

UNESCO World Heritage in Germany

Where history comes to life

- CHURCHES & ABBEYS
- HISTORICAL TOWN CENTRES
- CASTLES & PALACES
- INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE
- NATURE, GARDENS & LANDSCAPES
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German UNESCO World
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in cooperation with



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UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN GERMANY



Where history comes to life

UNESCO World Heritage Sites are outstanding testimonies to the history of mankind and nature: silent yet eloquent witnesses to magnificent cultural achievements and natural phenomena.

Only the most exceptional examples are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list and enjoy the special international protection associated with that status. Sites range from individual architectural monuments to entire towns, and from industrial heritage to extraordinary natural landscapes. Travelling to UNESCO World Heritage Sites is a remarkable journey back into history – a unique experience. Discover history through

its most fascinating examples. Examine the earliest traces of world history at the Messel Pit Fossil Site in Hessen. Combine a visit to Berlin with a stroll through 6,000 years of cultural history, or let yourself be inspired by the clarity of Bauhaus architecture in Dessau and Weimar. All the World Heritage Sites in Germany are well worth a visit. Succumb to the magic of these historical locations. Explore different stages of the history of mankind. UNESCO World Heritage is always truly remarkable – as are journeys to the German World Heritage Sites. This brochure provides information and suggestions on how to experience history while enjoying the beauty of each region.

The UNESCO World Heritage Convention

The 'Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage' was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972. It charges all of mankind with the protection of cultural and natural heritage of 'out-standing universal value'. By signing the convention, each country pledges to protect the monuments located within its borders and to preserve them for future generations. In return, UNESCO member states receive specialist advice on preserving their monuments. Countries with

limited resources may also receive financial assistance. The convention aims to promote and intensify both cooperation between all people and nations and the protection of natural and cultural heritage. Sustainable travel can be a way of contributing to the protection of World Heritage Sites. The German UNESCO World Heritage Sites Association seeks to increase the popularity of German World Heritage Sites and to promote low-impact and specialised tourism to the sites on a sustainable scale. This is seen as an opportunity not only to provide information about and access to the World Heritage Sites, but also to ensure their continued preservation from the funding provided by tourism income.



The Cathedral A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1978

In 786, Charlemagne began construction of the Church of St. Mary, a chapel for his imperial palace, in the city that is now Aachen. His vision was to build a 'new Rome'.

He was laying the foundations of one of the most important buildings in Europe. The Cathedral in Aachen, which over its 1000-year history has grown up around Charlemagne's church to become the building we see today. The single nave choir was consecrated on the 600th anniversary of Charlemagne's death. The bold architecture of the 'Glass House' of Aachen is as impressive now as it was then. In the 600 years from 936 to 1531, 30 German kings were crowned in Aachen Cathedral. It has lost none of the splendour of its past. Its outstanding importance was underlined in 1978 when it was the first ensemble with architectural and historical

significance in Germany to be included in the UNESCO list of world heritage sites.

→ Our tip:

Use the 'Aachen vielfältig [Many sides of Aachen]' package to explore Emperor Charlemagne's city and the Cathedral with its treasures.

For more information go to:
www.aachen-pauschalen.de

Information & booking

aachen tourist service e.v.

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The Fagus Factory

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2011

Construction of the Fagus Factory began under Walter Gropius, the leading architect of the Bauhaus movement, in 1911. It is considered throughout the world to be one of the first buildings of the Modernist era.

Gropius succeeded in endowing a medium-sized business with a quite unfamiliar, untraditional appearance. Two of the trademarks of the New Building movement are the glass and steel façade and the unsupported, fully glazed corners which lend the buildings a weightless elegance. The functionalistic industrial complex was constructed in three stages from 1911 to 1925. 100 years later, the timeless factory building, which has protected monument status, continues to fulfil its original purpose and is now considered a leading example of the industrial culture of the 20th century. Production at this still functioning monument, which includes

the manufacture of Fagus shoe lasts, has continued uninterrupted to the present day since the foundation of the company by the visionary entrepreneur Carl Benscheidt. Fagus is the Latin word for beech and used to be the material most used for shoe lasts.

→ Our tip:

Take a tour to explore this enduring monument and visit the exhibition about Gropius and the Fagus Factory in the former warehouse. Carefully chosen events, such as concerts and art exhibitions, guarantee a perfect cultural experience in these very special surroundings.

Information & booking

Fagus-GreCon

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Website: www.fagus-grecon.de



Old Town

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1993

This city, the seat of bishops and emperors throughout its 1000-year history, stands on 7 hills at the heart of the Franconian cultural landscape.

Its founder and patron Emperor Heinrich II (died 1024) elevated Bamberg to the centre of the Holy Roman Empire and made it his capital. Its appearance is defined by exceptional buildings such as the Cathedral, the Old Town Hall, the New Palace and St Michael's Monastery and by the River Regnitz. Its many watercourses and bridges contribute to the romantic atmosphere that pervades the town. Bamberg is essentially a city of the Baroque, although it has not lost its mediaeval structure. Almost untouched by wars, it today represents the largest coherent ensemble of buildings in a historic city centre in Germany. Uniquely, it is divided into three very different and also extremely lively districts: Bergstadt, Inselstadt and Gärtnerstadt, which are demarcated by the course of the Regnitz. Bamberg is a living city of culture which appeals to its visitors on every level. The combination

of original buildings, the continuing existence of the mediaeval structure and the pleasing harmony of town, landscape and river make Bamberg a worthy recipient of world heritage status.

→ Our tip:

Find out about the history of Bamberg in an entertaining performance by the **Theater der Schatten**, the Theatre of Shadows, or immerse yourself in Bamberg's rich beer culture on a **BierSchmecker®Tour**, a beer-tasting tour. You can enjoy some outstanding classical music at concerts with the **Bamberg Symphony Orchestra**.

Information & booking

BAMBERG Tourismus & Kongress Service

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Website: www.bamberg.info





The Margravial Opera House

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2012

The Margravial Opera House in Bayreuth is considered a masterpiece of 18th century baroque theatre architecture.

Visitors find themselves almost overwhelmed by the colourful splendour of its interior. Built from 1744-1748 by Giuseppe Galli Bibiena and his son Carlo, the leading theatre architects of their time, it is the most beautiful baroque theatre still in existence in Europe. In 1744, Wilhelmine, Marchioness of Bayreuth and sister of the Prussian king Frederick the Great, engaged them to provide the interior architecture for her newly built opera house. Today, the Margravial Opera House in Bayreuth is still considered their most spectacular work, an unparalleled masterpiece of late Italian Baroque. Even in the 18th century the Opera House in Bayreuth was considered out of the ordinary. The interior is not rendered from stone and marble but only from wood; even the columns were made of wood to improve the acoustic and covered with paper

painted to look like marble. The Opera House is currently closed for restoration, but visitors can view a small section and take in an exhibition about the Opera House from May 2013.

→ Our tip:

Visit the Margravial Opera House during the **Bayreuther Residenztage Festival** in September. This is a series of events which will introduce you to interesting, exciting and amusing aspects of other historic buildings built in and around Bayreuth by the ruling family, such as the New Palace, the Hermitage and the Fantaisie Palace.

Information

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 Website: www.bayreuth-tourismus.de



The Museum Island A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1999

Lying between the River Spree and the Kupfergraben, the Museum Island contains masterpieces spanning 6000 years of the history of mankind.

The period from 1830-1930 saw the development of an outstanding architectural ensemble occupying less than 1 square kilometre on an island in the River Spree. This ensemble was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999. It began in 1830 with the completion of the Old Museum, which was designed by Karl Friedrich Schinkel. In 1841 his pupil, Friedrich August Stüler, produced the first designs for the development of the whole Museum Island; they were used in 1859 to build the New Museum and in 1876 the Old National Gallery. The Kaiser Friedrich Museum (today the Bode Museum) was opened in 1904. The opening of the Pergamon Museum in 1930 concluded construction work on the Museum Island for a time. Almost 70% of the museum buildings were destroyed in the Second World War. Under the 'Museum Island Master Plan', the historical buildings are being renovated and modern structures added. A closer thematic link between the collections is being established to create a comprehensive overview of western culture. With the open-

ing of the splendidly restored New Museum in October 2009, all five museums on the island are now open again for the first time since they were closed due to war damage. The Old National Gallery had already opened to the public in 2001, the Bode Museum in 2006 with the Colonnades following in 2010.

→ Our tip:

The cultural mecca of Berlin offers over **170 museums and 1500 events** every day. They make up a broad mix of serious culture, entertainment, avant-garde and the latest trends.

The **'Long Night of the Museums'** in mid-March and at the end of August featuring concerts, theatre and special guided tours into the early hours is a major fixture in the calendar of cultural events in Berlin and can always be relied upon to open up new areas and perspectives.

There are **tourist information** centres at the main railway station, at Brandenburg Gate and at Neues Kranzler Eck (Kurfürstendamm). For opening times and addresses, go to www.visitBerlin.de

Information & booking

Berlin Tourismus & Kongress GmbH

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10785 Berlin

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Website: www.visitBerlin.de

Modernism Housing Estates

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2008

The Modernism Housing Estates in Berlin represent the artistic and social vision of a new type of urban and housing development.

These flats were affordable, efficiently laid out and equipped with modern facilities, a kitchen, a bathroom and balcony. They were situated in buildings without courtyards and side wings and were intended to alleviate the housing shortage of the early 20th century and provide a better standard of living for poorer people.

- **Falkenberg Garden City** (Treptow), 1913–15
 - **Schillerpark Estate** (Wedding), 1924–30
 - **Britz Estate** – the ‘Horseshoe Estate’ (Neukölln), 1925–31
 - **Carl Legien Residential Estate** (Prenzlauer Berg), 1928–30
 - **Weißer Stadt Estate** (Reinickendorf), 1929–31
 - **Siemensstadt Estate** (Charlottenburg and Spandau), 1929–31
- The ‘Gartenstadt Falkenberg und Schillerpark Siedlung der Berliner Moderne’ foundation

promotes the heritage and preservation of two estates: the Falkenberg Garden City and the Schillerpark Estate. The foundation is a member of the German UNESCO World Heritage Sites Association through which it has regular dialogue with other UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Germany (www.welterbe-berlin.de).

→ Our tip:

Combine a guided tour of the estates with a visit to the **Bauhaus Archive Museum of Design** in Berlin.

There are **tourist information** centres at the main railway station, at Brandenburg Gate and at Neues Kranzler Eck (Kurfürstendamm).

For opening times and addresses, go to www.visitBerlin.de

Information & booking

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 Am Karlsbad 11
 10785 Berlin
 Tel.: +49 (0)30-25 00 25
 Website: www.visitBerlin.de



Town Hall and Roland Statue in the Market Square

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2004

The justification for the inclusion of the **Town Hall in Bremen in the list of world heritage sites specifically emphasises that it is 'an outstanding example of late Renaissance architecture in Northern Germany, a period called the Weser Renaissance'.**

The building has remained almost unchanged for 600 years. The two large and magnificent Gothic halls which lie one above the other, still represent Bremen's political importance as a free Hanseatic city. UNESCO experts describe the Roland statue as 'one of the most representative and oldest of the Roland statues which were erected as symbols of freedom and market rights'. Bremen's Roland statue does indeed embody the ideal of liberty. 'I manifest your freedom' says the inscription on the shield of the stone statue, which was erected in 1404. As long as that inscription remains, say the local people, Bremen will stay free. The Town Hall and the Roland statue in Bremen bear unique witness to the civic autonomy and sovereignty which developed during the Holy Roman Empire.

→ Our tip:

With over 170 festively decorated stalls set up around the Town Hall and the Roland statue, the **Christmas market** in Bremen is perfect for a leisurely stroll.

In September, the city reveals a musical side during the **Bremen Music Festival**. The opening, 'Eine große Nachtmusik' event features concerts in various parts of the Market Square, which is transformed into a vibrant piazza with atmospheric lighting and delicious food and drink.

Information & booking

Bremer Touristik-Zentrale

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28215 Bremen
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Email: info@bremen-tourism.de
Website: www.bremen-tourism.de

Tourist Information in Bremen:

Obernstraße/Liebfrauenkirchhof
and at main railway station



The Castles of Augustusburg and Falkenlust

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1984

The Augustusburg and Falkenlust Castles and their gardens in Brühl have been included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites as a fine example of German rococo architecture. They are now museums and open to the public.

→ Our tip:

There are plenty of events at Castle Augustusburg and at Falkenlust, including a range of **themed guided tours** of both buildings and their gardens that illustrate many aspects of life at an 18th century court.

The **Brühl Castle Concerts** are international performances of classical music that take place from May to September against the backdrop of the famous Grand Staircase.

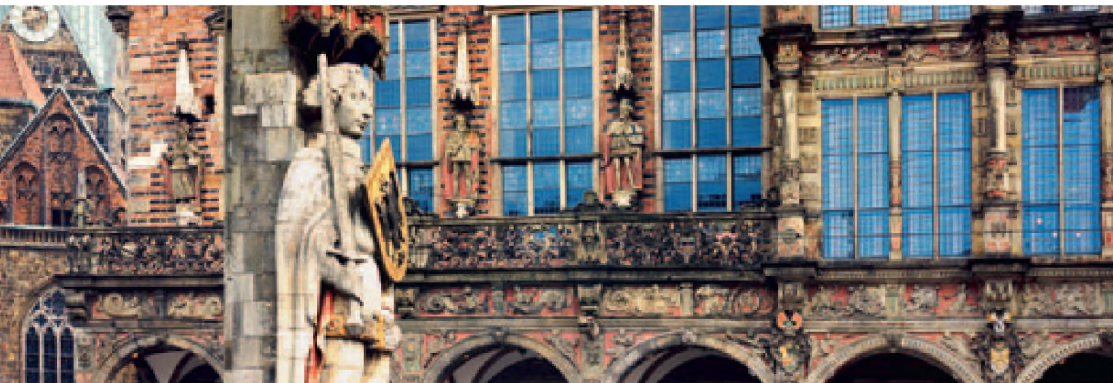
Work on Castle Augustusburg, the favourite residence of Clemens August of Bavaria, Elector and Archbishop of Cologne (1700–1761), began in 1725 under the Westphalian architect Johann Conrad Schlaun. From 1728 until 1768, it was transformed into an imposing palace under the guidance of the Bavarian court architect François de Cuvilliers. The famous Grand Staircase which until 1996 was still used for official receptions by the German President was designed by Balthasar Neumann. The baroque gardens were created by Dominique Girard and modelled on French designs. Falkenlust, a small summer residence and hunting lodge, was also built by Cuvilliers in a relatively short time (1729–37). It is one of the most intimate and exquisite creations of the German Rococo period.

Information & booking

Service Telefon: +49 (0)2232-44 000

Brühl Info

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Website: www.schlossbruehl.de,
www.bruehl.de



The Ancient Beech Forests of Germany

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2011

These most precious forests of European Beech in Germany are located in five nature reserves.

They represent different types of beech forest from the coast to the Central German Uplands. With six primeval forests in Ukraine and four in Slovakia, they form the 'Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany' World Heritage Site. Germany lies at the heart of the European Beech Forest. The European beech grows only in Europe and was the original natural vegetation of Germany. Today contiguous areas of ancient beech forests are valuable and to be treasured. More than 10,000 species of plants, animals and fungi can be found in these forests. These spectacular landscapes help visitors to understand how Germany would appear in the absence of human intervention. Marked hiking routes and paths invite visitors to undertake unforgettable journeys of discovery. For more information, go to www.weltnaturerbe-buchenwaelder.de.

→ Our tip:

The **National Park Visitor Centre at KÖNIGSSTUHL** with an interactive exhibition; **Müritzeum** – the Nature Discovery Centre for the Mecklenburg Lake District; **NABU Nature Discovery Centre** for the Blumberger Mill, the **National Park Visitor Centre** at Thiemsburg with exhibition and tree-top walk; Interactive exhibition with 4-D sensory cinema in the **Kellerwald National Park Visitor Centre**.

Information & booking

Nationalpark-Zentrum KÖNIGSSTUHL,
www.koenigsstuhl.com

Tourismusverband Mecklenburgische Seenplatte e.V.,
www.mecklenburgische-seenplatte.de

NABU-Informationszentrum Blumberger Mühle,
www.blumberger-muehle.de

Tourismusverband Hainichland, www.hainichland.de
Edersee Touristic GmbH, www.edersee.com





The Bauhaus Sites A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1996

The Bauhaus movement was founded in 1919 in Weimar under the leadership of Walter Gropius and signalled a design revolution.

Henry van de Velde, the designer, architect and consummate Bauhaus pioneer, created the ideal conditions in which the movement could develop. His buildings in Weimar – the former Art College and the School of Arts and Crafts – were the original home of the Bauhaus movement and now enjoy UNESCO World Heritage status. The model house called Am Horn built by Georg Muche in 1923 for the great Bauhaus Exhibition bears eloquent testimony to the artists' revolutionary ideas and is also part of Weimar's UNESCO World Heritage. In 1925, the Bauhaus school moved to Dessau and In 1926, the Bauhaus building designed by Walter Gropius was inaugurated. It is still considered a groundbreaking example of modern architecture of the early 20th century. The houses for the families of the 'Masters' – Gropius, Moholy-Nagy, Feininger, Muche, Schlemmer, Kandinsky and Klee – were built at the same time. The Bauhaus building, which is today the headquarters of the Bauhaus Dessau foundation, and the Masters' houses are open to visitors.

→ Our tip:

The **Bauhaus Museum** and its collections and the Bauhaus walking tour with students from the Bauhaus University. Trace the early Bauhaus movement through historic locations and discover the past and the present of the Bauhaus artists in Weimar. www.weimar.de

The **Kurt Weill Festival** is held every year at the beginning of March in Dessau. Famous international singers, musicians and actors perform at some 40 events in various venues around the town.

Following in the tradition of the Dessau Bauhaus festivals of the 1920s, the **Colour Festival** at the beginning of September starts with an evening parade to the Bauhaus where celebrations continue throughout the night. A different colour is chosen every year as the theme for activities and guests. www.bauhaus-dessau.de

Information & booking

Tourist-Information Weimar

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Tourist-Information Dessau-Roßlau

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Website: www.dessau-rosslau-tourismus.de

The Garden Kingdom

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000

The Garden Kingdom was created by Prince Leopold III Friedrich Franz von Anhalt-Dessau (1740-1817) whose many reforms were aimed at fostering a harmonious interaction of man, nature and art.

He created the Garden Kingdom in a landscape of rivers, wet woodlands and broad meadows. Palaces, gardens, avenues, small buildings, bridges and other structures blend in with the natural surroundings so that the whole area acquires the character of a park of infinite dimensions. Around the outskirts of Dessau lie the neo-classical Luisium Palace with its gardens in the English style, the rococo ensemble of Mosigkau, the Großkühnau country park and the Georgium Palace which houses the House of Anhalt's collection of paintings. They form a single unit with the baroque ensemble comprising the Oranienbaum town, palace and park and the most important part of the Garden Kingdom – Wörlitz Park and Wörlitz Palace.

→ Our tip:

Every year on **Garden Kingdom Day** at the beginning of August, numerous events are staged in all the parks; visitors are encouraged to move from one to another and experience the Garden Kingdom as a whole. Sophisticated and entertaining events are held under the umbrella of the Garden Kingdom Summer Festival in the parks and palaces of the Garden Kingdom.

The **lakeside concerts** held in Wörlitz Park from May to August are a special tradition.

Information & booking

Touristinformation Dessau-Roßlau

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Email: touristinfo@dessau-rosslau.de

Website: www.dessau-rosslau-tourismus.de

www.gartenreich.com





Wartburg Castle A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1999

Wartburg Castle is one of the best-preserved mediaeval castles in Germany. First built in 1067, it developed into an extensive fortress complex over the course of centuries.

Wartburg Castle is one of the best-preserved mediaeval castles in Germany. First built in 1067, it developed into an extensive fortress complex over the course of centuries, with Romanesque, Gothic and 19th century architectural structures. Like a book, the Romanesque Great Hall illustrates 900 years of history: courtly art from the Middle Ages, the life and deeds of St. Elizabeth, Martin Luther's translation of the New Testament and the symbolism of the Castle as a place in which to commemorate German integration and unity. Today, the art treasures, mediaeval tapestries, the 'Dürer cupboard', paintings by Lucas Cranach the Elder, a probably unique collection of cutlery and European arts and crafts from the 11th to the 19th century attract large numbers of

visitors to Wartburg Castle, which can offer a delightful experience in a fabulous landscape at any time of year.

→ Our tip:

The romantic atmosphere of the Castle makes it a perfect place to enjoy concerts in the ceremonial hall from May to October and at the **'Summer Nights'** events.

A popular traditional **Christmas market** is held on the weekends during Advent.

Information & booking

Wartburg-Stiftung

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Luther Memorials

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1996

Visitors to Eisleben and Wittenberg can still sense the atmosphere of the Reformation and the Renaissance.

Martin Luther was born in Eisleben and he also died there. A tour of the town's old quarter reveals the historic market square with its splendid town-houses, the Luther statue and the old Town Hall. It leads to the house where Luther was born, to the church of St. Peter and St Paul where he was baptised, the Church of St. Andrew with the original pulpit from which he preached, to the Church of St. Anne with the only stone-carved biblical scenes in Europe and to the house where he died, which is now a museum commemorating his death on 18th February 1546. A stroll through the historic centre of Wittenberg brings visitors to the Castle chapel with the world-famous door where Luther nailed up his theses and in which he and Melanchthon are buried, to Cranach the painter's courtyards, to the Town Church with its striking Cranach Altar and to Luther's and Melanchthon's houses. From the end of the 15th century, Wittenberg was the seat of the Elector Frederick the Wise. His astute politics, the university founded in 1502 and the influence of Luther and other Reformers combined to make it a leading centre of religious and cultural life in Europe. From 1511, Martin Luther lived as a monk and a teacher in the Augustinian monastery in the town. Following his marriage in 1525,

he received the building as a gift. His living room remains as it was when he was alive and can be seen in the world's largest museum of the history of the Reformation, the Luther House in Wittenberg.

→ Our tip:

Eisleben 2nd weekend in June: Luther Festival on the historic Market Square, last weekend in August: Luther tour with many activities; 3rd weekend in September: the 'Eisleber Wiese' – the biggest traditional funfair and beer festival in central Germany; December: Advent in Luther's courtyards

Wittenberg Luther's wedding – a festival to celebrate Luther's marriage to Katharina v. Bora takes place on the 2nd weekend in June; Wittenberger Pottery Market in September – the largest pottery market in central Germany; Wittenberg Festival of Renaissance Music in October; Reformation Festival – Festival of sacred and secular music to celebrate Reformation Day on 31st October

Information & booking

Tourist-Information Lutherstadt Eisleben und Stadt Mansfeld e.V

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Tourist-Information Lutherstadt Wittenberg

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Email: info@lutherstadt-wittenberg.de
Website: www.lutherstadt-wittenberg.de

Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2001

While it was still in operation, the Zollverein colliery and coking plant in Essen, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was considered one of the largest and most modern in the world.

Constructed by the architects Fritz Schupp and Martin Kremmer in the New Objectivity style, mine shaft 12 represented a unique example of its kind. Today, the mine and the functionally integrated coking plant built adjacent to it by Fritz Schupp form a unique industrial landscape of international standing which also provides a lively venue for cultural events.

At the 'most beautiful colliery in the world' it is possible to appreciate the Modernist style of the 1920s and 1930s and trace the evolution of heavy industry. The ZOLLVEREIN® heritage trail takes in an open-cast mine in its original state and the 'black side' of the coking plant. Guided by experts, visitors can follow the route of the black gold from extraction from the mine to processing in the coking plant. The former coal handling plant, the largest building in the colliery, is now the RUHR.

VISITORCENTRE, the portal for industrial culture and the Ruhr Museum, the regional museum for the Ruhr area.

→ Our tip:

In Summer: **ExtraSchicht**, ('Late Shift') a long night of industrial culture, last weekend in September: **'Zechenfest'** (Miners' Gala) – music and theatre performances, live acts, children's activities, fireworks; all year: ZOLLVEREIN® heritage trail, guided tours of the Zollverein mine and coking plant; **Ruhr Museum** – culture, nature and history of the Ruhr; portal for industrial culture: a panorama of metropolitan Ruhr; **red dot design museum**: exhibition of contemporary design; **The Palace of Projects**: a palace of ideas and dreams, walk-in 'total installations' by Ilya and Emilia Kabakov; concerts, exhibitions and guided tours: www.zollverein.de

Information & booking

Besucherzentrum Zollverein

Halle 14, Schacht XII [A14]
Gelsenkirchener Str. 181, 45309 Essen
Tel.: +49 (0)201-24 68 10
Email: RUHRVISITORCENTER@zollverein.de
Website: www.zollverein.de



Rammelsberg Mines, Historic Town of Goslar and Upper Harz Water Management System

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1992, extended in 2010

One of the largest contiguous deposits of copper, lead and zinc ore in the world was once found in Rammelsberg on the outskirts of the historic town of Goslar.

What remains today is an outstanding ensemble of historic mining structures and a unique cultural landscape. Since mining ceased in 1988, the ore mines have become one of Germany's largest and most unusual museums. It provides engrossing insight into 850 years of mining and includes a mine accessible to visitors. Also part of the World Heritage Site is the historic centre of Goslar which was shaped by mining traditions and which offers cultural monuments such as the Town Hall with its 'Hall of Homage', numerous churches and imposing town houses to which it still owes its splendid appearance today. The Upper Harz Water Management System, the largest and most important system of ponds and ditches in the world, gained UNESCO World Heritage status in 2010. Construction started in the 16th century and for over 400 years it was a crucial supplier of energy to the mines. It comprises 107 ponds, 310 kilometres of ditches and 31 kilometres of underground water courses, many of which still channel water. On hiking

trails, in mines and in the Cistercian Museum at Walkenried Abbey, visitors to this special world heritage site can discover nature and culture in perfect harmony.

→ Our tip:

An adventure tour of the Rammelsberg mines through the Rathstiefsten tunnel, which dates from 1150: dark, yet full of colour; includes lunch underground.

Advance booking required; open daily

Information & booking

WELTKULTURERBE RAMMELSBERG

Museum & Besucherbergwerk

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Tel.: +49 (0)5321-75 00

Fax: +49 (0)5321-75 01 30

Email: info@rammelsberg.de

Website: www.rammelsberg.de

www.goslar.de/tourismus.htm

Das Oberharzer Bergwerksmuseum

Museum für Technik und Kulturgeschichte

Bornhardtstraße 16, 38678 Clausthal-Zellerfeld

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Fax: +49 (0)5323-98 95 69

Email: info@oberharzerbergwerksmuseum.de

Website: www.bergwerksmuseum.de

www.harzinfo.de





St. Michael's Church and the Cathedral

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1985

St. Michael's Church and the Cathedral of St. Mary are outstanding examples of early Romanesque architecture.

Both World Heritage churches symbolise the creative skill of Bishop Bernward (993-1022) and have retained a significant number of exceptional historic decorative features: the most impressive of these in St. Michael's is the painted wooden ceiling from the 13th century which depicts the Tree of Jesse. It is the only flat church ceiling in Germany and a fascinating example of monumental Romanesque painting. The spectacular cathedral treasure, the Column of Christ and the Bernward doors are characteristic of the Bernwardian period.

The Cathedral is being renovated for the anniversary of the diocese in 2015 and is therefore closed until August 2014. The important valuables, including the monumental bronzes, have been moved and can be seen elsewhere in Hildesheim until 2014. The Column of Christ, for example, which shows scenes from the New Testament, has been lent to the Church of St. Michael. The two Bernward doors which are almost five meters high, were similarly cast from one piece using new technology and

represented a previously unheard-of achievement at the time. They are currently displayed to full advantage in the Roemer and Pelizaeus Museum.

→ Our tip:

The **UNESCO World Heritage package** offers two nights in a 4-star hotel with breakfast buffet plus a guided tour of the UNESCO world heritage churches and a ticket for the Fagus Factory in Alfeld. Guided tours of the town covering the world heritage sites and themed on 'On the trail of Bishop Bernward'. Organ recitals in the churches with their incomparable acoustic are special events.

Other highlights: Jazz Time (Whitsun), Magdalen Festival (June), Marienrode Abbey Concert (July), Market Square Music Days (June to August), Farmers' Market (September), Christmas Market (November/December)

Service & booking

tourist-information Hildesheim

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Fax: +49 (0)5121-17 98 88

Email: tourist-info@hildesheim-marketing.de

Website: www.hildesheim.de/tourismus,

www.domsanierung.de

The Cathedral A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1996

Of all the major ecclesiastical buildings in the world, Cologne Cathedral, on which construction commenced in 1248, epitomises high-Gothic cathedral architecture in its purest and most perfect form. With over six million visitors annually, it is one of Germany's most popular tourist attractions.

The scale of Cologne Cathedral is evident from its two mighty towers. Completed in 1880, they dominate the city and the surrounding area like no other building. At the time of its completion in the 19th century, the Cathedral was the largest building in the world. The design of the west front ignored all previous conventions; larger than the façade of any other church in the world, said to be around 7000 square meters, it is flanked by two huge towers each rising to a height of 157 meters. The Cathedral has a wealth of important works of art: the stained glass windows that fill the space with a mysterious light, the Gero cross (around 980 AD), the

oldest known large-scale sculpture in the western world, the shrine housing the relics of the Three Kings (1190-1225), an outstanding work of Rhenish goldsmithery and the altar celebrating the patron saints of Cologne (around 1440) by Stefan Lochner, the masterpiece of the Cologne School.

→ Our tip:

Once a month from September to June, well-known **guest choirs** or the Cathedral's own choirs sing in front of the Three Kings Shrine between the choir screens.

There are **organ recitals** in the Cathedral every Tuesday during the summer months.

Information

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50667 Köln

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Website: www.koelntourismus.de





The Upper Germanic-Rhaetian Limes – Frontiers of the Roman Empire

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2005

The Limes, an ancient fortified boundary wall, is one of the most exceptional archaeological monuments in Central Europe and also a reminder of Roman civilisation and culture of 2000 years ago.

The Limes runs from Bad Hönningen/Rheinbrohl on the Rhine to the Regensburg area on the River Danube. Along its 550 kilometres, there are preserved Roman remains, reconstructions, excavations and replicas. The German Limes Road has become one of the most-travelled tourist routes in Germany and links over 93 towns, villages and districts along its length. In some places it is still possible to make out the unwavering course of the Limes as it passes through forests and fields. Visitors travelling on the 800 kilometre hiking and cycling route will encounter widely varied landscapes and many sights and historic monuments from eras other than that of the Romans. There are special signposts and information

boards indicating particular monuments and information offices. Imposing views and fascinating insights into the Roman past of the area are easily combined with rest and relaxation in the outstandingly beautiful and varied landscapes of the Roman border regions.

→ Our tip:

Roman Festivals, guided tours of Roman sites and guided hikes, special exhibitions, family and activity days. A wide programme of events in the towns and villages along the Limes. Information at: www.limesstrasse.de

Information

Verein Deutsche Limes-Straße
St.-Johann-Straße 5
73430 Aalen
Tel.: +49 (0)7361-52 82 87 23
Fax: +49 (0)7361-52 82 87 10
Email: limesstrasse@aalen.de
Website: www.limesstrasse.de

Benedictine Abbey and Altmünster Monastery

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1991



The famous Carolingian Gate Hall or 'King's Hall' in Lorsch is one of Germany's most important pre-Romanesque architectural relics.

Neither the exact time of the construction nor the original function of the building is known but the magnificent decorations on its façade and on the upper floor give an indication of the quality of other magnificent buildings that have been lost at Lorsch, one of the largest and most important abbeys in central Europe. Founded around 764, the Abbey survived until the Reformation (1557). It has been almost completely destroyed since the Thirty Years' War. At one time, it owned estates from the North Sea coast in what is now Holland all the way to Switzerland. Lorsch once housed a formidable library and was a centre of learning and teaching in the

Middle Ages. One of its best-known manuscripts is the Lorsch pharmacopoeia, which can be seen as marking the beginning of modern medicine in post-antiquity Europe.

→ Our tip:

Close encounters with the Middle Ages: Lorsch offers educational activities in its museums for schools and families throughout the year.

Guided tours & information

Verwaltung der Staatlichen Schlösser und Gärten Hessen

Nibelungenstraße 32

64653 Lorsch

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Fax: +49 (0) 6251-58 71 40

Email: info@kloster-lorsch.de

Website: www.kloster-lorsch.de

Historic City Centre

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1987

Lübeck, the Queen of the Hanseatic League, was founded in 1143 as 'the first western city on the Baltic coast'.

Today, it is characterised by a mediaeval atmosphere and by cultural and historical attractions which hark back to its glorious past as a free imperial and Hanseatic city. The historic centre which is completely surrounded by water is one of the foremost examples of brick Gothic architecture. The towers of 7 churches have dominated the skyline since mediaeval times. The Holstentor (the Holsten Gate) is Lübeck's landmark and recognised all over the world. The Buddenbrooks House, one of Lübeck's many splendid town houses, is a memorial to the Nobel Laureate, Thomas Mann, who was born in Lübeck. The Günter Grass House and the Willy Brandt House commemorate the life and work of two other Nobel Laureates. A shopping trip in the narrow lanes of the old quarter reveals over 80 secluded mediaeval passageways and numerous courtyards. The European Hanse

Museum in Lübeck has a very effective exhibition on the fascinating world of the mediaeval merchants. And finally, the visit is not complete without a piece of delicious marzipan cake at Café Niederegger.

→ Our tip:

In December when the historic city centre is filled with festive aromas, a visit to the unique arts and craft market in the cells of the 14th century Hospital of the Holy Ghost is an unforgettable experience.

Information & booking

Welcome Center der Lübeck und Travemünde Marketing GmbH

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Fax: +49 (0)451-409 19 92

Email: info@luebeck-tourismus.de

Website: www.luebeck-tourismus.de



Monastery Complex

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1993

The Monastery Complex in Maulbronn is the best preserved of its kind north of the Alps.

Construction of the Cistercian abbey began in 1147 and its triple-naved basilica was consecrated in 1178. The narthex or portico, which was built around 1220 in a style characteristic of the transition from the Romanesque to the Gothic period, is a masterpiece of western architecture. In the separate monks' chancel, the 15th century choir stall with 92 seats, illustrates the size that the monastery had reached at that time. The resources required to supply and maintain a monastery on this scale are indicated by the farmyard with the adjacent agricultural land and by the sophisticated water system. They have both been preserved, along with the mediaeval cloisters. The monastery was dissolved during the Reformation and converted to a monastery school after 1556. It still exists in a different form within the

→ Our tip:

Special guided tours and tours tailored specifically for children can be arranged in addition to those taking place regularly for the general public. They all present a many-faceted view of monastery. **Concerts** at the Monastery, outdoor theatre and various markets such as the Herb and Harvest Market and the festive Christmas market are all well worth a visit.

Information & booking

Stadtverwaltung Maulbronn

Klosterhof 31, 75433 Maulbronn

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Fax: +49 (0)7043-103 45

Email: info@maulbronn.de

Website: www.maulbronn.de

Staatliche Schlösser und Gärten Baden-Württemberg

Infozentrum Kloster Maulbronn

Klosterhof 5, 75433 Maulbronn

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Fax: +49 (0)7043-92 66 11

Email: info@kloster-maulbronn.de

Website: www.kloster-maulbronn.de



Messel Pit Fossil Site

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1995



The Messel Pit, a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site since 1995, holds one of the richest deposits of mammal fossils in the world.

To date, geoscientists have unearthed approximately 50,000 individual finds from the former volcanic crater lake which formed around 47 million years ago. Notable finds include mammals such as prehistoric horses, fish, insects, reptiles, amphibians and plants. The preservation of full skeletons, impressions of skin and hair, unborn foetuses and stomach contents that reveal the animal's last meal is truly remarkable. Fascinating exhibits are displayed in museums in Darmstadt, Frankfurt am Main and Messel. The 'Time and Worlds of Messel' exhibition in the new visitor centre presents them in an innovative fashion. This window on our environment of 47 million years ago is situated approximately 10km east of Darmstadt in the forests of the Messel hills and is easily accessible from Frankfurt.

→ Our tip:

The 'Time and the Worlds of Messel' Visitor Centre is open all year round daily from 10am to 5pm, last admission at 4pm. It is also possible to enter the Visitor Centre without a guided tour.

The Messel Pit Fossil Site can only be visited as part of a **guided tour**. There are 1-hour tours to the Pit from April to October:
Sat/Sun and public holidays at 11am, 12.30pm, 2pm and 3.30pm. Please wear sturdy footwear and weatherproof clothing. Additional tours are available by arrangement

Information

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Email: service@welterbe-grube-messel.de

Website: www.grube-messel.de



Muskauer Park

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2004

Muskauer Park is an exceptional example of a landscaped park

It was laid out between 1815 and 1845 to plans drawn up by Hermann Fürst von Pückler-Muskau, a prince, landscape gardener and travel writer. Subsequent owners developed the park in accordance with von Pückler's original designs and substantially extended it. The park lies either side of the River Neisse, straddling the German-Polish border. It is spaciouly laid out over an area of approximately 830 hectares and offers broad vistas and different intensities of landscaping. As they walk through the park, visitors experience constantly changing three-dimensional images created with natural resources and the landscape. Thanks to the concerted efforts of German and Polish conservationists, this traditionally landscaped park has been fully renovated over recent years.

→ Our tip:

Visit both sides of the park on a **bicycle** (hire on site) or by horse-drawn carriage.

Event highlights:

Annual German-Polish Park Festival (end of May);
Open-air and Picnic event (beginning of July)
and the 'Kitchen Garden Festival' (September).
The 'Pückler! Catch him if you can!' Exhibition at
the New Palace and the Palace nursery (April to
October)

Information

Stiftung 'Fürst-Pückler-Park Bad Muskau'
Tourismszentrum Muskauer Park
Neues Schloss
02953 Bad Muskau
Tel.: +49 (0)35771-63 100
Fax: +49 (0)35771-63 109
Email: info@muskauer-park.de
Website: www.muskauer-park.de

Upper Middle Rhine Valley

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2002

In 2002, UNESCO inscribed the Upper Middle Rhine Valley, 'a cultural landscape of great diversity and beauty', on its list of World Heritage Sites.

Over a stretch of 65 kilometres, the Rhine cuts a spectacular course through the Rhenish Slate Range between Bingen, Rudesheim and Koblenz. With terraces covered in vines, towns and villages huddling on its narrow banks and castles strung like pearls high along its cliffs, the valley epitomises the romantic landscape of the Rhine. Always closely entwined with German destiny, the Rhine has transported cargo, influences and artistic ideas along with people of many races and nations. In particular, the sacred buildings along the river bear eloquent testimony to this.

→ Our tip:

World Heritage hosts: an alliance of certified hosts who enjoy sharing their enthusiasm for the Middle Rhine Valley with their guests. They offer regional specialities, local Riesling and well-appointed accommodation and are official ambassadors for the World Heritage Upper Middle Rhine Valley region.
www.welterbe-gastgeber.de

Information & booking

Rhein-Touristik Tal der Loreley

Loreley Besucherzentrum

56346 St. Goarshausen

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Email: info@tal-der-loreley.de

Website: www.tal-der-loreley.de, www.526-593.de,

www.welterbe-mittelrheintal.de



Wieskirche Pilgrimage Church

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983

The 'Pilgrimage Church of the Scourged Saviour' at the foot of the Alps is considered one of the most perfect examples of Bavarian rococo architecture.

It is one of the few 18th century churches to have been preserved in its original state and its stunning interior is a celebrated icon of art history. The church was built between 1745 and 1754 by Dominikus Zimmermann who worked with the best artists of the age to create an undisputed masterpiece of specifically Bavarian rococo architecture. After tears were seen on the statue of the Flagellated Christ on 14 June 1738, the Wieskirche rapidly became the most important place of pilgrimage of the 18th century. The church stands on a small hill surrounded by meadows and can be seen from some distance away. The theme of pilgrimage with its preoccupation with suffering, penance and salvation determines the architecture and decoration of the church. Every detail of the

magnificent but never ostentatious decoration serves to create a harmonious visual impression; the Wieskirche brings architecture, imagery and stucco together into a whole greater than its parts, a work of art as a framework with which to adorn the holy statue.

→ Our tip:

A musical treat – from May to September the Wieskirche is the venue for performances of music from the Baroque to the Late Romantic. The new organ, which was inaugurated in 2010, makes the events even more memorable. Themed guided tours in and around the church take place every Friday

Information & booking

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86956 Schongau

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Website: www.pfaffen-winkel.de





Prehistoric Pile Dwellings Around the Alps

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2011

The Prehistoric Pile Dwellings Around the Alps World Heritage Site is made up of 11 pile-dwelling settlements. A total of approximately 900 such settlements are known to exist throughout six Alpine countries: Switzerland, Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Slovenia.

Prehistoric pile dwellings are among the most important sources of evidence for early human history from 5000 to 500 B.C. The sites lie protected from the air in shallow water in lakes in the foothills of the Alps, by the banks of rivers and in wetland areas. The extraordinary abundance of finds and the excellent conditions for the preservation of organic materials such as wood, textiles and plant remains make it possible to glimpse the fascinating world of the early agrarian societies of Europe. Detailed information about everyday life, farming, animal husbandry and technical innovation has been acquired from scientific analyses. Dendrochronological dating has made the accurate reconstruction of the development of whole villages possible. In Germany, 18 sites are protected by UNESCO, of which 3 are located in Bavaria and 15 in Baden-

Württemberg. They can be found in the shallow waters of Lake Constance and of Starnberger Lake and in the silted areas of the Federsee, in small lakes and moors in Upper Swabia and in river valleys.

→ Our tip:

The World Heritage Sites are not visible on the surface nor are they accessible. Original finds can be seen in museums and the dwellings have been reconstructed in open-air museums to illustrate the results of archaeological research into the Neolithic Age and the early Metal Ages (such as the Federsee Museum in Bad Buchau, the Archaeological Museum in Konstanz, the Pile Dwelling Museum in Unteruhldingen, and the South Swabia Museum of Archaeology in Mindelheim).

Information

Pfahlbauten-Informationszentrum Baden-Württemberg, Landesamt für Denkmalpflege

Fischersteig 9, 78343 Gaienhofen-Hemmenhofen

Tel.: +49 (0)7735-93 77 71 18

Email: pfahlbauten@rps.bwl.de

Website: www.unesco-weltkulturerbe-pfahlbauten.de

Cross border information: www.palafittes.org

Prussian Palaces and Parks

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1990

Sanssouci – the Prussian Arcadia:
**an outstanding example of architectural
and landscape design**

The parks and gardens created over centuries under Prussian electors, kings and emperors form an ensemble without parallel. Great architects, famous artists and landscape designers have left their mark on the important gardens and numerous buildings which are linked with diverse paths and views into an artistic synthesis.

The Potsdam and Berlin World Heritage Site encompasses Sanssouci Park, the New Garden, the parks and palaces of Babelsberg und Glienicke, Klein-Glienicke village, Glienicke hunting lodge, Peacock Island, Sacrow Palace and Park with the Saviour's Church and many other areas. In Potsdam, such as Pfingstberg Hill, Lindstedt Palace, the Russian colony Alexandrowka and the Bornstedt Crown Estate.

→ Our tip:

April: Tulip Festival in the Dutch quarter

June: Potsdam Sanssouci Music Festival

July: Le Carrousel de Sanssouci

August: Potsdam Palace Night with a special concert on the evening before the event

September: Pottery Market in the Dutch quarter

October: 'Sanssouci Festival of Light'

November and December: 'Festival of Blue Lights' –

Potsdam Christmas Market, Bohemian Christmas

Market in Babelsberg, 'Star Market' in Kutschallhof,

'Romantic Christmas Market' at Bornstedt Crown

Estate, Sinterklaas Fest in the Dutch quarter

For more events go to www.events-in-potsdam.de

www.events-in-potsdam.de

Information & booking

Tourist-Information des Potsdam Tourismus Service

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im Potsdamer Hauptbahnhof
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Email: tourismus-service@potsdam.de

Website: www.potsdamtourismus.de

www.potsdam-tourism.com





Old Town with Burgberg, St. Wigbert's Church and Münzenberg

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1994

The former imperial palace on the Romanesque Route is one of the most important historical sites in Germany.

The main attraction is the town itself. Over 1300 half-timbered houses built over 8 centuries and the historical layout make it an exceptional example of a well-preserved mediaeval town. One of the oldest half-timbered buildings, built around 1340, houses the Museum of mediaeval Architecture. The Collegiate Church of St. Servatius, which contains the tombs of the first German King, Heinrich I, and his wife Mathilde as well as the famous Cathedral treasures, is a Romanesque masterpiece. In an imperial document dating from the 10th century, Quedlinburg is named the 'capital of the empire'. Under Heinrich I and his Ottonian successors, the town became a centre for European politics, educa-

tion and culture. The Lyonel Feininger Gallery, which holds Europe's largest collection of works by the artist, is well worth a visit.

→ Our tip:

The traditional Quedlinburg Summer of Music Festival has taken place for the last 30 years, from Whitsun to September, performances of classical music by well-known musicians in the Collegiate Church are events to remember.

Information & booking

Quedlinburg Tourismus Marketing GmbH
 Markt 4
 06484 Quedlinburg
 Tel.: +49 (0)3946-90 56 24
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 Email: qtm@quedlinburg.de
 Website: www.quedlinburg.de
www.adventsstadt.de

Old Town with Stadtamhof

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2006



The 2000 year-old Roman town of Regensburg at the most northern point of the Danube is known for the numerous outstanding Romanesque and Gothic buildings in its historic city centre, which survived the Second World War almost completely unscathed.

No other town in Central Europe still has architecture which so vividly reflects the significant political, economic and religious developments of the High Middle Ages. A walk through the twisting alleyways of the pedestrian zone in the historic city centre will lead past the most important monuments in the town, such as the Cathedral, the Town Hall, the inner courtyards and chapels of the mediaeval town houses, the Palace of the Dukes of Thurn and Taxis and the Romanesque and Gothic churches and monasteries. The centuries-old Stone Bridge was a prime example of mediaeval European bridge-building and forms a picturesque backdrop to a sightseeing trip. The view of almost 20 complete towers, the colourful houses and numerous street cafes conjures up a Mediterranean atmosphere, making it easy to understand why

Regensburg on the Danube is also known as the 'most northern town in Italy'.

→ Our tip:

Sundays and public holidays at 10am:

Chapter mass in St. Peter's Cathedral with music from the Regensburger Domspatzen choir

Whitsun: Festival of Early Music

June / July: Regensburg Spectaculum, mediaeval market on Jahn Island

July: Thurn and Taxis Palace Festival – concerts and theatre in the palace courtyard

December: Christmas concerts by the Regensburger Domspatzen choir in the Auditorium Maximum of the University

All year round: daily guided tours of the town for individuals and groups and/or UNESCO Visitor Centre in the Salzstadel by the Stone Bridge

Information & booking

Regensburg Tourismus GmbH

Roter Herzfleck 2 / Rathausplatz 4

93047 Regensburg

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Email: tourismus@regensburg.de

Website: www.regensburg.de

The Monastic Island of Reichenau

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000

The cultural landscape on the island of Reichenau in Lake Constance is an outstanding example of the religious and cultural role played by a large Benedictine monastery in the Middle Ages.

The itinerant Bishop Pirmin founded a Benedictine monastery on the island in 724. An imperial monastery, from the 8th to the 11th century it became a spiritual centre of the western world. The monastery produced outstanding theologians, politicians, scientists, poets and musicians. It was also famous for its library and for goldsmithery. The 'Reichenau School of Art' had a strong influence on the illumination of manuscripts and on mural painting. The three Romanesque churches on the island are well-preserved and superb examples of monastic architecture of this time: the carefully restored murals still illustrate the special position Reichenau enjoyed

as an artistic centre with its huge significance for the history of art in Europe in the 10th and 11th centuries.

→ Our tip:

In a tradition many centuries old, three church festivals are celebrated with a procession across the island – the Festival of St. Mark on 25th April; the Festival of the Holy Blood on the Monday after Trinity Sunday; Assumption of our Lady on 15th August.

Information & booking

Tourist-Information Reichenau

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Email: info@reichenau-tourismus.de

Website: www.reichenau.de



The Cathedral

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1981

Speyer is known for its magnificent Romanesque imperial cathedral, which can be seen for miles around.

Built by emperors and chosen by them to be their final resting place, it stands as a symbol of their power. Construction of the church started around 1030 under the Salian Emperor Konrad II and it was consecrated in 1061. Laid out in the form of a Latin cross, the imperial cathedral in Speyer is one of Germany's largest and most important Romanesque buildings. The Salian Emperors chose it as their burial site. With three huge aisles, the vaulted basilica completes a design which exerted considerable influence on the development of Romanesque architecture in the 11th and 12th centuries. The Cathedral is notable for its balanced dimensions to the East

and the West and the symmetrical arrangement of four towers on the corners of the section formed by the nave and the transept.

→ Our tip:

The **Speyer Cathedral International Music Festival** takes place from September to October; it is a wonderful festival with works for choirs, orchestras and the organ.

Information & booking

Tourist-Information Speyer

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Website: www.speyer.de



Historical Centres

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2002



The historic centres of Stralsund and Wismar are typical examples of established Hanseatic towns built when the trading alliance flourished in the 14th century.

Both towns have retained the mediaeval layout of their centres and testify to the establishment of maritime trading towns under Lübeck law. The surviving buildings include many outstanding monuments and document vividly the political importance and extraordinary wealth enjoyed by the towns on the Baltic during the Middle Ages. Wismar is the only Hanseatic town of this size in the southern part of the Baltic to have remained almost intact. Stralsund's unique position on an island between Strela Sound and lakes dammed in the 13th century underlines its mediaeval character. A group of six monumental brick churches forms a unique cross-section through the famous ecclesiastical architecture of both Hanseatic towns.

→ Our tip:

In **June** during the Harbour Festival, visitors can sail out into the Bay of Wismar on tall ships such as the schooner 'Atalanta' and the replica of the 'Poeler Kogge'. Every year in **August**, Wismar commemorates its time under Swedish rule with a 'Sweden Festival'. Every **July**, Stralsund puts on the Wallenstein mediaeval spectacle and every 1st Saturday in September is 'Open Monument Night' in the historic centre.

Information & booking

Tourismuszentrale der Hansestadt Stralsund

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18439 Stralsund
Tel.: +49 (0)3831-24 69 0
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Email: info@stralsundtourismus.de
Website: www.stralsundtourismus.de

Tourist-Information Wismar

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23966pf Wismar
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Fax: +49 (0)3841-251 30 91
Email: touristinfo@wismar.de
Website: www.wismar.de



Roman Monuments, Cathedral of St. Peter and Church of Our Lady

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1986

ANTE ROMAM TREVERIS STETIT ANNIS MILLE TRECENTIS – ‘Trier stood one thousand and three hundred years before Rome’ claims the inscription on the Red House on the main market square.

Although this is a mediaeval invention, it has a historical basis. There were indeed settlements in the Trier valley in the 3rd century B.C. and Trier was the first town north of the Alps which could rightly be designated as such. Augusta Treverorum, which later became Trier, was founded around 17/16 B.C. by the Romans under Caesar Augustus close to a holy site of the Celtic Treveri tribe. Today, world-ranking architectural monuments and art treasures remain to testify to more than 2,000 years of history. However, the town is more than just a collection of antiquities: it is precisely the close juxtaposition of old and new that lends it its particular charm.

→ Our tip:

Interactive guided tours in Trier – Get close to history!

Trier’s many-faceted history with its politics, fame, treachery and power struggles can be experienced at close hand at this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Guests taking the interactive tours through Trier are guided through the Porta Nigra, the Amphitheatre and the Imperial Thermal Baths by a centurion, a gladiator and a tribune.
www.erlebnisuftueren.de

Information & booking

Tourist Information Trier

An der Porta Nigra

54290 Trier

Tel.: +49 (0)651-97 808 0

Fax: +49 (0)651-97 808 88

Email: info@trier-info.de

Website: www.trier-info.de, www.welterbe-trier.de

Völklingen Ironworks

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1994

The Völklingen Ironworks World Heritage is the only ironworks in the world remaining from the heyday of the iron and steel industry.

In 1994, this huge complex, which occupies an area of 600,000m², was the first industrial monument to be included in the list of World Heritage Sites and bears witness to a vanished industrial age. The former Völklingen Ironworks ceased operating in 1986 and was designated a protected monument. Today, it is an unusual visitor attraction which offers high-calibre cultural exhibitions and exciting projects. The enormous machines in the 60000m² blasting hall, the six blast furnaces, and the sloping ore lift, which was installed at the beginning of the 20th century and is the only example in the world, are exceptional feats of engineering. The charging platform, 240m long and just under 30m high, from which the furnaces were filled with coke and ore, is topped only by the 45m high viewing platform on the hot-blast stoves. The interesting and well-signposted tour along over 6000m of paths also leads to the 'Paradise' in the former

coking plant where industrial culture and nature enter into a dialogue.

→ Our tip:

March/April to the end of October: At the Ferro-drom® Science Center visitors can see how the raw materials and the iron were produced and transported and find out about the history of the works and what life was like for those who worked there. The exhibition includes over 100 interactive hands-on elements and experiments.

Information & booking

Weltkulturerbe Völklinger Hütte – aktuelle Ausstellungen, Veranstaltungen und Projekte:
www.voelklinger-huette.org,
 Gruppenbuchungen: Tel. +49 (0)6898-9 100 100
 oder visit@voelklinger-huette.org

Weitergehende Informationen zum Urlaubsland Saarland & Reservierungen
 Tourismus Zentrale Saarland
 Franz-Josef-Röder-Straße 17, 66119 Saarbrücken
 Tel.: +49 (0)681-92 720 0
 Fax: +49 (0)681-92 720 0
 Email: info@tz-s.de
 Website: www.tourismus.saarland.de



The Wadden Sea

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2009

The Wadden Sea Natural World Heritage Site on the North Sea coast comprises the Wadden Sea National Parks in Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg and Lower Saxony and the Wadden Sea Conservation area in the Netherlands. It occupies an area of approximately 10,000km².

The diversity of the landscape makes the Wadden Sea a habitat found nowhere else in the world. It supports more than 10,000 animal and plant species. Mussel beds, dense sea grass meadows and soft mudflats provide food for many animals. The landscape changes from flowering salt marshes along the dykes and on the islands and 'halligen' to white beaches and sand dunes. The Wadden Sea is an essential stop-over point for millions of migrating birds where they can rest and refuel. Geologically speaking, it is a very young landscape, just 10,000 years old and constantly reshaped by the wind and the tides which rise and fall on a six-hour cycle, transforming the landscape from one minute to the next in an almost magical process.



→ Our tip:

Take a **Wadden Sea walk** with an experienced National Park guide and experience the interplay of the wind, water and waves at close quarters, watch huge flocks of birds as they wheel and dive and discover the fascinating animals and plants of the Wadden Sea.

Information

www.wattenmeer-weltnaturerbe.de

Nationalparkverwaltung
Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer
Tel.: +49 (0)4421-9110

Nationalparkverwaltung
Schleswig-Holsteinisches Wattenmeer
Tel.: +49 (0)4861-6160

Nationalparkverwaltung
Hamburgisches Wattenmeer
Tel.: +49 (0)4721-69271

Website: www.wattenmeer-nationalparke.de

Information & booking

Schleswig-Holstein:

Nordsee-Tourismus-Service GmbH
Tel.: +49 (0)4841-89750
Website: www.nordseetourismus.de

Niedersachsen:

Die Nordsee GmbH
Tel.: +49 (0)4421-9560990
Website: www.die-nordsee.de





Classical Weimar A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1998

Weimar is an extraordinary reminder of a great era.

Johann Wolfgang Goethe and Friedrich Schiller are the most famous representatives of Classical Weimar. The creative partnership that developed later on in their lives left its mark at the high point of German national literature around 1800. It emerged in a unique, tolerant and artistically inclined atmosphere which under the patronage of Duchess Anna Amalia and later Duke Carl August drew writers, philosophers and artists from all over the world.

UNESCO has celebrated this era with inscription on the list of World Heritage Sites. It bears witness to a deeply humanistic cultural era that has endured into our time. A remarkable plethora of poets' houses, monuments, palaces and parks offers visitors an authentic impression of that time which still defines our view of the world. Museums, collections, manuscripts and

everyday objects draw a vivid picture of Classical Weimar. Among the buildings on view are the houses where Goethe and Schiller lived, the Palace of Weimar and the Belvedere, Ettersburg and Tiefurt Palaces with their parks. The Ducal Vault in the Historic Cemetery also has world heritage status.

→ Our tip:

Weimar Summer Festival: July/August
Weimar Onion Market: 2nd weekend in October
Christmas in Weimar: every year at Advent

Information & booking

Tourist-Information Weimar

Markt 10, 99423 Weimar

Tel.: +49 (0)3643-74 50

Fax: +49 (0)3643-74 54 20

Email: tourist-info@weimar.de

Website: www.weimar.de



The Residence with Court Gardens and Residence Square

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1981

The former residence of the prince-bishops of Würzburg, built between 1720 and 1744, is one of Europe's foremost baroque ensembles and its unity of style makes it one of the finest south German baroque palaces.

Prince-Bishop Johann Philipp Franz von Schönborn commissioned the architect Balthasar Neumann to design and build this 'palace of palaces'. The Venetian Giovanni Battista Tiepolo painted the largest ceiling fresco in the world for Neumann's world-famous unsupported vaulted staircase in 1752/53. The sequence of grandiose state rooms in the Residence leads from the vestibule and the Garden Hall through the staircase and the White Hall to the imperial Hall, which is also decorated with a fresco by G.B.Tiepolo. Other outstanding rooms are the reconstructed Mirrored Hall and the chapel, an excellent example of church art in Würzburg. A walk through the gardens of the Residence also offers visitors an opportunity to enjoy art and nature at its best.

→ Our tip:

May: Baroque Festivals – A festival for the senses with Franconian wine and regional specialities, www.frankenwein-aktuell.de

May/June: Mozart Festival with symphonic concerts and chamber music by famous ensembles and orchestras, www.mozartfest-wuerzburg.de

July: Italian Night with music from the Italian opera in the staircase, Imperial Hall and Palace Garden, www.theaterwuerzburg.de

End of June/beginning of July: Hofgarten Wine Festival organised by the Staatlicher Hofkeller wine estate in the picturesque garden of the Residence Palace, www.hofkeller.de

Information & booking

Schloss- und Gartenverwaltung Würzburg

Residenzplatz 2, 97070 Würzburg

Tel.: +49 (0)931-35 51 70

Fax: +49 (0)931-35 51 25

Email: sgvwuerzburg@bsv.bayern.de

Website: www.residenz-wuerzburg.de

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o6484 Quedlinburg
Tel.: +49 (0)3946-8112 -53 / -54

www.unesco-welterbe.de
info@unesco-welterbe.de

Route 1

From the Wadden Sea to Stralsund and Sassnitz via Bremen, Lübeck and Wismar



Distance: approx. 557 km
We recommend 5 overnight stays

This delightful route links the **Wadden Sea** World Natural Heritage Site on Germany's North Sea coast with the cultural legacy of the Hanseatic League and classical style of the romantic turn-of-the-century Baltic Sea resorts. The Wadden Sea is a unique habitat for more than 10,000 animal and plant species. You can explore it on foot, in a horse-drawn carriage or by boat. From the Wadden Sea in Lower Saxony, it's not far to the Hanseatic city of **Bremen**. The Town Hall and the Roland statue have been world

The Wadden Sea



heritage since 2004. Nearby is the monument to the world-famous Town Musicians of Bremen.

The next stop is the Hanseatic city of **Lübeck** with its world-famous Holstentor (Holsten Gate), the Town Hall, the seven church towers and over 80 historical mediaeval passage-

Lübeck



Bremen



UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN GERMANY



Wismar



National Park Centre at Königsstuhl

ways and courtyards in the Old Town. The famous Lübeck marzipan tastes so delicious that the locals think it should be declared part of the World Heritage too!

The journey continues to another Hanseatic town – **Wismar**. The brick architecture here, so typical of Northern Germany, is fascinating – somehow rough and ready, yet with a charm all its own. The imposing late-Gothic churches of St. Nicholas, St. Mary and St. George tower over this Hanseatic city.

The landscape of the Baltic coast is characterised by attractive little towns and villages, elegant manor houses, shady tree-lined avenues and fabulous beaches with crystal-clear water. After a drive through the West-Pomeranian Boddenlandschaft National Park, the route ends in **Stralsund**. Three imposing red-brick churches

in this former Hanseatic power beckon from the distance. The OZEANEUM aquarium on the island in the harbour at Stralsund, in the Strela Sound, offers an underwater journey through the Baltic, the North Sea and the Atlantic right up to the Arctic Ocean.

The route continues towards Rügen. On the far side of the Rügen Bridge lies the **Jasmund National Park** with one of the five beech forests which were awarded UNESCO world heritage status in 2011. It extends from Sassnitz in the South to Lohme in the North. Visitors can explore the natural beauty of this place on a guided tour with a Ranger or independently. The National Park Centre at Königsstuhl reveals the secrets of nature in a 2000m² exhibition area. The hands-on, interactive exhibits take you on a journey through time, starting far back in the prehistoric era.

Route 2

From Berlin to Eisleben via Wittenberg and Dessau-Roßlau



Berlin is the capital city of Germany and also a major cultural centre offering countless cultural attractions which can only be done justice on a long tour of discovery. The world-famous **Museum Island** lies between the Spree and the Kupfergraben. It houses archaeological collections and art from the 19th century.



Berlin: Modernism Housing Estates

Berlin's Modernism Housing Estates were among the first examples of social housing in Germany. They are the work of renowned architects, most notably Bruno Taut, who was responsible for the Schillerpark Estate and the Falkenberg Garden City.

The route continues via historic Potsdam, surrounded by the River Havel and many lakes, through heath land and along picturesque country roads often lined with trees to **Wittenberg**, where Luther nailed up his theses on the door of the church and where there are many other locations associated with this great Reformer. Crossing the River Elbe, the route continues to **Dessau-Roßlau**, known for its association with the Bauhaus movement. As well as the **Bauhaus** itself, it is still possible to see the villas in which the Bauhaus Masters lived. The area is ideal for cyclists who can enjoy the Elbe cycle path and

Dessau-Roßlau: Bauhaus Dessau



Wittenberg

many others. The route follows the German Alleenstraße to the historic city of Köthen with its many associations with Bach and then on to **Eisleben**, where Martin Luther was born and also died.

Route 3

From Alfeld and Hildesheim to Wartburg Castle via Goslar and Quedlinburg



Distance: approx. 317 km
We recommend 3 overnight stays

Alfeld on the Leine lies in a rural area, surrounded by charmingly varied landscapes which are just asking to be enjoyed and explored. The Fagus factory, which is still in operation, became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2011. The route continues to Hildesheim via Sibesse and Diekholzen.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN GERMANY



Eisenach: Wartburg Castle



Goslar: Upper Harz Water Management System

Alfeld: The Fagus Factory



Hildesheim is a cultural centre between the Harz and Hannover. It is at the heart of the Leinebergland region, which is popular with holidaymakers who like to enjoy both hiking and culture.

The towns of **Goslar** and Quedlinburg lie deep in the centre of the picturesque Harz, an area of natural beauty, into which their historic quarters blend perfectly.

Historic **Rammelsberg** is known for more than 1000 years of mining history, and for a sophisticated water supply system, the **Upper Harz Water Management System**. From Goslar to Quedlinburg the route passes Wernigerode, which is a good place to embark on a hike in the Harz/Brocken National Park. Just outside Blankenburg, the former Cistercian abbey of Michaelstein is a favourite place to take a quiet break. The historic centre of **Quedlinburg** boasts 1300 half-timbered houses which originated over eight centuries. Over them presides the Romanesque Collegiate Church with the famous Ottonian treasure and the burial site of Heinrich und Mathilde. From here, the route continues through Thuringia, which is steeped in culture, past a host of castles and palaces to the mighty **Wartburg**, where visitors can experience over 900 years of German history and culture and where Luther laid the foundation for the German language with his translation of the Bible. The magnificent views of the Thuringia Forest are a rich reward for the climb up from the town of Eisenach.

Hildesheim: St. Michael's Church



Route 4

Through the Upper Middle Rhine Valley to Brühl, Cologne, Aachen and Essen



Distance: approx. 370 km
We recommend 3 or 4 overnight stays

Already in itself a fabulously beautiful route along the River Rhine, the **Upper Middle Rhine Valley** World Heritage Site offers an exceptional abundance of cultural monuments. Starting in the traditional winery towns of Bingen and Rudesheim, the route follows the Rhine via Koblenz to **Brühl**, site of the rococo Castles of Augustusburg and Falkenlust with their wonderful gardens and grounds, where visitors can enjoy the architecture and the luxury of the 18th century in a perfectly and expertly preserved ensemble. **Cologne** lies approximately 15 kilometres away, it is the cultural centre of the region offering in addition to the famous cathedral a range of exceptional museums of international standing and a lively cultural scene. The next stop is **Aachen**, where the 1200-year-old cathedral awaits. Visitors will also enjoy a detour to the 'Dreiländereck', the 'Three Countries Corner', which straddles the borders of Germany, Belgium and Holland. The route continues through the mining heartland of the Ruhr valley to the final stop in **Essen**, where a visit to the original Zollverein colliery and coking plant provides memorable insight into a piece of industrial history.



Upper Middle Rhine Valley



Aachen. The Cathedral

Cologne: The Cathedral



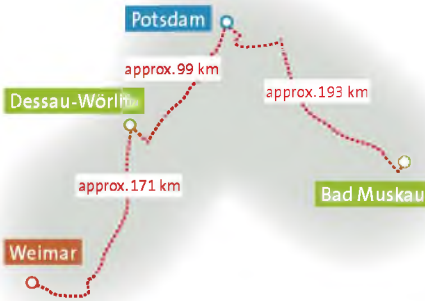
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN GERMANY



Garden Kingdom Dessau-Wörlitz

Route 5

From Weimar to Bad Muskau via Dessau-Wörlitz and Potsdam



Distance: approx. 463 km
We recommend 3 to 4 overnight stays

As the place where Goethe and Schiller lived and worked and the location of extensive parks and gardens dating from the era of Classicism, **Weimar** offers an abundance of attractions. The Bauhaus sites, which are also classed as UNESCO world heritage, are close by the park on the River Ilm. The model for this park, which Goethe helped design, was the Garden Kingdom in **Dessau-Wörlitz** – the next stop on the

route. Visitors can explore its castles, gardens and avenues, and its parks with their statuary, bridges, small buildings and other structures on foot or by gondola. The next stop is **Potsdam**, known for its castles and palaces, notably Sanssouci, Frederick the Great's summer residence. As well as the Palace and Park of Sanssouci, the Russian colony Alexandrowka, the New Garden, the palaces of Babelsberg und Glienicke, Peacock Island, Sacrow Palace and Park with the Saviour's Church also form part of the World Heritage Site. The journey then continues to **Bad Muskau**. It is worth making a detour to the Spree Forest which became a protected UNESCO biosphere reserve in 1991. In Bad Muskau visitors can trace the life of Prince Pückler, who not only designed the imposing buildings there but also left personal reminders of his presence in many places. The Park now straddles the German-Polish border over an area of around 830 hectares.

Muskauer Park



Weimar. Herzogin Anna Amalia Library



Route 6

From Messel to Würzburg, Bamberg and Regensburg via the Limes



Distance: approx. 376 km
We recommend 2 overnight stays

The route from Messel to Regensburg starts on the east side of the Rhine Valley, south of Frankfurt am Main and east of Darmstadt.

The **Messel Pit** is one of two UNESCO Natural World Heritage Sites in Germany. It is remarkable for the mammal fossils found in its bituminous shale that date back approximately 47 million years. On the way from Messel to Würzburg it is worth taking the time to look at the largest monument in Central Europe, the **Limes**. This is an ancient boundary wall which extends over

Bamberg



Limes



Würzburg: The Residency

550 kilometres. In many places along its length, such as Stockstadt and Aschaffenburg, parts of the Upper Germanic-Rhaetian Limes have been reconstructed in their original size and made accessible to the public in archaeological visitor centres.

Following this short diversion, the traveller finally arrives in **Würzburg**, which offers much more than just the gilded Baroque of the Prince-Bishop's Residence. There are numerous wine taverns bearing witness to its ancient wine-making tradition and which offer Franconian cuisine, delivering a total culinary experience as a work of art. The journey continues through the Steigerwald Forest Nature Park to **Bamberg**. The magnificent and fully preserved historic centre transports every visitor back to the past glories of the Baroque and to the Middle Ages. The final stage leads to **Regensburg**, a 2,000-year-old city with such a strikingly Mediterranean atmosphere that it has been dubbed the 'most northern city in Italy'.

Route 7

From Trier to Völklingen and Lorsch, via Speyer to Maulbronn



Distance: approx. 383 km
We recommend 2 overnight stays

‘Welcome to Roma Secunda’ is a cry often heard in **Trier**. From here, the route goes southwards through the Hunsrück Nature Park into Saarland, one of the most important industrial landscapes characterised by iron and steel production. Today, Saarland is one of greenest regions of Germany and home to the ‘Iron Cathedral’, the **Völklingen Ironworks** World Heritage Site. The road to the next stop in Lorsch passes by the Palatinate Forest, which lies to the South, and, from here, follows the course of the Rhine to **Speyer**, the imperial cathedral

Völklingen Ironworks



city on the Upper Rhine. The final stop lies at the centre of the Swabian wine-producing area: the monastery complex in **Maulbronn**. Surrounded by the beautiful landscape of the Kraichgau-Stromberg region, this is a restful island rich in attractions, deciduous woodland, meadows and sloping vineyards.

Speyer: The Cathedral



Trier: Porta Nigra



Maulbronn Monastery



Route 8

From the Wieskirche in Pfaffenwinkel to the island of Reichenau



Distance: approx. 212 km
We recommend at least 1 overnight stay

This route begins in southern Bavaria by the **Wieskirche**; the name is truly evocative of the 'Wiesen', the meadows, in which it stands on a slight elevation. There can be no more picturesque route than that which leads to Lake Constance: it runs along the Deutsche Alpenstrasse, the German Alpine Road, via Füssen, from which it is worth taking a detour to Neuschwanstein Castle. Then the road runs through the Allgäu and the Allgäu Alps to Lindau on Lake Constance and continues with fine views of the Lake to Meers-



Island of Reichenau



Pfaffenwinkel: Wieskirche

burg. The ferry to Constance leaves here every 15 minutes. The journey continues to the **Island of Reichenau** in Lake Constance. The poplar-lined approach to the island, which is famous for its churches from the 9th to the 11th centuries, is an experience in itself.

Production credits

Published by the German UNESCO World Heritage Sites Association (UNESCO Welterbestätten Deutschland e.V.)

Edited by members of the marketing committee

Photo credits (page): Wartburg Stiftung (Titel, 17), Regensburg Tourismus (Titel), Die Lübecker Museen (Titel), Verkehrsverein Reichenau/ Mende (Titel), Dr. H.-J. Aubert (13, 15, 18-20, 22, 23, 25-27, 29, 30, 33-35, 38, 42, 51, 53), Quedlinburg Tourismus Marketing GmbH (5), Romantischer Rhein Tourismus GmbH/Kaub (4), Wattenmeer Touristik (4, 40), Stadtarchiv Dessau (4), Fremdenverkehrsverein Lutherstadt Eisleben Mansfelder Land e.V. (4), Stadt Maulbronn (4), Ruhrgebiet Tourismus/Schumacher (5), Bremen Touristik (5, 12), Senckenberg Forschungsinstitut u. Naturmuseum Frankfurt a. M. (5), Potsdam Tourismus GmbH (5, 32), Verkehrsverein Reichenau (5), Tourist Information Weimar, Weimar GmbH/Schuck (5, 41, 47), Bernd Schröder/ats (6), Fagus-GreCon (7, 48), Bamberg Tourismus und Kongress Service (8, 51), Bayerische Schlösserverwaltung/Frahm (9), W.ScholvienvisitBerlin.de (10), Berliner Bau- und Wohnungsgenossenschaft von 1892 eG/T. Merkau (11, 47), Königsstuhl (14, 46), Lutherstadt Eisleben (18), Hirschler (20), Stadt Hildesheim (21, 48), Gerhard Lindemann (24), S.E. Arndt (25), Stiftung Fürst-Pückler-Park Bad Muskau (28), Reglerungspraesidium Stuttgart, Landesamt fuer Denkmalpflege / W.Hohl (31) Klaus Landry (36), Hansestadt Stralsund/Pressestelle (37), DZT/O. Vernunft (45), DZT/N. Krüger

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Layout: tigerworx/B. Stangl; Printed by: Q-Druck Quedlinburg

Status as of: February 2013

Deutschland
Das Reiseland

Deutschland
Das Reiseland

Gefördert durch:

**Bundesministerium
für Wirtschaft
und Technologie**

aufgrund eines Beschlusses
des Deutschen Bundestages

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UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN GERMANY



UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Germany has 37 sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. They are all very different historical monuments in a range of categories.

CASTLES AND PALACES

The castles and palaces on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites stand for grandness, magnificence and elegance, but also for stout defences: the Prussian palaces and gardens in Potsdam, the mighty Wartburg near Eisenach, the Prince-Bishop's Residence in Würzburg or the Augustusburg and Falkenlust palaces in Brühl. Würzburg and Brühl epitomise the work of the great architect of the Baroque, Balthasar Neumann.

NATURE, GARDENS & LANDSCAPES

Natural heritage such as the Messel Pit Fossil Site and the Wadden Sea, managed nature in the magnificent gardens and grounds of Dessau-Wörlitz, Bad Muskau and Potsdam-Sanssouci and natural and cultural landscapes, such as the Upper Middle Rhine Valley, which have evolved over time bringing together nature and architecture, townscapes and landscapes: nature and culture merging in different ways and declared part of mankind's world heritage.

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

Mining and industry have left deep impressions on German history; the traces and outstanding monuments they have left behind are as much part of human heritage as any other culture. Examples are the 1020-year-old tradition of ore mining in Rammelsberg (Goslar), with its unique water supply system, the Völklingen ironworks, the largest of its kind in the Saar region, and the industrial landscape of the Zollverein Coal Mine in Essen.

CHURCHES & ABBEYS

Sacred buildings have long been viewed as cultural monuments and offered special protection. Great ecclesiastical buildings such as the Wieskirche and the cathedrals in Aachen, Cologne, Speyer, Trier and Hildesheim, unique

monasteries such as that on the island of Reichenau, the Cistercian abbey in Maulbronn, or the Benedictine abbey in Lorsch all bear magnificent witness to past cultural achievement. The towns of Wittenberg, Eisleben and Eisenach are closely associated with the name of Martin Luther.

HISTORICAL TOWN CENTRES

Monuments are only inscribed on the world heritage list when they meet the criteria of 'uniqueness' and 'authenticity' set out in the UNESCO convention. The historic city centres and ensembles inscribed on the list of World Heritage Sites in Germany are all unique in at least one respect, in absolute and global terms. This applies equally to the ensembles of Lübeck, Wismar, Stralsund, Quedlinburg, Goslar, Bamberg and Regensburg, which have been placed under UNESCO protection.

OTHER WORLD HERITAGE SITES

The Berlin Modernism Estates are not only examples of early 20th century architecture, but have also defined the development of social housing. Well-known architects played a part in their design as they did in the Bauhaus movement - first in Weimar and then later in Dessau - where it is still possible to feel the fresh, free spirit of the Masters. The Town Hall in Bremen epitomises the Renaissance in northern Germany and together with the impressive Roland Statue also stands for autonomy and market rights. The Classical Weimar ensemble with its famous buildings from the time of Goethe, Schiller and Herder is also unique. The Upper Germanic-Rhaetian Limes, once the boundary of the Roman Empire, extends over approximately 550km from Bad Hönningen to the area around Regensburg on the Danube. Along with Roman remains, reconstructions and replicas can be seen today.