



A trip to Fairy Tale Land



Hanau – City of the Brothers Grimm

Hanau is the centre of business and culture in the east of the Rhine-Main-Region. The Rhine-Main Airport is only 25 km away from Hanau. In Hanau is where it starts: the German Fairy Tale Route. Along more than 600 km, it demonstrates the stages in the life of the brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm who were born in Hanau and spent their early childhood in Hanau. This fabulous journey between Hanau and Bremen runs through the places and landscapes in which their fairy-tales are based. Every year between May and July, the old times – when making a wish did really help – come to life again: Hanau rejoices – The Brothers Grimm Fairy-Tale Festival, one of the most frequented open-air festivals in Germany.

50 km/31 miles to

Steinau –

Home Town of the Brothers Grimm

Once upon a time...

In Steinau fairy-tale feelings materialize. From 1791 – 1796 the father of the Brothers Grimm worked and lived here with his family, among them Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, world famous by their fairy-tales. Today there is a museum, the "House of the Brothers Grimm"

Directly in front of the big castle the marketplace is surrounded by historical buildings.

The centre is the fairy-tale fountain,



designed for the bi-centenary of Jacob Grimm's birthday. Steinau is lovely, dreamy small village with framework houses, fairy tale performances "Theatrum Steinau", the historic castle, the devils cave with

stalactites and stalagmites, Family adventure park and natural environment. For nature lovers the hills of the Spessart are an idyllic location.

65 km/41 miles to

Alsfeld

Once upon a time there was a town along the route for commerce from Frankfurt to Leipzig. Until the middle of the 13C, Alsfeld was administratively incorporated. It brought prosperity in olden times. Today the charm of the town lies in the half-timbered houses grouped around the picturesque old marketplace. Don't forget to visit the unique museum of the fairy-tale "Little Red Riding Hood".

45 km/28 miles to

Marburg

Marburg offers historic sites of interest as well as attractive shopping in its town centre



with a medieval backdrop to a future-oriented set. Cultural facilities such as museums,

galleries and exhibition halls underline this unique blend of the historic and contemporary, keeping time with theatre, concerts, festivals and events.

On a stroll through the quaint and ever novel lanes you will come upon a number of traces and documents left by renowned figures such as the Brothers Grimm, Martin Luther and the Nobel laureate Emil von Behring.

Ca. 100 km/62 miles to

Kassel

Europe's top art venue with its long tradition as the focal point of contemporary art. The documenta has made Kassel the



centre of the most important exhibition worldwide. The city of Kassel, with

its central location in the heart of Germany, has much to offer visitors. The Bergpark Wilhelmshöhe is the world's most unique hillside park, containing more than 600 different types of trees and bushes. Its most striking features include the mighty Hercules monument, the ornamental water landscapes, Löwenburg castle ruins. Castle Wilhelmshöhe is home to one of the biggest and most important Rembrandt collections.

Kassel is the capital of the German Fairy Tale Route, where visitors can immerse themselves in the world of the Brothers Grimm, by visiting the many different museums the area has to offer.

35 km/22 miles to

Trendelburg

Trendelburg castle stands on a rock and rises above the idyllic Diemel valley. Today the massive building is used as a hotel. An overnight stay promises to be a fairy-tale night of romance. Trendelburg is a quiet small town of half-timbered frame buildings. Cycle paths, hiking trails, bridle ways and canoe tours in this varied landscape are an attraction for the visitor.

10 km/6 miles to

Sababurg – Sleeping Beauty Castle

Dornröschenschloss Sababurg in North Hesse's Forest of Reinhardswald was



founded in 1334. It prides itself in being the "Sleeping Beauty" castle of Brothers Grimm fame.

In 2025-28 the hotel is closed due to extensive renovations.

At the base of the castle hill lies "Tierpark Sababurg", **Europe's oldest zoological garden**. Nearby is "Urwald Sababurg" – an extensive area of uncultivated forest and the oldest nature reserve in Hesse.

20 km/12.5 miles to

Hann. Münden

Alexander von Humboldt is said to have once described Hann. Münden as "one of the seven most beautifully situated towns in the world", between the three rivers of Weser, Werra and Fulda. Thanks to intensive

efforts on restoration it ranks as one of the finest half-timbered towns in Europe. Several times a day Doctor Eisenbart, a



famous doctor of the baroque era, comes to life when the doctor Eisenbart chimes with

its revolving clockwork figures takes place. In summer the Doctor Eisenbart play is performed in which he tells of his skills in treating ailments.

60 km/37.5 miles to

Fürstenberg

Fürstenberg is perched on a cliff nearly 300 feet high above the river Weser. From this dominant position, the castle offers spectacular views over the Weser valley. The famous Fürstenberg manufactory was founded more than 250 years ago. Since then, it is not only the manufactory in Lower Saxony with the richest tradition, but also one of the oldest and most renowned porcelain manufactures in Europe.

25 km/16 miles to

Polle

The home of Cinderella, is located within the valleys of the Weser Mountain region. The



ruin of Earl of Everstein's castle is a beautiful scenery high above the Weser river. The view over the countryside is

amazing and always invites for a rest. Different fairy-tale festivals take place from May to September.

35 km/22 miles to

Hameln

With its population of 60.000, Hameln is the economic, cultural and touristic centre of the Weser Mountain area. The legend of the Pied Piper made Hameln world-famous. Yet the city's wealth was obtained due to its convenient position as a trading centre on the river Weser.

Such prosperity resulted in the emergence of splendidly decorated houses erected by well-to-do merchants as evidence of their affluence. Thus, Hameln evolved into a jewel of Weser Renaissance architecture.

Sunday for Sunday – between mid-May and mid-September some 80 actors in historical costumes show the crowd of circa 3000 visitors from all over the world just how the loss of the Hameln children came to pass.



Ca. 150 km/93 miles to

Bremen



Begin or end your trip by this wonderful Hansetown and consider staying in Bremen for a few days. The city of Beck's Beer and football team Werder Bremen includes many attractions like

the Schnoor – Bremen's oldest quarter, the Weser river promenade, the unusual architecture of quaint little Böttcherstraße or the cathedral. It is also famous for its venerable figure of Roland on the historical market square which is, as well as the Weser-Renaissance-style town hall, part of UNESCO

world heritage. And last but not least, enjoy the Bremen Town Musicians from the Brothers Grimm fairy-tale.

Yearly Fabulous Performances 2026

In 2025/26, travelers can look forward to additional wondrous surprises along our legendary route. On April 11, 2025, the German Fairy Tale Route will turn fifty. And, what a happy coincidence: The GRIMMWELT Kassel exhibition celebrates its tenth birthday in 2025; the manuscript copies of the Brothers Grimm's "Tales of Children and the Home" exhibited there were recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site twenty years ago. To mark this triple anniversary, there will be a constant stream of new offers and events from April 2025 to spring 2026. All other dates, offers, and publications for the anniversary will be presented gradually on our website; we will keep you up to date via the following link:

<https://www.deutsche-maerchenstrasse.com/erleben/veranstaltungen/jubilaeen>

Up-to-date information and other events can be found on the websites listed and in the digital events calendar (German webpage):

<https://www.deutsche-maerchenstrasse.com/de/veranstaltungen/veranstaltungskalender>

Discover Fairy Tale places and their performances!

Bad Sooden-Allendorf

Fairy-Tale Week, April 5th – 12th, 2026

Young and old alike will experience a varied programme with theatre for children, fairy-tale narrations, evenings full of music, humorous speeches, fabulous hikes and guided tours. Mother Carey is plucking her goose for you every day!



Bodenwerder

Performance "The Baron of Munchhausen", Every 1st Sunday between May and October at 3 PM

Performance in front of the town hall. From 2 PM to 3 PM a band will provide musical entertainment.

Münchhausen musical May to September, Sunday at 2 PM. Dates on request

A colorful excursion into the world of the famous "Lying Baron" on an open-air stage in the pedestrian zone Bodenwerder with lively, cheeky and colorful musical based on the Münchhausen legends.

Music at the fountain with Baron von Munchausen Every third Sunday from May to September from 3 to 4 PM

Baron von Münchhausen is musically accompanied by various bands in front of the Münchhausens fountain in the pedestrian zone Bodenwerder.

Bremen

Open-Air Fairy-Tale Performance "The Bremen Town-Musicians", June – September, every Sunday at 1 PM

The Bremen Town-Musicians themselves are telling their story in the open and in front of an historical background of the old part of the town, next to the Liebfrauenkirche (church). The actors of Bremen's showtunes-Ensemble are presenting the tale in a humorous way and with a lot of music.



Hameln

The Pied Piper Open-Air Performance May 17th – September 20th, Sundays at 12 AM

Traditional performance of the Pied Piper and his entourage in the Old Town.



Pied Piper Musical "Rats", May 27th – September 2nd, Wednesday, 4:30 PM

Humorous and peppy interpretation of the saga.

Open-air performance at the Weddinghouse terrace in the middle of the colourful timbered houses of the Old Town, every Wednesday at 4:30 PM

Mystica Hamelon: March 6th to 8th, 2026

Over 120 market stalls and taverns transform the old town into the Middle Ages. Camp life, knights, craftsmen, traders, jugglers and musicians meet myths, sagas and legends. Pirates board the paths, elves and trolls roam the streets, fantasy and light figures as well as dark fellows walk between weapons, fire shows, mock fights, torture devices and the animals of Hamelon.

Hamelin Piper Day: June 26th

Hameln reminds of the legendary children's exodus in 1284, from which the world-famous Pied Piper saga emerged. Experience events, exhibitions and guided tours related to the Pied Piper throughout this day.

Hanau

42st Brothers Grimm Festival May 8th to July 31st 2026

Every year the fairy tales are performed embedded in a romantic scenery in front of the Castle Philippsruhe using inventive costumes. Activities nearly every day.

www.festspiele.hanau.de



Hann. Münden

"Doctor Eisenbart guide tour" May –October,

There are public tours with changing characters including Doctor Eisenbart.



Heilbad Heiligenstadt

Fairy Tale Park Festival & Health Market: Sunday July 5th, 2026

A versatile program for the whole family, for health and the magic of fairy tales. The health market offers over 40 exhibitors from the region the opportunity to present their products on the topic of healthy living.

www.heilbad-heiligenstadt.de

Höxter

Fairytale Sunday: October 18th, 2026

Many activities, performances and programs based on the theme of fairy tales attract people to Höxter's city center on this shopping Sunday.

www.hoexter.de

Hofgeismar

Sababurg Animal Park

Oldest European zoo with forest and hunting museum, raptor show, natural forest Sababurg. Open daily, all year round.



Kassel

Waterfeatures Wilhelmshöhe May – October

Europe's biggest and unique hill park the Bergpark Wilhelmshöhe offers romantic nature and fascinating play of water (UNESCO-World Heritage). Water feature displays every Wednesday, Sunday and on public holidays from 2:30 PM onwards. An annual magical highlight are the illuminated water feature displays, every first Saturday of the month from June to September starting at the beginning of the dusk.

Brothers Grimm Festival: dates in the summer months

The festival offers all fairy tale enthusiasts a colorful program around the theme of "fairy tales" for several weeks in the summer. The "colorful children's program" is the start of a variety of exciting open-air events for children on the lawn or in the theatre tent. Every year the festival focuses on a magical fairytale musical. It will be performed on the romantic lake stage in Schönfeld Park over six weeks.

Polle

Cinderella-Performance May – September, every fourth Sunday of the month, 3 PM

The performance takes place amidst the ruins of the romantic castle Polle. The scenery couldn't be more fabulous. Further fairy-tale performances upon request.

Rehburg-Loccum

Rehbürger-Loccum Fairy Tale Day: 30th August 2026

Various events and performances in the park of the romantic town of Bad Rehburg and along the historic promenades on the Brothers Grimm Fairy Tale Trail.

Rapunzel Tower Day: 19th April, 21st June, 30th August 2026

Many activities surrounding Rapunzel and the Wilhelmsturm in the Rehburg mountains.

Steinau an der Straße

Fairytale guided tour

Explore the childhood places of the Brothers Grimm in Steinau with a fairytale -dressed guide.

Information: +49 (0)6663 96310, www.steinau.eu

Steinau Fairy Tale Sunday "The Two Brothers": August 2nd, 2026

Theatre, dance, music, walk acts, arts and crafts and children's programs in the historic city center as well as in the Brothers Grimm House castle and museum.

Steinau Puppet Show Days: 19th – 27th September 2026

Stages from all over Germany offer a festival with performances for children and adults.

„Theatrium Steinau" All year round

Playing in the former royal sheds of the Renaissance castle Steinau the different fairy-tale performances like puppet-theatre are not only enchanting the children but also the adults.

Closed on Mondays.



Trendelburg

Myths, fairy tales from the Middle Ages: May 28th, 2026

Big fairytale festival with knights, jugglers and damsels at the Hotel Burg Trendelburg. Medieval market activity, fairytale magic hours, puppet theatre, archery and delicacies from the castle kitchen pamper guests. www.burg-hotel-trendelburg.com

Weser and Fulda (river)

River navigations, March – October

Delightful river navigation through the rural idyll of the
Weser Uplands the Fulda valley.
Liner trade and extra trips for groups.

For more information visit www.deutsche-maerchenstrasse.com/en/

Fabulous Fairy Tale Museums

Alsfeld

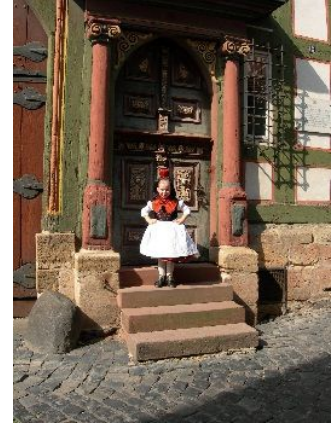
Alsfeld Fairy Tale House

A museum with the theme of „Little Red Riding Hood“ and dollhouses from two centuries

Open: Sat. 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Sun. 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

(Groups by arrangement)



Bad Wildungen – Bergfreiheit

House of Snow White

Originally a miner's cottage with multimedia applications to the historical background of the story. You see Snow White & Dwarfs always on the second Sunday of the month.

Open: April – October, Wed. - Sun. 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

November – March Sun. 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

(Groups by arrangement)



Bodenwerder

Hieronymus of Muenchhausen Museum

The museum documents how Muenchhausen's adventures turned into a world bestseller.

Open: Tuesday – Sunday from Eastern until October, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM



Fürstenberg

Porcelainmanufactory Fürstenberg

Porcelain Painting in the Porcelain Manufactory all year round, Museum and Shop, changing special exhibitions.

Open: Tue. - Sun. 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM



Hamelin

Museum of local history

The saga of the Pied Piper of Hamelin is domiciled at that place and represented in a technical way.

Open: Tue. - Sun. 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM



Hanau

Museum „GrimmsMärchenReich“ (Fairytale Museum)

There is a lot to discover in the new Grimms Märchenreich, an exciting interactive museum by children for children from 4 years at Philippsruhe castle.

Open: Tue. - Sun. 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM



Hessisch-Lichtenau

Museum "Holleum"

Museum of „Mother Hulda“. Four different worlds present the legends, myths and the fairy tale of this fascinating lady.

Open: Sun. 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Mother Hulda Park

A lovely garden with different elements like a gate, bridge, sculptures and plates of bronze with fairytale quotes.



Hessisch Oldendorf

Schillat Stalactite Caves all year round

The Schillat Cave has a length of 180 m and is situated 45 m below earth. The Cave displays imposing stalactites and stalacmites as well as a large exposition.

Open: Times on request. Information:
www.schillathoehle.de



Kassel

GRIMM WORLD Kassel

An exhibition about the Brothers Grimm in a purpose-built centre. It is aimed at all kinds of visitors, whether children or senior citizens, families or school groups, experts or lay people, and covers all interests, from art and language to fairy tales.

Open: Tue. - Sun. 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Friday 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM



Polle

Cinderella Room

Sculpture of Cinderella in front of the stove surrounded by pigeons.

Cinderella path around the ruin castle Polle



Schauenburg

"Märchenwache" Schauenburg

A permanent exhibition in honour of Friedrich Krause and Marie Hassenpflug, two narrators of Grimm fairy tales, showing books, woodcuts and etchings. Changing concerts, lectures and special exhibitions.

Open: Sun. 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM



Schwalmstadt

Museum of the Schwalm

Exhibition of the picturesque Schwälmer Tracht (traditional local costume), reminding of the fairy-tale "Little Red Riding Hood".

Opened: Tue. – Sun. 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

(Groups by arrangement)



Steinau an der Straße

Brothers Grimm House

A permanent exhibition showing life and work of the Grimm Brothers. It is focused on the teenage years as well as the topic of sagas and fairy tales. In addition: changing special exhibitions.

Open: every day from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

