



WALKING THE LINE

This sheet provides information on our region and the places we will visit together.



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EXTERNSTEINE

The Externsteine are a sandstone rock formation in the Teutoburg Forest. These natural rocks are up to 40 meters high.

HISTORICAL FACTS

- Archeologists discovered flint tips in this region which prove that about 10,000 years ago (in the Paleolithic age) humans have already visited the Externsteine. The reasons are unknown.
- Fire pits prove that the Externsteine were also used by people in later years. Human traces were found, from antiquity and the early Middle Ages.
- In the *middle ages* the Externsteine were changed by humans. A *chapel* and the *rock tomb* (grave) were created. It is believed that this was done by monks of the surrounding monasteries.
- In the 17th century, the Externsteine were turned into a fortress, probably to control the highways in this region. However, the fortress was only briefly used, soon fell again and was finally demolished in the 19th century. The ponds you will see next to the rock formation derived from these times.
- In the Third Reich extensive archaeological excavations were carried out on the *Externsteine* monument, in hope of finding evidence for pre-Christian usage. However, it was not possible to prove the Germanic origin of the site, which led the Nazis to forge "evidence" in order to declare the site a Germanic place of worship.
- Today the Externsteine are a popular destination and a place for events of all kinds.

DAS HERRMANNNS-DENKMAL

The Hermann Monument is a statue in the Teutoburg Forest located southwest of Detmold in North Rhine-Westphalia. It was built between 1838 and 1875 and is intended to commemorate the Cherusci prince Arminius.

The Hermann figure is 26.57 meters high. With a total height of 53.46 meters, the Hermannsdenkmal is the tallest statue in Germany.

THE REGION IN CONTEXT

Germania had been of interest to the Romans for quite some time, but the Cherusicans were a tribe hard to battle, deeply rooted in their faith.

The southern parts of what today is Germany were already Roman-friendly and the Roman troops longed to head north.



ARMINUS, THE CHERUSCIAN

Arminius was a Cheruscan (Germ. = *Cherusker*, tribe in ancient Germania), who came to serve in the Roman army at a young age. His career path led him to become a Roman officer.

Arminius returned to his homeland with Roman legions under the leadership of the Roman general *Publius Quinctilius Varus*, who trusted his officer Arminius.

But Arminius did not seek to destroy his own tribe. Instead he had a plan. Here in the Teutoburg forest, Arminius lured the Romans into an ambush. Uniting the divided Germanic tribes ultimately inflicted a crushing defeat on the Roman legions in the dense forests of the Teutoburg Forest around 9 AD. The Romans then withdrew their legions from the area around the Teutoburg Forest and strengthened their borders on the Rhine.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE MONUMENT

The construction took place against the background of the German-political situation of the 19th century. Germany was fragmented into many small principalities and counties. Many longed for a united German Reich. Probably due to the Germanic background, the National Socialists abused the Hermannsdenkmal for their own purposes and used it, for example, as an NSDAP election campaign motive in the 1935 *Lippe* provincial election campaign.

Today, the Hermannsdenkmal is a popular excursion destination and also the starting point for a well-known annual regional running competition, the *Hermannslauf*.

MÜNSTER

The independent city of Münster with its approx. 310,000 inhabitants is the center of the *Münsterland* region in the north of *North Rhine-Westphalia*.

The *episcopal-* and *university-city* is known throughout Germany for its bicycle-friendly design due to the high density of students.



HISTORY

Historically, the role of Münster at the end of the *Thirty Years' War* in 1648 deserves special mention. The increasing European conflict ended with the Peace of Westphalia, which was sealed here.

Nevertheless, visitors to the city notice the three metal baskets at the *Lamberti church*. They bear witness to the Baptist kingdom of Münster in 1534. Münster citizens had founded this to rebel against Catholic rule under the leadership of Jan van Leiden. In 1535 Catholic troops besieged the city, starving them and ended this revolt. Jan van Leiden was immediately tortured and executed with two of his followers. Their dead bodies were locked into the three baskets and publicly hung on the tower of the Lamberti church.



THE SPARRENBURG (CASTLE)

The Sparrenburg is a restored castle ruin in the East Westphalian university town of Bielefeld. It was built in 1250 by the Counts of Ravensberg. It is located on the 180 meter high Sparrenberg in the Teutoburg Forest and has served as a fortress and prison for many years.

Today, the Sparrenburg as a landmark of Bielefeld, a popular destination for tourists and locals.



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