

HESSEN – CULTURE IN THE CENTRE OF EUROPE

Bad Homburg Darmstadt Frankfurt on the Main Fulda Hanau Kassel
 Rüsselsheim Wiesbaden Giessen Marburg Wetzlar



Frankfurt on the Main

Great diversity of cities in Hessen



Orangerie in Kassel

Hesse, in the heart of Germany, is proud of its 40 spectacular vestiges from 2000 years of cultural and architectural history, ranging from the Limes wall to English landscape gardens. The multitude of fortresses, castles and parks whisk you away, back into feudal times authentically reflecting the aristocratic lifestyle. In Kassel Wilhelms-höhe Castle and Park, Karlsuae State Park and Löwenburg form a unique synthesis of the arts in terms of architecture and landscape gardening. The castle in Bad Homburg vor der Höhe was the first modern residence after the Thirty Years' War and a popular summer residence of the Hohenzollern. One of the earliest English landscape gardens in Germany, State Park Wilhelmspark, a real picture book health spa for 230 years, is to be admired in Hanau. Wiesbaden proudly shows off its many

beautiful parks making it one of the greenest state capitals. Bibrich Castle, an imposing baroque construction on the bank of the Rhine is a special highlight. The centre of Fulda is dominated by the baroque castle of the prince-abbots. But Castle Fasenerie, their sumptuous summer residence with its copious antiquity collection, is also worth a visit. Verna Park in Rüsselsheim with its ruin, mill and obelisk takes you on a time travel back into the late romantic period. Close by there is the fortress dating back into the year 1399. The botanic garden of Justus-Liebig University in Gießen is Germany's oldest botanic garden. Founded in 1609 it fascinates with its age-old tree population, its tropic and pot plants. How to transform botany into perfect garden art may be admired in Darmstadt's Prince Georg Garden. The rococo pleasure garden, one of many green jewels of the city, borders on the park of the residential castle. Frankfurt, too, disposes of an exotic paradise in the midst of imposing skyscrapers: the "Palmgarten" is jungle, desert, rain forest and city park all in one, since 1869.



Goethe Festival in Wetzlar



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Hessen – there's no way around us.

Bad Homburg

Landscape gardening by Landgraves



Landgraves and Linné determined the garden scenery in Homburg v.d. Höhe. The great Prussian landscape gardener created the spacious spa gardens – now under historical preservation protection – after 1854 when the town at the foot of the Taunus mountains was well on its way to become a health spa of worldwide renown.

Buildings and monuments bear witness to a glorious history: Kaiser Wilhelm Bad now converted into the exclusive Day Spa Kur Royal, the little fountain hall with the casino founded in 1841, the little Russian Church, the two Sala-Thai, Germany's first golf link, the first tennis courts on the continent. At the foot of the baroque castle the idyllic palace gardens spread out and at its western gate begins the "Landgravelly garden landscape Bad Homburg". Like pearls on a dead straight string there are the Prince Gardens, the Small and the Great Fir Forest, the Forest Garden and many more structures. For several years now those parts of this unique ensemble in Germany which are still more or less preserved are being renovated.

Darmstadt

City of Gardens

It's really royal solitaire: Prince Georg Gardens are considered the most beautiful park of many in Darmstadt and is unique in Hesse with its charming elegance. At this intimate summer residence Prince Georg Wilhelm enjoyed his liberty far from all court ceremonial from 1762 to 1784. Since 1908 Prince Georg Palais houses precious porcelain of the Grand Dukes of Hesse. The –probable – architect Louis Remy de la Fosse, who also designed the Orangery, a baroque treasure with surrounding gardens. The residential castle in the heart of the city, too, was built by de la Fosse between 1716 and 1727 as a representative baroque structure. The adjoining court gardens, "Herrengarten", is the oldest and largest park and was transformed in 1766

into an English landscape garden. Equally following the English tradition there are the Prince Emil Gardens from 1772 and from 1810 onwards die "Rosenhöhe", also called Rosarium, a rose garden of considerable beauty.



Frankfurt

City of art and culture

Skyline, banks, trade fair and airport are the typical associations with Frankfurt on the Main. The sprawling city on the Main is still an insider's tip. Almost 40 museums and exhibition galleries as well as more than 60 theatres and free theatre ensembles determine the cultural variety of the city.

The Frankfurt museum embankment is unique for the German and European cultural landscape. From the Museum of World Cultures to the German Architecture Museum, from the German Film Museum to the Städel Museum, here you find museums and exhibition centres of inter-



national standing. For three days in summer – during the last weekend in August – the exhibition halls take centre stage in the city: three million visitors celebrate down at the Main river making the Museum Embankment Festival one of the biggest cultural festivals in Europe, a unique mixture of culture and open air party. People often forget that Frankfurt is one of the most densely wooded cities in Germany. Frankfurt's "green lungs", Germany's largest city forest stretches almost across 12,360 acres. 48 parks and gardens belong to the "green belt of Frankfurt" which surrounds the city for about 75 kilometres.

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BAD HOMBURG

Tourist Info + Service der Kur- und Kongress GmbH
Louisenstraße 58 (Kurhaus)
D-61348 Bad Homburg v.d.Höhe
Tel.: +49 (0) 6172-178-110 / -111,
Fax: +49 (0) 6172-178-118
tourist-info@kuk.bad-homburg.de
www.bad-homburg.de

DARMSTADT

Wissenschaftsstadt Darmstadt Marketing GmbH
Im Carree 1
D-64283 Darmstadt
Tel.: +49 (0) 6151-134510
Fax: +49 (0) 6151-134539
info@darmstadt-marketing.de
www.darmstadt-marketing.de

FRANKFURT

Tourismus+Congress GmbH Frankfurt am Main
Kaiserstraße 56
D-60329 Frankfurt am Main
Tel.: +49 (0) 69 21 23 88 00
Fax: +49 (0) 69 21 23 78 80
info@infofrankfurt.de
www.frankfurt-tourismus.de

Fulda

Baroque castles, parks and gardens

The era of the 18th century was determining for Fulda and the entire region. The baroque period was characterised by a courtly society who followed throughout Europe the same ideals and maxims and who made their everyday life as pleasant as possible with culinary and physical pleasures. The stately baroque castle proves that the abbots of the monastery had become important sovereigns who wanted to demonstrate their power and affluence. Thus the castle with the surrounding gardens and the orangery were to become the centre of the prince-bishopric of Fulda. The residential castle with its museum halls demonstrating the life-world of absolutism are as accessible as the lovely castle gardens.

The Orangery was used by the prince-abbots for their summer fêtes. Today it offers the visitors together with the baroque halls an appropriate backdrop for events. And those who want still more baroque can visit Fasanerie Castle, the former summer residence of the Fulda prince-abbots.



Hanau Brothers-Grimm City

Philippsruhe Castle, Steinheim Castle, Wilhelmsbad



The fairy-tale brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm were born here and Philippsruhe Castle (1701) is fairytale-like, indeed. This is the first baroque castle on German ground in the French style. In 1875 it was rebuilt in the style of historicism and the baroque park was transformed into a landscape garden in the English style. Today

the Historical Museum shows in the sumptuous castle halls what made the city famous after 1600: the ancient traditions of gold work and faience. The museum for local early history and prehistory is housed in Steinheim castle. The almost 800 year old castle was rebuilt at the beginning of the 19th century in the style of classicism. The most beautiful structure is due to the ambition of hereditary prince Wilhelm von Hessen-Kassel. With Wilhelmsbad, a true synthesis of the arts, he created (1777-1782) an elegant health spa with promenade, therapy centre, giant merry-go-round and park. The park with pyramid and Eremitage was one of the earliest English landscape gardens in Germany.

Kassel

Garden Grandeur

Among connoisseurs and lovers of historic parks and gardens Kassel is a household name. As former residential town of the Landgraves of Hessen-Kassel the tradition of landscape gardens of several eras reaches back to the beginnings of the 18th century. The formerly baroque gardens of Karlssau with the Orangery summer residence still shows the glory of bygone eras. Time and again the Siebenbergen flower island, garden treasure at the edge of Karlssau is a special treat for garden lovers. The absolute highlight of horticulture is the mountain park of Wilhelmshöhe with the castle of the same name as well as the mediaeval Löwenburg. Wilhelmshöhe mountain park is Europe's largest mountain park with over beautiful 590 acres illustrating the entire history of occidental horticulture. The artfully baroque natural landscape with the impressive water garden merges with the sentimental English landscape garden to form the loveliest spa park in Germany – with one of the most important rose gardens in these parts. Another rococo treasure, at a little distance, is the landscape park of Wilhelmsthal surrounding the splendidly preserved summer residence and hunting lodge of Wilhelmsthal castle.



FULDA

Tourismus und Kongressmanagement Fulda
Palais Buttler – Bonifatiusplatz
D-36037 Fulda
Tel.: +49 (0) 661-102-1814
Fax: +49 (0) 661-102-2811
tourismus@fulda.de
www.tourismus-fulda.de

HANAU

Tourist - Information
Am Markt 14-18
D-63450 Hanau
Tel.: +49 (0) 6181-295 950
Fax: +49 (0) 6181-295959
touristinformation@hanau.de
www.hanau.de

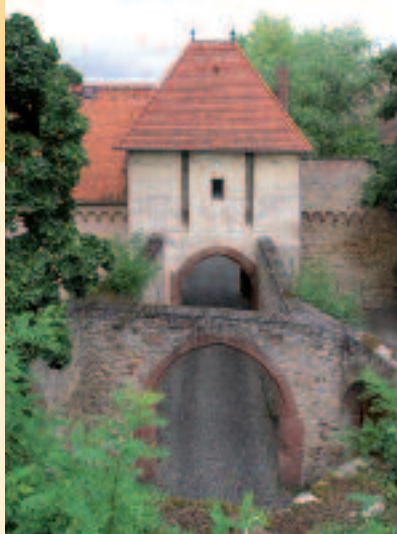
KASSEL

kassel tourist GmbH
Obere Königsstraße 15
D-34117 Kassel
Tel.: +49 (0) 561-7077-07
Fax: +49 (0) 561-7077-169
tourist@kassel-tourist.de
www.kassel-tourist.de

Rüsselsheim

Fortress and Verna Park

The city has a surprisingly romantic side and a long history evidenced by the Fortress of Rüsselsheim the origins of which are dating back to the year of 1399 and the counts of Katzenelnbogen. Destroyed by wars and a ruin throughout the centuries the fortress was partly restored after 1954. Today you can walk on the fortified wall structures and through the moat, you can inspect a watchtower and visit the prize-winning industrial museum of the city. Verna Park is for Rüsselsheim what the English Garden is for Munich. The green lung of almost 15 acres was laid out mid-19th-century by Baroness von Verna in the late romantic style of an English landscape garden including a ruin, a mill and an obelisk to boost the picturesque effect.



The lake and the bandstand transform this former private park which is still surrounded by a protective garden wall into a popular park providing a picturesque backdrop for an opulent cultural programme throughout the summer.

Gießen Marburg Wetzlar

Gießen: Where science thrives



“The Botanic Garden” is one of many discoveries the city with the highest student density

in Germany has in store for visitors. In 2009 the university garden will celebrate its 400th anniversary. The green treasure is a place of science and research and an idyllic resting place in the centre of this lively city.



Discover Marburg

This young university town with a very old tradition will seduce you with its special charm. On a foray through the old yet forever young alleys you come across numerous documents and vestiges that have been left behind by well-known celebrities like the Brothers Grimm, Martin Luther and Nobel Prize laureates like Emil von Behring.



Wetzlar: charming historic town centre

The timber-framed and baroque ensemble is surrounded by a ring of parks retracing the shape of the city wall and inviting for a short rest. The ruin of Kalsmunt fortress offers a beautiful view over the city of Goethe and of precision optics and over the Lahn valley.

Wiesbaden

Castles, parks and gardens

The state capital scores with even two castles. In the younger one, built in the mid-19th century by the Dukes of Nassau, the state parliament of Hesse holds its sittings today. The older Biebrich Castle was built by the Counts of Nassau-Usingen 1700 – 1740 directly on the banks of the Rhine. The castle was at first planned as a summer residence but grew to be one of the most important representative baroque structures on the Rhine.

In Wiesbaden there is a great choice for garden lovers. The spa park, in the style of an English landscape garden, begins directly behind the spa hotel. Designed in 1852 it constitutes with its age-old trees, rhododendrons, magnolia, and azalea a nostalgic oasis close to the city.



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International Pentecost Show Jumping, Wiesbaden

The communal green “Warmer Damm” (warm dam) a landscape park of 11 acres, was built in the mid-19th century equally close to the centre. Two worthwhile places for excursions are the Platte Hunting Lodge with a magnificent Rhine panorama and Freudenberg Castle embedded in an enchanted park.

RÜSSELSHEIM

Magistrat der Stadt Rüsselsheim
Öffentlichkeitsarbeit, Marktplatz 4
D-65428 Rüsselsheim
Tel.: +49 (0) 6142-83-2214
Fax: +49 (0) 6142-83-2243
oeffentlichkeitsarbeit@ruesselsheim.de
www.stadt-ruesselsheim.de

WIESBADEN

Wiesbaden Tourist Information
Marktstraße 6
D-65183 Wiesbaden
Tel.: +49 (0) 611-1729930
Fax: +49 (0) 611-1729798
tourist-service@wiesbaden.de
www.wiesbaden.eu

GIEßEN

Tourist-Information Gießen
Berliner Platz 2
D-35390 Gießen
Tel.: +49 (0) 641-97511-60
Fax: +49 (0) 641-97511-61
tourist-info@giessen.de
www.giessen-tourist.de

MARBURG

Marburg Tourismus und
Marketing GmbH, Pilgrimstein 26
D-35037 Marburg a.d. Lahn
Tel.: +49 (0) 6421-9912-0
Fax: +49 (0) 6421-9912-12
mtm@marburg.de
www.marburg.de

WETZLAR

Tourist-Information
Domplatz 8
D-35573 Wetzlar
Tel.: +49 (0) 6441-997750
Fax: +49 (0) 6441-997759
tourist-info@wetzlar.de
www.wetzlar.de