Regions in Saxony

Ore Mountains

Mining and Culture
The Ore Mountains are one of Germany’s oldest mining landscapes. With 130 kilometres in length and 1,500 square kilometres in size the nature park owes its name to the hundreds of years of silver ore mining. The holiday route “Ferienstraße Silberstraße” between Zwickau and Dresden connects historical places of mining history, e.g. visitor mines, mills, copper hammers, the mathematics school of Adam Ries and Silbermann organs. Some of them, like the mines in Freiberg and the mining museums in Oelsnitz and Altenberg, are monuments along the route of industrial culture in Saxony. Magnificent market squares, hall churches and patrician houses tell of the wealth that silver mining once brought to the mining towns. Mining customs are kept alive until this day. Especially around Christmas you will find miners’ parades, “Hutzenabende” (cozy get-togethers), “Mettenschichten” (last shift below ground before Christmas Eve) and Advent concerts in old-established towns like Annaberg-Buchholz, Schneeberg, Schwarzenberg and Freiberg. Pyramids on the market squares and the brightly lit shop windows with their “Schwibbögen” and candle-holding, wood-carved angel and miner figurines everywhere contribute to this unique atmosphere. It was the miners’ desire for light that made the Ore Mountains the cradle of this special folk art and of German Christmas traditions.

Activity Holidays in Nature
The mountains along the Czech border offer ideal conditions for hikers, cyclists and mountain bikers. 5,000 kilometres of well-kept paths provide best conditions for great hiking experiences, e.g. on the local section of the European long distance path E3 or the high-quality hiking trail “Kammweg” in the Ore Mountains/Vogtland. The FIS-certified slalom slope on Fichtelberg mountain and the cross-country ski tracks are very popular among winter sports enthusiasts. On the Kammloipe, one of Germany’s cross-country ski trails most likely to have snow, you can enjoy the nature park of the Ore Mountains/Vogtland on 36 km of tracks. On the mountain bike trail “Stoneman Miriquidi”, the only of its kind in Germany, mountain bikers find their own small piece of heaven.
Upper Lusatia

Upper Lusatian Mountains and Lusatian Lakeland
Rugged rocks, high mountains, dense forests, protected nature, 1,000 lakes and ponds - in Upper Lusatia active tourists find everything they desire. Hiking, cycling, climbing, on the water, in the air and in the snow – relaxed activities or ambitious sports experiences – here, you can enjoy all of them. There are special cycling and hiking offers on routes like the “Oder-Neiße-Radweg” (cycle trail), the “Spree-Radfernwanderweg” (hiking trail) or the Upper Lusatian mountain route. Approximately 5,000 kilometres of well-kept cycling and hiking trails cross the region. The tours through extraordinary landscapes lead you along the biggest water landscape built by men (21 lakes and channels) in the northeast or through the UNESCO biosphere reserve of the Upper Lusatian heath and pond landscape. All trails combine beautiful landscapes and cultural highlights.

Historic Towns and Sorb Customs
Themed cycle routes also introduce you to cultural highlights: Following the Neiße river, you come across the sisters in the more than 700-year-old Cistercian monastery Sankt Marienthal in Ostritz near Zittau, to the European town of Görlitz/Zgorzelec and the UNESCO cultural heritage of the Fürst-Pückler-Park in Bad Muskau. The cycle route of the half-timbered houses (“Umgebindehaus-Radweg”) is unequalled in Europe. The “Städteroute” connects the towns of Bautzen, Görlitz, Kamenz, Löbau, Lauban (in Poland) and Zittau. The historic towns reveal architectural and historico-cultural treasures: the “Great Zittau Lenten Veil”, Europe’s only cast-iron tower in Löbau, Sorb customs in Bautzen, Lessing in Kamenz, around 4,000 architectural monuments in Görlitz that serve as film set for “Görlwood”. Many traditional crafts can be found: earthenware in Bunzlau style, linen, blueprints, Pulsnitz gingerbread. The international Upper Lusatian linen days on Rammenau Castle unite all kinds of crafts every year. And the hospitality of the Upper Lusatians is legendary as well.
Leipzig Region
Castles and palaces, cycle and hiking routes, a fascinating lake landscape – all of that is just an hour’s drive away from Leipzig.

Naturally Charming – Saxon Heathland
The Saxon Heathland in the north of Saxony is a hiking and cycling paradise. Well-marked trails lead the active nature enthusiast through idyllic woods and pasture landscapes alongside the Mulde and Elbe rivers. The nature park of the Düben heath alone offers 500 kilometres of cycle and hiking routes. You should definitely plan a hike along the repeatedly certified high-quality hiking trail of the “Heide-Biber-Tour” while staying in the region around Leipzig.

Leipzig New Lakeland – A Sensational Experience
In the Leipzig New Lakeland area it’s all about water sports. On different tours city and surroundings can be explored by canoe or row boat. A special treat is the boat tour from the Leipzig city port through the idyllic riparian forest to the Cospudener lake. But with its more than 20 lakes the region is not only interesting in terms of water routes. A wide range of water sports activities, from kite surfing, diving to stand-up paddling, awaits active tourists. Looking for an adrenaline rush? Then visit one of Europe’s most modern white water facilities – the Kanupark Markkleeberg.

Saxon Land of Castles – Rich in Culture
In the Saxon land of castles medieval city centres, monasteries and castles line the valleys along the rivers. So why not integrate them in a lovely bicycle tour? We recommend the 230-kilometre cycle route along the Mulde river, leading through a fabulous river landscape while offering fascinating insights into Saxon history. Castles like Schloss Rochlitz Castle or the ruined monastery of Nimbschen are some of the sights along the Luther route that comprises 27 stations between Leipzig and Bad Düben where Luther left his imprint in Saxony. Just as impressive is the valley of the same name along the Zschopau river with its wild and romantic nature and bizarre rock formations. Water sports, hiking and cycling enthusiasts will have nothing left to desire.
Saxon Elbland

Renowned Cities
Those who visit the Saxon Elbland will discover the birth place of Saxony, follow in the tracks of Reformations and Karl May and get to know excellent wines and stately castles. It's first and foremost the porcelain that brought world fame to the more than 1,000-year-old residential city of Meissen. Albrechtsburg Castle, since 1710 production site of the first European hard porcelain, shows the beginnings of the “white gold” to the visitors. The worldwide unique collection of Meissen porcelain on the other hand is located in the MEISSEN® Manufactory. The world of experience in the HAUS MEISSEN® combines show workshops, art from past and present, shopping and culinary delights in the MEISSEN® restaurant, and thus makes the world-famous porcelain and its 300 years of success tangible. Just as impressive is Torgau, one of Germany’s most beautiful Renaissance towns. Its byname “town of Luther” derives from the close connection to the great Reformer’ life and works. The church on Schloss Hartenfels Castle i.e. was the first Protestant church building in Germany to be consecrated by Martin Luther. The region is also enriched by Schloss Moritzburg Castle. With its precious porcelains, furniture and leather hangings, the hunting lodge and summer residence of Augustus the Strong tells of the historic living and dining culture of the 18th century. One of the world’s largest collections of trophies reminds of the Wettins’ passion for hunting.

Idyllic Wine-growing Towns
Enjoying culture and wine is part of life along the Saxon wine route. From Diesbar-Seußlitz, the town of wine, in the northeast through the heart of Meißen, Radebeul and Dresden to Pirna in the southeast, wine connoisseurs find a landscape of Mediterranean character: vineyards, wine-growing estates and wine experience facilities, cosy pubs, rustic restaurants. During events, e.g. the days of the open vineyard at the end of August, vintners open their doors wide. Active tourists can enjoy this cultural landscape on their bicycle on Germany’s most popular cycle route – the Elberadweg – or on board the world's largest and oldest fleet of paddle steamers.
Saxon Switzerland

Hiking in the National Park
In the southeast of Saxony, the Elbe Sandstone Mountains tower up with the 93-square-kilometre national park of Saxon Switzerland. Its signature feature are wooded table mountains and hundreds of free-standing, very distinctive sandstone rock formations. With the rock formations of Lilienstein, Bastei, Schrammsteine and the unspoiled Kirnitzschtal valley the national park region ranks among the scenic highlights in Germany. Today more than ever, mountaineers find a climbing paradise among the 1,100 rocks with approx. 17,000 climbing possibilities of different levels of difficulty. And hikers are welcomed by a huge network of trails. The most popular is the “Malerweg” (painters trail). It leads to the most beautiful places in the Elbe Sandstone Mountains. Among the most popular is the Basteifelsen rock with its famous bridge, the Lilienstein and the Königstein with its magnificent fortress of the same name. By the way, the name “Malerweg” is owed to the famous painters of Romanticism as Caspar David Friedrich and Ludwig Richter who were strongly inspired by this unique nature. The world of sandstone and cities like Pirna, old-established spas as Bad Schandau, Rathen or Wehlen as well as the Elbe meadows near Dresden form the backdrop of the “Elberadweg”, the most popular German cycle route. And on the river you are accompanied by the world’s biggest and oldest fleet of paddle steamers.

Sandstone and Music
For many years, in keeping with nature, the musical festival “Sandstein & Musik” has called attention to the special landscape in churches, concert halls and even quarries in the region. Aside from the national park, cities like Pirna with architecturally very attractive historic city centres, the baroque garden in Großsedlitz and Schloss Weesenstein Castle are treats for tourists and aesthetes. Sebnitz has been the town of silk flowers ever since the foundation for this filigree craft was laid in 1831. Visitors can convince themselves of the vast variety of flowers in the manufactory “Deutsche Kunstblume” in Sebnitz.
Vogtland

Witnessing Arts and Crafts
They play in orchestra venues all over the world: Musical instruments from the Vogtland. For more than 350 years, the production of musical instruments has been at home in the Musikwinkel Markneukirchen - Klingenthal - Schöneck. Organised experience tours for music societies, orchestras and music enthusiasts lead you to the museum of musical instruments in Markneukirchen and to the workshops of the masters to take a peek at the production of the wooden and brass instruments, exchange views and even give it a try yourself. The invention of machine-made tulle lace at the beginning of the 20th century made the city of Plauen famous all over the world. Today, guests to the region can get a close look at Plauen lace® in the German museum of lace and in the show embroidery workshop in Plauen.

Experiencing Nature
Exercise and enjoyment of nature are crucial to active relaxation in the Vogtland. A comprising network of trails leads hikers through the four-country region at the heart of Europe. Hiking becomes a special experience on the high-quality hiking trails “Vogtland Panorama Weg”, “Kammweg Erzgebirge-Vogtland” and “Höhensteig-Rundweg” around Klingenthal. And a dense network of e-bike stations enables relaxed adventure tours on two wheels.

Enjoy Thermal Springs In the Vogtland it's all about cures! The Saxon State Baths in Bad Elster and Bad Brambach continue 150 years of tradition in cures on the most modern level. Mineral springs develop their vitalising effect on body and spirit, among them the strongest drinkable radon spring in the world in Bad Brambach. Most recently, the saltwater thermal spring in Bad Elster opened its doors, its highly mineralised water unique. And a variety of cultural offers combines health cures with enjoyment of art and culture in this town.

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