

# Bat Watch

## This booklet provides:

- Instructions how how to use a bat detector
- Where to spt
- Where to Bat Spot in Kandersteg
- Bat Quiz!



## Before you set off remember:

- Warm / Waterproof clothes
- Hiking boots or outdoor shoes
- Torch
- **Bat Detector – Available from reception.** Use this electronic device to locate bats, identify the bat type and what the bat is doing.

**Tip Top Top Tip:** Plan your bat watch as the light begins to disappear; bats emerge as the sun goes down

Bats echolocate to find their food and avoid obstacles by emitting a sound from their mouth. This sound is too high pitched for most humans to hear, although children can still hear these high pitched squeals sometimes. This is why you need a bat detector to make these sounds audible to the human ear.

## How to use the Bat Detector

1. Once you turn the detector
2. The dial in KHz or 'Kilohertz' adjusts the frequency. The bat detector picks-up the inaudible, echolocation sound made by the bat and converts it into a lower frequency that we humans can hear!

Look up to the sky around dusk time and point the Bat Detector at the bats. If you hear a bat, try twisting the KHz dial until you can hear a sound similar to a wet slap.

If you hear a sound similar to an engine on the detector, this is when a bat gets so close to it's prey that the echoloaction is very rapid and the bat successfully eats!



**Kandersteg**  
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## Types of Bats to spot in Kandersteg

The great thing about using a bat detector is that you can identify different species of bat because they all echolocate at different frequencies

The bats you are most likely to encounter in Kandersteg include:

### Common Pipistrelle

Echolocates between 45 KHz to about 50 KHz.

Sounds like a series of wet slaps!

### Soprano Pipistrelle

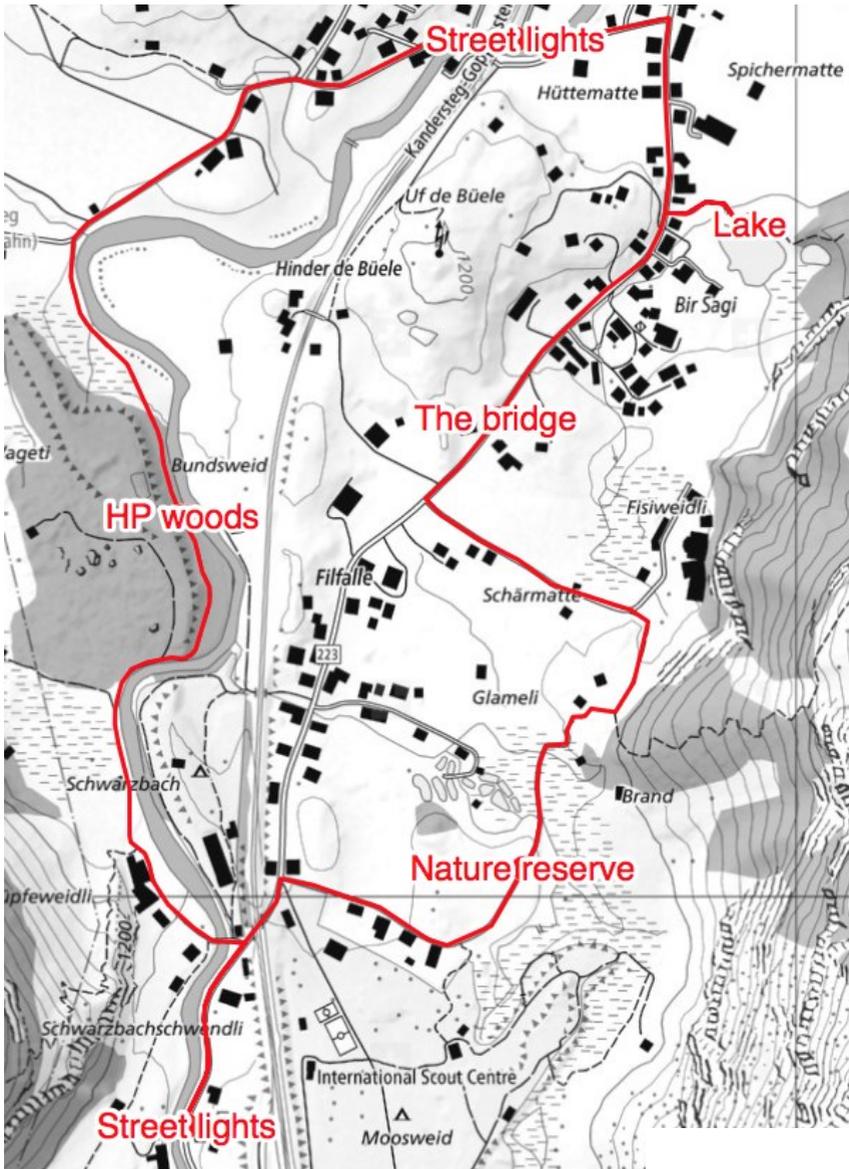
Echolocates best at 55 KHz.

Sounds like a series of wet slaps, similar to Common Pipistrelle but higher frequency hence the 'Soprano'

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Bats are the only mammals that can truly fly
- Of about 4,500 different species of mammal in the world, nearly 1,100 are bats
- Three-quarters of these eat insects. In the tropics bats also eat fruit, flowers, frogs, fish, blood and even other bats
- They can eat as many as 2,000 insects every night
- Bats are not blind. Their eyesight is very good but they also use echo location to navigate in the dark and find food
- Bats are the only land based mammals that use echo location
- Bats live in cracks in buildings, caves and hollow trees
- The bats in Switzerland (as in many other countries) are protected by law
- The smallest mammal in the world is the Bumblebee Bat
- Bats are vital pollinators. They help the flowers and plants grow

This map shows the best places in Kandersteg to spot bats. Look near streetlights as bats are attracted by light. They are also commonly found near water.



For a mobile version of the Bat Watch trail, scan the QR code. You will be able to track your movements and get information along the way



# Bonus info - Vampire Bats!

Although not found in Switzerland, vampire bats are perhaps the most well-known type of bat. Test your knowledge of these infamous creatures in this quiz!

**1. How many species of vampire bat are there?**

- a. 3
- b. 28
- c. 63

**2. Where are vampire bats found?**

- a. Central and South America.
- b. Kandersteg
- c. China

**3. What do vampire bats mostly feed on?**

- a. Human Blood
- b. The blood of horses, donkeys, pigs, goats.
- c. Fruit

**4. How long does a vampire bat live in the wild?**

- a. 49 years
- b. 19 years
- c. 9 years

**5. How many babies (pups) does a vampire bat usually have at once?**

- a. 20
- b. 5
- c. 1

**6. How do vampire bats usually approach its victim?**

- a. Land on the ground near by and quietly 'tiptoe' over to the victim.
- b. Land directly on the victim.
- c. Hide in trees and wait for the victim to pass underneath.



## Vampire Bat Facts

- Vampire bats live in colonies in almost completely dark places, such as caves, old wells, hollow trees, and buildings
- Each colony will usually contain only one adult male, with around twenty females and their babies (pups)
- If a vampire bat doesn't feed for two nights in a row, it will die. After a successful hunt, each bat will share its food with the rest of the colony to ensure survival
- Vampire bats fly only one metre off the ground