



Active Tour – Bike knights conquer Elbe fortifications

From the Renaissance and fortress city Torgau to the Prussian great fortress Magdeburg

Section: Torgau to Magdeburg (140 km)



European Cultural Route
Fortified Monuments

Fortified Castle Hartensfels
© TIC Torgau
Wolfgang Sens



www.forte-cultura.eu



Our Travel Recommendation

Pearl necklace fortified monuments

One of the most beautiful bicycle tracks of Central Europe leads through the mostly untouched river landscape of the UNESCO Biosphere reserve middle Elbe. From the Giant Mountains to the Wadden Sea, the Elbe follows historical cultural monuments.

Among them are some of the most significant fortress buildings, which are often underrated. Especially their cultural experience value and their information offers are underestimated.

After the Renaissance the Prussians and Saxons as well as Napoleon left behind several types of fortifications, which they built to protect each other from another along the important waterway.

Diversity „Elbe fortifications“

In the middle reaches of the Elbe the Renaissance and **fortified city Torgau** belongs to the most developed fortified cities in Middle Germany with well-preserved fortress architecture.

The church where which Martin Luther proclaimed his 95 theses to reform the christian church is situated in the **Luther city of Wittenberg**. Together with the **fortified castle Wittenberg**, the sacral building belongs today to the UNESCO World Heritage. After the river Elbe comes together with the river Mulde and Saale, it reaches the **Prussian greater fortress Magdeburg**. It is one of the strongest of its time, which has still many well-preserved relicts which can be seen in the cityscape.

Discover the Elbe fortifications full of life, culture, entertainment and interesting stories!



Fortified castle church Luther city of Wittenberg



© Tourist information Luther city of Wittenberg

Guided bicycle tour „Luther's country today“, Luther city of Wittenberg

Monuments of Power - full of Life

This travel recommendation is without obligation and liability for the contents.





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Torgau

Fortified castle, former fortified city

The **Renaissance, Reformation and fortified city** Torgau shows its 1000-year history in more than 500 single monuments.

Along the riverside the Elbe bicycle track leads along the **electoral fortified castle Hartenfels**, which represents the splendour of the Renaissance together with the city hall and several patrician houses. The castle with the **castle church** and the **splendid courtyard** is a popular place for interesting exhibitions.

Napoleon had the fortress Torgau expanded from 1810 to secure the Elbe line before he invaded Russia.

It can be seen on a **fortress and adventure tour**. The adventure tour leads to the **water gate**, to the **defence barracks bridgehead** and to the **flanks casemates**. There you can find the famous **culture bastion**, a place with a valuable program, a cinema and many interesting events as well as a youth centre.

www.tic-torgau.de



Main works and bridge head of the Prussian fortress Torgau, plan from 1888

40km



Lutherstadt Wittenberg

Fortified castle church, former fortified city

Further down the Elbe, the Elbe cycle track leads through the bio-diverse and natural **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve River Landscape Middle Elbe**. There you can discover the area around the Reformation city Wittenberg on the **guided bike tour „Luther's country today“**. Wittenberg is worldwide known as the cradle of Reformation. Mostly unknown though is the fact that the **castle church** in Wittenberg, where Luther proclaimed his 95 theses, **is a fortified monument**.

This **UNESCO World Heritage** with its special architecture as a fortified sacral building in connection with the **castle Wittenberg** belongs into the main concept of the **former city fortification Wittenberg**. Discover the **fortification relicts** like the **bridgehead Pratau** and the many worth seeing places and entertaining offers of the Elbe city.

www.lutherstadt-wittenberg.de



Outer facilities of fortress Torgau on the Elbe bicycle track

100km



Magdeburg

Greater fortification system

Magdeburg was built by the Prussians as a **greater fortification system** with many visible and hidden monuments, that can still be seen today. Far outside of the fortified old city, at the Elbe riverside, a ring consisting of single outer forts was built in order to secure the city centre from the enemy artillery.

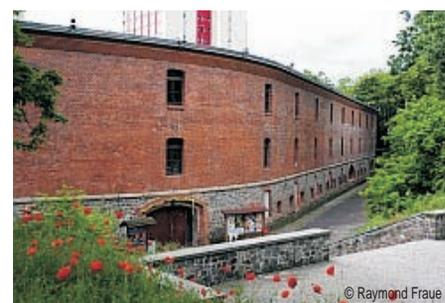
The **„cultural fortress Mark“** in the casern is a place famous for its cultural events.

Combine your trip to Magdeburg with a **visit of the preserved monuments** around the fortress magnet „cultural fortification Mark“. Many monuments like the **bastion Cleve** (1709), today a part of a beautiful park, or the **fortified tower „Lukas Klause“** (13th century), which accommodates the **Otto-von-Guericke museum**, are comfortably accessible by bike.

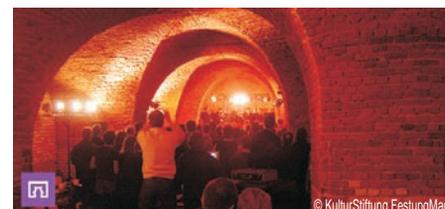
www.festungmark.com
www.magdeburg-tourist.de



Fortified castle church, Luther city Wittenberg



Casern and cultural fortress Mark, Magdeburg



Divers evening program, cultural fortress mark

Monuments of Power - full of Life