The Heavenly Routes
Magical Moments of the Millennia
The Nebra Sky Disc is one of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the past century. The bronze disk with gold plating shows the oldest image of the cosmos created by man ever found anywhere in the world. This makes the discovery not only important in archaeological terms, but is also of great significance for our understanding of astronomy and the birth of religion. It was buried 3,600 years ago on the top of the mountain Mittelberg near Nebra together with two swords, two axes, two spiral-shaped bracelets and one chisel.

The Nebra Sky Disc depicts either the sun or the full moon, the crescent moon and the Pleiades in front of a symbolic image of the night sky. Two horizon curves, reflecting the path of the sun during the year as well as a sun skiff were added at later phases.

People have looked up into the night sky for millennia driven by the desire to understand the universe and its secrets.

Recent excavations and discoveries in Saxony-Anhalt have provided us sensational evidence for this deep-routed human desire.
Diverse information is hidden behind these images: for instance, the ends of the horizon curves are aligned with the winter and summer solstice, while the Pleiades, in combination with sun or full moon, signal important harvesting and sowing dates in the farming year.

“So far, nobody believed our bronze age ancestors to be capable of such knowledge. This has totally astonished all of us.”

Quotation Prof. Dr. H. Meller

The appearance of the Nebra Sky Disc also signalled the end of the Bronze Age period characterised by magnificent megalithic tombs, the establishment of pan-European trade as well as radical social changes.

The Sky Paths – a touristic route in southern Saxony-Anhalt – invite visitors to four different locations where they can go on a truly unique journey of discovery into the past.

Travel back in time to long past millennia and be taken to the world of archaeology and astronomy on the “Heavenly routes”.

Artist’s reconstruction of a family grave from the end of the Neolithic period (ca. 2,600 BC), found at Eulau near Naumburg
The Museum
The State Museum of Prehistory in Halle houses one of the most important archaeological collections of Europe. Sensational discoveries are wonderfully presented in the oldest building in Germany dedicated to pre-historic archaeology. Go back to the dawn of European culture and pass through the millennia of our ancestors.

Nebra Sky Disk
The bronze disk is the first concrete depiction of the night sky in human history. This discovery of the century is displayed in a room crowned by 70,000 stars together with the swords, axes, spiral bracelets and chisel with which it was discovered. The 3,600 years old Sky Disc is surrounded by the remains of the first princes to rule over Middle Germany and the golden artefacts which were meant to accompany them into the next life as well as the large bronze treasures of this time – buried as gifts to the gods.
Opening times:
Tue – Fri 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sat/Sun/Bank holidays
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Mondays only with prior booking.

Contact and guided tours:
Landesmuseum für Vorgeschichte
Richard-Wagner-Straße 9
06114 Halle (Saale)
www.himmelsscheibe.de

Booking a guided tour:
Mrs. Monika Bode
T: 0345 - 5247 361
F: 0345 – 5247 503
besucherbetreuung@lda.mk.sachsen-anhalt.de
**Nebra Ark Visitor Centre**
The visitor centre takes you to the fascinating world of the Nebra Sky Disc. The visitor centre built near the location where this unique treasure of humanity was discovered brings together archaeology and astronomy and explains the exiting and fascinating history of the Nebra Sky Disc in an innovative interactive exhibition combining scientific information and real-life displays. At the heart of the Nebra Ark is the planetarium which explains the encoded knowledge recorded on the Sky Disc in a way that every visitor can understand.

**Where the Sky Disc was discovered**
The „Himmelsauge“ (sky eye) where the Sky Disc was discovered connects the sky and earth at the place where the Sky Disc lay undetected for 3,600 years. The 30-meter high tower shows visitors in which direction they should look so as to view the same part of the sky shown on the Sky Disc. This brings the visitor closer to bronze-age astronomy and makes it easier for the visitor to understand. A vertical section divides the building and marks the viewing axis to the „Harz massif“ (mountainous area) with the mountain Brocken. Right up to today it is still possible to view how the sun sets behind this prominent landmark at the summer solstice.
Opening times:
April – October:
Daily 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
November – March:
Tue – Fri 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sat/Sun/Bank holidays
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.,
Closed on Mondays and
24th December. The lookout
tower is always accessible.
A public shuttle bus runs
between the visitor car park,
Nebra Ark and Mittelberg
mountain.

Contact and guided tours:
Nebra Ark Visitor Centre
An der Steinklöbe 16
06642 Nebra
T: 034461-25520
F: 034461-255217
info@himmelsscheibe-
erleben.de
www.himmelsscheibe-
erleben.de

Public guided tours:
Sat/Sun 12:15 p.m.,
1:15 p.m. and 2:15 p.m.,
Additional dates in summer
and on bank holidays.
GOSECK
Solar Observatory
The Reconstruction
The Goseck henge is the earliest archaeological evidence for systematic solar and celestial observation in the world. The impressive monument with a diameter of about 70 metres was fully excavated and reconstructed at the original site according to the results and insights gained during the excavation. The reconstruction now allows today’s visitor to the site the opportunity to track the path of the sun in the exact same way as the Stone Age farmers who erected the Goseck henge some 7,000 years ago. The truly unique acoustics which prevail within the henge in combination with the optical effect of the megalithic structure leave a profound and lasting impression on all who visit.

The information centre
Goseck Castle houses both the information centre as well as the observatory. A welcoming and family-friendly presentation illustrates the excavations in Goseck and explains the significance of the fascinating phenomenon that is the circular ditch enclosure.

Opening times
Information centre:
April – October:
Tue – Sun/Bank holidays
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
November – March:
Tue – Sun/Bank holidays
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Closed on Mondays and 24th December. The Goseck Solar Observatory is freely accessible throughout the whole year.

Contact and guided tours:
Goseck Solar Observatory
information centre
Schloss Goseck
Burgstraße 53
06667 Goseck
T: 03443-8206045
F: 03443-8206046
verein@sonnenobservatorium-goseck.info
www.sonnenobservatorium-goseck.info

Public guided tours:
April – October:
Sun/bank holidays
2:15 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. at the Solar Observatory.
The Tomb Complex
The large megalithic tomb in Langeneichstädt is roughly 5,500 years old and dates back to the early Stone Age period. The floor of the burial chamber consisted of several layers of thin limestone plates in between which archaeologists found remarkable jewellery made from animal teeth, copper, bones and amber. Also found in the chamber was a 1.76 metre tall menhir on which a „Dolmen Goddess“ is depicted.

The Dolmen Goddess
The large megalithic tomb represents another important aspect of the Sky Paths – the afterlife. The „Dolmen Goddess“ is evidence of how Stone Age people thought about and imagined the world hereafter. Their pictures give very strong evidence for wide-reaching contact among Stone Age tribes across Western Europe. Besides the pictures, there are clearly visible smooth areas on the side of the menhir which are the result of frequent touching of the stone. This possibly had some kind of ritual significance.
Opening times:
Freely accessible throughout the year

Contact and guided tours:
Warteverein e.V.
Langeneichstädt
Mr. Bernhard Kaminsky
T: 034632-40162
F: 034632-40135
www.himmelswege.de
THE SKY PATHS
How to find us
Saxony-Anhalt has something to offer everyone, from lovers of culture to nature lovers: the medieval architecture along the "Romanesque Road" or the impressive horticulture of the idyllic "Garden Dreams" – Parks, sensational archaeological finds on the "Sky Paths" as well as the chance to experience beautiful landscapes or action-packed sporting adventures along the "Blue Ribbon".

Holiday in Saxony-Anhalt. You can find more information and offers here: www.saxony-anhalt-tourism.eu

We would be delighted to help and advise you anyway we can. Just contact us either by telephone,fax or e-mail and we will give you all the help and advice you need to make the very most of your stay in Saxony-Anhalt.

Investment and marketing association Sachsen-Anhalt mbH
T: +49(0)391 - 562 - 83820
Mon – Fri 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., Sat 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.,
Sundays and bank holidays 12 noon – 7 p.m.
F: +49(0)391 - 562 - 83811
tourismus@img-sachsen-anhalt.de
www.sachsen-anhalt-tourismus.de

Information regarding trains and busses:
INSA 01801 - 331010* or
+49(0)391 - 5363180
www.insa.de
www.bahn.de/sachsen-anhalt
* 3.9 ct/min from a German landline number, max. 42 ct/min from a mobile number.

SACHSEN-ANHALT
Wir stehen früher auf.
Exploring the Saale-Unstrut region on foot, by bicycle or on the water.

EXPERIENCING HISTORY

- Monastery and imperial palace Memleben – the rise and fall of great emperors and kings of the Ottonian period.
- The Naumburg Cathedral with its medieval master builders and world-famous statue of Uta – the most beautiful face of the medieval age immortalised in stone.

EXPLORING CASTLES, PALACES AND GARDENS

- Castle Querfurt – the largest and oldest castle along the "Road of Ramanesque".
- Neuenburg – “Sister castle of the Wartburg“ rising above the region’s vineyards.
- Historic health resorts and Goethe-theater Bad Lauchstädt – the former “Saxony Pyrmont“

ENJOY THE WINE

- Vineyards with steep terraces, romantic vineyard cottages, wine-growing estates and temporary wine bars selling home-grown wine, the wine-grower association Freyburg, the state wine-growing estate Kloster pforta and the “Rotkäppchen” sparkling wine producer invite to relax and enjoy a delicious glass of wine in a picturesque landscape.
Suggestions for tours on foot

**TIP:**
Hiking in the realm of geology and archaeology (18 km)
Nature park „Saale-Unstrut-Trias period land“
Geological guided tours can be booked under
T: 034461-22086

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**From Nebra Ark Visitor Centre to Querfurt Castle**

Hike to the castle Querfurt on shady, idyllic forest paths after visiting the visitor centre. The hiking trail is about 22 km long and brings you initially directly to the site where the Nebra Sky Disc was discovered on Mittelberg Mountain. The 30-meter high tower shows visitors in exactly which direction they should direct their gaze so as to allow them to view the same part of the sky depicted on the Sky Disc.

Continue via Hermannseck and Lodersleben on to Querfurt. The imposing silhouette of Querfurt Castle with its many towers already a source of awe even from afar. The castle is almost seven times the size of the castle Wartburg and is regarded as the largest and oldest castle along the „Road of Romanesque“.
The Sky Disc cycling route connects the site where the Nebra Sky Disc was discovered on the Mittleberg Mountain near Wangen – with the place where it is on display in the State Museum of Prehistory in the city of Halle (Saale). This particular cycling route is part of the pan-regional cycling routes in Saxony-Anhalt as well as the tourist route Sky Paths.

The Dolmen-cycling route, a second cycling route of the Sky Paths, connects the sky disk cycling route in Querfurt with the Solar Observatory of Goseck and ends at the river Saale cycling route. The Sky Disc cycling route forms a circular route together with the Saale cycling route and the river Unstrut cycling route. Not only do these routes increase the level of access to these extremely significant archaeological sites, but also to the natural, scenic and cultural diversity of the region.

Route: Nebra › Wangen › Nebra Ark › Mittelberg › Ziegelrodaer Forst › Hermannseck › Leimbach › Querfurt › Obhausen › Kuckenburg › Esperstedt › Schraplau › Röblingen am See › Aseleben › Seeburg › cycling path Saale-Harz › Halle (Saale)

Profile: Routes close to nature, low-traffic volumes on the roads, medium-difficult.

Tip: www.himmelswege.de
Cycle from Kirchscheidungen to Nebra Ark Visitor centre. Take some lunch after the visit and planetarium show. Return to Kirchscheidungen in a canoe down the river Unstrut. The tour then concludes with a bite to eat at a wine-taster’s buffet which will also include the possibility to taste from a selection of locally produced wines. You will stay overnight in an original Indian tipi with romantic campfire.

Can be booked via Outtour
T: 034462 - 601951, 0163 - 202051
www.outtour.de

**TIP:**
A half-day canoe tour on the river Unstrut with visit, planetarium show and guided tour in the Nebra Ark
Can be booked via Kanuverleih (Canoe rental) Nebra, T: 034461 - 24388
www.kanuverleih-nebra.de

**tip:**
A half-day canoe tour on the river Unstrut with visit, planetarium show and guided tour in the Nebra Ark
Can be booked via Kanuverleih (Canoe rental) Nebra, T: 034461 - 24388
www.kanuverleih-nebra.de

**TIP:**
Charter boats (35 – 110 persons) on the river Saale
Can be booked via shipping company ARONA
T: 0345 - 97729212
www.arona-maritim.de

Raft tours (25 persons)
Can be booked via Wassertouristik (water tourism) Saaletal
T: 0170 - 2345100
www.wwz-halle.de
Tourist Accommodation

Hotels

Schlosshotel und Hotel Himmelsscheibe***
Schlosshof 4
06642 Nebra
T: 034461-25218
www.himmelsscheibenhotels.de

Berghotel zum Edelacker****
Schloss 25
06632 Freyburg (Unstrut)
T: 034464-350
www.edelacker.de

Gasthaus und Hotel Zur Henne***
Henne 1
06618 Naumburg
T: 03445-123260
www.gasthaus-zur-henne.de

Hotel Bibermühle***
Lauchaer Str. 36
06647 Bad Bibra
T: 034465-6030
www.alte-bibermuehle.de

Parkhotel Güldene Berge****
Langendorfer Str. 94
06667 Weißenfels
T: 03443-39200
www.gueldene-berge.de

Kurpark-Hotel Bad Lauchstädt****
Parkstr. 15
06246 Bad Lauchstädt
T: 034635-20353
www.lauchsteder-gaststuben.de

Dorint Hotel Charlottenhof****
Dorotheenstr. 12
06108 Halle (Saale)
T: 0345-2923-0
www.dorint.com/halle

Ramada Hotel Leipzig-Halle****
Hansaplatz 1
06188 Halle-Peißen
T: 0345-56470
www.ramada.de

Mercure Hotel Halle-Leipzig
An der Mühle 1
06188 Halle-Peissen
T: 0345-5750-0
www.mercure-halle.de

Hotel und Restaurant Zur Kaiserpfalz***
Allerstedter Str. 10
06642 Wohltmirstedt
T: 034462-880
www.kaiserpfalz.de

HOTELS

Hotel Querfurter Hof***
Merseburger Str. 5
06268 Querfurt
T: 034771-5240
www.hotel-querfurter-hof.de

Hotel Zur alten Schmiede***
Lindenring 36
06618 Naumburg
T: 03445-24360
www.hotel-zur-alten-schmiede.de

Hotel Stadt Naumburg****
Friedensstr. 6
06618 Naumburg
T: 03445-7390
www.hotel-stadt-naumburg.de

Hotel Stadt Aachen***
Markt 11
06618 Naumburg
T: 03445-261060
www.hotel-stadt-aachen.de

Bicycle hotel Alter Speicher***
Schützenstr. 9
06632 Freyburg (Unstrut)
T: 034464-36900
www.fahrradhote- alter-speicher.de
Moness Kaffeerösterei
(Coffee roast house)
Lauchaer Str. 33
06632 Balgstädt
T: 034464-35845
www.moness.de
Open 365 days a year from 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Café and Restaurant „Gräfin Cosel“ in Burgscheidungen Castle
Schlossbergstr. 56
06636 Laucha
T: 01805-372836
www.schlossburgscheidungen.de
Open daily from 11:30 a.m.

Schloss-Schenke (Pub) in Goseck Castle
06667 Schloss Goseck
T: 03443-284487
www.schlossgoseck.de
Apr – Oct: Tue – Sun 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Closed on Mondays
Nov – March: Fri – Sun 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Closed Mon – Thur
Closed Dec 2014 – Feb 2015

SECRET TIP:
Eiscafé Venezia
(Ice-cream parlour)
Markröhlitz
T: 03443-202362
Tue – Sun 1 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Closed Mondays
Closed December 2013

BOAT AND BICYCLE RENTAL COMPANY

Canoe and bicycle rental Nebra
Mühlplatz 8
06642 Nebra
T: 034461-24388
0175-2928639
www.kanuverleih-nebra.de

Canoe and bicycle rental Outtour
An der Unstrut
06636 Kirchscheidungen
T: 034462-601951
0163-2020511
www.outtour.de

Canoe, rubber dinghy and bicycle rental
Blütengrund
06618 Naumburg
T: 03445-202051
0163-2020514
www.saale-unstrut.de

Unstrutcamp
Unstrutcamp
Alte Zuckerfabrik 13
06636 Laucha
T: 034462-37009
0177-2670343
www.unstrutcamp.de

Freizeit- und Tourismusverein
Am Schloss 20
06632 Balgstädt
T: 0173-3624109
www.balgstaedt.de

MORE INFORMATION

Tourist-Information Naumburg
Markt 6
06618 Naumburg
T: 03445-273125
tourismus@naumburg.de
www.naumburg-tourismus.de

Freyburger Fremdenverkehrsverein e. V.
(Tourist association)
Markt 2
06632 Freyburg
(Unstrut)
T: 034464-27260
freyburger-fremdenverkehr@t-online.de
www.freyburg-tourismus.de

Tourist-Information Halle (Saale)
Marktplatz 13
Marktschlösschen
06108 Halle (Saale)
T: 0345-1229984
touristinfo@stadtmarketing-halle.de
www.stadtmarketing-halle.de

Town information Mücheln
Markt 20
06249 Mücheln (G.)
T: 034632-90841
stadtinformation@muecheln.de

Fremdenverkehrsverein Weißenfelser Land e.V.
Markt 27
06667 Weißenfels
T: 03443-303070
info@weissenfelstourist.de
www.weissenfelstourist.de