

Travel without restrictions

Accessible Saxony-Anhalt: 180 culture and leisure facilities, hotels and even whole towns aim to make travel easier for people with disabilities. The "Reisen für Alle" (Travel for all) initiative offers inspiration and makes planning weekends away easier with everything from a tour of Bernburg without steps to an accessible indoor play center in Halberstadt.

Stunning works of art, impressive historical artefacts and eye-catching architecture – many people will already be aware that Saxony-Anhalt has an abundance of cultural treasures. Less well-known is the fact that the region which is home to several UNESCO World Heritage Sites is making huge efforts to enable people with disabilities to plan trips easily and enjoy problem-free vacations. Over the last eight years, significant progress has been made toward promoting accessible tourism. Around 180 culture and leisure facilities, hotels and towns are currently listed on the "Reisen für Alle" portal as certified vacation and excursion destinations.

Reliable information

Here guests can find information about the usability and accessibility of each individual offering before they leave home. Everything is listed in detail: Is there an elevator? Are there menus in large print or Braille? Are there disabled parking spaces, handrails in the stairwell and disabled toilets? "This is very helpful for people who are planning their vacation. The information is not only about accessibility for wheelchair users, but also about special facilities for older people, families with buggies and people with hearing and visual impairments or sight loss," explains Manuela Fischer, project manager for the Investment and Marketing Corporation Saxony-Anhalt (IMG). "We are closely involved in the nationwide 'Reisen für Alle' initiative and we are inspecting and certifying businesses on the basis of standard quality criteria."

Succumbing to the charms of Bernburg

As part of this certification process, Manuela Fischer has done a lot of traveling in Saxony-Anhalt and has sometimes been surprised by what places that may not be obvious tourist destinations have to offer. "For instance, I fell in love with the charming small town of Bernburg an der Saale," she enthuses. This former residence of the princes of Anhalt-Bernburg dates back more than 1050 years and lies at the heart of Saxony-Anhalt between Halle and Magdeburg. It was the first town in the region to be recognized as a certified accessible tourism location. "This does not mean that the whole town is accessible, but a lot of attention has been paid to accessibility in many of the cultural venues and hotels. There is very clear information available about where there may still be obstacles and where solutions have been found."

For example, the town's tourist information center offers visitors a guided tour of the town without steps. Blind and visually impaired people can also book tours in advance and there is a special tour for people with cognitive impairments. The museum in Bernburg Castle is currently undergoing major renovations. When it reopens at the end of November, it will have accessible

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toilets and an elevator. In the meantime, the art museum is well worth a visit. This is where the past meets the present, because the former riding school is now home to exhibitions of contemporary art and is accessible via a ramp for people with wheelchairs, walking frames and buggies. Guided tours of the exhibitions are available on request for people with visual impairments. The historic building of the Carl-Maria-von-Weber theater, which dates back to 1827, has an audio induction loop installed. This allows hearing impaired people to hear performances much more easily.

Playing without limits in Halberstadt

Alongside Bernburg, the other towns in Saxony-Anhalt that have been certified as accessible tourism destinations include Lutherstadt Wittenberg. Magdeburg and Dessau-Roßlau. Halberstadt in the Harz district is not yet certified, but already has individual accessible facilities and some interesting ideas. The town, which is only around an hour by car or train from Bernburg. will appeal to cultural visitors and, in particular, to families. After a visit to the cathedral, which is currently accessible for people with disabilities via the new cathedral treasury building and in the future can be accessed via the cathedral's north door, it is fun to go swimming at Sea Land or run wild in the HaWoGe play area. This is the perfect solution for fall days when the weather is bad. The multi-award-winning indoor play center has been designed for children and teens with and without disabilities and offers a wheelchair trampoline and carousel, a water slide, a tabletop soccer arena, a time tunnel and a tactile Braille wall. "Play without limits" is the motto of the center, which covers an area of 3000 square meters. A more relaxing option for older visitors is a 90-minute tour of the town for wheelchair users which takes them on smooth paths and roads and has been designed and tested by the Halberstadt wheelchair users' club.

Certified hotels and more inspiration

Information on accessible hotel and guest house rooms in Halberstadt and Bernburg, plus plenty of inspiration for city trips and destinations in Saxony-Anhalt can be found at <u>Sachsen-Anhalt-Tourismus</u>: <u>Holidays in Saxony-Anhalt (saxony-anhalt-tourism.com)</u>.

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The world of restoration work: Revealing what goes on behind closed doors

The theme of the 5th European Day of Conservation Restoration, which takes place this year, is "Cultural heritage and climate change." On October 16, 2022, the German Association of Restorers (VDR) is inviting anyone interested in the subject to find out more about protecting and restoring cultural assets and about the contribution made by restorers to conserving the environment. Experts in Saxony-Anhalt will be taking part in the event, including those who work at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz.

On October 16, restorers will give visitors exclusive insights into their workplaces in museums, private studios, universities, offices for the preservation of historical monuments, archives and organizations that manage castles and palaces. Visitors are invited to learn more about the details of current conservation and restoration projects and discover what is involved in restoration work, which usually goes on behind closed doors. They will have the chance to talk to the specialists, for example about this year's theme of "Cultural heritage and climate change." At the same time, videos, podcasts, blogs and social media posts will reveal more about restoration work.

Presentation of the restored Roentgen furniture in Wörlitz Palace

As a professional association, the VDR represents the interests of around 3000 restorers working in a wide range of disciplines across Germany. The regional group in Saxony-Anhalt has around 60 members. The main concerns of the association are the protection and proper conservation of artworks and cultural assets with respect for their physical, historical and aesthetic importance. Restorers work not only on famous paintings, expensive brocade fabrics and fine porcelain. They are also responsible for other memorials to human history, from archaeological finds to items made of plastic. All these things have a finite life span and many are very fragile, which means that they need very careful protection.

Therefore, the European Day of Conservation Restoration not only encourages people to take a special look at Europe's cultural heritage, but also to become more familiar with its history and shared values and to focus on the preservation of this heritage. "Our aim is to get younger people in particular interested in protecting our cultural heritage and involved with the conservation and restoration of artworks and cultural assets," says Andrea Himpel, who is a restorer and chair of the Saxony-Anhalt regional group of the VDR.

Robert Hartmann, head of the historic monuments department of the Dessau-Wörlitz Cultural Foundation, which is responsible for the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz, describes the importance of our cultural assets: "Buildings like Wörlitz Palace, which together with its interior furnishings has been in existence for several centuries, are outstanding memorials to our history which we must preserve

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for future generations. They need to be treated with sensitivity and respect and this is what we aim to convey to our guests with our various activities."

On the European Day of Conservation Restoration, unique themed tours will take place at Wörlitz Palace. Alongside many precious items, the palace is also home to world-famous neoclassical furniture – chairs, a work table, two small cabinets and two special gaming tables from the workshop of David Roentgen. These multi-purpose tables can be used for playing chess or cards or can be folded out to become writing desks. On October 16, the restorer Ralph Broschke will give a presentation demonstrating the versatility of these ingenious pieces of 18th century furniture and describing their most recent restoration.

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Further information:

www.tag-der-restaurierung.de.
www.tag-der-restaurierung.de/digital.
www.restauratoren.de/der-vdr/landesgruppen/landesgruppe-sachsen-anhalt.
www.gartenreich.de.

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The Nebra Sky Disc impressed visitors in London – but will soon return to Halle

The Nebra Sky Disc has attracted many visitors to exhibitions in museums across Europe, including the "The World of Stonehenge" exhibition at the British Museum in London, where it was the highlight. It also has been on display at the Drents Museum in Assen in the Netherlands and then, in mid-October, the disc will return to its "home" in the State Museum of Prehistory in Halle (Saale). But anyone who does not want to wait until then can experience the precious piece in an interactive virtual museum.

The exhibition in London had more than 180,000 visitors, who were inspired by the Nebra Sky Disc, which was on show there for three months. The Minister President of Saxony-Anhalt Reiner Haseloff was invited to the British Museum as a guest. Items from the grave of a young woman known as the shaman of Bad Dürrenberg, which form part of the state museum's collection, were also on display in London. The woman was buried in a seated position with a small child in her arms around 9000 years ago. The discovery caused a sensation among experts in the field. This exhibit was another highlight of "The World of Stonehenge" exhibition, which consisted of more than 400 items from all over Europe.

Included in the collective memory of humankind

The bronze disc inlaid with gold symbols, which dates back more than 3600 years, is the oldest known map of the stars. Because of its great importance to humanity, it has been included in the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. This register consists of documents that represent the collective memory of humankind. Visitors will have the chance to see the Sky Disc again when it comes back to Halle an der Saale. Professor Harald Meller, state archaeologist and director of the state museum, is looking forward to the return of the bronze piece: "We are naturally very proud that the Sky Disc was put on display in the British Museum, one of the greatest museums in the world, and was able to cast its spell over visitors there. In the same way as with the Drents Museum, this was an opportunity for us to thank both organizations for the many outstanding items that they have lent the State Museum of Prehistory. At the same time, we are pleased to be able to put the 'Mona Lisa of prehistory' back on show in Halle."

Digitalized Sky Paths

However, the precious piece is also being exhibited in an interactive virtual museum, the eMuseum. The eMuseum not only presents the famous Sky Disc but also integrates it into the Sky Paths archaeological tourist route, which at five selected locations takes visitors on a journey back into previous millennia. In addition to the state museum, it connects the Arche Nebra, the dolmen goddess of Langeneichstädt, the Goseck solar observatory and the Pömmelte Woodhenge, enabling visitors to experience the unique cultural landscape of Saxony-Anhalt.

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Anyone who would like to find out more about the world-famous finds and locations directly should also take a trip to the Arche Nebra visitor center, the location where the Sky Disc was found. Alongside its permanent exhibition, the Arche Nebra also has special presentations and an attractive program of events. At the heart of the Arche Nebra is the planetarium, which explains the astronomical knowledge represented on the Sky Disc in a show for both adults and children. Guided tours, some with audio devices, add the finishing touch to the presentation. However, anyone planning a visit to the Arche Nebra does not have much time, because the visitor center closes on October 1, 2022, for modernization work. It will reopen at the end of June 2023.

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Further information:

- www.landesmuseum-vorgeschichte.de
- www.himmelsscheibe-erleben.de
- www.himmelswege.de
- www.emuseum-himmelswege.de

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Bismarck's land – discovering history and walking in the Altmark

"Proud cities. Wide landscapes" – The Altmark has new offerings for active visitors with its hiking paths known as the "Wandernester Altmark," while the region's many interesting sights offer plenty for lovers of culture and history to enjoy.

Located in the triangle between Berlin, Hanover and Hamburg, the Altmark region has many fascinating attractions that visitors can discover in different ways. The region has much to offer cyclists, walkers and anyone who wants to try the varied regional cuisine, plus there is the opportunity to embark on historical journeys of discovery. The Altmark is home to the birthplace of Otto von Bismarck and to many places where members of his family lived and worked.

No other aristocratic family had such a great impact on the Altmark as the von Bismarcks, who were district administrators, mayors and landowners. Anyone who wants to follow in the family's footsteps will find interesting stories about castles and mansions, gardens and parks, and proud Hanseatic cities in the new "Bismarck's Land" brochure for visitors.

The cultural tour takes guests to towns of Schönhausen (Elbe), Welle, Döbbelin, Briest, Burgstall, Birkholz, Krevese and Kalbe, where they can gain a genuine insight into the history of this local aristocratic family. Schönhausen is the birthplace of Otto von Bismarck, who later became one of the most important politicians of his age. Known as the "Iron Chancellor," Bismarck was responsible for creating the German Reich at the end of the 19th century.

"Wandernester Altmark" - Beautiful walks with stunning views

The sand crunching under your walking boots, the sound of birdsong and a high point in the landscape always in sight – this is what makes walking in the Altmark so appealing. By contrast, walkers will find few noisy roads, tarmacked or almost impassable paths or poorly signed routes. The "Wandernester Altmark" have been created to ensure that visitors can enjoy all the pleasures of walking in the Altmark countryside. These routes mainly follow unspoiled natural paths and partially surfaced tracks. They pass through varied landscapes including woods and moorland full of wildlife, open fields and rich green water meadows, with the silhouettes of peaceful towns occasionally to be seen in the distance.

Two certified hiking paths are the "Arneburg Way" in the UNESCO Middle Elbe Biosphere Reserve, which is home to storks, sea eagles and beavers, and "In the footsteps of Solberg to the Stakenberg" in Zichtau, which leads through the wooded area known as Altmark's Switzerland to the Große Stakenberg, at 148 meters the second highest hill in this area. These two trails are the ideal choice for an enjoyable outing, with plenty of opportunities for listening, breathing deeply and admiring the surroundings. They make for

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a truly special walking experience. The tried-and-tested routes of the "Wandernester Altmark" can be found in the Altmark Active app and on www.altmark.de.

Further information:

www.mittelelbe.com
www.haus-der-fluesse.de
https://pelose.de
www.biosphaerenreservat-droemling.de

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Dessau-Roßlau – where past and present meet

The Bauhaus is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the premiere of the Triadic Ballet with an exhibition and performances in the Bauhaus Museum. At the same time, the Triennial of Modernism is beginning. This is a festival based in the German Bauhaus cities with the theme of "Housing. Working. Living." In addition, the first season of the new Central German Theater in the Marienkirche has started.

The premiere of The Triadic Ballet, Oskar Schlemmer's most successful stage project, took place in Stuttgart a hundred years ago on September 30, 1922. Originally conceived as a "redemption ballet" inspired by rhythmic gymnastics, it evolved into an experimental arrangement, a performative, speculative and abstract exploration of how changes in shapes and movements might make a different way of being human conceivable. In Dessau in particular, Schlemmer integrated The Triadic Ballet and The Figural Cabinet (also devised in 1922) into his Bauhaus work and developed them further as products of the stage workshop which he headed. Here the costumes were more than just garments; Schlemmer's figurines are costume-contraptions which restrict everyday movements to encourage the invention of new patterns of motion that are liberated from conventions.

In an intermezzo at the Bauhaus Museum Dessau, a video installation of the performance (Untitled) The Black Act (2019) by Kia LaBeija (born 1990) entered into a dialogue with the historical documents about The Triadic Ballet. This installation closed on September 25. The New York-based choreographer and artist used The Triadic Ballet as a template for a new narrative about black womanhood, queerness and liberation. To coincide with this, reproductions of Oskar Schlemmer's costumes and figurines were displayed on the historical stage in the Bauhaus building.

In the Bauhaus Museum Dessau, the intermezzo "In the experimentation room: Take a breath! An audio collage for the Bauhaus," which creates a place to breathe in the exhibition, will continue until February 26, 2023. In its early days, the Bauhaus called into question the idea of the so-called New Man in relation to the spatial environment and in the context of industrialization. In the 21st century, the wishlist for the New Man remains a long one. The digital age promises tools for constant self-optimization and the COVID-19 pandemic has required everyone to demonstrate huge flexibility and speed in using digital tools. Hardly anyone has time to pause and focus on their mental well-being. In the experimentation room, visitors can benefit from peace and quiet and take time to stop and think, before continuing their visit to the exhibition with a new perspective.

The Triennial of Modernism - a network festival

The Triennial of Modernism is a cross-regional festival of building culture with a broad impact. It was launched in 2013 based on a collaboration between the cities of Berlin, Dessau and Weimar. All three cities have UNESCO World Heritage Sites linked to the modernist movement of the 1920s that

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deserve greater attention. In a three-year cycle, the heritage of the era, which is groundbreaking in terms of culture, architecture and the history of ideas and which continues to have an impact to this day, is brought into the public spotlight with the help of a wide variety of program offerings. In 2022, the theme of the festival is "Housing. Working. Living."

The Dessau Triennial weekend from October 7 to 9 will be devoted entirely to the topic of "water culture," which is appropriate to the overall theme. In the 1920s and 1930s, the use of technology to supply households outside the major cities with water for domestic use had only just begun. Only a few houses were connected to a sewer system or drinking water supply. But with the gradual installation of sanitary facilities in buildings, the habits associated with personal hygiene, laundry and household cleaning changed, as did water consumption. Alongside the familiar highlights, the Triennial will also bring less well-known locations into the spotlight. The Bauhaus structures in Dessau, from the Bauhaus building itself to the pumping station, represent these key developments in living habits. The festival brings together the different venues, from the waterworks to the Hugo Junkers Museum of technology, with the help of music, including jazz in the monument, music in the garden and music on the move in the historic double-decker bus.

Premiere season of the Central German Theater

After months of preparations and extensive conversion work, the Central German Theater opened its first season on September 4, 2022, in the Marienkirche in Dessau-Roßlau with a performance of the satirical comedy "God's CV". The main parts were played to great acclaim by Dieter Hallervorden and Peter Bause. After the premiere, Dr. Reiner Haseloff, Minister President of Saxony-Anhalt, presented Hallervorden with a medal of honor.

All of the performances of the play were sold out shortly after the premiere, together with readings by famous authors such as Sebastian Fitzek and Elke Heidenreich. Many of the audience members were impressed by the atmosphere in the church and by this year's varied program. Other plays are also being staged with star casts. In addition, there will be a number of guest performances and readings by famous authors and actors, an Advent concert and New Year concert.

Dieter Hallervorden will, of course, be appearing regularly in Central German Theater performances. In January, he will be on stage in the play "Der König stirbt," which represents the theater of the absurd at its best. And at the end of the season in June 2023, the actor will once again be performing in the closing gala.

Hallervorden is particularly pleased by the very positive response from the audience and the many people who thanked him for his commitment to culture and the city of Dessau-Roßlau. The Central German Theater is a project that is close to his heart and represents a demonstration of his love for his native city.

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Discovering the medieval towns on the edge of the Harz

The medieval towns of the Harz region are of huge cultural and historical significance, but their "truly special" charm is what casts a spell over visitors. The fall is the ideal time to discover these cultural treasures by taking guided tours or exploring the many museums. Wernigerode, Halberstadt, Blankenburg and Stolberg are always well worth a visit and make the perfect starting point for long fall walks.

Wernigerode – the colorful town in the Harz

The popular town of Wernigerode with its historic town center and carefully restored, brightly colored half-timbered houses is also known as the "colorful town in the Harz." The town hall in the market place, the crooked house and the smallest house are just some of its unique architectural features. Other interesting sights include the remains of the town's fortifications, the Krummelsche house, which has a complete carved wooden facade, and, of course, Wernigerode Castle, which towers majestically over the town. Inside the castle, some of the rooms still have their original furnishings and give visitors fascinating insights into the 800-year history of the counts and princes who lived there. The "Kleiner Harz" miniature park is home to many of the other sights of the Harz region on a small scale.

One tip for walkers is the 95-kilometer-long Harz Monastery Trail which passes through the center of Wernigerode and can be walked in several stages. The cultural high points of the trail are the 11 churches and monasteries set in the varied countryside between Goslar and Quedlinburg.

Halberstadt - cathedral city and gateway to the Harz

Impressive religious buildings dominate the skyline of the former bishop's seat on the northern edge of the Harz region. At the heart of the town's historic center is the large cathedral square with the impressive cathedral of St. Stephanus and St. Sixtus and the Romanesque Liebfrauenkirche. The cathedral was built on the French model and is one of the finest Gothic cathedrals in Germany. The cathedral treasury houses more than 600 precious items dating back over several centuries and is one of the most exquisite collections of its kind in the world. At the foot of the cathedral is the historic old town with its winding alleyways, cobblestone streets and crown glass windows. Halberstadt's half-timbered buildings are breathtaking and the oldest houses date back to the 16th century. Below the former bishop's palace, observant visitors will notice traces of the former Jewish community in Halberstadt, which in the 17th and 18th century was one of the largest in central Europe.

Halberstadt impresses visitors with its varied cultural landscape, many museums and wide-ranging program of events. The Gleimhaus, one of the oldest literary museums in Germany, brings to life the age of enlightenment with an impressive collection of books, letters and portraits of Johann Wilhelm Ludwig Gleim, who gave his name to the museum. The municipal

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museum gives interesting insights into the changing history of the town, while nature lovers will enjoy a visit to the Heineanum ornithological museum. The Schraube Museum has displays of domestic life from the period around 1900 and the Berend Lehmann Museum preserves the centuries-old traditions of the former Jewish community of Halberstadt.

Lovers of theater, ballet, opera and symphony concerts are certain to enjoy a visit to the Nordharzer Städtebundtheater. One musical highlight of the region is what is probably the most unusual project in the history of the organ. The John Cage organ piece "ORGAN²/ASLSP" has been performed in the Buchardikirche since the turn of the century and will last for a total of 639 years. One tip for walkers is the mystical Klusberge rocks, which can be discovered on a 4-kilometer walk around the edge of Halberstadt. These striking and unusual sandstone formations include the Devil's Pulpit, the Klus Rock and the Five Finger Rock.

Blankenburg and the baroque castle gardens

Because of its location in the lower Harz region, its impressive castle and gardens, the historic old town and the large villas, some in Art Nouveau style, which date back to the end of the 19th and early 20th century, Blankenburg is a popular vacation destination. The Blankenburg castle gardens, which cover an area of 100 hectares, are among the largest and oldest in Saxony-Anhalt and form an important part of the regional "Garden Dreams" initiative. The parks and gardens of the large and small castles include the terrace garden, the orangery square, the mountain garden with the tea house and princess tower, the large castle park with pool, the pheasant garden and the Luisenburg lookout point. In the medieval old town, the historic town hall, the church of St. Bartholomäus and Germany's only historic hostel museum are all well worth a visit.

The castle and fortress of Regenstein can be found on a striking rocky crag outside the town. The castle has been transformed into an open-air museum. With its sandstone architecture and the 32 rooms and ditches carved out of the rock that still remain, it is an impressive experience. Not far away on the Romanesque Road is Michaelstein Abbey, which should not be missed. The Blankenburg climbing wall and the glassworks in the Derenburg district of Blankenburg make the town an ideal destination for family vacations.

One tip for walkers is the Devil's Wall Trail, which is very popular in the fall. The trail is around 29 kilometers long and runs from Blankenburg to Ballenstedt. It promises stunning views and many cultural highlights, such as Wendhusen monastery, Weddersleben paper mill and the castle in Ballenstedt. Along the route, walkers will see the striking rock formations of the Devil's Wall, including the Grandfather Rock, the Hamburg Coat of Arms and the Small and Large Counterstone.

Your contact:

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Truly family-friendly: ready for the school vacation at the castle and the Krokoseum, plus a new city map

It will soon be time for the fall break and Halle (Saale) has a whole range of interesting activities available for young visitors and their families to make sure that things never get boring. The program includes a variety of indoor and outdoor events. All the important locations are marked on the new city map.

I spy with my little eye... any number of ideas for things for kids to do in Halle and the surrounding areas. They are the perfect solution for the next family outing, a day of walking with the school class or kindergarten group, a vacation day out with grandparents, aunts or uncles or a special birthday. The 56 fun activities fall into different groups: theaters, movie theaters, museums, open-air and indoor swimming pools, zoos, attractions such as the Peißnitzexpress railway, activities on the river Saale, plus sport and games. The city map also has 15 shopping ideas for children. All the recommendations are clearly marked on the map with different symbols. The map also includes other useful information such as play areas, public toilets, baby changing facilities, free Wifi, places to eat and parking lots. The city map is available free of charge from the Tourist Information Center with hallesaale*-Shop or online.

Romantic castle ruins with a view of the Saale and mulled wine round the fire

Giebichenstein castle on the river Saale is a romantic ruin with strong links to the past. On Sunday 22 October, there will be a family festival at the castle. In November and December, Giebichenstein will also be open every Saturday and Sunday from 11.00 to 17.00 to allow visitors to discover the castle with its special view of the Saale, weather permitting. On the weekends in Advent, there will be mulled wine on offer around the fire.

Francke Foundations gripped by the power of emotions

"The Power of Emotions" is the title of the annual exhibition at the Francke Foundations, which is now open to visitors. In the fall vacation from October 24, the Francke Foundations also offer 21 different activities for young children and teenagers. These include a children's book workshop in the Krokoseum, a visit from the reading fairy, rap and media workshops, experimental areas in the Green Laboratory and the Krokomobile.

The annual exhibition offers an interactive tour of the emotions with surprising play and thought spaces. The young visitors are invited to think, feel and talk along with the exhibition, which aims to provide them with guidance through the jungle of emotions. In seven themed rooms, visitors discover what purpose emotions serve, what they do, how they influence us, why we need them and how we can learn to deal with them. The <u>exhibition</u> continues until February 5, 2023, in the Historic Orphanage in the Francke Foundations.

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Vacation workshops on the myths of the Sky Disc

The State Museum of Prehistory is also getting ready for the vacation. The myths about the Sky Disc, the oldest surviving representation of the sky, are the subject of exciting and eventful vacation workshops at the museum. More information is available online.

Guided tours and journeys of discovery

Halle's city marketing department has created seven guided tours for children of different ages which will take place when the weather is fine. They include a tour of the old town, a children's tour, the truth or lie tour, a tour with Halle's youngest guide and tours of the zoo, the stadium and the airport. Enquiries and bookings can be made at any time online.

Further information:

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/

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Culture in its purest form: all you need to know about Luther

The towns of Saxony-Anhalt are rich in culture. In Wittenberg and Eisleben, visitors can experience the history of the reformation in greater detail than anywhere else. In addition, this year sees the 500th anniversary of the first translation of the Bible.

A simple door in Wittenberg is famous throughout the world. In 1517, Martin Luther (1483-1546) nailed his 95 theses opposing the sale of indulgences by the Catholic Church to the main door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg and launched the Reformation. Luther's House in Wittenberg is the world's largest museum of Reformation history. Luther was born and died in Eisleben and lived and worked in Wittenberg. No other region of Germany has such close links with the Reformation as Saxony-Anhalt.

A historical detective story about the Bible translation

At the Luther sites, which were awarded World Heritage Site status by UNESCO in 1996, it is always rewarding to follow in the footsteps of the great reformer. This year, a special anniversary brings the historical events even closer. In 2022, the Luther museums are celebrating Martin Luther's translation of the Bible and the printing of the September Testament. The high points of the anniversary include an interactive exhibition at the Augusteum in Wittenberg. "Crime scene 1522 – the escape game for the Luther Bible" is a historical detective story in which visitors work their way through five rooms looking for facts and finding out a lot about Luther, his everyday life, the Bible and his companions.

Special exhibition about Luther's illustrator in Wittenberg

One of these companions was Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472-1553), who illustrated Luther's Bible. His name is also linked with an anniversary this year. On the 550th anniversary of his birth, Wittenberg pays homage to one of the greatest painters of the Renaissance with a special exhibition starting on September 10. The title of the exhibition is "Apocalypse – a glimpse into the abyss and beyond" and it consists of around 60 exhibits, including numerous works by Albrecht Dürer und Max Beckmann, which will be on show in the Cranach courtyard at Markt 4 until December 11. Lectures, a Bible writing project and illustration workshops are also planned.

Celebrating Reformation Day at authentic locations

There are more highlights in Luther's towns in Saxony-Anhalt this fall. October 31, the day when Luther is said to have nailed up his theses 505 years ago, is a public holiday. Every year a variety of events take place in Eisleben and Wittenberg on this day. One popular tradition in Wittenberg is the Reformation festival with its historic market. In Eisleben, special guided tours are available, together with lectures, concerts and church services.

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"Speak up!" in the town where Luther was born

Appropriately, an exhibition is being staged in Eisleben that is aimed primarily at children, young people and families. It is, of course, no coincidence that this special language-related event is taking place in the house where Luther died. The reformer was closely involved with language throughout his life. But you cannot just stroll through the "Speak up!" exhibition. The interactive event, which runs until August 20, 2023, allows visitors to experience "language" directly in seven different themed areas. The exhibition investigates language and all its facets – true to the spirit of the reformer. Luther was born on November 10, 1483, in Eisleben. The Luther's birthday festival is held in the marketplace every year on the weekend before the anniversary of his birth. By tradition, Martin Luther and his wife Katharina von Bora open the festival themselves, which includes a medieval spectacle and guided tours of the town, plus a night watchman's tour.

Information about the September Testament

The theologian Martin Luther (1483-1546) translated the New Testament from ancient Greek into German. The so-called September Testament was printed in September 1522 in the Cranach printing works and became a bestseller. The illustrations produced by Cranach's workshop contributed to its success.

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Further information

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Magdeburg: The magic of fall in a culture-rich city

The hustle and bustle of a vibrant city, a wide variety of interesting events and cuisine from all over the world – fall has arrived in the capital of Saxony-Anhalt, bringing with it rewarding experiences for adults and children alike. In the fall, the city's many parks and green spaces are the perfect places for relaxing walks.

From September 30 to October 3, knights, serving wenches and minstrels will be welcoming medieval enthusiasts, families and lovers of the city of Magdeburg to the Emperor Otto festival. This historic spectacle, which includes jousting, fire breathers and musical festivities, takes place at the foot of the magnificent Magdeburg cathedral. The festival site stretches from the Monastery of our Lady and the Fürstenwall to the Möllenvogtei Garden and the Remtergang, a street near the cathedral. The event is dedicated to one of the two Ottos who gave their name to this City of Otto: Emperor Otto the Great.

The cultural landscape in Magdeburg this fall includes a wide range of concerts and comedy shows, with something to suit every musical taste. One special highlight is the open-air concert performed by Johannes Oerding in the cathedral square at the end of September, while in November, Ute Freudenberg and Karat will be appearing in the unique ambience of the Johanniskirche. The handball stadium of SC Magdeburg will be transformed into an atmospheric concert venue with appearances by artists as varied as Bob Dylan, Roland Kaiser, Andrea Berg and Kontra K. Comedians Mario Barth, Ilka Bessin and Kurt Krömer promise shows with plenty of fun and laughter.

The arrival of fall brings the pleasure of long walks against the fairytale backdrop of trees with leaves in beautiful autumn colors. The Herrenkrug landscape park, the extensive Rotehorn city park on an island in the Elbe river and the historic fortifications in the city center are all ideal locations for taking a leisurely stroll, spending an enjoyable afternoon and relaxing against the background of the hustle and bustle of Magdeburg in the fall.

After a few chilly hours outside, visitors can warm up in one of any number of restaurants and bars, where hot food and drinks and tasty delicacies are on offer. The gourmet mile in the city center begins at Hasselbachplatz, continues through the cathedral district and stretches as far as Leiterstraße and the Alter Markt. Here, visitors to Magdeburg can enjoy the cozy eateries which serve a wide variety of hearty dishes and international specialties. The restaurants and cafés combine a relaxing atmosphere with unique views of the river Elbe, the historic city walls and the colors of the fall foliage.

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Discovering the life and work of Heinrich Schütz by bicycle



Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672) is one of the most important German composers of the 17th century. This fall, the region of Saale-Unstrut is celebrating the 350th anniversary of the death of the "father of modern music" at the Heinrich Schütz music festival, the Merseburg organ festival and special exhibitions. One unusual offering is the opportunity to take cultural tours by bicycle through the region.

On the Elster cycle path from the composer's birthplace to his first place of work

Heinrich Schütz was born on October 8, 1585, in the small town of Bad Köstritz in the Elster valley. A 23-kilometer cycle tour on the Elster cycle path starts here and finishes in Zeitz, where Schütz worked as director of music years later. Although he spent only the first five years of his life in Bad Köstritz, the Heinrich Schütz house there tells the story of the composer's life and work.

The cycle tour runs mainly along the banks of the White Elster river to Zeitz. In this former residence of Duke Moritz of Sachsen-Zeitz, Heinrich Schütz helped the duke to develop the music of the court. The Moritzburg Castle museum celebrates the work of the composer there in a special exhibition entitled "Lemons for Zeitz – how Heinrich Schütz shaped the musical life of the court". The exhibition runs until November 6. Visitors to the castle park will find a musical path which can be accessed via QR codes on their smartphones and will lead them into the composer's world.

Zeitz and Bad Köstritz are the locations for the famous Heinrich Schütz music festival. From October 7 to 16, they are staging musical events in museums, intimate concerts of sacred music, large-scale gala concerts and special guided tours.

On the castle bicycle tour from Zeitz to Schütz' retirement residence in Weißenfels

Zeitz is the starting point for a 50-kilometer stage of the castle bicycle tour which finishes in Weißenfels. Initially the route goes slightly uphill to Droyßig, where cyclists can stop for a break at the castle with its bear enclosure, and then from Osterfeld it continues through the peaceful Wethau valley until it meets the Saale river. Following the Saale cycle path, the route goes on to Weißenfels.

This town on the Saale has close links with Heinrich Schütz. This is where the composer spent his childhood and where he returned at the end of his life and produced his highly respected late works. The Heinrich Schütz house in Weißenfels is the only original home of the composer still in existence. The modern exhibition allows visitors to discover different episodes in the life of the composer with the help of fictional audio dramas. The highlight of the museum tour is the restored composing room where there are two fragments of sheet music written by Heinrich Schütz himself.

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In the fall, the Heinrich Schütz house and the town of Weißenfels will be staging special cultural events which include concerts during the Heinrich Schütz music festival in October. This year's high point is the first performance of the choral symphony "From the life of Heinrich Schütz" on November 6, 2022, in the arts center in Weißenfels.

Traveling the Saale cycle path to the Merseburg organ festival

The stretch of the Saale cycle path from Weißenfels to Merseburg is about 25 kilometers in length. The path passes the wine-growing villages of Burgwerben and Kriechau and also Bad Dürrenberg, which will be the venue for the regional garden show in 2024.

On the approach to Merseburg, the impressive outlines of the cathedral and castle can be seen from a long way off. The most precious treasures in the 1000-year-old cathedral are the world-famous Merseburg Incantations and the atmospheric Ladegast organ. This lies at the heart of the Merseburg organ festival, which is being held from September 10 to 18. This year, the famous festival has a musical encounter with Heinrich Schütz. On three evenings, the renowned ensembles Collegium Vocale Leipzig, Lautten Compagney Berlin and La Capella Ducale, will perform Schütz' Musical Exequies, the Schwanengesang (Swan Song) and psalms and motets.

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High-resolution media images of the Schütz locations:

www.press-area.com/saale-unstrut/bildarchiv/schuetz.html

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