

# Prussias sabre-rattling on the River Elbe Fortress constructions to secure the new European great power

Hobby historians conquer the cultural heritage Elbe fortifications  
from the great fortress Magdeburg to the coast fort in Cuxhaven



European Cultural Route  
Fortified Monuments

[www.forte-cultura.eu](http://www.forte-cultura.eu)



Fürstenwall  
(Magdeburg-Old town)

Citadel Dömitz



- Fortress
- Fortress System
- Component of Fortress
- Fortified City
- Fortified Ideal City
- Fortified Castle / Palace
- Medieval Castle / Palace
- Medieval Walled Town
- UNESCO Heritage / Tentative List

## Our Travel Recommendation

### Prussias fortification diversity along the Elbe

Expanding Prussia brought the Elbe to the big oceans as an important way for shipping and transportation.

England and France threatened from the sea, Saxony and partly Napoleon threatened from the South. Therefore the Hohenzollern built mighty fortresses at strategically important places far into the inner land, which can be seen and visited until today. Former fortresses like Hamburg, Harburg, Stade and Dömitz were integrated systematically into their strong defence band along the Elbe.

One of the biggest fortifications under Prussian command was built in Magdeburg. Until today the cultural fortification Mark is a special experience.

In the resort and place for recreation Stade the well-kept bastions and ravelins serve as a green belt and esplanade just off the heart of the old city. Close to the city you come upon the impressive high rampart fortress Grauerort.

The fortress Kugelbake in Cuxhaven secured the Elbe outlet and is a famous place of events today.

200km south east, the citadel Dömitz is situated; another impressive fortification at the Elbe riverside, which is almost completely preserved. It offers interesting expositions about fortification and city history and about Fritz Reuter.

Discover historical and living fortress monuments along the Elbe and stroll around the Altmark's city history in Tangermünde or Havelberg.



©ItDozent Grauerort

Fortress Grauerort Stade



© Uwe Graf

Bastion Cleve as today's park in front of Magdeburg Dom



*Monuments of Power - full of Life*

This travel recommendation is  
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## Fortress constructions to secure the new European great power

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 Magdeburg Fortress system	Magdeburg owned one of the biggest fortifications in Prussia with a lot of visible and hidden monuments. In 1966, after the Thirty Years' War, elector Frederic William ordered the expansion of fortress Magdeburg. Today the "cultural fortification Mark" is a popular place of events with a diverse program. Visit the Bastion Cleve (1709), embedded in a beautiful park, as well as the fortified tower "Lukasklause" from the 13th Century with its Otto-von-Guericke museum. <a href="http://www.festungmark.com">www.festungmark.com</a> <a href="http://www.festungmagdeburg.cyhp.de">www.festungmagdeburg.cyhp.de</a>
 Tangermünde Medieval castle and fortified city	The medieval Elbe city Tangermünde counted as the strongest fortification of Mark Brandenburg during the 12th Century. At the time of Prussias supremacy, the first Prussian king Frederic 1st had the administration house built on the castle premises in 1699. The impressive castle complex and the old Gothic brick stone walls stand proud on the Elbe riverside. <a href="http://www.tourismus-tangermuende.de">www.tourismus-tangermuende.de</a>
 Dömitz Fortified Ideal City, Citadel	The city Dömitz belongs to a special type of Fortified Ideal Cities, built in the style of Renaissance. It was crowned by an imposing citadel at the Elbe riverside. The pentagonal fortress Dömitz was built in the 16th century by architect Johann Albrecht 1st of Mecklenburg in order to secure the Mecklenburg border. On 15th May 1809 the fortress was conquered by the Prussian Major Schill. Today the well-preserved lowland fortress made of brick stone accommodates among others an interesting fortress museum and a café. <a href="http://www.festung-doemitz.de">www.festung-doemitz.de</a>
 Stade Fortress, former Fortified Ideal City	The small town of Stade used to be completely fortified, which can be partly seen today on the cityscape. To the north on the Elbe riverside, the high rampart fortress "Grauerort" is situated. It was supposed to serve as defence against France from 1869. The typical Prussian building with a hexagonal ground plan and case mates wall on the Elbe side, houses the museum Grauerort and invites you to many entertaining events. Enjoy the Hanseatic flair in Stade and discover the outlines of the former bastion fortress, which fortified the city. <a href="http://www.grauerort.com">www.grauerort.com</a> <a href="http://www.stade-tourismus.de">www.stade-tourismus.de</a>
 Glückstadt former Fortified Ideal City	North of the Elbe the former Fortified Ideal City Glückstadt is situated; a special kind of fortress architecture. The city depicted the removed fortresses forever in their settlement pattern, which can be seen during a nice walk. Glückstadt was planned by fortress builder Daniel Specklin from Strasbourg and supposed to serve as an invulnerable fortress at the under Elbe, formed as a polygonal radial city, as an opposite pole to Hamburg. <a href="http://www.glueckstadt.de">www.glueckstadt.de</a>
 Cuxhaven Naval fort	The naval fortress Fort Kugelbake once secured the Prussian hinterland where the Elbe enters the North Sea. The fortress for heavy coast artillery was finished in 1879 in order to block the Elbe entrance for warships of the French troops. On a fortress tour and a visit of the museum Fort Kugelbake you will get thrilling insights. Discover the North Sea Health Spa Cuxhaven and experience the UNESCO World Heritage Wadden Sea. <a href="http://www.cuxhaven.de">www.cuxhaven.de</a>



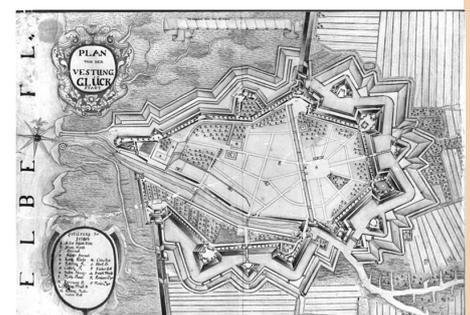
Outer view and events, cultural fortress Mark



Entrance to citadel Dömitz with castle moat



Entrance to fortress Grauerort in Stade



Fortified Ideal City Glückstadt around 1724



Fort Kugelbake at UNESCO World Heritage Wadden Sea in Cuxhaven

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