



GERMAN FAIRY TALE ROUTE

A selection of press releases from some of our cities

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Additional information for the editors:

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BAD KARLSHAFEN

The baroque town of Bad Karlshafen and its more than one thousand year old neighbour Helmarshausen combine a unique history, unspoilt nature and modern spa and wellness offers.

The two towns are looking back upon more than one thousand years of moving history. Timber-framed houses make up the image of the small town of Helmarshausen and the old buildings of the former abbey are the dumb witnesses of its artistic and economical heyday. High above the valley, the medieval Krukenburg already inspired the brothers Grimm to make the *Legend of the Giant Kruko* part of their collection. Even today, the castle and its keep, that offers a great view upon Reinhardswald Nature Park, is a popular sight. The former importance of Helmarshausen Abbey can be traced back in the towns local museum. At the end of the twelfth century, Henry the Lion's Gospel was produced here and is still considered the main work of Romanesque book art today. Facsimile reproductions of individual pages can be viewed and displays of colour and parchment production complete the exhibition.

Along both sides of the harbour, the architectural clarity of the white painted city blocks, the prestigious town hall with glockenspiel, the customs house and the former Thurn and Taxis post office make up the distinctive look of Bad Karlshafen. A modern lockage allows small boats or yachts and canoes to come into the baroque harbour. In the middle of the historic town centre, the Deutsches Hugenottenmuseum portrays the history of the town's first residents who were French religious refugees, called Huguenots. The Hugenottenturm, a viewpoint from which you can see the whole town, lies only a short walk from the city centre.

Karlshafen carries the title "Bad" since 1977. However, the curative salt water is used since 1838 in order to alleviate the sufferings from skin, joint and respiratory diseases. Today, everyone can visit the Weser-Therme, which lies right at the river bank, for relief or during a wellness retreat. One highlight: the water that springs from the saltiest spring all over Hesse can be drawn from a tap and taken home for further treatment.

Conveniently located between Solling-Vogler and Reinhardswald Nature Parks, both towns are ideal starting points for hikers and nature lovers, who seek rest and relaxation in the dense forests all around. The bike paths along the rivers Diemel and Weser as well as thematic cycle routes invite cyclists to explore the river valleys.

Riverboat tours on the Weser allow visitors to change their perspective on the landscape. From Bad Karlshafen regular tours as well as scheduled services and event trips are possible. High above the Hannoversche Klippen, the Weser skywalk makes you “float” above cliffs and water and allows for a wide view across the Weser valley.

Not only because of the legendary Krukenburg is Bad Karlshafen part of the German Fairy Tale Route. As it happens, Ludwig Emil Grimm, a brother of the famous Grimms, lived in Weserstraße 19 for some time. Today, the tourist information centre is located here and provides information on guided tours (costume tours), concerts, markets and events that take place in Bad Karlshafen or Helmarshausen.

Further information:

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BAD-OEYNHAUSEN culture and quality of life
between the Weser and Werre rivers



Bad Oeynhausen. Where the Weser and Werre meet, where the brine bubbles out of the ground and the Wiehengebirge rises, lies Bad Oeynhau-sen. The spa town is characterised by impressive historical spa architecture and a varied cultural life. The surrounding area is a destination for active holidaymakers from all over Germany with its well-known cycle paths and hiking trails.

The spa gardens - the heart of the town

If you are looking for the centre of town, you will find the spa gardens. Where elsewhere the market square forms the centre, in Bad Oeynhausen there is this green oasis of about 26 hectares. It is evidence of a sophisticated spa and bathing world and sends visitors on a journey through the history of architecture. The bathhouses in ancient and Renaissance styles, the Theater im Park in rococo style, the classicist Wandelhalle, or the German Fairy Tale Museum are just a few of the buildings that make the park popularly known as the "architecture museum of the 19th century".

Culture and quality of life

Rousing festivals and culture are in the spa town's genes: Emperor Wilhelm II, Gustav Stresemann and the Sultan of Zanzibar once stayed in fashionable Bad Oeynhausen and indulged in the good life at night in the royal spa theatre or Walther and Molly Monroe's variety theatre, which was famous throughout Germany at the time. To this day, the town has not forgotten the dolce vita. This is demonstrated by the many open-air events that make Bad Oeynhausen a cultural hotspot in the region during the sunny months. Between April and October you can enjoy top international sport at the Championships of Professional Riders, the *Parklichter* transform the Kurpark into a breathtaking sea of lights and at the Diner en Blanc you can experience culinary extravaganzas in the open air.

History and culture have left their mark on the region. The Kaiser Wilhelm Monument at Porta Westfalica is a reminder of the eventful history of the past two centuries. Bad Oeynhausen is also part of the German Fairy Tale Route. Along its course you can discover romantic places like the Pied Piper town of Hameln or the old fortress town of Rinteln. Everywhere you can still discover architectural monuments of the Weser Renaissance from the 16th and 17th centuries.

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BREMEN



A fairy tale city with a cosmopolitan outlook

The Hanseatic city of Bremen will entrance you with its history and its stories

"Oh là là, les musiciens de Brême!", "Oh, look, it's the Bremen Town Musicians!" "Olé, los músicos de Bremen!" The babble of languages you'll hear around the bronze Town Musicians statue by Bremen's City Hall is truly international.

Stopping off in this historic Hanseatic city is an essential part of any journey along German's Fairy Tale Route. A recent study revealed that Bremen is known throughout the world for its Town Musicians, who are even more famous than SV Werder Bremen's strikers or the River Weser, which is the lifeblood of the city. A study carried out by the University of Bremen in 2013 discovered that forty percent of the respondents mentioned the Town Musicians as the first thing they associated with Bremen.

Bremen is ... well, what exactly? "Cosmopolitan", say the locals. "And green", according to others. "It's urban and has a lot of charm" ... It seems like this metropolis on the banks of the Weser has as many faces as the Town Musicians.

Bremen is ... historic

1,200 years of tradition and open-mindedness have left their stamp on Bremen, the Hanseatic city on the River Weser.

This old trading city, with its historic centre located around the market square, exudes the flair of a youthful metropolis. However, if you simply keep your eyes open, the many relics of the city's long history will take you on a voyage back through time to discover a treasure trove of fascinating tales.

The magnificent Weser Renaissance-style Rathaus (Town Hall) and the noble figure of Roland in the historic marketplace have stood unchanged through the centuries. Since 1404, they have embodied the desire of Bremen's citizens for independence. Although the Rathaus and the Roland statue are a World Heritage Site and enjoy UNESCO protection, you would also find it hard to match the Schnoor – Bremen's oldest district – , the Böttcherstraße's eclectic traditional architecture or the Bremer Dom (Bremen Cathedral).

And, of course, this is where you'll find the world-famous figures of the Bremen Town Musicians from Grimm's Fairy Tales. Their best-known depiction, apart from the "real" Town Musicians themselves, is the bronze statue by the sculptor Gerhard Marcks on the west side of the Town Hall.

Additional information for the editors:

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Fairy tale journey to the

MUSEUM SCHLOSS FÜRSTENBERG



Fürstenberg, in 2021: “once upon a time...” – this is how all fairy tales begin, before they go on to transport the listeners to bygone times and far-off countries. And it’s no different at Fürstenberg: the knight’s castle, the ducal hunting lodge, the almost legendary foundation of the porcelain manufactory. Whereas other fairy tales end with a princess riding off into the distance with her prince – and they lived happily ever after – at Fürstenberg things go on and on. The porcelain manufactory and castle estate are a place of modern fairy tales, where visitors can dream of the festive tables of bygone days surrounded by “white gold” and be enchanted by the living craftsmanship.

The location in the midst of the Weser Uplands, in the former border post and hunting lodge of the Brunswick dukes, is fabulously beautiful. Visitors have wonderful panoramic views of the Weser valley and the border triangle from the viewing platform 80 metres above the Weser River. The courtyard, which is fully accessible, offers a number of “historic windows” with interesting information on the history of the castle and the manufactory.

The castle’s modern museum tells the story of, among other things, the development of dining culture in a journey through time, from the beginning of the FÜRSTENBERG porcelain manufactory in the middle of the 18th century and continues through the various epochs and styles. Visitors will find valuable single items and design icons, learn about the background of porcelain production, and can even try various things for themselves. As soon as they enter the impressive staircase, visitors are captivated by this modern museum world. The multimedia exhibition encourages interaction by means of the hands-on exhibits, where touching is not only permitted but most expressly desired.

Situated in one of the oldest rooms in the castle, the display room is the museum’s treasure chamber. An enormous glass cube fills the room, holding thousands of pieces of porcelain. Whether valuable 18th century figurines, intriguing 19th century utensils or rare 20th century design icons, the display room offers a true *theatrum porcellanum*. The display room is also home to the famous Reichmann collection, which is one of the most outstanding collections of very early FÜRSTENBERG porcelain.

The Visitors' Workshop attaches great importance to visitor participation and experimentation. There are four workstations where manufactory staff show the secrets of their craftsmanship. Here, visitors can learn how a handle is attached to a cup, how a figurine is poured, or how a complicated open-work basket is created. It is also where the pattern techniques are most impressively demonstrated, illustrating how elaborate modern print decorations are applied to the porcelain, and how fabulous works of art are created using traditional hand painting methods. In the Visitors' Workshop, those who wish can even take up brush and paint themselves and design their very own version of a porcelain souvenir under the guidance of the porcelain painters.

The museum offers a number of exciting programmes especially for families during the holiday season: the museum educator Isabel Pagalies takes families on a child-friendly journey into the world of porcelain. The programme starts with an entertaining guided tour of the museum, during which the visitors find out all sorts of exciting things about the castle, the FÜRSTENBERG porcelain manufactory and the production of the so-called "white gold". Then it's down to business in the Visitors' Workshop, because that's where visitors are shown how porcelain is actually made – and what's more, can try it out for themselves. Finally, things get really creative when they are invited to take up paint and brushes and decorate a genuine FÜRSTENBERG plate themselves.

A visit to the Manufactory Outlet is highly recommended, as this is where visitors can explore the elegant art of sophisticated dining and find inspiration for their own homes. In the special surroundings of the former production facility of the porcelain manufactory you'll find not only the world's largest specialist retailer for FÜRSTENBERG porcelain in terms of floorspace, but also the only one with the complete FÜRSTENBERG collection. Exclusive table linen and high-quality accessories complete the range.

And when it's time for a culinary break, we recommend the team at BISTRO CARL, where visitors will find modern fresh bistro cuisine, which is always varied, regional and seasonal. The home-made cakes and gateaux, together with the matching coffee specialities, are most definitely not to be missed. All served, naturally, on FÜRSTENBERG porcelain. A beer garden under shady old trees overlooking the Weser is the perfect spot for relaxation.

Find out more about the MUSEUM SCHLOSS FÜRSTENBERG at:

www.fuerstenberg-schloss.com

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Experience history in GELNHAUSEN



The city of Gelnhausen, once the seat of the Staufer Emperor Friedrich I, "Barbarossa" (Red beard), is located in southeast Hesse. It is halfway between Frankfurt am Main and Fulda and in close proximity to the forests of Spessart and Vogelsberg.

Founded in 1170 the city is proud to look back on more 850 years of Gelnhausen. You can truly feel the history on every corner of the old town center. Cobbled streets not only lead to countless lovely restored half-timbered houses but also to numerous sights from the past centuries.

One of the most iconic site of Gelnhausen is the magnificent **St. Marys church** which was built between 1170 and 1250 under the patronage of the monastery of Selbold. Situated on the site of a small one-nave church, it grew over five building stages to become "the Crown Jewel of God" – as it is known in Gelnhausen.

In the late 12th century the town's founder, the Emperor Frederic Barbarossa, ordered the construction of his **Imperial palace** on an island in the river Kinzig. Today the remains are considered the best-preserved palace of the Staufer dynasty. The powerful walls rest on a bed of approximately 12,000 oak stakes. The portal, the well-preserved window arcades, the magnificent frieze and the wonderful capitals still bear witness to the outstanding quality of its Romanesque architecture.

The "**Witches' tower**" is a late medieval fortification tower which was originally used as an ammunition store. It was renamed from "Grimace Stone" to "Witches' Tower" because it served as a prison during the time of the witch trials. Today it houses a collection of copies of torture instruments.

These are just a few iconic buildings – but there is so much more to see! The Catholic Church of St. Peter, the former synagogue, the inner wooden gate, the Romanesque House, picturesque market squares and many more sights are waiting for everyone who wants to dive into history! Gelnhausen can be explored with on a classic guided tour with an English-speaking tour guide or on a QR-code based city walk.

As part of the German fairytale route Gelnhausen is not only the place to be for history fans but also for everyone who wants to feel like the hero of their own fairytale: With an action pack rented from tourist information visitors can dive into the world of a little goblin and save Gelnhausen by solving riddles and finding hidden clues in the old town.

For those who have ever dreamed of ruling their own city a throne is located in the city garden with an impressive view of Gelnhausen. The perfect spot for a picture that will always be reminder of a visit to the beautiful city of Gelnhausen!

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Roland Adrian

An English speaking landingpage is currently being built – soon more information for visitors can be found on: www.gelnhausen.de/english

GÖTTINGEN – the green Grimm City

in the Middle of Germany



Culture and science, half-timbered houses and nature, cafés and sustainable shopping – Göttingen has it all. In Lower Saxony's oldest university town, international research meets a lively pub culture and green inner-city oases meet the annual jazz festival. The Brothers Grimm were drawn to the renowned Georgia Augusta University, which shapes life and work in the city to this day. Göttingen – City of Knowledge – nomen est omen.

Perfect for a Day Trip: Medieval Architecture, Theatres and a Botanical Garden

For tourists, almost everything in Göttingen is within easy walking distance. Many of the most important sights are located directly in the heart of the historic city. The Old Town Hall, together with the market square in front of it and the statue of the Gänseliesel, the most kissed girl in the world, form Göttingen's centre. From here, other highlights of the old town such as St. John's Church, the medieval Junkernschänke, the Great Hall of the university on Wilhelmsplatz as well as the Deutsche Theater are within easy reach. For some time in green surroundings, a walk along the historic Stadtwall, the ramparts, circling the city centre or a detour to the Old Botanical Garden is perfect. A visit to a cosy café or one of the many restaurants in the old town rounds off a day in Göttingen.

Music, Culture and Festivals

There is something going on in Göttingen all year round. The city is known nationwide for the International Handel Festival and renowned festivals such as the NDR 2 Soundcheck Festival, the Göttingen Jazz Festival and the Literaturherbst. An annual highlight is the Night of Culture, in which stages for live music and cabaret are set up throughout the city centre. In winter, the Christmas market attracts visitors to the university city. Independent of the big events, Göttingen also offers an exciting and varied nightlife in addition to theatres, literature, art and live music. It is not without reason that Göttingen's quaint student pubs in the side streets are legendary.

Göttingen for fans of fairy tales: the Brothers Grimm

The lives and works of the brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm are closely linked to Göttingen. From 1829 to 1837 they taught as professors at the Georgia Augusta University. In addition to their teaching activities, the brothers completed a large number of publications in Göttingen, including the “German Mythology” and the third edition of the famous “Children’s and Household Tales”.

Anyone visiting Göttingen as a Grimm fan can pay a visit to the brothers’ former residence at Goetheallee 6. Although the original building has been demolished, a memorial plaque commemorates their life in Göttingen. Anyone who is enthusiastic about the work of the fairytale collectors should definitely visit the Pauliner Church. It houses the historic library where the brothers pursued their work as librarians.

The Life of the Brothers Grimm in Göttingen: Protest and Remembrance

In 1837, the Grimm brothers, together with five other professors (the famous “Göttingen Seven”), signed a letter of protest against a breach of the constitution by King Ernst August I of Hanover. This protest had harsh consequences: they were dismissed from their posts at Göttingen University and Jacob Grimm was even expelled from the country. Nevertheless, the action of the “Göttingen Seven” attracted attention throughout Germany. In 1848, the Grimm brothers and others of their Göttingen comrades-in-arms became members of the Frankfurt National Assembly.

The protest of the Brothers Grimm and their comrades-in-arms is still present in the cityscape today. The artwork “Dem Landesvater seine Göttinger Sieben” by the artist Christiane Möbus is located directly on the station forecourt. In addition, a monument by the writer and sculptor Günter Grass and his publisher Gerhard Steidl commemorates the seven Göttingen professors. The sculpture consists of the letter “G” and the number “7” and stands on the campus of the Georgia Augusta University, the “Platz der Göttinger Sieben”.

Discover Göttingen: Exiting City Tours for Families and Groups

In keeping with Göttingen’s status as part of the German Fairytale Route, the Göttingen Tourist Information offers the city tour “In the Footsteps of the Brothers Grimm”. Groups can register for the tour in advance. In addition, visitor groups can choose from more than 40 other themed tours to get to know the diversity of the city.

Sustainable Travel thanks to central Location

Göttingen is located in the middle of Germany and, thanks to its excellent infrastructure, can be reached easily, quickly and in an environmentally friendly manner by public transport from all directions. Göttingen’s retail and gastronomy sectors are also increasingly focusing on sustainable concepts.

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HAMELIN



Hamelin town is found amidst the gentle hills of the Weser Mountains Region. Along the Weser River, between Cinderella and the Lying Baron Muenchhausen, the German Fairy-tale Route's darkest fellow can be found – The Pied Piper. He lures more than a million tourists to Hameln each year; some to hear his inimitable charm, others to admire the magnificent old town of Hamelin.

A walk through the Old Town overwhelms the visitor with Hameln's unique flavour. The pedestrian area with busy shopping streets and the pompous Weser Renaissance buildings invites you to linger. The side alleyways – twisted, quiet and romantic – are full of affectionately restored half-timber houses and a tip for the curious explorer. Beginning in last century, the Old Town was restored, making it into a great architectural monument of international renown. Known as the jewel of the Weser Renaissance, the wood carved faces and masks, gold inscriptions and colourfully decorated facades inspire even the most jaded critics. The centre of the town is full of this glory on every corner.

Extraordinary architecture with an extraordinary tale. The handwriting is on the wall. On the Rat-Catcher's House for example, with its inscription about the loss of the Hameln children, the Dempster-House of 1607 and the Leisthaus of 1589, along with two medieval guard towers just begin to tell the centuries-old story of this town of 60,000. The Pied Piper tale made the city world-famous. Wealth was gained due to trade on the river. The well-seated businessmen then erected the ostentatious houses, making the town an architectural jewel. Although the city-centre appears to be a single large museum, it thrives as the crossing point of the town.

The Horsemarket is pivotal point on which the Osterstrasse and Baeckerstrasse promenades angle. It is here that the Pied Piper Open-Air Play goes on stage every Sunday at noon in the summertime. Some 70 amateur actors show guests the tragic loss of the Hameln children from 1284. The drama about keeping your word runs half an hour and admission is free. On summer Wednesdays, at 4:30pm, the inclined visitor may admire the humorous "RATS" Musical. Forty minutes of charming songs that run the gamut from Waltz to Marches, Ballads and Rap. Throughout the year, the Pied Piper does his rounds as a Glockenspiel with clockwork figures on the gable of the Hochzeitshaus at 1:05, 3:35 and 5:35pm.

Things are liveliest when the world famous Pied Piper appears for a tour in person. Then guests are themselves led off through the town by his enchanting sounds. Medieval Hameln charms even without the Piper. Guided tours in historical costume to the Renaissance era are offered as well as "Hangmen, Harlots and Hoodlums" that meet you in the dark of night. Certain tours are available in various languages.

Hamelin, as the economic, cultural and touristic centre of the Weser Mountains Region, offers attractive shopping. A visitor to the Shopping-Galerie on the Horsemarket finds 90 shops under one roof. Perhaps a stroll through the pedestrian areas or the side-streets will reveal quaint shops with an individual selection, amid the half-timbered houses, bed and breakfasts, hotels and restaurants. What luck that the town has such a diversity of countryside. In any direction you may find tours for hiking, cycling, boating and even ships! Just outside the old walls is the quay, where the riverboats dock in the summer.

Further information to include additional events and culture, may be found at the:

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HOLZMINDEN

a city for all senses



Holzminden was founded around 1200 by the counts of Everstein next to their castle at the River Weser. The city was destroyed during the Thirty Years War. In the 18th century it experienced an upswing by establishing of the ironworks and other branches of industry. In 1831 one of the oldest technical schools for builders in Germany was founded (today: HAWK).

Today Holzminden is an industry location for globally acting and well known enterprises. Examples are Stiebel Eltron, Müller+Müller and Owen-Illinois, as well as Symrise, who make Holzminden the centre of the fragrance and flavour industry.

There are many ways to discover our city at the Weser. From time to time you should close your eyes to explore Holzminden with all your senses. Follow the scents in the city, enjoy the regional culinary treats and breathe the fresh air in the heart of the Weser Uplands. These ten highlights make up a good starting point:

Explore the city by nose with our fragrant city tour

Holzminden has a rich history of fragrances and even today you are in permanent contact with the scents and aromas of our city at the Weser. "Follow your nose" to reach the interesting sights of the city. Allow for a stop at the *Reichspräsidentenhaus* (House of Presidents) and listen to the *Glockenspiel* (carillon) with *Meisterumzug* (procession of the master craftsmen) daily at 9, 12, 15 and 18 o'clock.

[Discover the city by nose: Public city tour every Saturday, April till October, 11:00 o'clock. Meeting point: Markt 2]

Relax at one of the most beautiful marketplaces in Germany

Surrounded by plane-trees the heart of the town evokes a Mediterranean flair in Central Germany. Enjoy the offers of our gastronomy and listen to our free summer concerts on the marketplace from July to August. In the winter you are invited to the Christmas market with charming huts and funny ice skating.

Enjoy regional products at the weekly market and the diverse market of fragrance and flavours

The weekly market offers a special atmosphere at the marketplace every Wednesday and Saturday from 8 – 14 o'clock. The diverse market of fragrance and flavours takes place on selected dates. On these days the whole city centre smells full of delicacies and regional products. We invite you to share this unique experience!

Enjoy the summer at the open-air bath near the Weser or by playing boules at the garden of fragrances

The green oases of the city tempt you to stay and relax. Whether you loiter along the pier of the Weser, take a rest at the ponds or bath in the sun at the open-air pool, just go with the flow. If you prefer to be active you may borrow a set of boules at the tourist information (Markt 2) and play at the shores of the Weser.

Experience the region up close during a tour to the brewery Allersheim

This exclusive insight is not just an event for friends of beer. Visit the heart of the brewery, the *Sudhaus*, and observe the master brewers at work. Finally you may enjoy a cold beverage or two, offered by the brewery Allersheim in the quaint *Urpilskeller* together with a snack. www.brauerei-allersheim.de

Train your tounge with delight at the seminars for scents and aromas

We open the doors for 11 sensual topics from the world of scents and aromas in our gatehouse (*Torhaus am Katzensprung*). Create your own perfume, become a wine connoisseur and dive into the secrets of the coffee bean.

Become an adventurer in the mine Holzminden

Puzzle in the pit to find the exit of this unique escape room. An adventure for groups of at least 5 that you will remember. www.bergwerk-holzminden.de

Get lost in great blockbusters at the cinema Roxy-Kino Holzminden

Lean back, stretch out your legs and enjoy great movies in four comfortable rooms. Not only attractive on rainy days. www.kino-holzminden.de

Join events in the hall of Holzminden

Whether it be concerts, theatre, fairs or parties; the hall provides for everybody. www.stadtmarketing-holzminden.de

Feel the nature in the Solling-Vogler region

Be it a bike trip on the *Weserradweg* (cycle path), canoeing, visits of castles or magic moments along the *Märchenstraße* (fairytale road), there are almost unlimited recreational

facilities in the Solling-Vogler Nature Park deep in the heart of the Weser Uplands. Particularly nature enthusiasts and hikers will enjoy the nearby Hochsolling. Experience the forest and game at the preserve in Neuhaus. www.solling-vogler-region.de

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In the middle of the German Fairy Tale Route lies Kassel - the city where Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm lived and worked for more than 30 years.

The memory of the two brothers and their work on the Children's and Household Tales is very much alive here in Northern Hesse and is supported by a broad, municipal commitment. The GRIMMWELT Kassel as one of the most modern exhibition buildings in Germany makes the importance of the Brothers Grimm for Kassel visible far beyond the city and state borders since its opening in 2015. Here, the Grimms and their work as linguists and fairy tale collectors can be experienced artistically, medially and interactively. The exhibition house, which has won several awards, has quickly become a center of attraction for children and senior citizens, families and school classes, experts and laypeople, art and language enthusiasts, and fairy tale lovers from all over the world.

Among the most valuable exhibits at GRIMMWELT Kassel are Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm's personal working copies, the so-called "Handexemplare", of the famous Children's and Household Tales, which are now listed by UNESCO as part of the Memory of the World. Grimm's fairy tales have been published in billions of copies since their first editions in 1812 and 1815, have been translated into the languages of all continents and have accompanied generations of children all over the world.

The central Brothers Grimm Square, on the other hand, is an excellent starting point for a long walk in the footsteps of Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm's time in Kassel, and in summer the Grimm Festival on the lake stage in Schönefeld Park invites visitors to experience inspiring musical productions of the Grimm fairy tales.

Besides the Grimms, their fairy tales and their history, there is also a lot of culture to discover between Hercules and the banks of the Fulda. In addition to the documenta, which takes place every five years and is the world's most important exhibition of contemporary art, the high density of high-quality museums and exhibition halls contributes to this to a great extent. Examples include the Fridericianum, the oldest museum on the European continent, the Ottoneum, today's natural history museum, the oldest theatre building in Germany, and Wilhelmshöhe Palace with its impressive collection of Old Masters. Exceptional special museums such as the Museum of Sepulchral Culture or the gallery of comic art, the Caricatura, also contribute to the attractiveness of Kassel's museum landscape.

Kassel also offers top-class theatre, opera, concert and dance experiences for young as well as experienced audiences with the State Theatre as a 4-division house. Music plays an important role in Kassel: The Theaterstübchen, one of Germany's most important jazz

clubs, is located in Northern Hesse, and in the summer, the Kulturzelt (Culture Tent) attracts thousands of guests to the banks of the Fulda near the wire bridge.

In Kassel, cultural experiments can also become success stories steeped in tradition: In 1999, Kassel was one of the first German cities to hold a museum night, which to this day brings tens of thousands of people together every first weekend in September for a special cultural experience. The joy of experimentation and the appreciation for the new also characterizes Kassel's independent cultural scenes, which provide important impulses in the areas of dance, music, theatre, visual arts, film and literature and thus play a significant role in shaping the cultural diversity of our city.

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Fabulous from A to Z

In the GRIMM WORLD Kassel visitors can follow the traces left by the famous fairy tale collectors and linguists Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm. After its opening in 2015, the exhibition centre was selected by the British newspaper "The Guardian" as one of the ten "best new museums" in the world, and numerous other awards followed. The exhibition uses a wide range of modern techniques in order to present the Grimms' fairy tales in an instructive, exciting and interactive way. In Grandmother's bed, the wolf waits for Little Red Riding Hood to come visiting, the witch's gingerbread house from "Hansel and Gretel" captivates both young and old, while the Talking Mirror gives the visitors surprising answers.

UNESCO Memory of the World document

In the treasure chamber of the permanent exhibition, valuable originals are on show, for example the first edition of the *Children's and Household Tales*. The Grimm brothers' personal working copies of the fairy tales with their handwritten notes from 1812/1815 were registered in the UNESCO "Memory of the World" in 2005. Wilhelm Grimm in particular used these editions with a specially wide margin for his revision of the first versions, crossing out the coarse passages or obscenities and making the fairy tales more suitable for children and also more educational.

World of Words

The World of Words illustrates the extensive linguistic research of the Grimm brothers. In the section on the “German Dictionary”, also known as “the Grimm”, visitors can study fantastic scenes made of paper and experience the genesis of this monumental work. After it was started in 1838, it not only occupied the Grimms for a long period of their lives. Together with a large network of correspondents, Jacob and Wilhelm worked on it up to the letter F. The project was not completed until 1961, after 123 years: 33 bound volumes, 67,744 columns of text, roughly 320,000 keywords and weighing 84 kilograms. At the same time, revision began, and was finally followed by digitalisation. The “swear word exchanger” in the World of Words is one of many installations which bridge the gap between the age of the Grimms and the present day. Children especially enjoy this demonstration of the liveliness of language: when they shout rude words into the outsized funnel, it replies with an old-fashioned expletive taken from the 19th century.

Interactive exhibition for discovery and experience

The exhibition is structured like a glossary. Words from the German dictionary guide the visitors on their way. A total of 25 subject areas can be explored: from Z for Zettel (slips of paper) to Ä for Ärschlein (little arse). Interactive display formats and historical exhibits make the GRIMM WORLD a place of learning, discovery and active experience. On 1,300 m² and two levels, the permanent exhibition "Fabulous from A to Z" presents the many-sided work of Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm as well as their social and political life. The works of their younger brother

Ludwig Emil Grimm, who was a painter, draftsman and the family chronicler, provide further insights. With the narrative structure of the different areas, the GRIMM WORLD departs from the usual historical-chronological forms of presentation and offers the visitors a variety of cross-references and associations on the basis of its spatial narrative structure. This design corresponds to the working methods of the brothers themselves, who conducted their research by collecting and organising, unafraid of leaving gaps and continually moving into new fields of learning. The GRIMM WORLD takes account of this approach by reserving an area of about 300 square metres for regular temporary exhibitions. Here lesser known aspects of their universe are highlighted with room for new findings and discussions.

Distinctions and prizes

At the end of 2015, the English newspaper "The Guardian" included the GRIMM WORLD in the list of the world's ten "best new museums". In an online poll by the architecture magazine "German Architects" the GRIMM WORLD took first place as "Building of the Year 2015". The Condé Nast Traveler refers to the GRIMM WORLD in 2015 under the heading "10 Biggest Museum Openings of the Year: The fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm come to life at this new family-centric museum, built in the authors' hometown of Kassel". The Internet search engine "Yahoo" recommended Kassel with the GRIMM WORLD as one of 16 Must-Visit-Places in 2016. The marketing prize "German Brand Award 2016" went to the GRIMM WORLD, and it also received the polis Award 2016 for urban and real estate development in the category "liveable open space". In the autumn of 2016 the German Town Planning Awards gave a "commendation" to the Weinberg landscape and the successful integration of the GRIMM WORLD into it. Under the heading "best summer trips 2016" the National Geographic writes: "Kassel, home of the new GRIMMWELT (Grimm World Museum), is known as the capital of the German Fairy Tale Route". In January 2017 the GRIMM WORLD was awarded a special prize by the

GrimmHeimat NordHessen as part of the tourism prize 2017. In 2017 it was awarded the 12th North Hessian Marketing Prize of the Nord Hessian Marketing Club. It was given a "Special Mention" at the "German Brand Award 2017" as an employer brand in the category "Excellence in Brand Strategy, Management and Creation".

In Mai 2020 the Art Directors Club (ADC) awarded the so far most successful GRIMMWELT- Exhibition »FINSTERWALD« in with gold in the category »Exhibition Experience«, in November 2019 the Deutsche Designer Club awarded the exhibition in the competition »Gute Gestaltung 2019« with bronze in the category »Spaces«.

Quotation and photo material on request

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KAUFUNGEN

Experience **CULTURE** and **NATURE**



It all began in 1011...

...with the first historical reference to Kaufungen as a royal court by the name of "Coufunga". This is where Emperor Henry II and his queen, Kunigunde, founded a Benedictine convent in 1017.

Following the death of Henry II, Kunigunde entered the convent where she lived until she died in 1033. All that remains of the convent within the monastery complex in Oberkaufungen are the former dormitory, St George's Chapel and the Holy Cross Abbey "Stiftskirche", today's parish church, perched high above the Losse river valley. The imposing building with a plain exterior constructed by Emperor Henry II was originally a Roman basilica. Gothic elements were added later. A tour of the monastery complex reveals the enduring and far-reaching historical importance of Kaufungen. The architectural ensemble is a listed building and is constantly maintained and preserved.

In 1527, all convents in Hesse were dissolved as part of the Reformation. The convent in Kaufungen was taken over by the "Althessische Ritterschaft" (Old Hessian Knighthood) in 1532 and became a monastery. It is the oldest monastery in Hesse and is still used by the "Althessische Ritterschaft" for charitable funding purposes.

In addition to the large church, the "Zehntscheune" (an old barn), the manor house, an administrative building and an old lime tree also characterise the imposing monastery courtyard.

Below the monastery complex located on a hill, well-kept half-timbered houses are nestled closely together in the historic village centre of Oberkaufungen. Picturesque squares, unusual perspectives and narrow, historic streets invite visitors to explore. Prominent buildings feature small notice boards, providing information about their former uses. Gemeinde Kaufungen offers themed and public guided tours. Beautiful, well-maintained village squares and green oases along the Losse river provide quiet, relaxing areas for visitors to enjoy.

The former monastery complex is located opposite the parish church "Stiftskirche". The "Freiheimer Gemeinde" village community, which was independent until 1834, is directly behind the "Zehntscheune". This is still a densely populated area, without any gardens.

Experience everyday life as it was back then in the "Alte Schule" regional museum

This municipal museum is housed in the former Oberkaufungen school dating back to 1842, where authentic scenes from the working environment, everyday life, agriculture, trade, industry and village life in the 19th and 20th centuries are presented in individual rooms over several floors. Also showcased are the topics that provided the vital impetus for the historic, economic and social development of the Kaufungen area. An intense look at the "good old days" makes this encounter with Kaufungen's everyday living and working environment a memorable experience for adults and children alike. Many seasonally alternating activities, primarily aimed at children, take place in the interactive area and museum garden. As an extra-curricular hands-on learning facility, the museum and interactive area have evolved into heavily used venues in Kaufungen's diverse cultural landscape.

Rare, industrial monuments

Kaufungen has a long tradition of trade and industry, as well as over 400 years of mining history. Lignite extraction was a major economic factor in Kaufungen until 1971. One of the buildings, part of the former Freudenthal mine, has survived: the "Rossgang". The "Göpelhaus" (a round building) and the "Zechenhaus" (pithead building) have been reconstructed by former miners and are now an impressive industrial monument from the 19th century in the form of a museum.

From 1870 to 1981, bricks and roof tiles were made in Kaufungen. After production was stopped in 1991, the striking architecture, furnaces and machines of the former Kaufungen "Ziegelei" (brickworks), which are still privately owned, were declared an industrial monument.

The monastery complex: a place with huge cultural appeal

Thanks to their charming atmosphere, the parish church "Stiftskirche", monastery courtyard and "Zehntscheune" are the scene of numerous events. The first-rate cultural programme of the "Kaufunger Stiftssommer", "Kaufunger Konzerte" and "Kultursommer Nordhessen", with performances by internationally renowned artists, attracts numerous visitors from near and far to this unique historical venue. Changing exhibitions and activities in the nearby regional museum, educational workshops for children in the interactive area and museum garden, guided tours, festivals and markets throughout the year have established the term "culture in Kaufungen" far beyond its borders.

From an opencast mine to a natural oasis: Steinertsee Park...

...is a valuable green area of around 30 hectares, including around 4.5 hectares of water, which also forms a link between the districts of Oberkaufungen and Niederkaufungen. The renaturation of the former lignite opencast mine began in the 1970s. The Losse and its mature trees are also integrated into this vast park landscape. Sustainable habitats for flora

and fauna have therefore been created, as well as an attractive leisure park with open spaces and quiet zones. This natural area is dominated by the lake "Steinertsee" with its shores, reed beds, marshes, hedgerows, fallow land, natural wetlands and fish breeding ponds. Well-tended hiking and cycling trails, bridleways, quiet, relaxing corners, benches and meadows, a railway-themed playground, BBQ and shelter (with fire pit) characterise the park's active recreational facilities. Sports fields and tennis courts, an equestrian centre, clubhouse and games room are located right next to the park.

Village character with special charm

It's worth taking a stroll through the historic centres of Niederkaufungen and Oberkaufungen at any time of the year. Quaint half-timbered buildings dominate the traditional village landscape. In Niederkaufungen, a small, late Gothic church stands in the old village centre.

Large courtyards with stables and barns are a feature of the present villagescape, as are narrow streets lined with half-timbered houses. Everything has been restored, lovingly maintained and the distinctive, rural character preserved, despite the modern infrastructure in the centre of both historic villages. Around every corner, there are exciting details to discover, bringing history back to life. Some half-timbered houses in Oberkaufungen bear witness to a past shaped by craftsmanship and trade. Several themed circular walks are marked and signposted.

Life beside and on the Losse river...

...which connects the districts of Oberkaufungen, Niederkaufungen and Papierfabrik (another part of Kaufungen). Running water was of central importance to the mining industry, brickworks, trade, numerous mills and sawmills in the Kaufungen district. Today, the historic dimensions of the seemingly leisurely flowing Losse are apparent when walking the "Eco-Pfad Mensch und Wasser in Kaufungen" (man and water in Kaufungen eco trail). At eight different stations, illustrated notice boards provide information about relics from the early days of industrialisation, as well as the economic use and subsequent renaturation of the river. As well as gaining knowledge of water management and supply in Kaufungen, you can also discover idyllic corners such as "Gänserammel" (a former geese place) and unusual features such as the dried-up mill ditch. The Losse gives its name to the valley that finishes in Kassel to the east, the Losse Valley. Landscape and culture have always been closely linked in this valley, which is around 30 kilometres long.

Lots of trails lead to and through Kaufungen

For hikers, cyclists and mountain bikers, the well-developed, signposted network of trails in Kaufungen is the ideal starting point for an excursion. There is a large variety of hiking and cycle paths: The "Märchenlandweg" (fairy tale trail), "GrimmSteig" (Brothers Grimm trail) or "Kassel-Steig" (Kassel trail), the "Herkules Wartburg" path (a cycle path from the Herkules monument to the Wartburg castle) or the "Lossetal Radweg" (Losse Valley cycle path). You

can choose between long-distance, circular or premium hiking trails in the “Geo-Naturpark Frau-Holle-Land”, there is something for everyone. A number of itineraries and suggested routes are available from Kaufungen Tourist Information, and information, links and timetables can be accessed 24/7 on the **www.kaufungen.eu** website. The TRAM connection between the Losse Valley and the city of Kassel makes Kaufungen highly attractive for day trippers and holidaymakers looking to experience culture and nature. Kassel, with its diverse museum landscape and the Bergpark Wilhelmshöhe UNESCO World Heritage Site, is quickly and easily accessible. The German Fairy Tale Route passes through Kaufungen, offering inspiring cultural and natural discovery tours in Kaufungen and the surrounding area. Our guests will find other interesting destinations at the birthplace of the Brothers Grimm in northern Hesse, between Bad Hersfeld, Edersee and Reinhardswald.

Welcome!

Kaufungen is a modern community with over 1,000 years of history. Nestled in the Losse Valley, surrounded by meadows and forests, just to the east of the gates of the city of Kassel in northern Hesse. Excellent transport links make Kaufungen extremely accessible: by car take the A7 exit for "Kassel-Ost".

By train via "Kassel-Wilhelmshöhe" ICE station and from there via TRAM Line 4 "Lossetalbahn" towards Helsa or Hessisch Lichtenau with no need to change.
Scan the QR code to quickly access the latest information at **www.kaufungen.eu**.

Further information:

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LÜGDE – City of burning Wheels



This small village called Lügde, which is located between the **Teutoburger Forest** and the **Weser Uplands**, wins its visitors over by its agricultural diversity and its quaint ambience. Because of its cultural history, which is over 1.000 years old, Lügde is one of the most beautiful and history-charged regions of North Rhine-Westphalia.

The formation history of Lügde has been proven as far as the protohistoric time of the first century AD. Finds dating back to the Stone Age and barrows prove that there have been first settlements 5.000 years ago. However the town is not mentioned before the implementation of Christianity when priests and monks wrote down documentary evidence. There are also writings which prove that **Charles the Great** celebrated Christmas Eve in the “villa lihuidi” with his army during the war against the Saxons.

Until 1686 the town was used by the counts of Pyrmont as an “intrenched town”. Therefore they build town walls which are 1.5 km long with seven defense towers. When the ability to put up a fight wasn’t necessary anymore the town walls subsist as protection against floods. Today besides the town walls two defense towers still exist.

In its history Lügde was frequently destroyed by floods and devastating fires. The today known cityscape with its scenic half-timbered houses was formed by the reconstruction in the 18th century. Lügde is **one of the best-preserved farm towns** of the country these days.

At the present day Lügde bribes its visitors by its formative buildings for example the **former Franciscan monastery**, the **Catholic municipal church St. Marien** or the **Kilians church**, which is located outside of the town on a spur. A modern park called **“Emmerauenpark”** at the riverside of the river called Emmer provides the possibility to relax and to implement other activities. There is an adventure playground for children, a cosy café with a large outdoor area, a small beach and a beach volleyball field.

Nine other districts impress with their agricultural richness. Especially the small districts Harzberg, Hummersen, Niese, Rischenau, Sabbenhausen and Wörderfeld have beautiful walkabouts with different difficulty levels.

Besides some tracks the district Elbrinxen also has a few sights. For example the wheel of the former water mill or the lime tree which is 1.000 years old and one of the most beautiful natural monument in Germany. There is also the **stork station** where visitors are able to monitor the young storks while being raised by the older ones.

Because of its same-named monastery the district **Falkenhagen** is very popular even far away from Lippe. The oldest timbered-house of Lippe from the 16th century is located here as well as a late Gothic abbatial church and a baroque Catholic church.

The most remote district of the central city is **Köterberg**. It is best known for its very popular and same-named peak. It is 459 Meters tall and the highest hill of Lippe which can be seen from far away. Another signature feature is the television tower which is located on the peak. Every year the Köterberg attract both motorcyclists and hikers who enjoy the view. If the weather conditions are good one can look as far as **the Harz of lower Saxony**.

Annual Highlights:

Since 2012 Lügde is officially allowed to use the name affix **“City of burning wheels”**. On Easter Sunday after sunset six burning oak wheels are rolling down the Easter Hill. This tradition mesmerizes the audience from far and wide.

Biennially the **Emmer-fair** lures a lot of exhibitors and visitors. At this fair in spring local businesses present themselves.

Another Highlight of the city is the series of events called **“Sundays in the park”** which attracts attendants of different ages. During summer there are **various shows** on stage in which the audience is also involved. The admission is free.

At the third weekend in Advent a tranquil **Christmas market** is held in the historic town of Lügde every year. Besides local associations and various artisans who are offering their services, this event also draws attention because of its attractive accompanying program.

Myths and legends:

Since 2014 Lügde is a member of the “Deutsche Märchenstraße”. Therefore Lügde is not only known by its beautiful landscape but also for its myths and legends. Even the Grimm Brothers were inspired by stories like “Die Springwurzeln” and “Der Kötergerg” which they wrote down in their volume **“German legends”**.

Walking on the **Mythenweg** one can discover important mythical and historical sites. There is a story which tells about the White Maiden who is still strolling through the Forests along the paths looking for her beloved. The circular walk, which is 5 km long, includes thrilling places of legends and revealing information boards.

Exploring the **Osterbergweg**, which is 8 km long, reveals **mysterious legends** for example the story of Sister Irmgard or the false miller, which are written down on the back of benches along the path. Furthermore this walk provides scenic views of the Köterberg, the Schwalenberger Forests and the valley of Lügde and Bad Pyrmont.

Further information:

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Christian Manthey

Experience city-life and nature on the German Fairy Tale Route

The university city of Marburg and the typical small towns in the region of central Hesse welcome their visitors with ancient history and impressive sights as well as a strong multicultural scene and a wide variety of sports.

The region around Marburg itself is varied and fairytale-like. Rauschenberg, a brand-new addition to the German fairy tale route, is a great place for walking offering premium routes with "fairy tale hikes" in the Burgwald forest. In Lahntal, in addition to the refreshing experience of a canoe tour on the River Lahn, there are lots of other magical things to experience on dry land too. Otto Ubbelohde, a local painter, took inspiration for his illustrations in Grimm's fairy tales from many local places – locations that can now be discovered on a bike tour, starting at his home and studio in Goßfelden.

If your journey brings you to Marburg – be it on foot, by bike, by train or by car – one of the first things you will see is the castle Landgrafenschloss, high up on the hill, with its 1000-year-old architectural history. Stretching uphill from the Elisabeth Church in the valley, there is a truly fairytale-like collection of perfectly renovated half-timbered houses and time-honoured churches, traditional cafés and student bars as well as the chance to go shopping in the charming little shops.

It is in this inviting and charming setting that visitors can find the now almost legendary Grimm's' fairy tale walking tour. Unique in its kind, it combines historical locations and buildings, fairytale sculptures and selected fairy tales from the Brothers Grimm in a charming way. A truly special way for visitors on the German fairy tale route to explore the city.

Guided tours, available throughout the year, skilfully combine both culture and cuisine – another great mix. The 3-course meal tour through Marburg, for example, includes a walk through medieval Marburg and visits to three typical restaurants in Marburg. This means that it's not just the historical background stories from the university city's eventful past that will wet your appetite, the three courses served in the restaurants will do that too.

It is needless to say that seasonal events are a must for a lively university city like Marburg. It is hard to imagine life without many of them! For example, the Marburg Spring festival will be back again in 2018 on the 7th and 8th of April, when the whole city literally "comes into

bloom” and comes together to stroll, browse and take advantage of the shops being open on a Sunday. The three-day city festival “3-Tage-Marburg” now enjoys cult-status with its markets, music and small-stage theatre across the whole city from 6th to the 8th of July. There is a firework display on the opening night, which should not be missed, and neither should the legendary dragon boat races.

For more information, tips and booking enquiries:

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**Brüder-Grimm-Stadt
STEINAU an der Straße**



Steinau an der Strasse (on the route), town of the Brothers Grimm, is located in the Hessian part of the Spessart area. Coming from Frankfurt you reach the enchanting town in only one hour. The town is a member of the association "German Fairy Tale Route", a member of the "German Half-Timbered House Road" and a stop on the Via Regia. The Hessian long distance cycling path R3 runs through Steinau.

Discover the fairy-tale town which was home to the Brothers Grimm. Explore Steinau during one of our guided tours. The Fairy Tale Tour where the guide appears as a well-known fairy-tale character is very popular. The tours "Following the Grimms" and "Journey Through Time in Ludwig Emil Grimm's Steinau" are also a most entertaining way to become acquainted with the town of the Brothers Grimm and the Grimm family.

QR-codes attached to all buildings and places of importance help guests who prefer to discover Steinau using their smart phone as an audio guide. For those who prefer to discover the town in a traditional way, the tourist info offers a map with detailed descriptions of the sights.

In the very centre of the town, close to the market place, you cannot miss the mighty palace of the counts of Hanau. The impressive building is the best-preserved Renaissance palace in Hesse. The pentagon palace site with its watch-tower presents itself as a mixture of medieval castle, fortress and representative palace. Visit the Grimm exhibition in the palace museum. We recommend you to climb the 41-m-high watch-tower: You will be rewarded by a wonderful view over the Spessart woods, the Kinzig valley and the medieval structure of the town.

The medieval face of the town, laid out around the palace, surrounded by a town wall with defence towers, is characterized by numerous half-timbered houses with constructional and ornamental timbering.

Next to the market place you find the Theatrium Steinau. The little theatre in the former castle mews presents puppet theatre, drama, cabaret, and music. Let the performing artists Detlef Heinichen and Ella Spaethe lead you into the world of theatre. Groups may book special performances.

We move on to the former court house barn, today home of the Museum Steinau. Here you get to know all about Steinau as a stop on the well-known old trade route from Frankfurt to Leipzig (part of the Via Regia), about famous travellers who passed the town and about all imponderables of travelling. Exciting films and audio points make your visit to the Museum Steinau an adventure.

The best-known sons of Steinau are the world-famous Brothers Grimm. The former court house, today Museum House of the Brothers Grimm, used to be the home of Magistrate Grimm and his family. Here Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm spent happy childhood days with their brothers and their sister. Today you may experience life, work and the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm in a sensorial way using interactive means. See, hear, and feel their stories and immerse yourself into the colourful world of the Grimms' "Children's and Household Tales". Both grown-ups and children enjoy looking at old fairy tale editions, brilliant illustrations and numerous fairy-tale characters. The museum rouses childhood memories and makes the fairy tales come alive. One room of the museum is dedicated to the works of Ludwig Emil Grimm, Jacob's and Wilhelm's younger brother, who was an important painter and graphic artist of Romanticism. The most pleasurable way for guests to learn about the House of the Brothers Grimm is during a guided tour. Within a space of 600 sqm in 19 rooms they hear a lot worth knowing about the life of the Grimm family in Steinau and the works of the world-famous brothers.

For all those who would like to have a tour through the Museum Steinau and the Museum House of the Brothers Grimm before their visit to Steinau we offer virtual tours:

www.brueder-grimm-haus.de and www.museum-steinau.de

In the museum yard the large "Spessart throne" invites you to have a seat and have your picture taken.

Steinau offers a wide range of cultural and leisure activities. Outside town the following attractions are waiting for you:

- Fun Park Steinau, the interactive park for the whole family, welcomes you for family amusement out in the open. Summer toboggan run, roller-coaster, fly agaric chairplane, luna-loop, albatross railway, children's zoo, a barbecue paradise and many more attractions are waiting to be discovered.
- A visit to the Europe Climbing Forest in a fantastic beech forest of a size of approx. 20.000 sqm with more than 100 different climbing elements is most exciting. Steinau's Europe Climbing Forest belongs to the most beautiful climbing forests in Germany. The absolute highlight is a megafox course: Enjoy your 800-m-flight over sunny meadows with a wonderful view over the Kinzig valley.

- A guided tour through the “Devil’s Cave”, Hesse’s oldest accessible show cave, offers the opportunity to descend to nether regions. Stalactites, stalagmites and solid pillars are typical for a dripstone cave. Let yourself be enchanted by a different world and the play of colours, while discrete illuminations impressively emphasize the natural beauty.
- The Spessart’s low mountain range scenery invites you to beautiful walks, for example the premium trails “Spessartbogen” (Spessart Curve) and “Steinauer Hochgefuehl” (Steinau Exaltation) as well as the “Wartenwanderweg” (trail between four lookouts surrounding the town).
- Valleys, mountains, clear brooks, and a species-rich flora and fauna ask for mountain biking. A well-marked tour-network with 22 tours over 650 km offers the right tour for each level.

Popular events are waiting for your visit. Our highlights as follows:

- Fairy Tale Sunday
Every first Sunday of August. Great fairy tale festival for the whole family with yearly changing fairy tale subject.
- “Steinauer Puppenspieltage”
12-day-festival in autumn. Puppet theatres from all over Germany present puppet plays for children and adults at a high standard.
- St. Catharine’s Market
Third October weekend. Market held since the year 1290. Market for odds and ends, arts and craft, culinary art, fairground rides, and live music.
- Christmas market
First Advent weekend. Atmospheric market in the historical town centre around palace, market place and House of the Brothers Grimm. One of the most beautiful Christmas markets in Hesse.

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Witzenhausen



Witzenhausen is a beautiful destination along the German Fairy Tale Route.

Witzenhausen is known beyond the borders of Hesse as a cherry town. One of the largest cherry-growing areas in Europe is located here. The picturesque nature of the Werra-Meißner district can be experienced between Kassel and Göttingen, in the border triangle (Hesse, Lower Saxony, Thuringia). As part of the German Fairy Tale Route, Witzenhausen also impresses with its magical castles palaces and its enchanting half-timbered town. Anyone who wants to partake in this magic is in good hands in Witzenhausen.

A fairytale past:

Follow in the footsteps of the Brothers Grimm, who are also closely associated with Witzenhausen. After Jacob Grimm was expelled from Göttingen, in the then Kingdom of Hanover, in December 1837, he took a "detour" to Witzenhausen in Hesse to join his brother Ludwig Emil in Kassel. On a December evening that year, he held a freedom speech in the Witzenhausen market square. In honour of this event, Jacob Grimm was honoured with a statue in our market square. Learn more about the brothers' story on a guided tour of the town.

Experience nature:

The annual blossom of the cherries takes place between the beginning and middle of April. When the 100,000 cherry trees blossom, the idyllic half-timbered town of Witzenhausen and the surrounding area is transformed into a white sea of blossoms. A vacation during the cherry harvest is also worthwhile. The first cherries can be harvested between the middle and end of June and at this time vacation in Witzenhausen is especially great.

See for yourself and let our cherries sweeten your vacation during a walk, a hike, a cycle tour along the Werra river or during a canoe trip.

Hiking in the cherry country:

Explore our 8.5 km, 3 km and 2.5 km long cherry hiking trails (1-3) or the 5.4 km long wild cherry trail, which leads you across numerous cherry orchards and meadows, forests and rewards you with great views. The cherry country is a great destination by bike because

the 22 km long cherry bike path leads you past countless cultivated, but also old cherry tree stands. This year, the new cherry hiking trail (4) and the premium hiking trail (P25) open in the district of Kleinalmerode. In addition, you can enjoy nature on the premium hiking trail (P9) near Roßbach along a 12 km long circular trail.

If you want to experience the fascination around the delicious fruit up close, you can take a tour on the cherry experience trail. On the 1.8 km long city and 2.7 km long landscape route with 17 stations, the cherries can be discovered while playing and reading!

Many more hiking and premium trails invite you to marvel and enjoy nature. On request, we offer, among other things, guided hikes, guided tours of the sweet cherry experimental farm or guided bike tours.

An overview of the current cherry hiking and biking trails can be found on the specially created joint site of the Geo-Naturpark Frau-Holle-Land and the Tourist Information Witzenhausen: www.kirschbluetefrauholle.land.

With camper and caravan to the cherry country:

Campers and caravanners watch out! Are you looking for a new destination or another stopover on your journey across Germany? Then Witzenhausen is perfectly located. If you are arriving by motor home, caravan or tent, there are appealing sites available in Witzenhausen at the campground or our motor home sites.

Events in the cherry town:

Traditionally at the Wizenhäuser Kesperkirmes, on the second weekend in July, the new cherry queen is elected together with her princesses and the German championships in cherry stone spitting take place.

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