

Welcome to Saxony-Anhalt



Powerful history, great ideas

Modern thinking is a slogan of Saxony-Anhalt.
For centuries, intelligent minds here have developed
world-changing ideas ahead of their times.

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NEBRA SKY DISC



BAUHAUS
DESSAU



LUTHER
MEMORIAL SITES



OLD TOWN AND
COLLEGIATE
CHURCH
QUEDLINBURG



DESSAU-WÖRLITZ
GARDEN REALM



NAUMBURG
CATHEDRAL

Today, there are numerous examples of #moderndenken [modern thinking] in Saxony-Anhalt:

From renewable energies to green hydrogen, from the Chemical Park Leuna to Intel, from the drone airport to the Future Centre for German Unity and European Transformation. This is where the world comes together, as the federal state provides a wide range of creativity.

We present this creativity at www.moderndenken.de: large and small ideas by people who think ahead, acting and shaping the future.



This is Saxony-Anhalt

Saxony-Anhalt is a region within central Europe, with an outstanding cultural heritage and an incomparable wealth of archaeological sites, artistic monuments, and historical buildings.

The federal state is located in the geographical heart of Germany and is proud of its fascinating history and impressive cultural heritage. Saxony-Anhalt is the core of German history, the cradle of Germany, the starting point of the Reformation, and the land of the modern age (Bauhaus).



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NEBRA SKY DISC

© Juraj Liptak

Here beats the heart of German reunification. Quedlinburg is considered the ‘cradle of Germany’ (Heinrich I). The first German emperor (Otto I) was born in Magdeburg, and the ‘first chancellor of a unified Germany ‘ was born in the Altmark (Otto von Bismarck).

Intelligent minds in this region have developed ideas ahead of their times, with extraordinary universal applications. UNESCO has recognized six world heritage sites in the state. In fact, Saxony-Anhalt possesses the greatest density of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Germany, ranging from the Nebra Sky Disc, Naumburg Cathedral, Quedlinburg, Luther’s Reformation, the Dessau-Wörlitz Garden Realm to the Bauhaus.



BAUHAUS BUILDING



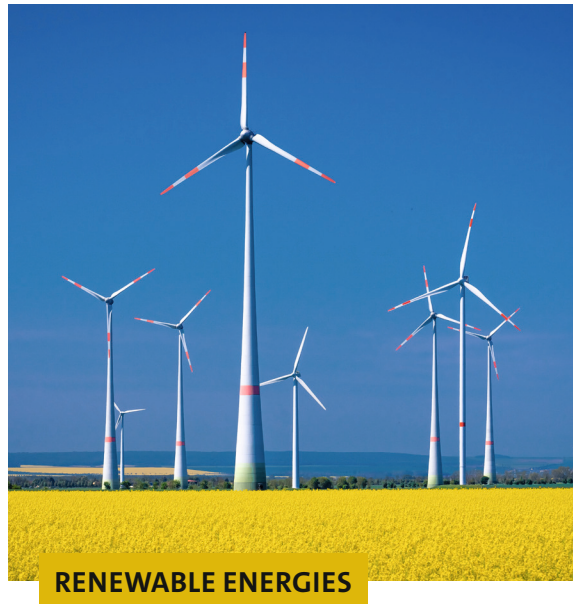
QUEDLINBURG HISTORIC CITY CENTRE

The industrial culture of Saxony-Anhalt has always been shaped by concepts of universal significance. This is where the first German steam-powered machine was utilised and where colour film was invented. The first passenger aeroplane in the world took off here and the concept of a chemical park was created here. Today, the chemical park Leuna continues to be the site of one of the largest and most modern locations of the chemical industry within Germany.

People in this federal state are oriented toward the future and welcome the challenges of tomorrow, true to the state motto **#moderndenken** [modern thinking]. The planned site for the chip manufacturer Intel near Magdeburg represents one of the largest investment projects in Europe. In addition, Saxony-Anhalt is a pioneer in the utilisation of renewable energies and a model region for green hydrogen. The German Aerospace Centre is engaged in research on future mobility at the drone airport Cochstedt and the federal state has good chances of becoming established as a model region for bio-economy with its strongly developed agricultural sector.

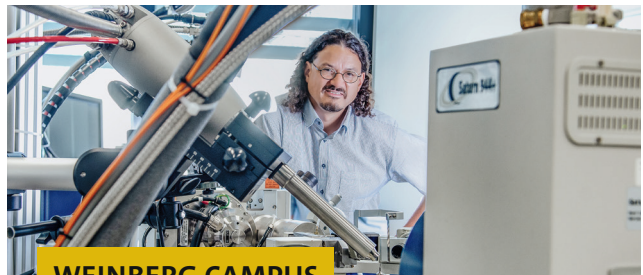


© Andreas Lander



Saxony-Anhalt is also the home of thriving research, testing, and manufacturing activities. A well-developed higher education landscape and numerous research centres offer the opportunity for innovation and creativity. Young talents experience a motivational environment which supports the development of their ideas in one of the most intensive research landscapes across Germany. And here there is close cooperation between science and the economy.

The landscape in Saxony-Anhalt is as diverse as its history, culture, and economy, ranging from the naturally flat Altmark to the 1142-metre Brocken peak in the Harz region to the wine-growing regions along the rivers Saale and Unstrut.



WEINBERG CAMPUS

© Viktoria Kühne



© Andreas Lander



AI STUDY COURSE

© Viktoria Kühne

Several biosphere reserves, a national park, six nature parks, a unique garden realm and numerous rivers and lakes showcase the wide spectrum of nature. The diverse landscape of Saxony-Anhalt is always a great experience, whether on foot, cycling, on horseback, or on the water.

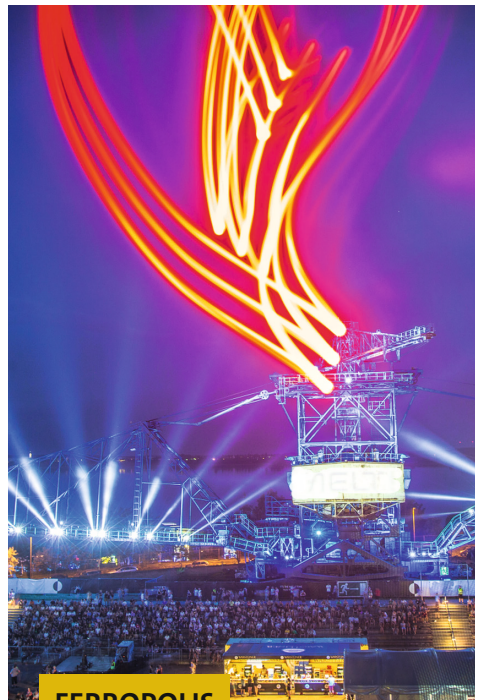
The river Elbe runs through the federal state with a length of 303 km, offering spectacular scenery along the Elbe cycling path and a wealth of cultural sites to be discovered along the route. Numerous local dialects ranging from Plattdeutsch [Low German] to Upper Saxon can be heard.

Guests are always welcome to Saxony-Anhalt and many people have found their new home in the region. Families with young children have a special appreciation for the high quality of life and find it easy to feel at home here.



**GARDEN REALM
DESSAU-WÖRLITZ**

© Jens Wolf



FERROPOLIS

© Stephan Flad



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Our rural districts and independent municipalities

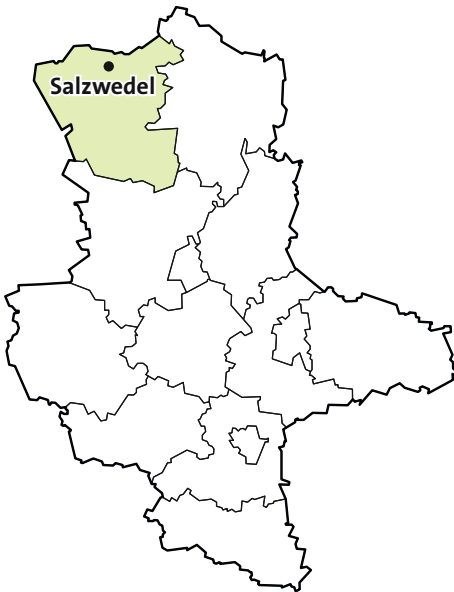
Over two million people live in Saxony-Anhalt in three independent municipalities and 11 rural districts. On the following pages, a compact summary of the special features and attractions in the different regions will be presented. Allow yourself to be surprised by the various facets of our strong history, unique culture, and great ideas from Saxony-Anhalt.



Altmark district

Salzwedel

The Altmark district Salzwedel is located in the north of Saxony-Anhalt, and is a part of the North-German Plain. Anyone keen on cycling and horseback riding will immediately feel at home here. Megalithic tombs dating back over 5000 years can be found amidst beautiful natural surroundings. The open-air museum Diesdorf is one of the oldest museum villages in Germany. The hunting castle Letzlingen, once the favourite hunting grounds for princes, kings and emperors, is located in the south of the Altmark district. A special destination: the Green Belt along the former inner-German border – today a national natural monument and home to 1200 threatened species.



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MEGALITHIC TOMB



SALZWEDEL

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**CYCLING
AROUND ARENDSEE**

© Rolf Klatt



HUNTING CASTLE LETZLINGEN

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© Amanda Hasenfusz



LOW GERMAN HOUSE WINKELSTEDT

© Altmarkkreis Salzwedel

Anhalt-Bitterfeld

300 years ago, Johann Sebastian Bach composed his Brandenburg Concertos in Köthen. The district town also saw the birth of homeopathic medicine. Catherine the Great, born in Zerbst and princess of Anhalt-Zerbst, subsequently became the Czarina of Russia. The region Bitterfeld-Wolfen is well-known for its highly modern chemical industry (where, for example, the colour film was invented) and for its future-oriented products for alternative energies. With the Bitterfeld lake plateau, the region also offers a fascinating local recreation area with a flair more reminiscent of the Mediterranean region during the summer. This region is convincingly oriented towards change and positive development.



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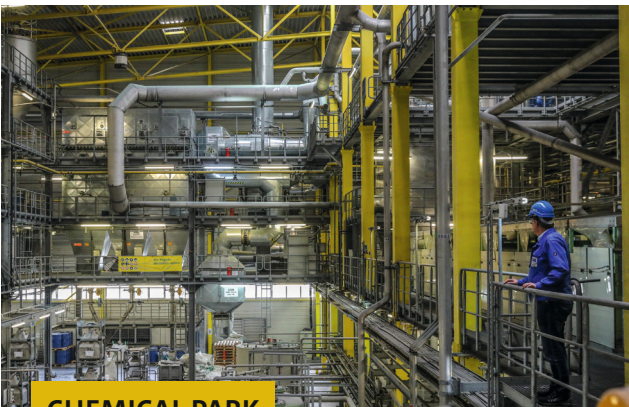
CATHARINE THE GREAT

© Adobe Stock



GOITZSCHE

© Viktoria Kühne



CHEMICAL PARK

© Viktoria Kühne

Börde

Agriculture plays an important role in Saxony-Anhalt. Especially the Magdeburger Börde, which is well-known for its fertile soil. Schloss Hundisburg is one of the most impressive rural palaces of the Baroque period in Saxony-Anhalt with its spectacular historical gardens and park landscape. Burg Wanzleben is one of the largest lowland castles in Europe. A part of the 'Romanesque Route' runs through the district of Börde, providing plenty of opportunities to discover castles, monasteries and ancient towns dating back to Medieval times. Another interesting site in the same district is the Marienborn Memorial to Divided Germany, formerly one of the largest border crossings on the inner-German border.



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MAGDEBURGER BÖRDE



HUNDISBURG PALACE

© Steffen Lehmann



WANZLEBEN CASTLE

© Landkreis Börde



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**MARIENBORN MEMORIAL
TO DIVIDED GERMANY**

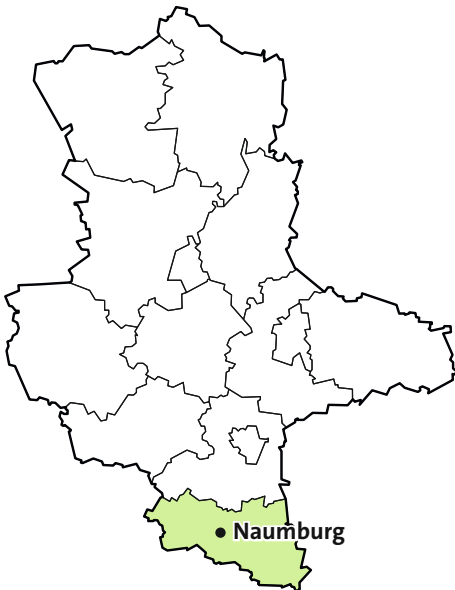
© diewifoto

Burgenlandkreis

The Burgenlandkreis, located at the heart of the wine-growing region Saale-Unstrut, with its beautiful scenery, has been the location of human settlements for several millennia!

Both King Heinrich I and his son Otto I died in the imperial palace Memleben. Today, there is the fascinating visitor centre Arche Nebra close to the archaeological site where the famous sky disc was discovered.

Naumburg Cathedral was added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2018. Zeitz and Weißenfels are another two celebrated historical cities in this area. The philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche was born in Röcken. Culture and nature, experiences and leisure, as well as wine and stone buildings all combine to create a region like no other.



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WINE-GROWING REGION



NAUMBURG CATHEDRAL

© Saale-Unstrut-Tourismus e.V. – Transmedial



© Saale-Unstrut-Tourismus e.V. – Transmedial



ARCHE NEBRA

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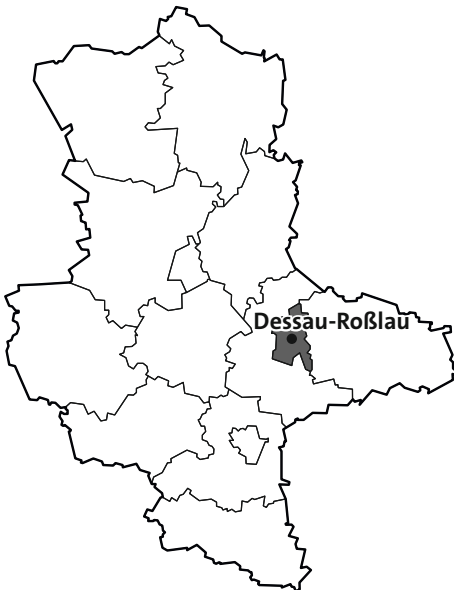


MORITZBURG ZEITZ

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Dessau-Roßlau

This region is home to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Bauhaus in Dessau and the Dessau-Wörlitz Garden Realm. This is complemented by the UNESCO Middle Elbe biosphere reserve, a model region for sustainable management and life. Dessau is also the birthplace of the philosopher Moses Mendelssohn and the composer Kurt Weill (Threepenny Opera). The city is also well-known for its industrial history. The automobile factory Dessauer Motorwagenfabrik was the original site of what would later become the carmaker Opel. History of civil aviation also began in Dessau with Hugo Junkers. In 1926, the airline company Junkers Luftverkehr AG merged with Deutsche Aero Lloyd to form Deutsche Lufthansa.



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GARDEN REALM
DESSAU-WÖRLITZ



BAUHAUS BUILDING

© Michael Deutsch



KORNHAUS

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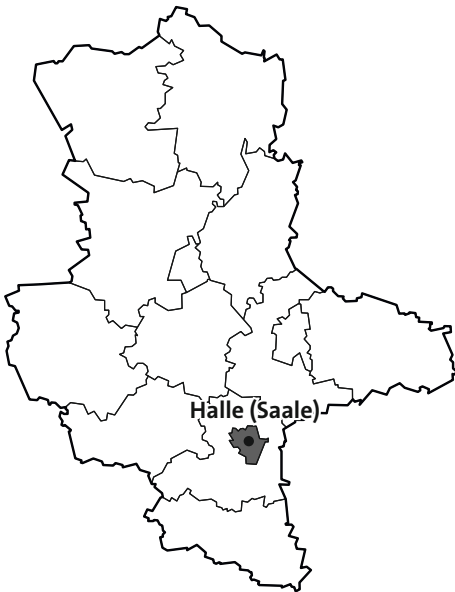


BAUHAUS MUSEUM

© Michael Deutsch

Halle (Saale)

A trio of culture, business, and academia makes Halle on the Saale River incredibly liveable and lovable. Three higher education institutions and numerous research institutes attract thousands of students and top researchers to the city. The Weinberg Campus is a future-oriented location in Saxony-Anhalt. What is just as remarkable is the city's past: it is the site of the oldest saltworks, the oldest academic society (Leopoldina), the oldest secular boys' choir, and the oldest chocolate factory in Germany. The composer George Frideric Handel and the politician Hans-Dietrich Genscher were both sons of the city. The famous Nebra Sky Disc is exhibited in the archaeological collection at the Landesmuseum für Vorgeschichte. The Future Centre for Germany Unity and European Transformation will be located in Halle.



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GIEBICHENSTEIN CASTLE



FRANCKESCHE FOUNDATIONS

© Viktoria Kühne



© Jan Laurig



MARKET SQUARE HALLE (SAALE)

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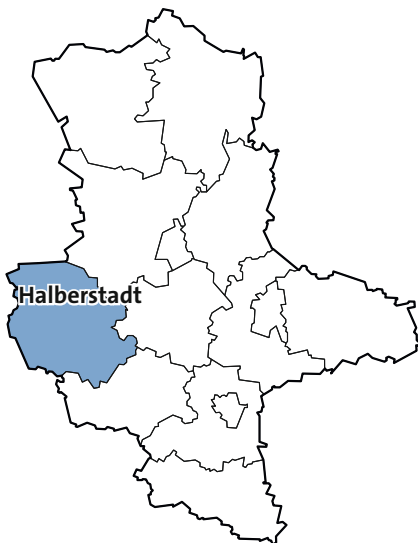


LEOPOLDINA

© Andreas Stedtler

Harz

The Harz region, with the mountain peak Brocken, is the northernmost mountain range in Germany. The most famous hiker was Johann Wolfgang von Goethe who drew his inspiration for his masterpiece “Faust” from this region. The Harz is renowned for its breathtaking scenery, wonderful castles and fortresses, and uniquely attractive cities including Wernigerode and Quedlinburg, a UNESCO National Heritage City. Equally unique is the collection of ecclesiastical art in the Cathedral in Halberstadt, the second-largest collection of its kind after the Vatican. A special thrill is promised by one of the longest hanging footbridges in the world at the Rappbode Dam. Albrecht der Bär, the founding member of the principality of Anhalt and the Margrave of Brandenburg, was born in Ballenstedt. The bear in the coat of arms of Saxony-Anhalt and of Berlin originated from this Ascanian Prince.



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HALBERSTADT

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BROCKEN

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TOWN HALL WERNIGERODE

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QUEDLINBURG COLLEGIATE CHURCH

© Michael Bader

Jerichower Land

The district state is an idyllic region, a dynamic business location, and an interesting travel destination for tourists. The rural district with its impressive history and diverse landscape offers the perfect setting for cycling and hiking tours, from the ancient Kloster Jerichow in the north, via the district town of Burg to Schloss Leitzkau in the south and the idyllic nature reserve Fiener Bruch to the east. An especially interesting trip is a visit to the waterway intersection in Hohenwarthe where the Mittelland Canal is led over a spectacular trough bridge above the river Elbe.



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JERICHOW MONASTERY

© Andreas Lander



LAKE NIEGRIPP

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WATERWAY INTERSECTION

© Andreas Lander



WITCHES' TOWER IN BURG

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Magdeburg

The green cathedral city on the river Elbe and state capital of Saxony-Anhalt, Magdeburg, is a dynamic modern centre with a significant European history, as it was the home of the strongest Prussian fortress and the centre of the Reformation. The river Elbe flows past Magdeburg's impressive city silhouette along delightful park landscapes.

Germany's first emperor, Otto the Great, was responsible for the creation of the city's greatest landmark: Magdeburg Cathedral. A rather unique building near the cathedral was the last building designed by the artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser (Green Citadel). With its colourful façade, trees integrated into the building, and golden sphered towers, it is a genuine eye-catcher. Numerous famous individuals have shaped the history and destiny of the city, including the Emperor Otto the Great, Otto von Guericke, and the composer Georg Philipp Telemann.



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MAGDEBURG RIDER

© Michael Deutsch



MILLENNIUM TOWER

© Rolf Klatt



MAGDEBURG CATHEDRAL

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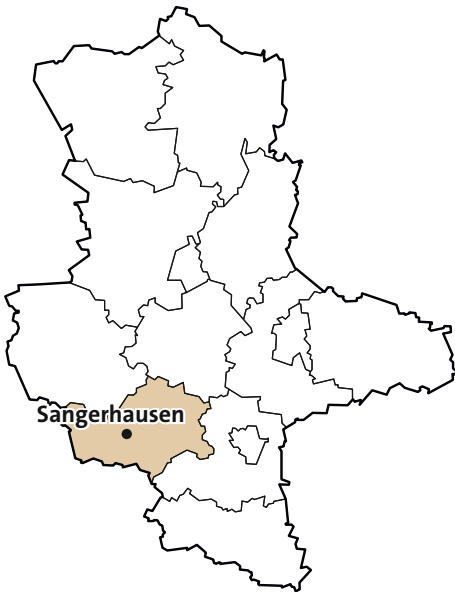


GREEN CITADEL

© Werner Klapper

Mansfeld-Südharz

The district Mansfeld-Südharz – “Luther’s country and Müntzer’s homeland” – is the site of numerous original events of the Central German Reformation, for example Allstedt Castle and Fortress, the city of Mansfeld, and the historic European town of Stolberg (Harz). In Luther’s home town, Eisleben, it is still possible to visit his birth-place and the house where he died. In 2025, the district will be commemorating 500 years since the Peasants’ Revolt, the 500th centenary of the Reformer Thomas Müntzer’s death, and 825 years of mining. In the mining area near Hettstedt, the first German steam-powered machine was used. Joseph’s Cross at Auerberg is the largest iron double cross world-wide. The Europa-Rosarium in Sangerhausen is home to the largest collection of roses across the globe.



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LUTHER CITY EISLEBEN

© Viktoria Kühne



IMPERIAL PALACE TILLEDA

© SMG Mansfeld-Stüdharz



EUROPA-ROSARIUM, SANGERHAUSEN

© Berg- und Rosenstadt Sangerhausen



JOSEPH'S CROSS

© Uwe Burmann

Saalekreis

Tradition and modernism are entwined in the Saale district: the past has been lovingly preserved alongside futurist industrial complexes which symbolise ground-breaking inventions. The Chemical Park Leuna is one of the largest construction sites in Germany. A wide range of companies invest a total of 1,3 billion euro here in research and green chemistry. Simultaneously, history is still tangible and culture can be enjoyed in locations including the Goethe town Bad Lauchstädt, Merseburg Cathedral with the famous Merseburg Incantations, Wettin Castle, or Querfurt Castle, the oldest castle situated on the Romanesque Route which has been the setting for numerous international film productions. The Geisel Valley Lake, situated in the former open-cast mining area, is one of the largest artificial lakes in Germany.



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WETTIN CASTLE



© Andreas Lander

MERSEBURG CATHEDRAL



© Landkreis Saalekreis



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SEA BRIDGE GEISEL VALLEY LAKE

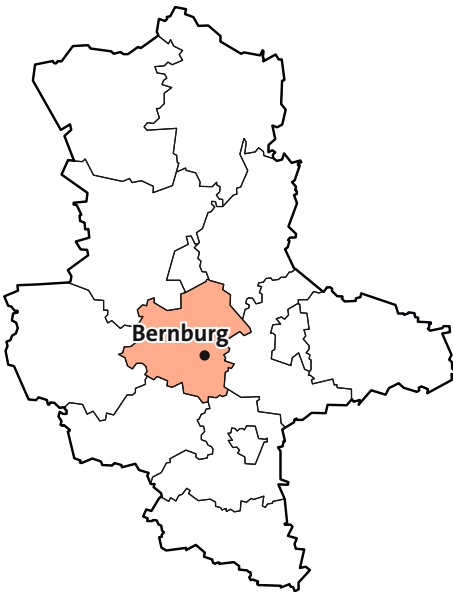


© Peter Gericke

CHEMICAL PARK LEUNA

Salzlandkreis

The district Salzlandkreis is characterised by the natural resource of salt and by water meadow landscapes which are home to a large number of species. Discover the fascinating ring sanctuary of Pömmelte near Schönebeck, considered as the “German Stonehenge” which is also the northernmost site along the archaeological tourist route ‘Himmelswege’. Aschersleben is the oldest town in Saxony-Anhalt and Staßfurt is the cradle of the potash industry. In Gatersleben, a federal central gene bank secures the genetic variety of more than 150 000 samples of cultivated plants. Cosmopolitanism is to be expected at the University of Applied Sciences Anhalt where almost a third of students come from abroad. The German Aerospace Centre (DLR) has constructed the National Testing Centre for Unmanned Aerospace Systems at Cochstedt Airport.



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THE RING SANCTUARY
OF PÖMMELTE

© Michael Deutsch



BERNBURG CASTLE

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THE RING SANCTUARY OF PÖMMELTE

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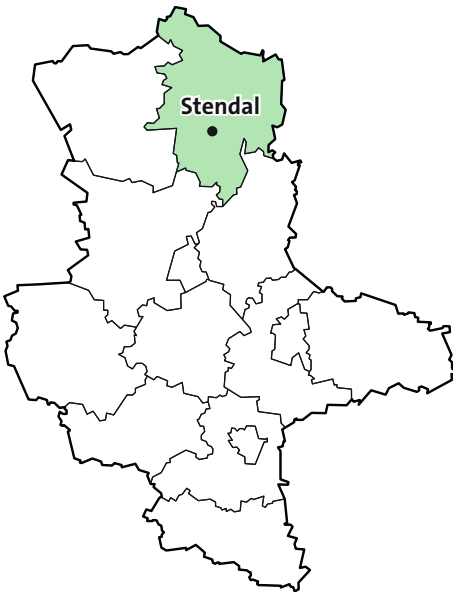


DRONE AIRPORT COCHSTEDT

© DLR

Stendal

This district contains an extensive economic area and yet the rural district of Stendhal offers an unspoilt countryside, a network of waterways, well-developed cycling routes and the most extensive network of bridle paths in Europe. The rural district is a symbol for efficient agriculture and modern artisan crafts. Six of the district's towns were members of the Hanseatic League (e.g. Havelberg). Tangermünde is one of the most beautiful towns across the region. The founder of scientific archaeology, Johann Joachim Winckelmann, was born in Stendal. The largest Trojan horse in the world is situated in the grounds of the Winckelmann-Museum. The Bismarck-Museum in Schönhausen commemorates the birthplace of the Imperial Chancellor Otto von Bismarck.



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WINCKELMANN
MUSEUM STENDAL



HAVELBERG CATHEDRAL

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TANGERMÜNDE

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RIVER LANDSCAPE

© Roif Klatt

Wittenberg

Beautiful Landscapes are fused with architecture and history in a unique blend in the rural district of Wittenberg. The Luther City Wittenberg has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the cradle of the Reformation together with Eisleben. Wittenberg is where Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in 1517. In addition to the sites of the Reformation, the wonderful Wörlitzer Park provides another great attraction. Ferropolis, the city of iron, is a cultural monument of a special kind. Today, gigantic bucket wheel excavators provide a unique setting for large-scale music festivals attracting scores of enthusiastic fans.

Ferropolis is also a symbol of a fascinating structural transformation: the former site of open-cast mining today houses solar panels which provide a substantial share of electricity for the region.



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FERROPOLIS

© Andreas Lander



© Viktoria Kühne



CASTLE CHURCH WITTENBERG

© Viktoria Kühne



ORANIENBAUM CASTLE

© Landkreis Wittenberg





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