

MERIAN SCOUT

SEE WHAT'S WORTHWHILE!

ENGLISH
EDITION

200 x SAXONY

EXPLORE, EXPERIENCE, ENJOY

Highlights and insider tours in Dresden, Leipzig and Chemnitz.
Design, art, culture. The hottest tips for dining, drinking, shopping. Cycling and
hiking: Saxon Switzerland, Ore Mountains, Vogtland and Upper Lusatia



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Out and about as MERIAN-scouts: top chef Lisa Angermann shows you Leipzig, and basketball player Malte Ziegenhagen tours Chemnitz

Welcome to Saxony!

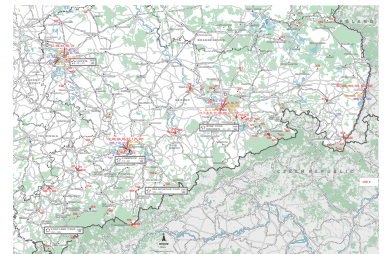
It's quite a challenge compiling the 200 most exciting places to visit in a state like Saxony into just one magazine. Dresden, Leipzig – these two cities alone are teeming with museums, cultural monuments and creative concepts in terms of cuisine, trendy hotspots and design. But Saxony is way more than that: the state stretches from the Elbeland in the north to the Vogtland in the southwest, from Upper Lusatia in the east to the Ore Mountains on the border with the Czech Republic. Each of these regions has its own character. As a result, the editorial staff faced the mammoth task of selecting the right balance between classics and insider tips, grand highlights and little gems. Fortunately, we found great scouts for this edition who revealed their personal favourite places to us. We headed to the outskirts of Dresden with the young winemaker Matthias Schuh, top chef Lisa Angermann guided us through Leipzig and professional basketball player Malte Ziegenhagen showed us his home turf Chemnitz. The result is a colourful mix, a magazine that's full to bursting and that presents Saxony from all sides. Have fun exploring!






PHOTOS: TOM SCHULZE, GEORG KNOLL; MAP ILLUSTRATIONS: JOCHEN SCHÄFERS

Editorial

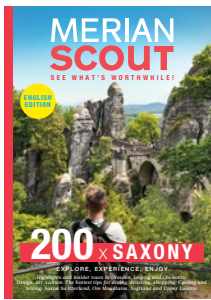
GET YOUR BEARINGS!

All of our tips can be found on the large map on pages 6-7. Five categories will help you find your way around. More valuable information is available on the website visitsaxony.com



-  **EXPLORE & EXPERIENCE**
-  **WINING & DINING**
-  **SHOPPING**
-  **ENTERTAINMENT**
-  **OVERNIGHT**

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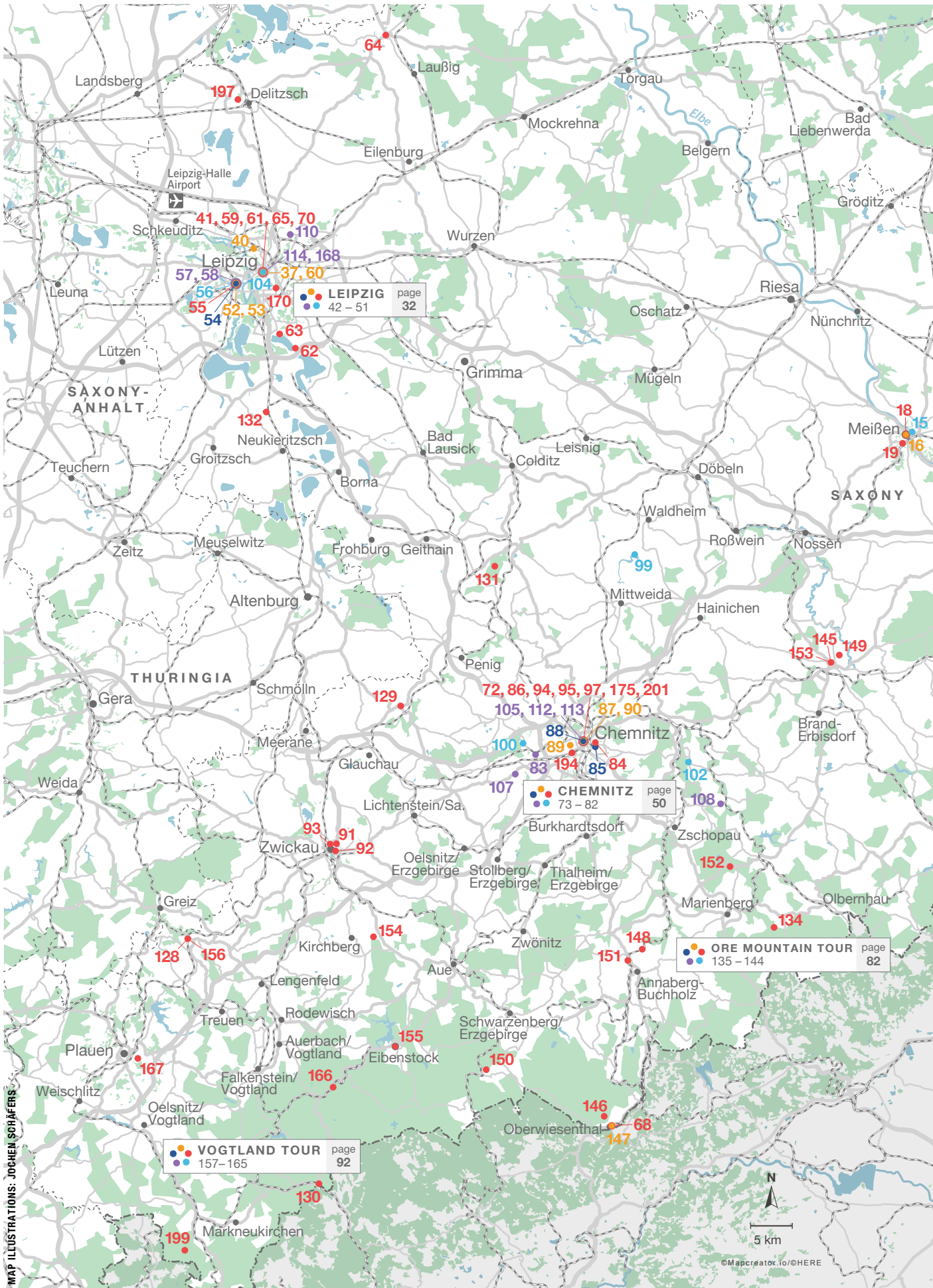
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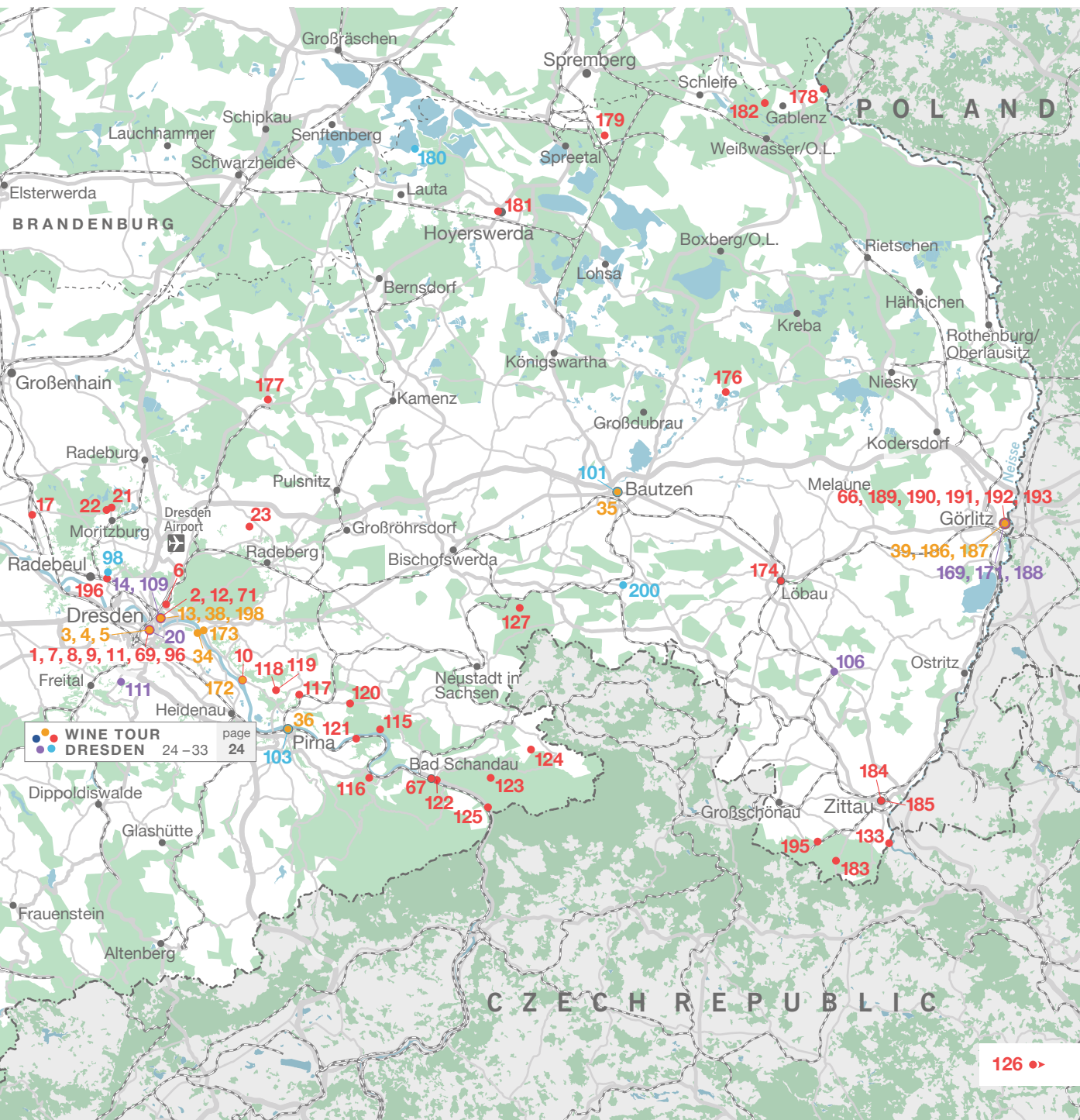
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The original Martin Luther statue from 1885 stands in front of the restored Frauenkirche



01-33

Dresden and the region

FRAUENKIRCHE · CANALETTO VIEW · YENIDZE

THE CLASSICS · ART ALLEY · FÄHRHAUS MEISSEN · VELOCIUM

ALBRECHTSBURG CASTLE · MEISSEN PORCELAIN

MORITZBURG CASTLE · WINE TOUR WITH MATTHIAS SCHUH

Aside from the Semperoper, the Zwinger and Pillnitz Palace, the “stone bell” is another highlight in the baroque city of Dresden. Make sure to enjoy the hustle and bustle of the Neustadt, Meissen and the surrounding vineyards

Frauenkirche

The “new old” Church of Our Lady towers majestically over the Old Town. It is hard to believe that this house of worship on the Neumarkt, which was destroyed in the Second World War, disappeared from Dresden’s skyline for half a century before it was rebuilt, largely with the help of donations, and reconsecrated in 2005. Originally, the gigantic, 12 000-tonne “stone bell” was based on a design drawn up in 1726 by the city’s master carpenter, George Bähr. During reconstruction,

care was taken to use as much of the original material as possible, which explains the visible contrasts in the sandstone façade. The restoration work on the Protestant church also included the pastel-coloured houses lining the Neumarkt, allowing visitors to once again immerse themselves in a complete baroque architectural ensemble. Be sure to climb the dome for a magnificent panoramic view.

📍 [Dresden, Neumarkt, frauenkirche-dresden.de](https://www.frauenkirche-dresden.de)

CANALETTO VIEW

The riverbank is one of the city's most popular picnic spots. Even the 18th century Venetian painter was a great admirer of this view



Picture-perfect: the famous view of the Dresden city skyline



Elbe Panorama

Wow! A summer's day in Dresden can be so wonderful. Just jump on your bike, cycle down to the Elbe river, spread out your picnic blanket, enjoy the sunshine with friends and marvel at the most beautiful panoramic view Dresden has to offer. From the wide meadows on the right bank of the Elbe, you look across the river and the Augustus Bridge to the magnificent towers and façades of the Old Town: to the mighty dome of the Church of Our Lady, fronted by Brühl's Terrace, to the Palace Square, around which the "Ständehaus" (Saxon House of Estates), the Court Church, George's Gate with the adjacent stable courtyard and the Palace are grouped. It is not known whether the **Venetian painter Bernardo Bellotto, who adopted the name Canaletto from his illustrious uncle**, spent just as relaxing a day in 1748 as the people in our photo. But at least he was so enchanted by the skyline that he immortalised it in oil, which is why this popular picnic spot is now called the "Canaletto View". By the way, if you want to see the famous painting, simply cross the Augustus Bridge and pay a visit to the Zwinger Palace, where it hangs in the Old Masters Gallery.

☆ *Dresden, right bank of the Elbe river below the Augustus Bridge*

Yenidze

Sip a cocktail while sitting in the city's highest roof garden and marvel at the Oriental flair and the magnificent view across Dresden's rooftops





Eye-catching: at night, the 20-metre-high glass dome of the Yenidze is illuminated from the inside

1001 Nights in Dresden

The colourful glass mosque and the minaret stretching into the sky above Dresden's Friedrichstadt are more reminiscent of the Arabian Nights than of Saxony. Just as the Jewish entrepreneur Hugo Zietz had hoped. At the beginning of the 20th century, the factory owner commissioned the building of the **Oriental Tobacco and Cigarette Factory Yenidze**, named after a tobacco-growing region in what is now Greece. This conspicuous, yet enchanting edifice combines Art Nouveau with Moorish elements and was designed not only to promote his cigarettes but also to circumvent the ban on tall chimneys by disguising the smokestack as a minaret. Today, the Yenidze houses offices and the "Kuppelrestaurant", which serves dishes such as the "Harem's Feast" (chicken breast with curry-ginger-mango chutney) or the "Caliph's Feast" (rack of lamb with mint yoghurt and oriental potato lentils).

🍴 Dresden, Weißeritzstr. 3
kuppelrestaurant.de

DINING IN THE OLD TOWN

04 **BÄREZWINGER**

Iconic club and hangout for students in Dresden's historic fortifications with a covered courtyard.

🍴 Dresden, Brühl'scher Garten 1, baerenzwinger.de

05 **RESTAURANT FELIX**

Fine cuisine, beautifully presented, and the rooftop terrace looks directly onto Dresden's Zwinger.

🍴 Dresden, Kleine Brüdergasse 1-5, dein-felix.de

THE CLASSICS

A hint of China, a vast ancestral gallery made of porcelain and plenty of baroque: these buildings depict Dresden's eventful history and the splendour of this city



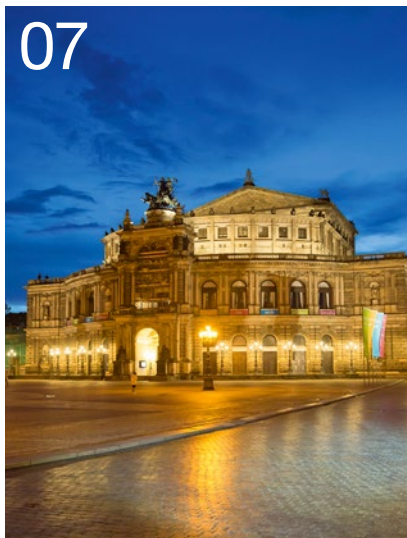
MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY

Admittedly, military history may not be of interest to everyone. But Dresden's Military History Museum, which was expanded in 2011 according to plans drawn up by Daniel Libeskind, is not only a visual highlight. The exhibition is extremely thought-provoking. Instead of technical warfare, the focus is on people and the question of the causes and consequences of war and violence. Here, the architectural and thematic approaches to this subject are successfully intertwined.

📍 Dresden, Olbrichtplatz 2, mhmbw.de

Provocative: the "architectural axe blow" designed by star architect Daniel Libeskind was the subject of passionate debate

07



SEMPEROPER

This building sets the tone in Dresden. Named after the architect Gottfried Semper, this opera house is an impressive example of opulent, neoclassical architecture, outstanding acoustics and a masterful ensemble. If you cannot get tickets for a performance, it is well worth booking a guided tour. ☆ *Dresden Theaterplatz 2, tickets: semperoper.de guided tours: semperoper-erleben.de*

08



GREEN VAULT

A visit to this museum is like going on a journey back in time to the Baroque era. Between 1723 and 1730, Augustus the Strong of Saxony commissioned his own grand treasure chamber to be built in Dresden Castle to store his jewellery and precious objects made of gold, diamonds and other gemstones. Today, this glittering exhibition is part of the State Art Collections and is divided into a historical and a new part.

☆ *Dresden, Residenzschloss Taschenberg 2 gruenes-gewoelbe.skd.museum*

09



DRESDNER ZWINGER

In the Middle Ages, a “Zwinger” was part of a medieval castle and denoted a space between the inner and outer fortress walls. Today, though, visitors are presented with a baroque ensemble consisting of gardens with fountains, richly decorated pavilions and galleries. Behind these magnificent façades are various museums, including the Old Masters Gallery. ☆ *Dresden, Sophienstraße der-dresdner-zwinger.de*

10



PILLNITZ PALACE

Baroque meets the Far East – that is how best to describe this pretty ensemble on the bank of the Elbe river. The heart of the complex is a pleasure garden, bordered by three buildings that now serve as museums: the Water Palace, the Upper Palace and the New Palace. In 1706, Augustus the Strong gifted this château to his mistress, the Countess of Cosel,

but later banned her and converted it to a summer residence. His master builder, Matthäus Daniel Pöppelmann, was inspired by the palace of the Chinese emperor and Venetian palaces. There are many botanical treasures to be discovered in the park.

☆ *Dresden, August-Böckstiegel-Str. 2 schlosspillnitz.de*

11



PRINCES' MURAL

This ancestral gallery is something to behold! The Procession of Princes adorning the façade of the Stables Courtyard is made up of 23 000 Meissen porcelain tiles. It is 102 metres long and more than ten metres high, making it the largest porcelain artwork in the world. 35 rulers belonging to the House of Wettin from 1127 to 1873 are depicted – on horseback or with other people, animals and symbolic ornaments.

☆ *Dresden, Augustusstraße*

Art Alley

It is probably the most colourful place in Dresden's already very diverse Neustadt. This Art Courtyard Passage features a host of galleries, bars – and very imaginative open-air art

Blue hour in the Elements Courtyard, always perfect for a beer in the "Hopfenkult" bar





Water music

The best time to visit Dresden's most beautiful ensemble of backyards is when it rains, as you can not only scour the many fashion stores, handcraft shops and enjoy excellent food but also listen to the concert provided by the **singing downpipes**. This practical and elegantly-shaped architectural detail was invented by the sculptor Annette Paul and the designers Christoph Roßner and André Tempel. They liked the sound of the rain so much that they amplified it with the help of a system of aluminium pipes and funnels. This part of the Art Courtyard, which consists of five areas, is the "Courtyard of the Elements". Others include the Courtyard of Light, of Mythical Creatures, of Animals and of Metamorphoses, all of which boast ingeniously designed façades. If it gets too wet, you are sure to find a souvenir from this unforgettable place in one of the many galleries.

★ Dresden, Görlitzer Str. 21-25
kunsthof-dresden.de

DINING AND SHOPPING

13 LILA SOSSE

The innovative chefs based in the Mythical Creatures Courtyard serve dishes ranging from beef cheeks to beetroot risotto.

🍴 Dresden, Alaunstr. 70
lilasosse.de

14 MJUUK STORE

Whether it is fashion or prints by local artists: everything in this concept store in the Neustadt has been sustainably produced.


📍 Dresden, Böhmische Str. 10a, mjuukstore.de

Fährhaus Meißen

Stop and smell the roses! Every room in this historic ferry house tells a story



It doesn't matter in which of the ten rooms Christine and Fedder-Christian Paulsen accommodate you. They are all beautiful, and each is designed according to a different theme: from the deep blue "Cobalt" room over the floral "Hortus" to "Peony" (photo). The couple, originally from eastern Holstein, moved to Meissen in 2012 to open this **design hotel**. He is an artist, and she was a housewife for a long time, "a typical western mum, at home with our three children." Today, she prefers to pamper guests in their hotel, by providing very tasty breakfasts and an evening tea bar. He designed the interior. And the fact that each of the rooms features lovingly painted porcelain tiles is a point of honour here in Meissen.

 Meissen, Hafenstr. 16-18, designhotel-meissen.de

ACROSS THE ELBE RIVER

16

VINOTHEK MEISSEN

In the middle of the Old Town, Claudia Beyer's guests enjoy select wines from 18 different vintners in Saxony along with snacks. You can either sit in the cosy wine bar or in the pretty garden, from where you can see the towers of Albrechtsburg Castle. There is an even greater selection in the branch at Elbstraße 11.

 Meissen, Burgstr. 18
vinothek-meissen.de

Velocium

Ever ridden a penny-farthing? This is where you can give it a go



100 years ago, anyone who drove through the countryside with a two-stroke auxiliary engine on his rack was sure to attract attention. The pimped bike from the Dresden company Amato, built in 1925, was capable of doing 40 km/h. It is still an eye-catcher today and can be viewed in the Velocium bicycle museum in Weinböhla, alongside a reconstruction of the “dandy horse” invented by Karl von Drais and many other originals, like a penny-farthing from 1885 or a J-bike from 1921. “This was a forerunner of today’s recumbent bicycles,” says Steffen Stiller, the museum’s director. “It was developed by the engineer Paul Jaray, who actually built airships for the Zeppelin company.” With its collection of biking rarities, the museum, which opened in the midst of the pandemic, provides visitors

with an entertaining tour through **200 years of cycling history** from the running machine to the e-bike; and shows how Saxony’s bicycle industry flourished around the 1900s. There is plenty to see in the historic workshop, and the interactive touch screens allow visitors to virtually assemble some of the most curious bicycles from individual parts. If you want to pedal yourself, you can sit in the simulator and ride along the Elbe cycle path. Or try out a replica of a penny-farthing on the outdoor course. As an extra, visitors can recharge their e-bikes, and in case of a flat tyre, the “Schlauchomat” holds a supply of replacement inner tubes in various sizes.

☆ Weinböhla, Kirchplatz 5
velocium-weinboehla.de



The Cradle of Saxony

Which is the oldest castle in Germany? The correct answer is A as in Albrechtsburg Castle in Meissen! As early as 929, King Henry the Fowler built a fortress on a rock above the Elbe river, considered the first fortified German stronghold in what was then Slavic territory. In 1125 the “cradle of Saxony” passed into the House of Wettin, who ruled the Margraviate of Meissen and later the Electorate of Saxony from here for almost 800 years. The brothers Ernst and Albrecht of Wettin had Albrechtsburg Castle built in the late Gothic style from 1471 onwards, making it the first castle to be built in the German-speaking world. However, as Dresden became the capital soon after, the castle stood empty for a long time. That was actually a stroke of luck for today’s visitors as the building was spared any alterations and still impresses as a **pearl of the late Gothic style**. From 1710, Augustus the Strong housed his porcelain factory here before it was moved in 1863. Albrechtsburg Castle was decorated with murals and converted into a museum. Visitors are required to don huge slippers to preserve the floor. There are beautiful views of Meissen’s narrow alleys from the Upper Promenade, which leads around the castle and the adjacent cathedral, itself a Gothic masterpiece.

★ *Meißen, Domplatz 1*
albrechtsburg-meissen.de

Meissen's Albrechtsburg Castle and the cathedral jut out above the town's skyline and the surrounding vineyards

Albrechtsburg

Dresden and Leipzig might be larger today, but for a long time Meissen was the beating heart of the Electorate of Saxony. Its former centre of power still dominates the town

Meissen porcelain

Fine and filigree. Where crossed swords on “white gold” signify true masterpieces



Just looking or buying? Or do you want to create your own porcelain piece? All this is possible at the **State Porcelain Manufactory Meissen** – the oldest factory of its kind in Europe. The museum takes you through more than 300 years of porcelain history, which began in Albrechtsburg Castle in 1710. The demonstration workshops in the Triebisch valley invite you to experience first hand how the famous white gold is created, and the on-site store holds a large selection of porcelain with the famous crossed swords trademark. Or would you prefer something unique? Then design your own piece in a creative workshop. You might discover a hidden talent as an embosser.

☆ Meissen, Talstr. 9
erlebnisswelt-meissen.com

EVEN MORE PORCELAIN

20

MEISSEN SIGNATURE STORE

If you can't make it to Meissen, try the vast 230-square-metre shop floor in Dresden, where you will find dinnerware decorated in floral motifs, delicate vases as well as limited-edition works by various artists. The adjacent shopping arcade “Quartier Frauenkirche” has an outlet selling discontinued lines at reasonable prices.

📍 Dresden, An der Frauenkirche 1, meissen.com

Moritzburg

Fairy-tale magic: follow in Cinderella's footsteps in this moated castle



Upon glimpsing this elegant moated castle, you might immediately think of fairy tales. And you wouldn't be far wrong. **Moritzburg Castle** actually served as the setting for the 1973 Czechoslovak/East German Christmas film "Three Wishes for Cinderella". In real life, the electoral families would meet in this baroque mansion to enjoy a variety of royal pastimes, as can be seen in four magnificent stately rooms and an exhibition on courtly hunting. It is worth taking a walk through the park to the Little Pheasant Castle and the small lighthouse by the large pond. And if you keep your eyes peeled, you might even spot Cinderella's slipper while touring the castle.

☆ Moritzburg, Schloßallee
schloss-moritzburg.de

WORTHWHILE EXCURSIONS

22 KÄTHE KOLLWITZ HOUSE

The artist spent her final months here. An exhibition presents an overview of her life and works.

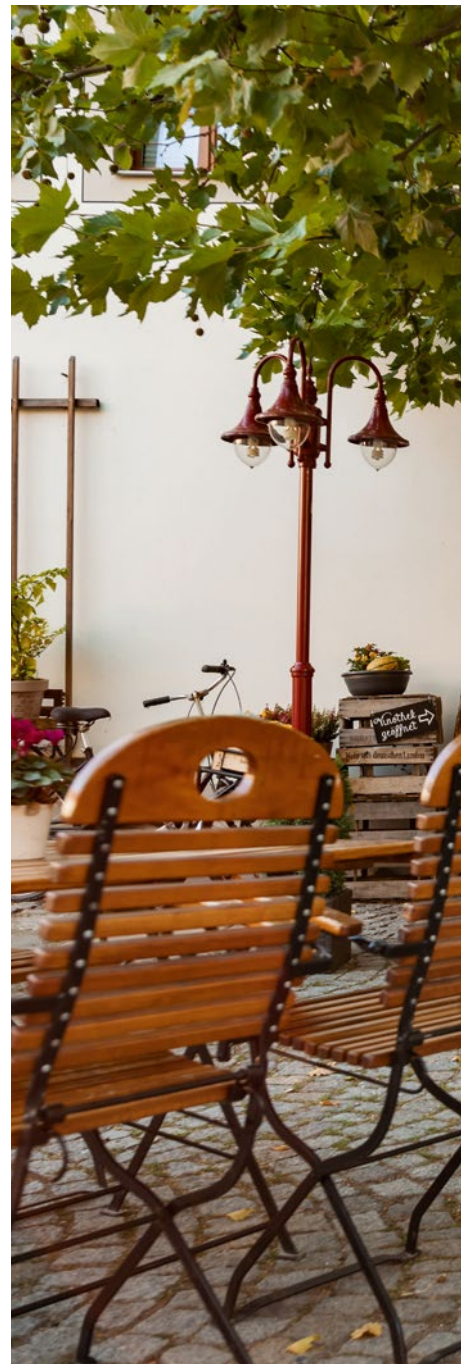
☆ Moritzburg, Meißner Str. 7
kollwitz-moritzburg.de

23 SEIFERSDORF VALLEY

Beautiful 18th-century landscape garden that was much appreciated by the German poet Goethe.

☆ Seifersdorf/Wachau

Matthias Schuh where
he most feels at home:
in his vineyard



WINE TOUR WITH

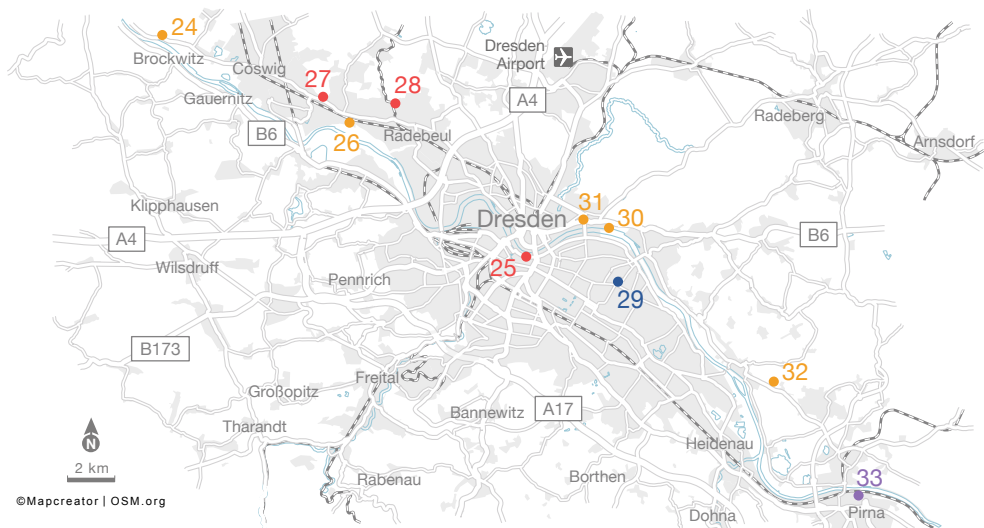
MATTHIAS SCHUH

You couldn't wish for a better guide through Saxony's wine country: the 34-year-old lives near Meissen and is considered one of the best young winemakers in Europe. Here he shares his favourite spots



The Schuh Winery also boasts a restaurant and vinotheque

Baroque treasure set amongst the vines: the vineyard church in Pillnitz





Baroque paintings bear witness to the long history of the Hoflössnitz Winery



Art on a plate in the restaurant "Genuss-Atelier". It almost looks too good to eat

24 WINERY SCHUH

Idyllic location with guest rooms, wine restaurant and a good vinotheque.

🍷 *Coswig, Dresdner Str. 314
weingut-schuh.de*

25 WHITE FLEET

Explore the Saxon Wine Route with the oldest paddle steamer fleet in the world.

🌟 *weisseflotte-dresden.de*

26 OBERSCHÄNKE

Traditional restaurant serving finely prepared home-style cuisine.

🍷 *Radebeul, Altkötzschenbroda 39, oberschaenke.de*

27 WACKERBARTH CASTLE

The baroque castle also has a park and a winery.

🌟 *Radebeul
Wackerbarthstr. 1
schloss-wackerbarth.de*

28 HOFLÖSSNITZ

Organic wine estate that also features a wine museum.

🌟 *Radebeul, Knohlweg 37
hofloessnitz.de*

When your parents happen to be winemakers, you inevitably grow up in the vineyard, and it was clear to me from a young age that I wanted to follow in my father's footsteps. After working in France and New Zealand, my sister and I took over the **Winery Schuh** belonging to our parents in 2016. To this day, our vineyard is my absolute favourite place. You can watch the sunset over the Elbe Valley from across the vines, and it affords beautiful views of Meissen Cathedral and Albrechtsburg Castle.

Our wine estate is on the outskirts of the town and features two lovingly restored courtyards with a restaurant, a vinotheque and guest rooms. We often have visitors who want to go and explore the **Saxon Wine Route**, which stretches for almost 60 kilometres from Diesbar-Seanitz behind Meissen to Pirna. Every year, at the end of August, we celebrate the "Open Winery Days", when buses spend the entire weekend shuttling visitors from one wine estate to the next.

Even during the rest of the year, you can safely leave your car behind if you want to explore the castles, landscaped gardens and wine cellars along the Elbe River. The **Elbe Cycle Path** is right on our doorstep. And if you prefer to walk, you can also wander along the **Saxon Wine Hiking Trail** in stages. I recommend a mixture of hiking,

cycling and boat trips. The **Weiße Flotte** (White Fleet) is the oldest paddle steamer fleet in the world, and it docks at various stations along the Wine Route before continuing on to Saxon Switzerland.

If you set off in Meissen, you could make a first stop in Radebeul. Not far from the ferry terminal, right next to the Church of Peace, is the **Gasthaus Oberschänke**. They serve our wine here, as an accompaniment to delicious dishes like "breast of guinea fowl with creamed savoy cabbage and pan-fried potato cake" or "roast venison with Brussels sprouts and bread dumplings". For an easy, 20-minute postprandial stroll, why not head to **Wackerbarth Castle**, home of the Saxon State Winery. Aside from the baroque-style manor house, you can also visit the wine and sparkling wine manufactory or stroll through the park, for example to the Belvedere observation pavilion.

Visitors can learn more about the 850-year-old tradition of winegrowing in the Elbe valley at the nearby idyllic **Hoflössnitz Wine Estate**, where they press organic Saxon wine. The estate was once an electoral vineyard and also served as the country retreat of the Wettin dynasty. The magnificent banquet hall on the upper floor with its opulent picture panels and the baroque coffered ceiling dates back to this period. The **Saxon Wine Museum** is housed in the former state rooms.

Popular destination:
the beautiful parklands
of Wackerbarth Castle
near Radebeul



Those of you who may have eaten too many tarte flambées in the wine tavern and who may therefore be in need of some exercise might want to attempt to climb the **Spitzhaus staircase** as participants have been doing every year in the “Saxon Mount Everest Stair Marathon”. While athletes are required to run 100 laps, normal visitors are happy to climb the nearly 400 steps just once. Though as soon as they reach the summit, they are rewarded with a magnificent view of the Elbe valley.

The next stop on the Wine Route is Dresden. If you arrive by boat, you can admire the famous Canaletto view of the Old Town, which I never tire of looking at even today. The **Weinzentrale** in Dresden's Neustadt is almost like a second living room for me. They have a changing menu – sometimes serving tapas, sometimes oysters – and excellent wines, including new ones, with which sommelier Jens Pietzonka always seems to surprise me.

Continuing along the Elbe river, three beautiful stately homes will catch your eye: Albrechtsberg Palace, Lingner Palace and Eckberg Palace. The cavaliers' house located within the park of Albrechtsberg Palace is home to the **Lutz Müller Winery**, which organises tastings in the wine cellar and serves hearty dishes from the wood-burning oven to guests in the “Strausse”, outside wine tavern, in the warmer months.

About one and a half kilometres to the west is the **Genuss-Atelier** near the Waldschlösschen. This Michelin-starred restaurant manages the right mix of classic and modern, good prices and excellent quality. Their fine delicacies are either served in the rustic vaulted cellar or on the lovely terrace outside.

Another stop along the Wine Route is, of course, Dresden-Pillnitz with its famous castle and the beautiful park. Wine-growing has a long tradition here, as evidenced by the small baroque vineyard “**Church of the Holy Spirit**” set amid the Pillnitz Royal Vineyard. To the north of the church, there is an educational wine trail, the **Leitenweg**. If you follow it to the east for about 1.5 kilometres, you'll reach the **Winery Klaus Zimmerling**. Apart from white wine, a major feature here is art. The vintner is married to the sculptress Małgorzata Chodakowska, whose sculptures adorn the estate.

For once, my final recommendation has nothing to do with wine but instead with chocolate, as a last course on our tour so to speak. In Pirna, the end of the line on the Wine Route, I always like to buy a little something from **Adoratio Schokoladenkunst** for myself or friends. There is a shop with a café right on the market square next to the Canaletto House and a manufactory on the outskirts of the town in Thürmsdorf. A must for chocoholics!

29 WEINZENTRALE

They have more than 400 wines and an ever-changing range of specialities.

 Dresden, Hoyerswerdaer Str. 26, weinzentrale.com

30 WINERY LUTZ MÜLLER

Wine with a view amid the romantic ambience of three Elbe palaces.

 Dresden, Bautzner Str. 130 winzer-lutz-mueller.de


31 GENUSS-ATELIER

This award-winning restaurant serves fine cuisine, beautifully prepared.

 Dresden, Bautzner Str. 149 genuss-atelier.net

32 WINERY ZIMMERLING

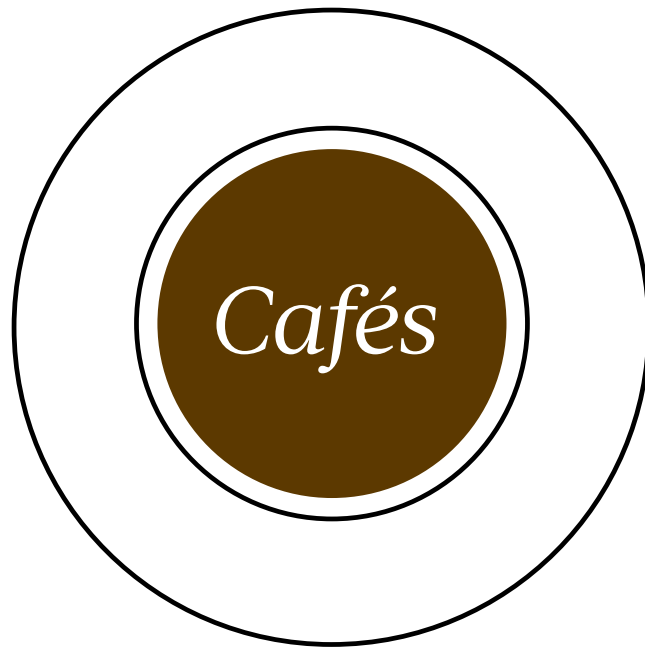
Wine cellar and artist's studio in the Pillnitz Royal Winery.

 Dresden, Bergweg 27 weingut-zimmerling.de

33 ADORATIO SCHOKOLADE

Assortment of sweets from confectionery to preserves.

 Pirna, Kirchgasse 1 adoratio-schokoladenkunst.de



Need a shot of caffeine? Just be careful! If you decide to settle down in one of these cafés during your tour of the city, you might possibly end up spending the entire afternoon there

TRADITIONAL

CAFÉ TOSCANA

The columns, stucco and gilt wallpaper in this building dating back to the Imperial Era provide the perfect backdrop for sumptuous cakes. Enjoy their blueberry cream or sour cream-cherry tart with a view across the Elbe river.

Dresden, Schillerplatz 7
cafe-toscana.de

34

GOLIATH

For a relaxing breakfast in Bautzen, the best place is this cosy café in the Old Town. Homemade cakes are served in the afternoon – the creamy “Eierschecke”, a local speciality, is a must – and tarte flambée in the evenings.

Bautzen, Große Brüdergasse 6
goliath-bautzen.de

35

ERNST SCHMOLE

In this family-run roasting house, sink into deep leather armchairs while drinking espresso. Alternatively, have a glass of wine. The café, housed in a vaulted building from

the 17th century, is also a wine store and delicatessen.

Pirna, Lange Str. 1
schmole-kaffee.de

36

RIQUETHAUS

This striking Art Nouveau building once housed a cocoa importing business. We recommend trying a local speciality, the “Leipziger Lerche”, a pastry filled with almonds, nuts and cherry jam.

Leipzig, Schuhmachergäßchen 1
riquethaus.de

37

38 Teatime!

LLOYD'S CAFÉ & BAR

You could describe it as a British enclave in Dresden's Neustadt. The fireside lounge is perfect for afternoon tea served on a cake stand filled with cucumber sandwiches and scones.

Dresden, Martin-Luther-Str. 17
lloyds-cafe-bar.de

MODERN

CAFÉ HERZSTÜCK

Nancy Scholz' café, with its colourful and cheerfully decorated interior, its mix of pallet sofas, vintage furniture and fairy lights, is enough to put you in a good mood. The first vegetarian café in Görlitz with an attached sewing school also has vegan and gluten-free cakes on the menu, like the popular chocolate cake with banana and avocado.

Görlitz, Weberstr. 2
cafe-herzstueck.de

39

HART & HERZLICH

Velvet sofas and plush armchairs aren't their thing. Instead, master confectioner Niclas Wendler and Mirco Klug, a trained chef, serve their colourful tarts, chocolates and macarons in a pure ambience. In their “Pâtisserie unplugged”, as they call it, they create cakes and pastries that look almost too good to eat.

Leipzig, Georg-Schumann-Str. 130
hartundherzlich-patisserie.com

40



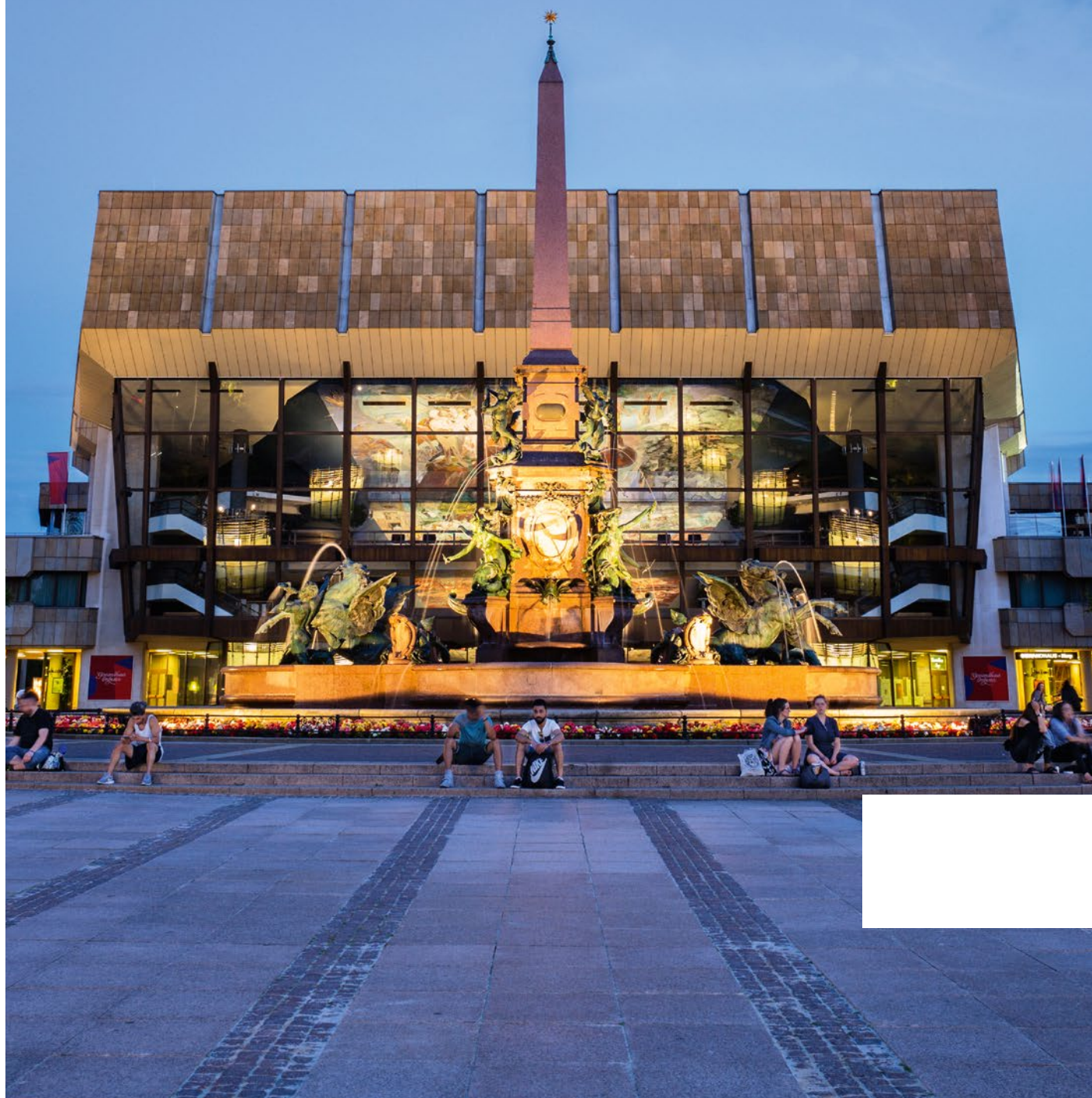
KING SIZE

The Royal State Apartments of August the Strong
and the Porcelain Cabinet at the Residenzschloss Dresden

www.skd.museum

Staatliche
Kunstsammlungen
Dresden

Especially enchanting at dusk:
Leipzig's Gewandhaus represents a piece of
East Germany's cultural history



41-64

Leipzig and the region

GEWANDHAUS · THROUGH LEIPZIG WITH
STAR CHEF LISA ANGERMANN · NIEMEYER SPHERE · WESTWERK
HOTEL MEISTERZIMMER · HAFEN · ST NICHOLAS CHURCH
BARFUSZ · LEIPZIG ZOO · CANOE PARK MARKKLEEBERG

Do you prefer a city that rocks to one filled with baroque? Then head to hip Leipzig. Apart from cultural sites, it offers a wealth of trendy shops and leisure activities in the great outdoors, from a zoo to whitewater rafting

Gewandhaus

The cuboid, with a glass façade that offers shimmering glimpses of the mural inside, is certainly eye-catching. It stands behind the richly decorated Mende Fountain at the centre of the Augustusplatz, next to the new university building, on the exact spot where the GDR regime blew up the Paulinerkirche in 1968. Unlike other multi-purpose culture palaces in East Germany, the Gewandhaus, inaugurated in 1981, is **purely a concert hall**. With seats grouped in a circle around the stage, the

Great Hall resembles a minimalist amphitheatre. And when the Gewandhaus orchestra plays, the impressive acoustics envelop the audience like a warm blanket. The ensemble, which also performs in the Opera and in St. Thomas's Church, was founded in 1743. Its most famous conductor and music director was Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, whose death 175 years ago will be commemorated in 2022. ☆ Leipzig, Augustusplatz 8 gewandhausorchester.de



Touring
LEIPZIG
with Lisa
Angermann

Lisa is “Frieda”, the name of her Michelin-starred restaurant. The 31-year-old honed her skills in top restaurants, won the cooking show “The Taste” and started her own business in 2019. She shows us the best Leipzig has to offer



42

FRIEDA

My restaurant, “Frieda”, is a former brasserie that now has a modern and calming visual appearance that is both minimalist in a contemporary way and yet colourful. As head chef, I like to combine local and regional products with a hint of the exotic, for example celeriac, black walnut and coffee oil or rack of lamb spiced with fermented miso garlic. Every month we create a new “Frieda en vogue menu”, and diners can choose between a 5, 6 or 7-course version. Our friendly waiting staff is very knowledgeable about suggesting the matching wines.

📍 Menckestr. 48-50, frieda-restaurant.de



43

DANKBAR

This is a real feel-good little place. It serves sensationally good coffee in a lively atmosphere with historical flair. The café is housed in what used to be a butcher's shop. The original glass ceiling has been preserved and is definitely worth seeing.

📍 Jahnallee 23
[instagram.com/dankbarleipzig](https://www.instagram.com/dankbarleipzig)

MY PERFECT DAY

Pick up croissants at “Backstein”, have lunch at “Salumeria” and then go to “Renkli” for a glass of wine



44 MORNING

My favourite bakery, **Backstein**, is right in the middle of the music district, set among monumental buildings. Allow plenty of time as there is always a queue. It's not surprising because their sourdough bread is really good. For breakfast, I recommend their croissants or focaccia.
 📍 Grassistr. 4, backstein.pm

45 NOON

This old liqueur factory houses **Salumeria Italiana**, my favourite deli. They have an amazing fresh food counter with Italian specialities,

aromatic sauces and fantastic pasta. The best thing: their lunch menu! Sample your way through their product range.

📍 Prellerstr. 54A
salumi.de

46 NIGHT

Fatih Demirbas, the owner of **Weinbar Renkli**, insists that he taught Leipzig how to drink wine. He's right. He made the enjoyment of wine acceptable among young people. His wine bar has also become a meeting place for the city's restaurateurs.

📍 Karl-Liebknecht-Str. 2
[facebook.com/renkli](https://www.facebook.com/renkli)
weinundangst.com



WOBBLY TOWER

I can reach this lookout in Rosental Park on foot. It stands on a hill made of household rubbish from the 19th century that was planted with greenery. From the top you have an amazing view of the park and Leipzig's skyline. On windy days, the tower swings back and forth like the treetops.

★ *Marienweg, leipzig.travel*

EN GROS & EN DETAIL

Dirk Steinert not only knows every wine in his shop but also the vintners and the stories behind their wineries. I love his great assortment of natural wines. My favourite is the Red Veltliner from the Fritsch wine estate.

📍 Spinnereistr. 7
weine-leipzig.de



49

Coloured Yarn Mill

Dating back to the Wilhelminian period, this industrial monument on the White Elster river is one of the city's most beautiful and impressive buildings. Decorated with red-and-white clinker bricks, it's hard to believe that it was originally an industrial plant. The best view is from a canoe because the complex stretches along both sides of the river.

📍 Nonnenstr. 17-21
buntgarnwerke.de



50

Wildlife park

This wildlife park on the edge of the Auwald Riverside Forest is one of Leipzig's treasures. It is home to 25 species, including deer, wild boar, foxes and a few other non-indigenous animals from elsewhere in Germany and Central Europe. You can go on a tour with a forest ranger during one of the show feedings. I usually stop off here on my way to the Cospudener See.

📍 Koberger Str. 12a
wildparkverein-leipzig.de

51 MONUMENT TO THE BATTLE OF NATIONS

This monument in the south of the city commemorates the defeat of Napoleon's French army at the Battle of Leipzig in 1813. You can visit an exhibition inside and enjoy the view from the platform at the top. Most people find it too hulking, with its huge domed shape, larger-than-life warriors and the vast pool, but I consider it a beautiful place to relax, especially at sunset.

📍 Straße des 18. Oktober 100
stiftung-voelkerschlachtdenkmal-leipzig.de





The Niemeyer Sphere, made of exposed concrete and with dimmable liquid crystal windows, is embedded in a brick façade

NIEMEYER SPHERE

Have aliens landed in Leipzig? Fear not: this ingenious sphere is a restaurant and the final coup by Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer

Culinary globe

From the outside, it looks like it flew in from another galaxy: the white, partially glazed sphere protruding from the old boiler house. The Niemeyer Sphere, one of the final designs by Brazilian **star architect Oscar Niemeyer** (1907-2012), houses the restaurant “Céu Dining”. On selected days, and with prior reservations, you can enjoy Brazilian cuisine while marvelling at the view across the industrial landscape of Leipzig’s western district. Inside, visitors are greeted by a warm, calming atmosphere and furnishings that reflect a clear, structured design language. At its centre, the orb seems to float twelve metres above the building of the Kirow Ardelit engineering company. Following a trip through Brazil, Ludwig Koehne, a partner in the company, was so thrilled by Niemeyer’s architecture that he wrote him a letter and was invited to Rio by the architect in 2011. After the latter’s death just a year later, Niemeyer’s office finalised the designs in collaboration with the Leipzig architect Harald Kern. The Niemeyer Sphere was finally inaugurated in July 2020. Apart from a high-rise in Berlin’s Hansa Quarter, this is the only building designed by the Brazilian in Germany. If you are unable to book a table at “Céu Dining”: head chef Tibor Herzigkeit also cooks for the restaurant “Kirow Kantine” right next door.

📍 Leipzig, Niemeyerstr. 2-5
technisphere.de/niemeyer-sphere

WESTWERK

Kaiserbad and catwalk on the Karl-Heine-Canal



One of the best places to usher in the weekend is the Westwerk. What was once an iron foundry is now home to artists and their studios. But it also gives visitors a chance to go on a culinary world tour. In addition to the excellent **Restaurant Kaiserbad** (photo), where you can sit outside in good weather, there are always plenty of food trucks (try the Georgian or Sri Lankan dishes!) on the premises. After enjoying a meal, you can either play a quick round of pool in the billiard salon “Mensa” or just grab a drink and hang out on a street corner watching young people stroll by on the Karl-Heine-Straße, the catwalk of Leipzig’s western district.

📍 Leipzig, Karl-Heine-Str. 85-93
westwerk-leipzig.de

OTHER CLUBS FOR PARTYING

54

TÄUBCHENTHAL

This former spinning mill combines bohemian charm with rugged industrial heritage.

📍 Leipzig, Wachsmuthstr. 1
taeubchenthal.com

55

FELSENKELLER

The ballroom where Rosa Luxemburg once spoke is now a place for concerts, dancing and films.

📍 Leipzig, Karl-Heine-Str. 32
felsenkeller-leipzig.com


MEISTERZIMMER

Tenants in the former cotton spinning mill live amidst creative artists



So much light shines through the lattice windows of the old cotton mill in Leipzig-Neulindenau, it is almost as if the sun were casting a spotlight on the artworks in the rooms of the “Meisterzimmer” guesthouse: a photograph by Falk Haberkorn, for example, or lamps made of old drums. At the same time, the clinker walls and exposed pipes are reminders that up until 2002 yarn was still being produced here in shifts. The current owners of the guesthouse, Manfred Mülhaupt and Jana Gunstheimer, were already using the “Meisterzimmer 1” as a live-in studio in the 1990s and enjoying the open space and the heady atmosphere of witnessing a new beginning along with other young artists. Mülhaupt recalls that in the Noughties, they converted it into a room for tourists, and because they had so much fun receiving

guests, they transformed three more rooms for up to four people. If you spend the night here, you are at the very **heart of Leipzig’s art scene**. Many artists, including Hans Aichinger and Tilo Baumgärtel, still maintain studios on the premises, which are about the size of four football pitches. You may even bump into Neo Rauch when he rides his bike to work. The studios are not open to the public, but there are tours of the old spinning mill, galleries and exhibition spaces, for example the annual presentation by the Leipzig Academy of Visual Arts, workshops and the café-restaurant “Mule” with its team of young, international chefs. The old spinning mill is still a haven for creative people.

 Leipzig, Spinnereistr. 7
meisterzimmer.de

HAFEN

On the lookout for (even) more stylish products? Just drop anchor here



This wonderful shop could well deserve the name “Embassy of Beautiful Things”, as it carries a wealth of items to **enrich your home and your life**: exclusive vases, vegan perfumes, chocolate made in Leipzig, feel-good T-shirts, pretty handbags. The owner, Swantje Worm, appeals to all the senses with her selection of wares. She has liquorice for gourmets, records by Leipzig musicians for audiophiles and books that not only look but also feel good. The highlight are creations by the Leipzig Spirits Manufactory: splendid mint and red currant liqueurs as well as amazing vodka and barrel-aged gin. You can buy the requisite tumblers right away, and it’s best to get some nice cushions for sitting comfortably when you hang out on the corner of the Westwerk, just a few doors down.

📍 Leipzig, Karl-Heine-Str. 75
hafen-leipzig.de

MORE SHOPPING

58 PANTA PANTA

Apart from cachepots with plants, you can also buy designer jewellery and illustrations here.

📍 Leipzig, Zschochersche Str. 55, [instagram.com/pantapanta_store](https://www.instagram.com/pantapanta_store)



ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

*Two major houses of worship stand in the city centre.
This is where the peaceful revolution began*

It was the courage of a few individuals that developed its full impact here and led to the beginning of the end of the GDR. The values of the church took to the streets in 1989 when 70 000 people demanded peace and freedom. Today, a column in the courtyard commemorates this turning point in East-West German history. It resembles the early neoclassical columns of palm trees that support the **nave of what was originally a late Gothic church**. Dating back to the 12th century, St Nicholas, along with St Thomas, is Leipzig's oldest house of worship. It was not, as was customary then, built for a monastery but for the citizens. Over the years it was rebuilt many times but received its present form in the late 18th century thanks to Johann Carl Friedrich Dauthe. He not only designed the columns but also refitted the arch with coffering.

★ Leipzig, Nikolaikirchhof 3
nikolaikirche.de

BARFUSZ

Welcome to the epicentre of Leipzig's downtown bar scene



The jury is still out on what might be the best time of the day to stop off at “Barfusz”. But there is no question that you definitely have to go. The restaurant is located in the alleyway of the same name, in the oldest part of Leipzig’s historic district, which is quite lively thanks to the many pubs, restaurants and bars that can be found in this cluster of closely spaced houses dating back to the Renaissance, the Baroque and the Wilhelminian periods. One of these is the “Barfusz”. Some people swear that you definitely won’t find a better breakfast anywhere else. Here they serve a mix of international cuisines, for example English baked beans, Italian Parma ham, French croissants and pork roast on Brussels sprouts. Children under seven eat for free. Other diners swear by the in-house “Barfusz Burger”, which is made

with a secret ingredient that is just that: secret, while some guests prefer to spend their evenings drinking cocktails in the first-floor lounge. The bartenders here are eager to experiment and love creating new drinks, like the “Barfusz Dream”, a mixture of gin, aperol, peach syrup, grapefruit and lime juice topped up with Prosecco. Although you might be in the middle of the **hustle and bustle of the pub mile**, it is still an excellent place to chill with friends. On the top floor, artists from the Leipzig Central Cabaret perform in the Blue Salon. Sometimes the audience might be mesmerised by magicians, sometimes by burlesque or drag artists. And some evenings, the hilarious dinner show will have you rolling in the aisles.

📍 Leipzig, Markt 9, barfusz.de

LEIPZIG ZOO

Six impressive theme worlds form the heart of this “Zoo of the future”



The wildest inhabitants of Saxony live here. If you pay a visit to the giraffes or any one of their numerous neighbours at Leipzig Zoo, you can take a selfie and fool people into thinking that you're right in the middle of the African savannah. What makes this zoo unique, however, is “Gondwanaland”, so called after the supercontinent that split up over time to form America, Africa, Australia, India, the Arabian Peninsula, the Balkans, Madagascar and the Antarctic. Here in one of six theme worlds, giant palm trees tower above beautiful orchids while monkeys frolic around. **The largest rainforest in Germany** is home to 170 exotic species of animal, including the Komodo dragon, pygmy hippopotamus and Malayan tapir as well as 24 000 plants ranging from ylang-ylang to the elephant ear fig tree.

Winding paths lead through the jungle, and if you like, you can do as the monkeys do and make your way along a path through the treetops. A lot happened at Leipzig Zoo last year: the venerable old aquarium reopened after two years of modernisation work, and the Amur leopard, of which only about 100 remain in the wild, gave birth to a cub. The scientists from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, who conduct research into the behaviour of the great apes here, were particularly pleased about the birth of an orangutan. Plans for 2022 include construction on a new landscape that is due to open soon. This “Tierra del Fuego” water world will then be home to sea lions and penguins.

📍 Leipzig, Pfaffendorfer Str. 29, zoo-leipzig.de

Race through the rapids on a raft, a canoe or a bodyboard

Exhilarating waves

Man overboard! It can easily happen, but it's all part of the fun. Navigate your way through the **rapids and whirlpools** of the Markkleeberg Canoe Park south of Leipzig accompanied by a guide and protected by a helmet and life jacket. You'll find the perfect wave here, whether in an inflatable dinghy or a kayak, on a surf- or a bodyboard. Reservations are key during summer. This modern whitewater facility is located southeast of Lake Markkleeberg and was built as part of the bid to host the 2012 Olympic Games. It offers plenty of aquatic action, but if you prefer a more serene experience, try the All-on-Sea water sports school next door, which also rents out canoes. From here you can calmly glide across the lake, about the size of 179 football pitches, on a guided tour. And without fear of going under.

★ *Markkleeberg, Wildwasserkehre 1*
kanuparkmarkkleeberg.com

BY BIKE AND ON FOOT

63 NEW LAKELAND ROUTE

The 107-kilometre long cycle route leads past nine lakes in the Leipzig region.

★ *Start: e.g. Markkleeberg, Auenhainer Straße, sachsen-tourismus.de*

64 BEAVER-HIKING-TRAIL

Look out for beaver lodges between Bad Düben and Bad Schmiedeberg.

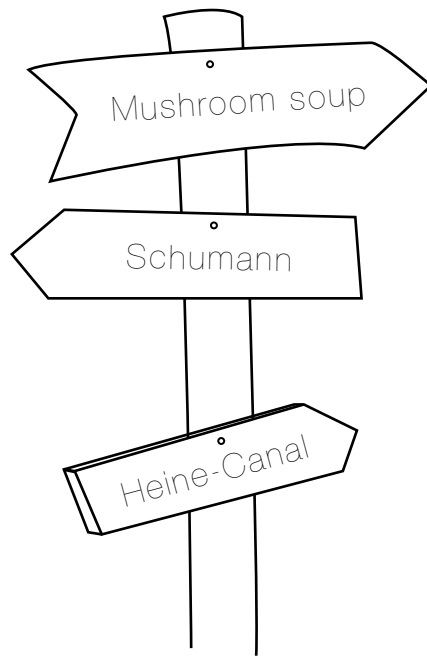
★ *Start: Nature Park House Bad Düben, Neuhofstr. 3a, naturpark-duebener-heide.de*





Canoe park Markkleeberg

With the end of open-pit lignite mining, a beautiful landscape of more than 20 lakes was created in the Leipzig region. Perfect for sailing and swimming. But the real action is at Lake Markkleeberg



GUIDED TOURS

Where in Görlitz were films shot with Jude Law and Kate Winslet? Where did the great musicians compose in Leipzig? Would you prefer something energetic? Something culinary? Our tips for tours

CULTURE AND CULINARY DELIGHTS

LEIPZIG MUSIC TRAIL

Mendelssohn, Schumann, Wagner, Bach: the city was home to many great composers. This 5.3-kilometre trail explores 800 years of music history on a short walk connecting 23 stations.

Leipzig, start: Gewandhaus Augustusplatz 8, notenspur-leipzig.de

65

FILM CITY GÖRLITZ

Jude Law visited while filming "The Grand Budapest Hotel", Kate Winslet was here for "The Reader" and Jackie Chan jumped from the "Hotel Emmerich" to the Untermarkt in "Around the World in 80 Days". This tour reveals all you need to know about the celebs in "Görlitwood".

Görlitz, start: Obermarkt goerlitz-tourismus.de

66

TIME FOR BREAD HIKE

You probably won't consume all the calories you take in on this "time for bread hike" through Saxon Switzerland's national parks. Guide Kristin Arnold organises

gentle tours and picnics with hearty produce from local farms.

Start: to Adamsberg from Elbkai Bad Schandau, brotzeitour.de

67

CULINARY TOUR

On the 10-kilometre route to the Fichtelberg, Jana Kowarik leads you to four different restaurateurs who serve local specialities like Schwammesupp (mushroom soup).

Oberwiesenthal, Breite Gasse 4 ski-und-sport.de

68

69 High-tech

TIME TRAVEL

On this walking tour, experience Dresden's Old Town during the Baroque and other periods via virtual reality glasses: listen to carriages rumbling past and see people in historical garments.

Dresden, start: Taschenberg 3 timeride.de

SPORTING TIPS

CANOE TOUR

The six-kilometre route from the city port along the Karl-Heine-Canal gives canoeists a chance to see Leipzig from the water and take a peek into the gardens of beautiful villas that once belonged to illustrious Leipzig families, such as the publisher Baedeker and the entrepreneur Heine, after whom the canal is named. The tour ends with a drink at the beach bar.

Leipzig, start: Stadthafen stadthafen-leipzig.com

70

DRESDEN BY BIKE

The 15-kilometre route combines highlights in the Old Town, like the Church of Our Lady and Semperoper, and also leads past historic villas in Blasewitz, the "Blue Wonder" bridge and to "Pfunds Dairy" in the Neustadt. If you don't have your own bike, you can rent one for the tour.

Dresden, start: Königsbrücker Str. 4a, kennst-du-dresden.de

71

THEME WORLD HOUSE OF MEISSEN

DEMONSTRATION
WORKSHOPS

● MUSEUM

CULINARY ● SHOPPING



WWW.ERLEBNISWELT-MEISSEN.COM/TICKETSHOP

MEISSEN
est. 1710

HOUSE OF MEISSEN
TALSTRASSE 9 – 01662 MEIßEN
#VISITMEISSEN

 MEISSEN
PORZELLAN
STIFTUNG

Graffiti hotspot Chemnitz:
"Break out!" by Tasso and Guido
Günther (Gustav-Freytag-Straße)
is part of the Mural Trail



72-92

Chemnitz and Zwickau

MURAL TRAIL

BASKETBALL PLAYER MALTE ZIEGENHAGEN TOURS THE CITY

GERMENS FASHIONSTORE · THEATRE KOMPLEX

STATE MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY · EMMAS ONKEL

DER FLEISCHLADEN · JOHANNIS BATHS ZWICKAU

ROBERT SCHUMANN HOUSE

Once drab, now vibrant: Chemnitz is the 2025 Capital of Culture, and its street art and museums prove that it's well worth a visit. Culture is also a focal point in Zwickau in the southwest

Mural Trail

PHOTO: STEVE CONRAD/REBEL-ART

When Guido Günther began embellishing his hometown of Chemnitz with graffiti at the age of 14, his parents were not amused. "That was in the wild 1990s," he says. Today he is one of the region's most sought-after street artists and responsible for bringing more colour to Chemnitz. Together with others, he created the "Mural Trail" in 2019, an ever-expanding **public art route** in the district of Brühl with around 150 examples of graffiti, some of which adorn multi-storey housing blocks. They hit upon

the idea as part of the city's bid to become the 2025 European Capital of Culture. The "Mural Trail" app, developed by Günther's artist network Rebel Art, reveals where these works can be found and also the collaborating artists, including Tasso from the Ore Mountains, the Berlin duo Peachbeach and SatOne from Munich. Want to try your hand at spray painting? Rebel Art has workshops that will teach you – all perfectly legal.

📍 Chemnitz, Start: Kölner Platz 1, muraltrail.de



Exploring
CHEMNITZ
with Malte Ziegenhagen

Allow us to introduce Malte Ziegenhagen. The 30-year-old plays basketball for the Bundesliga club “Niners Chemnitz”. He is a huge fan of the city’s trendy bars and sports facilities and lives with his family in the district of Sonnenberg



73

SPORTS GROUND KONKORDIA PARK

This is a great place for children, young people and athletes alike. The heart of this outdoor fitness facility to the west of the Schlossteichpark (Castle Pond) are the interconnected skater pools. As a basketball player, I especially like the streetball court, where I can shoot hoops with my friends. Others meet up on the football pitch or at the graffiti wall or the climbing rock. In any case, there's always something going on, and you're never alone for long.

📍 Konkordiastr. 5, chemnitz.de

74 HERR FERDINAND KAFFEEHAUS

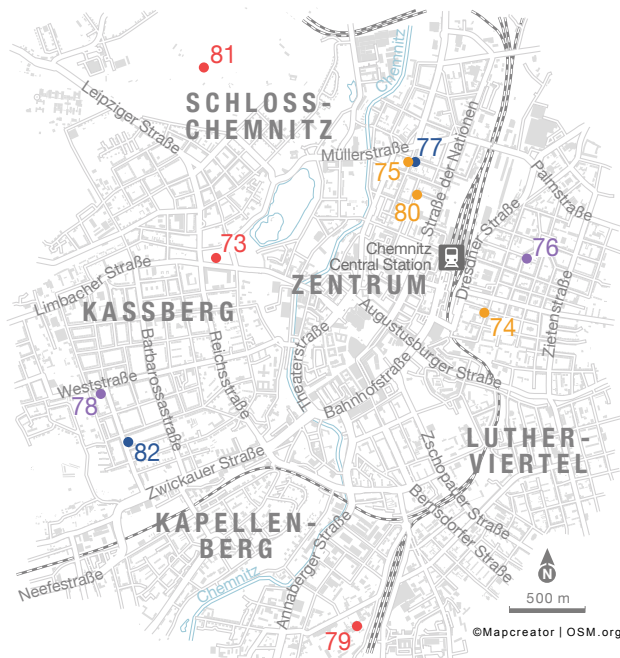
There is a restaurant serving the finest Austrian cuisine right here in Sonnenberg: Tafelspitz (boiled beef) with roast potatoes, Tyrolean Gröstl (bubble and squeak) and fine desserts. It's like a mini holiday in the Alps.

📍 Hainstr. 49
herrferdinand.com



MY PERFECT DAY

... leads from Sonnenberg to the centre; starts with a good cup of coffee and ends with a "Moscow Mule"



75 MORNING

Brühl boulevard in the city centre is fast becoming a fashionable and trendy street. That's partly down to excellent shops and cafés like the **Dreamers Coffee & Whole-food**, a great place to have brunch. They serve wonderful coffee and fresh organic food, most of which comes from regional producers.

📍 Brühl 73, dreamers-cafe.de

76 NOON

In reality, **Peacefood** is a zero-waste shop, where you bring your own containers and do your weekly shop without

plastic packaging. I often take the opportunity to enjoy a vegan cake in their bistro.

📍 Umlandstr. 30
peacefood-chemnitz.de

77 NIGHT


The day ends where it began: on the Brühl. Opposite from "Dreamers" is the **Balboa Bar**, where students meet up for a beer, and where I like to drink a toast to the end of the day with a "Moscow Mule", vodka with lime juice, ginger beer, garnished with a slice of cucumber.

📍 Zöllnerstr. 33, instagram.com/balboa_chemnitz



HAAMIT PAPERIE

The Kassberg is the historical 19th-century quarter, and it features all manner of nice cafés and shops, one of which is the “Haamit Papeterie”. Apart from stationery, they also sell gifts, leather bags, tableware, lamps with an industrial look and beautiful notebooks. It’s worth taking some time to simply browse.

 Weststr. 67, [haamit.com](https://www.haamit.com)



79

BOULDERING LOUNGE

Wow! Climb to your heart's content on 850 square metres. There is an extra bouldering area for children and a bistro. The facility is on the grounds of an old spinning mill, where they also organise flea markets and parties.

★ *Altchemnitzer Str. 5
boulderlounge-chemnitz.de*

PHOTOS: GEORG KNOLL (6), HERR FERDINAND, BOULDERLOUNGE CHEMNITZ; MAP ILLUSTRATIONS: JOCHEN SCHÄPFERS



80

Schalom

It's best to come here with a few friends because then you can order and share a whole range of their Israeli tapas: avocado salad with tuna, gefilte fish, pickled beetroot, peppers, hummus, couscous salad and many other specialities. All are served with pita bread and taste great when accompanied by a glass of Israeli wine or kosher Simcha beer on tap.

🍴 *Heinrich-Zille-Str. 15
schalom-chemnitz.de*



81

Küchwaldpark

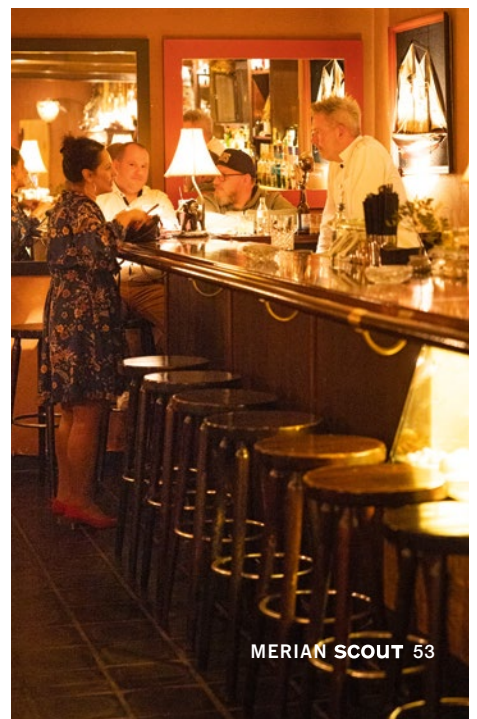
This park is my favourite destination for family outings. The large meadow is especially nice, and even in good weather there is always enough space for a picnic or for throwing a Frisbee. Older children will enjoy the adventure playground and a ride on the park railway. It's also worth visiting the Sigmund Jähn Cosmonaut Centre. It's easy to spot from afar as its white rocket towers high above the treetops.

★ *kuechwald.de, solaris-fzu.de*

82 MAROON BAR

This bar holds a very special place in my heart, because it is where I first met my wife Mary. Everything about this place feels right: it has a cosy interior, and the staff behind the bar are real experts, which is why all their cocktails are excellent. Recently, they served me a great "Pisco Sour", a drink I first tasted when I visited South America. My wife's favourite is a "Strawberry Daiquiri".

📍 *Ulmenstr. 16, maroon-bar.de*



Germens Fashionstore

To make a big impression, you might want to start with a new shirt



Apart from sartorial aplomb, one attribute you definitely need to possess if you want to wear any fashion item from René König's store is self-confidence. "Our shirts are more than just mere apparel, they are real eye-catchers," says the owner of "Germens Fashionstore" located in the Chemnitz district of Siegmars. "My customers often tell me that they were immediately the centre of attention when they wore one of my shirts to a party or an event." About ten years ago, König founded the Germens label, which he describes as "**wearable art**", together with the artist Gregor-Torsten Kozik. Some of his shirts (which sell for around 230 euros) feature geometric shapes, as can be seen in the design by the Leipzig artist Ari Fuchs, which König is wearing in our photo. Others are adorned with floral patterns or

abstract drawings. What all of the models have in common, though, is that they were designed by various artists from Germany and abroad and then woven, printed and embellished here in Saxony with loving attention to detail. So far, 75 artists have created around 400 different designs, and König has very cleverly limited the number of shirts produced from each design to just 99. "Every shirt tells its own story," he says, and they are all unconventional. Over time, König has expanded his range to include T-shirts and women's blouses, and plans are underway to include trousers, jackets and bed linens. His celebrity fans include the folk music group "Die Amigos" and Formula 1 presenter Kai Ebel, obviously men with charisma.

📍 Chemnitz, Oberfrohnaer Str. 30, germens.shop

Komplex theatre

This small but valiant theatre is one of the city's leading cultural venues



The intimate, interactive atmosphere of this fringe theatre is partly due to its location. Its **rooms are in a former Free Church** in the Sonnenberg district, and no more than 80 people can be seated in the auditorium. The programme of the OFF-Theater KOMPLEX is "diverse and experimental," says Robert Verch, chairman of the Klub Solitaer cultural association, patrons of the theatre. "We don't have our own ensemble, but instead we offer it as a space for guest performances." For example, to the Czech artistic group MIME Prague, who visited with their show "FOLK YOU!" (photo). The programme is often drawn up in cooperation with the Taupunkt association, which fosters an international cultural exchange for Chemnitz-based artists.

📍 Chemnitz, Zietenstr. 32, chemnitzkomplex.de

PEOPLE, BEER, EMOTIONS

85

LOKOMOV

The Klub Solitaer also runs the "Lokomov" bar, a pub with an alternative vibe and a beer garden, where literature, art, film and music events are hosted. The large u-shaped house in which it is located was originally slated for demolition but has been home to culture buffs and socially involved organisations since 2012.

📍 Chemnitz, Augustusburger Str. 102, klub-solitaer.de

Man alive!

This journey through time starts some 300,000 years ago with the hunter-gatherers and ends in the early industrial period. It's not easy to accommodate so many years of human history in one exhibition, but the State Museum of Archaeology in Chemnitz, "smac" for short, does a superb job. Having opened in a former department store in 2014, the museum bases its success on a masterful mix of **historical artefacts and modern communication methods**. One highlight is the "time-dynamic" hovering sculpture representing a map of Saxony that guides visitors through the state's cultural history with the help of projected images and sounds. Or the interactive "Transparent Neanderthal" highlighting the differences to the Homo sapiens. The museum's website offers virtual tours as well as 3-D models of selected finds.

★ Chemnitz, Stefan-Heym-Platz 1
smac.sachsen.de

AFTER THE EXHIBITION

87 MIRAMAR

Unwind in this beer garden on the Schloßberg with a view across the Castle Pond and relax under 150-year-old chestnut trees. Good regional cuisine.

🍷 Chemnitz, Schloßberg 16
miramar-chemnitz.de

88 AALTRA

Pub, club, beer garden: The "aaltra" is a bit of everything. Bands often perform; in the open air in summer.

🍷 Chemnitz, Hohe Str. 33
aaltra-chemnitz.de



State Museum of Archaeology

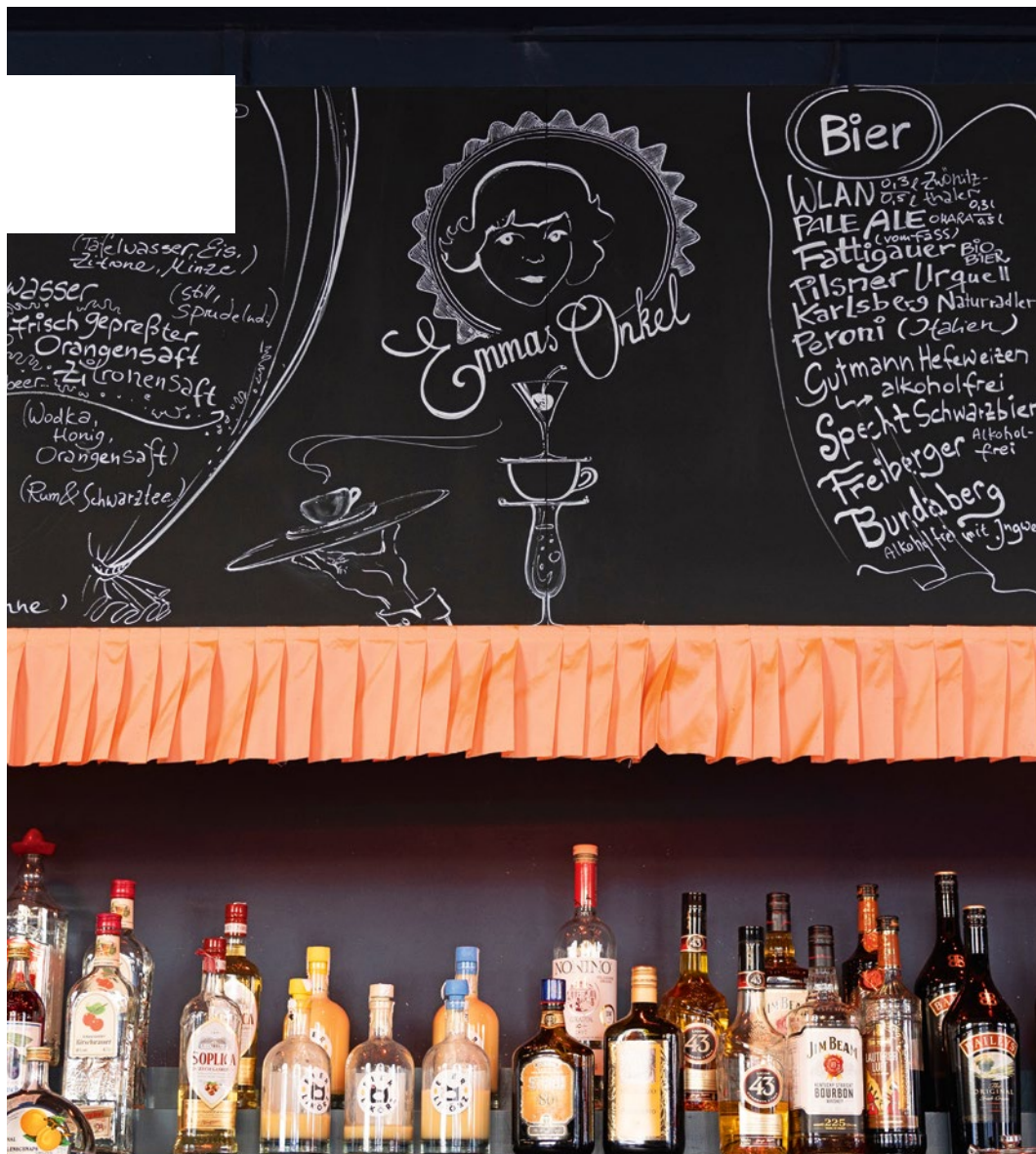
The almost endless history of human life: the “smac” takes visitors on a journey through time and boasts impressive archaeological artefacts and interactive presentations



Past & present: a 40-metre showcase of everyday objects

EMMAS ONKEL

The recipe for success is lots of organic produce and no convenience food



Of course Emma is proud. After all, what girl can boast about a café bearing her name? Mathias Weiß is the 16-year-old's uncle, and apart from coming up with the delightful name of his shop, he also has a lot of other good ideas: he offers **hot meals, and a different one every day**, until 10 p.m. "We don't have a regular menu," says Weiß, who has been running the café in the Kassberg, a district featuring beautiful art nouveau buildings in the centre of Chemnitz, since 2014. "On any given day, I'll decide what I feel like and then I'll see what's in season, and that's what we'll serve." Some days, the board in front of the counter might advertise pepper and tomato curry with baked paneer; on other days, it could be vegetarian lentil meatballs with potato salad. "Everything is freshly made. That was my aspira-

tion when I started out," says Weiß. "If it doesn't work, it doesn't work, but I refuse to serve convenience food." But the truth is that his concept is definitely working. People from all over the neighbourhood come to eat in the shop with the large windows and dark-blue walls – from parents with children to students and pensioners from next door. This is certainly also on account of their delicious cakes, like the red currant-orange-tarte or the fennel shortbread. "All of the cakes are homemade, using organic quality products whenever possible," says Weiß. "I have a sweet tooth, and I want to eat proper cake. So that's what I want to offer my guests." You can put in whatever you like, but you'll always taste the love that went into a cake.

📍 Chemnitz, Weststr. 67, emmas-onkel.de

DER FLEISCHLADEN

Saxony's finest Wurst-Case-Scenario



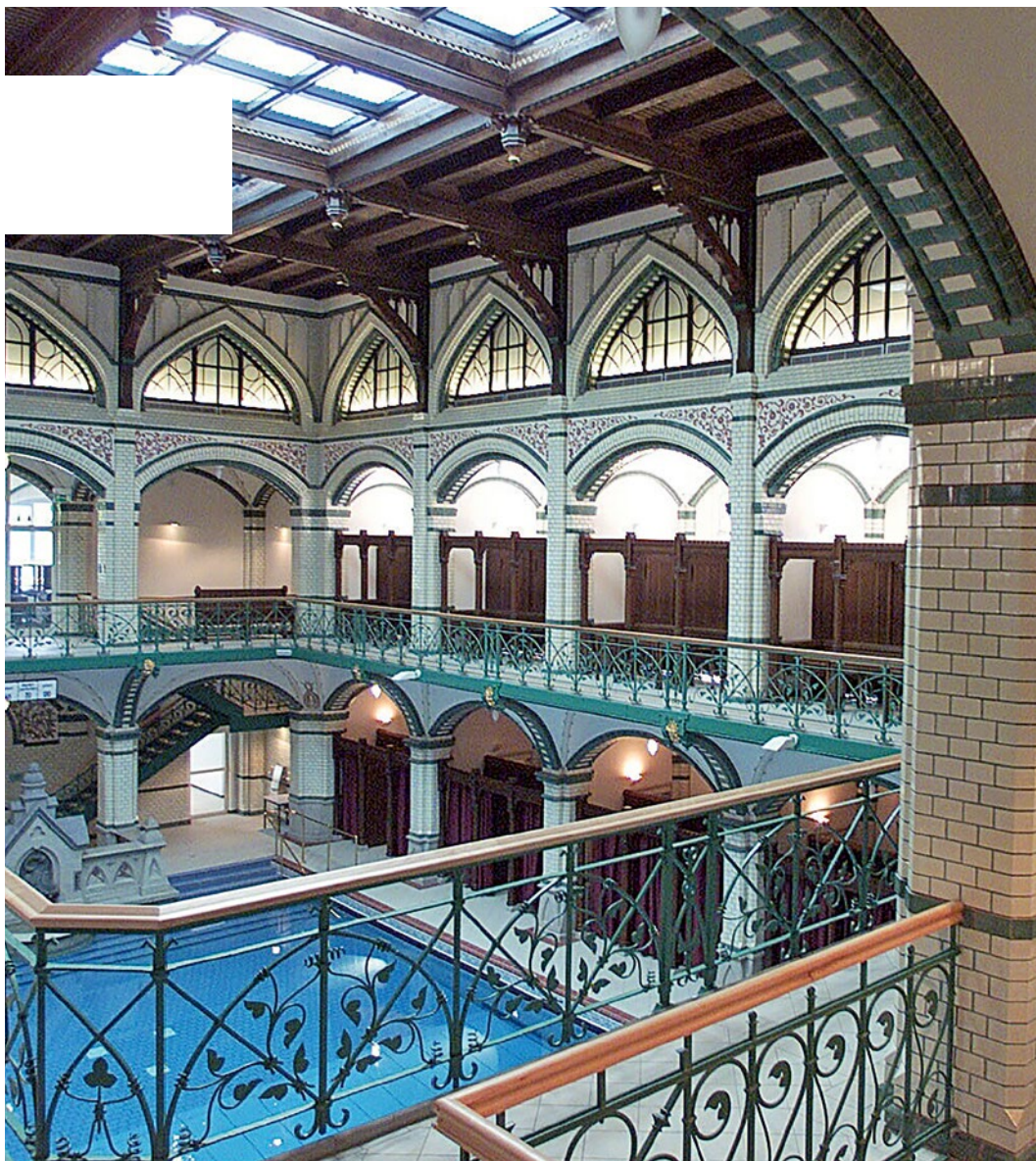
If she could, Michelle Nötzel would even fry the pig's oink. Together with her co-owner, Eric Heim, she opened the "Fleischladen" (Meat Shop) in 2019, a **delicatessen with a restaurant**. "We use up every part of the animal, everything from muscle meat to innards and bones," says Nötzel. "And then we use that to cook a jus for our sauces. What's left is then turned into salami or burger patties." The restaurant has a lunch and dinner menu. It also features an open kitchen with glass walls behind which all the cooking is done by the team around the young chef, Hanna Lehmann. She was recently praised by the gourmet magazine *Der Feinschmecker* for her "great talent". But where does Michelle Nötzel source the animals? "We get our meat from farmers who live and work in the region and whom we visit time and

again," explains Nötzel. "We want the animals to have access to open runs and be fed naturally, with grass, turnips or other fodder cultivated by the farmers themselves." Using up all of the animal parts has gone down well with her guests. "We regularly organise special menu evenings where the farmer is present and reports on how the animals are kept," says Nötzel. "We also do evenings dedicated to the topic of 'offal', and they have become very popular." Those who appreciate good food but eschew meat will find many other delicacies in the shop, including fresh cheeses, hearty pesto from the Allgäu region, fine desserts and chocolates, as well as oils, spices and kitchen accessories, like the "Fleischladen" knife edition.

📍 Chemnitz, Hermannstr. 8, der-fleischladen.de

Johannis baths Zwickau

Relax while sightseeing: swimming in historical surroundings



Golden water sprites, light-filled galleries lined with wrought-iron railings and a gargoyle in the shape of a dragon. With so much to see in the Johannisbad, swimming is secondary. Even though few tourists on a short city trip would normally consider visiting a public swimming baths, in Zwickau you should definitely make an exception. The bath house was founded in 1869, when the physician Samuel Friedrich Julius Schlobig built a sanatorium and baths to combat cholera on a plot of land on the banks of the Zwickauer Mulde river. He later donated the sanatorium to the city, and a swimming pool was added in 1904. The exterior of the building, which is located on the edge of the Nordvorstadt, boasts a richly decorated **brick façade in the neo-Gothic style**. Inside the three-storey hall, swimmers

can discover new details with every lap they complete. These details are mostly elements in the style of the Art Nouveau: coloured tiles, floral decorations, embellishments on the wooden changing room doors and, of course, the impressive hall clock above their heads. So with just one visit, you are killing three birds with one stone: a bit of sightseeing, some exercise and a lot of relaxation. In addition to the 200-square-metre swimming pool, the Johannisbad also features a whirlpool, various saunas, a steam bath and a snow chamber to cool off. A good place to end your visit is with a bite to eat in the "Alte Remise" restaurant across the street, where you can see another building belonging to the former sanatorium.

☆ Zwickau, Johannisstr. 16, johannisbad.de

Robert Schumann House Zwickau

A mecca for music fans with a concert hall, museum and research centre



As expected, music is paramount in a composer's home. So it is hardly surprising that the Robert Schumann House has a large concert hall on the ground floor, where works by the master are performed regularly, sometimes in the classical version, sometimes in a new interpretation, for example a jazz or chanson variation. Strictly speaking, the building complex on the Hauptmarkt is not just the birthplace of Robert Schumann (1810-1856). Prior to the official opening in 1956, the house was connected to two adjacent buildings to make room for the **world's largest Schumann collection** with around 36000 individual objects and also a research centre. "From the outset, the museum was not only dedicated to him but also to his wife, the pianist Clara Schumann, née Wieck," says director

Thomas Synofzik. The couple's Biedermeier furniture is part of the comprehensive collection, as are sculptures, original portraits, handwritten sheet music, countless letters and keyboard instruments, including Clara Wieck's (1819-1896) first grand piano, on which she gave her concert debut at the Leipzig Gewandhaus at the age of nine (see p. 30). Special exhibitions, which change every three months, focus on artists from the Schumanns' circle, like the composer Johannes Brahms or the writer E. T. A. Hoffmann. If you want to learn more, you can follow in Schumann's footsteps on a city walk through Zwickau. The directions are available as a download on the museum's website.

☆ Zwickau, Hauptmarkt 5
schumann-zwickau.de

Treasures of modernity

Saxony's museums are famous for their Renaissance and Baroque masters, but they also exhibit 20th century art. Chemnitz alone, the 2025 City of Culture, was home to several artists from the seminal "Brücke" group. The highlights from Dresden to Zwickau

93

MAX PECHSTEIN MUSEUM

This house in his hometown of Zwickau devotes a permanent exhibition of more than 50 works to the expressionist (1881-1955), including "Woman with Fan" from 1924 (photo). Like Karl Schmidt-Rottluff (see page on right), Pechstein also belonged to the "Brücke" (Bridge) artists' group.

★ Zwickau, Lessingstr. 1
kunstsammlungen-zwickau.de

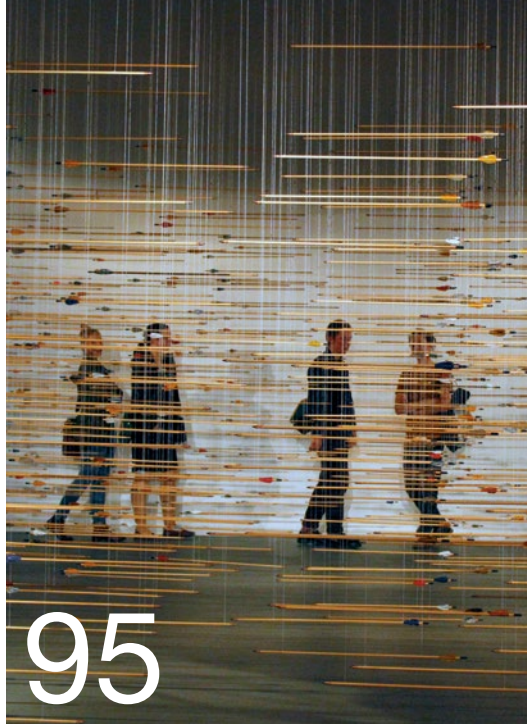


94 CHEMNITZ ART COLLECTIONS



Take time to explore this large Chemnitz museum (seen here is the foyer), which displays many expressionist painters, such as Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, who hails from here. Käthe Kollwitz is represented in the Graphic Arts Collection (see p.23).

★ Chemnitz, Theaterplatz 1
kunstsammlungen-chemnitz.de



95

NEW SAXON GALLERY

In 1990, Chemnitz residents began compiling this extensive collection of post-1945 Saxon art. Temporary exhibitions also feature other artists, like Ivan Kafka (photo: "From nowhere to nowhere").

★ Chemnitz, Moritzstr. 20, neue-saechsische-galerie.de



96

NEW MASTERS GALLERY

Dresden's Albertinum covers the spectrum from Romanticism to the present, for example Ferdinand von Rayski's portrait of his sister, Minna Pompilia, from 1843 (right in the photo) but also works by Gerhard Richter. ★ Dresden, Tzschirnerplatz 2
albertinum.skd.museum

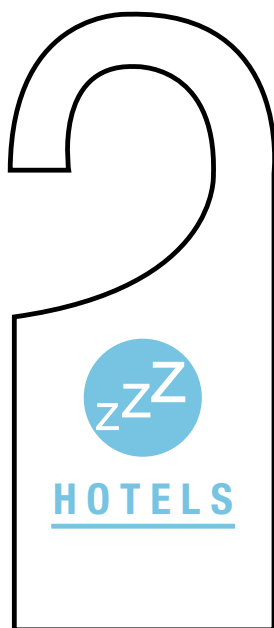


97

GUNZENHAUSER MUSEUM

Anyone fascinated by the post-expressionist New Objectivity movement should definitely see this collection, which includes 380 paintings by Otto Dix alone.

★ Chemnitz, Stollberger Str. 2, kunstsammlungen-chemnitz.de



Lovingly remodelled residences, where princes and bankers but also tanners and vintners once went about their daily business: Saxony has a wealth of particularly original hotels

ROMANTIC

VILLA SORGENFREI

Aside from its elegant interior, antique furniture and partly historical murals, this former winery boasts a huge garden and Michelin-starred cuisine in the "Atelier Sanssouci" restaurant.

Radebeul, Augustusweg 48
hotel-villa-sorgenfrei.de

98

BAUMHAUSHOTEL KRIEBELLAND

Staying in one of these imaginative dwellings, located up to 20 metres above the ground, is a real adventure. Whether you choose a boat suspended above the Zschopau river or a three-storey romantic hut in old oak trees, this place has a magical feel to it.

Kriebstein, An der Talsperre 1a
kriebelland.de

99

SCHLOSS RABENSTEIN

This manor house combines baroque details like golden ceiling paintings with modern elements. A great way to start the day is from your balcony with the ornate black

railings while breathing in the clear air from the park of nearby Rabenstein Castle.

Chemnitz, Thomas-Müntzer-Höhe 14, hotel-schloss-rabenstein.de 100

HOTEL ALTE GERBEREI

Dark wooden furniture, half-timbered beams and lattice windows: this old tannery by the Spree river was lovingly converted into a hotel with country house flair.

Bautzen, Uferweg 1
hotel-alte-gerberei.de 101

102 Low Budget

SCHLOSS AUGUSTUSBURG

This nearly 450-year-old hunting lodge belonging to the Saxon Prince-Elector Augustus stands on a hill above the Zschopau valley. Rare luxury for a hostel: a sauna in the vaulted cellar.

Augustusburg, Schloss
jh-augustusburg.de

MODERN

LAURICHHOF

Annette Katrin Seidel and her son, Franz Philip, took very different approaches when designing the rooms of their hotel in Pirna; all feature stunning effects and are very stylish: some are all in white, while others are filled with gaudy pop art or reflect a jungle look. Each suite is furnished with customised furniture and unusual lamps deserving of the label "design object".

Pirna, Hauptplatz 4
laurichhof.de 103

HOTEL FREGEHAUS

Vintage furniture in the rooms, a blue salon on the ground floor with a small bar and a mini library and a lovely landscaped courtyard: Sabine Fuchshuber has transformed a former bank building in the heart of Leipzig's city centre into a wonderful retreat with her keen eye for design.

Leipzig, Katharinenstr. 11
hotel-fregehaus.de 104



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MADE IN SAXONY

These products are so original and so iconic, you might want to reconsider giving them as gifts and keep them for yourself ...



105 DIAMANT BICYCLE

Founded by Friedrich and Wilhelm Nevoigt in Reichenbrand, the Diamant company has been making cool bikes since 1885, like this retro Topas Grand Finale.

RRP €970, available e.g. at Fahrrad XXL Emporon, Chemnitz, An der Markthalle 1, diamantrrad.com

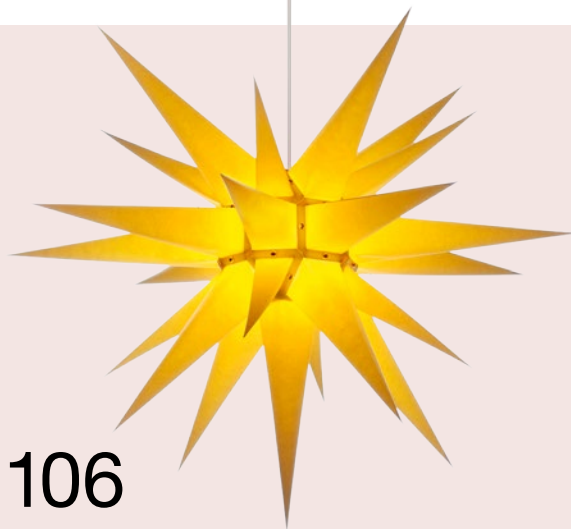
107



BRUNO BANANI

New York has Calvin Klein, but Chemnitz has the Jassner family. The company, run by father Wolfgang and son Jan, was founded here in 1993, and it has since been enriching the world of fashion with its colourful lingerie collections.

Ca. €20 (double pack), Chemnitz-Mittelbach, Hofer Str. 15, brunobanani.com



106

MORAVIAN STAR

Originally invented to teach geometry to pupils, the Herrnhuter star, as it is called in German, is a classic Christmas decoration, but it can brighten up any room and lighten the mood all year round. This paper model measures approx. 70 centimetres in diameter.

€32, Herrnhut, Oderwitzer Str. 8, herrnhuter-sterne.de

108

WENDT & KÜHN

After studying art, Grete Wendt and Margarete Kühn began producing painted wooden figurines in Grünhainichen in 1915. They even received a gold medal for their wooden angel at the 1937 Paris World Fair. Today, their collectibles include figures like the "Girl with Bluebells".

Ca. €59, Grünhainichen, Chemnitzer Str. 40, wendt-kuehn.de



109



PFUND'S TILES

This drinking angel can be seen in Pfund's dairy in Dresden behind the cheese counter on the left side. These nostalgic wall and ceiling tiles are available as replicas for your home.

€10 (14,5 x 14,5 cm), Dresden, Bautzner Str. 79, pfunds-shop.de

110



CIRCUIT ACCESSORIES

Upcycling as jewellery: designer Roswitha Petersen turns old circuit boards into rings, necklaces, studs and more.

€120 (Ring R25), Leipzig, Otto-Heinze-Str. 28, circuit-accessories.de

112



KARLSKOPF SHIRTS

The city, renamed after him in 1953, has since reverted back to Chemnitz, but Karl Marx is ever-present. For example on T-shirts from the Karlskopf company, made of organic cotton and manufactured according to strict Fair Wear standards. Marx, who came from Trier, would certainly have approved.

€26.95, Chemnitz, Brühl 53, karlskopf.de

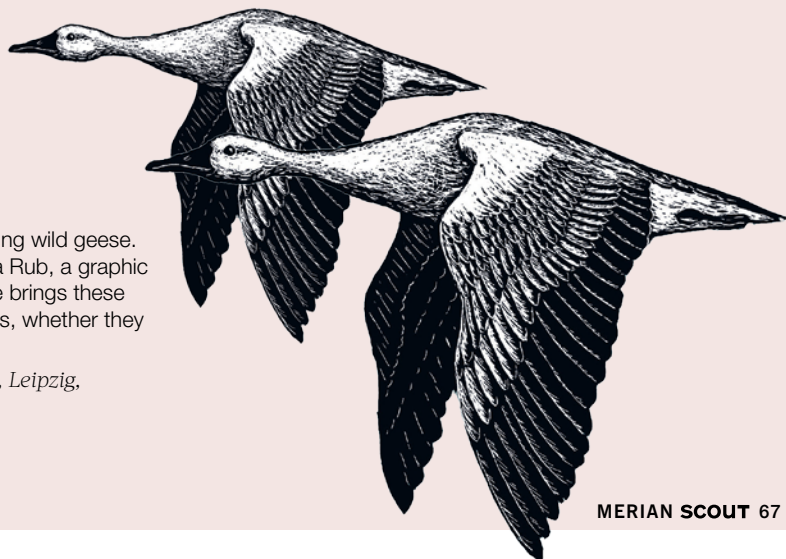


114

KATJA RUB

Cheeky like the "Leipzig Lark" or pensive looking wild geese. "Each animal has its own character," says Katja Rub, a graphic designer and Leipzig resident by choice. She brings these characters to life on cards, prints and calendars, whether they be puffins or giraffes.

Cards from €2.50, Bookshop Wörtersee, Leipzig, Peterssteinweg 7, katja-rub.de



111

DR. QUENDT DOMINOSTEINE

The Dresden chocolatier Herbert Wender invented this layered gingerbread, jelly and marzipan treat as a replacement "praline for everyone". His original recipe was later adopted by the Dr. Quendt company, which also has a factory outlet.

€2.99, Dresden, Offenburger Str. 1, dr-quendt.de

113



EIERLIKÖRZ

The recipe for this award-winning egg liqueur comes from Oma Ursel, grandmother of company founder Felix Adler, who now produces eight flavours, from hazelnut to mint.

€10.90, Chemnitz, also sold in the hotel "Chemnitzer Hof", Theaterplatz 4, eierlikoerz.de

A big hand for Winnetou, Old Shatterhand and their fellow actors – and for the dramatic backdrop in Rathen



115-126

Saxon Switzerland

RATHEN OPEN AIR STAGE

KÖNIGSTEIN FORTRESS · PAINTERS' WAY

ELBE SANDSTONE MOUNTAINS · ROBERT STERL HOUSE

HÄNTZSCHEL CLIMBING PATH · SCHMILKA

Immortalised by writers and painters, these spectacular natural surroundings in Saxon Switzerland offer many sporting highlights for active people. The Elbe Cycle Path and climbing trails are veritable tourist magnets

Rathen Open Air Stage

At last, Winnetou and Old Shatterhand can once again mount their noble steeds. After two years of renovation, the only theatre in Germany located in a national park finally has a new venue. "The theatre was founded in 1936," says event manager Andreas Gärtner. "Two years later, the world's first adaptation of a Karl May novel was presented here." Rathen lies a mere 40 kilometres southeast of Radebeul, where the author of these famous Westerns lived and died. The impressive natural surroundings

add a touch of realism to the dramatic scenes: The rocks of the **Elbe Sandstone Mountains** tower over the stage and sometimes serve as part of the set when horses and riders gallop down the forest paths. Operas are also featured in the programme. "My favourite is 'Der Freischütz' (The Marksman)," says Gärtner, "because the rocks and the forest lend it such incredible authenticity."

★ Rathen, Amselgrund
landesbuehnen-sachsen.de

KÖNIGSTEIN FORTRESS

52 buildings and a 152.5 metre deep well tower high above a 180° loop in the Elbe



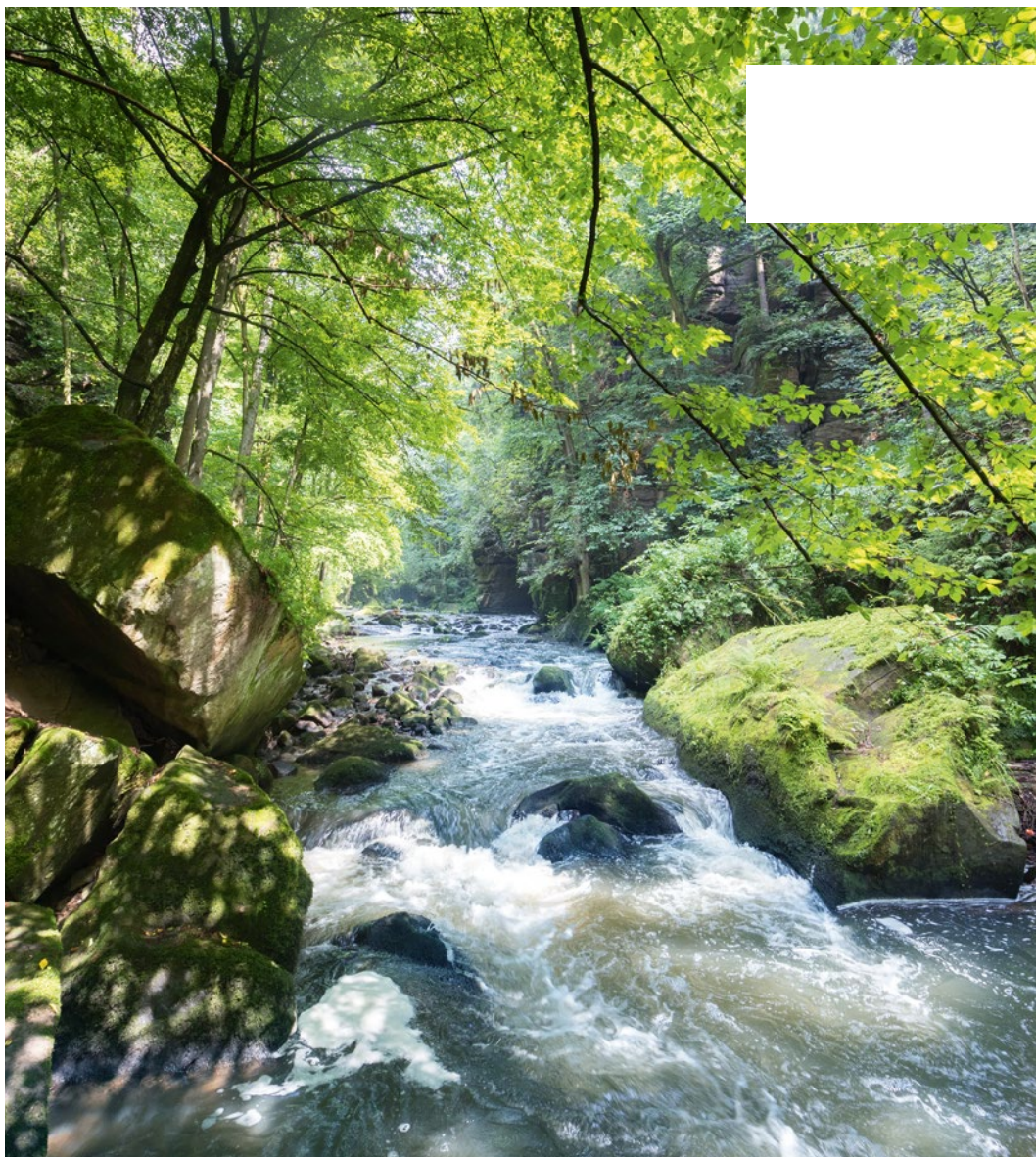
Many superlatives can be used to describe Königstein Fortress. For example, during the Seven Years' War (1756-1763), it was the only place in Saxony not to be occupied by the Prussian Army under King Frederick the Great. There is no record of why that was, but it is clear that the 800-year-old castle would not have been easy to conquer. It sits on a rocky plateau 240 metres above the Elbe river and was equipped with various martial defences, like **embrasures and rolling grenades**, to ward off any potential assailants. Enemies were also doused with hot pitch. A guided tour of the fortress explains all of this in impressive detail. The 2.2 kilometre long walls enclose an area of 9.5 hectares (equal in size to around seven football pitches). Dotted about inside are 52 buildings dating from various periods. One high-

light is the Well House. Before it was built, there had only been a small Slavic castle in its place. During the construction of the well in the 16th century, some 4000 tonnes of rock needed to be excavated. For two years, miners from Freiberg dug and blasted at the rock before finally hitting water at a depth of 152.5 metres. It was then that the ramparts, gatehouse, armoury and other buildings were constructed, which were repeatedly expanded and transformed by various rulers over the centuries. The modern panorama restaurant in the officers' mess forms a fascinating contrast to the ancient walls. If you prefer baroque surroundings, you can rent the Friedrichsburg (photo), which was once an observation post, and dine in the hall of mirrors.

🌟 Königstein, festung-koenigstein.de

PAINTERS' WAY

Picturesque: hiking in the Elbe Sandstone Mountains



When the Wesenitz river babbles over moss-covered stones and the birds chirp, it sounds like a symphony composed by nature. There is plenty of opportunity for flights of fancy along the Malerweg. Its **first stage begins in the Liebethaler Grund**. No wonder these enchanting rock formations inspired painters, poets and composers from the 18th century onwards, among them Richard Wagner, who sketched parts of "Lohengrin" in the Lochmühle. Those who hike all eight stages will get to see virtually all of Saxon Switzerland's highlights, including Königstein Fortress, Barbarine, Affensteine, Kirnitzschtal, Hohnstein Castle, Rathen Open Air Stage and the Bastei rock formation.

☆ Stage 1: from Pirna bus terminal with bus G/L to "Liebethaler Grund", malerweg.de

UNMISSABLE IN PIRNA

118

LOHENGRIN HOUSE

The farmhouse where Wagner composed the music for the opera "Lohengrin" in 1846 has been reconstructed in the original style.

☆ Pirna, Richard-Wagner Str. 6

119

RICHARD WAGNER MUSEUM

The hunting lodge documents Wagner's time in Saxony and his life as a poet and opera composer.

☆ Pirna, Tschairowskiplatz 7



ELBE SANDSTONE MOUNTAINS

Sometimes it is almost hidden in a sea of fog, sometimes it's just beautiful. One of the most spectacular views in Saxony's Grand Canyon can be enjoyed from the Bastei Bridge

120

Born of the sea

Although Saxon Switzerland is the name given to the German part of the sandstone mountains along the upper reaches of the Elbe river, Saxon Grand Canyon would be far more apt. Instead of jagged mountain peaks, this area features strings of craggy cliffs and pointed needles resembling fragile towers of stacked rocks. The Saxon Switzerland National Park covers an area of more than 90 square kilometres, and the surrounding nature preserve is three times as large. Up until around 65 million years ago, it was covered by a sea. Sand and the remains of dead plants and animals were deposited at the bottom and solidified over time due to the pressure of the water. Over millions of years the landscape rose and folded; rivers and rain eroded the rock, with water and wind forming **deep gorges and mesas**, which today are surrounded by dense forests. Some of the sandstone layers weather easily due to their composition, while others are surprisingly stable, like the Bastei, a rock formation towering almost 200 metres above the Elbe river that has been connected by a bridge since the Middle Ages. Later, many Romantic artists enjoyed the incredible views, including Caspar David Friedrich. His painting "Wanderer above the Sea of Fog" pays a worthy tribute to this world-famous landmark, the Elbe Sandstone Mountains.



The path leads upwards across bridges, along trails and up steps, and sometimes all the way to the very top

Robert Sterl House

Preserving the legacy of the famous Impressionist painter from Saxony



With combined forces, workers haul large rocks out of a quarry. Their bright shirts appear dazzlingly white in the sun. Anyone viewing “The Quarrymen” (1909, seen here is a detail) by Robert Sterl will immediately be transported into the former everyday working life of people in Saxon Switzerland. **Around 100 paintings by the Impressionist** are on display in his home in Struppen, where many of his works originated in his studio annex. Before moving here, the son of a stonemason spent many years directing the masterclass at the Dresden Art Academy, where he promoted colleagues like Max Pechstein and Oskar Kokoschka. You can also visit the garden where Sterl (1867-1932) and his wife Helene are buried.

📍 *Struppen, Robert-Sterl-Str. 30, robert-sterl-haus.de*

UPSTREAM ON THE ELBE

122 TOSKANA THERMAL SPA

After all the hiking and biking, this is the perfect place for a wellness break. In addition to the flow channel and outdoor pool with a view of the hilly landscape, there is a saltwater pool under a glass dome featuring “Liquid Sound”, video and light projections, and sometimes concerts for a deeply relaxing experience.

📍 *Bad Schandau, Rudolf-Sendig-Str. 8a, toskanaworld.net*

Häntzschelstiege

A head for heights? Then try climbing in the Affensteine



First the steel rungs lead vertically upwards before veering around a sandstone rock. Beneath your feet are several metres of emptiness. As fascinating as the via ferratas, or **climbing paths, in the Affensteine** (Monkey Rocks) are, many people underestimate them. While some wear harnesses and helmets, others risk the climb with no equipment at all. Simply daring to look down is guaranteed to give you an adrenalin rush. Better to let your gaze wander to the Brosinnadel, a distinctive climbing rock that is visible from the lower section. Once you ascend to the top, give yourself a pat on the back and enjoy the intoxicatingly beautiful view over the Elbe Sandstone Mountains.

☆ Into the Kirnitzschtal valley to the car park "Nasser Grund", bergwelten.com/t/ks/5787

ABOVE THE KIRNITZSCH VALLEY

124

OTTENDORFER HÜTTE

Rock climbing is a skill that has to be learned. Training at this climbing school includes lessons in abseiling, lowering, knot tying and belaying. This rustic hikers' hostel in the style of an Alpine hut also offers apartments and accommodation for the night. Self-catering is not possible, but there is a restaurant.

☆ Ottendorf, Hauptstr. 27
ottendorfer-huette.de

Going the green way

The last village on the Elbe river before the Czech border looks like something out of a fairy tale. The colourful houses, bearing names like “Helvetia” or “Villa Thusnelda”, nestle side by side on the banks of the Elbe or are huddled closely in the heart of the village, connected by narrow alleys and steep stone stairs. During the GDR era, Schmilka was a restricted zone that could only be entered with a pass. Many residents moved away after reunification. It was only when the entrepreneur Sven-Erik Hitzer bought the old mill in 1993 and renovated it ecologically that life slowly returned to the village: **the mill is once again used for grinding**, a baker turns the flour into organic bread, and they have their own brewery. Hotels, rooms and apartments are scattered throughout the village, and all guests can use the village’s own sauna and enjoy yoga, herbal walks and sound meditation. Even if you don’t stay the night, you should definitely dine here: all produce is organic and grown locally.

★ schmilka.de

ON THE GREAT RIVER

126 ELBE CYCLE ROUTE

The German section of the Elbe Cycle Route sets off in Schmilka. The route starts in the Czech Giant Mountains and follows the river over 1280 kilometres to its mouth in the North Sea. From Smilka, you cycle through the breathtaking mountain scenery of Saxon Switzerland to Dresden.

★ Start: Špindlerův Mlýn elberadweg.de

Serene: “Everything here should make ecological sense,” says Sven-Erik Hitzer when describing his green haven for guests



Schmilka

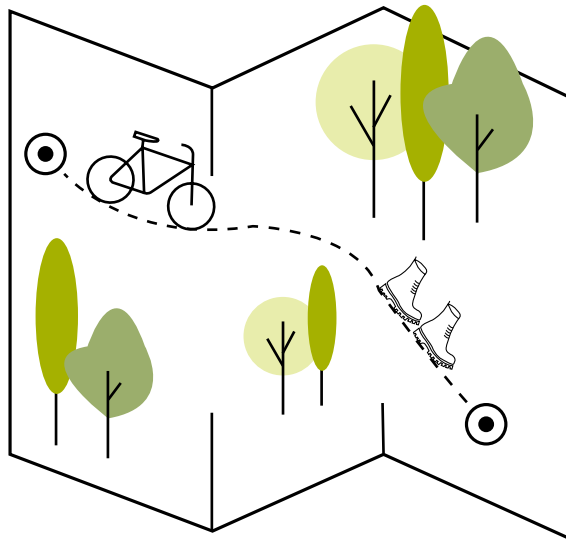
In this charming village near the Czech border, residents attach great importance to regional produce sourced from sustainable agriculture

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Zum Bäckernarten





TOURS

Whether you prefer hiking through hills or past castles, or cycling along the Oder and Neisse rivers and Leipzig's nearby lakes, these routes showcase Saxony's diverse landscapes

HIKING

UPPER LUSATIAN MOUNTAIN TRAIL

From the pottery town of Neukirch, the 100-kilometre trail winds its way past imposing cliffs to Zittau. Lausche, Hochwald and the Scharfenstein offer amazing views. The wind-carved mushroom stones near Oybin are not to be missed!

Start: Neukirch, Valtenberg watch tower, oberlausitzer-bergweg.de

127

VOGTLAND PANORAMIC TRAIL

From the Göltzsch viaduct, this 240-kilometre loop trail leads through beautiful mountain landscapes. Along the way are castles, the Pöhl Dam, Bad Elster and the "Wernesgrüner Brewery Estate".

Start: e.g. car park Göltzsch viaduct, vogtland-tourismus.de

128

MULDE VALLEY HIKING TRAIL

The 150-kilometre trail has few elevations but instead leads along the Zwickauer Mulde river, past

castles, churches and the very diverse and unique Natural History Cabinet in Waldenburg dating back to 1845.

Start: e.g. Mulde Bridge Waldenburg, rochlitzer-muldental.de

129

KLINGENTHALER HÖHENSTEIG

The circuit leads up to an altitude of 800 to 900 metres around the music and winter sports town of Klingenthal, with views all the way to Bohemia.

Start: e.g. music and winter sports museum, Schlosstr. 3, klingenthal.de

130

131 With kids

PORPHYRY NATURE TRAIL

This 2.7-kilometre trail on Rochlitzer Berg is all about the red volcanic rock porphyry, or tuff rock. The quarry, the hermitage between two rocks and the observation tower make hiking here an adventure.

Start: Rochlitzer Berg car park south rochlitzer-muldental.de

CYCLING

GREEN RING LEIPZIG

The 133-kilometre Green Ring Leipzig cycle trail connects idyllic and unusual places in the surrounding area, like the heart-shaped Kirchbruch Lake in Beucha, which owes its shape to a mountain church, to the Neuseenland in the south, a huge lake district of flooded open-cast mines. It's a great place for swimming, sailing, playing volleyball or just eating ice cream.

Start: e.g. Böhlen, Werkstraße gruenerring-leipzig.de

132

ODER-NEISSE TRAIL

One sixth of the 630 kilometres from the Neisse's source in the Czech Republic to the island of Usedom in the Baltic Sea leads through Saxony. Past Zittau and Germany's oldest Cistercian nunnery and on to Görlitz and Bad Muskau. There aren't many places to stop for a bite to eat en route, but it's downhill and wonderfully secluded.

Start in Saxony: e.g. Zittau, Untere Dorfstr. 51, oder-neisse-radweg.de

133

ROCCOCO



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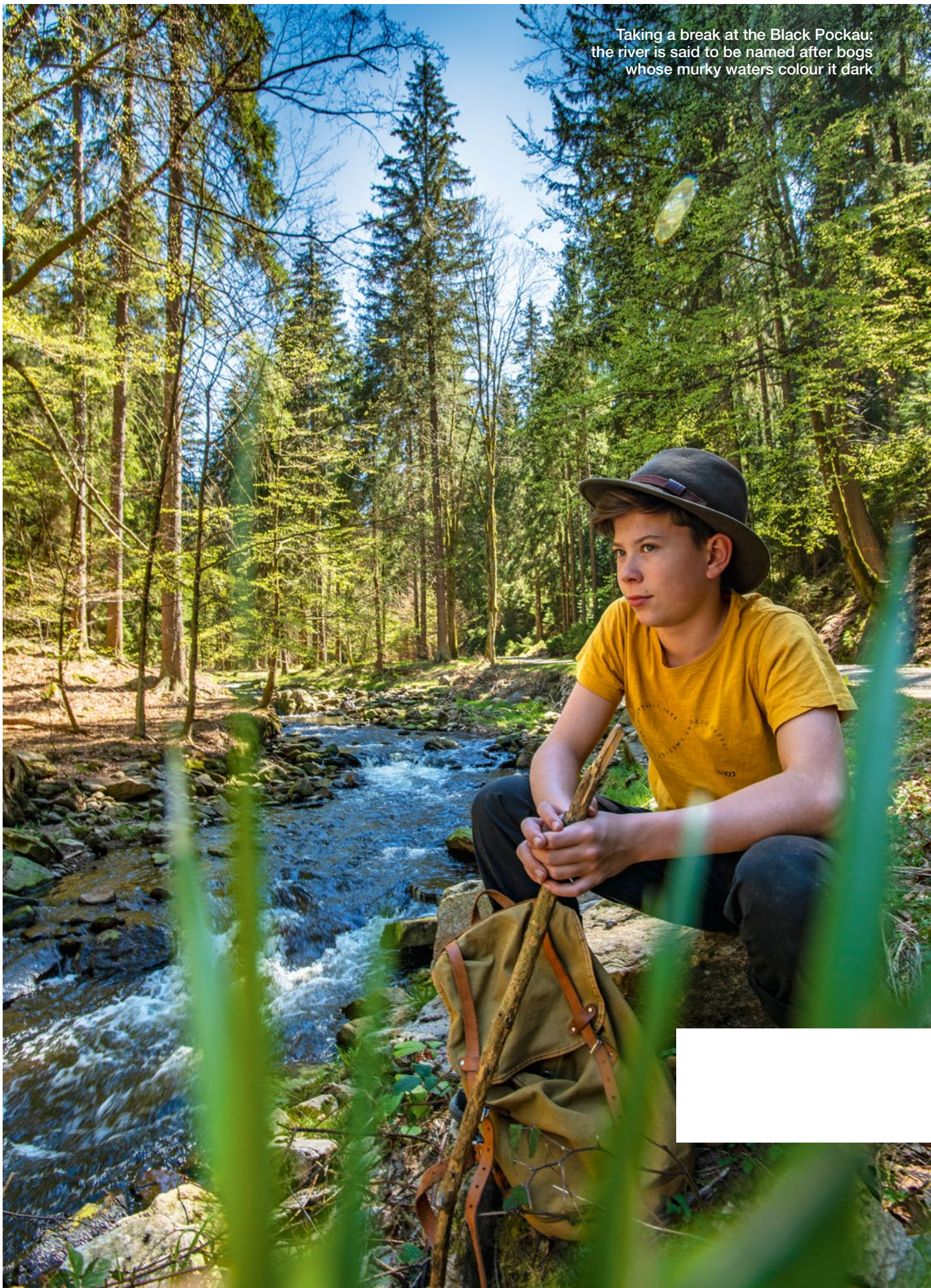
KATALOG ZUR AUSSTELLUNG
ERSCHIENEN IM HATJE CANTZ VERLAG

REVIVAL

Illustration: Auguste Renoir, 'Portrait of a Lady' (Detail), ca. 1879, The Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Foto: Image courtesy/Clark Art Institute, clarkart.edu



Taking a break at the Black Pockau:
the river is said to be named after bogs
whose murky waters colour it dark



134-148

Ore Mountains

SCHWARZWASSER VALLEY

CYCLE TOUR WITH MOUNTAINBIKER ANDRÉ WAGENKNECHT

TERRA MINERALIA · ZIP LINE

The densely wooded region has elevations and gulches: peaks for skiers and mountain bikers to let off steam and tunnels from the old mining days. You can also take to the air with the Zip Line

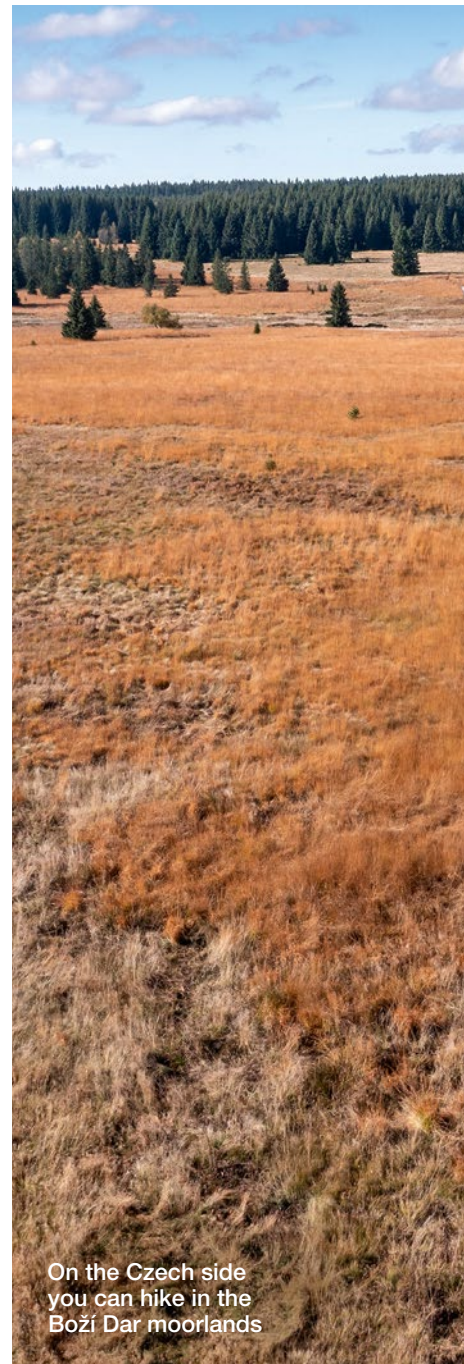
Schwarzwasser Valley

Some five kilometres east of Marienberg, the Schwarze Pockau, a tributary of the Flöha river, flows over its stony river bed, cutting through the valley after which it is named, the Schwarzwasser-tal, or Black Water Valley. It rushes past gnarled tree roots and high rock towers, under bridges and past old mining tunnels. En route, the plateau on the Katzenstein provides a magnificent view of the **hilly forests of this nature reserve**. A good place to start hiking is from the car park on the Hinterer

Grund road in Pobershau. Those who want to extend their stay will find cosy accommodation in small rustic wooden houses in the Schwarzwasser-tal holiday village. The resort includes a llama ranch that offers short hikes and day trips through the Schwarzwasser valley together with the woolly companions. One is named Galileo and the other Columbus – portents for successful exploration.

📍 *Marienberg, Hinterer Grund*
lama-ranch.de

The Ore Mountains
extend into the
Czech Republic.
Wagenknecht often
cycles here



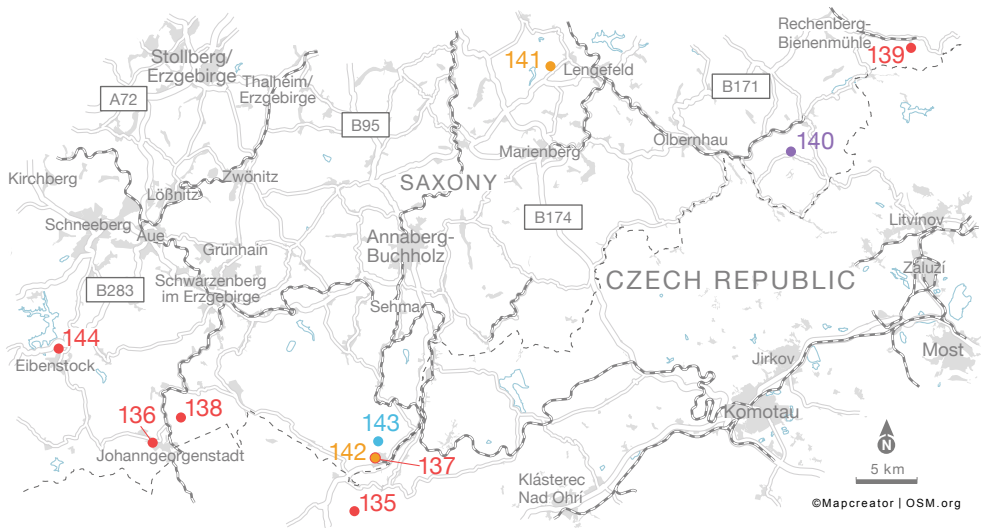
On the Czech side
you can hike in the
Boží Dar moorlands

BIKING WITH ANDRÉ WAGENKNECHT

He was doing wheelies by the age of six, and by 2008 and 2014 mountain biker André Wagenknecht had won two German championships. His favourite place for racing and training: the Ore Mountains



... and attempt daring jumps in the Trail Park Klinovec. But they also have easy routes



The Blockline trail leads to Blockhausen with its intricately carved wooden sculptures



135 **KLINOVEC**

A resort with 31 kilometres of ski runs and a bike park.

It has two entrances: at the peak and in Jáchymov.

★ klinovec.cz, trailpark.cz

136 **KAMMLOIPE**

On a clear day, enjoy fantastic views reaching as far as the Czech Republic and Bavaria.

★ Start: e.g. from *Johann-georgenstadt*, kammloipe.de

137 **MIRIQUIDI STONEMAN**

This cross-country trail covers nine peaks.

★ Start: e.g. at the *Prijut 12* restaurant, oberwiesenthal.stoneman-miriquidi.com

138 **TRAILCENTRE RABENBERG**

Smaller than the Klínovec bike park but very close to nature.

★ *Breitenbrunn*, [Rabenberg 6 trailcenter-rabenberg.de](http://Rabenberg6.trailcenter-rabenberg.de)

139 **BLOCKLINE**

Three loops, 50 to 65 kilometres long, lead through the eastern Ore Mountains.

★ Start: e.g. from *Hotel Talblick*, *Rechenberg-Bienenmühle* blockline.bike

My grandfather was the one who first inspired my passion for cycling. He loved to ride himself and would spend ages working on fixing my bike with me. Even as a child, I didn't want a normal bike. I wanted one that you could do cool stunts on, like the teenagers in the 1983 film "BMX Bandits" starring Nicole Kidman. When I was six years old, I taught myself how to do wheelies, riding on the back wheel of my souped-up BMX bike, which meant that I often came home splattered with mud. Mountain bikes only appeared in bike shops here after reunification, when I was eleven. At the time, I was able to get hold of one, but it was a very cheap model. When I was 15 or 16, I spent my summer holidays working on construction sites and in bicycle shops so that I could finally buy myself a really good mountain bike.

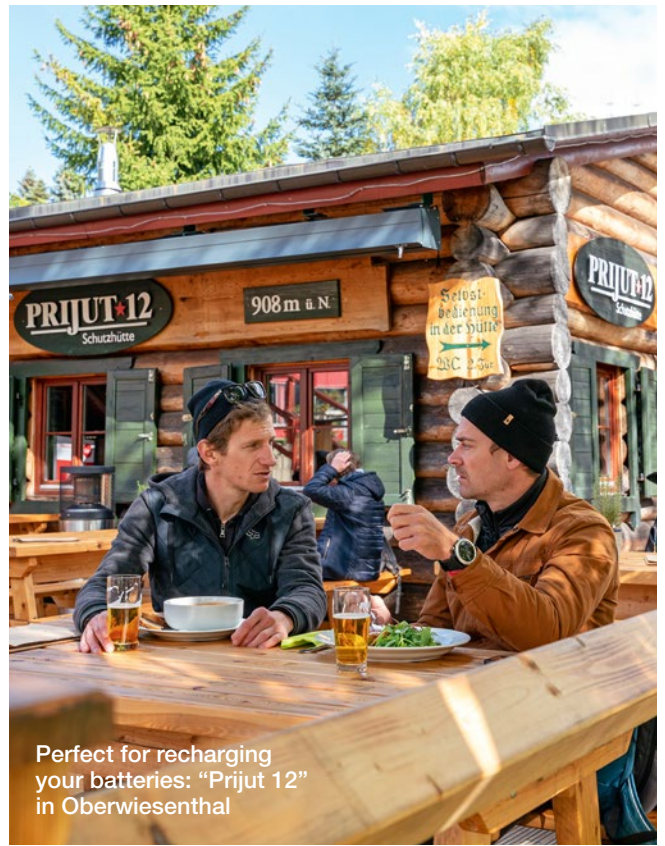
I grew up in the Vogtland, but because of their great mountain bike trails, the Ore Mountains soon became my preferred training ground, especially after I'd competed in my first races at the age of 15. My friends and I spent most of our time cycling on the Czech side, at the **Klínovec** not far from the border with Saxony. Rising up more than 1240 metres, the Klínovec is the highest peak in the Ore Mountains, and the terrain is pretty challenging. But if you want to improve your biking skills, you need trails that will push you to your

limits. They now have a huge bike park, which is also geared towards families. I think this year I might take my son Willi along and ride the easy flow trails where there are no stones or tree roots. Willi is five years old now.

In winter, the slopes on the Klínovec are great for downhill skiing. I was 26 years old before I discovered the sport. They get fantastic powder snow on the Fichtelberg, which is Saxony's highest mountain at 1215 metres. You can take the Fichtelberg Cable Car, the oldest cable car in Germany, to the top. In 2011, when we had that long snowy winter, I bought myself a pair of cross-country skis. Cross-country skiing is fantastic because you can switch off and improve your physical fitness at the same time. I can highly recommend the **Kammloipe**, located between Schöneck in the Vogtland and Johanngeorgenstadt in the Ore Mountains. Sometimes I'll go there with friends; everyone brings along a rucksack, one person carries the camping barbecue, another takes the beer, and then we'll spend a cool day together.

Many mountain bikers come to the Ore Mountains to ride the trails of the **Miriquidi-Stoneman** and around the **Trailcentre Rabenberg**. Both are super. The Rabenberg is purely an enduro training centre with rather rough terrain – and they don't have a lift! The trails of the Miriquidi Stoneman cov-

One of the most popular bike trails is the Miriquidi Stoneman



Perfect for recharging your batteries: "Priju 12" in Oberwiesenthal

PHOTOS: TOM SCHULZE (6), FRAVELY-DIE REISE FAMILIE; MAP ILLUSTRATIONS: JOCHEN SCHÄPFERS

er a total of 162 kilometres on both the German and the Czech side of the Ore Mountains, and you climb 4400 metres in altitude, although if you want, you can also ride individual stages. The term Stoneman alludes to the famous "Ironman" triathlon event, and Miriquidi was the mediaeval name for the Ore Mountains: "Miriquidi Silva" means dark forest and describes the region's wooded, almost mystical landscape. Even today, you ride through a fairy-tale setting of dense fir forests, waterfalls, moors, lakes and streams.

Those who prefer a more gentle introduction to mountain biking should head to the **Bikepark Blockline**. It only opened in Rechenberg last year and is especially geared to beginners and families. They also have smaller stages of between six and 20 kilometres that you can easily manage with children. Only a few kilometres to the south is Seiffen, where they held Germany's first mountain bike marathon in 1993. But the town is mainly famous for its folk art and wood carvings, and you can visit small craft shops and exhibition workshops where they make the nativity figures and wooden toys that are so typical for this area. I was once given an incense burner in the shape of a bicycle. **Seiffen** is particularly beautiful and very cosy at Christmas time. To get a taste of the local cuisine, you should stop at the **Gasthof Forsthaus** in Lengefeld. It's

run by the Frenzel family who were instrumental in pushing to legalise the mountain bike trails along which the Miriquidi now runs. I used to cycle there with my friends when I was a teenager before there were any official bike parks. They serve simple home-style cooking at the Forsthaus, for example, I once had a very tasty nettle soup there.

Another great place for a very good meal is **Priju 12** in Oberwiesenthal. The original owner, Lutz Heinrich, is a mountaineer, and he decorated his restaurant with skis and other climbing equipment. They make a delicious solyanka there that warms you right up. And if you order schnapps, it's brought to you on a miniature train. It's not too far away from the hotel belonging to the ski jumper Jens Weißflog. He's a really nice guy, and his **hotel is beautifully furnished**. If you want to meet a multiple Olympic gold medallist, you stand a good chance of running into him here. And if you're looking for accommodation, I can recommend the shepherd's hut next to the spa landscape **Badegärten in Eibenstock**. My wife and I sometimes go to the bathing gardens to spend a nice relaxing day together. I like the Russian sauna best. The log cabins were built in Russia and then brought here. Right next door are the shepherd's huts where you can spend the night. Just in case you might want to stay here a little longer.

140 FOLK ART FROM SEIFFEN

Wood carvings: from Angela Merkel incense burners to designer fir trees.

Seiffen, Bahnhofstr. 12 schauwerkstatt.de

141 GASTHOF FORSTHAUS

Cosy inn serving hearty regional cuisine.

Pockau-Lengefeld Vorwerk 9 gasthof-forsthaus.com

142 PRIJU 12

Pleasant atmosphere and delicious food, from Solyanka to Swabian pasta squares.

Oberwiesenthal Vierenstr. 3c, priju-12.de

143 JENS WEISSFLOG HOTEL

Stylish and modern suites and apartments.

Oberwiesenthal Emil-Riedel-Str. 50 jens-weissflog.de

144 BATH GARDENS EIBENSTOCK

This spa features both a Russian and a Japanese sauna.

Eibenstock, Am Bühl 3 badegaerten.de

TERRA MINERALIA

Freiberg on the rocks – with its collection of crystals, meteorites and more



It's understandable that the people of Freiberg feel great affection for treasures once buried deep underground. For almost exactly 800 years, from 1168 to 1969, it was a centre of the mining industry. In 1765 the Bergakademie was established here, the world's oldest mining school. Even today, the Technical University Bergakademie plays a prominent part in the life of this town with its population of around 40000. It goes without saying that a lot of research is conducted into minerals; and the most beautiful finds are deserving of a beautiful home: at Freudenstein Castle, a 16th-century building in the town centre, the Bergakademie has established a permanent exhibition, "terra mineralia", for its extensive collection. **Around 3500 gemstones, meteorites and minerals** from Europe, Africa, Australia, Asia

and America are displayed on 1500 square metres. Darkened rooms and illuminated cabinets accentuate the bizarre shapes and brilliant colours of the exhibits. The most magnificent stones include a pure white, needle-sharp scolecite from India (photo), a brownish precious opal with rainbow-coloured inclusions from Australia and a calcite from the Congo that looks like a grey tuber with pink serrations resembling teeth pointing inwards. The adjacent Krügerhaus, which dates back some 500 years, displays finds from Germany, including silver from Freiberg, gemstones from the Vogtland and gypsum crystals that were discovered in Saxony-Anhalt.

★ Freiberg, Schloss Freudenstein, Schloßplatz 4 terra-mineralia.de

ZIP LINE

Get a bird's eye view of the countryside around the Fichtelberg



The forests and fields surrounding Oberwiesenthal, the highest town in Germany, provide a wonderful backdrop for this thrilling adventure: riders are strapped into a harness connected to a steel tube that glides silently downhill on a **1500-metre-long run from the Fichtelberg into the valley**. Although it's quite a slow ride, the tube spirals around masts and winds its way in between the trees, causing you to swing left and right and feel the centrifugal forces when the zip line loops around and even goes backwards for a few metres. The most exciting part of the ride are the spins close to the trees. That's what it must feel like for a bird flying through the forest.

☆ Start: Oberwiesenthal, Fichtelbergstr. 8 oberwiesenthal.de

FEASTING AND FUN

147

GASTHAUS SCHACHTELBUD

Delicious traditional fare in a rustic setting with cosy rooms.

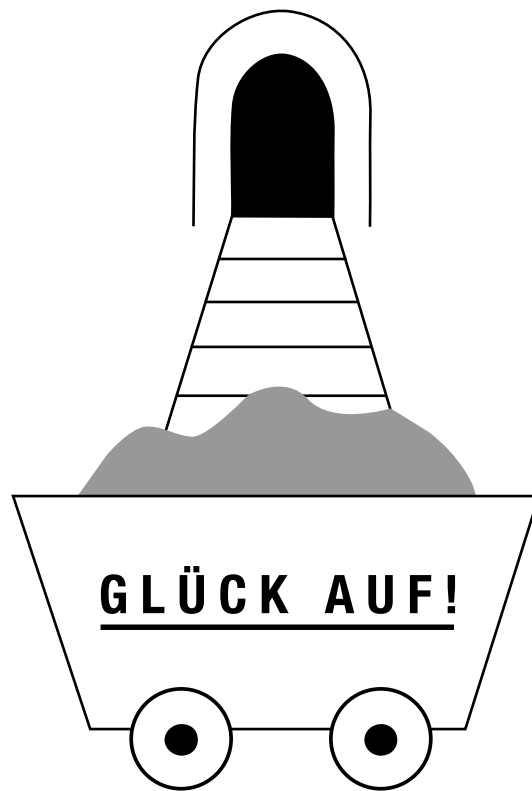
📍 Oberwiesenthal, Karlsbader Str. 24, schachtelbud.de

148

THERMAL SPA WIESENBAD

Relaxation between aqua gymnastics and herbal wellness offers.

☆ Thermalbad Wiesenbad
Freiberger Str. 33, wiesenbad.de



The traditional German miners' greeting is still common in the Ore Mountains. Museums show how this industry shaped life and culture in Saxony, and guided tours through the tunnels provide expert insight into the region's 17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

INTO THE DARKNESS

SILVER MINE FREIBERG

A mine with a future: for visitors, the tours through the old silver mine shafts and tunnels, which last one to five hours, are an exciting experience. Scientists from the Freiberg University of Mining and Technology use the site as a research and training mine.

Freiberg, Fuchsmühlenweg 9
silberbergwerk-freiberg.de

149

ST CHRISTOPH EXHIBITION MINE

Tin, copper, silver and iron used to be mined underground here; the old support structures made of wood and metal are particularly fascinating.

Breitenbrunn, Schachtstr. 63
besucherbergwerk-sankt-christoph.de

150

MARKUS RÖHLING TUNNEL

Up until 1857, 15.4 tonnes of silver were dug up here; in the 20th century, it was uranium ore, which

is why visitors now see remnants from very different eras.

Annaberg-Buchholz, Sehmatalstr. 15
roehling-stolln.de

151

LENGEFELD LIME WORKS

This village-like complex was not only used to burn lime – art treasures from Dresden were also hidden from the Soviet troops in its shafts at the end of the war.

Pockau-Lengefeld, Kalkwerk 4a
kalkwerk-lengefeld.de

152

153 Culture

FREIBERG MUNICIPAL AND MINING MUSEUM

This museum with its collection of paintings and sculptures from the Middle Ages to the 19th century shows just how often mining was the focal topic of art in Freiberg.

Freiberg, Am Dom 1
museum-freiberg.de

INTO THE LIGHT

NATURE AND MINING TRAIL "ZUM HOHEN FORST"

This local chapter of the German conservation group NABU takes visitors on a 90-minute nature walk through the villages near Kirchberg, providing exciting details about mining and the flora and fauna in the region.

Start: Burkersdorf, Wiesenburger Straße, kirchberger-bergbrueder.de

154

"UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES AT EVERY TURN"

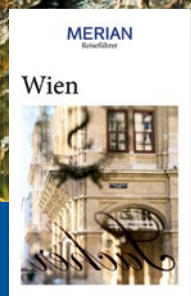
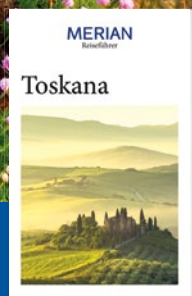
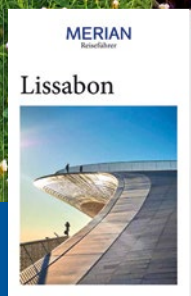
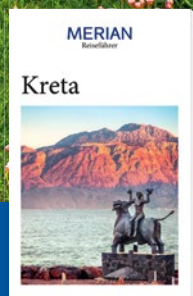
This easily accessible hiking trail of 1.5 kilometres winds its way around Eibenstock, taking in collapsed shafts and disused mines while passing through a landscape shaped by the mining industry. You can extend the tour to seven kilometres by crossing over to the Gerstenbergrundweg.

Start: Eibenstock, car park Badegärten, eibenstock.de

155

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300 bricklayers and 150 000 bricks
a day: building the Göltzsch viaduct
proved to be a gargantuan project



156-167 Vogtland

GÖLTZSCH VIADUCT · TOUR THE VOGTLAND WITH

GUITAR BUILDER TORSTEN PREUSS

GERMAN SPACE TRAVEL EXHIBITION · CITY OF LACE PLAUE

Nestled between green hills and valleys are towns and villages where genuine craftsmanship still rules supreme: from castles and bridges over musical instruments to filigree lace

Göltzsch Viaduct

The challenges facing the builders were huge: in 1840 a decision was made for a train connection between Leipzig and Nuremberg, but the planned line called for a bridge over the Göltzsch river that cuts deep into the rolling Vogtland countryside. The solution was devised by the Vogtland engineer Johann Andreas Schubert, and it turned out to be an architectural masterpiece. The Göltzsch viaduct – **78 metres high and 574 metres long** – was completed in 1851 after five years of construction.

26 million bricks were used, and at times more than 1700 people worked on the bridge simultaneously. At the time it was the world's tallest bridge made of bricks. Its sheer magnitude and elegance impresses even today, especially if one stands and looks up four storeys from underneath its large arches. The "Ketzels Mühle" museum next to the bridge explains how it was built.

★ *Netzschkau, Brückenstr. 13, museum: Brückenstr. 6 (by prior arrangement in winter)*



Torsten Preuß repairs instruments and plays the electric guitar in his free time



VOGTLAND HIGHLIGHTS FROM TORSTEN PREUSS

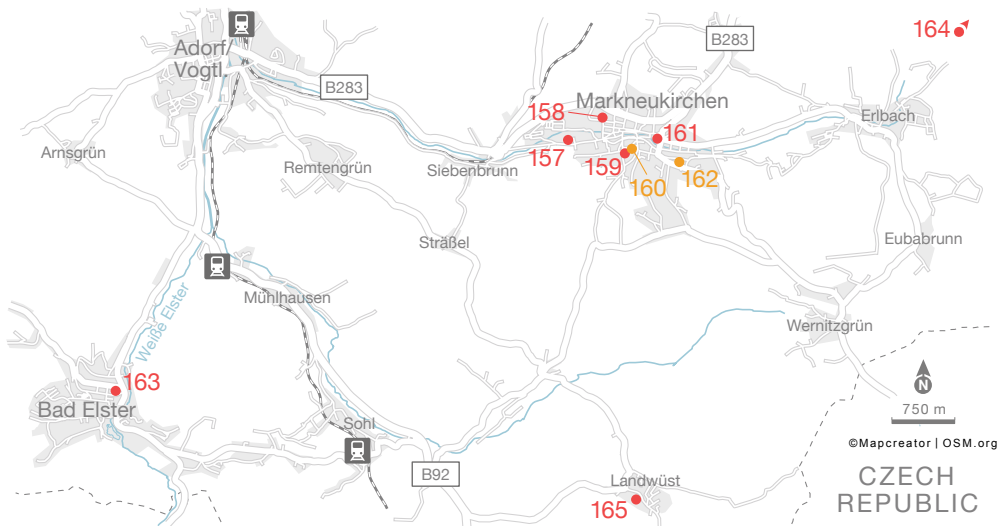
His homeland is famous the world over for its musical instruments. So what better than to set out on a tour with a guitar maker? These are his favourite places between Bad Elster and Klingenthal



The König Albert Theatre hosts concerts, political cabaret and plays



The Museum of Musical Instruments boasts more than 4000 exhibits





Eclair or strawberry cake? Guests at "Café Seifert" are spoiled for choice



The initials of the former owner, Curt Merz, are still emblazoned above the college balcony

157 VILLA MERZ

Concerts occasionally take place at this site of the University of Applied Sciences Zwickau.

★ *Markneukirchen*
Adorfer Str. 38
industriekultur-in-sachsen.de

158 MUSICON VALLEY

You can watch instrument builders at work in three demonstration workshops.

★ *Markneukirchen*
Johann-Sebastian-Bach-Str. 13
musiconvalley.de

159 MUSEUM OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

In summer, concerts are hosted in the sound garden.

★ *Markneukirchen*
Bienengarten 2
museum-markneukirchen.de

160 AM PAULUSSCHLÖSS'L

Varied cuisine often using seasonal ingredients; very pleasant atmosphere.

☞ *Markneukirchen*
Bienengarten 11
am-paulusschloessl.de

When I began my apprenticeship as a plucked instrument builder in 2005, I moved from Hannover to the Vogtland region. At first I lived in Klingenthal before moving to Markneukirchen four years later to set up my own workshop.

I reckon there is hardly a better place to pursue my occupation. The Vogtland has been famous for making musical instruments for over 350 years, and the people here are very knowledgeable with respect to their craft. Before the First World War, the worldwide trade in musical instruments from Markneukirchen was so substantial that they even had a U.S. Consulate here. The "Fortschicker Villas", the town's stately homes belonging to the music wholesalers and wealthy factory owners, bear witness to this boom. One of them is the **Villa Merz**, which today houses the Department of Musical Instrument Construction, a branch of the University of Applied Sciences Zwickau. It's a magnificent building which features elements of Art Nouveau and Neo-Baroque. Apart from working as an independent guitar builder, I also teach there as a lecturer.

As musical instrument builders here in Markneukirchen, we have a close working relationship with each other and are very well networked. It's not uncommon for people to turn up unannounced at our door with their instruments; just yesterday,

someone came up to me and asked, "Who makes flutes around here?" I referred him to a colleague of mine who builds woodwind instruments. In the same way, the violin builder will send someone to me if anyone is enquiring about a repair shop for a mandolin. Even though Markneukirchen is a town, it's retained its village character – I like that. Sometimes people ask if they can take a look inside my workshop. Of course, we don't always have time for that. That's why the **Musicon Valley** demonstration workshops were founded as an alternative. They're housed in what used to be a girls' school, and there are fixed times when masters from the region show visitors how they go about building violins, trumpets or a contrabass.

I'm very involved with the **Museum of Musical Instruments**. The collection includes more than 4000 instruments from all over the world, from a 650-year-old Japanese drum ensemble to a Syrian oud, which is a lute-type stringed instrument. We also have the world's largest violin on display, which is more than four metres tall, and a twelve and a half centimetre violin. Children love the garden because they can experience sounds in a playful manner, for example on the sound staircase, where each step produces a different note.

Just a few doors down is the cosy restaurant **Am Paulusschlöß'l**, where you can



Again! If you can't get enough of tobogganing, buy a book of ten tickets



The charming "Harmonie Lichtspiele" is a real café offering food in a cinema

PHOTOS: GEORG KNOLL; MAP ILLUSTRATIONS: JOCHEN SCHÄFERS

dine really well. They serve upscale home cooking, and the menu always surprises me with new dishes. The food in the restaurant "Zur Eiche" is also very tasty. They use a lot of fresh seasonal vegetables and herbs from their own garden, and the pasta is homemade. The "Eiche" is located about halfway up to the Bismarck Column on the Markneukirchen mountain. It's an observation platform from where you have a great view across the whole valley. It takes about half an hour to walk up there from the town centre.

If you want to grab a quick bite to eat, you can also do so in our cinema café. The **Harmonie Lichtspiele** has been in business here in Markneukirchen for more than 90 years. The building is a lovely mixture of old and new, of nostalgic elements but with an entirely modern sound system. You sit at low coffee tables and relax in thick leather armchairs that you can really sink into. For coffee and cake, I highly recommend **Café Seifert**, where they bake excellent cakes and pastries and make their own ice cream. Apart from its renown as a "music corner", the Vogtland region is also famous for its spa culture. The spa town of Bad Elster is only a few minutes from Markneukirchen. It has a beautiful spa garden and boasts the **King Albert Theatre**, which occasionally invites major acts. You can take a pedalo out on the small Lake Louisa next to the

spa garden, children love that. Another nice outing for families is to the **Summer Toboggan Run in Klingenthal**, where my wife and I have been many times with our three kids.

If you want to learn more about the history of the Vogtland, then you should definitely visit the **Landwüst Open Air Museum**. Some of the old half-timbered houses that you can see there actually come from other villages in the Vogtland, where they were dismantled and then meticulously rebuilt here. Inside, you get a very good idea of what life must have been like 200 years ago. On certain days, visitors are shown how to mow a meadow with a scythe, how butter is made and how to shear a sheep. Incidentally, sheep guts were once used to make strings for stringed and plucked instruments.

Voigtsberg Castle near Plauen, which is only about 20 kilometres away, is also well worth seeing. It has an impressive collection of Renaissance paintings and also hosts exhibitions on a wide variety of topics. I once went to a display of toys from the GDR. This castle and other fortresses were the official residences of the "Vögte", or local administrators, that once ruled the area and gave the region its name. Perhaps a visit to one of their castles is the perfect way to start or end a trip through the Vogtland. Contact: preussguitars.de

161 **HARMONIE LICHTSPIELE**

Steeped in tradition and cosy.

★ *Markneukirchen, Erlbacher Str. 4, harmonie-lichtspiele.de*

162 **CAFÉ SEIFERT**

This pâtisserie has been in the family for six generations.

☺ *Markneukirchen, Unterer Markt 8, cafe-seifert.de*

163 **KING ALBERT THEATRE**

This was the last German court theatre ever to be built.

★ *Bad Elster, Theaterplatz 1 koenig-albert-theater.de badelster.de*

164 **SUMMER TOBOGGAN RUN**

The 800-metre course drops by 45 metres in altitude.

★ *Klingenthal, Flossgrabenweg 1, sommerrodelbahn-muehleithen.de*

165 **LANDWÜST OPEN AIR MUSEUM**

Experience rural history in a picturesque landscape.

★ *Markneukirchen Rohrbacher Str. 4 freilichtmuseum-vogtland.de*

German Space Travel Exhibition

A tribute to the first German cosmonaut, Sigmund Jähn



It might only have a population of 850, but it attracts up to 70 000 visitors every year. And that is quite a feat. The village of Morgenröthe-Rautenkranz is part of the municipality of Muldenhammer, and the memory of its most famous son is still held in high esteem. "Sigmund Jähn was born here, the first German to fly into space in 1978," says Romy Mothes, director of the German Space Travel Exhibition. "We want our museum to showcase the vital role he played in space exploration and also illustrate the development of international space travel over the years." The museum displays many models of rockets and satellites as well as objects that highlight the work and living conditions of space travellers in weightless and cramped surroundings, including space suits, personal hygiene kits and

food. The most impressive exhibit is definitely the ten-metre-high capsule: a **replica of the base unit of the Russian MIR space station**. It was built in Russia and transported to the European Astronaut Centre in Cologne in the early 1990s. "Space travellers who flew to the MIR space station trained in it," explains Mothes. After the controlled crash of the original in 2001, the replica eventually ended up in Saxony. "The interior with its living and recreational quarters is particularly interesting." Whereby the term "living room" is a bit of a misnomer, given the confined space. But at least it's larger than the sleeping cabins that each measured only half a square metre.

☆ *Muldenhammer, Dr.-Sigmund-Jähn-Str. 4
deutsche-raumfahrtausstellung.de*

Embroidery Museum

Plauen celebrates its heritage as the City of Lace



The answer to the question of why industrial embroidery from Plauen once had a worldwide reputation lies in Paris. That is where **Plauen lace was awarded the Grand Prix at the World Exhibition in 1900** – and it was probably the best publicity imaginable. Two years later, the company was put into operation; and its buildings now house the Embroidery Machine Museum Plauen. “We not only showcase old embroidery and machines but also the technology behind it,” says Dr. Frank Luft, research assistant at the show embroidery workshop. “Four times a day we run the big machines, some of which are over 100 years old.” The behemoths are around six metres long, and their rattling fills the entire hall. Things are definitely quieter next door, where employees sit at an apparatus resembling

a sewing machine to make elegant souvenirs like bags and scarves to sell in the museum shop. “These small embroidery machines were used to hand-sew elements that had been produced by a machine and turn them into garments or home textiles,” says Luft and points to a round tablecloth hanging on the wall. “Can you guess how many different pieces that contains?” he asks. Hmmm. Two hundred, perhaps? “It’s 270!” he says. “In the end, everything had to fit together perfectly and look like it was made from one piece.” Some might underestimate the tradition of embroidery in Plauen, but they will certainly change their minds after a visit to this fascinating museum.

☆ *Plauen, Obstgartenweg 1
schaustickerei-plauen.de*

168 - 177

SAXONY FOR

... all eventualities. Would you like to go shopping, take in some cultural treasures or do you prefer to head out into the countryside? This list has something for everyone

168

The elegant **Mädler Passage** is a beautiful Art Nouveau shopping arcade and home to fashion boutiques, stationery, interior design shops and much more. Tip: be sure to stop for a drink at "Auerbachs Keller", as mentioned in Goethe's "Faust".
*Leipzig, Grimmaische Str. 2-4
maedlerpassage.de*

SHOPAHOLICS



169

From the enchanting Straßburg Passage with its numerous shops to the trendy concept store "Mayerei" and the friendly zero-waste shop "Emma's Tante": If you stroll along the **Jakobstraße** in Görlitz, you'll probably bring home more beautiful things than you originally intended.
Görlitz, Jakobstraße, goerlitz.de

170

Seals from ancient China, tattoo machines and printing presses: the **German Museum of Books and Writing** alone is worth a visit to the German National Library, which boasts around 20 million books, sound recordings and more. An exhibition on Axel Scheffler, the illustrator of "The Gruffalo", opens in mid-March.
Leipzig, Deutscher Platz 1, dnb.de/dbsm

BOOKWORMS



171

Whether you are Norwegian, American or from Görlitz: all of Jana Krauss' guests love the tranquillity of **Art Goreliz**. Spend hours enjoying homemade cake and browsing through antiquarian treasures and new titles in Germany's easternmost bookshop.
*Görlitz, Weberstr. 9/10
facebook.com/ArtGoreliz*

172

When customers sample the Traminer ice cream that Oksana Knafla sells near the baroque Pillnitz Palace from her mint-green three-wheeler **LisaLi**, she can point to the Elbe slope opposite where the grapes for her creation grow. She shares her exact location on Facebook.
*Dresden, August-Böckstiegel-Str. or
Wünschendorfer Str., eismanufaktur-lisali.de*

EPICUREANS

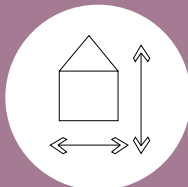


173

Unlike the marksman in Carl Maria von Weber's eponymous opera, we are pretty sure that the master confectioners at **Kaffee Wippler** have not made a pact with the devil to produce their famous "Freikugeln". In the opera they are magic bullets, here in Dresden they are delicious marzipan pralines.
Dresden, Körnerplatz 2, kaffee-wippler.de

174 ARCHITECTURE FANS 175

The **Schminke House** is one of the most important examples of classical modernism in the world. The home of Fritz Schminke, owner of a pasta factory, was designed in the early 1930s by Hans Scharoun. You can visit the house and even spend the night there.
*Löbau, Kirschallee 1b
stiftung-hausschminke.eu*



Usually, romping about would not be allowed in a Bauhaus masterpiece. But it's certainly permitted at the **Stadtbad Chemnitz**. Designed by Fred Otto in 1935, the baths impress with their straightforward elegance and the beauty of the soft light streaming through the glass ceiling in the main hall.
Chemnitz, Mühlenstr. 27, chemnitz.de

176

Look out for sea eagles and otters as you hike or cycle past the ponds and heathlands of the **Upper Lusatian heath and pond landscape**. This UNESCO biosphere reserve is home to more than 5000 animal and plant species, many of which are on the red list.
Malschwitz, Haus der 1000 Teiche, Warthaer Dorfstr. 29, biosphaerenreservat-oberlausitz.de

NATURE LOVERS



177

In May, gorse colours the **Königsbrück Heath**, a 70 square kilometre former military training area, bright yellow; in August, heather turns it purple. You can observe cranes, which now live here all year round, from the "Heide" tower near Zochau.
*Königsbrück, Infothek, Weißbacher Str. 30
nsgkoenigsbrueckerheide-gohrischheide.eu*

The palace is set in an
830-hectare park, equal in size
to 593 football pitches



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Upper Lusatia

FÜRST PÜCKLER PARK · WOLFLAND TOURS

LAUSITZ RESORT · HOYERSWERDA CULTURE FACTORY

RAKOTZ BRIDGE · OYBIN CASTLE AND MONASTERY

ZUCKERWERK & REBENSAFT · GEMS OF GÖRLITZ

Central Europe's largest pond landscape, the life's work of a noble eccentric and a magical mountain range: Saxony's east is a shangri-la for nature lovers, gardening buffs and outdoor enthusiasts

Fürst Pückler Park

What splendour! But to really do it justice, you need time – both to visit the red palace and also to enjoy the huge park in Bad Muskau. The best way to explore the grounds is by bike (rental bikes are available). Vast meadows stretch along the Neisse river, interrupted only by lakes and flowerbeds that look as if they were stippled there with a paintbrush. Every detail is perfectly coordinated. The creator of this total work of art, the world traveller Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau (1785-1871), toured

England, where he learned how to create this **mixture of elegance and wilderness** through lines of sight and ingeniously staged accents. His time in England and later in Africa inspired him to create his own personal paradise in his Saxon homeland. Two thirds of the grounds, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, lie on the Polish side of the border. The site has been jointly maintained by Germans and Poles since the 1990s.

🌟 *Bad Muskau, muskauer-park.de*

The “cradle of the wolves”

As far as large canines go, Lusatia is one of the most densely populated territories. The biologist Catriona Blum-Rérat takes visitors on a wildlife safari and trains “wolf spotters”



Biologist Catriona Blum-Rérat, age 40, began offering guided wolf tours ten years ago

179

MERIAN scout: Ms Blum-Rérat, why should people travel to Lusatia, of all places, to observe wolves?

CATRIONA BLUM-RÉRAT: In actual fact, Lusatia can almost be described as the “cradle of the wolves” in Germany. After the animals were exterminated in this country about 170 years ago, we witnessed the return of the

first pair of wolves in 1999, and then a year later we saw that they had reproduced. Our wolf tours are another very good reason to come here because visitors can acquire in-depth and up-to-date knowledge. I not only work as a guide but also as a biologist at the Lupus Institute for Wolf Monitoring and Research.

How likely is it that visitors will encounter wolves on your tours?

Let's put it this way: there are currently 29 packs living in Saxony, three mated pairs and two lone wolves. Our tours are quite long; we offer day trips but also

excursions lasting several days, where we stay in the animals' territory the entire time. We often go to viewing platforms from where we can observe them from a distance. But as with any wildlife safari, we can't guarantee that you'll actually get to see a wolf.

What else can participants expect to see?

There are lots of other animals that we can observe with a bit of luck, like cranes, sea eagles and storks. Lusatia is also home to large herds of stags, and they often cross our path, especially during the rutting season in autumn. Along the riverbanks, we see beaver lodges. But to get back to the wolves: even if we don't encounter any, we can still impart a lot of knowledge about the animals along the way.

Like what, for example?

For instance, we teach our participants how to distinguish wolf tracks from those of other animals, like droppings and paw prints. And we show them how to properly document their finds. One of our goals is to train our visitors to become wolf spotters. Then they can go in search of wolves back home and report their observations to the authorities.

With a bit of luck, visitors can observe wolves with their pups in summer – but rarely this close



What time of year is particularly good for wolf safaris?

In the past, I would immediately have said autumn because the pups that were born in May are larger and already very mobile. But last year, most of our sightings occurred in the summer. On virtually every one of our tours we saw a female with her pups from a distance from one of the viewing platforms. In winter, you are most likely to see pairs marking their territory. And if it snows, you get to see lots of tracks.

It's fine to track wolves with you. But what do I do if I encounter a wolf when I'm on my own?
It's very rare for someone out on a walk to see a wolf up close by chance. In most cases, the animal will register any humans in its vicinity far more quickly than we ever could. We know this from our monitoring project. The most frequent sightings are from people in cars. But as soon as they get out of the car, the wolf scarpers. If it doesn't leave and you have a bad feeling, then you can chase it away by shouting loudly. But I would suggest: Stay calm and enjoy the experience!

☆ Spreetal, Dorfaue 9, wolflandtours.de



MAIN PHOTO: STEFFEN HEIBER, PHOTO: J. PLAUEN


Lausitz Resort

The holiday homes floating on Lake Geierswald resemble huge silver shells



When the wind sweeps across Lake Geierswald, you might be fooled into thinking that you're at the seaside, even if the view across this six-square-kilometre reservoir does fall on a narrow strip of land and not on the water fading into the mist. However, you will feel particularly close to this aqueous expanse in one of the well-equipped and stylishly furnished floating holiday homes belonging to the "Lausitz Resort", a handful of which are anchored off a jetty. To one side, their vaulted roof gives them the appearance of a cave-like retreat, and to the other they are seemingly open to their surroundings with their **sun terraces and glass façades**. This modern architectural concept is well suited to the lake that was actually not depicted on maps until quite recently. Up until the 1970s, lignite was mined here before

operations ceased and the open-cast mining pit was flooded with water from the Schwarze Elster river. It has been open to the public since 2006, and together with eleven surrounding lakes, which are supposed to grow together to form a chain, it will soon form the largest artificial water landscape in Europe. The lakes are already being used extensively by visitors who enjoy sailing, stand-up paddling, kiting, surfing and swimming, of course, at one of the many beaches. But holidaymakers are not only drawn here during the bathing season. You can trace the footsteps of the sorcerer Krampe, a character in Sorbian folklore, and visit the nearby mill in Schwarzkollm. Or hike or bike or skate the 16-kilometre-trail around the lake.

 [Elsterheide, Scadoer Straße, lausitz-resort.de](https://www.lausitz-resort.de)

As early as the 19th century, citizens gathered in the “Hoyerswerdaer Gesellschaftshaus”, a social centre with a ballroom and a bowling alley. The yellow building in the heart of the Old Town is now the Hoyerswerda Culture Factory and has once again become a meeting place: families attend theatre performances, there are media workshops, bands meet in the rehearsal room and movie buffs watch films in the factory’s arthouse cinema. Next to the tourist information office in the modern extension (pictured with a sculpture by Helge Niegel) is the **“KunstRaum” Gallery**, where contemporary artists present their works, including some from the region, like the Sorbian painter Maja Nagel or the Lusatian photographer Torsten Lütznier. The “Auszeit Bar” is a perfect place to end the evening with a drink after attending a concert or a reading.

☆ Hoyerswerda, Braugasse 1
kufa-hoyerswerda.de



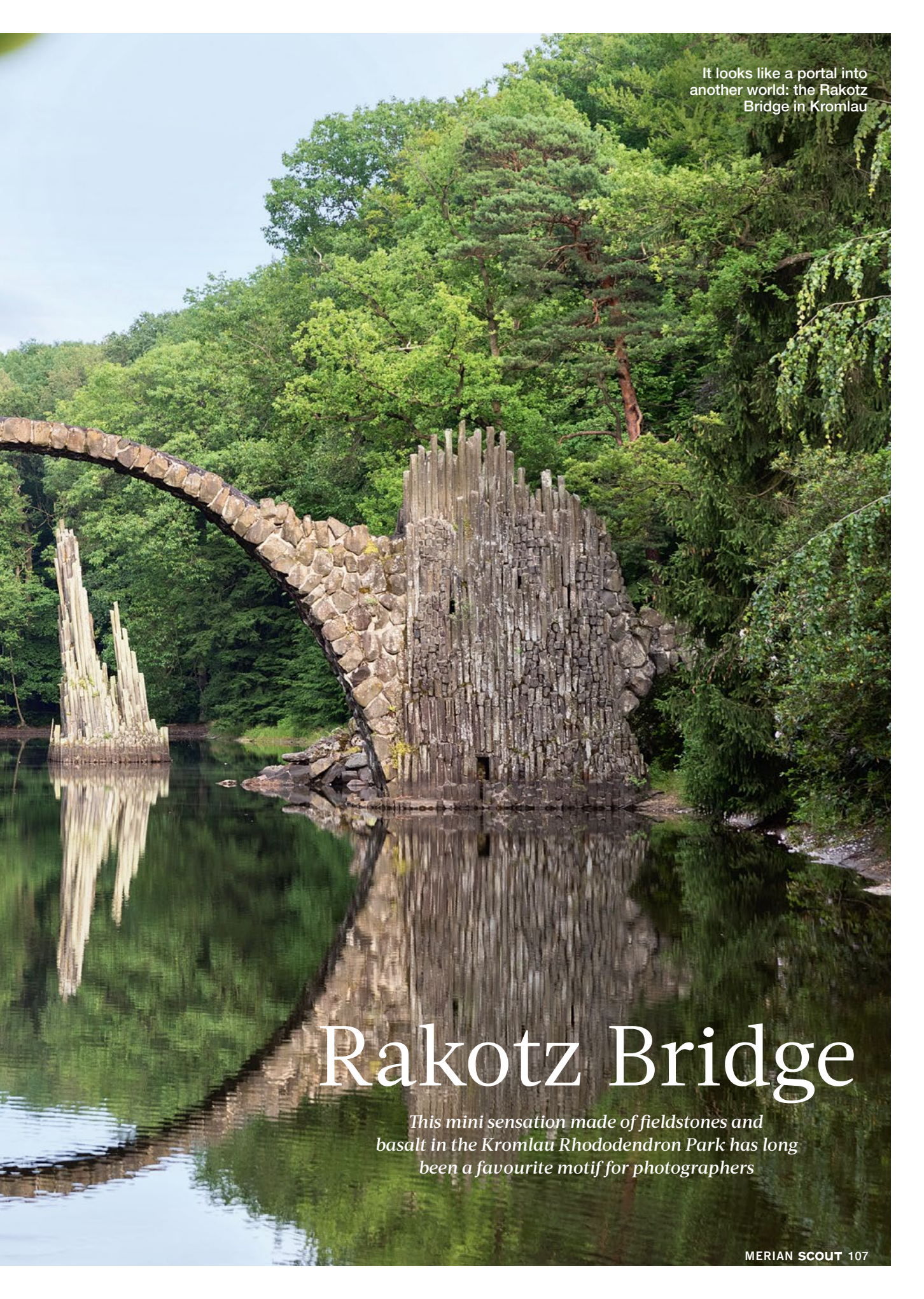
Hoyerswerda Culture Factory



Cinematic backdrop

When there is no wind, the reflection of the bridge in the waters of Lake Rakotz forms an almost perfect circle. Its arch seems fragile, although it actually consists of heavy fieldstone. The pillars of the bridge are made of basalt columns and match the bizarre stone structure further back, which resembles the remains of a massive rock eroded over time by pounding waves. This is actually a piece of art called "Organ", also made from basalt columns, and it forms a contrast to the semicircular shape of the bridge that frames it with its reflection. Friedrich Hermann Röttschke, who commissioned the ensemble in the mid-19th century, had the basalt brought in from **quarries in Saxon Switzerland and Bohemia**. As enchanted as the lake may seem, it is by no means a forgotten place. On the contrary, its most recent claim to fame is an appearance together with the bridge in the new "Matrix" sequel, where it can briefly be seen in a fight scene. The reality is much more peaceful: the lake lies on the edge of the Kromlau Landscape Park. The best time to visit is in May when the huge rhododendrons and azaleas transform the park into a sea of colourful blossoms, certainly worthy of Hollywood.

☆ *Gablenz, car park Kromlau
Rhododendron Park, kromlau-online.de*

A photograph of the Rakotz Bridge in Kromlau, a small stone arch bridge over a river. The bridge is constructed from fieldstones and basalt, with a prominent section of vertical basalt columns. The bridge is surrounded by dense green forest, and its reflection is visible in the water.

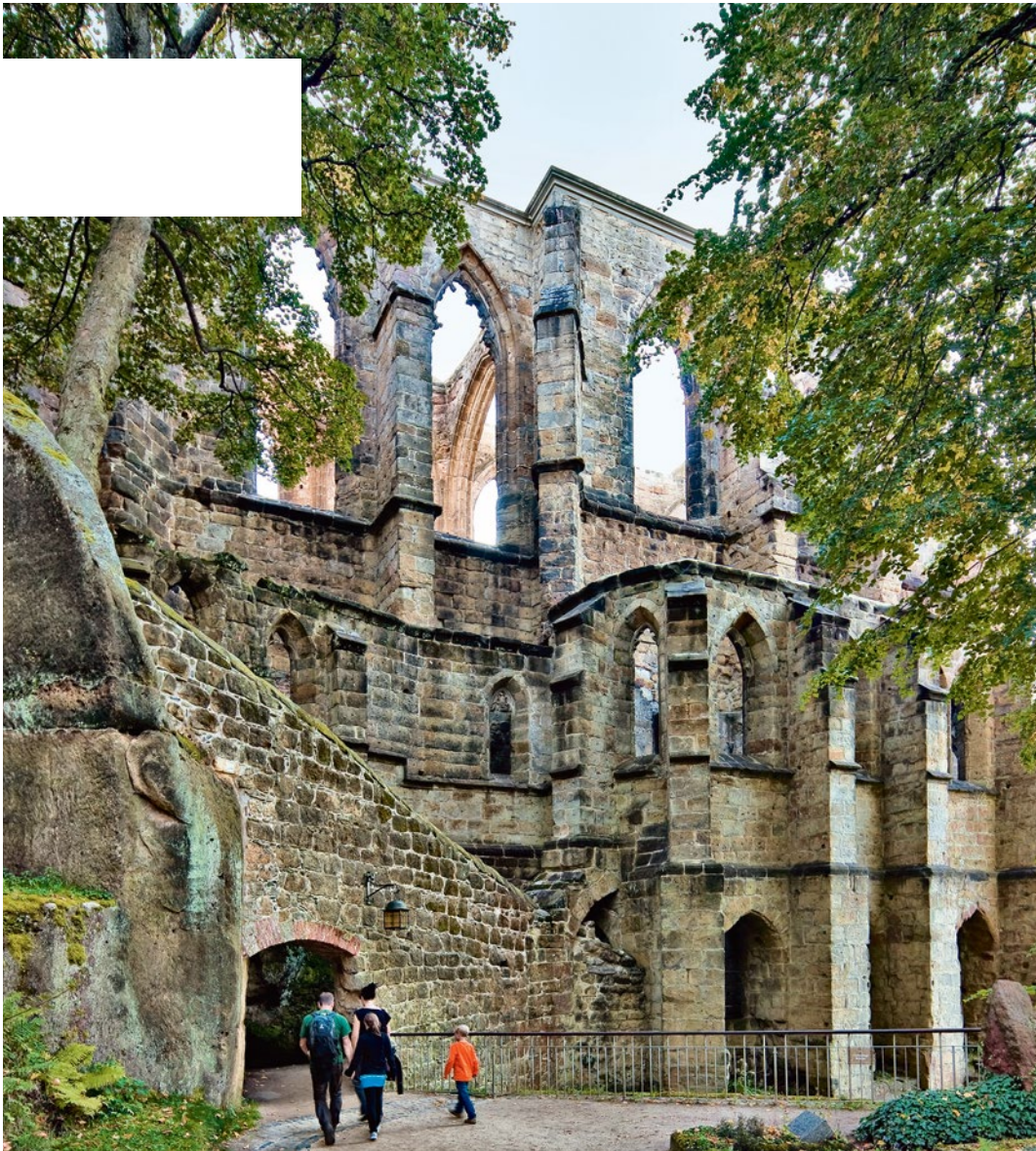
It looks like a portal into
another world: the Rakotz
Bridge in Kromlau

Rakotz Bridge

*This mini sensation made of fieldstones and
basalt in the Kromlau Rhododendron Park has long
been a favourite motif for photographers*

OYBIN CASTLE AND MONASTERY

The Romantic painters in particular were drawn to these impressive ruins



Standing at the foot of the 514-metre-high sandstone colossus Oybin, one can imagine how well-fortified the **castle and monastery** on its summit once were. A building existed here as early as 1100 B.C., and in the 14th century the monastery was donated by Charles IV to the Celestines, who abandoned it in the Reformation. Lightning struck in 1577, and when part of the cliff collapsed in 1681, the ensemble fell into disrepair. The Romantic painters, who discovered Oybin in the 18th century, loved its dilapidated charm. Anyone who climbs the steps to the church will understand why: the Gothic windows, the missing roof through which you can see the sky – it's like standing in a painting by Caspar David Friedrich.

📍 Oybin, burgundkloster-oybin.com

PLACES OF INTEREST IN ZITTAU

184 CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

The Lenten cloth from 1472 tells the Bible story in 90 pictures and is the third largest in the world.

📍 Zittau, Museum "Church of the Holy Cross", Frauenstr. 23

185 ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Karl Friedrich Schinkel rebuilt this baroque church. Be sure to climb up to the viewing platform.

📍 Zittau, Johannisplatz 1

ZUCKERWERK & REBENSAFT

An epicurean's delight at the Obermarkt in Görlitz



Is it a café? A wine shop? A pâtisserie? "Zuckerwerk & Rebensaft" can't really be pigeonholed. "That's why we call ourselves a gourmet workshop," says master confectioner Anemone Müller-Großmann (left) with a laugh. During the day, customers at the shop she runs together with Marita Hoffmann buy **wines, fine brandies, fruit spreads and pastries**, which are so pretty that they even featured in the film "The Grand Budapest Hotel" shot in Görlitz. If your mouth starts watering at the sight of their chocolate tart or sesame nougat brittle cake, why not sit down and enjoy a slice with a cup of organic coffee. In the evenings, they host a variety of gourmet tastings.

📍 Görlitz, Obermarkt 8
zuckerwerkundrebensaft.de

WITHIN EASY REACH

187

LUCIE SCHULTE

If the weather's good, Bernd Schade dishes up his delicacies in the pretty courtyard.

📍 Görlitz, Untermarkt 22
lucieschulte.de

188

BIOVIVO

Beautiful and fairly produced fashion made from natural fabrics.

📍 Görlitz, Brüderstr. 12
biovivo.net

Gems of Görlitz

The city on the Neisse boasts a wealth of architectural highlights. A tour from the Renaissance to Art Nouveau



SCHÖNHOF

This richly decorated building from 1526 is the oldest Renaissance merchant's court in Görlitz. Along with three adjacent buildings, it now houses the Silesian Museum, which not only tells of settlement, everyday life and culture but also allows you to admire the filigree paintings on the walls and ceiling beams.

☆ [Brüderstr. 8, schlesisches-museum.de](https://www.bruederstr.8.schlesisches-museum.de)

190 ART NOUVEAU STORE

The glazed ceiling and elaborate chandeliers can be seen on guided tours or in Wes Andersen's film "The Grand Budapest Hotel".

☆ An der Frauenkirche 5-7, kaufhaus-goerlitz.eu



192



191

THE OLD PHARMACY

The Ratsapotheke, built between 1550 and 1552, boasts an ornate Renaissance façade and two sundials. Today it houses a café.

☆ Untermarkt 24, ratscafe-goerlitz.de



193

LIBRARY OF SCIENCES

Make sure not to miss the magnificent book arches in the Classicist reading room.

☆ Neißstr. 30, goerlitzer-sammlungen.de

SYNAGOGUE

This place of worship from 1911 survived the Nazi era almost unscathed and impresses with its Art Nouveau and neoclassical elements.

☆ Otto-Müller-Str. 3, synagoge-goerlitz.de



Stuck inside while it's pouring? No problem. Between Chemnitz, Lusatia and the Ore Mountains, you'll find plenty of alternatives to Saxony's outdoor attractions

EXPLORE

CHEMNITZ MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY

The arched hall from 1907 was once a foundry. Learn how the textile, engineering and mining industries helped Saxony prosper over the course of more than two centuries. Watch out for the Trabbi from 1988 with an integrated rooftop tent.

Chemnitz, Zwickauer Str. 119
saechsisches-industriemuseum.com

194

BUTTERFLY HOUSE JONSDORF

If you stand very still, you might be lucky enough to see the Small Postman, the King Swallowtail or the Scarlet Mormon land on your shoulder. These free-flying butterflies can be seen in the indoor rainforest in Jonsdorf near Zittau.

Jonsdorf, Zittauer Str. 24
schmetterlingshaus.info

195

KARL MAY MUSEUM

The author called his home "Villa Shatterhand". Visit the beautifully furnished library and living quarters and learn more about the

indigenous peoples of North America in an exhibition next door.

Radebeul, Karl-May-Str. 5
karl-may-museum.de

196

DELITZSCH CASTLE

Whereas the lavishly decorated duchess rooms appear very welcoming, the cells of the former women's prison are definitely sobering. On a good day, the view from the tower reaches all the way to Leipzig.

Delitzsch, Schloßstr. 31
barockschloss-delitzsch.com

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198 Play

BARNEBY

Try your hand at more than 400 board games, including classics like "Monopoly" and "Catan", in the cosy living room atmosphere of this bar, where they also serve snacks.

Dresden, Görlitzer Str. 11
barneby-dresden.de

RELAX

THERMAL SPA BAD ELSTER

At 30 degrees, the saline pool makes you feel as if you are floating. The water comes from a spring in the Elster valley and contains various minerals and very high levels of sodium sulphate, which is good for the muscles and the immune system.

Bad Elster, Badstr. 6
saechsische-staatsbaeder.de

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HOTEL SCHUMANN

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HOMESICK?!

Paula Irmschler, aged 33, grew up in Dresden and studied in Chemnitz, the setting for her novel "Superbusen" (Claassen Verlag). Although she now lives in Cologne, she gladly travels back to Chemnitz quite often

MERIAN scout: When you return to your hometown nowadays, what has changed most?

PAULA IRMSCHLER: Basically my own situation. When I used to live in Saxony, I was always broke, and it was hard to appreciate all the cultural offerings. We generally hung out indoors, at best we went to the "Subbotnik", where they served cheap beer and food. Now when I come back to Chemnitz, my friends and I sometimes go to "Balboa", a new pub on the Brühl, or we'll go to "Tesla", which is also really nice but not really a place to just sit around.

"Superbusen" is about a student who moves to Chemnitz, just like you did 12 years ago.

Yes, in essence I modelled that on my own life. At the time, I didn't know anything about Chemnitz. When you grow up in Dresden, you think the city is the centre of the universe. What I like about Chemnitz is what Dresden doesn't have: the socialist buildings, the brutal concrete architecture. I particularly like the area around the Karl-Marx-Monument with the old hotel, the terminus and the large prefab housing estates. The Straße der Nationen isn't bad either. I also like the beautiful Art Nouveau houses in the Kassberg neighbourhood because they aren't overly ostentatious. Modest Art Nouveau, in a way.

And what do you like about Dresden?

From a purely aesthetic point of view, the city is really impressive. I'd forgotten how delightful the Elbe meadows are. I could walk along there for hours.

Your book describes the nightlife in Chemnitz in remarkable detail. Is it really like that?

Definitely. There aren't many places you can go, but as far as the nightlife goes it is more intense. The concerts are smaller as there are fewer people, but it's

far easier to get to know people. The city is constantly changing. Bars shut down and then open again somewhere else; clubs like "Atomino", which is an institution, move and then reinvent themselves. You can transform things in the city if you're up for it and have nerves of steel. Begehungen was launched a few years ago, an off-culture art festival that changes locations annually: sometimes it takes place in a prison, sometimes in an old palace of culture.

Your novel features lots of songs. What would be a fitting soundtrack to Chemnitz?

It would have to be "Don't Look Back in Anger" by Oasis because you'll hear it played at about three in the morning at every party here when everyone is hugging each other.

Chemnitz will be the European Capital of Culture in 2025. What do you wish for the city?

More support for participants who have already begun to organise events, particularly against the far-right. The videos of people being chased through the streets were probably seen by half the world. As a result, we had the "We are more" concerts. It would be great if events like those weren't just an exception or a response. I'd like to see more possibilities for young culture. The city has more than enough space and more than enough young people who would be up for putting something together. I hope we'll have a chance to see that in 2025.



"Don't Look Back in Anger" would be Paula Irmschler's Chemnitz song

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