



PRESS-INFORMATION

Magdeburg, 24 May 2022

Truly active: The best ways of discovering the diversity of Saxony-Anhalt

Summer is coming and many people are already enjoying spending time outside. The arrival of the warmer season makes many of us feel more like getting out and taking some exercise or discovering new and interesting places. Saxony-Anhalt has many exciting activities to offer, including hiking in the Harz mountains, strolling through the beautiful landscaped parks of castles and palaces, cycling on the extensive network of cycle paths and canoeing on the Unstrut and Saale rivers. These are just some of the many opportunities for taking an active and relaxing vacation. Along the way, there are interesting historic sites to discover and old towns to visit.

In our summer press kit, we have put together a selection of interesting activities in the five tourist regions of the Altmark, Harz, Elbe-Börde-Heide, Saale-Unstrut and the World Heritage site area of Anhalt-Dessau-Wittenberg, together with the large cities of Magdeburg, Halle (Saale) and Dessau-Roßlau. One activity that we have focused on is cycling, for example on the flat cycle paths along the Saale and Elbe rivers and through the open landscapes of the Altmark. There are also excellent opportunities for discovering the countryside and the many cultural sites on horseback or in a canoe. Lovers of luxuriant vegetation will enjoy visiting the historic gardens and parks that make up the Gartenträume (Garden Dreams) network on their journey through Saxony-Anhalt. There are also many outdoor cultural events taking place this summer, such as concerts, theater performances and spectacular shows.

Any one of the three historic salt works that are still in operation in Saxony-Anhalt provide a very special experience, including the oldest salt spa in Germany. The Harz offers opportunities to unwind, for example on an adventure trip in small tracked vehicles in the forest or on a donkey trek with long-eared companions Hans, Liese, Lola and Lotte. Visitors have said that discovering Saxony-Anhalt like this is more relaxing than a wellness retreat. High-speed activities are also available, such as the catapult experience which opened this year on the Rappbode dam, which propels visitors out from a viewing platform in the midst of a spectacular landscape.

The tourism service providers in Saxony-Anhalt are well prepared and a wide range of cultural events has been organized at the UNESCO World Heritage sites and in the small towns and larger cities in the region. There's no reason to travel far away from home, because this is: "Truly stunning. Saxony-Anhalt"!

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You can find a selection of photos here.

There are more images in our [image database](#).

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PRESS-INFORMATION

At a donkey's pace

The saying goes that happiness on earth is on the back of a horse. For Claudia Röhnke it lies between the long ears of her seven donkeys. This young woman from Derenburg likes to share her happiness by offering donkey trekking tours. This is perhaps the loveliest way of discovering Saxony-Anhalt on foot.

Hans trots behind Claudia Röhnke at a leisurely pace. She stops to rub his ears and strokes his coat while lost in thought. The donkey is blind in one eye and has had lung and hoof complaints. "That's because of the dreadful conditions he was living in, but now he is much better," says Claudia Röhnke. When she first saw Hans, he was shut in a dark, damp stable and, because of the unsuitable circumstances, he was so ill that he was given just a few weeks to live. She could not bear to see Hans suffering, so she bought him from his owner and took him back to her donkey farm on the edge of the town of Derenburg in the lower Harz region, where she nursed him back to health.

A sense of inner peace

Rescuing donkeys like Hans from awful conditions and making a new and happier life for them is what motivates Claudia Röhnke. And the donkeys – she now has seven – give her something back. "When I arrive at the donkey farm, it's as if a switch has flipped. Straight away I feel really relaxed." The inner peace of the donkeys transfers itself to people, explains the 42-year-old. "I have always been fascinated by donkeys' temperament. They are obstinate, but also sensitive and intelligent. You can't order donkeys about. They know their own minds and won't do anything that they don't want to. But you can build up their trust in you and then they will let you gently guide them."

Finding togetherness

This has been the experience of everyone who has been on trekking tours with Hans, Liese, Lola, Lotte or one of the other donkeys from Claudia Röhnke's team of long-eared employees. Walking through the fields and woods of the Harz region with a donkey on a lead rope helps people to unwind. It is nothing like life in the fast lane. "You learn mindfulness. The tours are only harmonious when the people and the donkeys are mindful of each other," says Claudia Röhnke. Whether they are stressed city dwellers or already nature lovers, her guests find that this sense of togetherness with a donkey makes for a wonderful experience. "How do I lead him? How do I get him to listen to me? You have to negotiate, be patient and sometimes make a small detour."

More relaxing than a wellness retreat

Claudia Röhnke's donkey business offers tours of different levels of difficulty for people who are regular walkers and those who are unused to hiking. For example, the routes pass through the woods below Regenstein Castle near Blankenburg, around the ponds at Michaelstein Abbey and along the impressive rock formations known as the Devil's Wall. When you take



grooming, tacking up and learning about donkeys into account, a trekking tour can last for five hours. Anyone who does not feel brave enough for that and would prefer first of all to get to know a donkey can book a private donkey session or take a short walk of five kilometers starting at the farm and heading for the Derenburg glassworks.

“We’ve rarely felt so close to nature. It was better than a two-week wellness retreat,” said one couple from Berlin enthusiastically, after their outing with the donkeys. Claudia Röhnke, who also organizes weekend camps where guests spend the night in tents in the paddock, is always pleased to get positive feedback. “It does many of my guests a lot of good to live in the countryside with only the basic essentials. The calm temperament of the donkeys helps the guests to wind down completely in a very short time.”

Author: Dana Toschner

Further information

www.eselwerk.de

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PRESS-INFORMATION

Out into the parks and gardens: Saxony-Anhalt in bloom

Saxony-Anhalt invites visitors to its Gartenträume (Garden Dreams), a network of truly stunning historic parks and gardens, where everyone can enjoy the beauty of the natural world. This is an experience for all the senses! Many other events in the coming weeks will also attract guests to the land of Garden Dreams.

The traditional Garden Kingdom Summer event is the ideal opportunity to enjoy culture, nature and history right through until September 2022. This is a very special experience that takes place in the Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The lake concerts held between May and September have become legendary. Guests can enjoy the music during an unforgettable gondola ride through Wörlitz Park, gliding gently along accompanied by the orchestra, with the bright white walls of the newly restored Wörlitz Palace as a stunning backdrop. The Garden Kingdom Summer includes exclusive exhibitions, theater performances, such as Molière's comedy "The Bourgeois Gentleman" on Stein Island with its miniature Vesuvius, movie evenings and concerts in the castles in Luisium and Mosigkau, all of which offer an opportunity to experience world-class culture.

The next highlight at the Garden Kingdom runs from June 3 to 5: "Garden Rendezvous – Park and Garden Days." This is an outstanding cultural program that celebrates beauty, highlights contrasts and puts the emphasis on enjoying the moment.

The weekend of events known as "Garden Rendezvous – Park and Garden Days" is once again planned for 2022 and is based on an idea that originally comes from France. This year, gardens and parks in 20 countries across Europe will be opening from June 3 to 5 and the theme of this year's event is "Gardens shape the climate." Many of the parks that make up the Gartenträume network in Saxony-Anhalt will be holding creative events as part of the program.

The activities on offer range from a guided tour of the garden at Michaelstein Abbey with an introduction to herbs for making tea and a discovery event for children called "Can plants sweat?" through to an exclusive tour in the footsteps of the brilliant garden director Hans Hallervorden in Oranienbaum, who was responsible for restoring the historic garden before and after the Second World War.

On June 25 and 26, the Rose Festival at the Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen will once again attract thousands of visitors. At just the time when the blooms are most luxuriant, the largest rose collection in the world also becomes the most stunning show of flowers in Saxony-Anhalt – a feast for all the senses, with scents, sounds and intriguing surprises.

From sumptuous feasts and satisfying family brunches to vegan delicacies, all types of food are on offer. Saxony-Anhalt really is the land of plenty. The



traditional Gartenträume picnic day takes place on July 17 at parks including those in Briest, Burg, Aschersleben and Naumburg. The partner of this popular event is EDEKA Minden, which has stores and supermarkets in Saxony-Anhalt.

A must for art lovers is the display of sculptures among the beautiful roses at the Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen. These pieces made from glass, metal and wood are both moving and inspiring, proving that what belongs together grows together. The outdoor exhibition, which runs from July 1 to August 20, 2022, is called "Rose Meets Art." Artists from all over Germany have taken their inspiration from the world's largest collection of roses. The closing event on August 20 is sure to be impressive with a light show in the rose gardens. It is worth noting that the artworks are on sale and could add the perfect touch to your own garden in the future.

Further information:

- www.gartentraeume-sachsen-anhalt.de
- www.gartenreich.de/en
- www.gartenreichsommer.de
- www.europa-rosarium.de
- www.rosetriffkunst.de

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PRESS-INFORMATION

The salt works of Saxony-Anhalt – history that you can inhale

From Aschersleben to Halle and Thale – the history of many places in Saxony-Anhalt is closely linked with salt production. And anyone who mentions “Truly stunning. Saxony-Anhalt” is often referring to the results of the wealth acquired by producing salt. But only three of the “truly special” salt works are still making brine trickle through a graduation tower. Visitors can discover how the process works and experience what is involved in Bad Kösen, Bad Salzelmen and Bad Dürrenberg.

Bad Kösen: A complete historic site

Above the heads of the people walking up to the [Bad Kösen](#) graduation tower is a wooden frame that is constantly moving to and fro. This is a double flat rod system. Driven by the mill wheel in the Saale mill stream, it transfers the water power uphill to the pumps in the Borlach tower. There brine, or in other words saltwater, was pumped out of the ground. Now the process is powered by electricity. Although the water pipe leading up to the graduation tower is no longer above ground level, the tower also has a moving flat rod because the brine has to be pumped up to the top floor. This complete historic site, consisting of a waterwheel, flat rods, brine shaft and graduation tower, is the only one of its kind left in Europe, which makes it “truly special.”

When the brine reaches the graduation tower and drips down through countless bundles of blackthorn brushwood to form a salty mist, it creates an atmosphere that is like being by the sea. The graduation towers that precede the actual salt production process were originally built to increase the salt concentration in the brine before it was boiled in the salt works, but around 200 years ago they also became [health spas](#). At 320 meters long and an impressive 15 meters high, the graduation tower in Bad Kösen is one of the largest in Germany. Here guests can not only take a walk along the colonnade at the foot of the graduation tower or breathe in the fresh air in the park, but also enjoy a guided tour of the site and a visit to the top floor of the structure where there is a wonderful view of the valley and the salt works itself. When guided tours are not available, visitors can find out more about the Borlach tower by looking through an open window and listening to a recording that explains how it functions.

Bad Salzelmen: The oldest salt spa in Germany

Bad Salzelmen, which is now a part of the town of [Schönebeck \(Elbe\)](#), is the oldest salt spa in Germany. It was founded in 1802 by Johann Wilhelm Tolberg, the doctor of the miners’ guild at the Schönebeck saltworks. The graduation tower at the works is even older than the spa. It was built between 1756 and 1765. Although the structure is now shorter than its original length of 1837 meters, at 300 meters long it is still very impressive. In addition, there is a 32-meter-high salt tower that was constructed in stone in 1776. This was originally part of a Dutch windmill that powered the pump

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which brought the brine to the surface out of the 85-meter-deep shaft. Visitors can find out how the precious white gold was extracted from the brine during demonstrations of the boiling process which take place twice a month. The [graduation tower](#) is accessible to everyone free of charge. Anyone who wants an additional dose of salt air can visit the Dead Sea salt grotto in the Lindenbad swimming pool in Halle.

Bad Dürrenberg: “Salt crystals and magical flowers”

[Bad Dürrenberg](#) and its graduation tower will soon be in the spotlight, because the brine town is playing host to the [5th Saxony-Anhalt Regional Garden Show](#). The theme of the show is “Salt crystals and magical flowers.” The spa park, which covers an area of ten hectares and forms part of the Garden Dreams network of historic parks in Saxony-Anhalt, is bounded by the River Saale on one side and the dramatic graduation tower on the other. The graduation tower in Bad Dürrenberg is 636 meters long, which makes it the longest facility still in use in Germany. Its design is “truly special” and remains very much the same as it was at the start of the 19th century. This is why the building forms part of the European Route of Industrial Heritage.

However, if you decide to visit Bad Dürrenberg now, you will find a huge construction site where paths are being built, flower borders planted up, benches installed and the bank of the Saale reinforced. Interesting guided tours of the construction site are temporarily replacing peaceful strolls through the gardens.

Anyone who would like a tour of the site can book one (by phone on +49 3462 9987073 or by email to claudia.klepzig@laga-badduerrenberg.de). The next tour takes place on May 29, 2022, at 10.00.

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Further information:

www.Saale-Unstrut-Tourismus.de
www.koesalina.de
www.solepark.de
www.schoenebeck.de/de/tourismus.html
www.laga-badduerrenberg.de
www.badduerrenberg.de

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PRESS-INFORMATION

Fast-tracking

“Anyone who tries it just can’t stop grinning,” says Ramona Börsch, describing the feeling of driving through the wood in a Ziesel. She has been spreading this feeling of happiness, also known as the Ziesel smile, in the Harz region for more than four years. She enables people with and without disabilities to be “truly active” in small tracked vehicles.

On Ramona Börsch’s baseball cap are the words “Ziesel driver.” She has to explain this to people, because the German word “Ziesel” also refers to a sweet little rodent, in English called a gopher. But that is not what is meant, because the Ziesels belonging to Ramona Börsch are not at all small and sweet, but instead highly robust. They are electric-powered tracked vehicles that can be used to travel on forest tracks and roads and in a specially created offroad park in the Harz. These speedy vehicles are a positive addition to the leisure world, involving no noise or exhaust gases, but plenty of fun.

No noise, but plenty of fun

When the 42-year-old goes out on a Ziesel tour with her guests, the vehicles get a lot of curious looks. Although there are already several Ziesel parks in Austria and Switzerland and hotels there offer guests the chance to have a ride, in Germany Ziesels are still relatively rare and are seen as one of the more exotic members of the offroad vehicle family. At first sight, the Ziesel looks like a well-padded wheelchair seat bolted to a small piece of construction machinery. Drivers can reach speeds of up to 30 kilometers per hour and enjoy heading out into rough terrain. However, the street version is road legal and comes with headlights, indicators, brake lights and rearview mirrors.

Out on the forest tracks with a joystick

The quirky tracked vehicles are a high-tech product from the Tyrol region of Austria. They are made by hand by a company called Mattro that is based near Innsbruck and specializes in developing and designing electric vehicles. But the existence of the Ziesel actually comes down to chance. The team headed by company founder Alois Bauer originally built the vehicle as a test prototype for a battery system. When it first appeared in the media, it received such a positive response that the company decided to develop it further. In 2013, the Ziesel was launched on the market as an environmentally friendly way of traveling on snow, forest tracks and sand.

“You control it using a joystick and there’s a color display in the armrest,” explains Ramona Börsch. She originally went on a test drive in Austria and immediately decided to give up her office job so that she could work outdoors and enable other people to drive Ziesels. Together with a friend she set up a partnership. They both took out a loan, bought several of the vehicles, which at almost 30,000 euros are not exactly cheap, and found the ideal starting point for their tours in idyllic Stiege, a district of the town of Oberharz am Brocken in Saxony-Anhalt.



Off-road super-wheelchair

Ramona Börsch is now the sole owner of the company CRUDE Harz and offers tours for beginners and experienced drivers, organizes company events and manages the off-road park, where visitors can go on Ziesel rallies after a few meters at walking speed to try out Ziesel driving. Children who are at least 1.40 meters tall can also test their driving ability here. There is a neighboring site with electric buggies for their smaller brothers and sisters. Anyone who prefers discovering the natural world to taking part in offroad action can opt to go on a guided tour starting at Stiege Castle. Because part of this trip is on public roads, the rules are slightly stricter. Anyone aged 15 or over can join in, provided that they have a provisional driver's license for mopeds. Adults must have a full driver's license.

People with physical disabilities can overcome any obstacle in a Ziesel, because it is ultimately an off-road super-wheelchair. But whether you are a wheelchair user or a pedestrian, after the "electrifying" experience in the Ziesel, you are certain to have a smile on your face. "Many people would like to come to Stiege more often and tell me that the prices are too high, but because of the cost of buying a Ziesel, unfortunately I can't do anything about that. After my first Ziesel tour, I was grinning like a Cheshire cat. When my guests do the same, it makes me happy. I call it the Ziesel smile."

You can find all the information about the tours at www.crude-harz.de. In summer, you can try out other unusual means of transport on Lake Stiege. Alongside traditional rowing boats and the now widespread stand-up paddle boards, there are also water bicycles.

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PRESS-INFORMATION

Truly active: Cycling on the Elbe Cycle Route, Germany's most beautiful long-distance path

The Elbe Cycle Route passes through the Elbe-Börde-Heide region of Saxony-Anhalt and offers a range of contrasting experiences, from busy cities to the peace of the meadows beside the river.



Cyclists coming from the north travel through an idyllic landscape before first reaching the crossing of waterways at Magdeburg, a giant transport project described as the structure of the century. From there, the Elbe winds its way for around 20 kilometers through the city of Magdeburg, which was once home to Otto the Great and Otto von Guericke. Magdeburg's cultural heritage has been carefully preserved and blends perfectly into the busy life of a modern city. With its many sights, varied history, full program of cultural events, opportunities for shopping and wellness offerings, Magdeburg provides "truly cultural" and "truly family-friendly" experiences.

In contrast to the hustle and bustle of the capital of Saxony-Anhalt, the Kreuzhorst nature reserve, which lies further south on the Elbe Cycle Route, is a haven of peace and tranquility. After this, the route leads straight on to the next cultural highlight. From the town of Schönebeck, there are picturesque panoramic views of the Elbe. It also has one of the longest half-timbered row houses in Europe, which lies alongside the Elbe Cycle Route. On the banks of the Elbe in Schönebeck, visitors can discover the 800-year history of salt in the region and explore the historic spa, which is home to Germany's oldest salt bath.

The Middle Elbe Biosphere Reserve lies further east and, with its unique flora and fauna, is an essential stopping point on any tour of the Elbe Cycle Route. Its almost unspoilt river landscape is sure to appeal to visitors. As the Elbe Cycle Route is relatively flat, it is easy to travel both upstream and downstream. However, because the prevailing wind is in the north-west, we recommend cycling upriver from north to south.

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Altmark

Stolze Städte. Weites Land.

Relax and recharge your batteries: A visit to the Altmark will do you good

Take the chance to unwind, boost your energy levels and start the day with a spring in your step – the wide, open landscapes of the Altmark are the ideal place to do just that. The unspoilt woods and meadows, hills, lakes and rivers of the region will help you to relax. You can also recharge your batteries by taking part in sport. The new Active map and Active app from the Altmark Regional Marketing and Tourism Association have plenty of good ideas for fun sports activities, water sports and wellness, including cycling, hiking, horse riding and taking a Kneipp cure anywhere from Arneburg to the hills around Zichtau.

Take a deep breath when you reach Arneburg. The health resort high above the Elbe is the perfect place to unwind. The stunning view from the 30-meter-high viewing platform across the meadows by the River Elbe is the only one of its kind along the Elbe Cycle Route. Cyclists and walkers will enjoy a few deep breaths of the fresh air in the Elbe valley.

Kamern am See is another ideal location to relax, set in a landscape of lakes, woods, fields and sand dunes. An excursion into the hills around Kamern is a must, with wonderful views of the meeting place of the Rivers Elbe and Havel. You can also take the opportunity to go horse riding on tranquil paths, walking on the Elbe Cycle Route or canoeing on the river Elbe itself in the Kamern area. These activities also offer the chance to see rare species of waterbird, shy sea eagles and charming beavers.

The Hanseatic town of Havelberg is on an island in the Middle Elbe Biosphere Reserve. A guided tour of the cathedral town will take you past impressive historic buildings and into secret nooks and crannies. You may also spot a cormorant. Havelberg is a good starting point for longer trips by bike, because it is the meeting point of several cycle paths. We also recommend a visit to the interactive exhibition in the Haus der Flüsse natural history museum.

On the bottom of Lake Schollene in the south of the region, algae of different kinds form a thick layer of mud and develop their healing powers. In the wonderful natural setting of Schollene, this mud is used for “peloid” therapy in spa health treatments. On the Relaxation Path you will have the chance to see greylag geese and sea eagles close at hand. Health is also a major focus in the area around the climatic spa of Arendsee. There are opportunities for cycling, hiking, running and horse riding, together with a 10-kilometer yoga trail.

The health resort of Kalbe (Milde) is the perfect place for some downtime, with its beautiful setting among the channels of the Milde river and impressive avenues of oak trees. You can also climb the Hausmannsturm for a unique view of the town, the newly created waterfall in the spa gardens and the town’s 100 bridges.



The Altmark circuit passes through the Drömling Biosphere Reserve and the hills around Zichtau. On the route, hikers and cyclists will find the Purnitz spring, the Kneipp spa in Schwiesau and the educational nature trail in Zartau. The routes through woods and on water in the hills known as the Altmark's Switzerland also come highly recommended, along with a detour to the "keep-fit and touch trail" near the forest spa and to the educational nature trail at Kunrau castle.

All these activities are shown on a map and can be accessed via the new Altmark Active app. Local people and visitors can use it to find the perfect outings, destinations, accommodation and places to enjoy the cuisine of the Altmark.

Event highlights in the Altmark:

June 4, 2022 Stendal Evening of Culture: A journey of discovery through this Hanseatic town with its rich cultural life, www.veranstaltungen-stendal.de

July 16, 2022 Port triathlon in Havelberg: Competition consisting of swimming, running and cycling over different distances, www.havelbergtriathlon.de

September 10, 2022 Airfield with light and lasers: The duel of the firework specialists. This major festival involving the best firework and laser artists comes to Stendal, Flugplatzgesellschaft Stendal-Borstel, www.stendal.de

May to September 2022, the Altmark Festivals: Festivals on the theme of "longing for light" throughout the Altmark, with prominent musicians, choirs and singers, www.altmarkfestspiele.de,

September to October 2022 Lichtblütenfestival: Illuminating cultural locations in the Altmark, www.lichtbluetenfestival-altmark.de

Further information:

www.mittelelbe.com
www.haus-der-fluesse.de
<https://pelose.de>
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Art, culture and music in the Garden Kingdom and a magnificent spectacle at the Bauhaus

In summer, the cultural events in the area around Dessau-Roßlau are held outside. “Truly special” concerts, exhibitions and theater performances take place against the splendid backdrop of the Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and some are even being hosted by Dessau Zoo. In September, the Bauhaus Dessau will be alive with music, dance and light as the town celebrates its creative past and present.

Garden Kingdom Day, which is the second Sunday in August, is an opportunity to remember the birthday of Leopold III Friedrich Franz of Anhalt-Dessau, the founder and creator of the impressive Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Special events are held on this day that enable visitors to experience the Garden Kingdom as a whole. Exhibitions, concerts and guided tours in Georgium, Mosigkau, Luisium palace and garden, Wörlitz and Oranienbaum take place throughout the day. This year Garden Kingdom Day falls on August 13.

Creative interactions

Only a few weeks later, another cultural highlight is taking place in Dessau-Roßlau in the form of the Bauhaus Festival, a spectacular show of color and light. On the first weekend in September, the lights come on for installations, experiments in art and design and productions throughout the entire town. With music, dance, delicious food and a unique atmosphere, the event is a creative interaction between the Bauhaus, famous artists, the town and the many visitors. Before the start of the festival itself, the Anhalt Theater is hosting a series of open air performances as a prelude to the coming season. The theme of the Bauhaus Festival, which runs from September 1 to 4 is: dappled, spotted, striped.

Open air concerts in unique locations

Dessau-Roßlau also has a variety of musical events to offer. The rehearsals for this year's open air season in June at the Anhalt Theater are already well underway. Alongside Molière's comedy on the subject of social climbing “The Bourgeois Gentleman,” which is being staged on Stein Island, and the many events in the Garden Kingdom, two programs with plenty of exotic touches are planned for the large open air stage set against the impressive backdrop of the mausoleum in Dessau Zoo. There the Anhalt Philharmonic Orchestra Dessau will perform its eighth symphony concert, entitled One Thousand and One Summer Nights, on three separate occasions. Under the musical direction of Markus L. Frank, the orchestra will play works by Carl Nielsen, Fazil Say and Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy. The soloist is violinist Friedemann Eichhorn, who has already performed several times with the Anhalt Philharmonic Orchestra.

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A complicated love story

Another high point is Franz Lehár's operetta "The Land of Smiles," with its many popular arias sung by Ania Vegry and Costa Latsos, among others, and accompanied by the opera choir and the Philharmonic Orchestra under director Wolfgang Kluge. The moderator on stage is Roman Weltzien. With a twinkle in his eye, he presents the tragic romance of the Austrian lady and the Chinese prince. There will be five performances of "The Land of Smiles."

Further information

[Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz \(gartenreich.de\)](http://gartenreich.de)

dappled, splotched, striped: Bauhaus Festival 2022: Bauhaus Dessau
Foundation (bauhaus-dessau.de)

Anhalt Theater Dessau (anhaltisches-theater.de)

More information on the tourist destination Saxony- Anhalt can be found at:

www.sachsen-anhalt-tourismus.de

and on IMG's social media pages: [IMG Tourismus \(@IMG Tourismus\) /
Twitter](#), [Reiseland Sachsen-Anhalt \(@reiseland_sachsen_anhalt\)](#) •
[Instagram photos and videos](#) and [Reiseland Sachsen-Anhalt - Facebook
page](#)



PRESS-INFORMATION

One of the greenest cities in Germany: Discovering the culture and the islands in Halle (Saale)

Cycling is a good way of keeping fit and allows you to discover the path that runs for 27 kilometers from south to north along the River Saale in Halle. Stage 7 of the Saale Cycle Path leads from Naumburg to Halle, which is one of the greenest cities in Germany. Within the city are four branches of the Saale and six islands with woods and nature reserves. Almost 16 percent of the city is made up of parks and green spaces. In addition to the Botanical Gardens, the Amtsgarten and Gimritzer Park, there is also Peißnitz Island, which is the perfect place to meet for open air sport, games and picnics.

Two castles on the Saale and the only mountain zoo in Germany

The other attractions of Peißnitz Island include the third tallest fountain in Europe, the beach on the bank of the river, the river swimming area and the open air stage where movies are shown and concerts held in summer. Finally, Giebichenstein Castle and Moritzburg Castle, which is now home to an art museum, are the oldest and most recently built castles on the River Saale. Would you like to spend some time relaxing on the river? There is something to suit every taste, from large excursion boats to rafts, floating party islands, canoes, rowing boats and stand-up paddle boards and all of these can be booked locally. www.halle-tourismus.de

Germany's only mountain zoo can be found around the Reilsberg, a hill in the city. With more than 1,200 animals from 250 species, the zoo forms part of the city's 7,000 hectares of green spaces.

Finding art, culture and enjoyment on the City Route

The new City Route takes visitors from the Saale Cycle Path straight into Halle's old town district, which dates back more than 1,200 years and is the birthplace of George Frideric Handel – a city full of charm, art and design. You simply need to follow the "Halle-Lujah" of the largest carillon of bells in Europe in the Red Tower and you will find the historic marketplace in Halle, a city which is home to 240,000 people.

Sights that you should definitely not miss include the birthplace of Handel, the Handel Museum, the Beatles Museum, the Art Museum Moritzburg Halle (Saale), the Francke Foundations and the State Museum of Prehistory with the Nebra Sky Disc, a UNESCO Memory of the World. Halle also has delicacies to offer such as Halloren salt and chocolate from Germany's oldest chocolate factory.

A useful tip for a tour of Halle: Luggage and bicycles can be stored securely in bike boxes very close to the marketplace, before you head off on a relaxed stroll around the city, with guided tours and visits to museums and cafés. The keys are available from the Halle Tourist Information Center.

Back on the Saale Cycle Path, you can cycle to Merseburg, Bad Dürrenberg, the Brachwitz Alps and the Saale-Unstrut wine region from Halle.

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For cycling fans: the Saale Cycle Path and the Elster Cycle Path leading to the Mansfelder Land region and Wettin

Why not ride through Thuringia and Saxony-Anhalt from the south on the Saale Cycle Path? The path runs for a total of 427 kilometers from Zell on the north slope of the Große Waldstein mountain in Bavaria to Barby/Calbe in Saxony-Anhalt, passing impressive palaces, picturesque landscapes and interesting towns.

Halle, the birthplace of Handel, is an ideal starting point or destination for cycle tours on the Saale Cycle Path.

- Up river to Merseburg or Bad Dürrenberg (with a visit to Merseburg Cathedral or the salt works in Bad Dürrenberg).
- Down river to the Brachwitz Alps with an idyllic landscape of meadows on the north edge of Halle.
- For fitter cyclists, a visit to Rudelsberg and Saaleck Castles on the Saale south of Halle or to Bernburg in the north, a town that was formerly the residence of the Anhalt-Bernburg princes and is halfway to Magdeburg.
- Via the Elster Cycle Path to Leipzig which is 47 kilometers away.
- To the Mansfelder Land with an excursion to Geiseltal Lake and Süßer Lake.
- To Petersberg, which is 17 kilometers away and is also the highest point on this latitude until you reach the Urals.

Further information:

Recommendations for cycle tours from Halle:

<https://www.halle.de/de/Verwaltung/Stadtentwicklung/Verkehrallgemein/Planung/Radverkehr/Vorschlaege-fuer-Rad-06658/>

Information about Halle and souvenirs:

Tourist Information Center with hallesaale*-Shop • in the Marktschlösschen
Marktplatz 13, 06108 Halle (Saale)

Tel.: +49 3 45 122 99 84

Email: touristinfo@stadtmarketing-halle.de

Online shop: www.hallesaale.shop / Website: www.halle-tourismus.de &
www.verliebtinhalle.de

www.facebook.com/verliebtinhalle/

www.instagram.com/verliebtinhalle/ twitter.com/verliebtinhalle



PRESS-INFORMATION

Harz

Action at the dam and festivities in Quedlinburg: A busy summer ahead

There is plenty to do in the Harz region in summer, including hiking, mountain biking and climbing: something to suit every taste. In addition, you can look forward to action-packed experiences at the new tower on the Rappbode dam and a series of exciting events to celebrate the 1,100th anniversary of Quedlinburg. These are just two of the reasons for spending a “truly active” summer outside in the Harz.

The opening of the Solitair tower – a spectacular view and special experiences

Following a planning phase lasting three years, construction of the Solitair viewing tower on the Rappbode dam began in 2021. Then in mid-May this year, the tower was finally opened. A total of 160 steps lead up to a viewing platform at a height of 30 meters which gives a panoramic view of the eastern Harz region and the Rappbode valley. The stairs are enclosed with architectural fabric to allow for a continuous view of the surroundings and the interior of the tower. A glass bow structure has been fitted to the tower to enable visitors to experience the stunning natural backdrop of the Rappbode valley without any restrictions. A panoramic elevator makes the tower fully accessible for people with disabilities. The Solitair tower can be used for a variety of purposes.

An adrenalin buzz and a free fall

A new wall running experience with a view of the Brocken Mountain will give adrenalin junkies a buzz, either individually or in pairs. However, hidden in the center of the tower is a world first – the Ultrashot. With this unique, specially developed catapult, one person or two can be propelled out of the tower at a speed of 15 meters per second. For a brief moment, they are above the heads of the visitors on the viewing platform and then they free fall back into the interior of the tower. Anyone who just wants to watch this spectacle open-mouthed can sit in the ground-floor café and enjoy a freshly brewed coffee, followed by a visit to the 5D cinema to find out more about the history of the Rappbode dam. The parking lot has been extended and a new building has been constructed to house the Typisch Harz Regioshop & Kulturhalle, a store selling a range of regional products. The interactive children’s area and indoor play center add the finishing touches to the Rappbode dam adventure complex, making it the perfect day out for the whole family.

Festival 2022: 1,100 years since the first documented reference to Quedlinburg

In 2022, Quedlinburg has every reason to celebrate. On April 22, 922, the “villa quae dicitur Quitilingaburg” was referred to for the first time in a document belonging to King Henry I.



Now, 1,100 years later, the World Heritage site of Quedlinburg with its 2069 half-timbered houses is making the most of this very special anniversary to hold **festivities from April 22 to June 6, 2022**. Some exciting events have already taken place.

The town festival is the high point

The climax of the celebrations is the King's Days from June 3 to 6, a town festival in honor of King Henry I. The King's Days not only bring the 2022 festivities to a magnificent conclusion, but will also become a regular town festival over the years to come. The celebrations will cover large parts of the historic town center. The craft market that is held regularly at Whitsun will be located in Heiligegeiststraße. This will be accompanied by a job and business market and an area for associations, where companies and other organizations can showcase what they do.

At the Carl-Ritter-Bildungshaus, there will be a bouncy castle, face painting and a stage with a program of events for children. Another stage will be erected at Mathildenbrunnen and will host a variety of live music from rock and pop to Irish folk. The street food market, selling a range of international specialties, will run from the historic Neustadt area out across Steinweg toward Bockstraße.

The UNESCO World Heritage Day on the first weekend in June, which will form part of the town festival in the future, sets the date for the event. World Heritage coordinator Katrin Kaltschmidt is particularly pleased that "alongside a number of places in the Harz region, the Inspiring Six – the World Heritage sites in Saxony-Anhalt – will be taking part in the World Heritage and Harz village in the Kornmarkt." Doreen Walter, managing director of Quedlinburg-Tourismus-Marketing GmbH, explains that "as well as recruiting regional artists, musicians and associations for the program on stage, we have also been able to bring Radio SAW onboard as our media partner." On the Saturday of Whitsun weekend, Radio SAW will host the SAW summer party from the main stage in the marketplace.

Further information:

<https://harzdrenalin.de/solitair/festzeit.quedlinburg-info.de>

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PRESS-INFORMATION

Saale-Unstrut. Music, wine and conviviality

The Saale-Unstrut region offers a unique combination of wine, historic buildings and beautiful gardens, which is particularly appealing at the start of the warmer season of the year. Imposing castles and palaces tower over the terraced vineyards. Everywhere plants are growing and blossoming and the winemakers are serving wine at their wineries and vineyards. And much-loved festivals can finally take place again in 2022, alongside musical events in the area's gardens and parks.

Saale-Unstrut is a small and picturesque area at the heart of Germany. Connoisseurs know this as a region where quality wines are grown, while culture lovers enjoy the many magnificent castles, palaces and sacred buildings set in beautiful parks and gardens. Anyone who prefers a more active vacation can explore the network of cycle paths, footpaths and waterways.

Music in parks and gardens – musical highlights in Saale-Unstrut

Visitors to the castle park in Zeitz will find a new attraction linked to the anniversary this year of the death of the composer Heinrich Schütz. The **“Schütz in your ears” event**, which has already begun, creates a musical connection with the composer's era. It consists of stories told from the perspective of Christoph Tobias Schober, musical director at the court of the Dukes of Wettin at the time when Schütz was composing. The role is played by author and actor Martin Wimmer. The **special exhibition “Lemons for Zeitz”** at the neighboring Schloss Moritzburg museum continues until November 6, 2022, and celebrates Schütz's work in Zeitz.

In the town of Merseburg, music can be heard in the castle park during the months of July and August as part of the **musical evenings in the Merseburg castle moat**. All the events begin at sunset. With a variety of different types of music, including atmospheric Irish folk (July 23, 2022), a Red Hot Chili Peppers tribute band (July 30, 2022) and Swingin Hermlin (August 13, 2022), there is certain to be a special ambiance.

The program at the **castle park in Ostrau** is rather more classically inclined. Lovers of choral music should note the date of the choral festival of the Saale district in their diaries (July 10, 2022). The summer festival (August 13, 2022) is another good opportunity to visit the first English landscape garden created on German soil.

The town of Weißenfels is celebrating a musical, philosophical and emotional dual anniversary 350 years after the death of the composer **Heinrich Schütz** and 250 years after the birth of the poet **Novalis**. The Heinrich Schütz House in Weißenfels is one of many sites where events are being held in this special year. From January to December 2022, numerous concerts of early and middle baroque music are taking place. In addition, exhibitions at the Brand-Sanierung art gallery and the museum at Neu-Augustusburg Castle are dedicated to Novalis as a poet and geologist.





Where wine is an experience

Saale-Unstrut is the most northerly area in Germany where quality wines are grown. There are more grape varieties here than weeks in the year. Three wine routes and a variety of cycle paths and footpaths are set against the backdrop of idyllic river valleys, terraced vineyards and imposing buildings. Grapes are pressed and the tradition of producing sparkling wine, known as Sekt, is maintained from Hohnstedt and Freyburg to Zeitz and Bad Sulza.

Water lovers will enjoy spending time on interesting stretches of the Rivers Saale and Unstrut. Two of the most beautiful areas are between Jena and Weißenfels on the Saale and between Memleben and Naumburg on the Unstrut. The terraced vineyards here look magnificent in the sunshine. The flagship estate is the Herzogliche vineyard in Freyburg, which has Neuenburg Castle towering over it and adding an impressive touch.

In spring, the vineyards and wineries begin serving wine. The **Herzogliche vineyard** in Freyburg is one of the most beautiful destinations on the Unstrut Cycle Path. It was created in an era when the culture in the region blossomed under the rule of the Dukes of Wettin. Guided tours of the vineyard, which are open to everyone, are now taking place regularly. Between Easter and October, the **state vineyard of Kloster Pforta** is offering wine tastings for everyone. But this is not just an opportunity to try the various wines. It also includes a guided tour of the vineyard, where the impressive "Saale-Unstrut-Wein" sign made of white-painted wooden letters can be seen between the rows of vines, and a visit to the wine cellar both of which combine to make a good introduction to wine growing in Saale-Unstrut.

The high point of the spring is the **Saale wine route at Whitsun weekend**. After a two-year break, the winemakers between Bad Kösen and Roßbach are once again inviting visitors to take a stroll, taste their wines and enjoy the accompanying music and convivial atmosphere. Every vineyard along the route has its own program of events, which means that there is something to suit every taste.

Further information:

<http://schütz22.de>

www.schütz-musikfest.de

www.saale-weinmeile.de

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High resolution press images of Saale-Unstrut:



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<http://www.press-area.com/saale-unstrut/bildarchiv.html>

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