



# PRESS-INFORMATION

## How an afternoon at the oven evoked the power of emotions

**There's a hiss, then steam rises up to the powerful spotlights and, a bit later, a pleasant, sweet fragrance fills the room. Meanwhile, at another station on the stage, apples and cinnamon are being sautéed in butter. The presenter is delighted: "Can you smell that? It's pure emotion!" Agreement in the form of applause comes from the audience at the Volksbühne am Kaulenberg theatre in Halle.**

"Power of emotions" (Macht der Emotionen) is indeed the motto of the 2022 Year of Culture (Themenjahr) in Halle an der Saale, in the second year of a decade of cultural events involving changing topics and a huge variety of formats. "The townspeople are the focal point of these cultural years. We want to appeal as much as possible to people we don't normally reach," explains Dr. Christin Müller-Wenzel, Project Coordinator of the Years of Culture.

The various formats in 2022 also included an invitation to take part in a cooking competition to explore the "emotions of taste". The search was on for a special recipe, and over 30 inhabitants of Halle took part by sending in photos, messages or videos. The three finalists, Annika, Peter and Carlo, were invited to the competition final at the theatre. Seated at a small table in the front row was the attentive jury of high-profile members such as Robin Pietsch, star chef at the ZeitWerk Wernigerode restaurant, Christian Lifka, head chef at the Dorint Hotel Charlottenhof Halle, and French food writer and TV chef Aurélie Bastian.

When the starting signal was given by radio presenter Holger Tapper, the tablecloths over the ingredients were pulled back to show the competition dish – Kaiserschmarrn, or sweet, shredded pancake. While the three amateur chefs began to heat their ovens and stir their ingredients in the limited preparation time, Tapper chatted to the jury, the event organisers and the public about all the emotions and associations aroused in the onlookers by this dish from the Alps. The amateur chefs were also asked about their careers and personal experience of cooking, giving rise not just to good food, but an entertaining afternoon that was broadcast via [livestream](#).

Other events in the Years of Culture are also interactive, such as the Emotions Trail in the annual exhibition at the Francke Foundations, which urges visitors to think, feel and speak. For the young target group, seven themed rooms in the interactive exhibition are all about linking everyday experiences with knowledge of emotions, to see how emotions function in everyday life, advertising and politics. Educational museum programmes accompany the exhibition, which will continue to run in the Historic Orphanage until the beginning of February. Besides this, 63 other facilities and institutions in the fields of art, science, religion and culture are involved in shaping the Years of Culture. "The Years of Culture are creating a very emotional view of our home town," explains Project Coordinator Dr. Müller-Wenzel, adding: "With our motto for the year 2023 – Conflict and Cohesion – we will pursue creative, very special ways of reaching out to people."



But let's return to the "emotions of taste": After precisely one hour, the finished dishes of Kaiserschmarrn with apple compote and vanilla sauce on the side were placed on the jury's table, who then proceeded to smell, chew and swallow. Finally, the three professional chefs announced the winner, who had produced the fluffiest and finest-tasting pudding. This was Carlo, who had a laurel wreath placed upon his head as a final crowning ceremony.

### ***Further information:***

[Years of Culture | Years of Culture Halle \(themenjahre-halle.de\)](https://www.themenjahre-halle.de)  
[The Power of Emotions - Francke Foundations \(francke-halle.de\)](https://www.francke-halle.de)

### ***Years of Culture and Transformation:***

With its decade of themed Years of Culture, each year the city of Halle (Saale) addresses a new topic that is relevant to the city. The city's inhabitants are involved in the programme of events, which runs all through the year and brings them into contact with each other. Culture is also understood as a building block for coping with the process of transformation to which the city, as the centre of the "chemical triangle", has been exposed since the German reunification. Halle (Saale) is again faced with the challenges of transformation arising from the phase-out of coal.

Together with stakeholders from science, business and culture, and also with surrounding districts, Halle decided to apply to be the site of a planned "Future Centre for German Unity and European Transformation" in Germany. The intention is to achieve added value for the further development of the city and surrounding area as a dynamic, innovative and cosmopolitan region, with positive repercussions for the whole of Saxony-Anhalt. At the same time, the Centre would provide considerable momentum for shaping Germany and the European Union for the future. The decision on which former East German state should be the site of the Future Centre is expected in early 2023.



# PRESS-INFORMATION

## Be a guest of the Bismarcks: Christmas World at Bismark Castle Döbbelin is well worth a visit

**Unassuming at first glance, the village of Döbbelin is just a few minutes' drive south west of the city of Stendal. But the hamlet, with only about 100 inhabitants, is one of the Altmark's most popular tourist destinations. For here, it's Christmas all year round! Castle Döbbelin's "Christmas World" gets visitors in a festive mood 365 days of the year.**

Döbbelin's main attraction is the castle, resplendent in imperial yellow, which has been the seat of the von Bismarck family for 19 generations and can be considered a unique example of Altmark architecture. With great attention to detail and an unwavering passion for the region, the owner of the castle, Alexander von Bismarck, together with his wife, has gradually restored the property since 1991 and has opened it up to visitors.

If you visit Döbbelin Castle you will find well-tended castle gardens to stroll around in and a beautiful baroque building that transports you to a different time. "When this was still part of East Germany, the building was the village centre with cooperative shop, preschool, doctors surgery and post office, von Bismarck explains. As it had always been used, the fabric of the building was well preserved, so that nothing stood in the way of restoration after the German reunification – even though the castle needed an extensive visual makeover. Today, nothing of the once grey façade remains.

Alexander von Bismarck has been leading guided tours of his estate for many years. On entering the castle and stepping into an impressive entrance hall, you are greeted by paintings of ancestors, quaint furniture and numerous deer antlers on the walls. Between them, the portrait of the first Chancellor of the German Empire, Otto von Bismarck (1815-1898), stares straight into your eyes. He was born 20 kilometres away, in Schönhausen an der Elbe, where the Bismarck Museum, which opened in 1998, has many interesting things to discover about this Prussian statesman. But the first traces of the von Bismarck family can be found way back in the year 1200, here in the Altmark.

The castle boasts 29 rooms, including nine bathrooms. Wherever you look, you will see magnificent chandeliers, priceless wooden furniture and objets d'art, brilliant white stucco on the ceilings, and countless paintings, drawings and photos of the von Bismarck family. If you're lucky enough to be guided around the building by the owner himself, you'll also hear exciting anecdotes about his origins and relatives. Otto von Bismarck's great-nephew passionately tells stories about his own history and that of this noble Altmark family. The spiral staircase, which dates back to 1736, leads past the prominent family tree up to the large hall on the second floor, where couples also like to say "I do" in an impressive setting. As well as weddings, the building also regularly hosts family celebrations and classical music concerts for up to 80 guests. People can also get married in the castle gardens.

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Brigitte Luschnat is a kind soul who knows the castle very well and has worked on the estate for 30 years. She's the one who normally guides groups of visitors through the many rooms. "During these guided tours, visitors are often not even that interested in the history. Instead, they often ask me: so, what is the von Bismarck family like in private?" says the employee with a laugh. As a friend of the family for many years, she does of course know one or two fascinating anecdotes about the Bismarcks. Visitors can in fact explore the entire castle, with one exception – the family's private bedrooms.

Whereas Brigitte Luschnat used to work in the post office that was in the castle, these days she also takes care of the café and shop on the ground floor of the baroque building. There, a unique world of Christmas opens its doors to visitors all year through! Everywhere glitters and sparkles: thousands of Christmas items are on show over 600 square metres. From the dancing Santa to tinsel and Christmas baubles, to detailed crib figures – "Christmas World" has everything the heart desires. For those who love this season of the year and want to enjoy a truly magical experience, it's perfect. In the nearby café, with space for groups as well, visitors can enjoy fresh coffee and delicious cakes. In addition, the annual LebensArt Stendal, a regional trade fair for gardens, living and lifestyle, is held at Castle Döbbelin.

As well as the castle and grounds, the Bismarck estate also contains a holiday apartment of 90 square metres for up to six people, plus the dovecote and little 12th century family chapel. It's therefore no wonder that Castle Döbbelin has also been an impressive backdrop for films, such as the 2011 movie "Men Do What They Can" starring Jan-Josef Liefers and Oliver Korittke. You can read more about the Bismarcks in Döbbelin and the region in the book of the same name.

If you are interested in architecture, history and culture, you'll also find what you're looking for in the Altmark beyond Döbbelin: venerable churches, old half-timbered houses, charming castles and manor houses, beautiful parks and gardens, important figures from history – the Altmark's countless cultural treasures are there for you to discover. Prominent examples include Tangermünde Castle, Jerichow Monastery and Havelberg Cathedral.

**Author: Corinne Plaga**

### ***Further information:***

[www.altmark.de](http://www.altmark.de)

Book guided tours for 10 people or more (or individuals): [von Bismarck - Döbbelin \(bismarck-doebbelin.de\)](http://von-Bismarck-Doebbelin.bismarck-doebbelin.de)

Bismarck Foundation [Homepage - Otto-von-Bismarck Foundation](http://Homepage-Otto-von-Bismarck-Foundation)



# PRESS-INFORMATION

## “Truly delicious”: Fruit from the Süßer Lake

**The Süßer Lake is smaller than most others in Saxony-Anhalt, it's no water sports mecca, and its name, which means “fresh”, simply differentiates it from the “Salziger (= salty) Lake, which has largely dried up. But the region can claim to be “truly delicious”. Here grows fruit that you wouldn't expect to see at these latitudes.**

Rolling hills adorned with ramrod-straight rows of vegetables or vineyards, with here and there a stretch of forest. In the widest valley is the sparkling Süßer Lake, which runs parallel to the B80 main road east of Eisleben in the Mansfelder Land region. Anyone gazing out over the landscape from the viewing platform on the Franzosenberg hill near Aseleben will understand why the region is often referred to as the “Tuscany of the East”. However, the slag heaps sitting on the mountains like pointed hats soon give the game away: we're not in Tuscany, but in the [Mansfelder Land](#) region in the south east of Saxony-Anhalt.

### An ideal climate for sun-loving crops

But long before copper and potash were mined in these hills, the region's countenance was shaped by fruit growing and viticulture. Particularly around the Süßer Lake – the Mansfeld-Südharz region's largest at 4.9 kilometres in length and almost a kilometre wide at its broadest point – fruit that normally has a hard time in Germany simply thrives. On fruit grower [Philipp Moser's](#) land, for example, he harvests apples, plums, sweet and sour cherries, apricots, wine grapes, peaches and walnuts. His neighbour is the talk of the region with his kiwis and watermelons. Then there are the winegrowers who plant grapes on the northern side of the lake, facing the sun.

Moser puts the lake's fruitfulness down to its microclimate: “Here we're in one of the driest regions in Germany. The Harz mountains and Thuringian Forest provide rain shadows that reduce our rainfall to almost half the German average. That's no problem, so long as the moisture from winter – from ample rain and a slow thaw in a normal year – lasts until late spring and the good, humus-rich soil of the region can work its water-storing magic to good advantage. Apricots and cherries, which prefer damp roots and dry fruit, feel at home in this region. At the same time, the strong thermals over the lake stop moisture from settling on the fruit trees and vines, making life difficult for fungi and other pests.” But as beautiful as the weather, with its above-average sunshine hours, may be for tourists, at some point even heat- and drought-loving crops get thirsty. “Then, we water the plantations from the Süßer Lake,” explains Moser. “As sparingly as possible, of course, by drip irrigation directly to the roots, for example.”

Like Moser's “Obsthof am Süßen See”, nearly every fruit-growing enterprise has its own farm shop. Agnieszka Kula, also in Aseleben, sells fruit from her husband's farm, “Obstbau Tilo Jünger”, at her farm shop, [“Aga's Obst-Hofladen”](#). Naturally, she always writes what's “grown on the farm” on her shop displays. In the height of summer, this consists of sweet and sour cherries, apricots, plums, peaches, nectarines... “I have regular customers

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who even call from Berlin, asking if the apricots are ripe, and then come and buy some.”

As well as their own harvest, each farm shop also displays at least one shelf of fine beverages obtained from the region's fruit. You could also buy them direct from the winemaker or distiller, of course, and then also hope for a chat with the experts.

### **Fine beverages made from the fruit next door**

... from the [Feindestillerie Gerhard Büchner](#) distillery in Teutschenthal, for example. Gerhard and his son René only discovered their passion for distilling near the end of their working lives – but not without success, as testified by numerous certificates on the walls. “We take a great deal of care with the apricots, in particular,” the two master distillers confide. “For a premium product, only flawless fruit is allowed into the mash, and not a single kernel.” They regularly issue invitations to tastings, where not only whisky but also brandy, spirits and liqueurs made from the fruit next door are vying for your attention. “But if someone is curious and stops by during the day, one of us will always find time to sit down with them, have a taste and a chat, or even let them have a look inside the malting house,” René Büchner promises.

René Schwalbe, a viniculturist from the [Weingut Rollsdorfer Mühle](#) vineyard, is also set up for visitors. He may have his hands full during the day with his six hectares of vineyards, but from around 4 p.m. he is busy around the house, in the garden with the guest tables or in his wine cellar. For that's when visitors come to taste and to buy, or to make reservations for a wine tasting and the right food to go with it. “I prepare everything myself!” Schwalbe emphasises. “At my place, I don't serve onion tart from the supermarket or ham wrapped in plastic”. He also takes curious visitors into his cellar, which opens up to an unexpected size under the house and is reminiscent of castle vaults. It's interesting to note that Schwalbe turned to wine growing as a student, to cover his needs and those of a few of his peers. They were attracted to the Süßer Lake, where there is documented evidence of viniculture since the year 973, “...because the climate and the red sandstone residual soil allow excellent grapes to be grown,” Schwalbe tells us. He stuck with it, opened an actual winery in 2000, and still pays his long-departed comrades-in-arms in kind with a few boxes of his own produce.

### **Adventures between plantations and vineyards**

So, apart from stocking up on baskets of fruit, bottles, jams and other delicacies from farm shops, what other treats lie in wait for visitors? Philipp Moser, whose land is host to the viewing tower on the Franzosenberg mountain, has this to say: “Anyone enjoying the 360-degree view here is simultaneously looking at a kind of transparent production. Visitors can see everything we do, like how time-consuming it is to cover the cherries with rain covers and other fruit with hail netting. The steps we take to protect our plants are no secret.”



To find out even more about fruit and wine growing, it's a good idea to look at the calendar. Every year at the end of June, the whole of Saxony-Anhalt celebrates the Cherry Festival – including, of course, on the banks of the Süßer Lake. And then there are the events along the [Mansfelder Seen Wine Road](#), like the Open Cellar Day, the Winemakers Festival and, later on, the New Wine Festival, and the Autumn and Mulled Wine Hikes.

If getting active is your thing, there are paths around the lake: the 14 kilometre circular walk, which wends its way along or at varying distances from the banks, or the 30-kilometre cycle path, which also encircles the former Salziger Lake. However, you can only take the distances and stated times seriously if you're not tempted by the many signposts to stop off at wine taverns, browse farm shops, stroll through villages and read all the information boards about their history, or climb to a lookout point to gaze over the hills and down to the valley below.

**Author: Marlis Heinz**

### ***Further information***

[www.seegebiet-mansfelder-land.de](http://www.seegebiet-mansfelder-land.de)

[www.obsthof-aseleben.de](http://www.obsthof-aseleben.de)

[www.aga-obst.de](http://www.aga-obst.de)

[www.gerhard-buechner.de/#brennerei-gerhard-buechner](http://www.gerhard-buechner.de/#brennerei-gerhard-buechner)

[www.weingut-rolldorfer-muehle.de](http://www.weingut-rolldorfer-muehle.de)

[www.weinstraÙe-mansfelder-seen.de](http://www.weinstraÙe-mansfelder-seen.de)

# PRESS-INFORMATION

## Wild, raw, sustainable: “Genuine Altmark” serves up regional delicacies

**Genuine, rustic Altmark cuisine has an excellent reputation: these special products can be sampled at the region’s festivals or pubs or delivered to your home.**

Altmark Wedding Soup, the “Nährstange” chocolate treat from Tangermünde and the pyramid cake from Salzwedel impress foodies far beyond the borders of the Altmark. It’s not just the regional classics that are literally on everyone’s lips – the Altmark is also renowned for hand-picked herbs and delicacies made from hemp, game, algae, crudités and gourmet mushrooms, all in top organic quality and sustainably produced. Regional shops and farmers’ markets sell these products, which can also be sampled at festivals and social gatherings all year round.

The regional “genuine Altmark” stamp enables people to easily recognise authentic products and services from the region’s farmers, food producers, restaurateurs, hoteliers, tradespeople, service providers, craftspeople, and experience providers. Alternatively, you could have a taste of a faraway place and simply get things delivered to your home: the [“Altmark box”](#) contains more than ten typical sweet and savoury products. These include both traditional classics and surprising new discoveries from the region.

Altmark cuisine covers a diverse regional gastronomic landscape, from inns to private dining room tables, to outstanding hotel cuisine. Modern or traditional, there’s one thing that endures in the Altmark: “Eten, freten, tuhören und vertellen”, local dialect for “eat, drink and be merry” in the Altmark!

### ***Further information:***

Find regional cuisine suggestions at [www.altmark.de](http://www.altmark.de)

Find out more about the “genuine Altmark” stamp [here](#) or on [Instagram](#)

### ***Contact:***

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# PRESS-INFORMATION

## Anhalt cuisine: Far more than sausages, rice pudding and pear dumplings

**Dessau-Roßlau entices visitors with extravagant specialities to eat in an attractive setting – and not just at Christmas. At the region's Christmas markets, the cuisine is more traditional: mulled wine and other typical delights can be sampled at the Dessau Marketplace, St. Mary's Church and Roßlau Water Castle.**

Anhalt cuisine is obviously far more than sausages, rice pudding and pear dumplings, and can be found on numerous menus in Dessau, such as in the Brauhaus, for example. At the "Tobi ornot ToBe" restaurant in Johannisstraße, gourmets can embark on a lavish culinary journey of discovery of regional products, and truly indulge themselves.

If you want to feast in the Dessau Bauhaus Building, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the restaurant and café in the Georgengarten gardens or the Kornhaus on the banks of the river Elbe will see you right. The Kornhaus was built by Bauhaus architect Carl Fieger in 1929-1930.

A special Christmas and Advent experience can be enjoyed at the Advent Market on Dessau Marketplace until 23 December. Here, visitors can look forward to beautiful light installations and figures in "Dessau im Lichterglanz" (illuminated Dessau). The Junkers "Aunt Ju" transport aircraft is one of the illuminated themes at the heart of the market. As well as traditional mulled wine and food stalls, visitors can look forward to rides, an artificial ice rink, and a new railway for younger visitors.

One of central Germany's really special Christmas markets opens its large wooden doors once again from 6 to 11 December. In St. Mary's Church, you can experience the joy of Advent far away from the hustle and bustle. There, you can discover extra special treasures and numerous beautiful and artistic wonders at the stalls of artisans, artists and select tradespeople. You can also talk to the craftspeople and experience delights both old and new. Culinary treats, classic mulled wine and hot wine from various types of fruit will also be to hand.

The Roßlau Advent Market traditionally opens at the Water Castle on the third weekend of Advent. Visitors are welcome to soak up the castle's historic atmosphere and enjoy the beauty of the "Sternstunden" (star hours). The smells of Christmas, delicious treats, beautiful attractions, small handicrafts and many ideas for gifts set the scene for feeling good and enjoying yourself.

### ***Further information:***

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# PRESS-INFORMATION

## Culture and treats galore: Advent and Christmas customs in Halle (Saale)

**The Halloren – the Salt Workers’ Fraternity of Thale, Halle – goes back 500 years and is closely linked to the salt boiling tradition in Halle. The UNESCO Commission has named it an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Germany. Its Christmas customs include Christmas decorations made of salt, for example, and a very special cake. The city also has a lot to offer musically – from Halle’s most famous son, Georg Friedrich Handel, for instance. During Advent, his works are played on the original organ on which the master himself learned to play.**

The Salt Chandelier is an Advent and Christmas custom that the salt workers in Halle maintain to this day. The salt boilers used it as a Christmas decoration. Up until the 19th century, the Salt Chandelier was hung in the salt worker families’ parlours, until it was replaced by the traditional Christmas tree.

Brine is used to painstakingly create the Salt Chandelier. Layer by layer the chandelier, which is carved from wood, is sprayed with brine. Once the water has dried, the next coat of brine is sprayed on. The salt workers also produce hand-made figures and tree decorations from boiled salt. This handicraft can be witnessed first-hand at the traditional Advent salt boiling demonstration.

This public salt boiling show takes place at the brine source in Halle at Holzplatz 8 in the afternoon of the fourth Sunday of Advent. A mobile boiling pan is used. Due to building work at the future Hallors and Saline Museum, salt-making traditions can currently only be carried out in public to a limited extent.

The Halloren Cake is a tradition that has stood the test of time. This festive cake was baked by the salt workers’ wives, and originally included just simple spices. But over the years butter, honey, cinnamon and almonds were added to the dough, so that the cake found its way into family homes all over town. The festive cake was decorated with gilded cloves and presented as a Christmas gift to the “Salzgraf” (the saltworks overseer). Today, you can buy the cake at Karl Kolb’s Halloren bakery. Kolb himself obtained the right to bake this sponge cake from the Salt Workers’ Fraternity in 1991. The special ingredient? Half a teaspoon of Halle’s original boiled salt.

### Christmas music by Georg Friedrich Handel in the Market Church

Georg Friedrich Handel (1685 - 1759), ingenious composer of Baroque music, was born in Halle and was a major contributor to the international repertoire of Christmas music. His talent for festive melodies is evident in his oratorio “The Messiah”, for example, which was first performed in 1742 and is one of Handel’s most famous works.

The piece “Rejoice greatly, o daughter of Zion”, a popular Advent song, is of the same ilk and calls for joy at the coming of Jesus Christ, bringer of peace. Handel had not intended his compositions to have a career as Christmas

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concert music. He only allowed “The Messiah” to be played at Lent and Easter, for instance. But finally, the idea was propagated from Dublin – still in Handel’s lifetime – to play the Advent song and the “Hallelujah Chorus” at Christmas concerts. Today, these pieces are among the world’s most played Christmas melodies.

The public is invited to weekly organ music on the Market Church’s two organs. Choirmaster and organist Irénée Peyrot plays the baroque Handel organ (Reichel organ), on which Georg Friedrich Handel learned to play the organ, and also the Karl-Schuke organ.

This half hour of organ music can be enjoyed in the Market Church every Tuesday at 4 p.m. and every Thursday at 12 p.m. The Market Church is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday to Saturday and from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. A useful tip: Martin Luther preached in the Market Church in Halle (Saale) several times. Today, this is commemorated by a memorial plaque on the Market Church. In addition, Martin Luther’s death mask and impressions of his hands can be viewed in the base of the church tower.

Every Advent Sunday at 4 p.m., visitors to Halle’s market square can also listen to bell chime concerts on Europe’s largest carillon of bells in the Red Tower.

## ***Further information:***

### **Information about Halle and souvenirs**

Tourist Information Centre with hallesaale\* shop • in the Marktschlösschen

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Tel.: +49 3 45 122 99 84

Email: [touristinfo@stadtmarketing-halle.de](mailto:touristinfo@stadtmarketing-halle.de)

Online shop: [www.hallesaale.shop](http://www.hallesaale.shop) / Website: [www.halle-tourismus.de](http://www.halle-tourismus.de) &

[www.verliebtinhalle.de](http://www.verliebtinhalle.de)

[www.facebook.com/verliebtinhalle/](https://www.facebook.com/verliebtinhalle/)

[www.instagram.com/verliebtinhalle/](https://www.instagram.com/verliebtinhalle/) [twitter.com/verliebtinhalle](https://twitter.com/verliebtinhalle)

Public salt boiling show always on the last Sunday of the month:

<https://www.salinemuseum.de/schausieden/>

<https://www.salinemuseum.de/halle-saale/die-halloren/>

The dates and times of all Advent and Christmas events in Halle (Saale) can be found at [www.finniundrudi.de](http://www.finniundrudi.de)



# PRESS-INFORMATION

## Wintry delights in the state capital

**Magdeburg is full of Christmas magic: At the Festival of Light, Magdeburg's city centre is illuminated by countless figures and displays, and a diverse array of Christmas markets also lend the city a magical seasonal atmosphere. Culinary treats provide some cosy downtime from the wintry hustle and bustle.**

The Magdeburg Festival of Light consists of nearly 1.2 million lights and 80 large-scale installations, illuminating and lending a special ambience to the city centre from 21 November until 15 January. Magical figures, ornate façades and impressive fountains recount 1,200 years of moving city history. On the Cathedral Square, for example, eight oversized galloping horses and hemispheres portray Otto von Guericke's scientific demonstration. One special feature is that the lights are all energy-saving LEDs. The lighting times have also been changed to reduce energy consumption.

Magdeburg Christmas Market, with nearly 160 kiosks, stalls and carousels, opens its gates until 29 December. On the Old Marketplace around the historic Town Hall, the Christmas spirit invites people to get together. The magnificent Christmas tree is surrounded by traditional handicraft stalls with regional products and international cuisine. Nearly 50 different types of mulled wine are waiting to be sampled. Children's eyes will light up as well, at the countless merry-go-rounds, Santa's grotto, a handicraft workshop and the fairytale alley.

The "Kaiser Otto Pfalz" Medieval Market also entices visitors with its historic charm, quaint bath house, arts and crafts, and lashings of food and drink from times long gone. The cityscape is enriched by a wealth of Advent markets, such as the Green Citadel Winter Magic, Advent in Ravelin, Advent in the Upper Vault of the Festung Mark events venue, and many more.

Culinary diversity is also very impressive outside the Christmas Market. Within easy reach of the sights and the Festival of Light, cosy restaurants, cafés and bistros offer a view of the hustle and bustle of Magdeburg, from Hasselbachplatz square to the cathedral district and all the way along Breiter Weg.

Local specialities range from hearty dishes to sweet treats. The local dish "Bötel with clay and straw" is a regional speciality, in which "Bötel" is ham hock, clay is mushy peas, and straw is sauerkraut. This hearty delicacy can be enjoyed in restaurants on the Old Marketplace, among other locations.

### ***Further information:***

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# PRESS-INFORMATION



Saale-Unstrut

## Regional delicacies presented in a bag: Handmade Saale.Unstrut

Every year, a new version of the “Handmade Saale.Unstrut” cool bag comes into the shops in good time for Christmas. It showcases a range of products presented by different areas in the “Handmade Saale.Unstrut” network: traditional handicrafts, agriculture, and the processing and creative sectors. All products have been lovingly produced by hand in Saale-Unstrut. But as not all products can be presented in a bag, the selection changes every year.

Handmade Saale.Unstrut is an initiative by the Saale-Unstrut-Tourismus e.V. tourist association. Numerous videos, fascinating photos and interesting information are issued regularly telling people all about Handmade Saale.Unstrut. The aim is to showcase regional products, provide portraits of the people behind these products, and publish recipe tips or inspiring ideas.

The bag is a little greeting, an ambassador for the region, and helps people get to know handmade products from Saale-Unstrut in a fun way. Products were once again carefully selected for the latest edition: a pumpkin seed snack from Johannes Reinhardt in the Geiseltal valley, liver sausage from happy pigs raised by Frank Schneider in Müncheroda, chutney from Andrea Hilser at the Göbitz farm near Zeitz, the “Kleine Liederstädter” liqueur from Christian Hodel, a guardian angel from the creative workshop of Katja Köhler in Weißenfels and a bottle of wine from Manuel Flechtner’s Winzerbar wine bar near Naumburg.

The new bag is in stock at the Edeka Center Hinze Naumburg and at the Tourist Information Centres in Freyburg, Naumburg, Weißenfels, Merseburg and Zeitz. As well as the bag itself, if you’re interested you can also visit the craftspeople directly in their kitchens, ateliers and workshops, and even join in making something.

### ***Further information:***

[www.handgemacht-saale-unstrut.de](http://www.handgemacht-saale-unstrut.de)

Who’s behind these regional products? Some of our “Handmade” producers present themselves in videos on the website.

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# PRESS-INFORMATION

## “Truly stunning. Saxony-Anhalt”: What visitors can look forward to in the new year

There are many reasons to travel to Saxony-Anhalt in 2023, for its tourist regions and cities have some delightful art and culture treats to sample. Here is a small selection of truly special festivals, anniversaries, exhibitions and activities.

**World Heritage Region of Anhalt-Dessau-Wittenberg: Music, historic festival and art to enjoy**

**Travel back in time to the fascinating 1920s:** The international Kurt Weill Festival of Music will take place in Dessau from 24 February to 12 March 2023 and its theme will be “Times of upheaval”. The composer Kurt Weill was born in Dessau before migrating to New York, where he died. He became known through his work with Bertold Brecht (The Threepenny Opera, Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny). [www.kurt-weill-fest.de/en](http://www.kurt-weill-fest.de/en)

**Luther’s Wedding:** From 9 to 11 June 2023, Luther’s city, Lutherstadt Wittenberg, celebrates the wedding and works of Martin Luther at their actual locations in a splendid and diverse programme. Craftspeople, innkeepers and musicians are encamped around the Castle Church, and henchmen, mercenaries and the castle guardsmen ensure the safety of onlookers from around the world. Jugglers and musicians show off their skills, while craftspeople haggle over their wares and innkeepers offer delicacies from kitchens and wine cellars. The events area of the festival will host pop and rock ‘n roll on a large stage, while the courtyards of painter Lucas Cranach the Elder and other idyllic courtyards of the Old Town are the scene of historical events. [www.lutherhochzeit.de/en](http://www.lutherhochzeit.de/en)

**Art to enjoy from many epochs:** The opening of the Anhalt Picture Gallery in Dessau, with its rich collection of German Renaissance and Flemish paintings, is another of the year’s highlights. The Picture Gallery was founded by the state of Anhalt in 1927 when several collections from the region were brought together. With its extensive inventory of paintings, drawings and prints from 1400 to the present day, it is one of the most prominent art museums in the region. The date of its official opening in 2023 has yet to be announced. [www.gemaeldegalerie.dessau-rosslau.de](http://www.gemaeldegalerie.dessau-rosslau.de)

**City of Dessau-Roßlau, home of World Heritage**

**Bauhaus Festival:** On 1 and 2 September 2023, the Bauhaus Festival will revolve around the Mechanical Ballet by Bauhaus disciple Kurt Schmidt. This abstract, pseudo-mechanical ballet premièred at the Theaterhaus Jena during Bauhaus Week in 1923 and, even more than Oskar Schlemmer’s Triadic Ballet, represented a break with the expressionist Bauhaus movement that had existed until then. The 2023 [Bauhaus Festival](#) will also treat visitors to an entertaining and colourful programme made up of performing arts projects, installation artworks and experimental discussion and communication formats.





**Triple anniversary for the Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz UNESCO World Heritage Site:** 350 years ago, the town of Nischwitz was renamed Oranienbaum. There, the castle and town of Oranienbaum came into being. 100 years later, on 22 March 1773, this is where Prince Leopold III Friedrich Franz of Anhalt-Dessau presented Wörlitz Palace – the original home of Classicism on the European mainland – to the public and held a festival of antiquities for its inauguration. And in 1773, likewise, work began on the building of the Gothic House in Wörlitz, one of the earliest neo-Gothic buildings on the continent.

**The Dessau-Wörlitz Cultural Foundation** is remembering the history of these three buildings in a diverse anniversary programme of events. 12 May sees the opening of an exhibition at Oranienbaum Palace to celebrate the anniversary, while a variety and crafts festival will take place in the Oranienbaum Palace Gardens on 16 and 17 June. Further events include: “Spring Awakening in Wörlitz” on 18 and 19 March, “Music and Gardens” on 2 to 4 June, UNESCO World Heritage Day: “Our World. Our Heritage. Our Responsibility” on 4 June, the Eighth Wörlitz Film Festival on the island of Stein from 19 to 25 August, the Orangerie Conference in the Oranienbaum Orangerie from 14 to 16 September, and First Advent celebrations in Wörlitz from 24 to 26 November.

### **Altmark: Wide open spaces for walking and special cultural highlights**

**Truly active:** On a trip to the Altmark, appreciative hikers are guaranteed a nature treat, thanks to the “Wandernester Altmark” hiking trails. Here, visitors who want to get active can explore tried and tested routes that satisfy all the important quality criteria. “Wanderbares Deutschland” – trails awarded top status by the German Hikers Association – invites visitors to soak up nature in the Altmark, with walks such as the “Arneburg Way” and “In the footsteps of Solbrig to the Stakenberg” in Zichtau. These hiking trails can be found at [www.altmark.de/urlaub-in-der-altmark/sport-freizeit/wandern](http://www.altmark.de/urlaub-in-der-altmark/sport-freizeit/wandern)

**Truly cultured:** Not one but two festivals are taking to the stage in the Altmark in the summer and autumn. First, the Altmark Music Festival offers a varied programme ranging from musical cabaret, folk, choral singing and musical storytelling for children to orchestral music, jazz and *chansons*. From late August until the end of October, there's something for every age and musical taste all over the Altmark. [www.musikfest-altmark.de/](http://www.musikfest-altmark.de/). Under the banner “Culture at special locations”, the Altmark Festival offers an exciting programme of German and international artistes, who will be performing in mansions, barns, fieldstone churches, palaces, cowsheds, factories and castle ruins, among other places. Although most events take place in the summer, there will also be some winter concerts. [www.altmarkfestspiele.de/programm/](http://www.altmarkfestspiele.de/programm/)

### **Magdeburg, home to Otto the Great and a wealth of music**

**The Emperor's last journey:** This is the title of a series of events to be held in 2023, with special exhibitions and tours in collaboration with the towns of Memleben, Merseburg, Quedlinburg and Walbeck. Visitors can walk in the historical footsteps of Emperor Otto the Great to honour the 1,050th anniversary of his death. A press trip is planned for the end of May, the exact



date of which has yet to be announced. [Emperor's last journey: Magdeburg's Cultural History Museum](#)

**Musical dates for your diary:** In spring, the city will play host to the Magdeburg Irish Folk Festival and the International Telemann Competition. The summer months will be dominated by the DomplatzOpenAir venue, the medieval Spectaculum Magdeburgense festival, and other outdoor events such as Riverside at Night, the Fête de la Musique, and the Glacis Open Air musical showcase. [www.visitmagdeburg.de](http://www.visitmagdeburg.de)

### **Halle (Saale) has a new theme for your cultural diary, and two special exhibitions**

**The 2023 cultural year:** Next year's motto is "Conflict and Cohesion", which is also the theme of the annual exhibition by the Francke Foundations, entitled "Conflict. People, media and mechanisms in the 18th century and today", which runs from 18 March 2023 until 4 February 2024. The annual exhibition will lend historic depth to this highly topical social issue, and will provide a clear and interactive presentation of conflict in our times in juxtaposition with the conflict in the Age of Enlightenment. This wide-ranging topic extends from the historic "Trousers conflict" between the sexes to bitter arguments between academics, from the conflict between the genres of opera and rap to belittlement on talk shows and on social media, and the football stadium as an arena for disputes. <http://www.francke-halle.de>

**Special exhibition in the State Museum of Prehistory Halle (Saale):** The exhibition "Horseriding Nomads in Europe" takes visitors back to the early medieval empires of the Huns, Avars and Hungarians, to their history and their archaeological legacies. Using the latest scientific findings and with outstanding exhibits, for the first time visitors can view these cultures, which followed on from one another between the 5th and 10th centuries AD, in a comparative presentation. Excellent exhibits will also be on loan from 30 museums and collections from six German states. The exhibition begins on 16 December 2022 and runs until 25 June 2023. [www.reiternomaden.de](http://www.reiternomaden.de)

**In 2023, dubbed Picasso Year, Germany's only major special exhibition in honour of this exceptional artist will be held:** To mark 50 years since the death of Pablo Picasso, on 8 April 2023 the special exhibition at the [Art Museum Moritzburg Halle](#) (Saale) will showcase the lesser known facets of the world-famous Master of Modernism, with around 100 works on paper and in ceramics. The heart of the exhibition is to be the impressive ceramic works that Picasso created in 1946 and later at his Madoura Pottery in Vallauris in Southern France. "The other Picasso: Back to the Origins" will run from 26 February to 21 May 2023