



ERZGEBIRGE

DIE FREIBERGUMAT

Secret treasure chamber

Why the Erzgebirge is one of Germany's richest regions

More than 800 years ago, the people of the Erzgebirge discovered that their land is rich in ore, and began to extract this valuable treasure. This resulted in the building of countless adits and shafts, hammer mills and smelteries. Little by little, a modern industrial region developed, with thousands of people responding to its call. With the new wealth, magnificent towns were built, such as Marienberg – a town that emerged fully-formed from the drawing board. For a long time, mining determined the rhythm of life. From this industry, the Christmas tradition and the craftsmanship of the Erzgebirge arose, as did the traditions and customs that are still alive today.

The evidence of the various mining eras lines up - like pearls on a string - along the SILVER ROAD in Saxony and Bohemia. Measuring approximately 275 kilometres between Zwickau and Dresden, the old trade route shows in a striking manner how everyday life must have been back then. Even today, the life of the miners is reflected in the 20 miners' parades that take place annually. 30 visitors' mines, historical mining towns with their magnificent hall churches and countless monuments to mining invite you on a journey of discovery.

Exceptional cultural treasures such as this are the reason behind the present prosperity of the Erzgebirge; as miners' churches, the Freiberg Cathedral, St Anne's Church in Annaberg-Buchholz and St Wolfgang's Church in Schneeberg are counted among Germany's most important cultural monuments. The Terra Mineralis collection in Freudenstein Castle exhibits over 3500 minerals, precious stones and meteorites from digs around the world, while the 'Factory of Dreams' discovery museum exhibits more than 1000 collectors' pieces of Erzgebirge folk art dating from the past four centuries. The Silbermann organs in Freiberg Cathedral, the Gottfried Silbermann Museum in Frauenstein Castle and 'Silbermann Days' pay homage to the most significant organ builder of the Baroque era - Johann Gottfried Silbermann. The Robert Schumann House in Zwickau and the Schumann Festival provide insights into the life of the world famous composer. And the 'artmontan culture days' make for unique experiences in extraordinary theatre venues, both above the surface and underground.

Mining treasures and cultural gems – they all make the Erzgebirge one of Germany's richest regions.

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