

SAXONY. STATE OF THE ARTS.



The World Heritage sites in Saxony

Two sites which have been awarded UNESCO World Heritage status impressively underline Saxony's reputation as the number one cultural tourist destination in Germany: "Muskauer Park / Park Mużakowski", a joint Polish-German site, and the "Ore Mountains / Krušnohoří Mining Region" site of German/Czech cultural heritage.

The Fürst-Pückler-Park, Bad Muskau – horticulture in the east of Saxony

To the north of Görlitz, the river Neisse flows through one of the loveliest landscaped gardens on the Continent: Fürst-Pückler-Park in Bad Muskau. Inspired by the idyllic valley landscape, the famous landscape architect, lord of the estate and travel writer Count Hermann von Pückler-Muskau created a park of princely proportions here between 1815 and 1845. Subsequent owners further developed and added to the park in the terraced landscape of the meadows along the Neisse in a manner befitting Pückler's memory. The landscaped gardens in the very east of Saxony are considered an exceptional example of 19th-century horticulture, having been extremely well cared for and preserved. What makes the 830-hectare park so special is that it is divided by the Neisse: one part is in Saxony, the other in Poland. The two halves of the park, on German and Polish soil, are connected by the double bridge over the Neisse, officially opened in October 2003. The UNESCO recognised the "Muskauer Park / Park Mużakowski" as a joint example of Polish and German World Heritage back in 2004.

The site now includes the New Palace, also renovated by Count Pückler. Its reconstruction is one of the spectacular successes achieved by the "Fürst-Pückler-Park Bad Muskau" foundation. Visitors are impressed by the four-sided palace estate with the courtly stables, today used as a venue for exhibitions and events; the coach house with the Muskau Park tourist information centre, a café and a residential building; the tropical nursery with cacti, the cavaliers' quarters, today offering mud baths; the spa park where people once took the waters and strolled the hills, the palace park and the Moorish orangery. On the Polish side, the gardens are made up of the lower park, the arboretum and the Braunsdorf fields. From there, routes lead to the Lusatian cultural landscape, whose numerous sights provide enough variety even for a longer stay.

Count Hermann von Pückler-Muskau is known as one of the most enigmatic figures of his times, and the hero of many anecdotes.

The "Ore Mountains / Krušnohoří Mining Region" – 800 years of mining history

With over one million visitors arriving every year and more than three million visitor nights, the Ore Mountains are one of Saxony's most popular holiday regions. Idyllic landscapes, unique river valleys and picturesque villages have their origins in the more than 800 years of mining history which give the Ore Mountains their wealth, their name and their economic importance. Nowhere else in Germany are there so many traces of this mining past. Anyone who likes exploring can do so in a variety of ways, whether on a hike, strolling through the mining towns or visiting the underground treasure troves. Moreover, the region is known for the deeply rooted traditions and customs which are still authentically practised here. Miners' parades, or celebrations marking the final shift before Christmas, are still a firm fixture of the Ore Mountain winter and Christmas calendar.

By giving the German/Czech "Ore Mountains / Krušnohoří Mining Region" World Heritage status in July 2019, the UNESCO was recognising the region as an important part of Saxony's more than 1,000-year-old cultural landscape, with its characteristic features. It is composed of 22 components: 17 on the German side and 5 on the Czech side.

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The selected testaments to mining history represent the most important sites and epochs of Saxon and Bohemian ore mining. Every component part represents a different spot connected to the region's historical mining heritage. Some 400 are on the Saxon side alone: unique mines and tunnel systems, metalworking complexes, historical mining towns, magnificent churches, compelling works of art related to mining and typical features of the landscape such as old sinkholes and mine tailings. The outstanding universal value of this World Heritage site lies in the fact that it brings together all 22 component parts.

A UNESCO World Heritage status is the highest honour that a cultural asset can achieve. Saxony now has two World Heritage sites: "Muskauer Park / Park Muzakowski" and the "Ore Mountains / Krušnohoří Mining Region".

For further information, see: <https://www.muskauer-park.de/>, www.montanregion-erzgebirge.de

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About Tourismus Marketing Gesellschaft Sachsen mbH

Tourismus Marketing Gesellschaft Sachsen mbH has been marketing Saxony as an attractive travel destination in Germany and abroad since 2000. Using the slogan "Saxony. State of the Arts", it positions the region as a top cultural destination, focusing on arts, culture and city breaks as well as family, wellness and active holiday. Corresponding holiday packages can be booked via reservation systems and tour operators. Saxony's main source markets are Germany, Poland, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria, Czech Republic, USA, UK, Russian Federation, China and Italy.