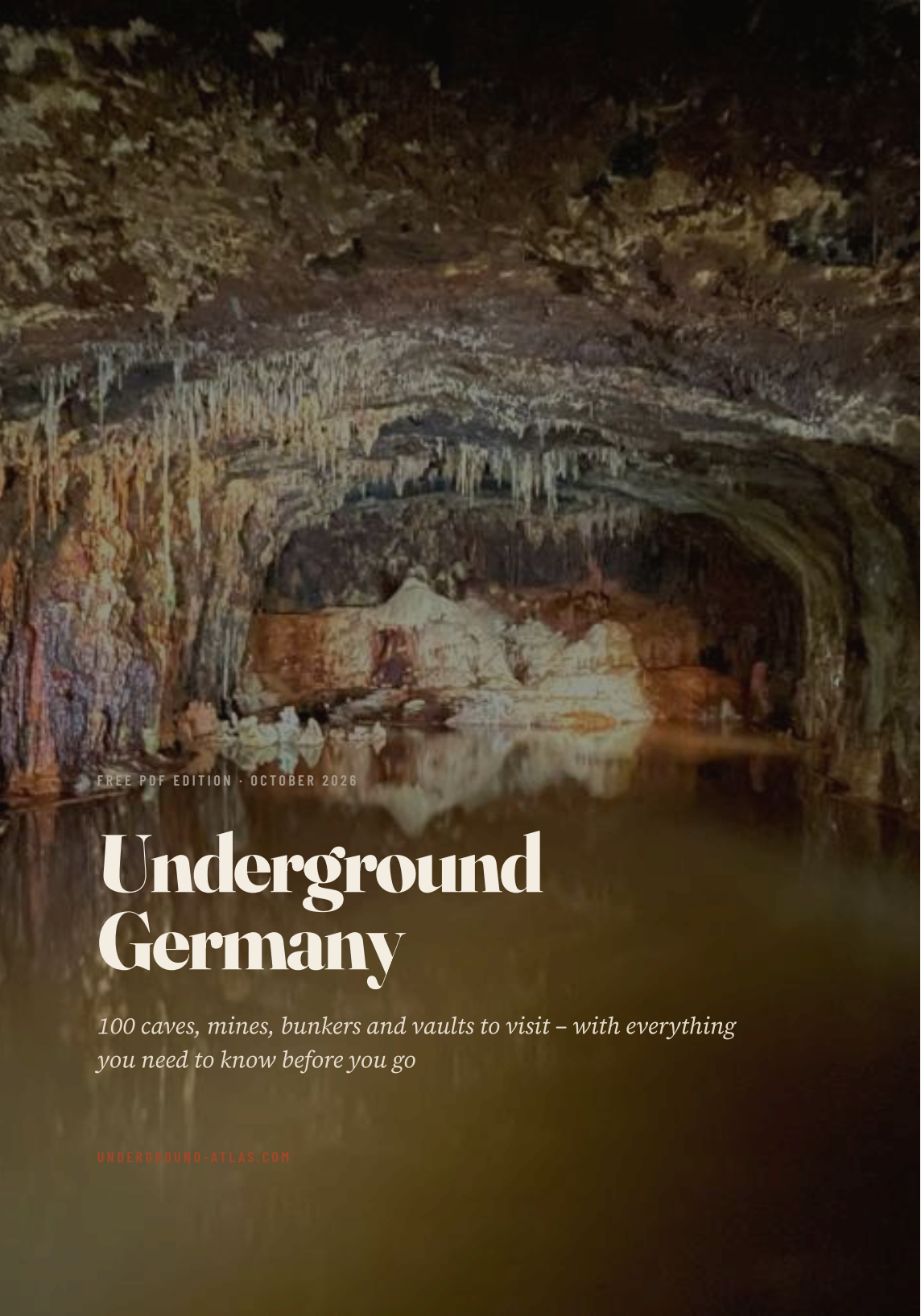




FREE PDF EDITION · OCTOBER 2026

Underground Germany

*100 caves, mines, bunkers and vaults to visit – with everything
you need to know before you go*

UNDERGROUND-ATLAS.COM

Underground Germany. 100 caves, mines, bunkers and vaults to visit.

Free PDF edition, October 2026. Published by Underground Atlas, underground-atlas.com.
Text and research: Kai-Michael Rauch.

You may share this book unchanged and free of charge: by email, on websites, printed.
Selling or altering it is not permitted. The photos are subject to the licences listed in the picture credits.

All prices and opening hours were checked with the operators in October 2026. They change, some every year. Every place in this book is a link to underground-atlas.com, where you will find the current details.

No advertising, no paid entries. No operator paid to be included or saw the texts in advance.

Most guided tours in Germany are in German. Where English tours, leaflets or audio guides exist, the entry says so.

Cover photo: Saalfeld Fairy Grottoes, Sebastian Wallroth, CC BY 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

Contents

Foreword	5
Map: all 100 places	6
How to use this book	8
What others get wrong	9
Who lives underground	10
Respect underground	12
1 Harz and Kyffhäuser	13
1 Rammelsberg Mine	14
2 Barbarossa Cave	16
3 Einhornhöhle (Unicorn Cave)	18
4 Baumannshöhle	20
5 Hermannshöhle	21
6 Iberg Dripstone Cave	22
7 Samson Pit	23
8 Heimkehle	24
9 Regenstein Castle	25
10 Rabensteiner Stollen	26
11 Mittelbau-Dora Concentration Camp Memorial	27
2 Saxony: Saxon Switzerland, Ore Mountains and Vogtland	31
12 Königstein Fortress	32
13 Syrau Dragon Cave	34
14 Marie Louise Stolln	36
15 Dresden Fortress	37
16 Freiberg Silver Mine	38
17 Markus Semmler Visitor Mine	39
18 Herkules-Frisch-Glück Show Mine	40
19 KohleWelt Oelsnitz	41
20 Prinzenhöhle (Prince's Cave)	42

3 Thuringia	45
21 Saalfeld Fairy Grottoes	46
22 Merkers Adventure Mine	48
23 Marienglashöhle	50
24 Frauenwald Bunker Museum	51
25 Altenstein Cave	52
26 Kittelsthal Dripstone Cave	53
27 Goetz Cave	54
28 Underground Erfurt	55
29 Morassina Show Mine	56
30 Parkhöhle Weimar	57
4 Franconia, Upper Palatinate and the Bavarian Forest	61
31 Teufelshöhle (Devil's Cave)	62
32 Underground Nuremberg	64
33 Binghöhle	66
34 Sophienhöhle	67
35 Maximiliansgrotte	68
36 Oswaldhöhle	69
37 Schulerloch	70
38 König-Otto-Tropfsteinhöhle	71
39 Silberberg Mine	72
40 document Neupfarrplatz	73
5 Upper Bavaria and the Allgäu	77
41 Berchtesgaden Salt Mine	78
42 Alte Saline (Old Saltworks)	80
43 Sturmannshöhle	81
44 Wendelsteinhöhle	82
45 Obersalzberg Documentation Centre	83
46 Fuggerei WWII Bunker	84

6 Swabian Jura	87
47 Nebelhöhle	88
48 Wimsener Höhle	90
49 Charlottenhöhle	92
50 Karlshöhle and Bärenhöhle	94
51 Hohle Fels	95
52 Laichinger Tiefenhöhle	96
53 Schertelshöhle	97
54 Sontheimer Höhle	98
55 Olgahöhle	99
56 Tiefer Stollen Mine	100
7 Black Forest, Odenwald and the Neckar	103
57 Eberstadter Tropfsteinhöhle	104
58 Erdmannshöhle	105
59 Schauinsland Mine	106
60 Grube Wenzel	107
61 Finstergrund Mine	108
62 Haigerloch Atomic Cellar	109
63 Bad Friedrichshall Salt Mine	110
8 Sauerland, Bergisches Land, the Ruhr and Cologne	113
64 Atta Cave	114
65 Dechen Cave	116
66 Kluterthöhle	118
67 Bilsteinhöhle	119
68 Heinrichshöhle	120
69 Wiehler Tropfsteinhöhle	121
70 Ramsbeck Mine	122
71 Zeche Nachtigall	123
72 German Mining Museum Show Mine	124
73 Zeittunnel Wülfrath	125
74 Kakushöhle	126
75 Cologne Cathedral Excavations	127

9 Eifel, Moselle, Nahe and Saar	131
76 Kaiserthermen (Imperial Baths), Trier	132
77 Bundesbank Bunker, Cochem	134
78 Government Bunker, Ahrweiler	136
79 Trier Amphitheatre	138
80 Steinkaulenberg Gem Mines	139
81 Meurin Roman Mine	140
82 Mendig Lava Cellars	141
83 Schlossberg Caves	142
84 Fell Slate Mine	143
10 Hesse, Westerwald and Weser Uplands	147
85 Kubach Crystal Cave	148
86 Herbstlabyrinth	149
87 Teufelshöhle	150
88 Fortuna Mine	151
89 Schillat Cave	152
90 Gustav Mine	153
91 Bindweide Mine	154
11 Berlin, Hamburg and the North	157
92 Underground Berlin	158
93 Underground Hamburg	160
94 Bunker Valentin Memorial	162
95 Bremen Ratskeller	163
96 Wünsdorf Bunker Town	164
97 Dömitz Fortress	165
98 Segeberg Kalkberg Cave	166
99 Heligoland Bunker Tunnels	167
100 Cape Arkona Naval Command Bunker	168
Places by occasion	171
My Underground Pass	172
Index	182
Picture credits	185
About this book	188

Germany from below

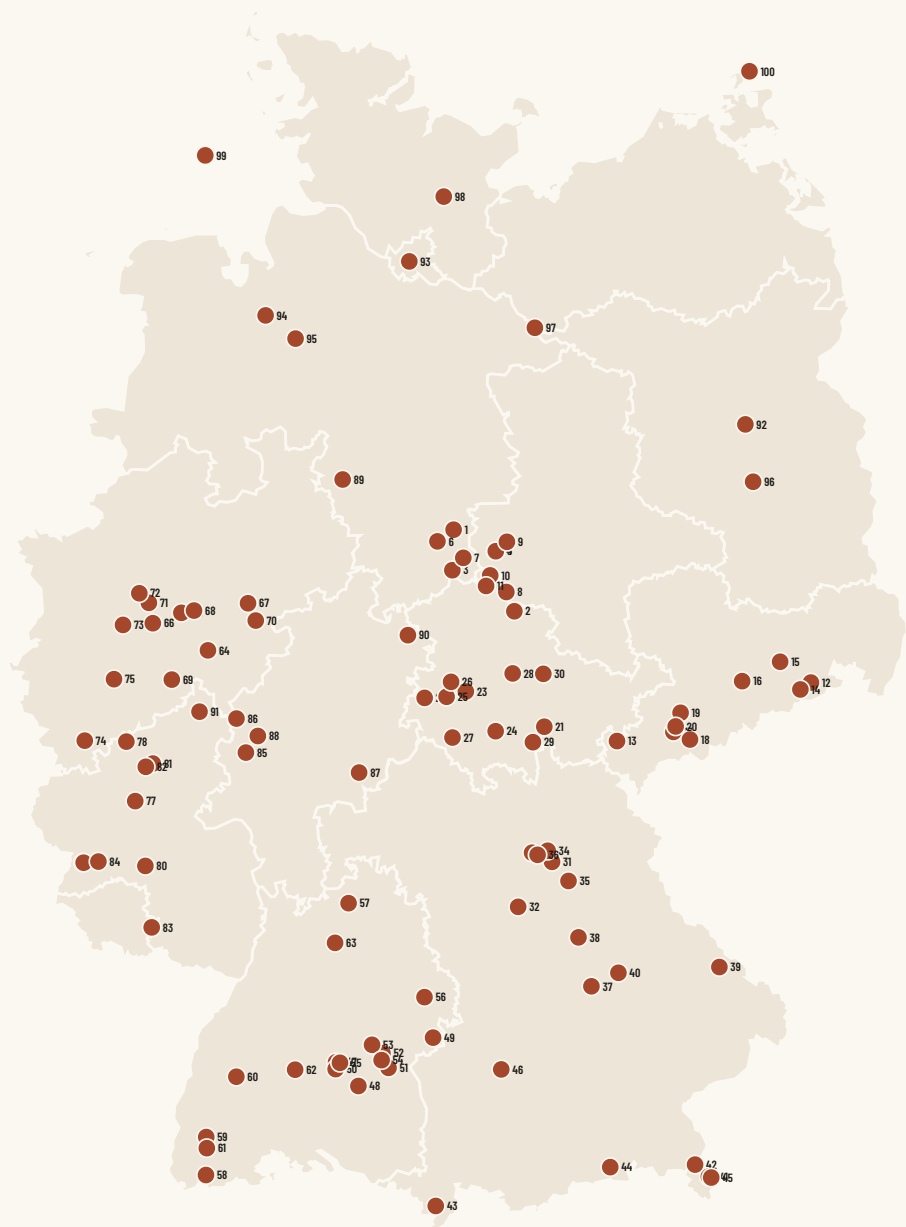
Beneath Germany lies a second country. Over millions of years, rainwater dissolved caves into limestone and gypsum; over a thousand years, miners drove galleries into the mountains; the Cold War left bunkers in which a government was meant to survive. Much of it is open to visitors.

This book presents 100 of these places in detail, from the Barbarossa Cave to the bunker beneath Cape Arkona. At the end of each chapter you will find smaller places in the region – more than 200 in all.

Every detail has been checked: prices and hours with the operator, figures and history in reliable sources. Where other guidebooks or websites repeat something wrong, a box called “What others get wrong” says so. Anything we could not confirm is left out.

Others live underground. Bats hibernate in many caves and tunnels, which is why some places close in winter. Pages 10 and 11 explain why, and what you can do for them.

This book is free. Please pass it on.



All 100 places

1 · HARZ AND KYFFHÄUSER

- 1 Rammelsberg Mine
- 2 Barbarossa Cave
- 3 Einhornhöhle
(Unicorn Cave)
- 4 Baumannshöhle
- 5 Hermannshöhle
- 6 Iberg Dripstone Cave
- 7 Samson Pit
- 8 Heimkehle
- 9 Regenstein Castle
- 10 Rabenstein Stollen
- 11 Mittelbau-Dora
Concentration Camp Memorial

2 · SAXONY: SAXON SWITZERLAND, ORE MOUNTAINS AND VOGTLAND

- 12 Königstein Fortress
- 13 Syrau Dragon Cave
- 14 Marie Louise Stolln
- 15 Dresden Fortress
- 16 Freiberg Silver Mine
- 17 Markus Semmler Visitor
Mine
- 18 Herkules-Frisch-Glück Show
Mine
- 19 KohleWelt Oelsnitz
- 20 Prinzenhöhle (Prince's Cave)

3 · THURINGIA

- 21 Saalfeld Fairy Grottoes
- 22 Merkers Adventure Mine
- 23 Marienglashöhle
- 24 Frauenwald Bunker Museum
- 25 Altenstein Cave
- 26 Kittelsthal Dripstone Cave
- 27 Goetz Cave
- 28 Underground Erfurt
- 29 Morassina Show Mine
- 30 Parkhöhle Weimar

4 · FRANCONIA, UPPER PALATINATE AND THE BAVARIAN FOREST

- 31 Teufelshöhle (Devil's Cave)
- 32 Underground Nuremberg

- 33 Binghöhle
- 34 Sophienhöhle
- 35 Maximiliansgrotte
- 36 Oswaldhöhle
- 37 Schulerloch
- 38 König-Otto-Tropfsteinhöhle
- 39 Silberberg Mine
- 40 document Neupfarrplatz

5 · UPPER BAVARIA AND THE ALLGÄU

- 41 Berchtesgaden Salt Mine
- 42 Alte Saline (Old Saltworks)
- 43 Sturmannshöhle
- 44 Wendelsteinhöhle
- 45 Obersalzberg
Documentation Centre
- 46 Fuggerei WWII Bunker

6 · SWABIAN JURA

- 47 Nebelhöhle
- 48 Wimsener Höhle
- 49 Charlottenhöhle
- 50 Karlshöhle and Bärenhöhle
- 51 Hohle Fels
- 52 Laichinger Tiefenhöhle
- 53 Schertelshöhle
- 54 Sontheimer Höhle
- 55 Olghöhle
- 56 Tiefer Stollen Mine

7 · BLACK FOREST, ODENWALD AND THE NECKAR

- 57 Eberstadter Tropfsteinhöhle
- 58 Erdmannshöhle
- 59 Schauinsland Mine
- 60 Grube Wenzel
- 61 Finstergrund Mine
- 62 Haigerloch Atomic Cellar
- 63 Bad Friedrichshall Salt Mine

8 · SAUERLAND, BERGISCHES LAND, THE RUHR AND COLOGNE

- 64 Atta Cave
- 65 Dechen Cave
- 66 Kluterthöhle
- 67 Bilsteinhöhle

- 68 Heinrichshöhle
- 69 Wiehler Tropfsteinhöhle
- 70 Ramsbeck Mine
- 71 Zeche Nachtigall
- 72 German Mining Museum
Show Mine
- 73 Zeittunnel Wülfrath
- 74 Kakushöhle
- 75 Cologne Cathedral
Excavations

9 · EIFEL, MOSELLE, NAHE AND SAAR

- 76 Kaiserthermen (Imperial
Baths), Trier
- 77 Bundesbank Bunker,
Cochem
- 78 Government Bunker,
Ahrweiler
- 79 Trier Amphitheatre
- 80 Steinkaulenberg Gem Mines
- 81 Meurin Roman Mine
- 82 Mendig Lava Cellars
- 83 Schlossberg Caves
- 84 Fell Slate Mine

10 · HESSE, WESTERWALD AND WESER UPLANDS

- 85 Kubach Crystal Cave
- 86 Herbstlabyrinth
- 87 Teufelshöhle
- 88 Fortuna Mine
- 89 Schillat Cave
- 90 Gustav Mine
- 91 Bindweide Mine

11 · BERLIN, HAMBURG AND THE NORTH

- 92 Underground Berlin
- 93 Underground Hamburg
- 94 Bunker Valentin Memorial
- 95 Bremen Ratskeller
- 96 Wünsdorf Bunker Town
- 97 Dömitz Fortress
- 98 Segeberg Kalkberg Cave
- 99 Heligoland Bunker Tunnels
- 100 Cape Arkona Naval
Command Bunker

Map: Boundaries: GeoBasis-DE / BKG, Data Licence Germany – Attribution – Version 2.0

How to use this book

DOUBLE PAGES AND SINGLE PAGES

The major places get a double page with a photo, history and four tips; the others get one page. The number before each place also appears on the map (p. 6) and in the pass at the back.

THE NUMBER BAR

Four figures that sum up the place: steps, route length, temperature, key dates. All sourced.

BEFORE YOU GO

Tips you would otherwise only learn at the ticket desk: cash only, minimum age, stairs instead of pushchairs, the best time to go.

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

Mistakes that persist on portals and in guidebooks, with the correct information.

WHO LIVES HERE

Where it is confirmed that bats use the site. These places often close in winter.

PRICES AND HOURS

Admission for adults, children and families, with the date checked and a rough dollar equivalent. Check the link before you travel: the QR code and the place name lead to underground-atlas.com with the latest details.

PLACE OF REMEMBRANCE

Three places are memorials. Their pages are plain, without records and without tips for a fun day out.

What others get wrong

Every detail in this book was checked with the operator or in specialist sources. Along the way we found mistakes that persist on travel portals and in guidebooks. 34 places therefore have a correction box; here is a selection.

RAMMELSBURG MINE	"Visitor mine for €10.00" – that is only the above-ground museum ticket; with a guided tour it costs €21.00. p. 14
BARBAROSSA CAVE	"A dripstone cave" – no water seeps in, so there are no dripstones, only gypsum flaps. p. 16
EINHORNHÖHLE (UNICORN CAVE)	"April to October daily except Mondays" – open Fri-Sun and public holidays only, 11am–4pm. p. 18
BAUMANNSHÖHLE	"Discovered by Friedrich Baumann in 1536" – the Baumann legend is unproven; tours are documented from the 17th century. p. 20
HERMANNSHÖHLE	"All the olms are male" – there are three males and four females; eggs were even found in 2016 and 2020. p. 21
IBERG DRIPSTONE CAVE	"Children under 6 free" – under-4s may not enter at all; from age 4 they pay €8.00. p. 22
SAMSON PIT	"Worked from 1522 to 1911" – mining began around 1521; the pit closed on 31 March 1910. p. 23
HEIMKEHLE	"1,500 prisoners worked in the cave" – that was the whole camp; at most about 600 worked in the cave. p. 24
REGENSTEIN CASTLE	"First mentioned in 1169" – a Count of Regenstein is named as early as 1162. p. 25

Who lives underground

To a bat, a cave or an old mine tunnel is what a bedroom is to us in winter: dark, quiet, frost-free and humid. From October or November until April they hang there in hibernation, their hearts beating only a few times a minute.

Every disturbance costs energy. A bat that wakes up burns fat reserves meant for many days within minutes. Woken too often, it starves before spring. That is why many show caves close in winter and some caves are closed altogether.

All bat species in Germany are strictly protected, and so are their roosts. Even so, some populations are declining; in several caves in this book, volunteers count the animals every winter.

The largest hibernation site in the book is the Kalkberg Cave in Bad Segeberg, where more than 30,000 bats of seven species spend the winter. That is why tours run only in summer.

How you can help bats

- Respect winter closures and never enter closed caves on your own.
- Keep quiet underground, do not use flash where it is forbidden, and do not shine lights on anything hanging from the ceiling.
- Do not touch a weakened bat on the ground with bare hands; call a local bat rescue instead. The regional branches of NABU and BUND can put you in touch.
- Join in rather than just watch: many local bat groups look for volunteers to help with counts and roost care.

21 PLACES IN THIS BOOK WITH BATS

Einhornhöhle (Unicorn Cave)	18	Charlottenhöhle	92
Baumannshöhle	20	Karlshöhle and Bärenhöhle	94
Hermannshöhle	21	Hohle Fels	95
Heimkehle	24	Schertelshöhle	97
Altenstein Cave	52	Sontheimer Höhle	98
Kittelsthal Dripstone Cave	53	Atta Cave	114
Teufelshöhle (Devil's Cave)	62	Kakushöhle	126
Schulerloch	70	Mendig Lava Cellars	141
Silberberg Mine	72	Teufelshöhle	150
Sturmannshöhle	81	Segeberg Kalkberg Cave	166
Nebelhöhle	88		

Respect underground

DO NOT TOUCH

Dripstones often grow by just a millimetre in ten years. Grease from skin stops their growth at that spot for good.

STAY ON THE PATHS

Off the paths lie fragile flowstone surfaces, and mines have shafts you cannot see in the dark.

DRESS WARMLY

Underground it is 6 to 12 °C all year, often with high humidity. Bring a jacket even in high summer, and sturdy shoes.

PHOTOS BY HOUSE RULES

Many caves allow photos without flash, some none at all. There are reasons: light encourages algae, flashes disturb animals.

TAKE NOTHING

No stone, no crystal, no piece of ore. What a hundred thousand visitors pocket over a century is gone.

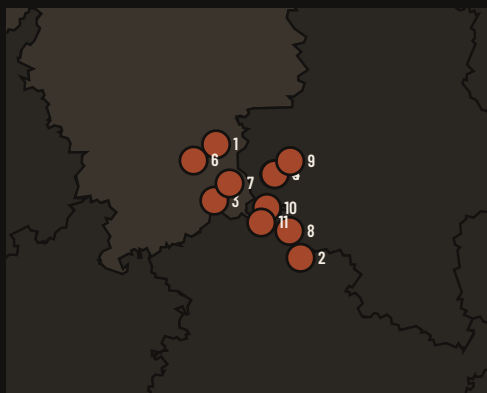
MEMORIALS

In Nazi-era tunnels and bunkers, people were exploited and killed. Different rules apply there than in a show cave: be quiet, do not pose.

01

Harz and Kyffhäuser

In the Harz, mining lies in plain sight: silver, copper, lead and iron were extracted here for over a thousand years, and Goslar and the Upper Harz are World Heritage for it. In between, water dissolved limestone, gypsum and anhydrite, leaving caves with Neanderthal traces and living olms. In the Kohnstein near Nordhausen, a tunnel recalls the prisoners who died there for the arms industry.



- 1 Rammelsberg Mine
- 2 Barbarossa Cave
- 3 Einhornhöhle
(Unicorn Cave)
- 4 Baumannshöhle
- 5 Hermannshöhle
- 6 Iberg Dripstone Cave
- 7 Samson Pit
- 8 Heimkehle
- 9 Regenstein Castle
- 10 Rabensteiner Stollen
- 11 Mittelbau-Dora
Concentration Camp Memorial

Map: Boundaries: GeoBasis-DE / BKG, Data Licence Germany – Attribution – Version 2.0

1

HARZ · LOWER SAXONY



Rammelsberg Mine

More than a thousand years of ore mining, a medieval adit and, with Goslar's old town, World Heritage since 1992.

27m

TONNES OF ORE

500 m

BY MINE TRAIN

12 °C

UNDERGROUND

1992

WORLD HERITAGE

Photo: Barnos, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

GOSLAR · GOSLAR DISTRICT

Ore was mined here for more than a thousand years, until 1988. Today Rammelsberg is museum and visitor mine in one: above ground you explore alone, underground only on a guided tour – on foot through the Roeder Adit or by mine train.

SILVER FOR EMPERORS AND KINGS

Legend says that in 968 the knight Ramm's horse pawed the ore free. That is unproven; what is certain is that the silver made Goslar rich, and German kings held court here until 1253.

The Rathstiefster Stollen was dug before 1150 and can still be entered. The 1935/37 surface plant is by Schupp and Kremmer, architects of the Zollverein colliery.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Pick your tour first, then plan the day: each has its own start times, in winter only four.
- No same-day tickets online. If you decide on the spot, call ahead: +49 5321 750-0.
- The Roeder Adit tour ends with 101 steps uphill. To avoid stairs, take the mine train.
- It is 12 °C and dripping below: jacket and sturdy shoes even in August. Helmets provided.

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“Visitor mine for €10.00”~~ – that is only the above-ground museum ticket; with a guided tour it costs €21.00. ~~“Inclined lift tour in about 20 minutes”~~ – the operator says 45 minutes.

ADMISSION

With tour €21.00 (about \$24), children 4–17 €14.00; museum only €10.00 (as of 10/2026)

GETTING THERE

Bus 803 from Goslar station; car park on site

OPENING HOURS

Daily 9am–6pm, Nov–Mar 9am–5pm

GOOD TO KNOW

Underground from age 4; mine train takes wheelchairs



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
 Germany · Harz

NEARBY · Iberg Dripstone Cave, 14 km · Samson Pit, 21 km

2

KYFFHÄUSER · THURINGIA

Barbarossa Cave

Instead of stalactites, gypsum flaps hang from the ceiling like hides, and clear lakes mirror the whole vault.

1865

DISCOVERED

800 m

TOUR ROUTE

9 °C

ALL YEAR

58

STEPS AT THE EXIT

Photo: Denkmalfotograf, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

KYFFHÄUSERLAND-ROTTLEBEN · KYFFHÄUSER DISTRICT

Miners prospecting for copper shale broke into the void in 1865; it has no natural entrance. It lies in anhydrite and, says the operator, is one of only two such show caves in the world. Instead of dripstones, gypsum flaps grow here.

THE EMPEROR CAME LATER

On 20 December 1865, after 178 metres of tunnel, miners struck a “Schlotte”, a solution cavity. Instead of filling it, the mining office made it a show cave; the first visitors came in January 1866.

The name comes from the legend of the sleeping Emperor Barbarossa. Table and chair in the Dance Hall were set up later from rock blocks, as a picture of the legend.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Tours usually start on the hour; be at the ticket desk ten minutes before.
- Wear sturdy shoes: the floor of fallen rock is uneven and very slippery in places.
- Combine with the Kyffhäuser Monument: the combined ticket costs €20.00 instead of €22.00.
- Without a car, only on-demand bus 494, which must be booked an hour ahead.

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“A dripstone cave”~~ – no water seeps in, so there are no dripstones, only gypsum flaps. ~~“Named after the Kyffhäuser Monument”~~ – the name was in use by 1866; the monument followed in 1896.

ADMISSION

€12.50 (about \$14), children 3–16 €7.00, family €30.00 (as of 10/2026)

GETTING THERE

Car park at the entrance; on-demand bus 494 from Heldrungen

OPENING HOURS

Tours Apr–Oct daily 10am–5pm, Nov–Mar Tue–Sun 10am–3pm

GOOD TO KNOW

Guided only, not accessible, no dogs



Current hours and prices
[underground-atlas.com](https://www.underground-atlas.com)
 Germany

NEARBY · Kyffhäuser Monument, 6 km · Erlebnisbergwerk Sondershausen, 12 km



3

HARZ · LOWER SAXONY

Einhornhöhle (Unicorn Cave)

Apothecaries dug here for unicorn bones, Leibniz drew a mythical beast – and Neanderthals came long before.

300 m

TOUR ROUTE

1541

FIRST MENTION

1686

LEIBNIZ VISITS

51,000

YR-OLD ENGRAVING

Photo: Roman Klementschtz, Wien, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

HERZBERG-SCHARZFELD · GÖTTINGEN DISTRICT

No dripstones, but large halls in dolomite. For centuries apothecaries dug here for “unicorn bones”, sold ground up as medicine. In fact they came from cave bears and other Ice Age animals.

FROM UNICORN TO NEANDERTHAL

Leibniz came in 1686; his “Protogaea” shows a unicorn that never existed. Only in 1872 did Rudolf Virchow recognise the bones as remains of Ice Age mammals.

Digs since 1985 show that Neanderthals used the cave over 100,000 years ago. A toe bone of an Ice Age giant deer with incised lines is about 51,000 years old.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Open Fri–Sun and public holidays only, tours hourly from 11am to 3pm, in German.
- The 2026 season ends on 1 November; the association announces new dates in March.
- Pushchairs are fine, wheelchair users should register ahead; no dogs.
- About 2 km away is the Steinkirche, a rock church, freely accessible on foot.

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“April to October daily except Mondays”~~ – open Fri–Sun and public holidays only, 11am–4pm. ~~“Identified as bear bones only around 1900”~~ – Rudolf Virchow identified the animal bones as early as 1872.

ADMISSION

€12.00 (about \$14), children 6–15 €7.00, 3–5 €3.00 (as of 10/2026)

GETTING THERE

Free forest car park 250 m before the cave

OPENING HOURS

Season to 1 Nov, Fri–Sun and holidays
11am–4pm

GOOD TO KNOW

Guided only; no dogs, no photography



WHO LIVES HERE

Bats hibernate here in winter, including the greater mouse-eared bat and the barbastelle. NABU Osterode has counted them since 2003; the peak was 43 animals in 2011.



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
Germany · Harz

NEARBY · Steinkirche Scharzfeld, 2 km · Samson Pit, 12 km

4

Baumannshöhle

OBERHARZ AM BROCKEN-RÜBELAND · HARZ DISTRICT

Photo: Josua Belak, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

300

STEPS

50 min

TOUR

8–9 °C

IN THE CAVE

1668

PROTECTION ORDER

Visitors have been guided here since the 17th century; the operator calls it Germany's oldest show cave. In 1668 Duke Rudolf August placed the drip-stones under protection, and Goethe came three times. The Goethe Hall holds a natural stage for theatre and concerts; about 300 steps lead through the cave.

BEFORE YOU GO

- About 300 steps: pushchairs stay outside, babies only in a front carrier.
- On theatre days tours end at 3.30pm; check the programme first.
- Tours are in German; an English audio guide costs €1.00. Family ticket at the desk only.

ADMISSION

€10.50 (about \$12), children 4–14 €7.50, family €34.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Tours every 20 min from 9.30am; closed 2–13 Nov 2026

GETTING THERE

Rübeland on the B 27; parking €2.50 for 3 hours



WHO LIVES HERE

About 4,000 bats winter here, according to a 2015 estimate, mainly greater mouse-eared bats. Now and then you may even see one during a tour.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Harz



5 Hermannshöhle

OBERHARZ AM BROCKEN-RÜBELAND · HARZ DISTRICT

Photo: Goldmull, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

1866

DISCOVERED

50 m

HIGH HALLS

7

OLMS

8–9 °C

IN THE CAVE

Foreman Wilhelm Angerstein found the entrance during road building in 1866. Behind it lies a river cave with halls up to 50 metres high, the glittering Crystal Chamber and the Olm Lake, home since 1932 to olms, blind cave salamanders. Seven live here today; none has ever bred.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Closed from 14 November 2026 until spring; only the Baumannshöhle is open then.
- The olms often hide; tablets at the lake show a film. Tours in German, English audio guide €1.00.
- Each cave needs its own ticket; the Baumannshöhle is five minutes' walk away.

ADMISSION

€10.50 (about \$12), children 4–14 €7.50, family €34.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Tours every 20 min from 9.30am; closed 14 Nov 2026 to spring

GETTING THERE

Rübeland on the B 27, 5 min walk from the Baumannshöhle



WHO LIVES HERE

The cave is an EU-protected habitat and one of the busiest bat swarming and winter roosts in the Harz, with eleven species, including the greater mouse-eared bat and pond bat. About 5,000 were estimated in 2015.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Harz

6 Iberg Dripstone Cave

BAD GRUND (HARZ) · GÖTTINGEN DISTRICT

Photo: Siegbert Brey, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

1874

SHOW CAVE SINCE

160 m

TUNNEL TO CAVE

8 °C

ALL YEAR

age 4

MINIMUM AGE

The Iberg is a Devonian coral reef that now stands in the middle of the Harz. The cave inside formed as iron ore weathered in the limestone and has been a show cave since 1874. A 160-metre tunnel with an exhibition leads in; the tour takes about 30 minutes.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Under-4s may not enter the cave, says the operator. English tours only if booked ahead.
- Closed every Monday, and in 2026 also 4–5 and 9–20 November.
- Museum: a replica of the Lichtenstein Cave, whose dead are linked by DNA to people alive today.

ADMISSION

€12.00 (about \$14), children 4–17 €8.00, 2 adults + 1 child €28.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Tue–Sun 10am–5pm, tours 10.30am–4pm; closed Mon

GETTING THERE

Car park on the B 242 between Bad Grund and Clausthal

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“Children under 6 free”~~ – under-4s may not enter at all; from age 4 they pay €8.00.



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
Germany · Harz

7

Samson Pit

SANKT ANDREASBERG · GOSLAR DISTRICT

Photo: Llez, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

1837

MAN ENGINE

1910

CLOSED

88

STEPS DOWN

8 °C

UNDERGROUND

Silver ore was mined here for almost 400 years, until 1910. The 1837 man engine survives: two rods swinging up and down, on which miners rode in and out of the shaft. It is said to be the last working one in the world. Two hydroelectric plants still run at the bottom of the shaft.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Tours daily at 11am and 2.30pm, in German with a free English audio guide. Closed 1 Nov–7 Dec.
- With the spa guest card (Gästekarte) from your lodging it costs €10.00; with a HarzCard, nothing.
- Combine with the neighbouring Catharina Neufang mine: the combined ticket is €18.00.

ADMISSION

€12.00 (about \$14), with guest card €10.00; children 5–15 €7.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

17 Mar–31 Oct daily; limited hours from 8 Dec

GETTING THERE

Am Samson 2, edge of Sankt Andreasberg; car park at the mine

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“Worked from 1522 to 1911”~~ – mining began around 1521; the pit closed on 31 March 1910.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Harz

8

Heimkehle

SÜDHARZ-UFTRUNGEN · MANSFELD-SÜDHARZ DISTRICT

Photo: Raik Schröter, Berga, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

700 m

OPEN TO VISITORS

65 m

GREAT DOME

8 °C

ALL YEAR

1920

SHOW CAVE SINCE

Water dissolved the gypsum of the southern Harz and left halls with still lakes; the Great Dome measures about 65 metres. The tour route crosses the border into Thuringia underground. In 1944/45 concentration camp prisoners were forced to build aircraft parts for Junkers here; the Small Dome holds a memorial.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Tours at 10am, 12 noon and 2pm; the 4pm tour only if booked ahead.
- Helmets are compulsory underground; children under 3 are not allowed.
- The municipality says the route is wheelchair-accessible; dogs must stay outside.

ADMISSION

€9.00 (about \$10), children 3–17 €6.00, family €26.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Tue–Sun 10am–5pm; ask ahead for winter hours

GETTING THERE

Car park at the cave between Uftrungen and Rottleberode



WHO LIVES HERE

The Heimkehle is the largest known bat winter roost in the Harz, within the protected site “Alter Stolberg und Heimkehle”. Ringing in 2002–2004 recorded 2,931 bats of 12 species, including the greater mouse-eared bat.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com

Germany · Harz

9

Regenstein Castle

BLANKENBURG (HARZ) · HARZ DISTRICT

Photo: Florian Hoffmann, GFDL, Wikimedia Commons

1162

FIRST MENTION

1671

MADE A FORTRESS

1758

BLOWN UP

€1.00

DOG ADMISSION

On a sandstone ridge above Blankenburg, the Counts of Regenstein cut their castle straight into the rock: living rooms, stables and cellars are hollowed out, not built. Brandenburg made the rock a fortress in 1671; the Prussians blew it up in 1758. You explore without a guide, much of it in the open.

BEFORE YOU GO

- In winter Tue–Sun only until 4pm, last entry 3.30pm; closed in storms.
- The car park takes no cash: pay at the machine by card or with a phone app.
- An AR app shows 17 buildings that no longer exist. Charge your phone first.

ADMISSION

€4.00 (about \$5), ages 6–18 €2.00, family €10.00, dog €1.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Apr–Oct daily 10am–6pm, Nov–Mar Tue–Sun 10am–4pm

GETTING THERE

3 km on foot from Blankenburg station; paid car park

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“First mentioned in 1169”~~ – a Count of Regenstein is named as early as 1162.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Harz

10 Rabensteiner Stollen

HARZTOR-NETZKATER · NORDHAUSEN DISTRICT

Photo: Markscheider, CC BY 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

1737

MINING BEGAN

1949

CLOSED

600 m

ON FOOT

8 °C

UNDERGROUND

The southern Harz yielded not only ore but also hard coal, from a seam no more than two metres thick. Today the “Rabenstein-Express” mine train runs to an underground station. From there you walk about 600 metres through old workings, and the guides start up compressed-air machines.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Book ahead in the online ticket shop; tickets cannot be cancelled. Tours are in German.
- Be at the ticket desk 20 minutes before the start, as the operator requires.
- The Harz narrow-gauge railway (Harz-querbahn) stops at Netzkater, close to the mine.

ADMISSION

From €17.00 (about \$19), children 4–14 from €9.50, by tour (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Fixed dates only, see ticket shop; Nov to early Dec Sat/Sun

GETTING THERE

Harzquerbahn to Netzkater; free car park

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“Closed in 1924”~~ – after a last mining period the pit closed only on 1 October 1949.



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
Germany · Harz

11

Mittelbau-Dora Concentration Camp Memorial

NORDHAUSEN · NORDHAUSEN DISTRICT

Photo: NiSaTi, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

1943

CAMP SET UP

60,000

PRISONERS

20,000

DEAD, AT LEAST

1945

LIBERATION

In August 1943 the SS brought the first prisoners from Buchenwald to the Kohnstein hill. They were forced to expand the tunnels into an underground factory, slept inside the mountain for months and then assembled V2 rockets. Grounds and museum are free; part of the tunnels only on a guided tour.

PLACE OF REMEMBRANCE

Of about 60,000 prisoners from many countries of Europe, at least 20,000 died in the Mittelbau camp. This place remembers them and the forced labour on which rocket production depended.

VISITING

- Tour with tunnel at 11am and 2pm (winter Tue–Fri 11am only), 1.5 hrs; book: +49 3631 495820.
- Public tours are in German only; the free “Mittelbau” app is in English. No photos in the tunnel.
- The memorial advises against visits with children under twelve; it is 8 °C in the tunnel.

ADMISSION

Grounds and museum free; tour with tunnel €7.00 (about \$8), reduced €3.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Tue–Sun 10am–6pm, Nov–Mar 10am–4pm

GETTING THERE

Tram 10 or Harzquerbahn to Krimderode, 25 min walk



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com

Germany · Harz

More underground

The Harz has more visitor mines than one chapter can hold. Many are small, run by volunteers and open only at set tour times; two caves you can reach freely on foot, with your own torch.

Grube Catharina Neufang (mine)

Neighbour of the Samson Pit, reopened in 2026 after restoration. Narrow, hand-hewn galleries from before 1575; ages 10 and up.

SANKT ANDREASBERG
MAY–OCT, 1PM

Lehrbergwerk Grube Roter Bär (training mine)

Not a polished show mine but a training mine in its original state: narrow, wet and dark. The association lends helmet and lamp; entry by donation.

SANKT ANDREASBERG
APR–OCT, SAT 2PM

19-Lachter-Stollen (adit)

Drainage adit and part of the Upper Harz Water Management World Heritage site. One kilometre of tour route, plus 25 metres down to turbine and compressor rooms.

WILDEMANN
MAY TO 1 NOV

Schachtanlage Knesebeck (mine shaft)

Part of the Hilfe Gottes pit, the last ore mine in the Upper Harz, which closed only in 1992. See the winding engine, wheel chambers and a stretch of adit.

BAD GRUND
TUE–SUN, WINTER SUN

Silbergrube Lautenthals Glück (silver mine)

By mine train into the mountain, then across three levels past an underground chapel. Unusual: a ride in an ore boat on an old watercourse.

LANGELSHEIM-LAUTENTHAL
ALL YEAR, TOURS

Oberharzer Bergwerksmuseum (mining museum)

Germany's oldest mining museum, with open-air site, horse whim and wheel chamber. A visitor adit links the sites above and below ground.

CLAUSTHAL-ZELLERFELD
TUE–SUN, TOURS

Steinkirche (cave church)

Dolomite cave used as a church from the 9th century; pulpit and altar are cut from the rock. About 2 km as the crow flies from the Einhornhöhle.

HERZBERG-SCHARZFELD
FREE ACCESS

More underground (continued)

Schaubergwerk Büchenberg (show mine)

Iron ore mine, worked until 1970. Original rock drills and loaders run underground. Dogs and photos are allowed; cash only.

ELBINGERODE
DAILY, ALL YEAR

Grube Glasebach (mine)

Two levels from the 17th and 18th centuries with oak timbering, plus a 9.50-metre water wheel. The tour lasts up to two hours.

HARZGERODE-STRASSBERG
FEB-OCT, WED-SUN

Volkmarskeller (cave)

Small cave where a female hermit is said to have lived around 850; Cistercians settled here in 1146. Reachable only on foot; bring a torch.

BLANKENBURG
FREE ACCESS

Röhrigschacht Wettelrode (mine shaft)

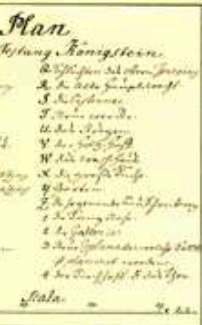
A 283-metre cage ride down, then by mine train into the copper shale field. The 1888 headframe is one of the oldest in Europe.

SANGERHAUSEN-
WETTELRODE
ALL YEAR, WED-SUN

Erlebnisbergwerk Glückauf (potash mine)

Potash mine with underground concerts and boats on a brine lake. Ages 10 and up only; no tours on Sundays.

SONDERSHAUSEN
BOOKING ONLY



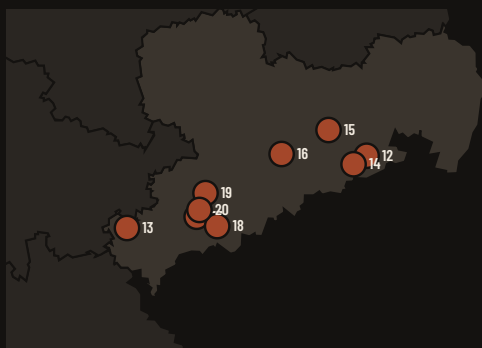
Königstein Fortress

Plan von der Berg-Festung Königstein.

02

Saxony: Saxon Switzerland, Ore Mountains and Vogtland

Saxony has exactly one show cave but hundreds of mines. Since the Middle Ages, miners in the Ore Mountains dug for silver, tin and iron, in the 20th century for uranium and coal; since 2019 the mining region has been World Heritage. Add the vaults of two fortresses. Nine places, from a cage ride 150 metres down to the rock cleft where a kidnapped prince was hidden in 1455.



- 12 Königstein Fortress
- 13 Syrau Dragon Cave
- 14 Marie Louise Stolln
- 15 Dresden Fortress
- 16 Freiberg Silver Mine
- 17 Markus Semmler Visitor Mine
- 18 Herkules-Frisch-Glück Show Mine
- 19 KohleWelt Oelsnitz
- 20 Prinzenhöhle (Prince's Cave)

Map: Boundaries: GeoBasis-DE / BKG, Data Licence Germany – Attribution – Version 2.0

12

SAXON SWITZERLAND · SAXONY



Königstein Fortress

Beneath the table mountain lie deep cellars with masons' marks and casemates that only a guided tour unlocks.

240 m

ABOVE THE ELBE

152.5 m

WELL DEPTH

75 min

TOUR

30

PLACES PER TOUR

Photo: Lukas Beck, CC BY 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

KÖNIGSTEIN · SÄCHSISCHE SCHWEIZ-OSTERZGEBIRGE DISTRICT

Up top everyone looks out over the Elbe valley; below it is quiet. The “Festung UNTERIRDISCH” tour opens 16th-century deep cellars with masons' marks and 19th-century casemates that are otherwise locked. No more than 30 people go along.

WELL, PRISON, ART TREASURES

From 1589 Elector Christian I turned the table mountain into a fortress. Water came from a 152.5-metre well, cut into the rock in 1563–1569. In the wars of 1756 and 1813, Dresden's art treasures were kept here.

Until 1922 Königstein was a state prison; inmates included Böttger and Bebel. In 1942 General Giraud escaped from the officers' camp.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Secure places in the online ticket shop; only a few spare tickets are sold on site.
- Children up to 16 go free but need their own zero-price ticket.
- Wear sturdy shoes: there are stairs in the cellars and casemates. Tours are in German.
- The GDR bunker beneath the fortress has its own tour: “Festung TOP SECRET”.

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“Admission €15, family ticket €38”~~ – until 1 November 2026 it is €17.00 and €42.00, in winter €15.00 and €36.00.

ADMISSION

€17.00 (about \$19) plus €6.00 tour; tour free up to 16 (as of 10/2026)

GETTING THERE

S1 to Königstein, then bus or on foot; panoramic lift

OPENING HOURS

Daily 9am–6pm, from 2 November 9am–5pm

GOOD TO KNOW

Meet at the Magdalenenburg by the well house



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
 Germany

NEARBY · Marie Louise Stolln, 9 km · Dresden Fortress, 27 km



13

VOGTLAND · SAXONY

Syrau Dragon Cave

A quarry foreman found it at work in March 1928; by September the first visitors arrived.

350 m

CAVE ROUTE

81

STEPS AT ENTRANCE

10 °C

ALL YEAR

1928

DISCOVERED

Photo: Aagnverglaser, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

ROSENBACH/VOGTL.-SYRAU · VOGTLAND DISTRICT

Saxony's only show cave lies in Devonian limestone beneath Syrau. The route runs 350 metres and 16 metres deep past flowstone curtains, clay forms and crystal-clear lakes. Guided only, but tours run for as few as one person.

A CHANCE FIND IN THE QUARRY

On 14 March 1928 quarry foreman Ludwig Undeutsch found the cave in the Syrau limestone quarry. His son Willy climbed down a widened crevice and stood in the largest hall, “Walhalla”.

The village built paths within six months; the first visitors came on 28 September 1928. In 1989 there were 156,000 a year; today numbers are capped to protect the cave.

ADMISSION

€11.00 (about \$13), children €8.00, family €33.00 (cheaper from 9 Nov) (as of 10/2026)

GETTING THERE

Main car park closed in 2026; use the one on the B 282

BEFORE YOU GO

- No group needed: tours run all day, even for one person. They are in German.
- Pushchairs stay up top; 81 steps lead down at the entrance.
- Bring a jacket and sturdy shoes: it is 10 °C below and the floor is damp.
- The laser show in the Walhalla runs only from late April to early November.

OPENING HOURS

May–Oct daily 9.30am–5pm, otherwise 10am–4pm

GOOD TO KNOW

No dogs, not wheelchair-accessible

**Current hours and prices**

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Vogtland

NEARBY · Alaunbergwerk Plauen, 6 km · Plauen air-raid shelter museum, 7 km



14 Marie Louise Stolln

BAD GOTTLIEBA-BERGGIESSHÜBEL · SÄCHSISCHE SCHWEIZ-OSTERZGEBIRGE DISTRICT

Photo: Singlespeedfahrer, CC0, Wikimedia Commons

400 m

INTO THE HILL

65 cm

NARROWEST POINT

90 min

TOUR

2006

VISITOR MINE

The iron ore adit is named after the eldest daughter of Magdeburg industrialist Hermann Gruson, under whom its richest years began in 1870. You go about 400 metres into the hill, just 65 centimetres wide at the narrowest point, to an underground lake.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Book online first; only 20 people may go in per tour.
- Children must be at least five; dogs stay outside.
- Pack a warm jacket: it is 8 to 10 °C in the adit all year.

ADMISSION

€12.00 (about \$14), children 5–16 €10.00, family €39.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

All year, start times in the online ticket shop

GETTING THERE

Talstraße 2 A; bus 219 to Kurhaus, 5 min walk



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany



15 Dresden Fortress

DRESDEN · INDEPENDENT CITY

Photo: Z thomas, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

1546

BUILDING BEGAN

40 m

LONG VAULTS

75 min

VISIT

1992

MUSEUM

Beneath the Brühl Terrace lie the old city defences: from 1546 Duke Moritz ringed Dresden with bastions. You pass through the Ziegeltor, Dresden's last surviving city gate, and three casemates each 40 metres long, with projections and an audio guide in German or English.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Wheelchairs go down by lift from the terrace, at most two at a time.
- Meant for ages six and up; younger children get no audio device.
- Open on Mondays only in Saxon school holidays; last entry 4.30pm.

ADMISSION

€12.00 (about \$14), reduced €10.00, children 6–16 €4.50 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Tue–Sun 10am–6pm, last entry 4.30pm

GETTING THERE

Lift on the Brühl Terrace, old town



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany

16 Freiberg Silver Mine

FREIBERG · MITTELSACHSEN DISTRICT

Photo: SchillerSteffen, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

150 m

CAGE RIDE

14 km

OF WORKINGS

10 °C

UNDERGROUND

448 t

SILVER 1840-96

The cage drops 150 metres into the Himmelfahrt Fundgrube, since 1919 the teaching mine of today's TU Bergakademie. Between 1840 and 1896 it yielded 448 tonnes of silver. Students still train here, and visitors go underground only on a booked tour.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Book early: each descent is limited to 19 people. Tours in German, English by arrangement.
- Open Wednesday to Saturday only; children under six may not go down.
- The mine provides overalls and a helmet; dress warmly underneath.

ADMISSION

EntdeckerTour €18.00 (about \$21), ages 13–18 €10.00, 6–12 €5.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Wed–Sat by booking only; closed Sun–Tue and holidays

GETTING THERE

Fuchsmühlenweg 9, Freiberg



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Ore Mountains



17 Markus Semmler Visitor Mine

AUE-BAD SCHLEMA · ERZGEBIRGE DISTRICT

Photo: Privoksalnaja, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

50 m

CAGE RIDE

1503

ADIT BEGUN

2 hrs

TOUR

10+

MINIMUM AGE

A cage in Shaft 15 IIb takes you about 50 metres down to the Markus-Semmler-Stolln, begun in 1503 for silver mining. Its springs gave rise to the Oberschlema radium spa in 1918; after 1946 the Soviet-run Wismut company mined uranium here. The tour tells both stories.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Register in good time: the tour only goes down with at least eight people.
- Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays only, descents at 10am and 1pm.
- Children must be at least ten; protective clothing is provided.

ADMISSION

€20.00 (about \$23), children 10–14 €15.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Sat, Sun, holidays 10am and 1pm, booking required

GETTING THERE

Shaft 15 IIb in the Bad Schlema district



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Ore Mountains

18

Herkules-Frisch-Glück Show Mine

GRÜNHAIN-BEIERFELD-WASCHLEITHE · ERZGEBIRGE DISTRICT

Herkules = Frisch = Glück



Photo: Aagnverglaser, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

1926

SHOW MINE

80 m

UNDERGROUND

250

STEPS

2

MARBLE HALLS

Visitors have been guided underground here since 1926, longer than in any other mine in Saxony. More than 250 steps lead 80 metres down to two marble halls and emerald-green lakes. Under UV light the scheelite in the rock glows bright blue, and you can break off marble yourself.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Tours Tuesday to Sunday at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm, in German.
- Children are welcome from age four; not suitable for wheelchairs.
- Above ground, add the “Weg des Erzes” ore trail with smithy, stamp mill and ore washery.

ADMISSION

€8.00 (about \$9), children €4.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Tue–Sun, tours 1pm, 2pm and 3pm

GETTING THERE

Am Fürstenberg 6, Grünhain-Beierfeld



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Ore Mountains



19 KohleWelt Oelsnitz

DELSNITZ/ERZGEB. · ERZGEBIRGE DISTRICT

Photo: Kora27, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

400 m

MINE WALK

50 m

HEADFRAME

1844

FIRST COAL

1971

MINING ENDED

The tour starts high in the headframe of the former Kaiserin-Augusta shaft, at the tower winding engine. Then it enters a 400-metre demonstration mine: a replica, but with working machines. The engine house holds Saxony's largest surviving steam winding engine.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Book the mine tour at 11am or 2.30pm in advance; places are scarce.
- The steam engine runs Tue–Sun at 12.45pm and 4.15pm; plan your visit around it.
- Right next door: James Turrell's walk-in light installation “Beyond Horizons 2025”.

ADMISSION

€17.00 (about \$19) with mine, reduced
€13.00, family €48.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Tue–Sun 10am–5pm; closed in calendar
weeks 2–4

GETTING THERE

Pflockenstraße 28, Oelsnitz/Erzgeb.



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
Germany · Ore Mountains

20

Prinzenhöhle (Prince's Cave)

HARTENSTEIN · ZWICKAU DISTRICT

Photo: Aagnverglaser, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

18 m

LONG

1455

PRINCE KIDNAPPED

4.5 km

FROM CASTLE RUIN

free

ADMISSION

In July 1455, after the kidnapping of the princes at Altenburg, knights are said to have hidden 14-year-old Prince Ernst of Saxony here for three days. The “cave” is a cleft about 18 metres long, a medieval adit in the Poppenwald forest, freely accessible and unlit.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring a torch; there is no light in the adit.
- From the Forsthaus “Zur Prinzenhöhle” inn, a stony, secured path leads up.
- As a hike: 4.5 km on a waymarked trail from Hartenstein castle ruin.

ADMISSION

Free (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

All year, unstaffed

GETTING THERE

Poppenwald north of Hartenstein, from Forsthaus “Zur Prinzenhöhle”

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“A natural cave”~~ – an adit cut by miners in the Middle Ages.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com

Germany · Ore Mountains

More underground

In the Ore Mountains, associations run dozens of small mines, many only by appointment or on a few days a year. These places have fixed tour times or something you will find nowhere else.

Markus-Röhling-Stolln (adit)

By mine train about 600 metres into the mountain to a nine-metre water wheel that turns again. Silver, cobalt and uranium in one adit, part of the World Heritage.

ANNABERG-BUCHHOLZ-FROHNAU
DAILY 9AM-4.30PM

Zinnkammern Pöhla (tin mine)

The mine train runs about three kilometres into the mountain before the tour starts. At about 15 °C it is unusually mild below; ages 6+, booking requested.

SCHWARZENBERG-PÖHLA
DAILY 2PM

Felsendome Rabenstein (lime mine)

A limestone mine with halls so high they are called domes. The route is level and suits wheelchairs; tours on the hour, no booking.

CHEMNITZ-RABENSTEIN
DAILY, HOURLY

Molchner Stolln (silver adit)

The quickest way into Ore Mountains mining: 45 to 60 minutes through a silver adit in the Schwarzwasser valley, five times a day all year, from two people.

MARIENBERG-POBERSHAU
TUE-SUN, 5 TOURS

Alte Hoffnung Erbstolln (adit)

Here you enter the mine by boat, to 19th-century water works, and return by ladders. Only on announced Saturdays, cash only.

ROSSAU-SCHÖNBORN
SELECTED SATURDAYS

Dorothea-Stolln (adit)

Silver, cobalt, copper, nickel and finally pitchblende came from this mine. The standard tour includes a 250-metre boat ride underground.

ANNABERG-BUCHHOLZ-CUNERSDORF
MON-SAT

Silberbergwerk “Im Gößner” (silver mine)

A mine from around 1500, rediscovered under the old town only in 1992. The entrance is in the courtyard of the Erzgebirgsmuseum; galleries reach 24 metres deep.

ANNABERG-BUCHHOLZ
TUE-SUN

More underground (continued)

Zinngrube Ehrenfriedersdorf (tin mine)

Tin mining on the Sauberg, part of the World Heritage. Choose a 2.5-hour adventure tour for ages 10+ or a shorter tour for ages 6+.

EHRENFRIEDERSDORF
THU-SUN, BOOKING

Grube Tannenberg (tin mine)

Old tin mine by the Schneckenstein, Central Europe's best-known topaz site. Individual visitors join one of the four daily tours without booking.

MULDENHAMMER-
TANNENBERGSTHAL
TUE-SUN, 4 TOURS

Alaunbergwerk "Ewiges Leben" (alum mine)

Alum shale was mined in the old town from 1542 to about 1826; in 1944/45 it was an air-raid shelter. About 90 per cent of the route is wheelchair-accessible.

PLAUE
BOOKING ONLY

Museum im Stasi-Bunker (bunker)

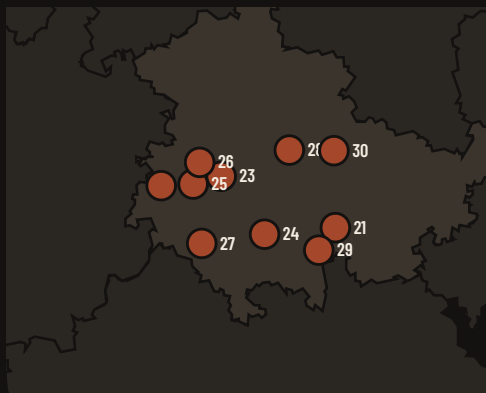
Leipzig Stasi emergency post disguised as a holiday camp, built 1968–1972, rooms partly original. Open only on the last weekend of the month, 1–4pm.

MACHERN
1 WEEKEND A MONTH

03

Thuringia

Much of Thuringia's underworld is man-made. Miners looking for alum, gypsum, barite or potash struck coloured grottoes, crystal chambers and dripstones. Add karst caves in Zechstein limestone, a mountain torn open near Meiningen, a Stasi bunker on the Rennsteig ridge and the listening tunnels of a Baroque fortress. Ten places between the Werra and the Saale.



- 21 Saalfeld Fairy Grottoes
- 22 Merkers Adventure Mine
- 23 Marienglashöhle
- 24 Frauenwald Bunker Museum
- 25 Altenstein Cave
- 26 Kittelsthal Dripstone Cave
- 27 Goetz Cave
- 28 Underground Erfurt
- 29 Morassina Show Mine
- 30 Parkhöhle Weimar

Map: Boundaries: GeoBasis-DE / BKG, Data Licence Germany – Attribution – Version 2.0

21

THURINGIAN SLATE MOUNTAINS • THURINGIA

Saalfeld Fairy Grottoes

A mine nobody found beautiful – until seeping water coated the empty chambers with coloured sinter.

550 m

CIRCUIT

45

MINERALS RECORDED

8–10 °C

ALL YEAR

1914

OPENED

Photo: Sebastian Wallroth, CC BY 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

SAALFELD/SAALE · SAALFELD-RUDOLSTADT DISTRICT

Not a cave but an alum shale mine: miners broke shale here from 1544 to 1850, then iron-rich seepage coated the empty chambers with coloured sinter. The one-hour tour covers 120 steps and three levels.

FROM OCHRE PIT TO SHOW MINE

After mining ended, August Wohlfarth dammed the mine water from 1867 to extract iron ochre as a pigment. It covered poorly, and in 1909 he gave up. On 22 December 1913 the third level with the Fairy-Tale Cathedral was found.

The show mine opened on 31 May 1914. Since 1993 Guinness World Records has listed it as the “most colourful show grottoes in the world”.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Pack a jacket: 8 to 10 °C at 98 per cent humidity feels colder after an hour.
- The Grottoneum in the spring house is included and step-free – many miss it.
- Ages 4 and up; pushchairs and back carriers stay up top, slings for a deposit.
- Tickets are valid for 90 days: whatever you miss today, you can see another day.

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“A dripstone cave”~~ – a show mine; the sinter is mainly diadochite, not limestone. ~~“Discovered 1800, opened 1885”~~ – the third level was found on 22 December 1913 and opened on 31 May 1914.

ADMISSION

€17.00 (about \$19), children 4–14 €13.00, incl. Grottoneum (as of 10/2026)

GETTING THERE

Town bus A from Saalfeld station; parking €3.00/day

OPENING HOURS

To 1 Nov daily from 10am, then Tue–Sun 11am–4pm; short Jan break

GOOD TO KNOW

Guided only, not accessible



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
 Germany · Thuringian Forest

NEARBY · Besucherbergwerk Kamsdorf, 9 km · Morassina Show Mine, 14 km

22

WERRA VALLEY · THURINGIA

Merkers Adventure Mine

500 metres down in the cage, on open wagons through the potash mine – and into the room where the gold lay in 1945.

500 m

CAGE RIDE

800 m

CRYSTAL GROTTO

21 km

ROUND TRIP

3 hrs

TOUR

Photo: indeedous, Attribution, Wikimedia Commons

KRAYENBERGGEMEINDE-MERKERS · WARTBURG DISTRICT

Merkers is a ride, not a stroll: 90 seconds in the cage down to 500 metres, then about 21 kilometres on open personnel carriers through the closed potash mine. It is 21 to 28 °C below, so nobody needs a jacket.

GOLD IN ROOM NO. 8

From February 1945 the Reichsbank moved its gold reserves here, with art from Berlin's museums, Nefertiti included. On 8 April 1945 US soldiers blasted open the walled-up Room No. 8 and counted 8,198 gold bars.

A re-created scene tells the story. At the end comes the Crystal Grotto, with salt crystals up to a metre along each edge.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Nobody goes down without a reservation; Saturdays often sell out weeks ahead.
- Arrive 30 minutes before the start; latecomers stay up top, without a refund.
- Children only from age 10, with proof of age and no exceptions.
- Leave your rucksack in the car: only bags up to A4 size may go underground.

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“Sunday tour at 10.30am”~~ – tours run only Tue–Sat at 9.30am and 1.30pm, never Sun or Mon. ~~“The world's deepest concert hall”~~ – the Great Bunker is at 500 m, Sondershausen is deeper; concerts end in 2027.

ADMISSION

€31.00 (about \$35), ages 10–17 €22.00, reservation only (as of 10/2026)

GETTING THERE

Bus 100 from Bad Salzungen, 13 min; car park at the mine

OPENING HOURS

All year Tue–Sat, tours 9.30am and 1.30pm

GOOD TO KNOW

Ages 10+, not accessible, no dogs



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
 Germany · Thuringian Forest

NEARBY · Altenstein Cave, 16 km · Besucherbergwerk Hühn, 21 km

23

Marienglashöhle

FRIEDRICHRODA · GOTHA DISTRICT

Photo: Giorno2, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

90 cm

LONG CRYSTALS

110 m

TUNNEL

1784

GROTTO FOUND

8–10 °C

ALL YEAR

Miners looked for copper in 1775, found gypsum, and in 1784 broke into a grotto of crystals up to 90 centimetres long. The clear gypsum, “Marienglas”, once adorned pictures of the Virgin Mary, hence the name. A 110-metre tunnel leads in; the lower level holds a cave lake.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Tours on the hour, in German; the last one starts an hour before closing.
- Audio guides are available in English, Dutch, French and Russian.
- About 100 steps; wheelchairs can reach the upper level only.

ADMISSION

€12.00 (about \$14), children 6–16 €7.50, family €30.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Apr–Oct daily 10am–5pm; Nov–Mar Tue–Sun 10am–4pm

GETTING THERE

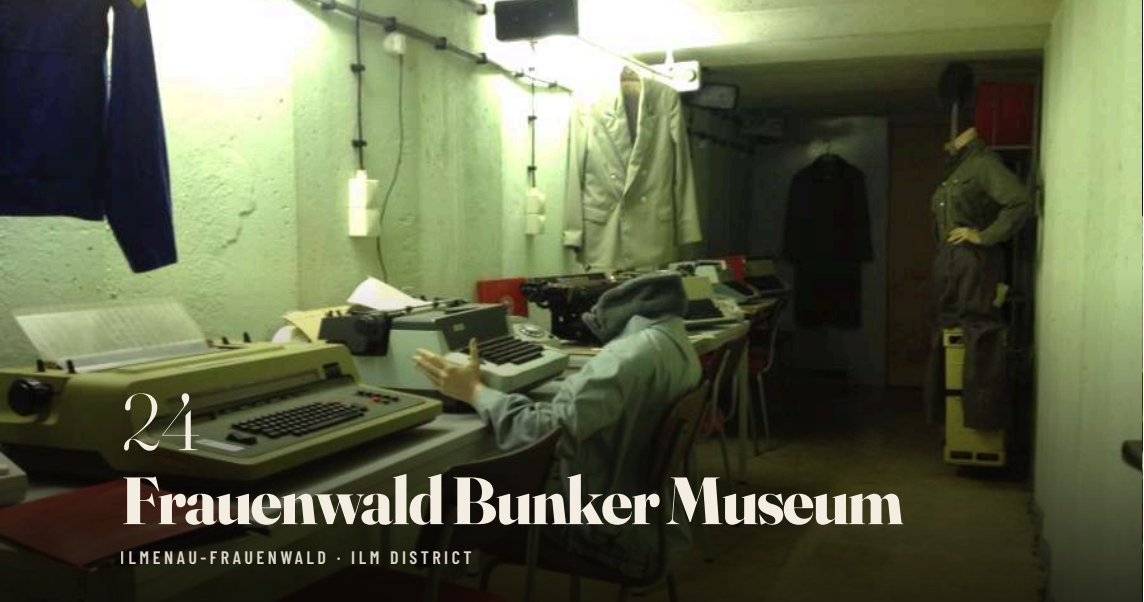
Nearest bus stop about 500 m from the cave



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com

Germany · Thuringian Forest



24

Frauenwald Bunker Museum

ILMENAU-FRAUENWALD · ILM DISTRICT

Photo: Bezirk Suhl, CC0, Wikimedia Commons

3,600M² UNDERGROUND**1975**

COMPLETED

130

PLACES

70 min

TOUR

Next to an East German army rest home on the Rennsteig, the Stasi built a command bunker in 1973–1975 for the Suhl district operations staff, code-named “Trachtenfest”. Its 3,600 square metres of signals equipment, filter plants and a “bunker within the bunker” are largely original.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Tickets and tour start at the reception of the Waldhotel Rennsteighöhe.
- Booking is worthwhile; you can only go in on a tour, about 70 minutes, in German.
- For technology fans there is a special tour of two and a half to three hours.

ADMISSION

€15.00 (about \$17), ages 12–17 €8.00, 6–11 €5.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Daily, summer 9.30am–5.30pm, winter 9.30am–4.30pm

GETTING THERE

Forest track between Rennsteig station and Frauenwald



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Thuringian Forest

25 Altenstein Cave

BAD LIEBENSTEIN-SCHWEINA · WARTBURG DISTRICT

Photo: EACC80, CC BY 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

1799

DISCOVERED

280 m

CAVE ROUTE

8 °C

ALL YEAR

100 l/s

CAVE STREAM

Road builders found the cave below Altenstein Palace in 1799. From 1802 the Duke of Saxe-Meiningen showed it to guests as an underground landscape garden, with a cave dome, a lake and a stream carrying 100 litres per second on average. The route is largely step-free.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Tickets only online or at the tourist information office, not at the cave.
- Be on time: latecomers are not admitted.
- Wheelchairs, walking aids and pushchairs can come along – a rarity in a cave.

ADMISSION

€15.00 (about \$17), children from 3 €8.00, family €37.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

All year Tue–Sun, tours 12.30pm, 2pm and 3.30pm

GETTING THERE

Car park and toilets right at the cave



WHO LIVES HERE

The operator describes the cave as home to several protected bat species and offers groups special bat tours. Please stay with the group and on the path.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com

Germany · Thuringian Forest

26

Kittelsthal Dripstone Cave

RUHLA-KITTELSTHAL · WARTBURG DISTRICT

Photo: Topfklao, Public domain, Wikimedia Commons

188

STEPS

48 m

UNDERGROUND

11 °C

ALL YEAR

1888

DISCOVERED

Miners extracting barite broke into the first grotto in 1888; the cave opened in 1896 with an open-air sermon. Today 188 steps lead down to the “Hall of the Titans”, the largest chamber. Closed for almost three years after 2019, it has been open again since October 2022.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Thu–Sun and public holidays only, tours on the hour, the last at 4pm.
- A jumper is enough: it is about 11 °C below all year.
- Dogs stay outside; children are welcome from age 3.

ADMISSION

€9.00 (about \$10), children 3–17 €6.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

1 April–31 Oct, Thu–Sun and holidays
10.45am–5pm

GETTING THERE

Bus 144 to Kittelsthal Ort, then 800 m on foot



WHO LIVES HERE

The cave is closed from November to March. The town of Ruhla expressly cites the winter rest of the bats that hibernate here.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com

Germany · Thuringian Forest

27 Goetz Cave

MEININGEN · SCHMALKALDEN-MEININGEN DISTRICT

Photo: ErwinMeier, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

50 m

HIGH FISSURES

420 m

CAVE ROUTE

8 °C

ALL YEAR

1915

DISCOVERED

Not a cave washed out by water but a rift: the Dietrichsberg slid towards the Werra, tearing open fissures up to 50 metres high. The route runs over three levels through four parallel clefts. Merchant Reinhold Goetz discovered it in 1915.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Tickets on site only, cash or girocard (German debit card); no credit cards.
- On weekdays only Thu and Fri at 4pm and 5pm; at weekends four tours from 11am.
- Closed 1970–2000, officially over rock-fall risk, probably also because of the nearby border.

ADMISSION

€9.00 (about \$10), children €6.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Thu/Fri 4pm and 5pm, Sat/Sun 11am, 12.30pm, 2pm and 3.30pm

GETTING THERE

Am Dietrich 2, short climb to the entrance



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com

Germany · Thuringian Forest

28 Underground Erfurt

ERFURT · INDEPENDENT CITY

Photo: CTHOE, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

2 km

LISTENING TUNNELS

1665

FOUNDATION STONE

25

PER TOUR

13th c.

MIKVEH

More than two kilometres of listening tunnels run through the walls of the Petersberg Citadel. Sentries listened here for besiegers digging in from below; you can enter only on a guided tour. Down in the old town lies the medieval mikveh, a Jewish ritual bath, World Heritage since 2023.

BEFORE YOU GO

- See the exhibition in the Kommandantenhaus first; then the tour costs only €4.00.
- The 5.30pm “Funzel” tour goes with hand torches and takes an hour and a half.
- Step-free and free of charge: the accessible listening tunnel in Ravelin Anselm, no guide needed.

ADMISSION

Tour €9.00 (about \$10), reduced €4.00 (from 2027: €10.00) (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Apr–Dec daily 11am and 2pm, Jan–Mar 2pm

GETTING THERE

Tram 3 or 6 to Domplatz Nord, 600 m uphill

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“There are catacombs under Erfurt”~~ – they are listening tunnels of a Baroque fortress, not burial sites.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany

29

Morassina Show Mine

SAALFELD-SCHMIEDEFELD · SAALFELD-RUDOLSTADT DISTRICT

Photo: R. L. 68, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

1683

FIRST MENTION

2 km

OF CAVITIES

7 °C

ALL YEAR

1993

OPENED

From 1683 to 1860 miners extracted alum shale here for alum and vitriol. When the Wismut company searched for uranium in 1951, it found coloured dripstones and sinter instead. The mine has been open to visitors since 1993, and most of the tour route is wheelchair-accessible.

BEFORE YOU GO

- If you want to take photos, you pay €2.00 for a photo permit.
- With a Thüringer Wald Card or a German disability ID card you get 20 per cent off.
- In winter only three tours, Tue–Sun: 10.30am, 12 noon and 1.30pm.

ADMISSION

€14.00 (about \$16), children 3–14 €10.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Apr–Oct daily, tours 10.30am, 12 noon, 1.15pm, 2.30pm

GETTING THERE

Schwefelloch 1, Schmiedefeld district



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Thuringian Forest

30 Parkhöhle Weimar

WEIMAR · INDEPENDENT CITY

Photo: Geolina163, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

12 m

BELOW THE PARK

1794

WORK BEGAN

500 m

FIRST TUNNEL

35 min

CIRCUIT

Duke Carl August wanted his own brewery. For it, a tunnel about 500 metres long was dug under the Park an der Ilm in 1794–1796. Later gravel was mined here, the court strolled underground, and towards the end of the war part of it became an air-raid shelter.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Tunnel tour on the hour for €1.00 extra, for 4 to 10 people.
- Closed on Tuesdays; in winter the Parkhöhle closes at 4pm.
- Look up: fossils from a prehistoric lake are embedded in the ceiling.

ADMISSION

€7.00 (about \$8), reduced €5.00, ages 16–20
€2.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Wed–Mon, summer 10am–6pm, winter
10am–4pm

GETTING THERE

Steps near the Liszt House in the Park an der Ilm



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany

More underground

Smaller, open less often or by appointment only: these places in Thuringia are worth the detour if you know their dates. Two caves close in winter because bats hibernate there.

Museumshöhler Gera (cellars)

16th- and 17th-century beer cellars up to ten metres below the old town, surveyed as air-raid shelters from 1935. Max. 20 people per tour; under-18s free.

GERA
THU-SUN, TOUR

Besucherbergwerk Kamsdorf (visitor mine)

300 years of copper, silver and iron ore mining. On request you ride in on the original mine train, which holds just 16 people.

UNTERWELLENBORN
ALL YEAR, NOT FRI

Besucherbergwerk Finstertal (visitor mine)

Iron and manganese ore mine from around 1900. Under UV light the minerals in the galleries glow; the tour takes about 35 minutes.

SCHMALKALDEN
APR-OCT, WED-SUN

Schaubergwerk Am Aschenberg (show mine)

Small show mine with a mineral museum that is free to enter. The tour takes just under 45 minutes; winter break in January and February.

BAD LIEBENSTEIN
MAR-DEC, NOT MON

Besucherbergwerk "Hühn" (visitor mine)

Barite and fluorite were mined here until 1990. A mine train runs 250 metres in, and there is a collection of over 500 minerals.

BROTTERODE-TRUSETAL
APR-OCT, TOURS

Schaubergwerk "Volle Rose" (show mine)

On open mine-train wagons about 360 metres into the adit where fluorite was mined until 1991. At most 16 seats per ride.

ILMENAU
APR-OCT, DAILY

Märchen- und Sandsteinhöhle (sand mine)

Not a natural cave but a sand mine with about 2,500 support pillars left standing over 65,000 square metres. Fairy-tale scenes fill one part.

MEININGEN-WALLDORF
APR-OCT, TOURS

More underground (continued)

Karsthöhle Dienstedt (karst cave)

The ancient Ilm river washed a small labyrinth into the limestone here. About 150 metres in, with a helmet; in winter the cave belongs to the bats.

STADTILM-DIENSTEDT
MAY-SEP, SET DATES

Zinselhöhle (stream cave)

Undeveloped stream cave: boots, helmet and lamp are handed out at the entrance, and there is one squeeze. Closed October to April to protect bats.

FRANKENBLICK-
MESCHENBACH
MAY-SEP, BOOKING

Grenzturm und Führungsbunker (border tower and bunker)

GDR watchtower with an attached command bunker, restored to its 1980s state: radios, NBC decontamination station and the border patrol motorcycle.

HEILDBURG-
GOMPERTSHAUSEN
BY APPOINTMENT



CHAPTER 4 · FRANCONIA, UPPER PALATINATE AND THE BAVARIAN FOREST

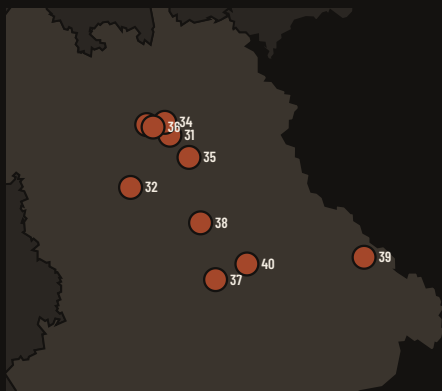
Teufelshöhle (Devil's Cave)

Photo: Rainer Lippert, Public domain, Wikimedia Commons

04

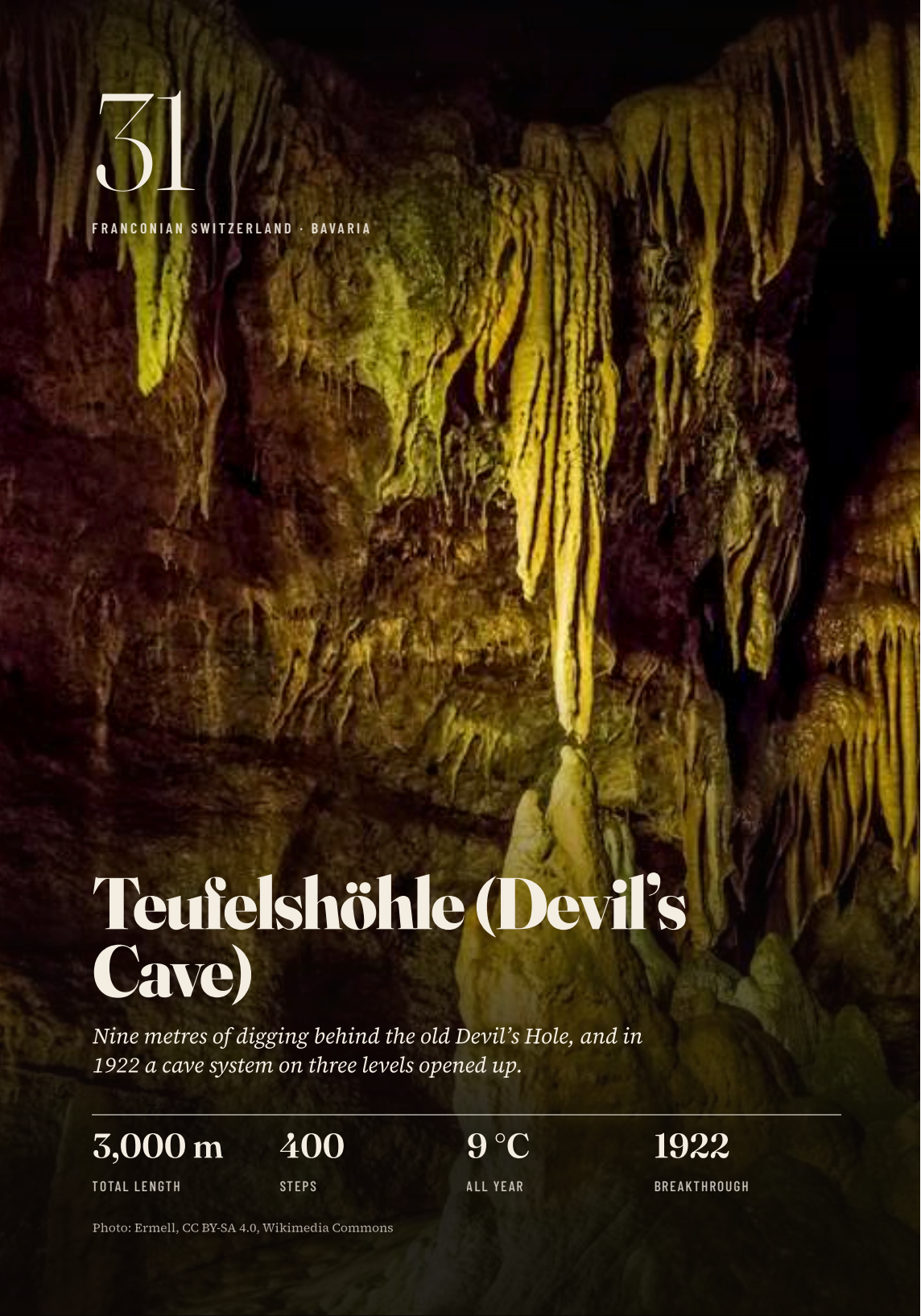
Franconia, Upper Palatinate and the Bavarian Forest

Franconian Switzerland alone has around 1,000 caves. Add the beer cellars Nuremberg has been cutting into the sandstone since 1380, a silver mine in the Bavarian Forest and the cellars of a medieval Jewish quarter beneath Regensburg. Ten places, from a free walk-through cave to a nuclear bunker under the main station.



- 31 Teufelshöhle (Devil's Cave)
- 32 Underground Nuremberg
- 33 Binghöhle
- 34 Sophienhöhle
- 35 Maximiliansgrotte
- 36 Oswaldhöhle
- 37 Schulerloch
- 38 König-Otto-Tropfsteinhöhle
- 39 Silberberg Mine
- 40 document Neupfarrplatz

Map: Boundaries: GeoBasis-DE / BKG, Data Licence Germany – Attribution – Version 2.0



31

FRANCONIAN SWITZERLAND · BAVARIA

Teufelshöhle (Devil's Cave)

Nine metres of digging behind the old Devil's Hole, and in 1922 a cave system on three levels opened up.

3,000 m

TOTAL LENGTH

400

STEPS

9 °C

ALL YEAR

1922

BREAKTHROUGH

Photo: Ermell, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

POTTENSTEIN · BAYREUTH DISTRICT

For centuries only the Teufelsloch was known, a rock portal 85 metres deep. Behind it lies the largest cave in Franconian Switzerland: about 3,000 metres long, a good half of it open. The guided tour takes 45 minutes and climbs some 400 steps.

A MINING ENGINEER DIGS

In October 1922 the geologist and mining engineer Hans Brand, paid by the town, dug through the collapsed back wall. After nine metres he stood in a system on three levels, including the Barbarossa Dome, about 45 by 18 metres.

The work was finished by Whitsun 1931. A complete cave bear skeleton stands by the path, and since 1986 part of the cave has been used for speleotherapy.

ADMISSION

€9.00 (about \$10), children 4–15 €5.00, family €25.00 (as of 10/2026)

GETTING THERE

Pegnitzer Str. 100, car park at the cave

BEFORE YOU GO

- Building work at the entrance: for now open only Sat/Sun 9am–4.30pm; check pottenstein.de first.
- Tours (in German) leave whenever enough people are waiting. Only groups of 15+ need to book.
- Dogs on a lead are allowed (€1.00). The operator recommends the cave for children aged 4 and up.
- Photography is allowed, but without flash, so the bats are not disturbed.

OPENING HOURS

currently Sat/Sun only, 9am–4.30pm (last entry), due to building work

GOOD TO KNOW

Not step-free, about 400 steps



WHO LIVES HERE

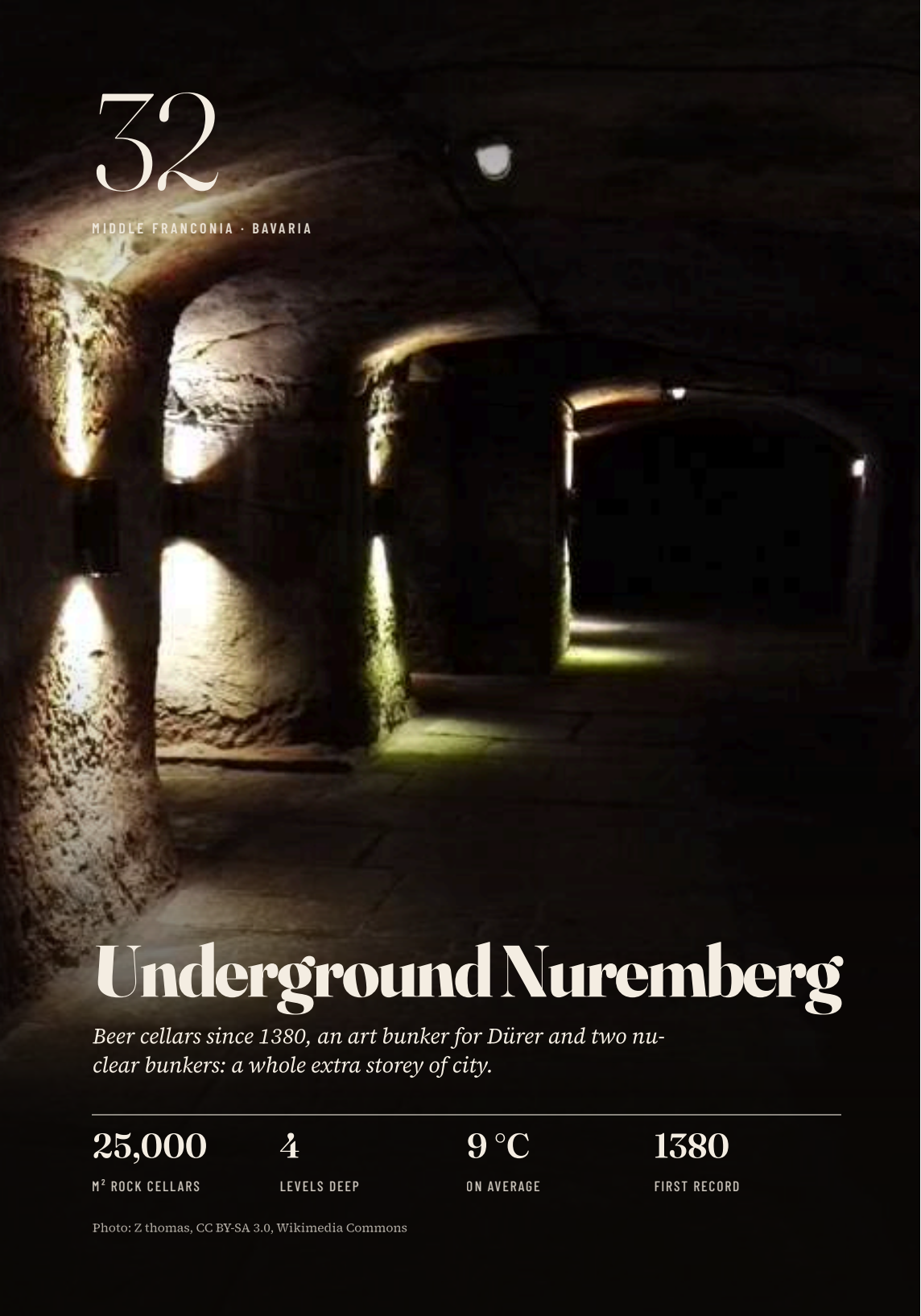
A closed-off part of the cave is left to the bats in winter. A partial count in 2013 found 22 animals of four species, and cavers estimated over 200 in all. The Bavarian Environment Agency gave the cave an award for this.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Franconian Switzerland

NEARBY · Sophienhöhle, 9 km · Oswaldhöhle, 12 km



32

MIDDLE FRANCONIA · BAVARIA

Underground Nuremberg

Beer cellars since 1380, an art bunker for Dürer and two nuclear bunkers: a whole extra storey of city.

25,000

M² ROCK CELLARS

4

LEVELS DEEP

9 °C

ON AVERAGE

1380

FIRST RECORD

Photo: Z thomas, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

NUREMBERG · INDEPENDENT CITY

Under the old town lies not one cellar but a network: beer cellars up to 20 metres deep in the sandstone, plus water tunnels, casemates, dungeons and two nuclear bunkers. Entry is by guided tour only, in groups of 20 at most.

FIRST BEER, THEN AIR RAIDS

From 1380 anyone who brewed beer had to have a cellar of their own. Up to 42 breweries dug four storeys down into the sandstone; in winter the cooling domes were packed with natural ice.

From 1940 the cellars were linked up as air-raid shelters. During the raid on the night of 2–3 January 1945, an estimated 35,000 to 40,000 people sheltered here.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Rock passages and Art Bunker have separate operators and tickets; both run tours in English.
- Book the dungeons online in advance; there is no ticket desk at the town hall. Ages 10 and up.
- The Nürnberg Card halves the price of the Unterwelten tours and the rock passages tour.
- Allow two hours for the nuclear bunker at the main station (German only); latecomers can't join.

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“The catacombs of Nuremberg”~~ – there were never graves here; the passages were dug as beer cellars from 1380. ~~“Rock passages: €5, family €10”~~ – long out of date: €13.00 for adults, family €30.00 on Sundays.

ADMISSION

rock passages €13.00 (about \$15), reduced €10.00; Art Bunker €12.00 (as of 10/2026)

GETTING THERE

Bergstraße 19, a few minutes' walk from the Hauptmarkt

OPENING HOURS

all year; rock passages daily from 11am, on the hour

GOOD TO KNOW

Not step-free, no dogs, 8–10 °C



Current hours and prices
[underground-atlas.com](https://underground-atlas.com/underground-nuremberg)
 /underground-nuremberg

NEARBY · Fürth rock tunnels, 8 km · Binghöhle, 41 km

33

Binghöhle

WIESENTAL-STREITBERG · FORCHHEIM DISTRICT

Photo: Schubbay, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

300 m

CAVE PASSAGE

9 °C

ALL YEAR

1905

DISCOVERED

7,000

VISITORS 1906

In 1905 the Nuremberg toy manufacturer Ignaz Bing had a rock crevice by his villa in Streitberg dug out and struck the bed of an ancient underground river: a single passage about 300 metres long, full of dripstones. Today you walk it alone after a short briefing and come out elsewhere.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Entry every 15 minutes from 10.15am; small groups don't need to book.
- Taking photos costs a €1.00 fee, as does a dog on a lead.
- Mind your head, the ceiling is low in places. Bring a jacket: it is 9 °C below.

ADMISSION

€7.50 (about \$9), children 4–14 €4.00,
family €19.50 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Tue–Sun 10am–5pm; winter break from 9
Nov 2026

GETTING THERE

Car park at the cave exit, 10 min on a
forest path



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Franconian Switzerland



34 Sophienhöhle

AHORNTAL-RABENSTEIN · BAYREUTH DISTRICT

Photo: Holger Uwe Schmitt, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

1833

HALLS FOUND

40

CAVE BEAR SKULLS

9 °C

ALL YEAR

20

PLACES PER TOUR

The Ahornloch below Rabenstein Castle was known as early as 1490. Only in 1833 did a workman of Count Schönborn break through into the great halls beyond; the count named them after his daughter-in-law Sophie. Some 40 cave bear skulls were found here, and a skeleton stands by the path.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Buy tickets online in advance: tours take only 20, toddlers included. Tours are in German.
- From the car park it is 10–15 minutes through the woods to the entrance; wear sturdy shoes.
- No dogs. Allow 1.5 hours between the castle tour and the cave tour.

ADMISSION

€8.00 (about \$9), children 4–14 €4.50 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

17 Apr–8 Nov 2026 Tue–Sun, tours 10.30am–5pm

GETTING THERE

Car park at Rabenstein Castle or in the Ailsbach valley



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Franconian Switzerland

35

Maximiliansgrotte

NEUHAUS AN DER PEGNITZ-KROTTENSEE · NÜRNBERGER LAND DISTRICT

Photo: Benreis, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

1,200 m

OF PASSAGES

70 m

BELOW GROUND

6 m

TALL "ICEBERG"

1596

FIRST RECORD

From 1596 Elector Frederick IV had yellow earth dug here in the hope of gold, and later dripstones for gunpowder. A breakthrough made on New Year's Eve 1852 has led inside ever since. The highlight of the half-hour tour is the "Iceberg", by the operator's account Germany's largest dripstone.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Open only on Saturdays and Sundays; in August also Wed–Fri at 11am and 2pm.
- The Grottenhof inn next door serves Grottenkäse, a cheese matured in the cave for ten weeks.
- The cave is closed from 1 November to 1 April, when bats hibernate here.

ADMISSION

€6.00 (about \$7), children €4.00, guided tours only (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

April to 31 October Sat/Sun, tours about hourly

GETTING THERE

Car park at the Grottenhof inn in Krottensee

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~"Easter to November, Wed–Sun 10am–5pm"~~ – per the operator Sat/Sun only, in August also Wed–Fri; closed from 1 November.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com

Germany · Franconian Switzerland

36 Oswaldhöhle

WIESENTAL-MUGGENDORF · FORCHHEIM DISTRICT

Photo: Ermell, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

65 m

PASSAGE

12 m

WIDE NORTH GATE

free

ADMISSION

1791

NAMED IN NOVEL

No ticket booth, no lighting: a 65-metre passage runs through the Hohler Berg above Muggendorf, and the hiking trail goes straight through it. You enter by a gate twelve metres wide and leave by a low one. The name comes from a hermit in a novel of 1791.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Link it with the Wunders-, Witzen- and Doktorshöhle on a six-kilometre cave circuit.
- Bring a torch and shoes with a good grip; the cave is unlit.
- From October to March, caves with hibernating bats are off-limits by law.

ADMISSION

free

OPENING HOURS

open all year, unstaffed

GETTING THERE

Car park above Muggendorf on the road to Doos



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Franconian Switzerland

37 Schulerloch

ESSING · KELHEIM DISTRICT

Photo: Teresa Hurlzmeier, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

420 m

CAVE LENGTH

793 m²

LARGEST HALL

9 °C

ALL YEAR

1828

SHOW CAVE SINCE

Neanderthals sheltered here 40,000 to 60,000 years ago; their stone tools are now in Munich. High above the Altmühl, the cave has been a show cave since 1828. The half-hour tour ends in the great hall with a video projection in which Ice Age animals appear.

BEFORE YOU GO

- From the free car park it is about a 20-minute walk to the cave entrance.
- Dogs come free, and the stairs have their own dog ramp.
- No photography on regular tours. Bring a jacket; tours are in German.

ADMISSION

€8.50 (about \$10), children 4–15 €5.00, dogs free (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

1 Apr–8 Nov 2026 from 10am; closed Mon outside school holidays

GETTING THERE

Free car park, then a 20-min walk

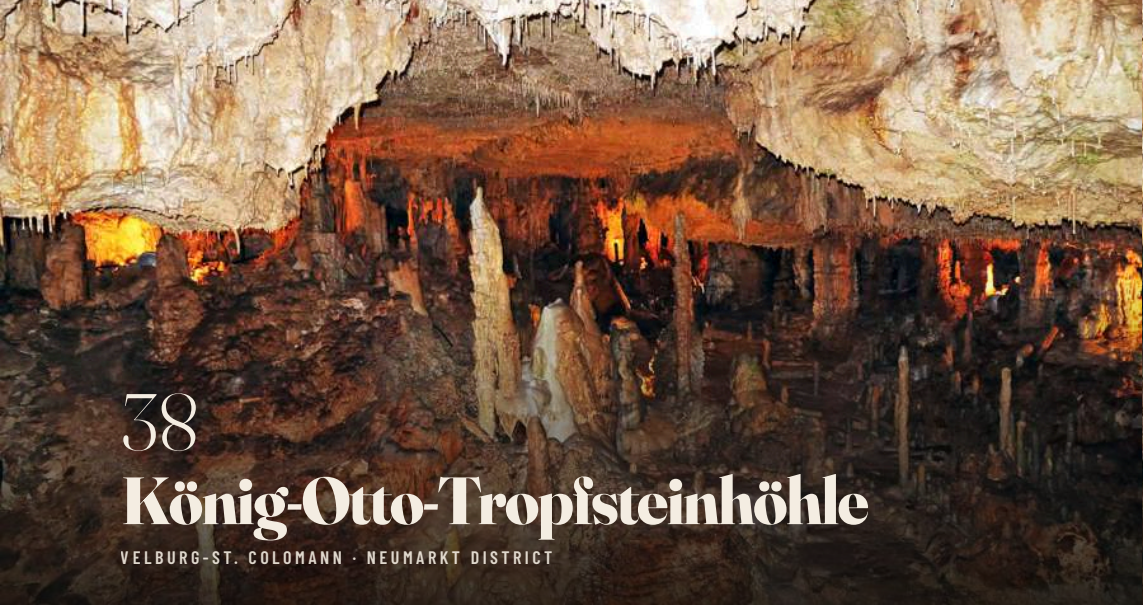


WHO LIVES HERE

About eight bat species have been recorded here, currently mostly Natterer's bats. Famous is "Lonely George", a greater horseshoe bat: from about 1988 the only known one of its kind, until a colony turned up at Hohenburg in 1992.



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
Germany



38

König-Otto-Tropfsteinhöhle

VELBURG-ST. COLOMANN · NEUMARKT DISTRICT

Photo: Rainer Lippert, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

1895

DISCOVERED

270 m

CAVE PATH

8 °C

ALL YEAR

1972

ADVENT HALL

On 30 September 1895 the shepherd Peter Federl followed a fox into a crevice on the Bockenberg. The cave was named after King Otto of Bavaria, whose name day it was. Cavers discovered the largest hall, the Adventhalle, only on 2 December 1972.

BEFORE YOU GO

- You go alone with an audio guide, also in English; entry on the hour and half hour.
- Parts of the cave are wheelchair accessible; phone ahead to check the details.
- Dogs are allowed (€1.00). It is a 5–8 minute walk from the car park.

ADMISSION

€8.00 (about \$9), children up to 14 €5.00, dog €1.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

1 Apr–31 Oct, Wed–Fri 11am–4pm, Sat/Sun 10am–5pm

GETTING THERE

St. Colomann 11, Velburg; car park below



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany

39 Silberberg Mine

BODENMAIS · REGEN DISTRICT

Photo: High Contrast, CC BY 3.0 de, Wikimedia Commons

5 °C

IN THE TUNNEL

600 m

BARBARA TUNNEL

1463

FIRST RECORD

1962

LAST SHIFT

Silver soon became a side issue here: from 1463, records show, miners took ore from the mountain, later vitriol and polishing rouge. The last shift went down on 27 May 1962. Today the Barbarastollen leads 600 metres into the Silberberg to the Great Barbara Stope, a vast mined-out cavern.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring a warm jacket: it is only 5 °C in the tunnel. Helmet and coat are provided.
- From the Barbarastraße car park, walk 500 steep metres up or take the chairlift.
- Free with the Bavarian Forest aktiv-CARD (from local hosts). No dogs. Tours in German.

ADMISSION

€10.50 (about \$12), children 4–15 €7.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

daily 10am–4pm; closed 9 Nov–26 Dec 2026

GETTING THERE

Silberberg 28, parking €3.00/day, chairlift



WHO LIVES HERE

The roughly 20 kilometres of tunnels in the Silberberg are among the largest bat winter roosts in Central Europe, which is why the mountain is an EU protected habitat. At the “Gottesgabe” tunnel you can watch the bats fly out at dusk.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany

40

document Neupfarrplatz

REGENSBURG · INDEPENDENT CITY

Photo: Nylki, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

6 m

TO ROMAN FORT

624

GOLD COINS

1519

EXPULSION

26

STEPS DOWN

Beneath the Neupfarrplatz lie the cellars of the Jewish quarter, first recorded around 1000 and torn down after the expulsion of 1519, and below them walls of the Roman legionary fortress. The 1995–1998 dig found the synagogue's foundations and a hoard of 624 gold coins.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Buy tickets at the tourist information in the Old Town Hall, where the tour also starts.
- Public tour (in German) only at 2.30pm, Mon and Thu–Sat; also Sundays in July and August.
- The gold hoard is in the Historical Museum. Dani Karavan's relief on the square marks the synagogue.

ADMISSION

€8.00 (about \$9), reduced €5.00, family €16.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

guided tours only: Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat
2.30pm

GETTING THERE

Meet at the tourist information, Old Town Hall



Current hours and prices

[underground-atlas.com](https://www.underground-atlas.com)

Germany

More underground

Open only on certain days, by appointment or with no lighting at all: these places in Franconia, the Upper Palatinate and the Bavarian Forest are worth the detour if you know their dates. Several close in winter for the bats.

Witzenhöhle

Second stop on the Muggendorf cave trail, a few minutes from the Oswaldhöhle. The portal is about nine metres wide but under two metres high. Unlit.

WIESENTAL-MUGGENDORF
ALL YEAR, FREE

Riesenburg cave ruin

A collapsed karst cave above the Wiesent: the roof has fallen in, leaving rock arches over ten metres high. About five minutes up steps from the car park.

WAISCHENFELD-DOOS
ALL YEAR, FREE

Esperhöhle cave ruin

Cave ruin of grottoes and side caves around a large sinkhole, named after Pastor Esper. Closed from 1 October to 1 April; only the outer area stays open.

GÖSSWEINSTEIN-LEUTZDORF
APR-SEP, FREE

Osterhöhle

Dripstone cave just under 200 metres long, with an underground lake. Only ten people per tour; a winter roost for bats from November to March.

NEUKIRCHEN B. SULZBACH-ROSENBERG
EASTER-OCT, SAT/SUN

Felsenkeller-Labyrinth (rock cellars)

Over 130 cellar rooms cut by hand into the sandstone around 1500. During the air raid of April 1945 they sheltered more than 6,000 people.

SCHWANDORF
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Stephansberg tunnels

From the 11th century Bamberg quarried sandstone here and used the cavities as cellars, in the war as air-raid shelters. Helmet and your own torch are compulsory.

BAMBERG
GROUPS ONLY

Felsengänge (rock tunnels) under the Klinikum

Beer cellars of the Grüner brewery, up to 22 metres deep on several levels. In the Second World War up to 2,000 people sheltered here.

FÜRTH
SELECTED DATES

More underground (continued)

Kropfmühl graphite mine

Graphite mine where visitors go down to the fourth level, 45 metres deep. On foot via 220 steps; prams and rucksacks stay above ground.

HAUZENBERG
LATE MAR-OCT, THU-SUN

Fürstenzeche show mine

Former silver mine in the Lamer Winkel, 8–10 °C all year. At most 20 people per tour; cash only.

LAM
JUN-OCT, 4 DAYS/WEEK

Friedrich-Wilhelm-Stollen (tunnel)

Drainage tunnel about 1,000 metres long, begun by Alexander von Humboldt as a mining official. It was even meant to be navigable. Online booking only.

LICHTENBERG
APR-OCT, SAT/SUN

Gleißinger Fels show mine

Old iron ore mine on the Ochsenkopf, 8–9 °C. Tours daily at 11am, 1pm and 3pm; helmets provided, sturdy shoes essential.

FICHTELBERG
EASTER-AUTUMN HOLIDAYS

Goldkronach show mines

Old gold-mining tunnels: the short Schmutzlerzeche with a visible gold-bearing quartz vein and the deeper Mittlerer Name Gottes. Closed in winter for the bats.

GOLDKRONACH-BRANDHOLZ
MAY-MID-OCT, SUN



CHAPTER 5 · UPPER BAVARIA AND THE ALLGÄU

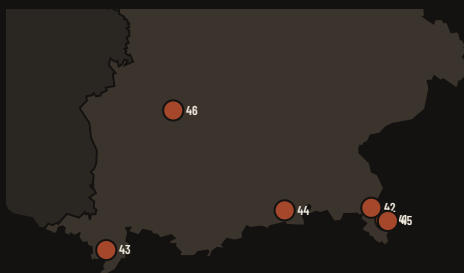
Berchtesgaden Salt Mine

Photo: JoJan, CC BY 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

05

Upper Bavaria and the Allgäu

In southern Bavaria the underworld lies in the mountains: caves at over 1,700 metres and in alpine fissures where no dripstones grow but streams roar. Salt has been mined near Berchtesgaden without a break since 1517, and in Bad Reichenhall water wheels still lift brine. Two places recall the war: the Fuggerei bunker and the tunnels under the Obersalzberg.



- 41 Berchtesgaden Salt Mine
- 42 Alte Saline (Old Saltworks)
- 43 Sturmannshöhle
- 44 Wendelsteinhöhle
- 45 Obersalzberg Documentation Centre
- 46 Fuggerei WWII Bunker

Map: Boundaries: GeoBasis-DE / BKG, Data Licence Germany – Attribution – Version 2.0

41

BERCHTESGADENER LAND · BAVARIA

FERDINAND-BERG

Betreten der
Gleisanlage
verboten

Berchtesgaden Salt Mine

Salt has been mined here without a break since 1517 – and visitors in overalls slide right through the working mine.

1517

MINING SINCE

130 m

DEEPEST POINT

12 °C

ALL YEAR

74 m

OF SLIDES

Photo: Raimond Spekking, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

BERCHTESGADEN · BERCHTESGADENER LAND DISTRICT

In miner's overalls you ride the mine train 650 metres into the mountain, go down two wooden slides of 34 and 40 metres and, at the lowest point, cross the Mirror Lake on a raft, 130 metres below the surface. The tour takes about an hour.

SALT YOU NEVER SEE

Nobody hacks at the rock any more. In about 30 boreholes, fresh water dissolves the salt out of the Haselgebirge, producing some 900,000 cubic metres of brine a year. It is pumped to Bad Reichenhall.

Georg von Reichenbach built the route: from 1817 his water-column engines pushed the brine 29 kilometres over the mountains. One stands at the end of the tour.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Book a tour time online: if the online shop is sold out, the ticket desk has nothing left either.
- Rainy days are the busiest. Turn up on spec and you may queue up to two hours at the desk.
- Pack a jumper: it is 12 °C below, and the overall protects your clothes but doesn't warm you.
- No photography. Pictures from the train and the slide are on sale at the photo lab afterwards.

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~"The mine train runs 1,400 metres in"~~ – the operator now gives 650 metres to the first stop. ~~"Adults €17, family ticket €40"~~ – prices from 2018; today €26.50, family ticket €59.00.

ADMISSION

€26.50 (about \$30), children 4–16 €13.50, family €59.00 (as of 10/2026)

GETTING THERE

Bus 840 from Berchtesgaden or Salzburg Hbf

OPENING HOURS

daily 30 Mar–8 Nov 9am–5pm, else 11am–3pm (last tour)

GOOD TO KNOW

Tours in German, English audio guide; no prams or dogs



Current hours and prices
[underground-atlas.com](https://underground-atlas.com/berchtesgaden-salt-mine)
 /berchtesgaden-salt-mine

NEARBY · Obersalzberg Documentation Centre, 4 km · Alte Saline Bad Reichenhall, 20 km

42

Alte Saline (Old Saltworks)

BAD REICHENHALL · BERCHTESGADENER LAND DISTRICT

Photo: papa1234, CC BY 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

13 m

WATER WHEEL Ø

270

STEPS

12 °C

ALL YEAR

1834

TOWN FIRE

After the town fire of 1834, King Ludwig I had the saltworks rebuilt. Beneath the main pump house turn two water wheels 13 metres across, driving pumps that lift brine from 14 metres down. The tour takes 270 steps through tunnels and the spring works, then on to the salt museum.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Combine with the salt mine: the combo ticket costs €33.00 instead of €41.50, on-line only.
- Prams and back carriers stay above ground; a baby sling is allowed.
- Wear sturdy shoes; the marble floors underground can be slippery.

ADMISSION

€15.00 (about \$17), children 4–16 €8.00, family €34.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

30 Mar–31 Oct daily 10am–4pm, otherwise Tue–Sun 10am–3pm

GETTING THERE

Kirchberg station, 5-min walk; bus to Rathausplatz

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“Bad Reichenhall has a salt mine”~~ – here brine is pumped from springs; the mine is 20 km away in Berchtesgaden.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany

43 Sturmannshöhle

OBERMAISELSTEIN · OBERALLGÄU DISTRICT

Photo: Hilarmont (Kempten), CC BY-SA 3.0 de, Wikimedia Commons

180

STEPS DOWN

300 m

CAVE PATH

8 °C

ALL YEAR

1815

FIRST RECORD

No dripstones, but a fissure in the Schrattenkalk limestone, scoured out by Ice Age meltwater. 180 steps lead down through narrow, high passages and past the 30-metre Eagle Shaft to the underground stream. Tours hourly, about 40 minutes.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Allow 20–30 minutes from the car park at the Haus des Gastes to the ticket desk, then 10 more.
- Free with the Hörnerdörfer guest card from your host; €6.00 with other local guest cards.
- Children from age 4 only; prams, carriers, large rucksacks and dogs must stay outside.

ADMISSION

€8.00 (about \$9), children 6–14 €4.00, 5 and under free (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

14 May–8 Nov daily 9.30am–4.30pm;
winter Thu–Sun 11am–4pm

GETTING THERE

Car park at the Haus des Gastes, then on foot



WHO LIVES HERE

Greater mouse-eared, grey long-eared, barbastelle and Daubenton's bats hibernate here at four to eight degrees. For them the cave was given dimmer, warm LED lighting in 2018.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany

44

Wendelsteinhöhle

BRANNENBURG · ROSENHEIM DISTRICT

Photo: Wikitarisch, CC BY 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

1,711 m

ENTRANCE ALTITUDE

82

STEPS DOWN

3 °C

ANNUAL MEAN

170 m

CAVE PATH

Germany's highest show cave lies a four-minute walk from the top station of the rack railway. A tunnel with 82 steps leads into a maze of fissures and gorges in the Wetterstein limestone, with hardly any dripstones. In the cold trap, snow lies even in summer. There is no guide.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring a €2 coin: admission is paid in coins only.
- The only way up is by rail or cable car; the rack railway costs €49.00 return.
- Dress warmly: at the back it averages 3 °C, even when the sun is shining outside.

ADMISSION

€2.00 (about \$2), coins only; rack railway
€49.00, children €24.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

roughly May to November, weather
permitting

GETTING THERE

Rack railway from Brannenburg or cable
car from Bayrischzell



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany

45

Obersalzberg Documentation Centre

BERCHTESGADEN · BERCHTESGADENER LAND DISTRICT

Photo: Anil Öztas, CC BY 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

1937

VILLAGE GONE

7/1943

BUNKERS BEGUN

1999

CENTRE OPENED

2023

NEW EXHIBITION

To make way for Hitler's Berghof and the restricted "Führer zone", the people of the Obersalzberg had to sell their farms; by 1937 the village no longer existed. From July 1943 thousands of forced labourers drove a bunker system into the rock. The exhibition "Idyll and Crime" ends in part of these tunnels.

PLACE OF REMEMBRANCE

The site remembers the residents driven from the Obersalzberg and the forced labourers of many nations who were made to blast bunkers into the mountain here for the Nazi leadership.

VISITING

- Public tour Wednesdays and Saturdays at 11am, 90 minutes, €5.00 extra, no booking needed.
- The multimedia guide is included, also as a free app for use with your own headphones.
- Last entry 4pm; closed 16–24 November 2026 for maintenance.

ADMISSION

€4.50 (about \$5), under-18s free, with guest card €3.50 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

daily 9am–5pm, last entry 4pm

GETTING THERE

Bus 838 from Berchtesgaden station; Salzbergstraße 41



Current hours and prices
[underground-atlas.com](https://www.underground-atlas.com)
 Germany

46

Fuggerei WWII Bunker

AUGSBURG · INDEPENDENT CITY

Photo: Edelmauswaldgeist, CC0, Wikimedia Commons

1943

BUNKER BUILT

200

RESIDENTS INSIDE

70 %

FUGGEREI DESTROYED

6

ROOMS

In 1943 the Fugger family council had a shelter built beneath the social housing estate founded in 1521. On the night of 25–26 February 1944, 200 residents took refuge here while the Fuggerei above was almost 70 per cent destroyed. A narrow staircase leads down through six rooms.

BEFORE YOU GO

- The ticket covers all the Fuggerei museums, including the show flat.
- Public tour on Saturdays at 3pm, €16.00 including admission, bookable online.
- Keep your voice down: people still live in the Fuggerei, many of them pensioners.

ADMISSION

€8.00 (about \$9), children 8–17 €4.00, family €18.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Apr–Sep daily 9am–8pm, Oct–Mar 9am–6pm

GETTING THERE

Tram 1 to the Fuggerei stop



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany

More underground

Pitch coal from the Alpine foothills, iron ore on the Grünten, a tunnel through the Kehlstein: these places open less often, by appointment only or are currently closed. Check dates before you go.

Peißenberg mining museum

By mine train into the deep tunnel of the pitch coal mine, with a demonstration blast. Former miners lead the 90-minute tour.

PEISSENBERG
1ST & 3RD SUN OF MONTH

Penzberg mining museum

Pitch coal was mined in Penzberg until 1966. In the basement, re-constructed galleries trace the path from hand work to mechanised mining.

PENZBERG
WED, THU, SAT, SUN

Grünten ore mines

Guided walk of about two and a half hours from the museum village to the Grünten's south slope, entering the Theresiengrube and Annagrube. Book online.

BURGBERG IM ALLGÄU
MAY-OCT, NOT TUE

Salzheilstollen (salt therapy tunnel)

On the salt mine site but run separately: you lie on loungers underground at 85 per cent humidity. Sessions by appointment only.

BERCHTESGADEN
BY APPOINTMENT

Kehlsteinhaus (Eagle's Nest): tunnel and lift

A 124-metre tunnel leads into the Kehlstein, and a lift rises 124 metres in 41 seconds to the house at 1,834 metres. Access only by the Kehlstein bus.

BERCHTESGADEN
MAY-OCT, BY BUS ONLY

Schellenberger Eishöhle (ice cave)

Ice cave at 1,570 metres in the Untersberg, a climb of three to three and a half hours. Currently closed; the club plans to reopen it for the 2027 season.

MARKTSCELLENBERG
CLOSED UNTIL 2027

Scherbelberg bunker

Remains of Ludwig I's fortress served as an air-raid bunker for about 300 people in the Second World War. The tour "Die Stunde Null" tells of the war's end.

INGOLSTADT
SELECTED DATES

More underground (continued)

Weingut II memorial site

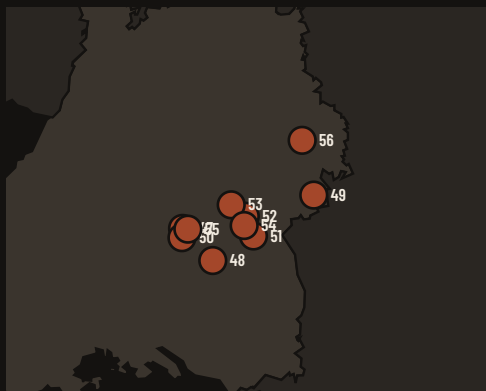
Bunker for Me 262 jet production, built in 1944/45 by prisoners of the Kaufering concentration camps; over 6,000 died. Now a Bundeswehr collection with memorial area.

LANDSBERG AM LECH
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

06

Swabian Jura

No mountains in Germany are as hollow as the Swabian Jura. For millions of years rainwater has dissolved the limestone, leaving hundreds of caves. In some, humanity's oldest works of art were found; in others, dripstones grow a millimetre every ten years. Ten can be visited: on foot, down ladders into the depths or by boat.



- 47 Nebelhöhle
- 48 Wimsener Höhle
- 49 Charlottenhöhle
- 50 Karlshöhle and Bärenhöhle
- 51 Hohle Fels
- 52 Laichinger Tiefenhöhle
- 53 Schertelshöhle
- 54 Sontheimer Höhle
- 55 Olgahöhle
- 56 Tiefer Stollen Mine

Map: Boundaries: GeoBasis-DE / BKG, Data Licence Germany - Attribution - Version 2.0

47

SWABIAN JURA · BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

Nebelhöhle

*Over a thousand candles for an elector, a hideout for a duke –
and in winter a dormitory for bats.*

141

STEPS DOWN

450 m

CAVE PATH

9 °C

ALL YEAR

1486

FIRST RECORD

Photo: RainerHalama, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

SONNENBÜHL-GENKINGEN · REUTLINGEN DISTRICT

In winter mist rises from the opening, hence the name (Nebel means fog). 141 steps lead some 25 metres down into a series of large halls richly hung with dripstones. The path is 450 metres long, and you walk it alone at your own pace.

CANDLES, ELECTOR AND HAUFF

The “Nebelloch” appears in the records as early as 1486. For the visit of Elector Frederick I in 1803 it was given stairs, bridges and over a thousand candles, still recalled by the cave festival at Whitsun.

In his 1826 novel “Lichtenstein”, Wilhelm Hauff made it the hideout of the outlawed Duke Ulrich. Whether he really hid here is not documented.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Open only from 1 April to 31 October, and since 2026 not before 10am.
- Leave the pram in the car: the way in and out is the same staircase of 141 steps.
- Pack a jacket: it is 9 °C below, with 90 per cent humidity.
- Combine with the Olgahöhle and Lichtenstein Castle, all within a few kilometres.

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“Open March to November, from 9am”~~ – April to October only, since April 2026 from 10am to 5.30pm. ~~“Discovered in 1517”~~ – nobody knows when; it is mentioned as early as 1486.

ADMISSION

€7.00 (about \$8), pupils 6–14 €5.00, family €17.00 (as of 10/2026)

GETTING THERE

Car park at the cave; bus to Genkingen, then a 24-min walk

OPENING HOURS

1 April–31 October daily 10am–5.30pm

GOOD TO KNOW

Not step-free, no prams



WHO LIVES HERE

From November to March the cave is closed as a winter roost for bats; a 2022 report lists greater mouse-eared, Nathusius' pipistrelle and Daubenton's bats. Volunteers count them with NABU; numbers are falling.



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
Germany · Swabian Alb

NEARBY · Olgahöhle, 3 km · Karlshöhle and Bärenhöhle, 5 km

48

SWABIAN JURA · BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

Wimsener Höhle

The only cave in Germany you enter by boat – until the ceiling meets the water.

70 m

BOAT TRIP

7–8 °C

WATER AND AIR

15 min

INSIDE

60 m

DIVE DEPTH

Photo: Schilling Thomas, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

HAYINGEN-WIMSEN · REUTLINGEN DISTRICT

A ferryman pushes the punt into the rock portal from which the Zwiefalter Ach springs. After about 70 metres the ceiling drops to the water. Only divers go further: beyond lie over a kilometre of passages, most of them underwater.

AN ELECTOR AND A MILL WEIR

The cave is first mentioned in 1447. Boats can enter thanks to a 12th-century mill weir that dams the stream. Since Elector Frederick I visited in 1803 it has also been called the Friedrichshöhle.

Cave divers have been pushing through the sump since 1959. At 60 metres, Wimsen counts as Germany's deepest explored underwater cave.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Book a fixed time online. At weekends the on-site quota is often gone by 2pm.
- Pack a jacket: you sit still in the boat at 7–8 °C. The ferryman explains in German.
- The kiosk takes cash or German debit cards (EC) only; credit cards online only.
- With the AlbCard from your hotel the trip is free.

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“The Friedrichshöhle is a second cave”~~ – it is the same cave under another name. ~~“The boat travels through the cave”~~ – it goes the same 70 metres in and back out.

ADMISSION

€7.00 (about \$8), children 6–12 €6.00, 2–5 €5.00 (as of 09/2026)

GETTING THERE

Bus stop right at the cave; car park often full

OPENING HOURS

April to early November daily, trips from 9.30am

GOOD TO KNOW

Ages 2 and up, no dogs, no prams in the boat



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
 Germany · Swabian Alb

NEARBY · Laichinger Tiefenhöhle · Nebelhöhle and Bärenhöhle near Sonnenbühl, about 35 km

49

SWABIAN JURA · BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

Charlottenhöhle

In 1893 three carpenters climbed down a rope ladder into the “Hundsloch” – and landed on a pile of bones.

532 m

TOUR ROUTE

9 °C

ALL YEAR

60 min

GUIDED TOUR

1893

DISCOVERED

Photo: Holger Uwe Schmitt, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

GIENGEN-HÜRBEN · HEIDENHEIM DISTRICT

The Charlottenhöhle is the longest walkable dripstone cave in the Swabian Jura. The one-hour tour follows the narrow, high fissure past the white “Mountain Spirit”, named by its discoverers by candlelight. You return the same way.

FROM DOG HOLE TO QUEEN

Villagers threw dead animals into the rock shaft on the slope, and a ghost was said to live below. On 7 May 1893 three carpenters from Hürben let themselves down. By September the cave was open, with electric light.

It was named after Queen Charlotte of Württemberg, who visited that same year. Next door, the HöhlenSchauLand museum explains karst and the Ice Age.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Be at the ticket desk at least 30 minutes before your tour, even if booked. Tours are in German.
- Small children only in a front carrier; back carriers are not welcome.
- The combined ticket for cave and museum is good value but valid on the same day only.
- Combine with the Lone valley, where the oldest Ice Age art was found, about 5 km away.

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“587 metres open to visitors”~~ – 587 metres is the cave with side passages; the tour route is 532 metres. ~~“Discovered by head forester Sihler”~~ – three carpenters were first down; Sihler joined them two days later.

ADMISSION

€7.00 (about \$8), children 4–16 €5.00, family €16.00 (as of 10/2026)

GETTING THERE

Car park and motorhome pitches at the HöhlenSchauLand

OPENING HOURS

1 April–31 October daily, guided tours only

GOOD TO KNOW

Not step-free, no prams, no dogs



WHO LIVES HERE

From November to March the cave belongs to the bats. In 1960 the lesser horseshoe bat was the commonest species here; it has been gone since the 1970s. The greater mouse-eared bat still hibernates here regularly.



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
Germany · Swabian Alb

NEARBY · Lone valley with Vogelherd Cave, 5 km · Tiefer Stollen Aalen, 30 km

50

Karlshöhle and Bärenhöhle

SONNENBÜHL-ERPFINGEN · REUTLINGEN DISTRICT

Photo: NearEMPTiness, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

271 m

THROUGH THE HILL

9 °C

ALL YEAR

30 min

WALK-THROUGH

1834

DISCOVERED

A village schoolteacher found the Karlshöhle in 1834 while climbing down after his lost tobacco tin. The Bärenhöhle (Bear Cave) beyond was found only in 1949 by a cave guide who followed bats into a crevice. Inside lay the bones of countless cave bears; a skeleton stands by the path.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Open only 1 April to 31 October, and since 2026 from 10am.
- Individual visitors go without a guide; read the panels at the entrance.
- Take photos without flash; visitors report that flash is not allowed.

ADMISSION

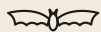
€7.00 (about \$8), pupils 6–14 €5.00, family €17.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

1 April–31 October daily 10am–5.30pm

GETTING THERE

“Bärenhöhle” bus stop right at the entrance



WHO LIVES HERE

Bats led to the discovery of the Bärenhöhle in 1949. It is still their winter roost, which is why it stays closed from November to March.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Swabian Alb

51 Hohle Fels

SCHELKLINGEN · ALB-DONAU DISTRICT

Photo: indeedous, Attribution, Wikimedia Commons

500 m²

CAVE HALL

30 m

HALL HEIGHT

40,000

YEAR-OLD FINDS

2017

WORLD HERITAGE

A single vast hall in the Ach valley, yet world history: in 2008 Tübingen archaeologists found the Venus of Hohle Fels here and a flute of vulture bone, two of humanity's oldest works of art and music. Unlike the other World Heritage caves, you can go inside, even in a wheelchair.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Come for the public tour on Saturdays at 11.45am (in German); it makes sense of the dig.
- The original finds are in the Museum of Prehistory in Blaubeuren, 5 km away.
- The ticket hut takes cash only.

ADMISSION

€4.50 (about \$5), children 6–17 €2.00, family €10.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

1 May–31 October, Fri afternoons, Sat/Sun 11am–5pm

GETTING THERE

1.5 km from Schelklingen station on a level path



WHO LIVES HERE

From November to April the cave is closed without exception, because bats hibernate inside. As early as 1844 their droppings were dug out here as fertiliser.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Swabian Alb

52

Laichinger Tiefenhöhle

LAICHINGEN · ALB-DONAU DISTRICT

Photo: ThoBel-0043, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

55 m

DOWN

330 m

CAVE PATH

8.8 °C

ALL YEAR

45 min

INSIDE

Not a cave for strolling: steep iron stairs take you down through shafts and halls 55 metres below the Alb plateau, and a separate shaft brings you back up. The operator calls it Germany's only walkable shaft cave. You go alone; five audio points explain on the way, also in English.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Sturdy shoes with a good tread are a must; the iron stairs are often wet.
- If you don't fancy the descent, wait in the free cave museum in the Rasthaus inn.
- Photography is allowed, even with a tripod.

ADMISSION

€6.00 (about \$7), children 6–16 €4.00, 3rd child on free (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Palm Sunday to end of autumn school holidays, daily 10am–6pm

GETTING THERE

Car park at the Rasthaus inn, start of the karst trail

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“The cave is 80 metres deep”~~ – that dates from 1906; the operator now says 87–90 m. Visitors go down 55 m.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Swabian Alb

53

Schertelshöhle

WESTERHEIM · ALB-DONAU DISTRICT

Photo: Dr. Eugen Lehle, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

24 m

KUHLOCH SHAFT

160 m

CAVE PATH

9 °C

ALL YEAR

1470

FIRST RECORD

Visitors once roped down the 24-metre “Kuhloch” (cow hole), where Alb farmers threw dead cattle. Since 1830 a tunnel has led comfortably inside, and daylight still falls through the funnel. Beyond lies a hall up to 15 metres high, thickly coated in flowstone.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Phone before you go: the website shows times and prices only as placeholders.
- Don't enter the operator website's coordinates in your satnav; use “Im Hochbuch 1, Westerheim”.
- Take in the freely accessible Steinernes Haus 200 metres away, open April to September only.

ADMISSION

€4.50 (about \$5), children 6–17 €3.00 (2024 prices, cash)

OPENING HOURS

Palm Sunday–end Oct; from mid-May daily except Mon

GETTING THERE

Signposted from Westerheim towards Wiesensteig



WHO LIVES HERE

In autumn bats fly in through the Kuhloch to hibernate; the cave club's last count was about 150. That is why the cave is closed in winter.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Swabian Alb

54 Sontheimer Höhle

HEROLDSTATT-SONTHEIM · ALB-DONAU DISTRICT

Photo: Thomasxb, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

1,000

BATS

13

SPECIES

7 °C

ALL YEAR

1488

DESCRIBED

Through a rock portal twelve metres high you descend into a series of drip-stone halls, down to 34 metres below the surface. A monk from Ulm described the “Sontheimer Erdloch” as early as 1488; the first cave plan, from 1753, is thought to be the oldest in the whole Alb.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Tours start on the hour only; on week-days it opens only from late July to late August.
- Dress more warmly than elsewhere: at 7 °C it is the coldest cave in this chapter.
- At the cave festival on Whit Sunday the untouched Hintere Kohlwaldhöhle opens.

ADMISSION

€5.00 (about \$6), children 6–14 €3.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

1 May–1 November, Sat from 2pm,
Sun/holidays 10am–5pm

GETTING THERE

Car park at the Rasthaus inn, walk down through the Tiefental



WHO LIVES HERE

The Alb's most important natural bat winter roost: 13 species, including greater mouse-eared and brown long-eared bats. A light barrier counts about 1,000 behind the bat gate alone; the count is live on the club's website.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Swabian Alb

55 Olgahöhle

LICHTENSTEIN-HONAU · REUTLINGEN DISTRICT

Photo: Zybukin, CC BY 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

1884

ELECTRIC LIGHT

120 m

CAVE PATH

25 min

GUIDED TOUR

8 days

OPEN A YEAR

This cave grew from the outside: after the last Ice Age, lime-rich water from the Echaz laid down tufa and enclosed two passages. Found in a quarry in 1874, in 1884 it became the first cave in Germany with electric light, powered by a water wheel.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Open on only about eight Sundays and holidays a year; check dates with the Albverein first.
- Open from 11am, last tour at 4.30pm.
- Bring cash; there are only a few parking spaces at the entrance.

ADMISSION

€3.50 (about \$4), children from 6 €2.00, family €9.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

April–October, usually 1st Sunday of the month, 11am–5pm

GETTING THERE

Bus from Reutlingen Hbf to Honau, 5-min walk

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“The world’s first electrically lit cave”~~ – the first in Germany; the Kraushöhle in Styria was lit in 1883.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Swabian Alb



56 Tiefer Stollen Mine

AALEN-WASSERALFINGEN · OSTALB DISTRICT

Photo: Holger Uwe Schmitt, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

400 m

BY MINE TRAIN

11 °C

UNDERGROUND

75 min

GUIDED TOUR

1840

TUNNEL DRIVEN

Until 1924 miners dug iron ore here for the Wasseralfingen ironworks. Today a mine train carries visitors 400 metres into the Brautenberg, to sandstone halls, ore seams and a staged blast. In the same mine, asthma patients breathe the air in a recognised therapy tunnel.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Book online; tours can sell out on site. Free English tour texts are lent at the desk.
- With children from 4, choose “Erlebnis Bergbau”: shorter, no stairs, step-free.
- Red flowstone fields feature only on the Extended Grand Tour, for ages 14 and up.

ADMISSION

Erlebnis Bergbau €13.00 (about \$15), children €9.00 (as of 03/2026)

OPENING HOURS

mid-March to early November, Tue–Sun
9.30am–4pm

GETTING THERE

Car park at the mine in Wasseralfingen

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“Ages 14 and up only”~~ – that applies only to the Extended Grand Tour; otherwise from age 4.



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
Germany

More underground

Smaller, open less often or only with your own torch: these places on the Swabian Jura are worth the detour if you know their dates. Several close in winter because bats sleep there.

Gutenberger Höhle

Small show cave run by the municipality of Lenningen, guided tours at fixed times only. Winter break from late October to late April to protect the bats.

LENNINGEN-GUTENBERG
MAY-OCT, SAT/SUN

Kolbinger Höhle

Natural monument on the southern edge of the Alb, looked after by the local Albverein group. Of 330 metres of cave, 88 metres are open to visitors.

KOLBINGEN
EASTER-OCT, SAT/SUN

Steinernes Haus cave

Unlocked cave 200 metres from the Schertelshöhle, a hall 35 metres long. Bring a torch; no entry 1 October–31 March, when bats hibernate here.

WESTERHEIM
APR-SEP, FREE

Linkenboldshöhle

Opened up in 1876 through a specially dug tunnel. Open on Ascension Day and Heritage Day in September, otherwise only on request from the Albverein.

ALBSTADT-ONSTMETTINGEN
2 DAYS A YEAR

Hohenzollern Castle casemates

A spiral staircase below the treasury leads to the foundations of earlier castles. No guide needed; included in standard admission.

BISINGEN
WITH CASTLE TICKET

Ottilienberg air-raid tunnel

While building the air-raid tunnel, workers struck a medieval well shaft. Helmets compulsory; tickets from the town's tourist information.

HEIDENHEIM
SELECTED SUNDAYS

Jux whetstone tunnel

Not ore but grindstone: sandstone was quarried here for scythe and knife whetstones. Free for children and teenagers.

SPIEGELBERG
MAY-OCT, 2ND/4TH SUN

More underground (continued)

Gabe Gottes silver tunnel

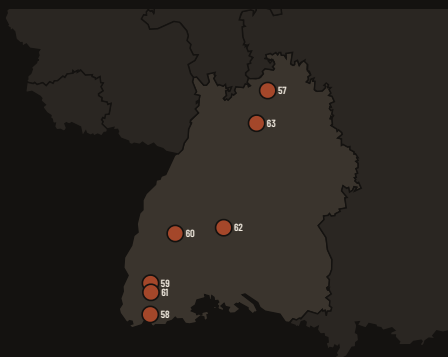
Tunnel driven in 1773, about 45 metres of it lit. You go in without a guide; the key is available at the nearby ski lift.

GROSSERLACH
ALL YEAR, WITH KEY

07

Black Forest, Odenwald and the Neckar

Away from the Jura, the south-west's underground lies in gneiss, shell limestone and salt. In the Black Forest miners dug for silver, lead and fluorspar for 800 years; local associations have reopened many of their tunnels. In the Odenwald a quarry broke into a drip-stone cave, in Haigerloch a test reactor stood in a rock cellar in 1945, and near Heilbronn you descend 180 metres into salt.



- 57 Eberstadter Tropfsteinhöhle
- 58 Erdmannshöhle
- 59 Schauinsland Mine
- 60 Grube Wenzel
- 61 Finstergrund Mine
- 62 Haigerloch Atomic Cellar
- 63 Bad Friedrichshall Salt Mine

Map: Boundaries: GeoBasis-DE / BKG, Data Licence Germany - Attribution - Version 2.0

57

Eberstadter Tropfsteinhöhle

BUCHEN-EBERSTADT · NECKAR-ODENWALD DISTRICT

Photo: Boa99 (Bastian Angerstein), CC BY-SA 2.0 de, Wikimedia Commons

600 m

CAVE PATH

0

STEPS

11 °C

ALL YEAR

1971

DISCOVERED

On 13 December 1971, quarry workers near Eberstadt blasted open a hollow in the rock. Since 1973 a path without a single step has led 600 metres through the shell limestone, past the “Wedding Cake” and the “White Lady”. No torches ever sooted it, so the dripstones are still almost chalk-white.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Book a slot online or on +49 6292 578; entry is by guided tour only, in German.
- Wheelchairs and pushchairs are fine: there is not one step from the car park into the cave.
- Leave the camera in your bag; photography is not welcome inside the cave.

ADMISSION

€8.00 (about \$9), children 3–15 €5.50, family €22.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

May–Aug daily; Mar/Apr, Sep/Oct Tue–Sun 10am–4pm; Nov–Feb Sat/Sun 1–4pm

GETTING THERE

Höhlenweg 8; bus 848 from Buchen, not daily



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany

58 Erdmannshöhle

HASEL · LÖRRACH DISTRICT

Photo: Harald Ziegler, CC BY 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

360 m

CAVE PATH

2,185 m

SURVEYED

135,000

YEARS, ESTIMATED

1773

SHOW CAVE SINCE

The cave on the Dinkelberg is named after the Erdmännchen, little earth-men who lived here, so legend says. Visitors have come since the 18th century; since 2022 you walk the 360 metres on your own. By the path stands a dripstone over four metres tall and two metres thick, thought to be 135,000 years old.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Open only from late March to 1 November; outside school holidays at weekends only.
- Be at the ticket desk by 3.30pm at the latest; there is no entry after that.
- Leave the dog at home: animals are not allowed in the cave.

ADMISSION

€7.00 (about \$8), children 4–17 €5.00,
family €22.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

29 Mar–1 Nov 2026 Sat, Sun, holidays
10am–4pm; daily in school holidays

GETTING THERE

Wehrer Straße 27, between Schopfheim
and Wehr



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany

59 Schauinsland Mine

OBERRIED · BREISGAU-HOCHSCHWARZWALD DISTRICT

Photo: joergens.mi, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

100 km

OF TUNNELS

22

LEVELS

10 °C

ALL YEAR

1954

MINING ENDED

Miners dug for silver on Freiburg's own mountain from the 13th century at the latest, later for lead and zinc; work stopped only in 1954. Their tunnels add up to some 100 kilometres. Since 1976 volunteers have reopened 30 kilometres of them, and three tours lead inside.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Everyday clothes are fine for the 45-minute tour; wear hiking boots for the longer ones.
- The long tours climb ladders up to six metres high and are recommended from age 12.
- Ride up on the Schauinslandbahn cable car; the mine is 400 metres from the top station.

ADMISSION

45 min €8.00 (about \$9), children €6.00; 1.5 hrs €16, 2.5 hrs €24 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Easter–early Nov Wed, Sat, Sun, holidays;
1 Jul–13 Sep Tue–Sun

GETTING THERE

Schauinslandbahn, then a 400 m walk



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com

Germany · Black Forest



60 Grube Wenzel

OBERWOLFACH · ORTENAU DISTRICT

Photo: Dr. Bernd Gross, CC BY-SA 3.0 de, Wikimedia Commons

1,000 m

PATH IN THE HILL

90 min

EXPLORER TOUR

20

PLACES PER TOUR

2001

REOPENED

In the 18th century it was one of the richest silver mines in the central Black Forest. Volunteers cleared it again in the late 1990s, and since 2001 the Explorer Tour has led about a kilometre into the mountain, as far as the white, silver-bearing barite vein.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Book online: places are limited, and tours start at 11am, 1pm and 3pm.
- Closed on Mondays, and dogs are not allowed in the mine.
- Pushchairs, wheelchairs and walkers will not fit through the narrow tunnels.

ADMISSION

€11.00 (about \$13), reduced €8.50, groups of 10+ €9.50 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

29 March–1 November 2026 Tue–Sun, tours 11am, 1pm, 3pm

GETTING THERE

Frohnbach 19, Oberwolfach, in the Wolf valley



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Black Forest



61 Finstergrund Mine

WIEDEN · LÖRRACH DISTRICT

Photo: Steffen 962, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

20 km

OF TUNNELS

8 °C

ALL YEAR

60 min

TOUR, AT LEAST

1982

SHOW MINE

Miners brought fluorspar out of this mountain until 1974; a year later 22 of them founded an association. After 4,000 hours of work they opened a tunnel to visitors in 1982. You ride in on the “Zügli”, a narrow-gauge mine train, then carry on on foot, wearing a helmet.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring cash: cards are not accepted at the ticket desk.
- Dress warmly and wear sturdy shoes; it is only about 8 °C inside all year.
- Dogs may come on a lead or carried; collecting minerals is forbidden.

ADMISSION

€12.00 (about \$14), children 6–14 €8.00, family €35.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

May–Oct Sat, Sun, holidays, Jul–Sep also Wed; tours 10am, noon, 2pm, 4pm

GETTING THERE

On the L 123 between Wieden and Utzenfeld



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Black Forest

62

Haigerloch Atomic Cellar

HAIGERLOCH · ZOLLERNALB DISTRICT

Photo: Felix König, CC BY 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

664

URANIUM CUBES

1.5 t

HEAVY WATER

1945

EXPERIMENT B VIII

1980

MUSEUM SINCE

In the beer cellar of the Schwan inn, deep in the shell limestone of the Eyach valley, Heisenberg's physicists built their last test reactor in early 1945: 664 uranium cubes in heavy water, encased in graphite. US troops arrived on 23 April 1945. Today a faithful replica stands here.

BEFORE YOU GO

- On weekdays it closes for lunch from noon to 2pm; on Sundays it stays open all day.
- A bus or train ticket in the bwtarif network gets you €1.00 off admission.
- Closed December to February; in spring and autumn open at weekends only.

ADMISSION

€4.00 (about \$5), pupils and groups of 10+
€3.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

May–Sep Mon–Sat 10am–noon, 2–5pm,
Sun 10am–5pm; Mar/Apr, Oct/Nov Sat/Sun

GETTING THERE

Pfluggasse 5; parking Pfluggasse,
Spitalgasse

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~"A chain reaction started here in 1945"~~ – the reactor never went critical; it would have had to be about 1.5 times larger.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Swabian Alb

63

Bad Friedrichshall Salt Mine

BAD FRIEDRICHSHALL-KOCHENDORF · HEILBRONN DISTRICT

Photo: Daniela Pflug, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

180 m

UNDERGROUND

30 s

IN THE CAGE

18 °C

ALL YEAR

1899

MINING BEGAN

The cage takes you 180 metres down in just over half a minute, into a rock-salt mine that produced salt until 1994. Below, you walk the halls without a guide and slide down a chute in the dome hall, as the miners did. A memorial recalls the prisoners of the Kochendorf concentration camp.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Closed until 1 May 2027; it then reopens at weekends and on public holidays only.
- Come by train: Kochendorf station is two minutes away, and your ticket gets a discount.
- Allow two to two and a half hours; wheelchairs and pushchairs get through everywhere.

ADMISSION

€13.00 (about \$15), children 6–16 €7.50, family €38.00 (from 2027) (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

1 May–3 Oct 2027 Sat, Sun, holidays, descents from 9.30am

GETTING THERE

Next to Bad Friedrichshall-Kochendorf station



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com

Germany

More underground

Almost every Black Forest valley had its mine. Many are now run by volunteer associations and open only at weekends or by appointment, but the guides are often the people who dug the tunnels out themselves.

Frischglück Mine

Iron-ore mine barely changed since it closed in 1868: narrow tunnels, 163 steps, three levels. Waterproof shoes are a must for the adventure tours.

NEUBÜRG
SAT, SUN, HOLIDAYS

Hella-Glück-Stollen

Historic silver mine in the northern Black Forest, run by an association. The same tunnel houses a healing gallery for people with respiratory conditions.

NEUBULACH
TUE-SUN

Segen Gottes Mine

Silver mine with a tour over three levels, through narrow passages and up stairs. Helmet, lamp and protective clothing are provided; groups of 15 at most.

HASLACH IM KINZIGTAL
APR-OCT, WED-SUN

Teufelsgrund Mine

Silver and fluorspar mine in the Münstertal valley, now an underground museum. Besides the classic tour, children can join a treasure hunt.

MÜNSTERTAL
APR-OCT

Hoffnungsstollen Mine

Pyrrhotite and nickel ore were mined here until 1937. The lower tunnel is step-free and, with the right snow, also opens in winter.

TODTMOOS
THU, SAT, SUN, HOLS

Suggental Silver Mine

Two tours: the St Anna tunnel is level, the St Josephi deep tunnel runs through narrow passages. Tunnel festival on the second weekend in September.

WALDKIRCH
BOOKING ONLY

Heilige Drei Könige Mine

16th-century silver mine in the middle of town. Three levels: a flat tunnel with an air-raid shelter, then a 6- or 30-metre descent, each with a minimum age.

FREUDENSTADT
MAY-OCT, SAT/SUN

More underground (continued)

Himmlich Heer Silver Mine

Silver mining first recorded in 1520, open again since 2000. Tours on Tuesdays at 4pm and on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

DORNSTETTEN-HALLWANGEN
MAY-OCT, TUE AND SUN

Grube Anna-Elisabeth

500 years of mining on the Bergstraße, run by the mining association. The longer adventure tour is open only to those aged 12 and over.

SCHRIESHEIM
APR-OCT, SUN

Silbergründle Mine

Small ore mine on the edge of the Black Forest National Park. One fixed date a week in school holidays; without booking only on open days.

SEEBACH
BY APPOINTMENT

Tschamberhöhle

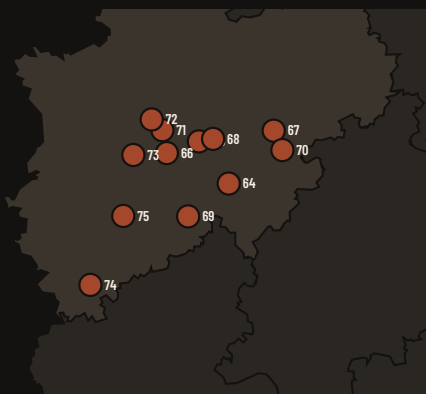
Active stream cave on the High Rhine with a waterfall up to five metres high inside. Helmets compulsory, cash only; closed when water levels are high.

RHEINFELDEN-KARSAU
SUN AND HOLIDAYS

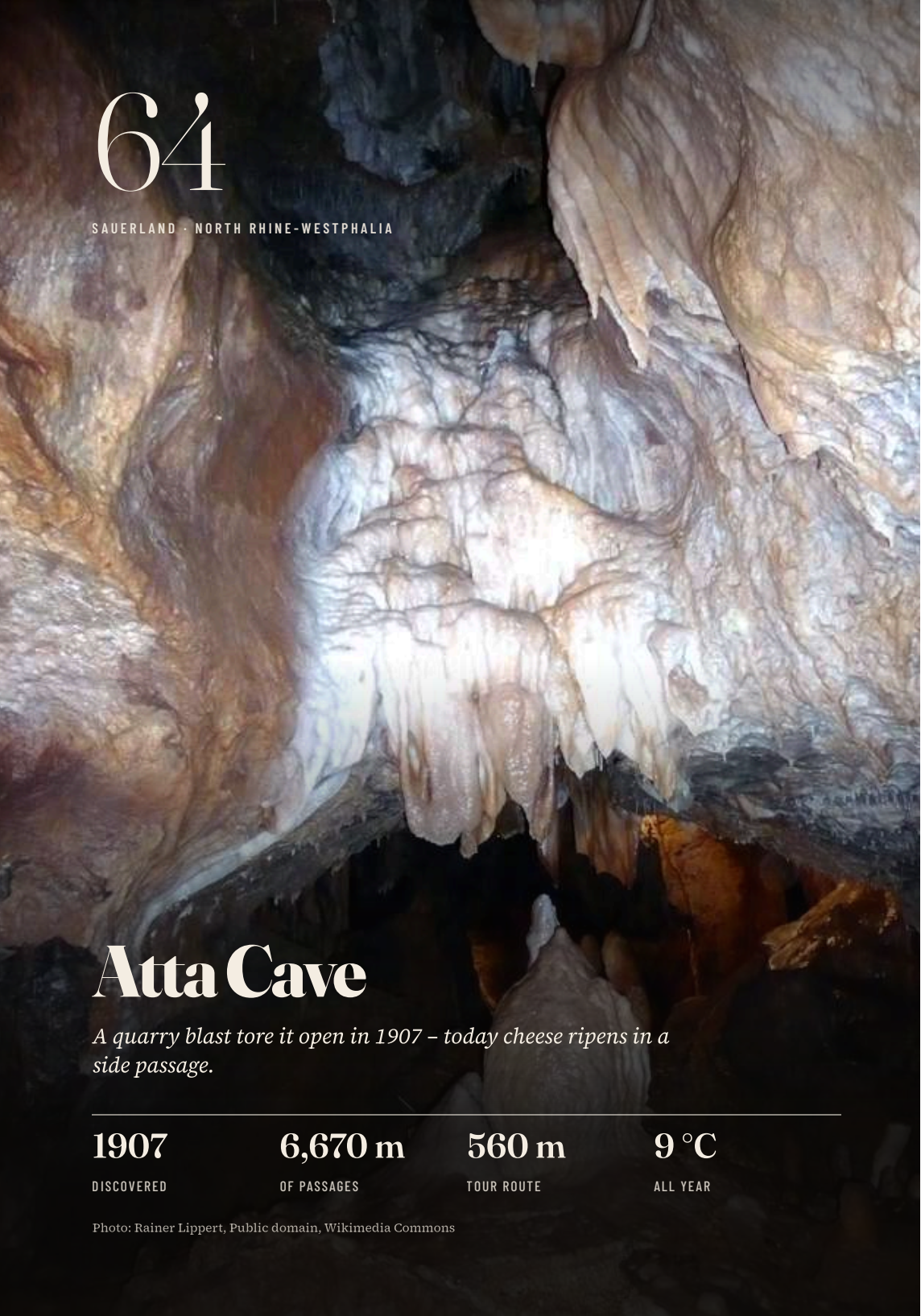
08

Sauerland, Bergisches Land, the Ruhr and Cologne

Two worlds lie beneath North Rhine-Westphalia. In the Sauerland and the Bergisches Land, water hollowed out ancient Devonian coral reefs; many caves were found by chance during blasting or railway building. In the Ruhr and the Hochsauerland, miners dug for coal, lead and zinc. And in Cologne, two thousand years of city history lie beneath the cathedral.



- 64 Atta Cave
- 65 Dechen Cave
- 66 Kluterthöhle
- 67 Bilsteinhöhle
- 68 Heinrichshöhle
- 69 Wiehler Tropfsteinhöhle
- 70 Ramsbeck Mine
- 71 Zeche Nachtigall
- 72 German Mining Museum Show Mine
- 73 Zeittunnel Wülfrath
- 74 Kakushöhle
- 75 Cologne Cathedral Excavations



64

SAUERLAND · NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

Atta Cave

A quarry blast tore it open in 1907 – today cheese ripens in a side passage.

1907

DISCOVERED

6,670 m

OF PASSAGES

560 m

TOUR ROUTE

9 °C

ALL YEAR

Photo: Rainer Lippert, Public domain, Wikimedia Commons

ATTENDORN · OLPE DISTRICT

On 19 July 1907 a blast in the limestone quarry tore open a crack, and behind it lay halls full of dripstones. The first visitors came that same year. Today a 40-minute guided tour leads past flowstone curtains veined in rusty red.

CHEESE IN THE MOUNTAIN

In a side section, 300 to 400 wheels of Atta cheese ripen at 95 per cent humidity; a door keeps the smell off the tour route. It is sold in the small shop at the entrance.

In 1986 cavers found a labyrinth of about 5,000 metres that nobody had known about. It stays closed: the operator says opening it up would be too dangerous.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Tickets are sold only at the desk on the day, cash or card; no online booking.
- Keep the camera in your bag: photography is banned throughout the cave.
- Don't come too late: the last tour of the day runs only with four paying visitors.
- Add the Biggesee lake: the Biggolino runs from the cave car park to the boat pier.

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“The tour route is 1,800 metres long”~~ – that is the accessible area; the tour itself covers about 560 metres. ~~“Germany’s largest dripstone cave”~~ – the Herbstlabyrinth in Hesse, at over 13 km, is about twice as long.

ADMISSION

€14.50 (about \$17), children 5–14 €7.50, family €36.50 (as of 10/2026)

GETTING THERE

Attendorn station, 7 min on foot; paid parking

OPENING HOURS

May–Aug daily from 10am; winter often Sat/Sun only, closed 23 Nov–25 Dec

GOOD TO KNOW

Not step-free, no dogs, no photos



WHO LIVES HERE

Bats live in the undeveloped parts and get in through cracks in the rock. These cavities are protected under EU habitat law; the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation does not publish which species roost there.



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
 Germany · Sauerland

NEARBY · Burg Altena tunnel, 26 km · Heinrichshöhle, 30 km

65

SAUERLAND · NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

Dechen Cave

A dropped hammer found it in 1868 – and trains still stop at its door.

1868

DISCOVERED

400 m

PATH IN THE CAVE

64

STEPS

10 °C

ALL YEAR

Photo: No machine-readable author provided. Flux Garden~commonswiki, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

ISERLOHN · MÄRKISCHER KREIS DISTRICT

On 10 June 1868 two railway workers dropped a hammer into a crack in the rock. Looking for it, they found themselves in a dripstone cave. Visitors came that same year, and it has been a show cave ever since. The guided tour takes 40 minutes.

EMPEROR, RHINO AND BEAR

The Kaiserhalle holds the “Dripstone Emperor”, followed by the Crystal Grotto and the Organ Grotto with their flowstone cascades. The cave is named after the geologist Heinrich von Dechen.

A forest rhino’s skull was found here in 1993, a young cave bear’s skeleton in 2000. The German Cave Museum in the same building is included in the ticket.

ADMISSION

€10.00 (about \$11), children 3–15 €6.50, incl. cave museum (as of 10/2026)

GETTING THERE

Letmathe-Dechenhöhle stop (RE 16, RB 91); free parking

BEFORE YOU GO

- By train: Letmathe-Dechenhöhle is a request stop, so press the stop button in good time.
- No online tickets: buy them on site; tours run at fixed times and are in German.
- Allow at least another half hour for the cave museum.
- December to February: open only at weekends, on public holidays and in school holidays.

OPENING HOURS

Apr–Oct daily, weekdays 5 tours from 10.30am

GOOD TO KNOW

Not step-free, no dogs, no photos

**Current hours and prices**

[underground-atlas.com](https://www.underground-atlas.com)
Germany · Sauerland

NEARBY · Burg Altena tunnel, 8 km · Heinrichshöhle, 9 km

66 Kluterthöhle

ENNEPETAL · ENNEPE-RUHR DISTRICT

Photo: Arnoldius, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

8.7 km

CAVE SYSTEM

1 km

TOUR ROUTE

10 °C

ALL YEAR

2019

NATURAL MONUMENT

The passages run through a fossil coral reef from the Devonian; sponges, shells and corals are set in the walls. There are few dripstones, but a maze of more than 300 passages. In the war up to 4,000 people sheltered here; since 2025 it has counted as part of North Rhine-Westphalia's longest cave.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Book every tour in advance and register everyone, even children who need no ticket.
- You may photograph the walls and fossils, and bring a torch.
- Children from age 4 only; pushchairs stay outside, so bring a baby carrier.

ADMISSION

€10.00 (about \$11), children 4–15 €6.00 (German debit card or cash) (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

All year, desk Tue–Sun 10am–4pm, Mon noon–4pm; booking only

GETTING THERE

Gasstraße 10, Ennepetal; free parking



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Bergisches Land

67 Bilsteinhöhle

WARSTEIN · SOEST DISTRICT

Photo: Friedhelm Dröge, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

1887

DISCOVERED

400 m

CAVE PATH

8 °C

ALL YEAR

30 min

TOUR

Franz Kersting came upon the cave in September 1887, and the first visitors arrived in 1888. A stream still flows through the lower levels, working away at the limestone. Of the system, about 1,850 metres long, some 400 metres are easy to walk, and a free wildlife park surrounds it.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Dogs on a lead may come into the cave; they pay €2.50 admission.
- The Bilsteintal wildlife park is free and open around the clock.
- For more time below, “Höhle Plus” lasts 60 minutes, max. 15 people, booking only.

ADMISSION

€8.50 (about \$10), children 3–16 €6.00, dog €2.50 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

All year daily 9am–4.30pm, tours about every 45 min

GETTING THERE

Im Bodmen 54, Warstein; desk 200 m from the car park



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Sauerland

68

Heinrichshöhle

HEMER · MÄRKISCHER KREIS DISTRICT

Photo: Heinz-Werner Weber, CC BY-SA 2.0, Wikimedia Commons

2.35 m

CAVE BEAR

320 m

TOUR ROUTE

10 °C

ALL YEAR

1905

ELECTRIC LIGHT

Innkeeper Heinrich Meise turned the cave into a show cave between 1903 and 1905. It is famous for Ice Age bones: a complete, mounted cave-bear skeleton 2.35 metres long stands in the passage. Tours are led by volunteer cavers who explain what they explore themselves.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring cash: you cannot pay by card at the ticket desk.
- There are no fixed times; tours start with four people, so you may have to wait a little.
- The Felsenmeer, a field of jumbled rocks and a national geotope, is a few hundred metres away.

ADMISSION

€6.00 (about \$7), children 3–15 €4.00,
family €17.50 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Late Mar–Oct Sat/Sun/holidays 11am–
5pm, Nov Sun noon–4pm

GETTING THERE

Felsenmeerstraße 7, Hemer-Sundwig



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
Germany · Sauerland

69

Wiehler Tropfsteinhöhle

WIEHL · OBERBERG DISTRICT

Photo: Toksave, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

1860

DISCOVERED

26

STEPS DOWN

8 °C

ALL YEAR

45 min

TOUR

Quarry blasting cut into the cave in 1860, but only in 1926/27 did relief workers turn it into a show cave. Its limestone is a fossil coral reef from the Devonian. The flowstone glows from white to red, and the air is so damp that mosses and ferns grow inside.

BEFORE YOU GO

- The cave is closed from November to February.
- Look out for the Crystal Grotto, a former cave lake full of calcite crystals.
- Want to marry underground? Weddings are possible, base fee €110.

ADMISSION

€6.50 (about \$7), children €5.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

March to October daily 10am–5pm, last tour 4.15pm

GETTING THERE

Pfaffenberg 1, just over 1 km south of the town centre



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Bergisches Land

70

Ramsbeck Mine

BESTWIG-RAMSBECK · HOCHSAUERLAND DISTRICT

Photo: Beckers99, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

1.5 km

BY MINE TRAIN

300 m

UNDERGROUND

1974

CLOSED

8–10 °C

UNDERGROUND

You go in as the miners did: the electric mine train takes visitors 1.5 kilometres into the mountain through the Eickhoff adit in eight minutes. Lead and zinc ore were mined here until January 1974, and the first visitors came that same summer.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Book online: in school holidays and on rainy days the five trips fill up fast.
- Arrive 20 to 30 minutes before departure; helmets are handed out on site.
- Closed from 11 January to 19 February 2027 for track work.

ADMISSION

€11.00 (about \$13), reduced €7.00, family €29.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Tue–Sun 9am–5pm; mine train 10am, 11.30am, 1pm, 2.30pm, 4pm

GETTING THERE

Glück-Auf-Straße 3, Bestwig-Ramsbeck



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Sauerland

71 Zeche Nachtigall

WITTEN · ENNEPE-RUHR DISTRICT

Photo: Sebastian Wallroth, Attribution, Wikimedia Commons

130 m

TUNNEL

10

PER TOUR

1892

CLOSED

6 yrs

MINIMUM AGE

Ruhr coal mining began in the Muttental valley more than 300 years ago. At the colliery, closed in 1892, you put on a helmet and enter the 130-metre Nachtigall tunnel, a show mine since 1990, as far as the Geitling 3 coal seam. A tour takes ten people at most.

BEFORE YOU GO

- The tunnel tour costs €3.00 on top of museum admission.
- Wear sturdy shoes: it is about 14 °C below in summer and 8 °C in winter.
- From the museum, a mining trail leads through the Muttental valley.

ADMISSION

€6.00 (about \$7) + tunnel €3.00; under-18s free, tunnel €1.50 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Tue–Sun 10am–6pm; tunnel Apr–Oct Tue–Fri 4x, Sat/Sun hourly

GETTING THERE

Nachtigallstraße 35; 20 min walk from Witten Hbf



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Ruhr

72 German Mining Museum Show Mine

BOCHUM · INDEPENDENT CITY

Photo: DerHexer, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

20 m

BELOW THE MUSEUM

1.2 km

OF TUNNELS OPEN

12 °C

UNDERGROUND

1937

WORK BEGAN

Not an old mine but a teaching mine: from 1937 miners drove about 2.5 kilometres of tunnels beneath the German Mining Museum, 1.2 of which you can walk. A lift takes visitors 20 metres down to original machines from coal and iron-ore mining.

BEFORE YOU GO

- You can go down unguided only at weekends; on weekdays it is by guided tour.
- Download the audio guide app beforehand; Wi-Fi in the museum is patchy.
- Ride up the 71-metre winding tower too; it is included in the ticket.

ADMISSION

€15.00 (about \$17), children €8.00, under 4 free (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Tue–Sun 9.30am–5.30pm, last descent 3.30pm

GETTING THERE

U35 to Deutsches Bergbau-Museum stop



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Ruhr

73 Zeittunnel Wülfrath

WÜLFRATH · METTMANN DISTRICT

Photo: Dat doris, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

160 m

TUNNEL

16 °C

ALL YEAR

70 m

ROCK FACES

2003

OPENED

Limestone from the Bochumer Bruch quarry was once hauled out through this 160-metre tunnel, named after the Bochumer Verein, which bought the quarry in 1890. Since 2003 it has held an exhibition on 400 million years of Earth's history, which you walk at your own pace without a guide.

BEFORE YOU GO

- From the platforms at the end of the tunnel you look about 50 metres down into the quarry.
- The VR headset shows a 1942 air-raid shelter in original images.
- Open only from early April to late October; closed on Mondays.

ADMISSION

€7.00 (about \$8), reduced €4.50, family €17.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Early April to late October, Tue–Sun
10am–6pm

GETTING THERE

Hammerstein 5, Wülfrath; on the PanoramaRadweg cycle path



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Bergisches Land

74

Kakushöhle

MECHERNICH · EUSKIRCHEN DISTRICT

Photo: Thomas Hummel, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

15 m

HALL HEIGHT

30 m

HALL WIDTH

1932

PROTECTED

€0

ADMISSION

One of the few caves in North Rhine-Westphalia you may enter freely, with no guide and no ticket. The “Great Church” in the tufa limestone of the Kartstein is 15 metres high and 30 metres wide. Neanderthals sheltered here in the last Ice Age and left stone tools behind.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Go in only until dusk; after that the cave belongs to the bats.
- The path from the car park to the main entrance is step-free.
- A nature trail leads around the rock and up onto the plateau.

ADMISSION

free (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

All year, access only until dusk

GETTING THERE

Car park on the L 115 near Dreimühlen, with a café



WHO LIVES HERE

Up to nine protected bat species use the Kartstein caves, among them the greater mouse-eared bat. That is why access is allowed only until dusk, when the animals fly out.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Eifel

75

Cologne Cathedral Excavations

COLOGNE · INDEPENDENT CITY

Photo: Friedhelm Dröge, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

2,000+

WALL REMAINS

1946

DIGGING BEGAN

870

OLD CATHEDRAL

16 yrs

MINIMUM AGE

Archaeologists have been digging beneath the cathedral since May 1946, and some 4,000 square metres have been explored. The 90-minute tour shows remains from 2,000 years: Roman houses, the early Christian baptismal font, Frankish graves and the foundations of the Carolingian Old Cathedral.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Minimum age 16, no exceptions; public tours are in German.
- Book early: twelve people per tour at most; tickets online or at the Domforum only.
- Grave goods from the Frankish graves found in 1959 are in the Cathedral Treasury.

ADMISSION

€27.00 (about \$31) including tour (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Tours weekdays 3.30–6pm, Sat 10am–4pm

GETTING THERE

By the cathedral, a few minutes from Cologne main station

**Current hours and prices**

[underground-atlas.com](https://www.underground-atlas.com)
Germany · Rhineland

More underground

Rarely open, by appointment only or on all fours: these places between the Sauerland, the Ruhr and the Rhine are worth the detour if you know their dates. Some open only a few days a year.

Aggertalhöhle

At 6 to 8 °C the coldest of the Bergisches Land show caves. Groups of 20 at most; on Sundays the tour ends with music in the cave hall.

ENGELSKIRCHEN-RÜNDEROTH
APR-OCT, THU-SUN

Burg Altena tunnel

A tunnel cut into the castle rock, with a lift that climbs 80 metres in half a minute. On the way, a small museum on knights and castle legends.

ALTENA
TUE-SUN, FREE

Balver Höhle

Not a show cave but a hall of rock, 90 metres deep with an 11-metre-high entrance. A stage for festivals and the marksmen's fair, otherwise by arrangement.

BALVE
EVENTS ONLY

Veledahöhle

Karst cave above the Ruhr valley with no built path. Helmet and lamp are provided; ankle boots are compulsory. Open on only a few summer days.

BESTWIG-VELMEDE
A FEW DATES ONLY

Philippstollen

Driven into the Eisenberg in 1749 and abandoned without finding ore. After about 600 metres the Barbara Grotto opens up, with a lake. A bat roost in winter.

OLSBERG
APR-OCT, FRI 4PM

Nordenau healing tunnel

An old slate tunnel where you simply sit and breathe, with no guide: 8 °C, almost 100 per cent humidity, for as long as you like.

SCHMALLENBERG-NORDENAU
DAILY, FREE

Stock & Scherenberger Erbstollen

One of the oldest drainage tunnels of Ruhr mining, driven from 1746 and lined with dry-stone walls. Visits in groups of two to six.

SPROCKHÖVEL
DATES, BOOKING

More underground (continued)

Graf Wittekind Mine

An early modern small colliery: the tunnels are 60 to 80 centimetres high, and much is done on all fours. Dates are often booked months ahead.

DORTMUND-SYBURG
SAT 9.30AM, BOOKING

Kronleuchtersaal

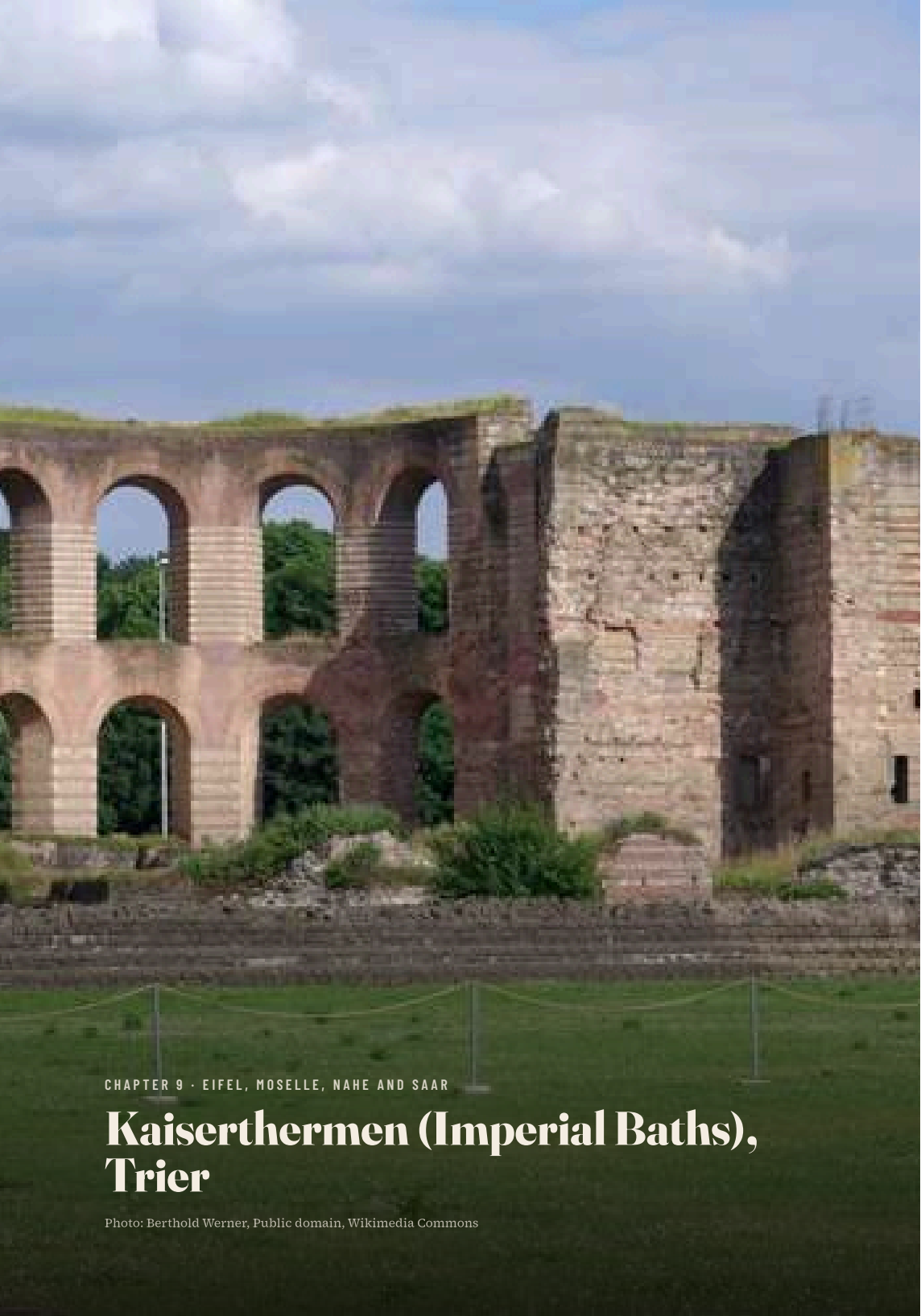
A chamber of Cologne's sewers from 1890, seven metres below the Ring and still in use. It is named after two chandeliers from the time it was built.

COLOGNE
MAR-OCT, BOOKING

Ubirmonument

The corner tower of the Roman town wall, AD 4/5, stands in the basement of a block of flats: Cologne's oldest securely dated building. Found only in 1965.

COLOGNE
1ST THU OF THE MONTH



CHAPTER 9 · EIFEL, MOSELLE, NAHE AND SAAR

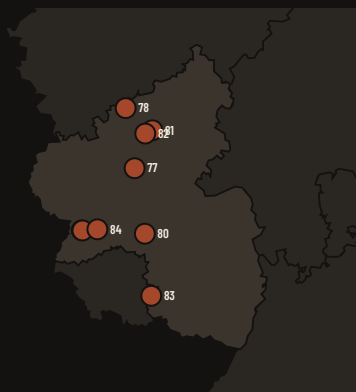
Kaiserthermen (Imperial Baths), Trier

Photo: Berthold Werner, Public domain, Wikimedia Commons

09

Eifel, Moselle, Nahe and Saar

Between the Eifel and the Saar the underground lies in layers. At the bottom, the work of volcanoes: lava and tuff, quarried by Romans and the people of Mendig. Above that, Trier, where emperors built baths and an arena with cellars. On top, the Cold War, which put bunkers for government and emergency money into vineyards and under houses. Plus slate on the Moselle, gems on the Nahe and sand in the Saarland.



- 76 Kaiserthermen (Imperial Baths), Trier
- 77 Bundesbank Bunker, Cochem
- 78 Government Bunker, Ahrweiler
- 79 Trier Amphitheatre
- 80 Steinkaulenberg Gem Mines
- 81 Meurin Roman Mine
- 82 Mendig Lava Cellars
- 83 Schlossberg Caves
- 84 Fell Slate Mine

Map: Boundaries: GeoBasis-DE / BKG, Data Licence Germany – Attribution – Version 2.0



76

MOSELLE · RHINELAND-PALATINATE

Kaiserthermen (Imperial Baths), Trier

An imperial bath where probably no one ever bathed – and beneath it a network for stokers and waste water.

250 m

COMPLEX LENGTH

19 m

HIGH WALLS

3 m

HIGH PASSAGES

1986

WORLD HERITAGE

Photo: Virtual-Pano, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

TRIER · INDEPENDENT CITY

Beneath the imperial baths runs a network of passages about three metres high. Stokers were to carry wood to the furnaces here, while waste water drained away in channels below. Bathers above would never have seen the staff. You walk through freely.

BUILT, ABANDONED, REUSED

Around 300, Constantius Chlorus and his son Constantine began building. When Constantine moved the court east, work stopped; the technology and fittings were never finished.

Around 380, under Emperor Gratian, a mounted guard moved into the shell. In the Middle Ages, as the “Alteburg”, it became part of the town wall, with its own gate. Digs have gone on since the 19th century.

ADMISSION

€6.00 (about \$7), children 6–17 €3.00, family €12.00 (as of 10/2026)

GETTING THERE

Edge of the old town, 1 km from the main station

BEFORE YOU GO

- Climb the viewing tower first (there is a lift), then go down: the layout makes sense.
- Get the free multimedia guide, also in English; it has a stop on the passages.
- The amphitheatre is 500 metres away, with the same prices and opening hours.
- The passages involve steps and ramps; dogs only outside, on a lead.

OPENING HOURS

Daily 9am–4pm, Mar/Oct until 5pm, Apr–Sep until 6pm

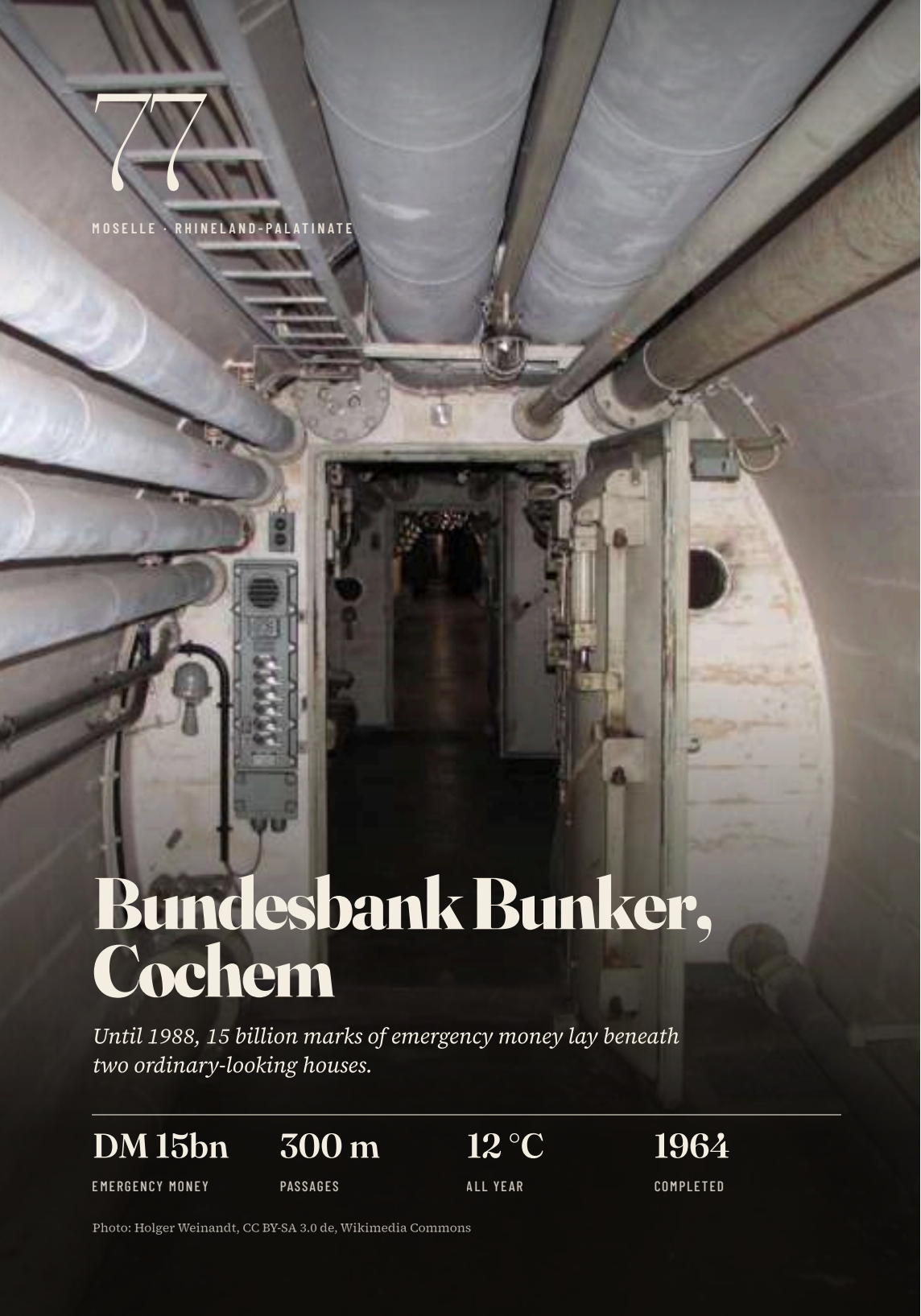
GOOD TO KNOW

Passages partly closed for safety works



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
Germany · Moselle

NEARBY · Trier Amphitheatre, 0.5 km · Fell Slate Mine, 11 km



77

MOSELLE · RHINELAND-PALATINATE

Bundesbank Bunker, Cochem

*Until 1988, 15 billion marks of emergency money lay beneath
two ordinary-looking houses.*

DM 15bn

EMERGENCY MONEY

300 m

PASSAGES

12 °C

ALL YEAR

1964

COMPLETED

Photo: Holger Weinandt, CC BY-SA 3.0 de, Wikimedia Commons

COCHEM-COND · COCHEM-ZELL DISTRICT

Officially it was a Bundesbank training centre. Beneath it lies a bunker with vaults that held a secret reserve currency from 1964 to 1988. The 40-minute tour covers 300 metres of passages, past the kitchen and the vault door.

MONEY FOR THE WORST CASE

Series BBk II was to replace the Deutsche Mark if mass counterfeiting made it worthless. Notes of 10, 20, 50 and 100 marks were stored here, checked by inspectors from Frankfurt.

In 1988 the money was destroyed and the bunker stood empty. A coach firm bought it in 2014 for under €500,000; it has been a museum since 2016. The houses above are now a hotel.

ADMISSION

€14.00 (about \$16), children 7–17 €7.00, family €36.00 (as of 10/2026)

GETTING THERE

Am Wald 35, Cochem-Cond; 10–25 min on foot

BEFORE YOU GO

- There is no parking at the bunker; until 1 November the BunkerShuttle runs from Endertplatz.
- Sold out online does not mean full: the operator says the desk still sells tickets.
- Photos cost €2.50 extra, for private use only; filming is banned.
- From 2 November 2026 there are far fewer tours; check times before you go.

OPENING HOURS

All year; until 1 Nov daily 10.30am–4pm, fewer in winter

GOOD TO KNOW

Tours in German, other languages by app; 4 stairways



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
Germany · Moselle

NEARBY · Mayen slate mine, 20 km · Mendig Lava Cellars, 26 km

78

AHR VALLEY • RHINELAND-PALATINATE

Government Bunker, Ahrweiler

17 kilometres of tunnels for 3,000 people meant to keep governing West Germany through a nuclear war.

17.3 km

OF TUNNELS

3,000

PLACES

30

DAYS SELF-RELIANT

203 m

PRESERVED

Photo: Leuni, CC BY 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

BAD NEUENAHN-ADRWEILER · ADRWEILER DISTRICT

In the vineyard above Ahrweiler lies the last remnant of West Germany's emergency seat of government. Of 17.3 kilometres of tunnels, 203 metres survive, with steel doors, offices and a never-used barber's. Entry is by 90-minute guided tour only, at 12 °C.

A BUNKER IN A RAILWAY TUNNEL

It was built into two tunnels of a strategic railway begun before the First World War and never finished. From 1960 to 1972 they gained 936 bedrooms, 897 offices and some 3,300 doors.

The government gave it up in 1997; dismantling cost €16 million. Since 2008 the Alt-Ahrweiler local history society has shown what is left; the millionth visitor came in 2023.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Book ahead: for individual tours the operator requires a ticket from its online shop.
- Dress warmly, it is 12 °C in the tunnel; dogs must stay outside.
- It is about 1.5 km from Ahrweiler Markt or Walporzheim station, the last part uphill.
- Dec–Feb only Sat/Sun at noon and 2pm; in March and November at 11am, 1pm and 3pm.

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“Individual visitors need not book ahead”~~ – the operator requires a ticket booked online in advance for individual tours.

ADMISSION

€15.00 (about \$17), ages 13–16 €8.00, 8–12 €6.00 (as of 10/2026)

GETTING THERE

Am Silberberg, Ahrweiler; 65 parking spaces

OPENING HOURS

Apr–Oct Wed, Sat, Sun, holidays 10am–4pm; otherwise Sat/Sun

GOOD TO KNOW

Guided only, in German, 90 minutes, at 12 °C



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
 Germany

NEARBY · Mendig Lava Cellars, 23 km · Meurin Roman Mine, 25 km

79

Trier Amphitheatre

TRIER · INDEPENDENT CITY

Photo: Flocci Nivis, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

18,000

SPECTATORS

3 m

CELLAR DEPTH

1908

CELLAR UNCOVERED

1986

WORLD HERITAGE

In the middle of the arena opens a cross-shaped cellar three metres deep. From here a wooden lift raised animals, fighters and scenery. In the east wing archaeologists found lead curse tablets on which people wished harm on others. You walk down the steps freely.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Evening show tour with Valerius the gladiator, in German: Apr–Oct Wed, Fri, Sat, €19.00.
- The cellar is reached only by steps; the arena itself is step-free.
- Combine it with the Imperial Baths 500 metres away: same prices and hours.

ADMISSION

€6.00 (about \$7), children 6–17 €3.00, family €12.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Daily from 9am, until 4, 5 or 6pm depending on the month

GETTING THERE

Olewiger Straße 25, at the foot of the Petrisberg



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Moselle

80

Steinkaulenberg Gem Mines

IDAR-OBERSTEIN · BIRKENFELD DISTRICT

Photo: Nuckmann, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

400 m

VISITOR TUNNEL

1375

FIRST RECORDED

1875

MINING ENDED

1978

REOPENED

Here agate, amethyst, rock crystal and smoky quartz still sit in the rock, in cavities of an old volcanic stone. Mining is recorded as early as 1375; it ended in 1875, when rough stones began to arrive from Brazil. The 400-metre visitor tunnel has concrete, step-free paths.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Book on the website first (required, says the museum portal); free audio guide in English.
- Dig for gems yourself at the gem camp: two hours from 10am, 12.30pm or 3pm, €12.00.
- Allow about 15 minutes' uphill walk through the woods from the car park.

ADMISSION

€9.00 (about \$10), ages 6–16 €6.50 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

15 March to 15 November daily 10am–5pm

GETTING THERE

Im Stäbel, Idar-Oberstein; Oberstein station 4.7 km



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
 Germany



81 Meurin Roman Mine

KRETZ · MAYEN-KOBLENZ DISTRICT

Photo: Holger Weinandt, CC BY-SA 3.0 de, Wikimedia Commons

13,000

YEAR-OLD TUFF

5 m

PUMICE ABOVE

2000

PROTECTIVE HALL

2003

EUROPA NOSTRA

13,000 years ago the eruption of the Laacher See volcano buried the land under tuff and pumice. The Romans drove tunnels beneath the pumice into the tuff and broke it out in large blocks, as building stone and an additive for concrete. Under a hall you can see their wedge marks up close.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Closed on Mondays; the season runs only from mid-March to 31 October.
- In the “Antike Technikwelt” replica Roman machines and stone mills are in action.
- Combine it with the Mendig Lava Cellars, just 5.5 kilometres away.

ADMISSION

€7.00 (about \$8), reduced €4.50, under 6 free (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Mid-March to 31 October, Tue–Sun and holidays 10am–5pm

GETTING THERE

Nickenicher Straße 1, Kretz; car park 300 m away



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Eifel

82

Mendig Lava Cellars

MENDIG · MAYEN-KOBLENZ DISTRICT

Photo: Elke Wetzig, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

32 m

BELOW THE TOWN

150

STEPS DOWN

28

BREWERIES

3 km²

OF CELLARS

150 steps lead 32 metres down into a maze of pillars and halls almost three square kilometres in size. For centuries the people of Mendig quarried basalt lava here for millstones. From about 1840 up to 28 breweries stored their beer in the cool. If the steps put you off, take the lift.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Cellar tours Tue–Fri 1.30pm; Sat/Sun and holidays noon, 1.30pm and 3pm; in German.
- No reservations: tickets only at the desk, so arrive early.
- Dress warmly: it is 8 to 9 °C below, even in high summer.

ADMISSION

Combined €10.50 (about \$12), cellar only €6.50, children €5.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Tue–Sun 10am–5.30pm; closed in January and at Carnival

GETTING THERE

Brauerstraße 1, Mendig; lift, step-free



WHO LIVES HERE

In winter bats move into the quiet parts of the basalt cellars. In the neighbouring Mayen quarry field, NABU counts about 100,000 hibernating bats of 16 species, some from Belgium and the Netherlands.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Eifel

83

Schlossberg Caves

HOMBURG · SAARPFALZ DISTRICT

Photo: Flocci Nivis, CC BY 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

12

LEVELS

5 km

OF PASSAGES

800 m

CIRCUIT

10 °C

ALL YEAR

Made by hand, not by nature: probably from the 17th century, workers dug quartz sand out of the Schlossberg, first for glass, later as scouring and moulding sand. They left twelve levels of passages and domed halls in the red sandstone, which the town calls Europe's largest red sandstone caves.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring cash: cards are not accepted at the ticket desk.
- Helmets are compulsory throughout; about 130 steps lead up from the main car park.
- Closed in December and January; otherwise only 10am–4pm in winter.

ADMISSION

€7.00 (about \$8), reduced €5.00, family €17.00, cash only (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

February to November, summer 9am–5pm, winter 10am–4pm

GETTING THERE

Schlossberg-Höhen-Straße 1; dogs allowed



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany

84 Fell Slate Mine

FELL · TRIER-SAARBURG DISTRICT

Photo: Bergaufsepp, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

2

SLATE MINES

100 m

STAIR SHAFT

12 °C

UNDERGROUND

1997

OPENED

Two slate mines lie one above the other in the Nosser valley: Grube Hoffnung at the top, recorded since 1850, and Grube Barbara of 1908 below. A 100-metre stair shaft links them. The tour lasts an hour, with figures showing slate miners at work in the chambers.

BEFORE YOU GO

- No booking needed; tours start about every 45 minutes, the last at 4.50pm.
- Afterwards walk the mine trail, which passes ten more old mines.
- Dogs are welcome, and children under 6 get in free.

ADMISSION

€10.00 (about \$11), children €7.00, family €31.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

1 April to 31 October, Tue–Sun and holidays 10am–6pm

GETTING THERE

Nosser valley between Fell and Thomm, 11 km from Trier



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Moselle

More underground

Many of the region's mines and tunnels are run by associations and open only on a few days or by appointment. If you know the dates, you will find Roman copper tunnels, Westwall bunkers and a medieval mercury mine.

Vereinigte Hospitien wine cellar

Said to be Germany's oldest wine cellar: Roman storage halls from around AD 330, vaulted over in the 7th century. Tours in German only.

TRIER
APR-OCT WED/FRI 11AM

Pützlöcher Roman copper mine

Romans mined malachite and azurite here in the 2nd century; later the quarry supplied blocks for the Porta Nigra. Only by arrangement with the local society.

NEWEL-BUTZWEILER
MAY-OCT, BOOKING

Deutsches Schieferbergwerk

340 metres of tunnel 16 metres below Genovevaburg castle, dug as an air-raid shelter in late 1944. Now an exhibition on Moselle slate with a simulated mine-cart ride.

MAYEN
MID-MAR-OCT

Grube Bendisberg

Lead and zinc ore on three levels, linked by a spiral staircase and a ladder. Tours at 11am, 2pm and 4pm, but only if you book by phone in advance.

LANGENFELD (EIFEL)
SAT/SUN, BOOKING ONLY

Mühlenberger Stollen

Lead-ore tunnel worked from 1839 to 1852. At times up to a thousand people worked underground in Bleialf; a mining trail adds to the tour.

BLEIALF
MAY-OCT, SUN 2-5PM

Panzerwerk Katzenkopf

The northernmost fortified bunker of the Westwall. From 1976 the Irrel fire brigade dug out its three underground floors in 75,000 hours of work.

IRREL
APR-EARLY OCT, SUN

Historic copper mine

Copper mined since about 1400; opened in 1975 as Rhineland-Palatinate's first show mine. Huge chambers and turquoise minerals, guided tours only.

FISCHBACH (NAHE)
15 MAR-1 NOV

More underground (continued)

Schmittentollen

A mercury mine in the Lemberg: of a 15-kilometre medieval tunnel system, about 700 metres can be walked.

NIEDERHAUSEN (NAHE)
LATE MAR-EARLY NOV

Unterirdische Burg

14 metres below the Schlossplatz: castle moat, casemates and dungeon, plus a Gestapo cell in the palace cellar. Free tour on Sundays at 2pm.

SAARBRÜCKEN
TUE-SUN 10AM-6PM

Velsen Mine

The Saarland's only coal show mine, in the old training pit. Underground you ride part of the way on the conveyor belt.

SAARBRÜCKEN-KLARENTHAL
SAT/SUN 2PM

Emilianus-Stollen

Roman azurite mine for "Wallerfangen blue". A Latin inscription names the miner Aemilianus, a rare record of Roman underground mining.

WALLERFANGEN
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

B-Werk Besseringen

The only one of the Westwall's 32 B-class bunkers to survive intact: 44 rooms, all armoured cupolas original. Above ground only the entrance and cupolas show.

MERZIG
APR-SEP, SUN 2-6PM



CHAPTER 10 · HESSE, WESTERWALD AND WESER UPLANDS

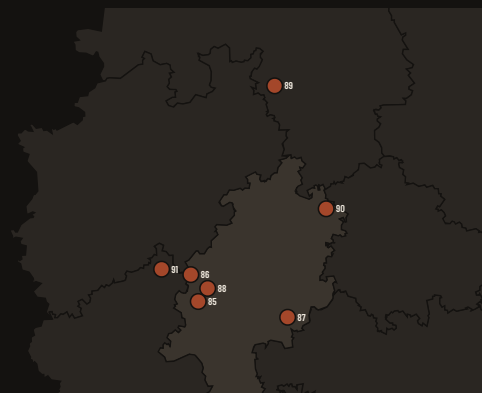
Kubach Crystal Cave

Photo: uploaded by Pismire, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

10

Hesse, Westerwald and Weser Uplands

There is no great karst range between the Lahn, the Westerwald and the Weser, yet the ground is full of hollows: a cave lined with crystals, Hesse's largest cave system, found only in 1993, and a drip-stone cave reached by a glass lift. Add iron ore and barite mines, entered by cage and mine train.



- 85 Kubach Crystal Cave
- 86 Herbstlabyrinth
- 87 Teufelshöhle
- 88 Fortuna Mine
- 89 Schillat Cave
- 90 Gustav Mine
- 91 Bindweide Mine

Map: Boundaries: GeoBasis-DE / BKG, Data Licence Germany – Attribution – Version 2.0

85

Kubach Crystal Cave

WEILBURG-KUBACH · LIMBURG-WEILBURG DISTRICT

Photo: No machine-readable author provided. Pismire-commonswiki ass, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

456

STEPS DOWN

70 m

DEEP

30 m

HALL HEIGHT

1974

DISCOVERED

Instead of stalactites, calcite crystals and cave pearls coat the walls. In 1974 a borehole drilled by the local caving club hit the void, and the show cave opened in 1981. 456 steps lead 70 metres down into a hall over 30 metres high – taller than in any other German show cave.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Booking online saves €1 per ticket, but only 15 online tickets are sold per day.
- Children under 5 are not allowed down for safety reasons; tours are in German.
- You climb all 456 steps back up; the operator advises against it with heart or knee problems.

ADMISSION

€12.00 (about \$14), age 5+ €8.00; €1 less online (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

28 Mar–29 Nov 2026; Tue–Fri 3–5pm, Sat/Sun 10am–5pm

GETTING THERE

Auf dem Kalk 1, Weilburg-Kubach; 80 parking spaces



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany

86 Herbstlabyrinth

BREITSCHIED · LAHN-DILL DISTRICT

Photo: Zeitsprünge, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

13 km

CAVE SYSTEM

124

STEPS DOWN

32 m

HALL HEIGHT

1993

DISCOVERED

Cavers found Hesse's largest cave system only in December 1993, on a pre-Christmas walk along the edge of a limestone quarry. Over 13 kilometres have now been surveyed. Visitors see only the Knöpfchenhalle, up to 32 metres high, reached on plastic walkways instead of concrete.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Rucksacks, child carriers, walking poles and animals must stay outside.
- Book ahead: each tour takes only 13 people and weekends fill fast. Tours are in German.
- Photos are allowed, but no flash; it is 9 °C below, with humidity close to 100 per cent.

ADMISSION

€11.00 (about \$13), children 4–14 €7.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Apr–Oct Sat/Sun and holidays 11am–6pm, hourly

GETTING THERE

15 parking spaces 50 m from the cave; “Höhlenexpress” bus in summer



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany · Westerwald

87 Teufelshöhle

STEINAU AN DER STRASSE · MAIN-KINZIG DISTRICT

Photo: Ermell, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

1584

DISCOVERED

54 m

ACCESS TUNNEL

34 m

DEEPEST POINT

8–9 °C

ALL YEAR

In autumn 1584 a cow belonging to the herdsman Jox Mellmann fell through the ground. He took the hole for the Devil's work, hence the name, "Devil's Cave". Easy access came only when Polish miners cut a 54-metre tunnel by hammer and chisel in 1905–1908. It has been a show cave since 1927.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Book online; only on Sundays and holidays can you sign up at the ticket desk from 1pm.
- On Fridays at 5.15pm there are sensory tours with torches and UV light (in German).
- Bring cash; the tour is not meant for children under 5.

ADMISSION

€5.00 (about \$6), children 5–17 €4.00, cash only (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

20 Apr–30 Sep; Fri 11am–5pm, Sat 11am–6pm, Sun/holidays 10am–6pm

GETTING THERE

3 km north of Steinau; 450 m uphill from the car park



WHO LIVES HERE

The season ends as early as 30 September: from October to April the cave belongs to the bats that hibernate here. The town of Steinau lists six species that spend the winter in the Teufelshöhle.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany



88

Fortuna Mine

SOLMS-ÖBERBIEHL · LAHN-DILL DISTRICT

Photo: Peckolinos, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

150 m

LEVEL UNDERGROUND

13 °C

ALL YEAR

4.8m

TONNES IRON ORE

1983

LAST SHIFT

The last production shift went down on 3 March 1983; Fortuna was Hesse's last iron ore mine. Today you still ride the cage down the shaft to the 150-metre level and continue into the mountain by mine train. The 1958 winding engine is still running.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Tours run at fixed times only; book a place in the tour planner on the website. In German.
- Children must be at least 6; it is 13 °C underground.
- The narrow-gauge railway museum next door has over 50 locomotives, but its own run days.

ADMISSION

€15.00 (about \$17), children 6–16 €9.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Fri–Sun and holidays 10am–4pm, Wed–Sun in Hesse school holidays; closed in winter

GETTING THERE

Grube Fortuna 1, Solms-Oberbiel, near Wetzlar



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
Germany

89 Schillat Cave

HESSISCH OLDENDORF · HAMELN-PYRMONT DISTRICT

Photo: User:Gerhard Elsner, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

45 m

BY GLASS LIFT

160 m

CAVE PATH

8 °C

ALL YEAR

1992

DISCOVERED

In 1992 a blast in the quarry near Langenfeld tore the cave open; blasting foreman Hartmut Brepohl found it. Since 2004 a lift with a glass inner wall has run 45 metres down, past the rock layers of the Jurassic. As no stairs are needed, wheelchair users can come too.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Closed in December and January; weekends only in November and February/March.
- Buy tickets in advance; each tour takes at most 20 people. Tours are in German.
- On the first Wednesday of the month, tours go through the cave by torchlight.

ADMISSION

€10.00 (about \$11), reduced and children
€5.50 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Easter–Oct Sat/Sun/holidays 10am–6pm,
Wed 2–6pm

GETTING THERE

Langenfeld district of town, by the
Riesenberg quarry



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
Germany · Weser Uplands



90 Gustav Mine

MEISSNER-ABTERODE · WERRA-MEISSNER DISTRICT

Photo: Baummapper, CC BY-SA 3.0 de, Wikimedia Commons

37 cm

COPPER SHALE SEAM

121 h

UNTIL RESCUE

10 °C

ALL YEAR

1986

SHOW MINE

From around 1500, miners in the Höllental dug copper shale from seams only 37 centimetres high, and barite from 1897. In November 1957 two miners were trapped here by a collapse for 121 hours, until they were hauled up through a borehole in a rescue capsule.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Wheelchair users can visit: the operator describes the mine as step-free.
- Tours need at least three people; phone ahead and arrive 15 minutes early. In German.
- Dogs are not allowed underground, where it is around 10 °C all year.

ADMISSION

€9.00 (about \$10), children 3–14 €7.00, family €30.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

5 Apr–25 Oct 2026, Wed, Fri–Sun 1.30pm and 3pm

GETTING THERE

In the Höllental valley, 2 km north-east of Abterode



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany

91 Bindweide Mine

STEINEBACH/SIEG · ALTENKIRCHEN DISTRICT

Photo: Agricolax, CC0, Wikimedia Commons

800 m

BY MINE TRAIN

10 °C

ALL YEAR

5m

TONNES IRON ORE

1986

SHOW MINE

A mine train takes you about 800 metres into the mountain, then you walk 300 metres through old workings. Until 1931, at times over 800 miners brought out more than five million tonnes of iron ore here, mostly haematite. The Westerwald mine has been open to visitors since 1986.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Book ahead: without a reservation a seat on the mine train is not guaranteed.
- Children must be at least 4; the German-language tour lasts up to an hour and a half.
- Wear shoes that can get dirty and bring a warm jacket.

ADMISSION

€15.00 (about \$17), children 5–14 €8.00, family €30.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Apr–Oct Wed, Sat, Sun and holidays 1–4pm

GETTING THERE

Bindweider Straße 2, Steinebach/Sieg



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
Germany · Westerwald

More underground

Many smaller mines in Hesse and the Westerwald are kept open by volunteer clubs, often only on certain Sundays. Add tunnels and bunkers under the towns. Check dates first; some tours book up fast.

Tiefer Stollen Weilburg (show mine)

Not an old mine but a show mine beneath the Baroque palace chancellery. Along 200 metres stand working original machines, up to the winding engine.

WEILBURG
TUE-SUN, ALL YEAR

Grube Christiane (iron mine)

Iron ore from the Martenberg, recorded since 1273. Miners cut the 1,600-metre Bismarck tunnel by hand in 1870–1872; the last ore wagon came out in 1963.

DIEMELSE-ADORF
SPRING-OCT

Eisenberg gold mine

Some 1.2 tonnes of gold came out of this hill. You walk a medieval tunnel by miners' lamp only; book at least two days ahead.

KORBACH-GOLDHAUSEN
MID-APR-OCT

Besucherbergwerk Bertsch (copper mine)

Copper ore tunnels about 450 years old, open since 1974. Closed November to March for the bats, even for special tours.

BAD WILDUNGEN-
BERGFREIHEIT
APR-OCT, SAT/SUN

Schiefergrube Christine (slate mine)

Roofing slate, mined until 1971. After a short flight of stairs the circuit is level, which is unusual for a slate mine.

WILLINGEN (UPLAND)
ALL YEAR, BOOKING

Hausertorstollen (tunnel)

About a kilometre of early 19th-century tunnels, used in the war as an arms works and air-raid shelter. Unlit; helmets and lamps are provided.

WETZLAR
2ND SAT OF THE MONTH

Weinbergbunker (bunker)

An ice and beer cellar from 1825, an air-raid shelter for up to 10,000 people from 1942: 2.6 kilometres of tunnels in limestone. Few places; booking essential.

KASSEL
USUALLY 1ST MONDAY

More underground (continued)

Grube Ypsilanta (iron mine)

Drainage tunnel of an iron ore mine in the Schelderwald. In the dark, the club shows how miners worked by oil, carbide and safety lamp.

DILLENBURG-OBERSCHELD
APR-OCT, 1ST SUNDAY

Dachschiefergrube Assberg (slate mine)

Medieval slate mine whose slate roofs Hachenburg Palace. The chamber is open round the clock; the light switches on by itself as you go down.

LIMBACH (WESTERWALD)
ALL YEAR, FREE

Hüttenstollen Osterwald (coal mine)

Coal tunnel worked from 1842 to 1926. The rock holds petrified wood, shell beds and ripple marks; the museum above is free.

SALZHEMMENDORF-
OSTERWALD
APR-OCT, WED/SUN

Dunsthöhle (gas cave)

No dripstone, but gas: carbon dioxide pools on the floor as an invisible lake. Guides show it with experiments; Goethe saw it in 1801.

BAD PYRMONT
GUIDED TOURS ONLY

Kleinenbremen show mine

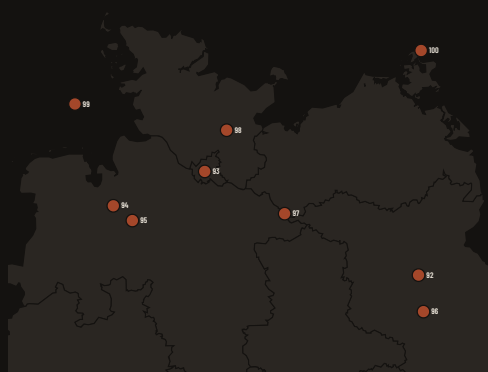
Former iron ore mine in the Weser Hills, entered by mine train as far as the underground lake "Blue Lagoon". Weekends only in winter.

PORTA WESTFALICA
MAR-OCT, 5 DAYS A WEEK

11

Berlin, Hamburg and the North

The north has hardly any caves, but plenty of bunkers. In flat country with a high water table, people rarely dug deep; most of what lies beneath Berlin, Hamburg and Bremen dates from the 20th century. Add a Renaissance fortress on the Elbe, tunnels in Heligoland's rock and a gypsum cave where over 30,000 bats sleep every winter.



- 92 Underground Berlin
- 93 Underground Hamburg
- 94 Bunker Valentin Memorial
- 95 Bremen Ratskeller
- 96 Wünsdorf Bunker Town
- 97 Dömitz Fortress
- 98 Segeberg Kalkberg Cave
- 99 Heligoland Bunker Tunnels
- 100 Cape Arkona Naval Command Bunker

Map: Boundaries: GeoBasis-DE / BKG, Data Licence Germany - Attribution - Version 2.0

92

BERLIN

Underground Berlin

Air-raid shelters in a U-Bahn station, a flak tower under rubble and an escape tunnel nine metres below the Wall.

90 min

PER TOUR

30 days

ONLINE PRE-SALE

10 °C

IN FLAK TOWER

75+

ESCAPE TUNNELS

Photo: GodeNehler, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

BERLIN · GESUNDBRUNNEN, KREUZBERG, TEMPELHOF

Berlin has no catacombs, but a dozen places beneath the city: air-raided shelters in Gesundbrunnen U-Bahn station, the blown-up flak tower in Humboldthain, a nuclear shelter for 3,000 people and escape tunnels under the Wall. Almost all of it is guided only.

WHAT SURVIVED THE EXPLOSIVES

After 1945 the Allies blew up most bunkers. The north side of the Humboldthain flak tower was left standing because the railway beside it could not be damaged; by 1950 the ruin had vanished under rubble.

The shelter in Gesundbrunnen station survived because blasting would have endangered the tunnel. The Berliner Unterwelten association rediscovered it in 1998.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Unterwelten tickets are sold online only, exactly 30 days ahead, never on site.
- Wear sturdy closed shoes: in sandals you are turned away without a refund.
- The flak tower is open only from May to October, and only to over-18s.
- All sold out? The Berlin Story Bunker is open daily, no booking needed.

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“Tickets are sold at the pavilion each morning”~~ – they are now sold only in the association’s online shop, nothing on site. ~~“The Berlin Story Bunker is Hitler’s bunker”~~ – it is a civilian railway bunker; nothing of the Führerbunker can be visited.

ADMISSION

Tours €18.00 (about \$21), reduced €13.00;
Story Bunker €18.00 (as of 10/2026)

GETTING THERE

Mostly along the U8; main start at Gesundbrunnen

OPENING HOURS

Tours by calendar; Story Bunker daily
10am–7pm

GOOD TO KNOW

Age 7+, flak tower 18+; no photography



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
/underground-berlin

NEARBY · Heinitztunnel, Rüdersdorf, 26 km · Wünsdorf Bunker Town, 37 km

93

HAMBURG



Underground Hamburg

A tiled tunnel under the Elbe, a bunker at the main station and a railway tunnel where time stood still.

426 m

OLD ELBE TUNNEL

1911

TUNNEL OPENED

2,702

SHELTER PLACES

12 °C

UNDERGROUND

Photo: Dietmar Rabich, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

HAMBURG · ST. PAULI, ALTONA, HAMM

The Green Bunker on Feldstraße is a viewpoint, not an underground site. To go below ground, take the Old Elbe Tunnel, under the river since 1911 and free, the deep shelter at the main station and the dis-used Schellfischunnel in Altona.

AIR WAR AND COLD WAR

An air-raid bunker was built at Steintorwall in 1941–1943. From the mid-1960s it was converted into a civil defence shelter with 2,702 places, handed over at the end of 1969.

What you see today dates from then: blast doors, filters, emergency power. Flak Tower IV on Feldstraße was built in 1942/43 by up to 2,400 forced labourers, who were not allowed inside.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Walk the Old Elbe Tunnel in the evening; by day it belongs mainly to cyclists.
- Bring a proper torch for the Schellfischunnel; a phone light is not enough.
- Book Hamburger Unterwelten tours early; the association keeps no waiting list.
- The Hamm Bunker Museum opens on Thursdays only, but with no booking, for €3.00.

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“Flak Tower IV was built in 300 days in 1942”~~ – according to Hildegarden e.V., from April 1942 to summer 1943. ~~“Only one tube of the Elbe tunnel is open”~~ – both tubes have been open again since 4 May 2026.

ADMISSION

Elbe tunnel free; deep shelter €12.00 (about \$14), reduced €10.00 (as of 10/2026)

GETTING THERE

Landungsbrücken (S1, S3, U3); Hauptbahnhof

OPENING HOURS

Elbe tunnel 24 hours; tours by calendar

GOOD TO KNOW

Unterwelten tours from age 12, not step-free



Current hours and prices
[underground-atlas.com](https://underground-atlas.com/underground-hamburg)
 /underground-hamburg

NEARBY · Segeberg Kalkberg Cave, 48 km · Dömitz Fortress, 95 km

94 Bunker Valentin Memorial

BREMEN-FARGE · CITY OF BREMEN

Photo: Olga Ernst, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

1943–45

CONSTRUCTION

419 m

LONG

1,700

DEAD, NAMED

2015

MEMORIAL OPENED

From 1943 to 1945 a shipyard was to rise here on the Weser, where U-boats would be assembled in sections. The 419-metre concrete hall was built by up to 12,000 forced labourers, concentration camp prisoners and prisoners of war. It was never finished. Trail and tours stay above ground.

PLACE OF REMEMBRANCE

At least 1,700 people whose names are known died during construction; estimates are far higher. The site remembers the forced labourers, concentration camp prisoners and prisoners of war who were made to toil here.

VISITING

- Public tours in German, Sun 11am and 1.30pm, about 90 min; book online beforehand.
- The 1.5-kilometre trail with 26 stations runs outdoors; a free app adds audio.
- Open Tue–Fri and Sun, closed on public holidays; the site is largely step-free.

ADMISSION

Free; tour €7.00 (about \$8), reduced €3.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Tue–Fri, Sun 10am–5pm, Oct–Mar until 4pm

GETTING THERE

Regio-S-Bahn to Farge, bus 90 to Rekumer Siel



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany

95

Bremen Ratskeller

BREMEN · CITY OF BREMEN

Photo: Photochrom Print Collection, Public domain, Wikimedia Commons

1405

WINE CELLAR SINCE

1653

OLDEST CASK WINE

650

GERMAN WINES

60 min

KELLER KIEKEN

Wine has been stored since 1405 beneath the Town Hall on the market square, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The vaults hold the Apostle, Bacchus and Rose cellars, where a 1653 Rüdesheimer rests – Germany's oldest cask wine. You get in only on a booked cellar tour.

BEFORE YOU GO

- “Keller Kieken” (“cellar peek”) is the shortest tour; the pricier ones are mainly tastings.
- Ages 16 and over only; dogs are not allowed in the cellar.
- Book ahead, especially at weekends and in Advent; tickets are not refunded.

ADMISSION

“Keller Kieken” €15.00 (about \$17) with a glass of Secco (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Year-round, several tours a day

GETTING THERE

Meet at Schoppensteel 1, behind the Town Hall



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany

96

Wünsdorf Bunker Town

ZOSSEN-WÜNSDORF · TELTOW-FLÄMING DISTRICT

Photo: Renato Pietsch, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

1937

BUILDING BEGAN

10 °C

IN THE BUNKER

90 min

TOUR 1

1994

SOVIETS LEFT

From 1937 the Army High Command headquarters rose in the pine forest, disguised above ground as a housing estate, with the “Zeppelin” signals bunker below. After 1945 it housed the Soviet forces’ high command until 1994. The tour goes into Zeppelin and to the remains of Maybach I.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Even for the standard tour, register by phone in advance.
- It is 10 °C below all year; bring a jacket and sturdy, closed shoes.
- Take the train to Zossen or Wünsdorf-Waldstadt; bus links are being reorganised.

ADMISSION

€14.00 (about \$16), reductions for students and families (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Tour 1: Tue–Fri 2pm, Sat/Sun several times a day

GETTING THERE

Meeting point Zehrendorfer Straße 12, car park



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany

97 Dömitz Fortress

DÖMITZ · LUDWIGSLUST-PARCHIM DISTRICT

Photo: Holger.Ellgaard, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

1559

BUILDING BEGAN

1565

COMPLETED

5

BASTIONS

9 m

MAX. WALL HEIGHT

A five-sided Renaissance citadel on the banks of the Elbe, built in 1559–1565 to plans by Francesco a Bornau. Each of the five bastions has casemates, vaulted rooms inside the rampart. In the Greif bastion, the Elbe Biosphere Reserve shows the exhibition “Im Grunde”.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Entry to the fortress grounds is free; you pay only for the exhibitions.
- To see the casemates, book a guided tour: 60 minutes, for groups only.
- Closed Mondays and Tuesdays; in winter the exhibitions open on weekdays at noon.

ADMISSION

€5.50 (about \$6), children 4–16 €2.50, family €12.50 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Wed–Sun 11am–3pm, Oct–Apr Wed–Fri 12–3pm

GETTING THERE

Free parking at the Zingel; Dannenberg station 15 km

WHAT OTHERS GET WRONG

~~“Writer Fritz Reuter was held here 1838–1840”~~ – he was brought in on 20 June 1839 and released on 25 August 1840.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany

98

Segeberg Kalkberg Cave

BAD SEGERBERG · SEGERBERG DISTRICT

Photo: Holger.Ellgaard, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

2,260 m

CAVE LENGTH

300 m

TOUR ROUTE

10 °C

ALL YEAR

30,000

BATS

The cave lies right in town beneath the Kalkberg hill, and despite the name (“lime hill”) it is gypsum. Quarrymen hit it in 1913. At 2,260 metres it is considered Germany’s longest gypsum cave; the tour covers about 300 metres, the rest is left to the bats.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Tours run only from 1 April to 30 September; closed on Mondays.
- Get tickets online in advance; visitor numbers are limited.
- Wear sturdy shoes: the paths are uneven and not always dry.

ADMISSION

€12.00 (about \$14), children 4–14 €10.00, reduced €11.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

1 April–30 September, Tue–Sun 10am–5pm

GETTING THERE

In the town centre; entrance via the Noctalis bat centre



WHO LIVES HERE

More than 30,000 bats of seven species hibernate here, including over 500 Bechstein's bats. Since 1991, light barriers at the entrances have counted every animal. That is why the cave stays closed from October to March.



Current hours and prices

underground-atlas.com
Germany

99

Heligoland Bunker Tunnels

HELGOLAND · PINNEBERG DISTRICT

Photo: -jkb-, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

200 m

EXHIBITION ROUTE

14 km

TUNNELS BY 1945

2022

OPENED

1947

"BIG BANG"

By the end of the war almost 14 kilometres of tunnels had been driven into the red rock. A 200-metre stretch beside the lift to the Oberland was made safe in December 2022 and tells Heligoland's 20th century: fortress building, forced labour, bombing, evacuation and return.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Children under 10 get in free with an adult.
- For the original civil defence bunker on the Oberland, book a tour with the museum.
- In winter, check opening times with Museum Heligoland before you go.

ADMISSION

€7.00 (about \$8) from age 14, children 10–13 €4.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Daily 9am–7pm

GETTING THERE

Lung Wai 214, right by the lift up to the Oberland

**Current hours and prices**

underground-atlas.com
Germany

ARKONA BUNKER

100

Cape Arkona Naval Command Bunker

PUTGARTEN · VORPOMMERN-RÜGEN DISTRICT

Photo: Dietmar Rabich, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

1979

BUILDING BEGAN

2,000

M² OF BUNKER

12

BUNKER UNITS

1990

DECOMMISSIONED

From 1979 to 1986 the East German Navy built a command post for its 6th Flotilla on Rügen's northern tip: three large and nine small prefabricated bunkers on one main corridor, about 2,000 square metres in all. It was manned only for exercises and shut on 3 October 1990.

BEFORE YOU GO

- The ticket machine at the entrance takes cards only; the tourist office also sells tickets.
- From Putgarten car park it is 1.5–2 km, on foot or by the Kap-Arkona-Bahn road train.
- Last entry is at 3pm; you can also listen to the audio guide online.

ADMISSION

€8.00 (about \$9), children €4.00, family €20.00 (as of 10/2026)

OPENING HOURS

Daily 10am–3pm, exit by 4pm

GETTING THERE

Putgarten car park, then on foot or by road train



Current hours and prices
underground-atlas.com
Germany

More underground

Many bunkers in the north open only on set dates and sell out fast. These places are worth it if you plan ahead; current dates and prices are on underground-atlas.com.

Harnekop nuclear bunker

Main command post of the East German defence ministry; three levels, over 7,500 square metres, up to 30 metres deep. Tickets often go weeks ahead.

PRÖTZEL
TUE/SAT, ONLINE ONLY

Bunkermuseum Fuchsbau

A 1943 Wehrmacht signals bunker and an East German air force command post in one. The tour takes about two and a half hours; closed in January.

BAD SAAROW
SAT 10AM, BOOKING

Garzau nuclear bunker

17 metres deep: a secret East German army data centre, built 1972–1975. Computers and generators have stood largely unchanged since 1993.

GARZAU-GARZIN
1ST SAT OF THE MONTH

Ladeburg bunker

Command post of an East German air defence missile brigade, built 1982–1986, over 60 rooms. Admission goes as a donation to the animal shelter on site.

BERNAU BEI BERLIN
ABOUT 2 DATES A MONTH

Gosen bunker

Emergency command post of East Germany's foreign intelligence service, handed over in 1984 in a gravel pit by the Seddinsee. Lots of stairs, no toilets.

GOSEN-NEU ZITTAU
6 DAYS A YEAR

Heinitztunnel

Old drainage and haulage tunnel system beneath the open-cast limestone quarry. The tour is included in the museum park ticket; booking needed.

RÜDERSDORF BEI BERLIN
SUMMER, 1ST SUN/MONTH

Tiefbunker Berliner Tor (deep shelter)

Round bunker from 1940, three storeys fully underground. About 800 people survived here on the night of the 1943 firestorm.

HAMBURG
OCCASIONAL DATES

More underground (continued)

Flandernbunker – Kilian Memorial

Naval bunker from 1943/44, left as a shell, above ground. A steel stair leads through the almost four-metre-thick roof to a platform over the fjord.

KIEL
DAILY 10AM-5PM

Rendsburg pedestrian tunnel

A 130-metre tube 27 metres below the water level of the Kiel Canal. You go down on escalators almost 56 metres long.

RENSBURG
ANY TIME, FREE

Oberland civil defence bunker

Shelter cut into the rock in 1940/41, where the islanders sat out the air raids. Only on a tour booked with the museum.

HELGOLAND
MAR-OCT, GUIDED

Bunker 302 Eichenthal

Camouflaged Warsaw Pact troposcatter radio station, shut down in 1990 after only five months in service. The underground part is guided only.

LINDHOLZ
GOOD FRIDAY-OCT

Places by occasion

BY MINE TRAIN OR BOAT

Rabensteiner Stollen 26 · Tiefer Stollen Mine 100 · Finstergrund Mine 108 · Ramsbeck Mine 122 · Fortuna Mine 151 · Bindweide Mine 154

You ride in on rails or over water – often the highlight for children.

WITH A WHEELCHAIR

Einhornhöhle (Unicorn Cave) 18 · Heimkehle 24 · Dresden Fortress 37 · Altenstein Cave 52 · Morassina Show Mine 56 · König-Otto-Tropfsteinhöhle 71 · Hohle Fels 95 · Eberstadter Tropfsteinhöhle 104 · Bad Friedrichshall Salt Mine 110 · Steinkaulenberg Gem Mines 139 · Mendig Lava Cellars 141 · Gustav Mine 153

Fully or largely accessible according to the operator. Phone ahead: often this applies to part of the route only.

WITH A PUSHCHAIR

Einhornhöhle (Unicorn Cave) 18 · Altenstein Cave 52 · Eberstadter Tropfsteinhöhle 104

No stairs, or a lift. At every other place, leave the pushchair in the car.

WITH A DOG

Regenstein Castle 25 · Teufelshöhle (Devil's Cave) 62 · Binghöhle 66 · Schulerloch 70 · König-Otto-Tropfsteinhöhle 71 · Fuggerei WWII Bunker 84 · Bilsteinhöhle 119 · Kakushöhle 126 · Steinkaulenberg Gem Mines 139 · Schlossberg Caves 142

Dogs are explicitly allowed, usually on a short lead.

WHERE BATS LIVE

Einhornhöhle (Unicorn Cave) 18 · Baumannshöhle 20 · Hermannshöhle 21 · Heimkehle 24 · Altenstein Cave 52 · Kittelsthal Dripstone Cave 53 · Teufelshöhle (Devil's Cave) 62 · Schulerloch 70 · Silberberg Mine 72 · Sturmannshöhle 81 · Nebelhöhle 88 · Charlottenhöhle 92 · Karlshöhle and Bärenhöhle 94 · Hohle Fels 95 · Schertelshöhle 97 · Sontheimer Höhle 98 · Atta Cave 114 · Kakushöhle 126 · Mendig Lava Cellars 141 · Teufelshöhle 150 · Segeberg Kalkberg Cave 166

Confirmed roosts. These places often close in winter – please check the dates.

PLACES OF REMEMBRANCE

Mittelbau-Dora Concentration Camp Memorial 27 · Obersalzberg Documentation Centre 83 · Bunker Valentin Memorial 162

Memorials to Nazi crimes underground and above.

1

Rammelsberg Mine

GOSLAR

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

2

Barbarossa CaveKYFFHÄUSERLAND-
ROTTLEBEN.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

3

**Einhornhöhle
(Unicorn Cave)**

HERZBERG-SCHARZFELD

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

4

BaumannshöhleOBERHARZ AM BROCKEN-
RÜBELAND.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

5

HermannshöhleOBERHARZ AM BROCKEN-
RÜBELAND.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

6

**Iberg Dripstone
Cave**

BAD GRUND (HARZ)

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

7

Samson Pit

SANKT ANDREASBERG

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

8

Heimkehle

SÜDHARZ-UFTRUNGEN

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

9

Regenstein Castle

BLANKENBURG (HARZ)

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

10

**Rabensteiner
Stollen**

HARZTOR-NETZKATER

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

11

**Mittelbau-Dora
Concentration
Camp Memorial**
NORDHAUSEN

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP



12

**Königstein
Fortress**

KÖNIGSTEIN

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP



13

Syrau Dragon Cave
ROSENBACH/VOGTL.-SYRAU

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP



14

Marie Louise Stolln

BAD GOTTLIEB-
BERG GIESSHÜBEL

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP



15

Dresden Fortress

DRESDEN

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP



16

**Freiberg Silver
Mine**

FREIBERG

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP



17

**Markus Semmler
Visitor Mine**

AUE-BAD SCHLEMA

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP



18

**Herkules-Frisch-
Glück Show Mine**

GRÜNHAIN-BEIERFELD-
WASCHLEITHE

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP



19

KohleWelt Oelsnitz
OELSNTZ/ERZGEB.

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP



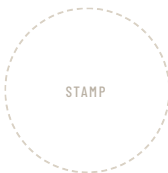
20

**Prinzenhöhle
(Prince's Cave)**

HARTENSTEIN

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP



21

Saalfeld Fairy Grottoes

SAALFELD/SAALE

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

22

Merkers Adventure Mine

KRAYENBERGEMEINDE-MERKERS

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

23

Marienglashöhle

FRIEDRICHRODA

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

24

Frauenwald Bunker Museum

ILMENAU-FRAUENWALD

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

25

Altenstein Cave

BAD LIEBENSTEIN-SCHWEINA

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

26

Kittelsthal Dripstone Cave

RUHLA-KITTELSTHAL

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

27

Goetz Cave

MEININGEN

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

28

Underground Erfurt

ERFURT

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

29

Morassina Show Mine

SAALFELD-SCHMIEDEFELD

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

30

Parkhöhle Weimar

WEIMAR

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

31

**Teufelshöhle
(Devil's Cave)**

POTTENSTEIN

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

32

**Underground
Nuremberg**

NUREMBERG

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

33

Binghöhle

WIESENTAL-STREITBERG

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

34

Sophienhöhle

AHORTAL-RABENSTEIN

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

35

MaximiliansgrotteNEUHAUS AN DER PEGNITZ-
KROTTENSEE.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

36

Oswaldhöhle

WIESENTAL-MUGGENDORF

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

37

Schulerloch

ESSING

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

38

**König-Otto-
Tropfsteinhöhle**

VELBURG-ST. COLOMANN

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

39

Silberberg Mine

BODENMAIS

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

40

**document
Neupfarrplatz**

REGENSBURG

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

41

Berchtesgaden Salt Mine

BERCHTESGADEN

VISITED ON

STAMP

42

Alte Saline (Old Saltworks)

BAD REICHENHALL

VISITED ON

STAMP

43

Sturmannshöhle

OBERMAISELSTEIN

VISITED ON

STAMP

44

Wendelsteinhöhle

BRANNENBURG

VISITED ON

STAMP

45

Obersalzberg Documentation Centre

BERCHTESGADEN

VISITED ON

STAMP

46

Fuggerei WWII Bunker

AUGSBURG

VISITED ON

STAMP

47

Nebelhöhle

SONNENBÜHL-GENKINGEN

VISITED ON

STAMP

48

Wimsener Höhle

HAYINGEN-WIMSEN

VISITED ON

STAMP

49

Charlottenhöhle

GIENGEN-HÜRZEN

VISITED ON

STAMP

50

Karlshöhle and Bärenhöhle

SONNENBÜHL-ERPFFINGEN

VISITED ON

STAMP

51

Hohle Fels

SCHELKLINGEN

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

52

**Laichinger
Tiefenhöhle**

LAICHINGEN

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

53

Schertelshöhle

WESTERHEIM

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

54

Sonthheimer Höhle

HEROLDSTATT-SONTHEIM

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

55

Olgahöhle

LICHTENSTEIN-HONAU

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

56

Tiefer Stollen Mine

AALEN-WASSERALFINGEN

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

57

**Eberstadter
Tropfsteinhöhle**

BUCHEN-EBERSTADT

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

58

Erdmannshöhle

HASEL

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

59

Schauinsland Mine

OBERRIED

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

60

Grube Wenzel

OBERWOLFACH

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

61

Finstergrund Mine

WIEDEN

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

62

**Haigerloch Atomic
Cellar**

HAIGERLOCH

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

63

**Bad Friedrichshall
Salt Mine**BAD FRIEDRICHSHALL-
KOCHENDORF.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

64

Atta Cave

ATTENDORN

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

65

Dechen Cave

ISERLOHN

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

66

Kluterthöhle

ENNEPETAL

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

67

Bilsteinhöhle

WARSTEIN

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

68

Heinrichshöhle

HEMER

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

69

**Wiehler
Tropfsteinhöhle**

WIEHL

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

70

Ramsbeck Mine

BESTWIG-RAMSBECK

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

71

Zeche Nachtigall

WITTEN

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

72

**German Mining
Museum Show
Mine**

BOCHUM

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

73

**Zeittunnel
Wülfrath**

WÜLFRA TH

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

74

Kakushöhle

MECHERNICH

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

75

**Cologne Cathedral
Excavations**

COLOGNE

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

76

**Kaiserthermen
(Imperial Baths),
Trier**

TRIER

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

77

**Bundesbank
Bunker, Cochem**

COCHEM-COND

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

78

**Government
Bunker, Ahrweiler**

BAD NEUENAH-RHRWEILER

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

79

**Trier
Amphitheatre**

TRIER

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

80

**Steinkaulenberg
Gem Mines**

IDAR-OB ERSTEIN

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

81

Meurin Roman Mine

KRETZ

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

82

Mendig Lava Cellars

MENDIG

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

83

Schlossberg Caves

HOMBURG

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

84

Fell Slate Mine

FELL

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

85

Kubach Crystal Cave

WEILBURG-KUBACH

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

86

Herbstlabyrinth

BREITSCHIED

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

87

Teufelshöhle

STEINAU AN DER STRASSE

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

88

Fortuna Mine

SOLMS-OBBERTEL

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

89

Schillat Cave

HESSISCH OLDENDORF

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

90

Gustav Mine

MEISSNER-ABTERODE

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

91

Bindweide Mine

STEINEBACH/SIEG

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

92

**Underground
Berlin**

BERLIN

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

93

**Underground
Hamburg**

HAMBURG

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

94

**Bunker Valentin
Memorial**

BREMEN-FARGE

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

95

Bremen Ratskeller

BREMEN

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

96

**Wünsdorf Bunker
Town**

ZOSSEN-WÜNSDORF

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

97

Dömitz Fortress

DÖMITZ

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

98

**Segeberg Kalkberg
Cave**

BAD SEGEBERG

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

99

**Heligoland Bunker
Tunnels**

HELGOLAND

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

100

**Cape Arkona Naval
Command Bunker**

PUTGARTEN

.....
VISITED ON

STAMP

Index

19-Lachter-Stollen (adit)	28	Eisenberg gold mine	155
Aggertalhöhle	128	Emilianus-Stollen	145
Alaunbergwerk "Ewiges Leben" (alum mine)	44	Erdmannshöhle	105
Alte Hoffnung Erbstolln (adit)	43	Erlebnisbergwerk Glückauf (potash mine)	29
Alte Saline (Old Saltworks)	80	Esperhöhle cave ruin	74
Altenstein Cave	52	Fell Slate Mine	143
Atta Cave	114	Felsendome Rabenstein (lime mine)	43
B-Werk Besseringen	145	Felsengänge (rock tunnels) under the Klinikum	74
Bad Friedrichshall Salt Mine	110	Felsenkeller-Labyrinth (rock cellars)	74
Balver Höhle	128	Finstergrund Mine	108
Barbarossa Cave	16	Flandernbunker – Kilian Memorial	170
Baumannshöhle	20	Fortuna Mine	151
Berchtesgaden Salt Mine	78	Frauenwald Bunker Museum	51
Besucherbergwerk Bertsch (copper mine)	155	Freiberg Silver Mine	38
Besucherbergwerk Finstertal (visitor mine)	58	Friedrich-Wilhelm-Stollen (tunnel)	75
Besucherbergwerk Kamsdorf (visitor mine)	58	Frischglück Mine	111
Besucherbergwerk "Hühn" (visitor mine)	58	Fuggerei WWII Bunker	84
Bilsteinhöhle	119	Fürstenzeche show mine	75
Bindweide Mine	154	Gabe Gottes silver tunnel	102
Binghöhle	66	Garzau nuclear bunker	169
Bremen Ratskeller	163	German Mining Museum Show Mine	124
Bundesbank Bunker, Cochem	134	Gleißinger Fels show mine	75
Bunker 302 Eichenthal	170	Goetz Cave	54
Bunker Valentin Memorial	162	Goldkronach show mines	75
Bunkermuseum Fuchsbau	169	Gosen bunker	169
Burg Altena tunnel	128	Government Bunker, Ahrweiler	136
Cape Arkona Naval Command Bunker	168	Graf Wittekind Mine	129
Charlottenhöhle	92	Grenzturm und Führungsbunker (border tower and bunker)	59
Cologne Cathedral Excavations	127	Grube Anna-Elisabeth	112
Dachschiefergrube Assberg (slate mine)	156	Grube Bendisberg	144
Dechen Cave	116	Grube Catharina Neufang (mine)	28
Deutsches Schieferbergwerk	144	Grube Christiane (iron mine)	155
document Neupfarrplatz	73	Grube Glasebach (mine)	29
Dömitz Fortress	165	Grube Tannenberg (tin mine)	44
Dorothea-Stolln (adit)	43	Grube Wenzel	107
Dresden Fortress	37	Grube Ypsilanta (iron mine)	156
Dunsthöhle (gas cave)	156	Grünten ore mines	85
Eberstadter Tropfsteinhöhle	104	Gustav Mine	153
Einhornhöhle (Unicorn Cave)	18	Gutenberger Höhle	101

Haigerloch Atomic Cellar	109	Märchen- und Sandsteinhöhle (sand mine)	58
Harnekop nuclear bunker	169	Marie Louise Stolln	36
Hausertorstollen (tunnel)	155	Marienglashöhle	50
Heilige Drei Könige Mine	111	Markus Semmler Visitor Mine	39
Heimkehle	24	Markus-Röhling-Stolln (adit)	43
Heinitztunnel	169	Maximiliansgrotte	68
Heinrichshöhle	120	Mendig Lava Cellars	141
Heligoland Bunker Tunnels	167	Merkers Adventure Mine	48
Hella-Glück-Stollen	111	Meurin Roman Mine	140
Herbstlabyrinth	149	Mittelbau-Dora Concentration Camp Memorial	27
Herkules-Frisch-Glück Show Mine	40	Molchner Stolln (silver adit)	43
Hermannshöhle	21	Morassina Show Mine	56
Himmlich Heer Silver Mine	112	Mühlenberger Stollen	144
Historic copper mine	144	Museum im Stasi-Bunker (bunker)	44
Hoffnungsstollen Mine	111	Museumshöhler Gera (cellars)	58
Hohenzollern Castle casemates	101	Nebelhöhle	88
Hohle Fels	95	Nordenau healing tunnel	128
Hüttenstollen Osterwald (coal mine)	156	Oberharzer Bergwerksmuseum (mining museum)	28
Iberg Driptide Cave	22	Oberland civil defence bunker	170
Jux whetstone tunnel	101	Obersalzberg Documentation Centre	83
Kaiserthermen (Imperial Baths), Trier	132	Olgahöhle	99
Kakushöhle	126	Osterhöhle	74
Karlshöhle and Bärenhöhle	94	Oswaldhöhle	69
Karsthöhle Dienstedt (karst cave)	59	Ottilienberg air-raid tunnel	101
Kehlsteinhaus (Eagle's Nest): tunnel and lift	85	Panzerwerk Katzenkopf	144
Kittelsthal Driptide Cave	53	Parkhöhle Weimar	57
Kleinenbremen show mine	156	Peißenberg mining museum	85
Kluterthöhle	118	Penzberg mining museum	85
KohleWelt Oelsnitz	41	Philippstollen	128
Kolbinger Höhle	101	Prinzenhöhle (Prince's Cave)	42
König-Otto-Tropfsteinhöhle	71	Pützlöcher Roman copper mine	144
Königstein Fortress	32	Rabensteiner Stollen	26
Kronleuchtersaal	129	Rammelsberg Mine	14
Kropfmühl graphite mine	75	Ramsbeck Mine	122
Kubach Crystal Cave	148	Regenstein Castle	25
Ladeburg bunker	169	Rendsburg pedestrian tunnel	170
Laichinger Tiefenhöhle	96	Riesenburg cave ruin	74
Lehrbergwerk Grube Roter Bär (training mine)	28	Röhrigschacht Wettelrode (mine shaft)	29
Linkenboldshöhle	101	Saalfeld Fairy Grottoes	46

Salzheilstollen (salt therapy tunnel)	85
Samson Pit	23
Schachtanlage Knesebeck (mine shaft)	28
Schaubergwerk Am Aschenberg (show mine)	58
Schaubergwerk Büchenberg (show mine)	29
Schaubergwerk "Volle Rose" (show mine)	58
Schauinsland Mine	106
Schellenberger Eishöhle (ice cave)	85
Scherbelberg bunker	85
Schertelshöhle	97
Schiefergrube Christine (slate mine)	155
Schillat Cave	152
Schlossberg Caves	142
Schmittenstollen	145
Schulerloch	70
Segeberg Kalkberg Cave	166
Segen Gottes Mine	111
Silberberg Mine	72
Silberbergwerk "Im Gößner" (silver mine)	43
Silbergrube Lautenthals Glück (silver mine)	28
Silbergründle Mine	112
Sontheimer Höhle	98
Sophienhöhle	67
Steinernes Haus cave	101
Steinkaulenberg Gem Mines	139
Steinkirche (cave church)	28
Stephansberg tunnels	74
Stock & Scherenberger Erbstollen	128
Sturmannshöhle	81
Suggental Silver Mine	111

Syrau Dragon Cave	34
Teufelsgrund Mine	111
Teufelshöhle	150
Teufelshöhle (Devil's Cave)	62
Tiefbunker Berliner Tor (deep shelter)	169
Tiefer Stollen Mine	100
Tiefer Stollen Weilburg (show mine)	155
Trier Amphitheatre	138
Tschamberhöhle	112
Ubiermonument	129
Underground Berlin	158
Underground Erfurt	55
Underground Hamburg	160
Underground Nuremberg	64
Unterirdische Burg	145
Veledahöhle	128
Velsen Mine	145
Vereinigte Hospitien wine cellar	144
Volkmarkskeller (cave)	29
Weinbergbunker (bunker)	155
Weingut II memorial site	86
Wendelsteinhöhle	82
Wiehler Tropfsteinhöhle	121
Wimsener Höhle	90
Witzenhöhle	74
Wünsdorf Bunker Town	164
Zeche Nachtigall	123
Zeittunnel Wülfrath	125
Zinngrube Ehrenfriedersdorf (tin mine)	44
Zinnkammern Pöhla (tin mine)	43
Zinselhöhle (stream cave)	59

Picture credits

- p. 14** · Rammelsberg Mine: Barnos, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 16** · Barbarossa Cave: Denkmalfotograf, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 18** · Einhornhöhle (Unicorn Cave): Roman Klementschtz, Wien, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 20** · Baumannshöhle: Josua Belak, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 21** · Hermannshöhle: Goldmull, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 22** · Iberg Driptide Cave: Siegbert Brey, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 23** · Samson Pit: Llez, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 24** · Heimkehle: Raik Schröter, Berga, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 25** · Regenstein Castle: Florian Hoffmann, GFDL, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 26** · Rabensteiner Stollen: Markscheider, CC BY 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 27** · Mittelbau-Dora Concentration Camp Memorial: NiSaTi, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 32** · Königstein Fortress: Lukas Beck, CC BY 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 34** · Syrau Dragon Cave: Aagnverglaser, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 36** · Marie Louise Stolln: Singlespeedfahrer, CC0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 37** · Dresden Fortress: Z thomas, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 38** · Freiberg Silver Mine: SchillerSteffen, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 39** · Markus Semmler Visitor Mine: Privoksalnaja, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 40** · Herkules-Frisch-Glück Show Mine: Aagnverglaser, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 41** · KohleWelt Oelsnitz: Kora27, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 42** · Prinzenhöhle (Prince's Cave): Aagnverglaser, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 46** · Saalfeld Fairy Grottoes: Sebastian Wallroth, CC BY 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 48** · Merkers Adventure Mine: indeedous, Attribution, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 50** · Marienglashöhle: Giorno2, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 51** · Frauenwald Bunker Museum: Bezirk Suhl, CC0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 52** · Altenstein Cave: EACC80, CC BY 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 53** · Kittelsthal Driptide Cave: Topfkla0, Public domain, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 54** · Goetz Cave: ErwinMeier, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 55** · Underground Erfurt: CTHOE, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 56** · Morassina Show Mine: R. L. 68, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 57** · Parkhöhle Weimar: Geolina163, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 62** · Teufelshöhle (Devil's Cave): Ermell, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 64** · Underground Nuremberg: Z thomas, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 66** · Binghöhle: Schubbay, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 67** · Sophienhöhle: Holger Uwe Schmitt, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 68** · Maximiliansgrotte: Benreis, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 69** · Oswaldhöhle: Ermell, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 70** · Schulerloch: Teresa Hurzlmeier, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 71** · König-Otto-Tropfsteinhöhle: Rainer Lippert, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 72** · Silberberg Mine: High Contrast, CC BY 3.0 de, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 73** · document Neupfarrplatz: Nylki, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 78** · Berchtesgaden Salt Mine: Raimond Spekking, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 80** · Alte Saline (Old Saltworks): papa1234, CC BY 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 81** · Sturmannshöhle: Hilarimont (Kempten), CC BY-SA 3.0 de, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 82** · Wendelsteinhöhle: Wikitarisch, CC BY 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

-
- p. 83** · Obersalzberg Documentation Centre: Anil Öztas, CC BY 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 84** · Fuggerei WWII Bunker: Edelmauswaldgeist, CC0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 88** · Nebelhöhle: RainerHalama, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 90** · Wimsener Höhle: Schilling Thomas, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 92** · Charlottenhöhle: Holger Uwe Schmitt, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 94** · Karlshöhle and Bärenhöhle: NearEMPTiness, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 95** · Hohle Fels: indeedous, Attribution, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 96** · Laichinger Tiefenhöhle: ThoBel-0043, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 97** · Schertelshöhle: Dr. Eugen Lehle, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 98** · Sontheimer Höhle: Thomasxb, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 99** · Olgahöhle: Zybukin, CC BY 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 100** · Tiefer Stollen Mine: Holger Uwe Schmitt, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 104** · Eberstadter Tropfsteinhöhle: Boa99 (Bastian Angerstein), CC BY-SA 2.0 de, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 105** · Erdmannshöhle: Harald Ziegler, CC BY 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 106** · Schauinsland Mine: joergens.mi, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 107** · Grube Wenzel: Dr. Bernd Gross, CC BY-SA 3.0 de, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 108** · Finstergrund Mine: Steffen 962, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 109** · Haigerloch Atomic Cellar: Felix König, CC BY 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 110** · Bad Friedrichshall Salt Mine: Daniela Pflug, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 114** · Atta Cave: Rainer Lippert, Public domain, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 116** · Dechen Cave: No machine-readable author provided. Flux Garden~commonswiki, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 118** · Kluterthöhle: Arnoldius, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 119** · Bilsteinhöhle: Friedhelm Dröge, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 120** · Heinrichshöhle: Heinz-Werner Weber, CC BY-SA 2.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 121** · Wiehler Tropfsteinhöhle: Toksave, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 122** · Ramsbeck Mine: Beckers99, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 123** · Zeche Nachtigall: Sebastian Wallroth, Attribution, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 124** · German Mining Museum Show Mine: DerHexer, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 125** · Zeittunnel Wülfrath: Dat doris, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 126** · Kakushöhle: Thomas Hummel, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 127** · Cologne Cathedral Excavations: Friedhelm Dröge, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 132** · Kaiserthermen (Imperial Baths), Trier: Virtual-Pano, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 134** · Bundesbank Bunker, Cochem: Holger Weinandt, CC BY-SA 3.0 de, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 136** · Government Bunker, Ahrweiler: Leuni, CC BY 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 138** · Trier Amphitheatre: Flocci Nivis, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 139** · Steinkaulenberg Gem Mines: Nuckmann, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 140** · Meurin Roman Mine: Holger Weinandt, CC BY-SA 3.0 de, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 141** · Mendig Lava Cellars: Elke Wetzig, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 142** · Schlossberg Caves: Flocci Nivis, CC BY 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 143** · Fell Slate Mine: Bergaufsepp, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 148** · Kubach Crystal Cave: No machine-readable author provided. Pismire~commonswiki ass, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 149** · Herbstlabyrinth: Zeitsprünge, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 150** · Teufelshöhle: Ermell, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
 - p. 151** · Fortuna Mine: Peckolinos, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
-

-
- p. 152** · Schillat Cave: User:Gerhard Elsner, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 153** · Gustav Mine: Baummapper, CC BY-SA 3.0 de, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 154** · Bindweide Mine: Agricolax, CC0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 158** · Underground Berlin: GodeNehler, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 160** · Underground Hamburg: Dietmar Rabich, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 162** · Bunker Valentin Memorial: Olga Ernst, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 163** · Bremen Ratskeller: Photochrom Print Collection, Public domain, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 164** · Wünsdorf Bunker Town: Renato Pietsch, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 165** · Dömitz Fortress: Holger.Ellgaard, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 166** · Segeberg Kalkberg Cave: Holger.Ellgaard, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 167** · Heligoland Bunker Tunnels: -jkb-, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons
- p. 168** · Cape Arkona Naval Command Bunker: Dietmar Rabich, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

Licences: CC BY and CC BY-SA, versions 2.0 to 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses), CC0 and public-domain works. Every credit links to the image page with the full licence. All photos were cropped and brightened; adapted CC BY-SA images are shared under the same licence.

Maps: Boundaries: GeoBasis-DE / BKG, Data Licence Germany – Attribution – Version 2.0

About this book

Underground Atlas is an independent guide to the places beneath the ground you can visit: caves, mines, bunkers, catacombs. For Germany it lists more than 300 places with a map, prices and filters, plus detailed pages on the major sites across Europe.

This book is free to download there, as is the travel guide “Underground Cities of Europe”. If you find a mistake or miss a place, please write via the website. Every correction goes into the next edition.



Download free and pass it on

underground-atlas.com/book/