign • if a change of signage occurs: max. 3 different signs on a combination of tours from different labelled itineraries