

# ANHALT-BITTERFELD *experience*











# Welcome

**to Anhalt-Bitterfeld!**

**What can we tell you  
about our region?**

Perhaps that a princess who lived in Zerbst grew up to be one of the most powerful women of her time and wrote the history of the world as the Russian Tsarina "Catherine the Great"?

That the Goitzsche Lake region in Bitterfeld offers large landscape art projects as well as family fun and the first modern colour film in the world was developed in neighbouring Wolfen?

Or should J. S. Bach, who composed more than just the first part of the "Well-Tempered Clavier" in Köthen be mentioned first?

Saying nothing of Martin Luther or Dr S. Hahnemann, whose marks can also be found in Anhalt-Bitterfeld.

**What do you want to start with, and what do you want to end with? Find out!**

# CONTENTS

## Zerbst/Anhalt region

Catherine the Great – A Tsarina's youth at Zerbst Castle	6
Franciscum library – A treasure trove of old writings	10
City tour of historic Zerbst/Anhalt	12



## Köthen (Anhalt) region

Anhalt-Köthen castle and Johann Sebastian Bach	18
City tour through the city of Bach, Köthen (Anhalt)	24
Homeopathy – Healing through the principle of similarity	26



## Bitterfeld-Wolfen region

Goitzsche Lake region with landscape art and wilderness	30
Wolfen Industry and Film Museum – Born in the darkness	36



## Cycling routes and nature

Euroroute R1 – Across Europe by bike	40
Elberadweg – Discover nature and culture	44
Mulderadweg – Impressive landscapes	48
Fuhneradweg – Remoteness and idyll	52
Experience nature – Between Fläming Heath and Düben Heath	56
WelterbeCard	60
Overview map   Contact   Legal disclaimer   Image credits	62







Home of the Tsarina

**ZERBST/ANHALT**



# ZERBST/ANHALT

## Catherine the Great – A Tsarina's youth at Zerbst Castle

Sophie Auguste Friederike, Princess of Anhalt-Zerbst, would become the greatest personality of the Zerbst dynasty. In 1744 – at the age of just 14 – she travelled to Russia for her wedding. From 1762, Catherine II, now referred to as Catherine the Great, remained the absolute ruler of Russia for 34 years and went down in global history.

As a princess, she lived in the grand three-winged castle which, until its destruction in 1945, numbered among the most notable Baroque castles in Central Germany. The surviving east wing still exemplifies its high value to art history.

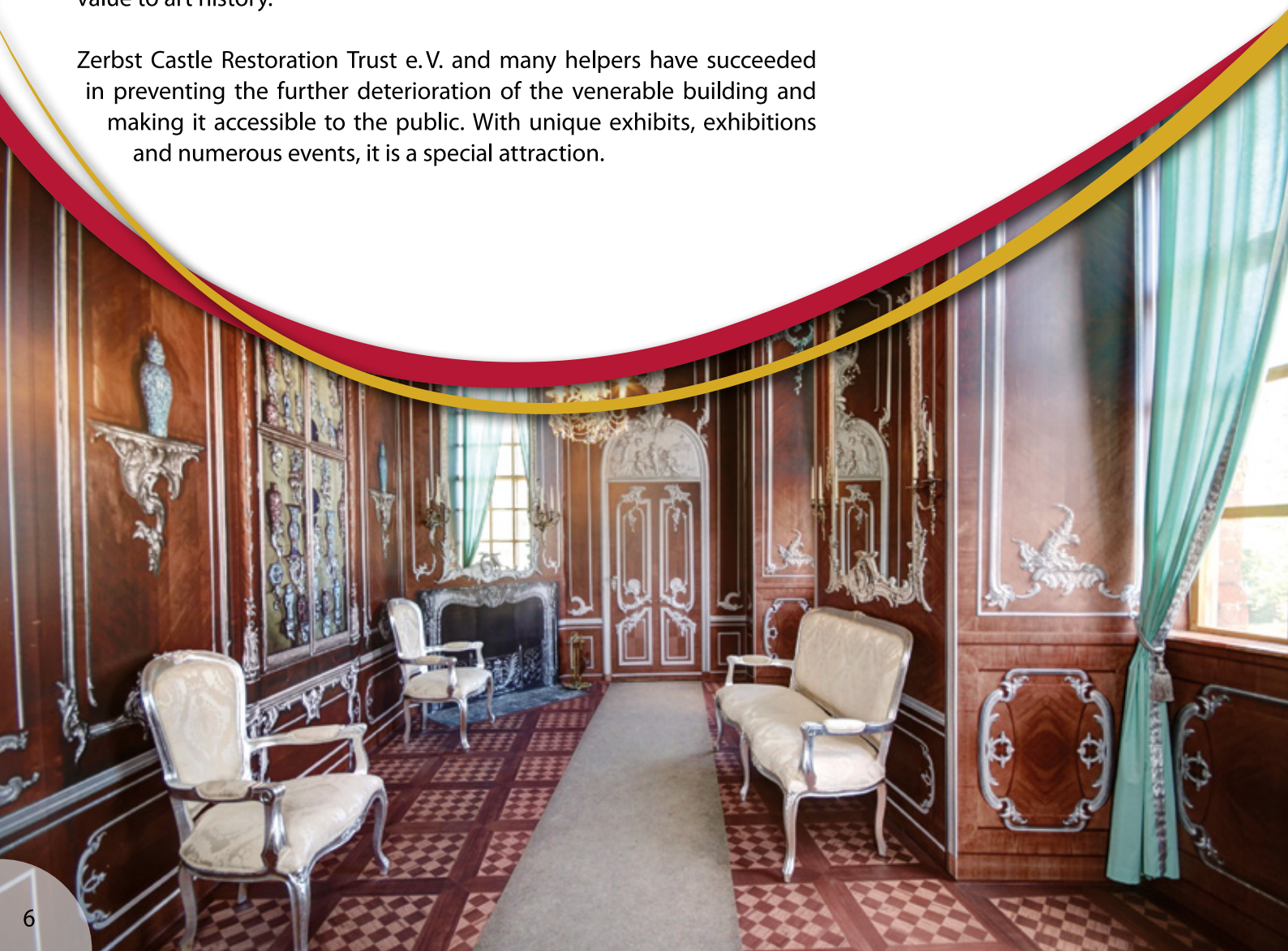
Zerbst Castle Restoration Trust e.V. and many helpers have succeeded in preventing the further deterioration of the venerable building and making it accessible to the public. With unique exhibits, exhibitions and numerous events, it is a special attraction.

### Photos:

**Zerbst cover photo:** "Catherine the Great" (Tatyana Nindel) at Zerbst Castle

**Left:** Cedar cabinet in Zerbst Castle

**Right:** "Catherine the Great" and "J. F. Fasch" in front of the Zerbst town hall











The first monument to Catherine the Great, created by Michael Perejaslawez, is an expression of the good German-Russian relationship. The future Tsarina sits enthroned right next to the Baroque town hall and now looks back in the direction of her one-time chambers in the castle.

The "Catherine II" collection, which is unique in Germany, can be seen in the ballroom of the cavaliers' house in castle precinct 12. The focus is the life-size painting of "Catherine II on horseback", a work created specifically for the exhibition in 1995 by Russian painter Sergej Prisekin.

Since 2013, the "Catherine the Great" tourist route has provided information about the life and works of the famous ruler. Ten courtly stops allow visitors to experience history first hand and thus learn some secrets about this glamorous personality.

#### Photos:

**Left:** Exhibition in Zerbst Castle | **Small photo:** Monument to Catherine II in front of the Zerbst town hall  
**Right:** "Catherine the Great" collection in the cavaliers' house (castle precinct 12)





**Internationaler Förderverein „Katharina II.“ Zerbst e.V.**

Puschkinpromenade 2, 39261 Zerbst/Anhalt | Tel. 03923 754250 | [info@IFV-Katharinall.de](mailto:info@IFV-Katharinall.de) | [www.IFV-Katharinall.de](http://www.IFV-Katharinall.de)

**Zerbst Castle Restoration Trust e.V.**

Markt 6, 39261 Zerbst/Anhalt | Tel. 0179 7282023 | [info@schloss-zerbst-ev.de](mailto:info@schloss-zerbst-ev.de) | [www.schloss-zerbst-ev.de](http://www.schloss-zerbst-ev.de)

**International Fasch Society e.V.**

PF 11 13, 39251 Zerbst/Anhalt | Tel. 03923 784772 | [IFaschG@t-online.de](mailto:IFaschG@t-online.de) | [www.fasch.net](http://www.fasch.net)



# ZERBST/ANHALT

## Francisceum library – A treasure trove of old writings

Do you want to know where paradise lies or what the unicorn in the children's stories actually looked like? You can find the answers in Schenk's Atlas minor from the time around 1720 or in Gesner's animal book from 1583.

You can see both treasures during a guided tour, along with many other unique books, atlases and manuscripts. The library with its more than 48,000 tomes originated from 1582 in the time of the founding of the "Gymnasium Illustre". Parchment manuscripts like those of Pope Gregor from 950 or incunabula from the time of Johann Gutenberg impress every visitor. An extensive collection of reformation documents, including publications by Luther and Melanchthon are particularly noteworthy.

In addition to a cross section of twelve hundred years of book art, the Francisceum library also offers the opportunity to experience the atmosphere of ancient learning between reality and fantasy – and all authentically in the cross vault of the former Franciscan monastery.

### Francisceum library

Weinberg 1, 39261 Zerbst/Anhalt

Tel. 03923 740923

francisceumsbibliothek@web.de

www.foerderverein-francisceum.de

### Photos:

**Left:** Rare treasures in the Francisceum library

**Right:** Francisceum library in the cross vault of the former Franciscan monastery













# ZERBST/ANHALT

## City tour of historic Zerbst/Anhalt

The tour should start with a visit to the tourist information centre at the market in order to get information about the latest tourist offerings, guided tours or events. Tips about accommodation options in a central or idyllic location, as well as culinary recommendations, are also available here in order to turn every trip into an unforgettable short break. You can discover the significant landmarks of the more than 1,050-year-old city up close with a guided tour or an individual city walk.

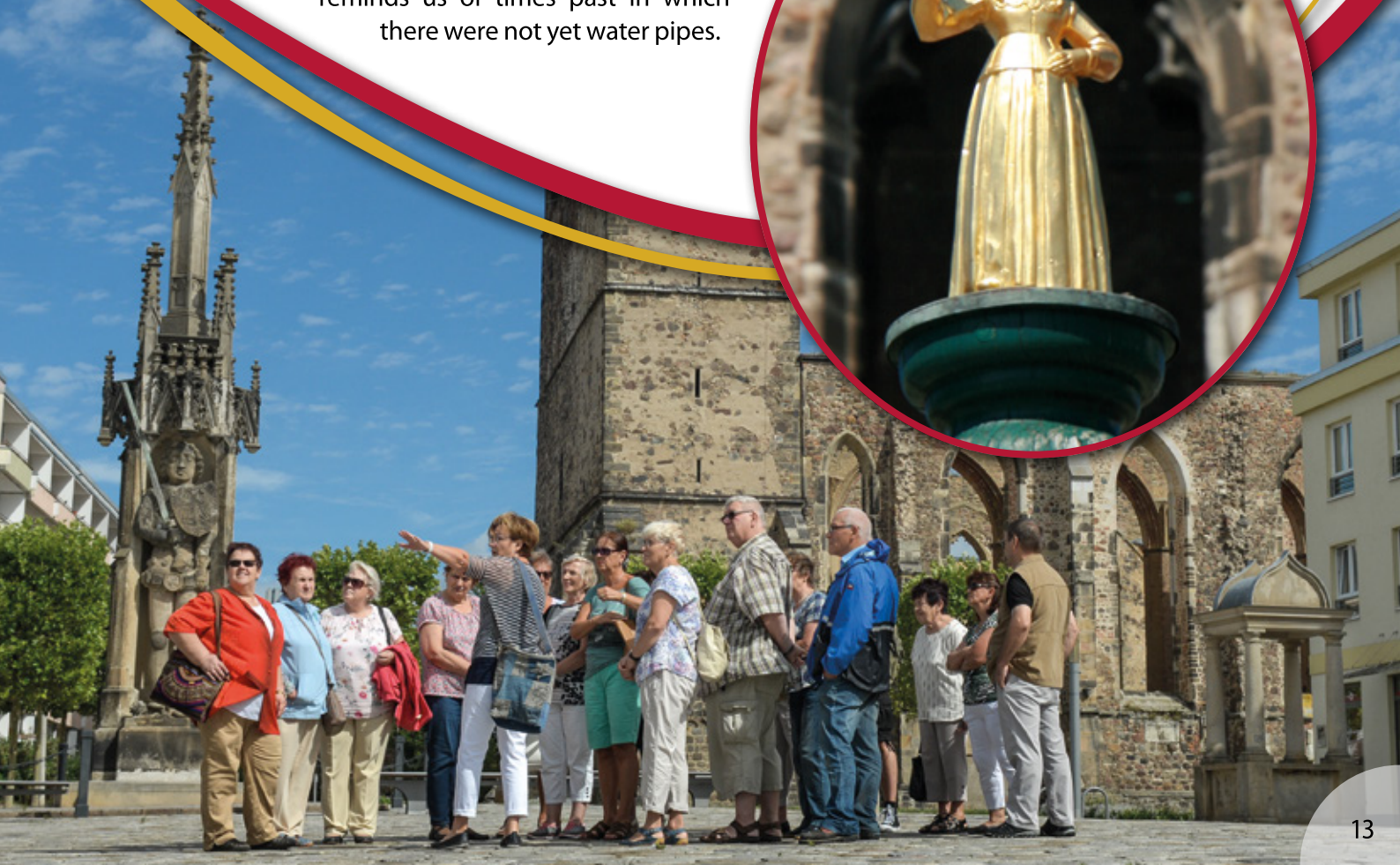
The sandstone figure of Roland which has stood in the marketplace since 1385 (made from wood at the time) as a sign of civic liberty and jurisdiction, for example. Not far from him, the legendary golden butter maiden stands enthroned on a tall pole and has watched over Zerbst market rights for many centuries. Next door, the Tuscan well reminds us of times past in which there were not yet water pipes.

### Photos:

**Left:** Zerbst's Roland in the marketplace

**Right:** Guided tour of the city (in the background: Roland, St. Nicolai church, Tuscan wall)

**Small photo:** Zerbst butter maiden







The tour continues to the Franciscum. This complex of the former Franciscan monastery houses the Zerbst/Anhalt City Museum, the historic Franciscum library and an authentic monastery garden with powder tower, among other things.

The city used to be protected by the 4 km long medieval city walls. Of the original five city gates, the Heidetor is the best preserved. The ruins of the former largest city church St. Nicolai, with its two surviving bell towers, offers a magnificent view.

The front part of the historic castle precinct is shaped by St. Bartholomew's church, consecrated in 1215, with the adjacent bell tower, commonly known as the "Dicker Turm". The two beautiful cavaliers' houses were rebuilt in the Baroque style in 1707. The "Catherine the Great" museum collection, unique in Germany, is also housed in house no. 12, the town hall. This is just a small selection of the attractions. Zerbst/Anhalt has a lot more to offer.

#### Photos:

**From left to right:** Cyclists on the Zerbst city walls | The ruins of St. Nicolai church | Franciscum garden | Heidetor





### **Zerbst/Anhalt city tourist information centre**

Markt 11, 39261 Zerbst/Anhalt | Tel. 03923 760178 | [zentrale@touristinfo-zerbst.de](mailto:zentrale@touristinfo-zerbst.de) | [www.stadt-zerbst.de](http://www.stadt-zerbst.de)

**Easter – 10 Oct.:** Mon – Fri 9 – 12.30 and 13 – 18 | Sat 10 – 13

**11. Okt. – Ostern:** Mon – Thurs 9 – 12.30 and 13 – 18 | Fri 9 – 12.30 and 13 – 16 | Sat closed



# Other attractions...



Christmas Church in Polenzko

## ◀ theme churches in Fläming

visits by request:  
Ev. Landeskirche Anhalt  
Tel. 0340 25261401 and  
0179 2029321

## Zerbst/Anhalt Museum ▶

Weinberg 1, 39261 Zerbst/Anhalt  
Tel. 03923 4228  
[www.stadt-zerbst.de](http://www.stadt-zerbst.de)



Zerbst/Anhalt Museum

Photo: Green idyll in Zerbst/Anhalt





OUR CITY OF BACH  
**KÖTHEN (ANHALT)**



# KÖTHEN (ANHALT)

## Anhalt-Köthen castle and Johann Sebastian Bach

With its three characteristic towers, the castle defines the city skyline alongside the churches and the town hall. The previous structure, already mentioned in 1396 as a moated castle, was the seat of the Ascanian-Anhaltinian princes until it burned down in 1547. The new build from 1597 by an Italian architect provides a prestigious residence for the current princes and dukes of Anhalt-Köthen.

As the court conductor to Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Köthen, Johann Sebastian Bach led an orchestra of up to 18 excellent musicians. Under the protection of the “princes, lovers of and knowledgeable about music” Bach composed some of his best-known secular works, the “Brandenburg Concertos” and the first part of the “Well-Tempered Clavier” in the city of Köthen. He wrote suites, cantatas, sonatas, the Klavierbüchlein for his son Wilhelm Friedemann and Notebook for his wife Anna Magdalena. Years later, Bach remembered Köthen fondly.

### Photos:

#### Köthen cover photo:

Guided tour in the hall of mirrors at Köthen Castle

**Left:** Johann Sebastian Bach (Christian Ratzel) strolls in Köthen Castle park

**Right:** Event centre at Köthen Castle

**Small photo:** Castle chapel





Since March 2008, the event centre has enhanced Köthen Castle. Within the walls of the riding stable, destroyed in 1941 by a major fire, a modern, multifunctional event ensemble awaits the visitors. The Johann Sebastian Bach room impresses with its first-class room acoustics and is perfect as a concert hall.

The castle chapel, once also known as the “Kirche im Keller” (the church in the cellar), can look back on an eventful history. After the original furnishings, installed after 1730, were lost, a baroque Emporenkirche was restored again in multiple steps up to 1991. Today, the castle chapel is used for a variety of purposes, both as a church, as an outpost of the registry office and as a popular performance space for concerts.









The only bird collection in the world to be preserved from the Biedermeier era can be found at Köthen Castle. The complete collection of the old master of ornithology, Johann Friedrich Naumann (1780 – 1857), can be marvelled at in 113 display cases here. Duke Ferdinand of Anhalt-Köthen acquired it as a private bird gallery. The existing collection, today consisting of 1167 native and foreign birds prepared by Naumann, has been open to the public in the museum since 1915. It includes species which died out long ago such as the great auk or the dodo and astonishes with the diligence of one man and his love of his research topic. The scientist, originally from Ziebigk, laid the foundations for ornithology in Central Europe with his "Natural History of Birds".

In 1885, the people of Köthen erected a monument to the musical genius, J. S. Bach. The only Bach memorial in Saxony-Anhalt at the Köthen Castle History Museum provides information about the life and works of the great master of Baroque music during his time in Köthen from 1717 to 1723. Musical instruments, printed music, contemporary portraits and engravings illustrate Bach's activity in the Köthen court of muses. An audio guide in German and English explains the exhibition to visitors.

### Photos:

#### Left and Small photo:

Naumann Museum in the Ferdinandsbau wing

Right: History Museum and Bach Memorial in the Ludwigsbau wing

### Köthen Kultur und Marketing GmbH

Schlossplatz 4  
06366 Köthen (Anhalt)  
[info@bachstadt-koethen.de](mailto:info@bachstadt-koethen.de)  
[www.bachstadt-koethen.de](http://www.bachstadt-koethen.de)

**Naumann Museum**  
Tel. 03496 70099277

**History Museum and Bach Memorial**  
Tel. 03496 70099260







The “Köthen Bach Festival” allows the unique music of composer J. S. Bach to be heard in authentic locations and has developed into a cultural highlight which plays an important role in the European festival calendar. The memory of Bach, who called Köthen his home for six years 300 years ago, is maintained throughout the city. The castle was his domain and he rented a pew at St. Agnus church. The “Köthen Bach Festival”, which has taken place since 1967, offers the public a prolific concert programme with renowned soloists and orchestras from Germany and abroad in these historic locations as well as at the Johann Sebastian Bach room in the event centre. This takes place every other year, alternating with the National Bach Competition for Young Pianists.

The Ludwigsbau wing at the castle, named after Prince Ludwig of Anhalt-Köthen, which was home to the Chair of the “Fruitbearing Society”, a famous academic college for the preservation and development of the German language founded in 1617, today houses the “Mittelanhalt History Museum”, among other things. The “New Fruitbearing Society” was founded on 18/01/2007 and follows in the language preservation footsteps of the historical “Fruitbearing Society” of the 17th century. You can discover the history and the various aspects of our language at the “German Language Experience World”.





### Photos:

From left to right: Bach's communion goblet (St. Agnus church) | Concert at the Church of St. Jacob during the Bach Festival | Bach Festival in Köthen (Anhalt) | Statue of Prince Ludwig of Anhalt-Köthen

**Neue Fruchtbringende Gesellschaft zu Köthen/Anhalt e.V.**

Schlossplatz 5, 06366 Köthen (Anhalt) | Tel. 03496 405740 | [www.fruchtbringende-gesellschaft.de](http://www.fruchtbringende-gesellschaft.de)







# KÖTHEN (ANHALT)

## City tour through the city of Bach, Köthen (Anhalt)

A tour should start with a visit to the Köthen information centre in the castle in order to get information about the latest tourist offerings, guided tours of the city or events. Tips about accommodation options, as well as culinary recommendations, are also available here in order to turn every trip into an unforgettable short break. Anyone reviewing the history of this city in the Anhalt region may be surprised by what driving forces have originated from it time and again over the centuries and how quickly new developments have been accepted.

The remains of the old city fortifications like the Hallesche and Magdeburg tower shape the cityscape, as do the imposing double towers of the St. Jacob's cathedral church. They have adorned the impression of the old town centre since 1898. Right next door is the town hall on the Köthen marketplace, opened in 1900.

The St. Agnus and St. Maria Himmelfahrt churches are also right nearby. The first is known as the Bach church and houses a painting of the last supper by Lucas Cranach the younger.

### Köthen information centre at Köthen Castle (inner courtyard)

Schlossplatz 5

06366 Köthen (Anhalt)

Tel. 03496 70099260

koethen-information@bachstadt-koethen.de

www.bachstadt-koethen.de

### Opening times:

Tue – Sun 10 – 17

### Photos:

#### Left and Small photo:

Church of St. Jacob on the Köthen marketplace

**Right:** Discover the history of the city on a guided tour





# KÖTHEN (ANHALT)

## Homeopathy – Healing through the principle of similarity

The legitimization of scientific homeopathy by the doctor, chemist and pharmacist Dr. med. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann (1755 – 1843) was ground-breaking work. He came to Köthen in 1821 and was appointed as privy councillor and personal physician to the duke after just one year of work. He set out the basic principle of homeopathy: “Heal like with like”. In his time, he was a member of the new guild of medicine which broke away from the violent methods of healing of the old school. Because it was often less the disease and more the treatment which resulted in the death of patients. His first home on Wallstraße houses a small museum in which Hahnemann’s medicine cabinet, among other things, can be seen. Right next door, the European Library of Homeopathy opened its doors in the former infirmary at the Monastery of the Brothers of Mercy. Here, both established homeopaths and interested laypeople can investigate, read and research in the historic library with particular rarities. Extremely interesting objects, like a chaos pendulum for example, visualise homeopathic healing principles in an entertaining manner.

### Hahnemann house

Wallstraße 47  
06366 Köthen (Anhalt)  
Tel. 03496 570664  
(by arrangement)

### Photos:

**Left:** European Library of Homeopathy

**Right:** Hahnemann’s medicine cabinet

**Small photo:** Portrait of Dr. med. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann





## European Library of Homeopathy

Wallstraße 48

06366 Köthen (Anhalt)

Tel. 03496 512893

[hombib-koethen@dzvhae.de](mailto:hombib-koethen@dzvhae.de)

[www.hombib-dzvhae.de](http://www.hombib-dzvhae.de)

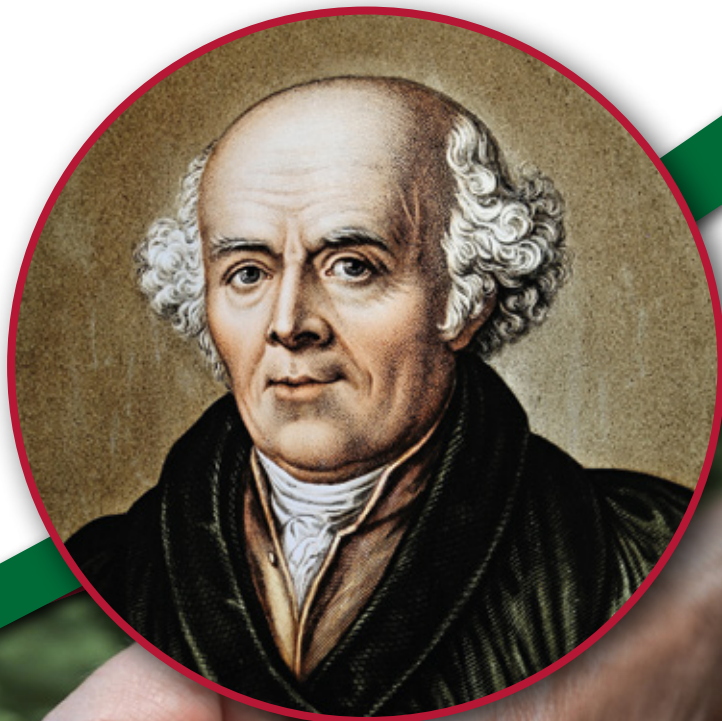
## Köthen Kultur und Marketing GmbH

homeopathy and conference service

Tel. 03496 70099260

[homoeopathie@bachstadt-koethen.de](mailto:homoeopathie@bachstadt-koethen.de)

[www.bachstadt-koethen.de](http://www.bachstadt-koethen.de)





## Other attractions...



Metal sculptures in Reppichau

### ◀ Förderverein Eike von Reppgow e. V. Reppichau

Tel. 034909 70700

[foerderverein@reppichau.de](mailto:foerderverein@reppichau.de)

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

### Köthen Wildlife Park ▶

Tel. 03496 552664

[info@tierpark-koethen.de](mailto:info@tierpark-koethen.de)

[www.tierpark-koethen.de](http://www.tierpark-koethen.de)



Köthen Wildlife Park

Photo: View of the City of Bach, Köthen (Anhalt)





Goitzsche and so much more  
**BITTERFELD-WOLFEN**



# BITTERFELD-WOLFEN

## Goitzsche Lake region with landscape art and wilderness

Today, the city of Bitterfeld-Wolfen embodies a unique symbiosis between nature and recreation, living and industry in a small area. A particular jewel is located right outside the city – the Goitzsche. For almost a hundred years, coal production shaped the former floodplain of the river Mulde. This region, characterised by surface mining, has seen an exemplary transformation since 1991 into an attractive landscape, the flooding of which with flood waters from the river Mulde ended in 2002. The “Blue Bank” commemorates the numerous flood helpers during the historic flooding with name plates. Within a short space of time, a gorgeous lakeside landscape came into being – an El Dorado for water lovers, sailors, surfers, anglers, hikers, joggers and cyclists young and old. The 1,332 ha lake is very popular with sailors in particular. Anyone who likes things a bit faster can travel across the lake at up to 30 km/h on a wakeboard. Cyclists can discover interesting nature experiences and exciting landscape art projects around the lake. All routes are day trips and are suitable for the whole family. Enjoying the maritime flair, particularly on a sun terrace with lake view and culinary specialities, makes the perfect end to a perfect day.

### Photos:

**Bitterfeld-Wolfen cover photo:**  
Boat tour on the Great Goitzsche Lake

**Left:** Bring the day to a close on the Goitzsche in Mühlbeck

**Right:** Villa on Bernstein Lake and marina on the Goitzsche











You can also explore Lake Goitzsche in complete relaxation on a tour boat. The MS "Reudnitz" and the MS "Vineta" offer regular round trips. Boat and bike hire, restaurants and playgrounds complete the offerings on the shore and whet your appetite for another visit to the Goitzsche.

A roughly 1,300 ha piece of land is in the care of the association for free nature development after mining. Today, this special "wilderness" is associated with their yearning for untouched nature for many people. Nature-lovers and amateur athletes have already discovered this seclusion for themselves. The association organises regular hikes and experience days on various topics through the wilderness. An experience tour on the Goitzsche offers a multitude of surprises. Accommodation with a guaranteed feel-good factor is available for multi-day visits – whether planned or spontaneous – from campsites and cosy holiday homes through guest houses to 4-star hotels.

#### Photos:

**From left to right:** Family fun riding a pedal car | Active by bike around Goitzsche Lake | Explore the Goitzsche with the MS "Reudnitz" | Goitzsche wilderness on Ludwig Lake near Holzweißig





**"Goitzsche wilderness" association**

Rathausstraße 1, OT Holzweißig, 06808 Bitterfeld-Wolfen | Tel. 0178 4597599 | [info@goitzsche-wildnis.de](mailto:info@goitzsche-wildnis.de)  
[www.goitzsche-wildnis.de](http://www.goitzsche-wildnis.de)





Near Paupitzscher Lake, the “Guardians of the Goitzsche” landscape art object impressively symbolises the preservation of the beauty and value that has emerged in the Goitzsche. The ten larger than life steel fellows with red breastplate and red flags are arranged in a circle and, together with the surrounding nature, form an impressive motif.

What makes the Goitzsche so extraordinary is the deliberate transformation into the world’s largest art project which occurred during the course of the EXPO 2000 world fair. The first symbol to be reached, and the best known, is the “gauging tower”. It spirals 26 m into the sky and, after 144 steps, provides a special view of the surrounding landscape. The 28 m “Bitterfeld arc”, the symbol of the city, offers the best perspective. This impressive structure stands for the connection between past and future in the one-time mining region. It sits enthroned on Bitterfeld hill and gives visitors a multi-faceted panorama across Bitterfeld-Wolfen and the fascinating Goitzsche Lake region.

#### Photos:

**Small photo:** Guardians of the Goitzsche near Paupitzscher Lake | **Left:** The Bitterfeld arc – symbol of Bitterfeld-Wolfen | **Right:** Gauging tower and the pier on the Great Goitzsche Lake





**Bitterfeld/Wolfen city tourist information centre**

Markt 07, OT Bitterfeld, 06749 Bitterfeld-Wolfen | Tel. 03494 6660-317  
tourismus@bitterfeld-wolfen.de | [www.bitterfeld-wolfen.de](http://www.bitterfeld-wolfen.de)

Opening times: [www.bitterfeld-wolfen.de](http://www.bitterfeld-wolfen.de)



# BITTERFELD-WOLFEN

## Wolfen Industry and Film Museum – Born in the darkness

People working here didn't see daylight for hours at a time. Film production could only be achieved under darkroom conditions. The Agfa film factory in Wolfen was the second-largest film factory in the world. The first practical colour film in the world was produced there in 1936. The UFA shot the first German colour film "Frauen sind doch bessere Diplomaten" (Women Are Better Diplomats) on it in 1941. The widely successful film "Münchhausen" with Hans Albers in the starring role came out in 1942/43. The system that the film material was produced on can be seen today in the Wolfen Industry and Film Museum. White tiled rooms for fusing the emulsion, a huge pouring machine from the 30s in the original location as well as large dark corridors for transporting the base with the emulsion poured onto it give the museum guest a touch of industrial romanticism with its idiosyncratic flair.

The only museum of its type in the world is located in an original production building from 1909. The exhibition on the industrial history of the Bitterfeld-Wolfen region provides information about the developments of an agricultural region into one of the biggest and most innovative industrial regions in Central Germany. The treasure trove at the museum houses a collection of more than 800 camera, film and slide projectors, mostly produced in Germany. The Industry and Film Museum presents changing special exhibitions on historic and contemporary photography. The museum occasionally turns into a cinema which brings older and almost forgotten films to the screen.





## Wolfen Industry and Film Museum

Chemiepark Bitterfeld-Wolfen

Areal A, OT Wolfen

Bunsenstraße 4, 06766 Bitterfeld-Wolfen

Tel. 03494 636446

info@ifm-wolfen.de

www.ifm-wolfen.de

**New:** anchor point for the European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH) since May 2019

### Photos:

**Left:** Film production exhibition area

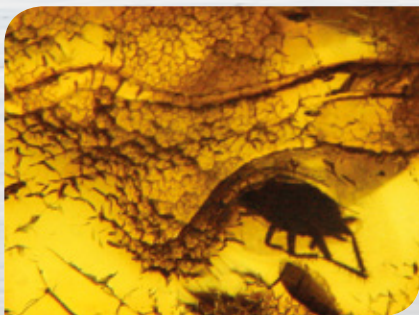
**Right:** Looking at old production systems

**Small photo:** "Greetings from Wolfen"





## Other attractions...



Bitterfeld amber

### ◀ Bitterfeld Regional Museum with amber cellar

Tel. 03493 401113

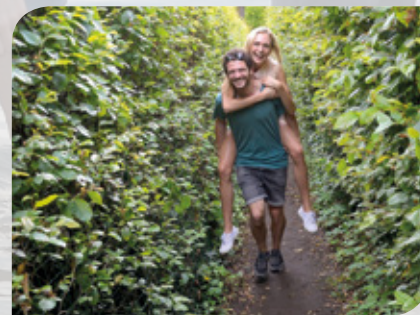
[info@kreismuseum-bitterfeld.de](mailto:info@kreismuseum-bitterfeld.de)

[www.kreismuseum-bitterfeld.de](http://www.kreismuseum-bitterfeld.de)

### Maze and manor park ▶ in Altjeßnitz

Tel. 034904 7815 8 u. 0177 3341881

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



Maze and manor park in Altjeßnitz

Photo: Evening on the Great Goitzsche Lake





# NATURE & CYCLING ROUTES



# EUROROUTE R1

## Euroroute R1 – Across Europe by bike

Euroroute R1 runs roughly 3,500 km across the European continent from Boulogne sur Mer on the English Channel coast in France to St. Petersburg in Russia. In Saxony-Anhalt, a diverse journey through the scenic, cultural and historic variety of Central Germany across more than 260 km. Beyond Bad Harzburg, the R1 crosses former inner German border and snakes through the cultural region of Anhalt, continuing towards the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Dessau-Roßlau and Wittenberg, crossing the Elbe in the Middle Elbe UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in the process and dives into Fläming Nature Park. A dense network of bike-friendly accommodation and restaurants along the route allow for more in-depth exploration of the region with a spontaneous stopover without further ado.

In the Anhalt-Bitterfeld district, cyclists from Bernburg coming through Frenz reach Großpaschleben first. Along the “Paschlewwer Holiday & Leisure Centre” and a former water tower, the route continues to the City of Bach, Köthen (Anhalt).

**Euroroute R1/D-Route 3 coordination centre in Saxony-Anhalt c/o WelterbeRegion Anhalt-Dessau-Wittenberg e.V.**

Neustraße 13  
06886 Lutherstadt Wittenberg  
Tel. 03491 402610  
info@anhalt-dessau-wittenberg.de  
www.europaradweg-r1.net

### Photos:

**Cover photo:** Cycling tour along the Elbe

**Left:** Enjoy experiences of nature

**Right:** Castle in Köthen (Anhalt)

**Small photo:** Signpost on the R1





At Köthen (Anhalt), the R1 reaches J. S. Bach's first workplace where he passed the most creative time of his life at the invitation of music-loving Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Köthen. The royal castle with unique exhibitions, a magnificent hall of mirrors and the modern event centre forms the central focus of the city.

The former residence city has many other things well worth seeing too, including the old town, a wildlife park and the place of activity of renowned homeopath Dr. S. Hahnemann. To discover Köthen (Anhalt) with all its variety, follow the route to the market and continue towards the castle. There, it is possible to store bicycles in bicycle boxes. The R1 continues through Porst and Osternienburg to Reppichau.







The “Sachsenspiegel” art project, which is the first open-air museum of European legal history, is located here. Magnificent metal sculptures adorn the entire area. Wonderful painted facades, a beautiful church park, a museum in the old mill and an information centre with a feudal knights’ hall show the life and justice of the Middle Ages. The “Sachsenspiegel” is considered to be part of Europe’s cultural heritage and is one of the major unique features in Saxony-Anhalt.

The route continues to the old shipping town of Aken (Elbe). This city, founded in the middle of the 12th century, by the margrave “Albrecht der Bär”, has particular flair owing to its medieval character. The town hall, originating from the 15th century, and the historic marketplace are a must for every visitor. The particular charm of the Elbe with its natural landscapes then accompanies cyclists to the Elberadweg.

The R1 route from Reppichau through Chörau is offered as another option – here, the route leaves the Anhalt-Bitterfeld district and likewise reaches the Elberadweg through Mosigkau and the Bauhaus city of Dessau-Roßlau. The R1 route coincides with the Elberadweg in parts, making a combination of various routes and interesting excursions possible.





**Photos:**

**From left to right:** Metal sculpture in Eike-von-Repgow-Dorf Reppichau | Town hall on the marketplace in Aken (Elbe) | Relaxing on the banks of the Elbe





**ELBERADWEG**

Serviceinformationen  
und »Radfreundliche  
Unterkünfte«

ca. 1.1200 km

KOSTENLOS

*Abhalten & Genießen*

„Leben in ABl“



# ELBERADWEG

## Elberadweg – Discover nature and culture

The Elberadweg is one of the most popular river cycle routes in Germany. In the Anhalt-Bitterfeld district, two routes run through a wild and romantic natural wonder: the Middle Elbe Biosphere Reserve. The Steckby-Lödderitzer Forest first became the first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in Germany in 1979 and forms the start of the “Elbe river landscape”, one of the last pristine river landscapes in Central Europe. The Elbe beaver, which was close to extinction, found its last refuge here.

Coming from Breitenhagen, the southern route passes through the city of Aken (Elbe). The characteristic look of this old shipping, artisan and farming town is still preserved in the modern era. With its plastering, the Aken marketplace with the town hall traces the road network of the old town, laid out like a chequerboard. A well depicts major events in the city's history and an anchor symbolises the shipping town. The Elberadweg continues to the Bauhaus city of Dessau-Roßlau.

**Middle Elberadweg coordination centre c/o**

**Magdeburger Tourismusverband Elbe-Börde-Heide e.V.**

Domplatz 1b, 39104 Magdeburg

Tel. 0391 738790

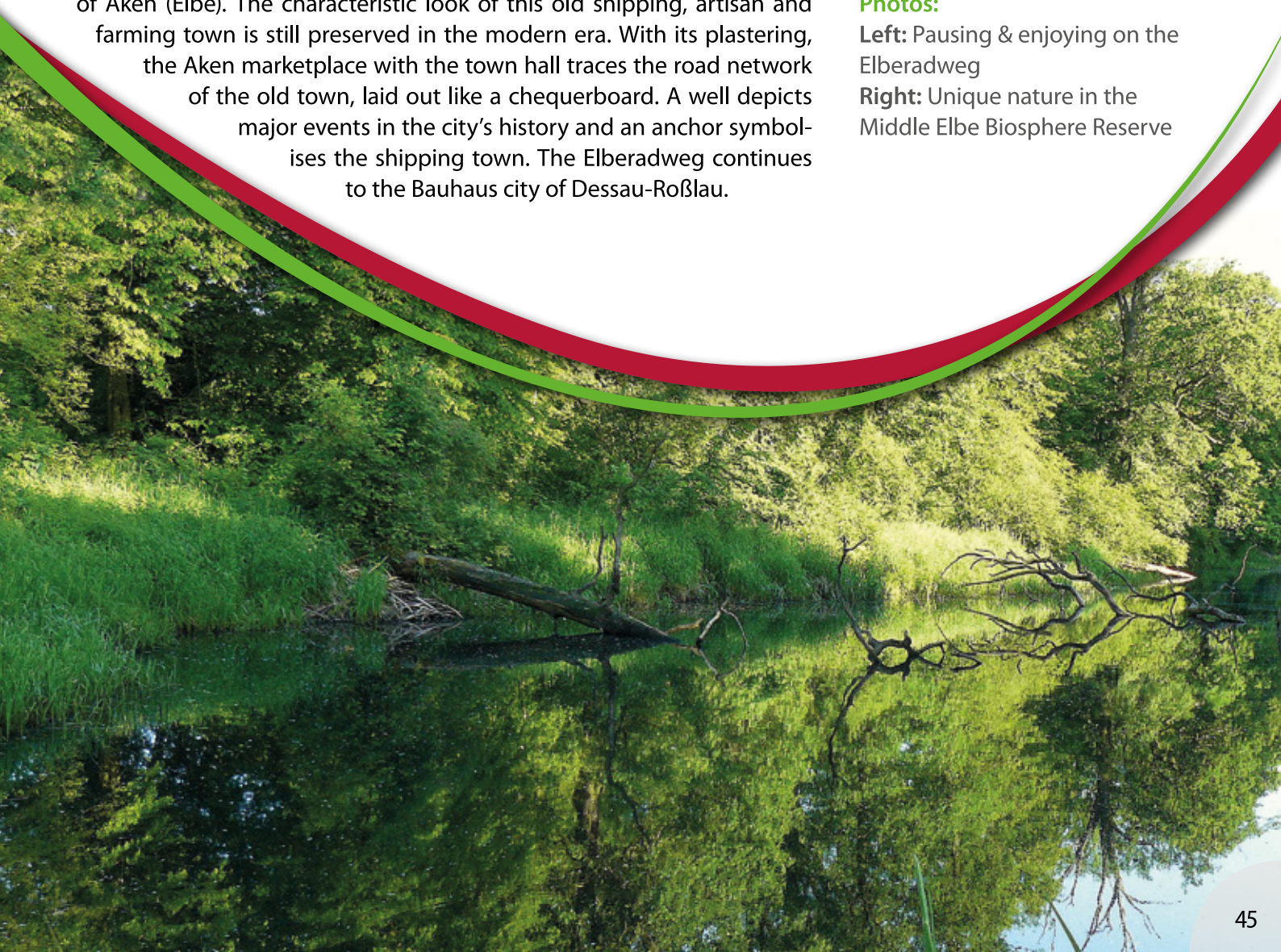
[mitte@elberadweg.de](mailto:mitte@elberadweg.de)

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

### Photos:

**Left:** Pausing & enjoying on the Elberadweg

**Right:** Unique nature in the Middle Elbe Biosphere Reserve





The northern route in Anhalt-Bitterfeld goes towards Tochheim, coming from Ronney and Walternienburg. As a district of Zerbst/Anhalt, Walternienburg is directly on the route with an interesting historic castle complex. The moated castle rises conspicuously from the flat landscape. The ancient burgward is very much worth the climb, with its exhibitions with a wide range of exhibits and the wonderful view.

Ronney, with its environment centre, is a highlight of the area around Walternienburg. Visitors are presented with the variety of species in the arboretum and in the meadow orchard, as well as the ecological experience areas. In addition to the ecology garden, an underwater observation pond and an apiary as practical places of learning, the environment centre offers a wide range of options for creative working and active relaxation in the fascinating natural river landscape of the Elbe.

From Tochheim, the Elberadweg continues through Steckby and Steutz towards Dessau-Roßlau. The cyclists' church of St. Nicolai in Steckby, open all day, is a place of contemplation and prayer for cyclists from all directions. In Steutz, a show smith and the local history museum invite visitors to discover typical aspects of the region between Elbe and Fläming and experience the romance of the village. Ottilie's grocers enchants its guests with shopping nostalgia. The Elberadweg also continues towards Dessau-Roßlau.

### Photos:

**Left:** cyclists on the bank of the Elbe

**Right:** Moated castle in Walternienburg

**Small photo:** Sailing on the Elbe









# MULDERADWEG

## Mulderadweg – Impressive landscapes

Along a river still running in its original course and with its unique combination of nature, culture and history, the Mulderadweg offers everything to make a cyclist's heart leap: town houses and aristocratic houses, churches and monasteries carry you off into a past that seems to come to life. Gentle hills and wild, romantic valleys with bizarre, steep and rugged rock massifs make a bike tour a real experience.

In the Anhalt-Bitterfeld district, cyclists reach Muldestausee via Löbnitz (Saxony). Here, a detour to "Haus am See" in Schlaitz, an eclectic environmental information centre with a live cam which shows impressive images from the nest of a bird of prey, among others, is well worth it. A barefoot path, insect hotel, wetland and much more await outside. The route continues to the Red Tower in Pouch. The tower, built in the 13th century, is 30 m tall and, after 105 steps, visitors reach a viewing platform which offers a unique panorama.

### **Leipzig Tourismus und Marketing GmbH** **Mulderadweg coordination centre**

Augustusplatz 9, 04109 Leipzig  
Tel. 0341 7104373  
mulderadweg@ltm-leipzig.de  
www.mulderadweg.de

### **Photos:**

**Left:** Muldestausee

**Right:** Discover, learn and experience nature at HAUS AM SEE in Schlaitz

**Small photo:** In the book village of Mühlbeck-Friedersdorf





Following the Mulderadweg, this leads along the Great Goitzsche Lake to the book village of Mühlbeck-Friedersdorf. Back in 1997, 34 members founded the Förderverein des Buchdorfes Mühlbeck-Friedersdorf e.V. and thus laid the foundations for Germany's 1st book village. Several similar locations had already sprung up throughout Europe following the example of the first "booktown" in the world, established in Hay-on-Wye in England in 1961. Countless volumes sit on the shelves of the second-hand bookshops and wait for interested visitors, readers and collectors. They are a real treasure trove of literature of all genres. Along the lake, restaurants, parks, boat rentals and much more offer everything your heart could desire. A sun terrace along the shore of the Goitzsche is a fantastic place to enjoy the maritime flair of the Goitzsche.







From Friedersdorf, a side trip to the gauging tower with its pier is always worth it. It is the famous landscape art project and symbol of the Goitzsche. The tower adapts to the water level in the lake and, after 144 steps, promises a fantastic panoramic view of the entire Goitzsche Lake region. The Bitterfeld Regional Museum with its amber exhibition or the third viewpoint on the Goitzsche: the Bitterfeld Arc can be also reached quickly from here. The Bernsteinpromenade, which supplements the leisure and holiday offerings on the Goitzsche with a wide range of restaurants, a beach, parks for children and holiday homes, is also located at the gauging tower.





The Mulderadweg leaves Bitterfeld to the north. A visit to the Baroque maze and manor park in Altjeßnitz is a must on the route. Set in the centre of a historic manor park, it is the largest preserved maze in Germany and is therefore a rarity. A small fieldstone church built in the romantic style creates an image of venerable beauty with the wooded park surrounding it. The manor park is a perfect setting every year for the association's cultural events. Parkfest – "an imaginative garden party in the style of Baroque times" – is a seasonal highlight. Numerous historic personalities wander through the park, there are small plays, guided tours of the park and dance performances here and there.

Next to the manor park is an original tree house and a hill house – for a special sleep experience on the Mulderadweg. The cycle route continues along the Mulde towards the Bauhaus city of Dessau-Roßlau. The combined Mulde flows into the Elbe at the northern edge of the city. Dessau-Roßlau offers cyclists excellent options for connecting with other cycle routes like the Elberadweg or the Euroroute R1.

#### Photos:

**Left:** Gauging tower with pier on the Great Goitzsche Lake

**Right:** Altjeßnitz Baroque maze and manor park | **Small photo:** Get lost and find the way







# FUHNERADWEG

## Fuhneradweg – Remoteness and idyll

The Fuhne is a lowland creek in the heart of Saxony-Anhalt which is distinctive owing to its bifurcation and connects two tributaries of the Elbe, the Mulde and the Saale, with each other. The Fuhne floodplain runs through the Anhalt-Bitterfeld district like a green ribbon. The Fuhneradweg offers adventurous flora and fauna: various conservation areas and the “Fuhneau” nature reserve contain riparian forests, marshes and pools.

The best place to start a trip along the Fuhne is Jeßnitz. There is also something to discover in the towns, like the Industry and Film Museum in Wolfen with its fascinating exhibition on the development and production of photographic and motion picture films. Here, the visitor embarks on an exciting journey through industrial history. The traces of the Wettin princes can be explored in Zörbig. 1,000 years ago, the castle with the tower built in the 13th century was in the hands of the Wettins and should always be kept in a condition such that the sovereign could take up residence here.

### Photos:

**Left:** Idyllic Fuhne route

**Small photo:** Zörbig Castle tower

**Right:** Water divide of the Fuhne to the south-east of Zehbitz







Following the cycle route, a visit to the counterfeiting workshop in Radegast is well worth it. No-one here denies that a chemist busily minted Prussian pennies here for lack of money 200 years ago. This incident caused a significant stir and can be experienced today in a “counterfeiting workshop”. Ornithologists in particular get their money’s worth in Cösitz. The 38 ha Cösitz ponds have been designated a conservation area owing to the diversity of bird species. The former manor with castle and a magnificent park, surrounded by the remains of a Slavic fortress are also well worth seeing.

A 6.8 m megalithic tomb built in 4000 BC using granite and gneiss blocks is located on the northern edge of the municipality of Schortewitz. It is the southernmost of its type in Germany. The route continues to the city of Gröbzig. “The small town on the Fuhne” is delightfully surrounded by the idyllic Fuhne floodplain. Arriving by bike, the emblem of the city, the castle tower, can be seen from afar. The 36 m tall tower is commonly also referred to as the “Mauseturm” (pilferer’s tower). Thieves once served their sentence here because they “pilfered”. The ensemble of the Gröbzig Synagogue Museum, consisting of the synagogue, Jewish school, community hall and cemetery is unique in the German-speaking countries. From here, the Fuhneradweg continues to Bernburg where the Fuhne flows into the Saale.





**Photos:**

**From left to right:** Camera exhibition at the Wolfen Industry and Film Museum | The counterfeiter of Radegast | Gröbzig Synagogue | The Gröbzig Mauserturm



# EXPERIENCE NATURE

## Between Fläming Heath and Düben Heath

In 1979, UNESCO designated the Steckby-Lödderitz Forest, already classified as a conservation area in 1961, as a Biosphere Reserve. The forest is considered to be the heart of the Middle Elbe Biosphere Reserve. This stretches along the Elbe and the Mulde and includes the Elbe floodplain with its wild banks as a unique wetland landscape biotope and the largest contiguous riparian forest in Central Europe.

The biosphere reserve offers protection for many endangered species. Sea eagles and ospreys circle here, as do rare black storks. The Elbe beavers build their lodges on the banks. Meadow paths, used as cycle and hiking routes, lead visitors through the largest contiguous riparian forest along the Elbe.

One of the conservation areas within the Biosphere Reserve is the "Wulfener Bruch". The biodiverse and unspoilt marshes serve to conserve grassland bird species such as the Eurasian Curlew, quail and meadow pipit.

### **Middle Elbe Biosphere Reserve**

Tel. 034904 40631  
poststelle@mittelelbe.mule.  
sachsen-anhalt.de  
www.mittleelbe.com

### **Naturpark Fläming e. V.**

Tel. 034903 595600  
info@naturpark-flaeming.de  
www.naturpark-flaeming.de

### **Photos:**

**Left:** Black stork

**Right:** Farmer's cottage in Reuden

**Small photo:** In the Gesangbuch-  
kirche Luso





Anyone who leaves Berlin travelling south on the A9 inevitable crosses it – Fläming Heath. Forests, fields, castles, medieval cities, villages with fieldstone churches and mills characterise this landscape. Lovers of cycling and hiking find marked paths for relaxing far from the highways. The city of Zerbst/Anhalt can easily be reached on the Elberadweg and the Flämingradweg.

The “Vorfläming” cycle route leads to tranquil farm shops and interesting churches in Vorfläming. Here, you can not only visit many beautiful little village churches, but also have very special spiritual experiences at the Polenzko Christmas church, the Trüben Easter church, the Gesangbuchkirche Luso (Luso hymn book church) and the village church museum in Garitz and gain new impressions.







### **Naturpark Dübener Heide e.V.**

Naturparkhaus Bad Dübener Heide | Tel. 034243 72993 | [info@naturpark-duebener-heide.com](mailto:info@naturpark-duebener-heide.com)  
[www.naturpark-duebener-heide.de](http://www.naturpark-duebener-heide.de)

### **HAUS AM SEE**

Am Muldestausee 2, OT Schlaitz, 06774 Muldestausee | Tel. 034955 21490  
[info@informationszentrum-hausamsee-schlaitz.de](mailto:info@informationszentrum-hausamsee-schlaitz.de) | [www.informationszentrum-hausamsee-schlaitz.de](http://www.informationszentrum-hausamsee-schlaitz.de)





They are best-known by weekend vacationers – the expansive forest areas, the former mining landscapes with their lakes and the famous spas of Düben Heath. With their hundreds of kilometres of hiking, riding and cycle paths, they are considered to be one of the most beautiful wildernesses in Germany. Pure springs bubble below mighty treetops, and aromatic woodland air provides peace and relaxation. Riders, robbers, potters, basket weavers and charcoal burners remind people of time-honoured traditions and crafts at folk and heathland festivals. Providers of regional specialties present their products under the “Bestes aus der Dübener Heide” (the best of Düben Heath) brand.

At “Haus am See” in Schlaitz, on the northern bank of the Muldestausee, visitors can watch what is going on in an osprey nest live. This is possible thanks to a special camera and, in addition to ospreys, you can see numerous species of birds of prey raise their young. In addition to the more than 80 native taxidermy animals such as ospreys, sea eagles and beavers as well as skins, nests, a honey bee display case or even a butterfly collection. A barefoot path, an insect hotel, a wetland and much more await visitors in the outdoor area. The 17 km “Muldestausee former mining landscape” nature trail invites you to go on a journey of discovery with various experience areas.

#### Photos:

**Left:** Experience nature at HAUS AM SEE | **Right:** Nature on Düben Heath | **Small photo:** Osprey with its prey



# Experience...

## ...the Anhalt-Dessau-Wittenberg World Heritage region with the WelterbeCard

Discover a unique region in the heart of Germany! We invite you to discover the region, steeped in tradition, between Anhalt, the Bauhaus of Dessau, the World Heritage sites and Wittenberg and the witnesses to industrial and mining history in Bitterfeld-Wolfen with the WelterbeCard – with a multitude of tourist attractions.

**WelterbeRegion  
Anhalt-Dessau-Wittenberg e. V.**

Neustraße 13  
06886 Lutherstadt Wittenberg  
Tel. 03491 402610

info@anhalt-dessau-wittenberg.de  
www.anhalt-dessau-wittenberg.de



Photo: Active in bikes along the Elbe





### WelterbeCard

Discover the region with a WelterbeCard – optionally as a 24-hour or 3-day card – on our itineraries or choose the stops on your journey for yourself as the fancy takes you. Points of sale, current prices (peak and off season) and other information can be found at:

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

### Our discovery routes

Are you on the hunt for the extraordinary, fun for the whole family and exciting hours that you won't forget in a hurry? You can find a multitude of tourist offerings in art, culture, nature and leisure on the discovery routes in and around Köthen (Anhalt), Bitterfeld-Wolfen and Zerbst/Anhalt.





**You can reach us quickly:  
By car from**

- Berlin in approx. 2 hrs.
- Dresden in approx. 2 hrs.
- Hamburg in approx. 4 hrs.
- Hanover in approx. 2.5 hrs.
- Cologne in approx. 5.5 hrs.
- Magdeburg in approx. 1 hrs.
- Munich in approx. 5 hrs.
- Leipzig in approx. 1 hrs.
- Erfurt in approx. 2 hrs.
- Rostock in approx. 4 hrs.
- Stuttgart in approx. 5.5 hrs.
- Bremen in approx. 3.5 hrs.

**...and even more quickly by  
train.**



# CONTACT

## City of Zerbst/Anhalt

### City of Zerbst/Anhalt Tourist Information

Markt 11, 39261 Zerbst/Anhalt  
Tel. 03923 760178 | [www.stadt-zerbst.de](http://www.stadt-zerbst.de)  
[zentrale@touristinfo-zerbst.de](mailto:zentrale@touristinfo-zerbst.de)

## City of Köthen (Anhalt)

### Köthen Information Centre at Köthen Castle

Schlossplatz 5, 06366 Köthen (Anhalt)  
Tel. 03496 70099260 | [www.bachstadt-koethen.de](http://www.bachstadt-koethen.de)  
[koethen-information@bachstadt-koethen.de](mailto:koethen-information@bachstadt-koethen.de)

## City of Bitterfeld-Wolfen

### Bitterfeld-Wolfen City and Tourist Information Centre

Markt 07, OT Bitterfeld, 06749 Bitterfeld-Wolfen  
Tel. 03494 6660-317 | [tourismus@bitterfeld-wolfen.de](mailto:tourismus@bitterfeld-wolfen.de)  
[www.bitterfeld-wolfen.de](http://www.bitterfeld-wolfen.de)

## District of Anhalt-Bitterfeld

### Department for Economic Development, Marketing and Public Transport

Am Flugplatz 1, 06366 Köthen (Anhalt)  
Tel. 03493 341800 | [info.a80@anhalt-bitterfeld.de](mailto:info.a80@anhalt-bitterfeld.de)  
[www.anhalt-bitterfeld.de](http://www.anhalt-bitterfeld.de)

## Legal disclaimer

**Concept, layout & printing:** Druckhaus Dessau GmbH | Askanische Straße 107 | 06842 Dessau-Roßlau |  
Tel. 0340 25322-0 | [info@druckhaus-dessau.de](mailto:info@druckhaus-dessau.de) | [www.druckhaus-dessau.de](http://www.druckhaus-dessau.de)

**Translation:** Wolpert Schulungszentrum - inlingua Sprachschule Halle GmbH | branch office Dessau | Franzstraße 85 | 06842 Dessau-Roßlau |  
Tel. 0340 260 2611 | [info@inlingua-dessau.de](mailto:info@inlingua-dessau.de) | [www.inlingua-dessau.de](http://www.inlingua-dessau.de)

**Version:** November 2020 (1st edition)

## Image credits

Artalis-Kartographie — stock.adobe.com: page 62 | H. Rebsch: title; page 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 38, 43, 47, 49, 51, 54, 58 and 63 | C. Ratzel: title; page 4, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28 and 41 | U. Hippe: title; page 63 | Förderverein Schloss Zerbst e. V.: page 6 | Fotostudio Schlegel: page 7 | M. Jank: page 16, 49 and 57 | Dr. F. -M. Eppert: page 56 and 59 | A. Freudenreich: title; page 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 28, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 42, 43, 47, 48, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 57 and 59 | Magdeburger Tourismusverband Elbe-Börde-Heide e. V.: page 39, 40, 41, 44, 45, 46 and 60 | G. Röber: page 45 | Förderverein Irrgarten Altjeßnitz e. V.: page 51 | T. Beer: page 55

Magdeburg

Zerbst/  
Anhalt

Köthen  
(Anhalt)

Bitterfeld-  
Wolfen

Leipzig







We thank the District of Anhalt-Bitterfeld for their support.

District of Anhalt-Bitterfeld  
Economic Development, Marketing and Public Transport



[www.anhalt-bitterfeld.de](http://www.anhalt-bitterfeld.de)

