



# The Heavenly Routes

Magical Moments of the Millennia

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-rooted human desire.



The cosmos of the Nebra Sky Disc



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.



The Nebra hoard

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.

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**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



# HALLE (SAALE)

## State Museum of Prehistory



### 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 Disk 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](http://www.himmelsscheibe.de)

**Booking a guided tour:**

Mrs. Monika Bode  
T: 0345-5247 361  
F: 0345-5247 503  
[besucherbetreuung@lda.  
mk.sachsen-anhalt.de](mailto:besucherbetreuung@lda.mk.sachsen-anhalt.de)



Organisation  
der Vereinten Nationen  
für Bildung, Wissenschaft  
und Kultur



Die Himmelscheibe von Nebra  
eingetragen in das Register  
Memory of the World  
2013

# NEBRA

## Nebra Ark – The Sky Disk Experience

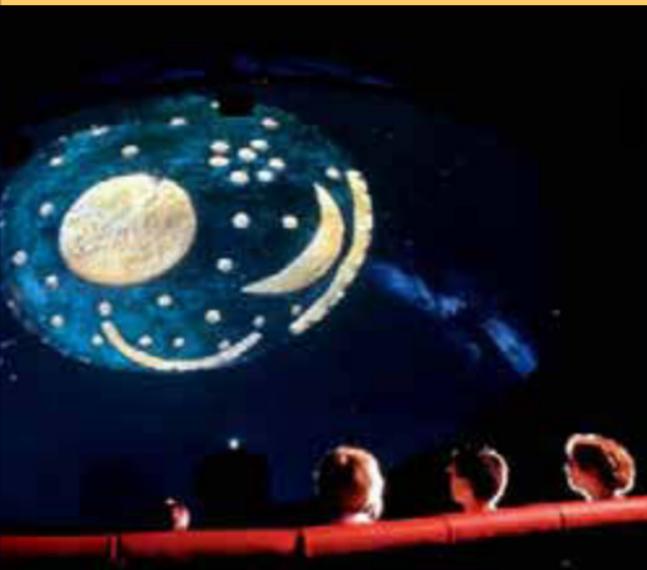


### **Nebra Ark Visitor Centre**

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 Steinklöße 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.



Organisation  
der Vereinten Nationen  
für Bildung, Wissenschaft  
und Kultur



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# 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.

# LANGENEICHSTÄDT

## Tomb of the Dolmen Goddess

### **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](http://www.himmelswege.de)



# THE SKY PATHS

How to find us



- Stations of the Heavenly Routes
- ..... The Sky Disc Cycling Route



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](http://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](mailto:tourismus@img-sachsen-anhalt.de)

[www.sachsen-anhalt-tourismus.de](http://www.sachsen-anhalt-tourismus.de)

### **Information regarding trains and busses:**

INSA 01801-331010\* or

+49(0)391-5363180

[www.insa.de](http://www.insa.de)

[www.bahn.de/sachsen-anhalt](http://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.



Europäische Kommission  
Europäische Strukturfonds  
INVESTITION IN IHRE ZUKUNFT



**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 mediaeval age immortalised in stone.

#### **EXPLORING CASTLES, PALACES AND GARDENS**

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

#### **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.

To the left and right of the route...



# Suggestions for tours on foot



## 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“.



### 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



# Sky Disc Cycling Route



The Sky Disc cycling route connects the site where the Nebra Sky Disc was discovered on the Mittelberg 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](http://www.himmelswege.de)

## TIP:

Along the 73 km long cycling route there are also a large number of possibilities to access to local public rail network (Nebra, Querfurt, Röblingen, Halle) as well as numerous car parks (e.g. Wangen, Hermannseck, Querfurt, Röblingen, Seeburg, Halle), making individual shorter tours on individual sections of the route possible. There are also picnic areas along the route (e.g. Ziegelrodaer Forst, Querfurt, Röblingen), restaurants (e.g. Wangen, Hermannseck, Leimbacher Gasthof, Querfurt, Röblingen, Aseleben, Seeburg, Halle) as well as a variety of tourist accommodation on offer (e.g. Querfurt, Halle and Nebra/Wangen).



# Suggestions for tours on water

## 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](http://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](http://www.arona-maritim.de)

Raft tours (25 persons)

Can be booked via Wasser-touristik (water tourism)

Saaletal

T: 0170-2345100

[www.wwz-halle.de](http://www.wwz-halle.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, 0163-2020511

[www.outtour.de](http://www.outtour.de)

# Tourist Accomodation

(Selection)

## HOTELS

### Schlosshotel und Hotel

#### Himmelsscheibe \*\*\*

Schlosshof 4  
06642 Nebra  
T: 034461-25218  
www.himmelsscheibenhoteles.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: 03445-23260  
www.gasthaus-zur-henne.de

### Hotel Bibernühle \*\*\*

Lauchaer Str. 36  
06647 Bad Bibra  
T: 034465-6030  
www.alte-bibernuehle.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.lauchstedter-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 \*\*\*\*s

Allerstedter Str. 10  
06642 Wohlmirstedt  
T: 034672-880  
www.kaiserpfalz.de

### Hotel

#### Querfurter Hof \*\*\*

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

### Hotel Zur alten

#### Schmiede \*\*\*\*s

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.fahrradhotel-alter-speicher.de

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## FOOD AND DRINK

### **Moness Kaffeerösterei**

(Coffee roast house)

Lauchaer Str. 33

06632 Balgstädt

T: 034464-35845

[www.moness.de](http://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](http://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](http://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.kanuverleihnebra.de](http://www.kanuverleihnebra.de)

### **Canoe and bicycle rental Outtour**

An der Unstrut

06636 Kirchscheidungen

T: 034462-601951

0163-2020511

[www.outtour.de](http://www.outtour.de)

### **Canoe, rubber dinghy and bicycle rental Blütengrund**

06618 Naumburg

T: 03445-202051

0163-2020514

[www.saale-unstrut.de](http://www.saale-unstrut.de)

### **Unstrutcamp**

Unstrutcamp

Alte Zuckerfabrik 13

06636 Laucha

T: 034462-37009

0177-2670343

[www.unstrutcamp.de](http://www.unstrutcamp.de)

### **Freizeit- und Tourismusverein**

Am Schloss 20

06632 Balgstädt

T: 0173-3624109

[www.balgstaedt.de](http://www.balgstaedt.de)

## **MORE INFORMATION**

### **Tourist-Information Naumburg**

Markt 6

06618 Naumburg

T: 03445-273125

[tourismus@naumburg.de](mailto:tourismus@naumburg.de)

[www.naumburg-tourismus.de](http://www.naumburg-tourismus.de)

### **Freyburger Fremdenverkehrsverein e. V.**

(Tourist association)

Markt 2

06632 Freyburg

(Unstrut)

T: 034464-27260

[freyburger-fremdenverkehr@t-online.de](mailto:freyburger-fremdenverkehr@t-online.de)

[www.freyburg-tourismus.de](http://www.freyburg-tourismus.de)

### **Tourist-Information Halle (Saale)**

Marktplatz 13

Marktschlösschen

06108 Halle (Saale)

T: 0345-1229984

[touristinfo@stadtmarketing-halle.de](mailto:touristinfo@stadtmarketing-halle.de)

[www.stadtmarketing-halle.de](http://www.stadtmarketing-halle.de)

### **Town information**

#### **Mücheln**

Markt 20

06249 Mücheln (G.)

T: 034632-90841

[stadtinformation@muecheln.de](mailto:stadtinformation@muecheln.de)

### **Fremdenverkehrsverein Weißenfels Land e.V.**

Markt 27

06667 Weißenfels

T: 03443-303070

[info@weissenfelstourist.de](mailto:info@weissenfelstourist.de)

[www.weissenfelstourist.de](http://www.weissenfelstourist.de)

NATÜRLICH

Saale-Unstrut

Saale-Unstrut-Tourismus e. V.

Lindenring 34 , 06618 Naumburg

T: 03445-2337 90

F: 03445-2337 98

info@saale-unstrut-tourismus.de

www.saale-unstrut-tourismus.de

www.himmelswege.de



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