



Das Schloss Hubertusburg



Das Schloss Rochlitz



Das Schloss Hartenfels

## Through the land of castles and palaces

**Discover the region around Leipzig on two wheels** – Whereas there is much talk about Dresden and its surroundings, little notice is given to the area around Leipzig. However, a tour through the region is highly recommendable due to the fact that the land is flat and the numerous fortresses and castles of Saxony's Castle Land cannot be missed.

**Of Towers and Animals** – The start of the tour is at the Völkerschlachtdenkmal (Monument of the Battle of the Nations), the landmark of Leipzig. At the top of the 90 meter high viewing platform, depending on good weather, the entire city as well as the surrounding area can be seen. In **Bad Düben**, the somewhat short watch tower of the fortress, which serves as a museum, rises over the left-hand side of the Mulde Bridge. Along the tour through the Düben Heath many mills can be discovered. The best chances to explore the sights of the heavily Renaissance influenced city of Torgau are offered by the Torgauer Museumspfad (Torgau Museums' Path). Inseparable from the history of the Hartenfels Castle are the bears, which still today entertain visitors in the moat. Other noble animals can be marveled upon by taking a detour to nearby Graditz, where Saxony's main stud can be found with a history going back to Augustus the Strong.

**The Prussians are coming** – On the way through the Dahlen Heath you should take a detour to Schildau, in order to visit the museum of the "Schildbürger", a German synonym for foolish citizens. The Baroque **Dahlen** Castle, which completely burnt down in the seventies, was noted in history because of the signing of the Hubertusburg Peace Treaty by the Prussian King Frederick II. The castles of nearby Börlin and Großböhla still invite visitors today. Hubertusburg Castle in **Wernsdorf** is a perfect example of the Baroque architecture in Saxony. It was one of the largest castles in Europe as well as one of the most splendid, until it was plundered by Prussians in the Seven Years' War. Only the interior of the castle chapel is still there. The nearby old Renaissance hunting lodge serves administrative purposes.

**In the Valley of Castles** – A bit off the beaten path, in Grimma, many historical sites can be discovered. On the outskirts of the city the ruins of the Nimbschen Monastery can be found, where Luther's later wife Katharina von Bora lived as a nun. On your way to **Colditz**, where the Freiberg Mulde River meets the Zwickau Mulde River, it is worthwhile to take a detour to Leisnig and the Mildenstein Castle as well as the Buch Monastery. Colditz Castle became famous as an allied prison camp in the Second World War. Kriebstein Castle on the Zschopau River is a perfect example of a knight's castle. **Rochlitz** is dominated by its castle towers which can be seen from afar. In **Kohren-Salis** a pottery museum with a viewing area informs visitors about the long tradition of pottery crafts in Kohren. The Pottery Well at the market square was created by Kurt Feuerriegel and is the landmark of the town. Other masterpieces of the famous potter can be viewed by taking a detour to the castle museum in Frohburg. Not all that far from Kohren-Salis is Gnanstein Castle, one of the best preserved fortifications from Saxony's Romanesque period.

**Following the brown coal** – On the Thuringian part of the tour, a short side trip to Altenburg, the city of skat, is recommended. Back in Saxony, the rest of the Romanesque Wiprechtzburg can be found in Groitzsch, which has been integrated into an open air theater. Wiprecht von Groitzsch lies buried within the chapel of the parish church St. Laurentius in **Pegau**, which is one of the most famous Romanesque artworks. The beautiful Renaissance town hall reminds you of the beginning of your trip. Like the city hall of Leipzig, this building was also created by Hieronymus Lotter. The small village of Wiederau creates an ideal picture with its Baroque castle in the middle of the remote meadows of the Weiße Elster River. That can leave one to forget that the landscape in the south of Leipzig suffered tremendously due to brown coal strip mining. However, after the closing of the coal mines, the Leipziger Seenland (Leipzig Lake Area) was created which is continuously growing in popularity. Directly in front of the gates to Leipzig the most favorite "bath tub" of the region can be found, the Cospudener Lake with the large amusement park Belantis. At the Markkleeberg Lake one of the most modern white-water facilities in the world was built. Back in Leipzig, the city of Bach, fascinating buildings, historical merchants' quarters and arcades as well as famous museums invite visitors to come and enjoy. Pleißenburg Castle, where failed disputes between Luther and Eck sealed the splitting of the church, was demolished in 1896 and the new town hall was built on its foundations. The Gohlis Palais from the pompous Rococo period stood the test of time and can be used to enjoy classical music or a good meal today.

Motorcycle Tour - Length approx. 300 km

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Der Cospudener See



Das Gohliser Schlösschen