

CHURCHES AND MONASTERIES

Aachen Cathedral (1978) Aachen Cathedral was the very first site to be granted UNESCO World Heritage status in Germany, and with good reason: built in around 790 to 800, the cathedral is of world importance in terms of the history of art and architecture, and is one of the great examples of church architecture. The final resting place of Charlemagne, it was also where German emperors were crowned for 600 years.

Speyer Cathedral (1981) The imperial cathedral in Speyer, officially known as the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Stephen, is the town's most prominent landmark. Laid out in the form of a Latin cross, it is one of Germany's largest and most important Romanesque buildings, and was intended to be no less than the largest church in the western world when building work began in 1030.

Pilgrimage Church of Wies (1983) The Pilgrimage Church of the Scourged Saviour at the foot of the Alps is considered a perfect example of Bavarian rococo architecture. Around one million visitors come here every year from all over the world – to look, marvel, pray, attend services, enjoy the summer concerts and, of course, for quiet contemplation.

St Mary's Cathedral and St Michael's Church at Hildesheim (1985) As outstanding examples of early-Romanesque architecture both churches symbolise the heyday of religious art in the Holy Roman Empire, exemplify the creative skill of Bishop Bernward and are blessed with a wealth of famous historical art treasures.

Abbey and Altenmünster of Lorsch (1991) The King's Hall at the former Lorsch Abbey in Hessen is a late Carolingian construction, probably built in the middle of the 9th century under Louis the German. Together with the other buildings and archaeological remains of the medieval abbey complex, the building was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site as the last remaining section of the Carolingian abbey still visible from above ground.

Maulbronn Monastery Complex (1993) Over a period of around 400 years, the monks built a remarkable monastery at Maulbronn, which became a distinguishing feature of the surrounding landscape. Today, this former Cistercian abbey is not only the most complete and best-preserved monastic complex north of the Alps, it is also a particularly fine example of medieval architecture.

Cologne Cathedral (1996) There have been churches on the site of Cologne Cathedral since the 4th century. However, it was not until 1248 that this city on the Rhine became home to one of the foremost cathedrals in the Christian world – a masterpiece of Gothic architecture. When it was completed in 1880, it was the tallest building in the world.

Monastic Island of Reichenuau (2000) Three Romanesque churches from the 9th to the 11th century attest to the significance of the former Benedictine abbey on the Monastic Island of Reichenuau in Baden-Württemberg. Founded in 724, it quickly developed into one of the most important monasteries in southern Germany. The monastic tradition can still be seen today in the unique religious festivals and processions that take place on the island.

Carolingian Westwerk and Civitas Corvey (2014) The former Benedictine monastery of Corvey, in Höxter Westphalia is an historical art treasure of inestimable value. The former imperial Abbey with its nearly 1,200 year history is regarded as one of the most important monastic foundations in medieval Germany.

Naumburg Cathedral (2018) The Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul ranks among the most important cultural monuments of the European High Middle Ages. It is especially renowned for its west choir featuring the twelve sculptures of the cathedral's founders. The founder statue of Uta, created by the Naumburg Master, is an icon and known as "the most beautiful woman of the Middle Ages".

OLD TOWNS

Hanseatic City of Lübeck (1987) Lübeck, the undisputed Queen of the Hanseatic League, was founded in 1143 as "the first western town on the Baltic coast" and provided a shining example for all the Hanseatic towns and cities along the Baltic. The medieval old town is one of the foremost examples of brick Gothic architecture and reflects Lübeck's illustrious past as an early centre of international trade.

Wartburg Castle (1999) Large, imposing and steeped in history: high above the town of Eisenach sits Wartburg Castle. One of the best-preserved medieval German fortresses and almost 1,000 years old, it is possibly Germany's most famous castle, and certainly one of its most important.

Town of Bamberg (1993) A centre of imperial and episcopal power for almost a thousand years, and often referred to as the Rome of Franconia, Bamberg stands on seven hills surrounded by beautiful countryside. Dominated by its imperial cathedral, the town is a unique and superbly maintained masterpiece of urban design, uniting medieval and baroque architecture.

Collegiate Church, Castle and Old Town of Quedlinburg (1994) Quedlinburg, which enjoys an idyllic location on the Romanesque Route, was an important royal and imperial town in the Middle Ages. With its historical layout and over 1,300 timber-framed houses from a period spanning six centuries, Quedlinburg is a fine example of a beautifully preserved medieval town.

Historic Centres of Stralsund and Wismar (2002) The grandeur and riches of the Hanseatic League in the 14th century could hardly be more vividly illustrated than in the historic centres of Stralsund and Wismar. Both towns boast virtually unchanged medieval layouts and extensively preserved architectural heritage from the brick Gothic period.

Völklingen Ironworks (1994) They are the world's only surviving smelting works from the Golden Age of the iron and steel industry in the 19th and 20th century. In 1994 these gigantic ironworks covering an area of 600,000 sqm became the first industrial monument to be inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage list. Today, they are a cultural attraction, themed discovery park and science centre rolled into one.

Old Town of Regensburg with Stadtamhof (2006) Regensburg, the town of emperors and kings, offers impressive perspectives of around 2,000 years of history. The centre has over 1,500 listed buildings; of these, 984 form the "Old Town with Stadtamhof" ensemble.

Würzburg Residence with the Court Gardens and Residence Square (1981) Würzburg Residenz Palace is generally considered the purest and most remarkable of all baroque palaces in Germany. Built between 1720 and 1744 and enhanced by the magnificent gardens between 1765 and 1780, it exemplifies a glittering era and is one of the most spectacular royal palaces in Europe.

Castles of Augustusburg and Falkenlust at Brühl (1984) In Brühl, a small town in the Rhineland, architecture, sculpture, painting and garden design have been brought together to create a first-class work of art. A fine example of a German rococo ensemble, Augustusburg Palace and Falkenlust hunting lodge, along with their baroque gardens, have been inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (1990/1992/1999) The beautiful city of Potsdam is part of an extraordinarily rich and attractive landscape: expansive parks, majestic tree-lined avenues and some 150 buildings from the 18th to the 20th century all combine to make an outstanding cultural treasure, extended to include architectural monuments in neighbouring Berlin.

Messel Pit Fossil Site (1995) With more than 40,000 finds to date, the Messel Pit is one of the world's most productive fossil sites, documenting dramatic changes to the biosphere during past geological periods. It reveals the wonders of evolution around 48 million years ago.

Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz (2000) As the first English-style landscape garden in mainland Europe, the 18th century Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz unites garden design and architecture in perfect harmony. Here you'll find manor houses, more than 100 buildings of varying sizes and a range of sweeping parks and gardens, all spread over an area of 140 square kilometres on and around the banks of the rivers Elbe and Mulde.

Mines of Rammelsberg, Historic Town of Goslar and Upper Harz Water Management System (1992/2010) Reminders of Germany's earliest industrial heritage: documenting around 1,000 years of mining history, the Mines of Rammelsberg on the outskirts of the beautiful old town of Goslar were once the largest interconnected repositories of copper, lead and zinc ore in the world. Energy for the mine was supplied by the Upper Harz water management system, the world's foremost pre-industrial water management system for the mining industry.

Upper Middle Rhine Valley (2002) Bingen and Rüdesheim form the southern gateway to the Upper Middle Rhine Valley, which runs for around 65 kilometres to Koblenz. With the beauty of nature, breathtaking panoramic views and an incredible wealth of castles and palaces overlooking sun-drenched vineyard slopes, the valley remains one of Europe's biggest tourist attractions.

Muskauer Park / Park Mużakowski (2004) Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau – bohemian, travel writer and landscape gardener of great renown – designed Muskauer Park, one of the most beautiful landscaped gardens in the world, in the early 19th century. Covering around 830 hectares, it is made up of a number of smaller parks on either side of the German-Polish border, each with its own character.

Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex in Essen (2001) In its day, shaft XII at the Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex in Essen was the world's largest and most modern coal-mining facility and a leading example of the development of heavy industry in Europe. Today, with its Bauhaus-influenced design, the mine is a triumph of modern industrial architecture and a centre for art and culture.

Fagus Factory in Alfeld (2011) Built from 1911 to designs by Adolf Meyer and Walter Gropius, the subsequent star architect of the Bauhaus school, the Fagus Factory is widely regarded as the first truly modernist structure. Typical of the Neues Bauen style, the glass and steel facade and the huge, wrap-around corner windows form of supports lend the building an elegant feeling of lightness.

The Water Management System of Augsburg (2019) The Water Management System of Augsburg documents the 800-year development of the urban water supply: from the separation of drinking water from water for domestic use in the Middle Ages to the use of hydropower as fuel and the continued use of old traditions by applying new technologies nowadays.

Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří Mining Cultural Landscape (2019) The cross-border mining region is the only landscape in the world that presents the complex epochs of ore mining from the 12th to the 20th century and their global influences. Above and below ground mines, ore processing, landscapes and mountain towns contribute to strengthen the understanding of history and its relevance.

Roman Monuments, Cathedral of St Peter and Church of Our Lady in Trier (1986) Founded as Augusta Treverorum in 16 BC, Trier is Germany's oldest town and a true monument to history. Historical buildings of international standing, remarkable churches and magnificent Roman remains all make a visit to this romantic city on the Moselle an unforgettable experience.

Frontiers of the Roman Empire (1987/2005/2008) The longest and one of the most impressive archaeological monuments in Europe, the Upper Germanic-Rhaetian Limes marks former Roman boundaries from the Rhine to the Danube over a distance of 550 km. Around 2,000 years ago its forts, watchtowers, walls and palisades protected the mighty Roman Empire from the Barbarians. Together with Hadrian's Wall and Antonine Wall in the UK, the Limes forms the transnational site of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire.

Luther Memorials in Eisleben and Wittenberg (1996) Even today, some 500 years after the Reformation and the beginning of the modern era, the atmosphere of those times can still be felt in Eisleben and Lutherstadt Wittenberg. This is where you'll find unique Luther memorial sites such as the house where the Church reformer was born, the house where he died, the monastery where he lived and the church to which he nailed his 95 theses.

Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (2007/2011/2017) They are really the original inhabitants of Europe: without human intervention, beech trees would still cover large areas of continental Europe. Today, unspoiled lowland beech forests are found nowhere else in the world but in Germany. The Ancient Beech Forests of Germany UNESCO World Natural Heritage site therefore offers a fascinating, romantic and incredibly diverse picture of the original European landscapes. This transboundary extension now stretches over 12 countries.

Wadden Sea (2009/2014) The diversity of the Wadden Sea landscape on the North Sea coast makes it a unique habitat for countless species of plants and wildlife. This UNESCO World Natural Heritage site covers an area of around 11,000 square kilometres and includes the three Wadden Sea National Parks of Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony, Hamburg and Denmark plus the Wadden Sea conservation area in the Netherlands.

Bergpark Wilhelmshöhe (2013) Covering 240 hectares in the north Hessian city of Kassel, baroque Wilhelmshöhe Park is designed in the style of an English landscape garden and is Europe's largest hillside park. Together with Wilhelmshöhe Palace, it forms a unique whole that combines culture, nature and landscape architecture in perfect harmony.

Museuminsel (Museum Island) Berlin (1999) The unique collection of galleries and museums on Berlin Museum Island, with its five temple-like buildings, houses treasures from 6,000 years of human history. Located in Berlin's historical centre, the complex is the centrepiece of the city's museum network and is Europe's largest cultural investment project.

Town Hall and Roland on the Market Place of Bremen (2004) It is one of the most beautiful town halls in Germany: the magnificent facade is a textbook example of the Weser Renaissance architecture typical of northern Germany. Along with the Roland statue, the city's very own "statue of liberty", it still stands as a reminder of the pride that the locals have for their city, their freedom and their sovereignty.

Berlin Modernism Housing Estates (2008) Appearing between 1913 and 1934, Berlin's six Modernist housing estates, with their promise of "light, air and sunshine" for residents, provided a welcome antidote to the gloomy tenement buildings of Wilhelmshöhe Germany. Their clear lines made them hugely influential in 20th century architecture and town planning.

Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps (2011) Nine pile dwellings are located on the shores of Lake Constance in Baden-Württemberg. Nine more are listed in Upper Swabia, south of Augsburg and at Lake Starnberg. Together with 93 further sites in France, Italy, Austria, Switzerland and Slovenia, they represent an archaeological legacy that dates back almost 7,000 years.

Margravian Opera House Bayreuth (2012) The Margravian Opera House is regarded as a triumph of 18th century baroque theatre design. Visitors find the splendour of its interior simply awe-inspiring. The most beautiful baroque theatre remaining in Europe, it was built by Giuseppe Galli Bibiena and his son Carlo, the most famous theatre architects of their day.

Hedeby and the Danevirke (2018) Hedeby was a major trading centre during the Viking age and is surrounded by the Danevirke, an extensive defensive system of earthworks and ditches. The remains are located at the historic isthmus between the narrow inlet of the Schlei and the lowlands of the North Sea in the north of Schleswig-Holstein.

Bauhaus and its Sites in Weimar, Dessau and Bernau (1996/2017) As a university of design, the Bauhaus School revolutionised 20th century art and architecture around the world. Today the original buildings in Weimar, Dessau and Bernau, along with a range of museums and exhibitions, provide an insight into a movement that still seems innovative today.

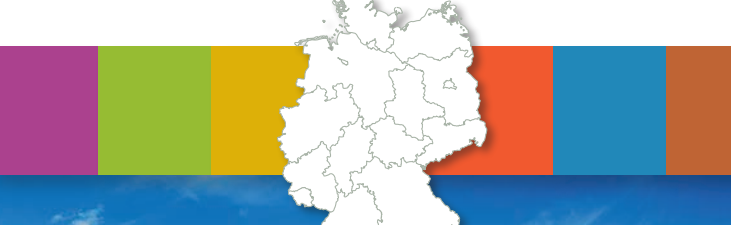
Classical Weimar (1998) For centuries, Weimar in Thuringia was at the centre of intellectual life in Germany: the city experienced its heyday in the early 19th century when it was home to no fewer than three of Europe's leading intellectuals – Goethe, Schiller and Herder. The Classical Weimar ensemble is testimony to the enlightened, courtly but also civic culture of the period around 1800.

Mines of Rammelsberg

Upper Harz Water Management System

Historic Town of Goslar

UNESCO World Heritage in Germany



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About us
The UNESCO World Heritage Sites Association Germany is the representative body of the combined German World Heritage Sites and their affiliated tourist organizations. The association was founded 2001 in Quedlinburg aiming to increase awareness of Germany's World Heritage sites and to improve low-impact and specialised tourism to heritage sites on a sustainable scale. This involves an opportunity to extend the appeal and accessibility of World Heritage sites as well as to guarantee the conservation of the World Heritage on a sustainable basis through income generated by tourism.

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Speicherstadt and Kontorhaus District with Chilehaus (2015) This is where the roots of the modern European city of Hamburg lie: the historical Speicherstadt and Kontorhaus district with the famous Chilehaus are synonymous with Hamburg's rise as a global trading power. Having survived the years without damage or alteration, it is a vibrant cultural quarter today.

The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement (2016) For their groundbreaking concept and architecture two of the houses in the Weissenhof housing estate, built 1927, were elevated to the status of a UNESCO World heritage site, together with Corbusier's works in six other countries.

Caves and Ice Age Art in the Swabian Jura (2017) The oldest figurative mobile art objects and musical instruments are dated to about 40,000 years before present. They have been discovered in caves that are situated in the river valleys of Ach and Lone in the Swabian Jura. As an ensemble, the caves, their surrounding landscape and the archaeological objects represent one of the most significant heritage sites of human cultural and evolutionary history worldwide.

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Where history comes to life

UNESCO World Heritage sites are outstanding testimonies to the history of mankind and nature: silent yet eloquent witnesses to magnificent cultural achievements and natural phenomena.

Only the most exceptional examples are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list and enjoy the special international protection associated with that status. Sites range from individual architectural monuments to entire towns, and from industrial heritage to extraordinary natural landscapes.

Travelling to UNESCO World Heritage sites is a remarkable journey back into history – a unique experience!



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CASTLES AND PALACES
INDUSTRIAL SITES
LANDSCAPES AND GARDENS
CULTURAL AND CONTEMPORARY HISTORY