**Impressive landscape for nature lovers and active travellers**

What was formed over millions of years of geological history still makes the Hunsrück landscape something special today: the four rivers Moselle, Nahe, Saar and Rhine have dug deep into the Devonian slate and flow around the low mountain range, which is shaped like a dog's back. The Hunsrück is a natural gem, with a rich variety of flora and fauna in the landscape. There are red deer and wild boar, badgers, hazel grouse and the largest population of wildcats in Europe in a very small area. Rare orchid species, wild daffodils and copper beeches well over a hundred years old demonstrate a wide spectrum of biodiversity.

You won't find big cities and city noise in the region, in many places there is only relaxing nature: gently undulating mountain ranges with extensive beech and spruce forests, flowering meadows and cultivated fields, streams dug deep into the slate, gorge-like bizarre valleys. Moors with old bog birch trees and huge quartzite rock formations characterise the landscape. So it comes as no surprise that there are two nature parks in the Hunsrück, the Saar-Hunsrück Nature Park and the Soonwald-Nahe Nature Park, as large-scale protected areas and that the Hunsrück-Hochwald National Park has been established as the only national park in Rhineland-Palatinate to date. National parks and nature parks are only created where nature preserves its own characteristics.

The castles, palaces, churches and architectural monuments tell of an eventful history. They are cultural treasures and can often be seen from afar. Castle ruins such as the moated castle of Baldenau, the castle complex of Grimburg or Kastellaun Castle have been restored in accordance with monument protection regulations. The churches are often impressive due to their unusual location or size. The Hunsrück Cathedral is an impressive church that shines far beyond the small village of Ravengiersburg near Simmern. The Walholzkirche church near Morbach-Weiperath, situated in a secluded location in the Dhron valley, attracts many visitors every year. Day trippers and holidaymakers admire the slate-roofed half-timbered houses in the Hunsrück and appreciate the slow pace of life in the small towns of Simmern, Kastellaun and Kirchberg as well as the villages in the region.

There are some record-breaking attractions in the Hunsrück. The most beautiful suspension rope bridge in Germany, the Geierlay suspension rope bridge, swings from one bridgehead to the other over a length of 360 metres and a height of almost 100 metres between the villages of Mörsdorf and Sosberg. Modelled on Nepalese suspension rope bridges, it is an impressive structure and a popular destination for adventurers and those with a head for heights. With 1200 exhibits of German telecommunications, the German Telephone Museum in Morbach is the most extensive exhibition of its kind in Germany and is therefore also in the Guinness Book of Records. Those interested in technology will find the largest private aircraft exhibition in Central Europe with over 100 aeroplanes and aircraft parts in Hermeskeil-Abtei. And the highest elevation in Rhineland-Palatinate is also in the Hunsrück, the 816 metre-high Erbeskopf.

At the Erbeskopf, on the Dollberge near Hermeskeil or the Schanzerkopf near Rheinböllen, low mountain winter sports are possible in winter if there is sufficient snowfall. Alpine-style downhill pistes, toboggan runs and groomed cross-country ski trails with winter sports enthusiasts in colourful ski suits characterise the region.

The landscape of the Hunsrück is colourful in every season: golden yellow during the rape blossom in spring, red and blue in summer with poppies and cornflowers and in all colours in autumn.

This annual spectacle of colour can be experienced most intensively when hiking. A high-quality network of attractive hiking trails leads to numerous natural beauties. The impressive distant views across the landscape, often extending far beyond the region, are unmistakable. These are particularly impressive on the 415-kilometre Saar-Hunsrück-Steig trail. It was certified as the best long-distance hiking trail in Germany by the German Hiking Institute with 68 points and was voted Germany's most beautiful hiking trail for the second time in 2017.

Far from civilisation, more than 70 percent of the Saar-Hunsrück Climb runs along narrow nature trails. Unforgettable hikes through forest and meadow landscapes can also be experienced on the Soonwaldsteig in the Soonwald-Nahe Nature Park or on the Traumschleifen Saar-Hunsrück, the certified circular trails in premium quality.

Cyclists don't necessarily think of the Hunsrück region first when it comes to cycling fun. However, the designated cycle routes in the Hunsrück-Nahe bike region have special qualities and are attracting a steadily growing number of fans. With gradients of just one per cent, the Schinderhannes Cycle Route between Emmelshausen, Kastellaun and Simmern and the Ruwer-Hochwald Cycle Route between Trier-Ruwer, Kell am See and Hermeskeil are easy and exciting cycle routes for families and leisure cyclists. Ambitious cyclists can choose between the Hunsrück cycle path between Saarburg on the Saar and Bacharach on the Rhine, racing cycle routes or gravel bike tours.

And because being active makes you hungry, the regional cuisine offers many culinary delights. Selected Michelin-starred restaurants have found their home in the Hunsrück. Specialities can be enjoyed in inns with stuffed dumplings, the original Hunsrück pot roast or potato sausage.

A wide range of holiday flats, holiday homes or holiday parks, beautiful village inns, family-run guesthouses and excellent comfort hotels invite you to spend your holiday in the Hunsrück. Many of these hosts or exciting hiking and cycling offers can be booked worldwide via the Internet at www.hunsruecktouristik.de.

Detailed information about the Hunsrück region is available from the Hunsrück-Touristik GmbH, Gebäude 663, 55483 Hahn-Flughafen, GERMANY

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