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HESEN



Experiences to remember in the towns & cities of Hessen.

CITY BREAKS

in Wiesbaden, Rüsselsheim, Darmstadt, Frankfurt am Main, Seligenstadt, Heppenheim, Bensheim, Michelstadt, Offenbach, Wetzlar, Hanau, Giessen, Marburg, Fulda, Kassel, Bad Hersfeld



Hessen – there's no way around us.

Destination Hessen: the biggest and best towns and cities with their wealth of culture



Market square in Heppenheim



Kornmarkt square in Wetzlar



Discus thrower at the Liebieghaus museum in Frankfurt



© Tourismus+Congress GmbH Frankfurt am Main

Do you have a passion for art and culture? Do you enjoy the theatre or visiting the latest exhibitions? Are you a fan of historical architecture and buzzing international cities? Is shopping your thing and do you enjoy eating out? Do you like discovering quaint pubs and watching the world go by from a pavement café, or would you prefer to be strolling around palaces and parks? Then pay a trip to Hessen! Diversity and contrasts are the hallmarks of our region's fabulous towns and cities. And there are so many exciting destinations to choose from. Frankfurt has its urban buzz and its stretch of museums along the banks of the river Main, Giessen is one of many university towns in the region and Darmstadt is the city of science, or there is baroque Fulda with its summer season of musicals. Immerse yourself in the fascinating history of the Brothers Grimm in the towns of Hanau, Marburg and Kassel, and explore unusual art and culture in Offenbach and Rüsselsheim. Visit the grand old optics town

STARKE STÄDTE
Erleben. Staunen. Hessen.



of Wetzlar, where the great German poet Goethe once lived, or the regional capital Wiesbaden with its packed programme of events and fantastic shopping. Wander the lanes of the old towns in Seligenstadt, Bensheim and Heppenheim, see the world-renowned town hall in Michelstadt and enjoy the famous festival of music and theatre in Bad Hersfeld. On the following pages we will introduce you to a small selection of the many exciting discoveries that await in towns and cities in Hessen – from picture-book medieval architecture to UNESCO World Heritage sites. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Information
www.hessen.travel



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Wiesbaden – for the finer things in life

City of hot springs, the Nice of the north, gateway to the Rheingau – Wiesbaden, the regional capital of Hessen, goes by many names. Its beautiful architecture, sweeping parks, many restaurants and cafés and proud history as a 19th century spa town make Wiesbaden an ideal destination for those who enjoy the finer things in life.

Exquisite and exclusive are the best words to describe the shopping experience on offer in Wilhelmstrasse and Taunusstrasse and in the spa district. You'll find everything from high-end boutiques and home furnishings stores to antique dealers and delicatessens, a wonderful mix of retail gems that also includes prestigious jewellers, goldsmiths and fashion designers. Dotted between the shops are a variety of places to enjoy Italian and other international cuisine and discover local food



Rheingau Wine Festival



The town hall and market church

and drink, including wines from the nearby Rheingau vineyards. A gentle stroll around Wiesbaden is an experience in itself. The beautiful architecture and the many neo-classical buildings are a sight to behold and it's often worth casting your eyes all the way along the facades and up to the rooftops.

Wiesbaden is a friendly and welcoming city at any time of year, but even more so when one of its many festivals is on. Among the highlights are the Wilhelmstrassenfest and Stadtfest street festival, the Rheingau Wine Festival and the Sternschnuppen Christmas Market. Cultural events such as the Rheingau Music Festival and the International May Festival at the Hessian State Theatre also mean that there's plenty on offer for music lovers.

The Wiesbaden Museum enjoys international renown for its outstanding collection of Expressionist paintings. It boasts the foremost collection in Europe – comprising over 100 pieces – of the art of Alexej von Jawlensky, the celebrated Russian Expressionist who lived and worked in Wiesbaden for a long period.



Wiesbaden market

Wiesbaden Marketing offers various package deals for travellers visiting the regional capital of Hessen. The Experience Wiesbaden package, for instance, can be used as a starting point for customising a city break or business trip. The full range of packages can be found at the following web address: www.wiesbaden.de/individualangebote

Our tip

The Wiesbaden Tourist Card entitles you to free and unlimited use of the city's public transport services on two consecutive days, including for travel to and from Frankfurt

airport. It also gives you various discounts, such as at the Wiesbaden Museum. For more information, visit the website: www.wiesbaden.de/touristcard

Wiesbaden basic package

- One night with breakfast in a mid-range hotel
 - Wiesbaden Tourist Card
 - One surprise gift
 - One Wiesbaden information pack
- Arrival: throughout the year; daily
Please book at least three days in advance; subject to availability
From €60.50 p.p. sharing a double room

Information and bookings

Wiesbaden Marketing GmbH
Tel: +49 (0)611 1729 777
hotel@wiesbaden-marketing.de
www.wiesbaden.eu



Art and culture in **Rüsselsheim**



Opelvillen arts centre



Rüsselsheim Fortress

Situated in the very heart of the Rhine-Main region, Rüsselsheim offers all kinds of options for a varied tourism itinerary. Its 600-year-old fortress is a big draw for visitors from near and far. The sheer size of the complex and its imposing historical walls are impressive enough but there is also an unexpected surprise for visitors in the form of an award-winning museum. The Rüsselsheim Museum will take you on a journey of discovery in which you explore the history of industry and the town. Right by the museum on one side is the late-Romanesque Verna

Park, which is absolutely ideal for a leisurely stroll. And on the other side of this is the Opelvillen museum of modern art. Opened more than a decade ago, this nationally famous gallery mounts exhibitions of world-acclaimed artists that change on a half-yearly basis. Visitors to the Opelvillen can look forward not only to wonderful works of art from the classical modern to the contemporary period but also to an exclusive historical setting. The best way to see Rüsselsheim is on one of the many guided tours. You can go on a tour of the fortress by torchlight,

a tour themed on the famous industrialists Sophie and Adam Opel, and a tour of the Opel car plant.

Information

Rüsselsheim town council
Tel: +49 (0)6142 832 347
tourismus@ruesselsheim.de
www.ruesselsheim.de/en



Art nouveau and science in **Darmstadt**

City of science or centre of culture? Darmstadt is both. It brings together the intellectual and the academic with the artistic and innovative in a way few other cities can match. Darmstadt still has the air of a ducal seat, but is very much a city of the 21st century. It is a place of cultural experimentation amid a landscape of research. The city's artistic awakening began with the establishment of the artists' colony on Mathildenhöhe hill. The colony's exhibitions are famous around the world and the remarkable art nouveau buildings there are used to display contemporary art. Science and culture form a powerful duo in Darmstadt. The Residenz palace is currently used by the city's technical university for research and teaching activities. Right next door, the recently refurbished Landesmuseum displays art from antiquity to the present day, natural history collections, zoological dioramas from 1906, geological exhibits and fossils. As the hub of the European space programme, Darmstadt is a place of dynamism, inventiveness and innovation.



Darmstadt Art Nouveau Festival



Market square and Residenz palace in Darmstadt

At ESOC, the European Space Agency's satellite control centre, scientists study how the universe came into being. Cultural institutes and research facilities work closely together in order to continue the city's rich heritage of combining tradition with innovation.

Travel package

Darmstadt at a glance

- One night sharing a double room incl. breakfast
- 'Darmstadt at a glance' guided walk (two hours, Sunday 11am)

- Darmstadt Card: two days' unlimited use of public transport in Darmstadt and the surrounding region
 - Money off at sights and attractions
- From €85.00 p.p. sharing a double room

Information

Darmstadt Marketing GmbH
Tel: +49 (0)6151 134 513
information@darmstadt.de
www.darmstadt-tourismus.de/en





The museum embankment in Frankfurt

Frankfurt's museum embankment, known as the *Museumsufer* in German, is one of the world's foremost locations for museums. There's nothing like this stretch of riverside anywhere else in Europe. The cultural spectrum in Frankfurt ranges from avant garde to Old Masters, from stunning exhibitions to scintillating history, from the German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and his literary legacy to world culture and international finance, from design to prehistory. Along the banks of the river Main between the Holbeinsteg footbridge and the Alte Brücke you can visit a total of 13 museums, and there are almost as many again in the immediate surroundings.

Frankfurt's Historical Museum, for example, is located in an extensively remodelled period building on Römerberg square, and is just a short walk from the Museum of Modern Art, one of the world's leading museums of contemporary art. Cross the Eiserner Steg footbridge to the southern bank of the Main for the Museum of Applied Art, the German Film Museum and the German Architecture Museum. A visit to the Städel Museum is a great way to round off your tour. The Städel, which has a spectacular new underground

extension, contains over 3,000 paintings, 600 sculptures, 1,600 photographs and more than 100,000 drawings and prints, offering a comprehensive overview of more than 700 years of European art history.



Frankfurt's museums also play a key part in its calendar of cultural events, with the Museums Night in spring and the Museum Embankment Festival in summer. The latter is one of Europe's biggest festivals of culture.

Every year on the last weekend of August, it transforms the banks of the river Main in Frankfurt into one giant party.

In no other city and along no other stretch of river will you find such a huge variety of international art, historical masterpieces and regional character. Isn't it time you discovered Frankfurt's museum embankment?

Museum embankment package deal

(Arrive Friday or Saturday)

Includes:

- One night in a hotel with breakfast
- Two-day museum embankment ticket for free admission to 34 museums
- Two-day Frankfurt Card
- Frankfurt information pack
- From €73.00 p.p. sharing a double room

Information and bookings

Tourismus+Congress GmbH Frankfurt am Main

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info@infofrankfurt.de

www.frankfurt-tourismus.de/en



Seligenstadt

Narrow lanes, colourful timber-framed houses and impressive sights and attractions are testament to the rich history of Seligenstadt. The town is where Einhard, Charlemagne's biographer, initiated the construction of a Carolingian basilica in around 830. It later became a Benedictine abbey and to this day is the most famous landmark in Seligenstadt with its picturesque convent gardens.

Skilled crafts and trade saw Seligenstadt blossom in the Middle Ages. They gave rise to today's beautiful old quarter, which is lent particular character by the many lovingly restored half-timbered houses.

At the tourist information office, various guided tours can be booked that will tell you more about Seligenstadt's history, which goes back almost 2,000 years.

Information

Tourist Information, Aschaffener Strasse 1, 63500 Seligenstadt
Tel: +49 (0)6182 87177
touristinfo@seligenstadt.de
www.seligenstadt.de



Heppenheim

Narrow lanes in the old quarter, medieval half-timbering and an attractive town centre with lots of shops and cafés. This is Heppenheim, home town of Formula One racing driver Sebastian Vettel. Take a wander up to Starckenburg Castle on the excellent walking trails, visit more than 70

wine-themed checkpoints on the *Erlebnispfad Wein und Stein* or go mountain biking or cycling on dedicated routes in the geo nature park. An insider's tip is the *Heppenheim Laternenweg* or 'lamp trail', on which the streetlights in the old quarter are decorated with around 150 silhouettes depicting scenes from famous Hessen fairytales. Heppenheim is always well worth a visit, be it in spring for the almond blossom, in summer for the festivals of wine, theatre and street theatre, or in autumn for the wine harvest.

Bergsträsser Weinmarkt wine festival: late June to early July
Gassensensationen – international festival of street theatre: early to mid-July

Heppenheim Festival: late July to early September
Stadtkirchweih festival: first weekend in August

Information

Heppenheim Tourist Information
Grosser Markt 9, 64646 Heppenheim
Tel: +49 (0)6252 13 1171 or 1172
tourismus@stadt.heppenheim.de



Bensheim and the Bergstrasse region

A beautiful backdrop, friendly people and cultural and culinary delights.

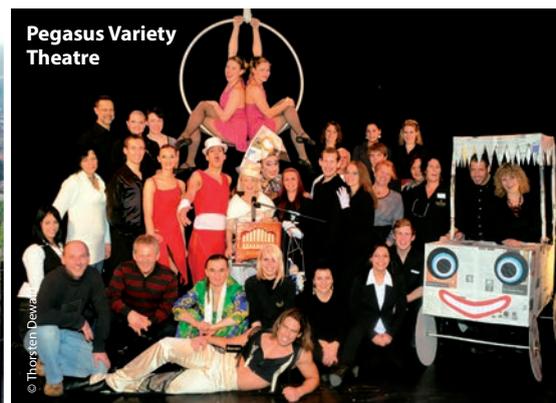
The Bergstrasse region is known for its extremely mild climate, outstanding wines and glorious scenery. Its largest town, Bensheim, boasts a historical town centre and idyllic squares that are perfect for leisurely strolls and watching the world go by. Towering high above Bensheim is majestic Auerbach Castle, which was voted the most iconic structure in Hessen. Fürstenlager Park, once the summer residence of the landgraves and grand dukes of Hesse-Darmstadt, is a popular choice for days out. The park is home to the oldest sequoia on the European mainland, and its individual buildings – the Fremdenbau and Kavalierebau, the Prinzenbau and Damenbau, the sentry posts and coachhouses – look much as they would have done when they were first built. They are surrounded by a 42-hectare park filled with exotic plants and trees. For information on the park visit www.schloesser-hessen.de or for information on its restaurant go to the website: www.fuerstenlager-herrenhaus.de

As well as being a destination for fine food and drink, the Bergstrasse region is known for its richly varied art and culture scene. One of the highlights, the Pegasus variety theatre, is located in a historical building that once served as a tannery. It is the only variety theatre between Frankfurt and Stuttgart and hosts top international performers and comedians from September to late March. The programming stands up well by international comparison and is one of the

reasons why the town has attracted people from all over the world. Why not join their ranks and discover what Bensheim has to offer? More information can be found at www.varietepegasus.de.

Information

Bensheim Tourist Information
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Tel: +49 (0)6251 582 6314
touristinfo@bensheim.de
www.bensheim.de



Medieval Michelstadt in Odenwald Forest

Michelstadt is the largest and oldest town in the verdant Odenwald Forest.



Numerous monuments in Michelstadt bear witness to past centuries and more than 1,200 years of history. As you enjoy a leisurely stroll around this beautiful medieval town you'll see that there's so much to discover: the Einhard Basilica, the castle Schloss Fürstenau, the synagogue and the historical town hall, which dates back to 1484, are the most famous sights. But there are also plenty of quiet little corners, narrow lanes and medieval courtyards within the town walls.

Whiling away the hours

The medieval lanes of Michelstadt are home to cosy cafés, delightful restaurants and beer gardens that you won't want to leave again. Many a relaxed summer evening has been spent here enjoying the warmth captured by the old sandstone walls during the day. Michelstadt's old quarter is the perfect place for exploring. Around the historical town hall, independent shops and the popular Friday market offer regional delights, fantastic souvenirs, traditional arts and crafts and beautiful clothing for every occasion you could think of. There are lots of free parking spaces that are located just two minutes' walk from the centre.

Guided tours

Lots of exciting, amusing but also creepy events have taken place over the centuries in Michelstadt and nearby. You can hear about these on the public guided tours that take place at the same time each week, or you can arrange a private guided tour for your group. The nightwatchman tour, which takes you through the beautifully illuminated streets of Michelstadt, is a particular highlight. Fearless visitors might prefer to hear about the gruesome work of the executioner. Alternatively, a guide dressed as a lady of the court can regale you with tales of baroque excess. There's also a culinary tour that offers a genuine taste of Michelstadt along with fascinating stories about the town.

Traditional festivals

A number of festivals are held to celebrate the granting of market rights in the 12th century. One of the most notable is the famous Michelstadt Christmas market, the *Weihnachtsmarkt*, which bathes the narrow lanes of the town in a warm festive glow. A particular feature is the set of life-size wooden Christmas decorations, including a beautifully crafted pyramid, colourful nut-crackers, a sleigh and much more besides.

Michelstadt also hosts an annual bee market at Whitsun. The bee auction, held on the last Sunday of the market, is a highlight and unlike anything else you'll see in Germany. In early August, Michelstadt celebrates its Old Town festival, and on the first weekend in October there is a wine festival and fair.

Package: discover Michelstadt

Spend two nights including breakfast in a Michelstadt hotel and enjoy a meal of regional fare from Odenwald Forest in a historical inn. On the guided walk of the old quarter (Apr–Dec, Sun 11.30pm) you'll hear all kinds of exciting stories. A visit to the Odenwald Forest Museum, which includes a toy exhibition, and a small memento are also part of the package. From €99 p.p. sharing a double room.

Information and bookings



MICHELSTADT

Michelstadt
Tourist Information
Marktplatz 1,
64720 Michelstadt
Tel: +49 (0)6061 979 4110
touristik@michelstadt.de
www.michelstadt.de

Odenwald Tourismus GmbH
Marktplatz 1, 64720 Michelstadt
Tel: +49 (0)6061 965 970
tourismus@odenwald.de
www.odewald.de

Art, culture and an alternative scene in the city of Offenbach



Band playing at the Hafentreppe



Capitol theatre



Klingspor Museum

A rich and varied cultural scene is just waiting to be discovered in Offenbach, a city that extends out from a bend in the river Main. As well as parks, the city features monuments of industrial heritage and historical buildings that are now used for culture. Two of Offenbach's museums are held in particularly high regard. The Klingspor Museum, a world-renowned repository of book art, typography and calligraphy in the side wing of Büsing Palace, regularly hosts special exhibitions. At the German Leather Museum, the

focus is on applied art and design from the Middle Ages to the present day and footwear from four centuries. Art and culture can also be found in some unconventional locations in Offenbach. The Hafen 2 arts centre and various popular music clubs have sprung up along the banks of the river Main, for example. And the city's former synagogue has been transformed into an outstanding events venue, the Capitol theatre, which hosts everything from concerts to plays. Various guided tours, included

those organised by OFlovesU, offer further fascinating insights. A guided tour of the Wetterpark, a kind of theme park explaining the science of weather phenomena, comes particularly recommended.

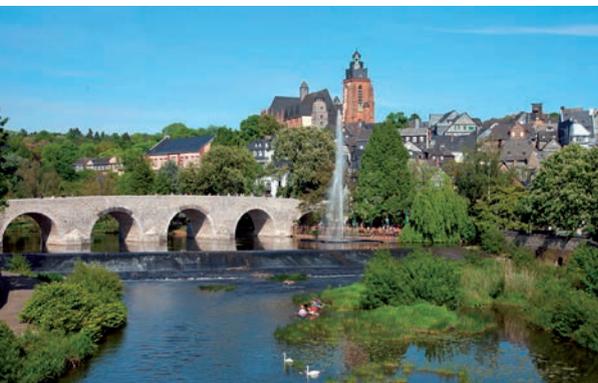
Information

Offenbach Information Centre,
Salzgässchen 1
63065 Offenbach
Tel: +49 (0)69 8065 2052
info@offenbach.de
www.offenbach.de



Wetzlar: Goethe, optics and the Lahn valley

Culture, colour and charm. Wetzlar offers an exciting mix of the historical and the modern.



Lemmers-Danforth collection

Discover medieval squares, half-timbered buildings and extravagant baroque buildings on the banks of the Lahn river. A majestic cathedral, that to this day is still not complete, stands at the heart of the old quarter. The historical centre of town is packed with small boutiques and specialist stores as well as cafés and restaurants, and you'll find no fewer than six museums here. One of them is the Lottehaus, which commemorates the period that Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

spent in Wetzlar in the summer of 1772. The great German poet based his epistolary novel *The Sorrows of Young Werther* on his experiences in this important historical town. Goethe and his character Werther became internationally famous, securing Wetzlar a place in the annals of world literature. It's also worth visiting the Lemmers-Danforth collection, which displays arts and crafts and elaborately designed furniture from the Renaissance and baroque periods.

The collection, the life's work of a Wetzlar paediatrician, is on show in a palatial building dating from the time when the Imperial Chamber Court convened in the town. Wetzlar was where Oskar Barnack invented the 35mm camera, which revolutionised photography. His idea is commemorated at Leica Welt in Leitz Park, whose exhibition of historical cameras also provides insights into modern camera production. The Wetzlar Viseum has a similar theme, with its interactive exhibition focusing on the world of optical engineering. The *Optikparcours* trail links the town's various optics attractions.

Information

Tourist Information
Domplatz 8, 35578 Wetzlar
Tel: +49 (0)6441 997 755
tourist-info@wetzlar.de
www.wetzlar-tourismus.de



Goethe- und Optik-Stadt



Philippsruhe Palace, home to Hanau's Historical Museum and Paper Theatre Museum



National Brothers Grimm monument

Follow the trail of the Brothers Grimm in Hanau.

A magnificent baroque palace, a picturesque old quarter, a historical spa building, a large wildlife park, nine museums and more than 1,000 events each and every year are among the many reasons to recommend a visit to Hanau. The birthplace of the Brothers Grimm is the cultural epicentre of the eastern Rhine-Main region. It is also a popular tourist destination as the starting point for the German Fairytale Route and the Route of Hessen Cider, or apple wine and as a way-point on the German Half-Timbered Houses Route and Route of Industrial Heritage.

A highpoint in Hanau's cultural calendar is the Brothers Grimm Theatre Festival, known in German as the *Brüder Grimm Festspiele*, which delights grown-ups and children alike every summer in the covered amphitheatre at Philippsruhe Palace. From August the amphitheatre then hosts a programme of open-air events featuring stars of the music and comedy scene from Germany and around the world.

Another crowd-pleaser is Hessen's largest and loveliest market, the *Wochenmarkt*, which takes place every Wednesday and Saturday and features a wide range of fresh produce. In winter the market square is also the venue for the traditional Christmas market and the SWH ice rink, which offers 750 square metres of ice skating fun.



Hanau market



Brothers Grimm Festival



Guided tour with the Brothers Grimm

Guided tours

One of the best ways to get to know Hanau is on a guided tour. Expert guides in traditional costume assume the role of historical characters and tell you all about Hanau past and present.

Annual events

Brothers Grimm Theatre Festival:

May to July

Lamboyfest: mid-June

International Ceramics Market: late June

Wilhelmsbad Summer Night: mid-July

Bundesäppelwoifest – apple wine festival: late August

Bürgerfest street festival: early September

Christmas market: from late November

Ice rink: from late December

Information

Tourist Information
Hanau town council,
department for culture, municipal identity
and international relations
Am Markt 14–18, 63450 Hanau
Tel: +49 (0)6181 295 950
touristinformation@hanau.de
www.hanau-neu-erleben.de
www.hanau.de



Giessen. A place of culture and science

Giessen has all the vibrancy you would expect of a university town and despite its relatively large size and wealth of attractions is still an eminently walkable destination.

As well as having the highest concentration of students of any town or city in Germany, Giessen is also an established hub of science, academia and research and features all manner of cultural and gastronomic highlights.

The town sometimes only reveals its true charm on closer inspection, but that's all the more reason to make the effort.

After visiting the Mathematikum with its interactive exhibits you can learn all about the great German chemist Justus Liebig at the museum that bears his name and features his original laboratory. The multi-genre Municipal theatre caters for culture and enter-

tainment and there is plenty of green in the town centre, including the oldest botanical garden in Germany, which is still in its original location.

The popular guided tours tell the story of the town from a variety of perspectives.

Tucked away in the Lahn valley, Giessen has so much on offer for visitors. Boasting 176 kilometres of navigable waters, the Lahn is one of the most popular rivers for canoeing in Germany, and you can also explore its scenic river valley by bike or on foot.

Whether you're coming for science, shopping, tourism or entertainment, there's so much to discover in the town on the Lahn.



Municipal theatre



Mathematikum



Botanical garden and Old Castle

Information

Giessen Tourist Information
Berliner Platz 2, 35390 Giessen
Tel: +49 (0)641 306 1890
tourist@giessen.de
www.giessen-entdecken.de



Marburg – fairytale town, fairytale setting

"If it were but a town, but it's a medieval fairytale!"

(Boris Pasternak)

And it still is to this day. The university town of Marburg is idyllically located between river and hills and boasts a castle and the Church of St. Elisabeth among its many attractions. To get from the lower to the upper part of town you have to gain 100 metres in altitude – an endeavour that is richly rewarded. You can quickly go from relaxing by the banks of the Lahn to exploring the old town and then stopping for a bite to eat at the castle gate. Marburg is home to monuments, parks and gardens; it is steeped in history yet offers a student vibe. Marburg combines urban buzz and natural beauty, past and present, progress and tradition.

The old town is home not only to beautifully restored buildings but also shops, restaurants, cafés and bars. The sheer variety of goods on offer is as impressive as the places where they are sold. Accommodated in characterful buildings from historical timber-framed houses to grand turn-of-the-century



Photo: Georg Kronenberg



villas, the products are only part of the attraction along with the many historical premises that offer fabulous views of the town and its surrounding region. Truly a fairytale setting for a fairytale town.

The beautiful scenery adds a further dimension to the appeal of this university town. The Marburger Land and neighbouring Burgwald forest offer plenty of options for

bike rides, touring on the water and hikes and are home to a number of spa resorts as well as restaurants serving regional cuisine.

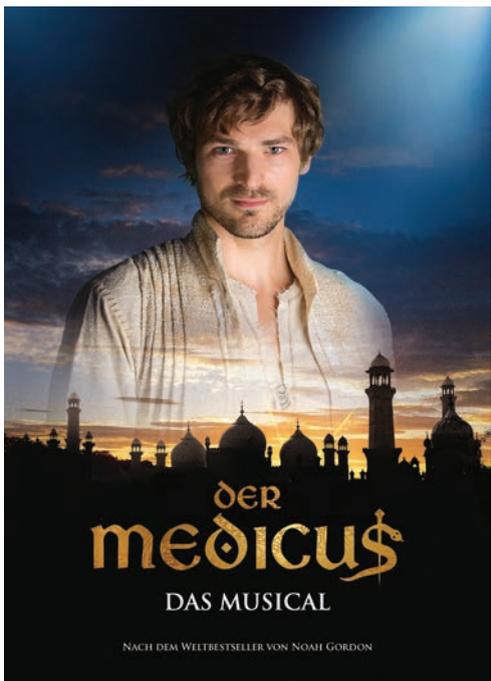


Information

Tourist Information for Marburg & the Marburg region
Tel: +49 (0)6421 99120
info@marburg-tourismus.de
www.marburg-tourismus.de



Frederick the Great (musical)



Pope Joan (musical)

Summer of Musicals in Fulda

There are few better places to experience the splendour of the baroque than in the town of Fulda, where a remarkable ensemble is just waiting to be discovered. The work of virtuoso architects and artists, Fulda cathedral is one of the finest in Germany and indeed anywhere in the world. Further splendid monuments of the baroque period include the magnificent palace and the orangery in the palace gardens – a true gem. In Fulda's old town, you'll find tucked-away squares, lovingly restored medieval houses, traditional artisan workshops and picturesque courtyards that are packed with restaurants and cafés. Fulda's repertoire of museums boast a broad spectrum of exhibitions and exhibits that offer fascinating insights into different periods of the past.

But history and culture are not just confined to museums in Fulda, they are part of everyday life and combine to make a modern and inspiring atmosphere.

The Fulda Summer of Musicals is held every year between mid-June and mid-August. It offers a programme of exhilarating musicals that are all produced by the Fulda-based company Spotlight Musicals. Historical themes, the best German actors and superlative stage technology. What's not to like? The Fulda Summer of Musicals will be hosting a world premiere for the third year in a row in 2016 when it presents the stage adaptation of *The Physician (Der Medicus)*, based on the international bestselling novel by Noah Gordon. To mark the occasion, the town's tourism board is offering a number of

fantastic deals. Various packages are available that include accommodation in top Fulda hotels and tickets to the musicals – and all at attractive prices. There's no doubt about it, Fulda is well worth a trip!

Information and bookings

Fulda Tourist Information
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Tel: +49 (0)661 102 1812
musical@fulda.de
www.tourismus-fulda.de
www.musicalsommer-fulda.de

MUSICAL
Summer
FULDA

Contemporary art in Kassel



The grand fountain



Grimmwelt

Every five years Kassel hosts the *documenta*, the world's most important exhibition of contemporary art, an honour that in 2017 it is sharing with Athens. Works of art from previous *documenta* exhibitions can be seen all over the city. Kassel also has more than 45 museums and cultural attractions to discover, with the spectrum ranging from Old Masters to modern art, from the natural sciences to literature and cultural history. And at the new Grimmwelt on Kassel's Weinberg hill you can find out about the life and legacy of

the Brothers Grimm. Among its numerous exhibits are priceless originals such as the 'Children's and Household Tales' (now on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register), hands-on multimedia displays and artistic installations. Kassel's Wilhelmshöhe Park, called *Bergpark Wilhelmshöhe* in German, was added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites in 2013. You can see its famous water features in full flow on Wednesdays, Sundays and public holidays between 1 May and 3 October every year.

Annual events

Water displays at Wilhelmshöhe Park: 1 May to 3 October

World Heritage Day: first Sunday in June

North Hessen Summer of Culture: June to August

Kulturzelt Festival: July and August

Zissel Festival: late July/early August (Friday to Monday)

Museums Night: first Saturday in September

Connichi: mid-September

Casseler Freyheit Festival: last weekend in October

Fairytale Christmas market in Kassel:

late November to late December

FlicFlac acrobatics festival: mid-December to early January

Information

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Tel: +49 (0)561 707 707
info@kassel-marketing.de
www.kassel-marketing.com



Spa culture and theatre: Bad Hersfeld

Welcome to Bad Hersfeld. Every summer the town's famous season of theatre and musicals, the *Bad Hersfelder Festspiele*, takes place in the enchanting atmosphere of the abbey ruins, which are the largest Romanesque church ruins in the world. Numerous high-calibre productions, many of them new, make for entertaining evenings against a magnificent backdrop.

During the day you can visit the Wortreich exhibition – a unique interactive museum dedicated to language and communication. Wortreich is one of a new generation of museums that really bring their subjects to life. It encourages you to get hands on and try things out as you learn fascinating facts about language and communication. The exciting games, tricky tests of knowledge and interactive computer stations make learning fun.

If you are looking to visit Bad Hersfeld for the theatre festival or the Wortreich exhibition, why not combine your trip with a spa break at the thermal baths? Immersing yourself in the naturally heated waters offers pure relaxation for mind, body and soul.



Bad Hersfeld Festival

Annual events

Bad Hersfeld Festival: June to September

Wine festival: second weekend in July

German Disabled Persons Day: mid-July

Live Jazz Festival: mid-September

Lullus Festival – Germany's oldest volksfest: in the week of 16 October

Christmas market: late November to late December

Information and bookings

Bad Hersfeld Tourist Information
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www.bad-hersfeld.de
For festival tickets visit
www.bad-hersfelder-festspiele.de



Shopping in Hessen's towns and cities Shop till you drop and enjoy great food too

Besides sightseeing and cultural events, what activity belongs on any city break itinerary? That's right, shopping! For some people it just wouldn't be a holiday without a spot of retail therapy and eating out. In this respect Hessen's towns and cities have so much to offer. They are modern and cosmopolitan yet also steeped in history and tradition, striking contrasts that make them all the more captivating.

Character and charm

The Hessen region has something for all types of shoppers, from those who prefer exploring a picturesque old town to those who like the big city buzz. Fulda's main shopping street is called Friedrichsstrasse. Its independent shops are brimming with personality and lend the street a special ambience. For a taste of what it was like in the good old days, you really must pay a visit to the nostalgia-filled Schulstrasse in the city of Darmstadt. The number one street for high-end shopping in Frankfurt is Goethestrasse, where you'll find plenty of exclusive stores featuring collections by top international designers. In the district of Sachsenhausen, in the south of Frankfurt, a mini fashion

quarter packed with independent designer shops has sprung up in and around Brückenstrasse. Central Kassel boasts more than 600 shops that offer everything from fine food and on-trend fashion labels to exclusive gifts. But that's not all. In Kassel's fantastic shopping centres you'll also find intimate bars and large food halls. Almost all of the shops in the old quarter of Wetzlar are independently run and are perfect for browsing around. Or how about a late-night shopping experience with a difference in Marburg? Every year on the last Friday in November numerous light installations bathe the town's historical buildings, bridges and squares in colourful light. To mark the occasion, the shops between the two Christmas markets,

the *Adventsmarkt* and the *Weihnachtsmarkt*, stay open until midnight for a late-night shopping extravaganza called Marburg b(u)y Night. People looking for something a little bit alternative might want to visit Offenbach's trendy Nordend quarter with its creative vibe and its collection of fashion and lifestyle stores, which are small but perfectly conceived. In Rüsselsheim the annual Asparagus Sunday in spring, known as the *Spargel-Sonntag* in German, attracts lots of visitors to this old town on the river Main. They come for the region's delicious white asparagus, which is just coming into season at that time and is served in all kinds of different and exciting ways, but they stay for the shopping!



The market at Frankfurt's Kleinmarkthalle



Kassel

The equivalent festival in the autumn is the Riesling Sunday, or *Riesling-Sonntag*, where you can sample this famous wine at a variety of stands. Wiesbaden's old town, a great place to shop, is known as the little ship because its streets form the shape of a ship's bow.

Malls and shopping centres

Hessen's towns and cities are not all about outdoor shopping, they also offer a whole host of shopping centres and arcades. And these are often where traditional and independent shops as well as cafés and restaurants can be found all under one roof. Fulda's department store named LIEBLINGS brings a touch of big city elegance to this small baroque town and offers you the chance to 'discover worlds' by browsing an exceptional range of products in the categories of fashion, beauty and accessories. On Frankfurt's busiest shopping street, the Zeil, the star attraction for shoppers is the futuristic MyZeil mall, which was designed by the renowned Italian architect Massimiliano Fuksas. Behind its funnelled vortex facade are a host of leading high-street names. Darmstadt's shopping paradise, the Luisen Centre on Luisenplatz, has been a magnet for shopaholics in the heart of the city of science for more than 30 years.

It leads straight out on to Wilhelminenstrasse, a popular shopping street that ends in spectacular style at the beautiful domed church, (St Ludwig's Church or the *Kuppelkirche*). In Hanau, birthplace of the Brothers Grimm, you can get your shopping kicks at Forum Hanau, which is home to 90 shops and has an integrated cultural forum exploring 600 years of the printed word. For a shopping experience with a difference visit the Heyne Fabrik in Offenbach. This old red-brick building is home to numerous creative agencies as well as the workshops of fashion labels and designers that open their doors twice a year to sell their collections directly to the public.

Traditional markets

It's said that if you really want to get to know a town and its people, you just need to take a walk around the marketplace. Wander from stall to stall, try out your German at the fruit and veg stands or in the wine merchants, and sample the various treats that are on offer. The market is the heartbeat of a town or city and it's no different in Hessen. One of the most popular markets in Frankfurt is the Erzeugermarkt, which is affectionately nicknamed the *Konsti-Markt* because of its location on Konstablerwache square.

Elsewhere in Frankfurt, the celebrated Kleinmarkthalle is a veritable culinary paradise, with 156 market stalls offering fresh produce of every description. Other markets offering fresh produce and much more besides can be found in Marburg, Giessen and Offenbach and on cathedral square in Wetzlar. For a particularly special souvenir, why not bring home a bar of Wetzlar goat's milk soap? Every autumn, Giessen hosts its traditional flea and food market. From March to September, at Wiesbaden's market, you can enjoy a special market breakfast that will make your trip one to remember. One of the biggest and best markets in Hessen is the one in Hanau that is held on Neustädter Marktplatz square around the Brothers Grimm statue. Darmstadt's oldest market square, by the Residenz palace, is the venue for the Datterich market, which takes place on the last Saturday of the month between March and October and features lots of special events and activities.

Culinary adventures in Hessen

The towns and cities of Hessen are great places to eat out and their fabulous cafés and restaurants offer everything from traditional and modern cuisine to hearty German fare.



Café Vetter in Marburg



Riesling from Rüsselsheim



Wetzlar



Giessen



Hanau

At Grimmwelt in Kassel, you can enjoy regional cuisine at Falada after learning about the Brothers Grimm and their fairytales. The glass frontage affords panoramic views of the surrounding parkland and the distant hills. In the restaurant of Fulda's Goldener Karpfen hotel, part of the Romantik group, you can expect nothing less than immaculate service and top-quality food in an intimate setting. If you need to recharge your batteries after a shopping spree in Hessen's towns and cities, simply stop off at one of the many traditional restaurants. The Bockshaut, for example, is housed in one of Darmstadt's oldest public buildings and has been bringing generations together since 1795. Because of its fine interior, the restaurant is regarded as a gem in the region's culinary scene. Weinhaus Kögler in Wiesbaden is the epitome of a German wine tavern and a great place to sample the fruits of the prestigious vineyards of the Rheingau and Rheinhessen. For something a little different, you can try dining in complete darkness at Wetzlar's Dunkelkaufhaus. Visitors stopping in Wetzlar might also like to go on the culinary guided walk, on which they are taken round various historical sites and given a meal themed on the great German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe to round off their tour.

A breakfast cruise on the river Lahn in the Elisabeth II boat is available from April to September and will make a trip to Marburg even more special. Any visitor to the multi-cultural, on-trend city of Offenbach will feel like a real insider after they've been on a tour with the OFlovesU team. In Giessen, a gourmet guided tour of the market will give you an insight into this vibrant custom that has been practised for over a century and its significance to the local people. As well as being entertained, you'll be able to sample many of the delights that are on offer.

Coffee house culture, Hessen style

After a long day sightseeing or shopping, there's nothing quite like sitting down to a latte or coffee in a cosy café, relaxing and just watching the world go by. There are lots of traditional cafés in Hessen's towns and cities. The Maldaner café in Wiesbaden is popular with locals and visitors alike because of its Viennese coffee house ambience. Approximately 30 times a year, Marburg's famous old Café Vetter invites poets and writers to read from their work as people around them enjoy patisserie specialities. Past readers have included Günter Grass, Walter Kempowski and Frido Mann. In the heart of Kassel you'll

find a huge selection of delicious cakes at the family-run Nenninger café. And you can sample freshly roasted coffee in numerous traditional roasteries, including in Frankfurt and Wetzlar. Among the more historical places to enjoy coffee and cake is the café at the fortress in Rüsselsheim. There are almost as many ingredients in Hanau's original Brothers Grimm cake as there are Grimm fairytales, as you'll discover at Café Schien in Hanau. The trendy Dach Café in Giessen is located on the 13th floor and there's no charge for the fabulous views!

This is just a small selection of what's on offer in terms of culture, food and drink and shopping in Hessen. From the buzz of the urban centres to the picturesque charm of the old quarters – Hessen's towns and cities have something for everyone.

Information

www.hessen.travel



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Darmstadt

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Café Maldaner in Wiesbaden

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