



Discovery Map
around and about the

State Museum of Prehistory Halle (Saale)

Halle on der Saale



Halle (Saale) is often referred to as the cultural capital of Saxony-Anhalt. Countless cultural attractions and activities unite to form a varied and attractive collection of tradition and modernity. They are best combined with an excursion to the numerous parks, gardens, and scenic viewpoints and reflect the cultural opulence of the nearly 1,200-year-old city.

The Discovery Map in your hands presents an exciting outing that focuses on the area around the State Museum of Prehistory. This is also where you should start your tour. The museum is located in Giebichenstein, a Gründerzeit quarter to the north of the city centre. The name of this formerly medieval village refers to a castle on the Saale, which you will visit on your tour.

The route proposed in the Discovery Map is about 6.5 km long and can be easily mastered on foot or by bicycle. Visiting all of the stations is ideal for a leisurely day trip. The stations suggested off the route offer exciting options for expanding the excursion..





Halle

(Saale)

around and about the State
Museum of Prehistory

Route ca. 6.5 km walking distance, duration ca. 1.5 hours

The excursion starts at the State Museum of Prehistory. The end of the route is the fountain on the Ziegelwiese (park).

- 1 **State Museum of Prehistory**    
- 2 **Reichardt's Garden**
- 3 **Historic Tram Depot** 
- 4 **Amtsgarte (park)**
- 5 **Giebichenstein Castle**  
- 6 **Giebichenstein Bridge or Kröllwitz Bridge**
- 7 **"Talstrasse" Art Gallery** 
- 8 **Scenic viewpoint at the Amselgrund** 
- 9 **Peißnitz island**
- 10 **Peißnitz House**  
-  **Ziegelwiese park and fountain**

At the end of the tour you can decide whether to follow the way to the city centre (ca. 2 km to the market square) or return to the State Museum. Cycling enthusiasts can explore the surrounding area on two routes from the Ziegelwiese.

I In a westerly direction, the 73 km long Sky Disc Cycle Route leads you to the findspot of the Sky Disc, to the Mittelberg hill, and to the Nebra Ark.

II In a south-north direction runs the 403 km long Saale Cycle Route, which connects the source of the Saale river at Zell in the Fichtel Mountains and its confluence with the river Elbe at Barby.

1 **The State Museum of Prehistory**

The archaeological treasury of Saxony-Anhalt is located on the eastern edge of the Giebichenstein quarter. As the first purpose-built museum for prehistoric archaeology in Germany, the neoclassical building was planned as an imposing three-storey architecture by Wilhelm Kreis, constructed until 1913, and finally opened in 1918. Today the museum defines the northern end of Rosa Luxemburg Square and its sheer size makes it stand out from the surrounding residential premises and villas. Round corner towers flank the cubic core of the building, in front of which the entrance is located. The ashlar construction and the ornamental elements and sculptures on the outer walls loosen up the dominant character of the reinforced concrete skeleton construction of the museum building. The exhibition galleries inside are grouped around the impressive atrium, which extends over the entire height of the building. A late expressionist mural on the walls of the stairwell once showed the world tree Yggdrasil. On the top floor, scenic representations of life stages from "Germanic prehistoric times" are still preserved.

The State Museum of Prehistory is one of the most renowned archaeological museums in Central Europe. The Nebra Sky Disc, since 2013 registered in the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme, is considered the most important highlight of the collection with its worldwide oldest concrete depiction of the cosmos. Also numerous other finds, such as the 370,000-year-old Homo erectus remains from Bilzingsleben or the tomb inventory of a Germanic tribal prince from Gommern, impress with their cultural historical significance.

2 **Reichardt's Garden**

Following the Richard-Wagner-Straße from the State Museum to the north you will directly arrive at the park known as the "Hostel of Romanticism". This was named after the composer, publicist, and royal Prussian court music director Johann Friedrich Reichardt, who at the end of the 18th century had it laid out as his private garden according to his own ideas in the style of an English landscape park. Here in the years around 1800 he met with numerous personages of the day, including Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Achim von Arnim.

3 **Historic Tram Depot**

After the first fully electrified tram network in Europe went into operation in Halle in 1891, Reichardt's adjacent farmstead to the west fell victim to the construction of the depot. Today the tram museum is located here, which you can access via the entrance on Seebener Straße. The museum is currently open on every first and third Saturday of the month throughout the summertime.

4

Amtsgarten (park)

If you now follow the Seebener Straße in a westerly direction you will find the entrance to one of Halle's oldest parks across the street. The original orchards and ornamental garden of the Magdeburg bishops were transformed into a splendid baroque garden in the first half of the 18th century. A right-angled network of paths, avenues, and fountains characterised the park at that time. As a result of flooding of the Saale, the Amtsgarten was redesigned again in 1773 based on the model of the Wörlitz Parks, a landscape park from the 18th century that is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was not until the beginning of the 20th century that it received the creative transformation that can largely be recognised in the current structures. In the lower area, facing the Saale promenade, the Amtsgarten appears in the style of an English landscape park. Themed gardens of rhododendrons, roses, and ornamental flowers as well as rare and valuable trees have been created on the opposite southern slope of the Römerberg hill. Together with Reichardt's Garden, the Amtsgarten belongs to the heritage-tourism network of "Garden Dream" in Saxony-Anhalt.

5

Giebichenstein Castle

The fortress of the Giebichenstein upper castle, which dates back to the 10th century, sits enthroned on a massive rock above the Saale in the immediate vicinity of the Amtsgarten. The ruin is located on the southern bank of the river and is a highlight of the "Romanesque Road" – a route of selected Romanesque buildings in Saxony-Anhalt.

Numerous bishops socialised here and kings used the castle as a prison for their enemies in the Middle Ages. Since the 14th century Giebichenstein castle has been the seat of the Magdeburg archbishops, the city lords of Halle, who with the construction of the lower castle in the 15th century used it as a fortified stronghold against the city's own population.

The castle is the scene of a legendary story from the High Middle Ages about Louis the Springer and how he came by his nickname. After he was imprisoned here, he managed a spectacular escape by jumping into the Saale. A window opening in the upper castle named after him commemorates this event. You will find the reason for his imprisonment in the Discovery Map on Goseck.

From the gate tower of the upper castle you have the most beautiful view over Halle and the Saale. The lower castle has been used as a school for arts and crafts since 1919. Paul Thiersch reformed it as director in the spirit of the German Werkbund and made "die Burg" known as an art college both nationally and internationally. Thiersch was involved in the conception and implementation of the late expressionist murals in the State Museum of Prehistory, which have been preserved in parts.

From 1925, when the Bauhaus moved from Weimar to Dessau, some of the Bauhaus teachers moved to Halle and were able to teach at the school until the National Socialists came to power in 1933.

They also had a creative impact on the cityscape. This includes Gerhard Marcks, who worked as a professor and later as director at the Burg from 1925, and whose enormous artistic influence is visible in the form of numerous sculptures in the cityscape of Halle.

In the 1970s, additional teaching buildings and workshops were built at the Neuwerk in the Mühlweg quarter south of the Giebichenstein quarter, and the production facilities of what was then the “College of Industrial Design” were expanded. Together with the studios and teaching rooms in the lower castle, “Burg Giebichenstein University of Art and Design Halle” has developed into one of the most renowned and important art schools of the divided and reunified Germany.

6 Giebichenstein Bridge or Kröllwitz Bridge

The Giebichenstein Bridge is part of the “Grand Tour of Modernism”. Built in 1926–28 as a reinforced concrete bridge, it linked the rural Kröllwitz with the urban Halle, symbolised by cow and horse. These monumental animal sculptures were designed by the eminent graphic artist and sculptor Gerhard Marcks, who worked as a teacher at the art college for many years. Paul Thiersch, among others, was involved in the construction of this arched bridge.

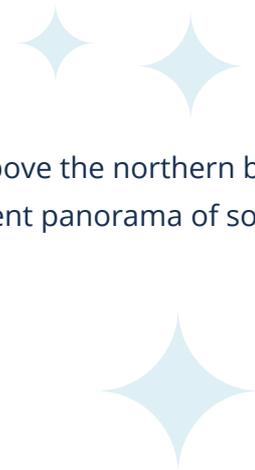
7 “Talstrasse” Art Gallery

If you turn right after crossing the bridge, you will reach the Talstraße. Follow it a little to get to the recently built exhibition wing of the art gallery. Here exhibitions of contemporary art with a regional reference to Halle are presented on a regular basis.

Graduates of the Burg Giebichenstein art college founded the “Talstrasse” association after the fall of the Berlin Wall as an artist initiative with the aim of creating studios, workshops, and exhibition spaces for modern art. The sculpture garden by contemporary artists on the cliff behind the art gallery is also worth a visit. It rewards you with a view across the valley of the Saale to the opposite bank and the Klausberg hills rising above it.

8 Scenic viewpoint at the Amselgrund

If you now return to the Kröllwitz Bridge, a narrow path leads you above the northern bank of the Saale to a scenic viewpoint. From here you can enjoy a magnificent panorama of some of the locations previously visited on this tour.



9 Peißnitz island

From the last stop, a circa 1.5 km long path leads you along the Wilde Saale to the Swan Bridge. This will take you to the Peißnitz island. The city acquired the river island at the end of the 19th century and transformed it into a local recreation area.

10 Peißnitz House

At the same time, numerous restaurants for day-trippers were built in the immediate vicinity of the Saale. As such, the Peißnitz House was frequently visited by the people of Halle. It is still a popular attraction today, along with the Park Railway and Gimritz estate.

To the east a suspension bridge leads you to the Ziegelwiese park. At a gigantic fountain, the third highest of its kind in all of Europe, and with the opportunity to relax in an oasis of green along the water, the tour comes to an end.

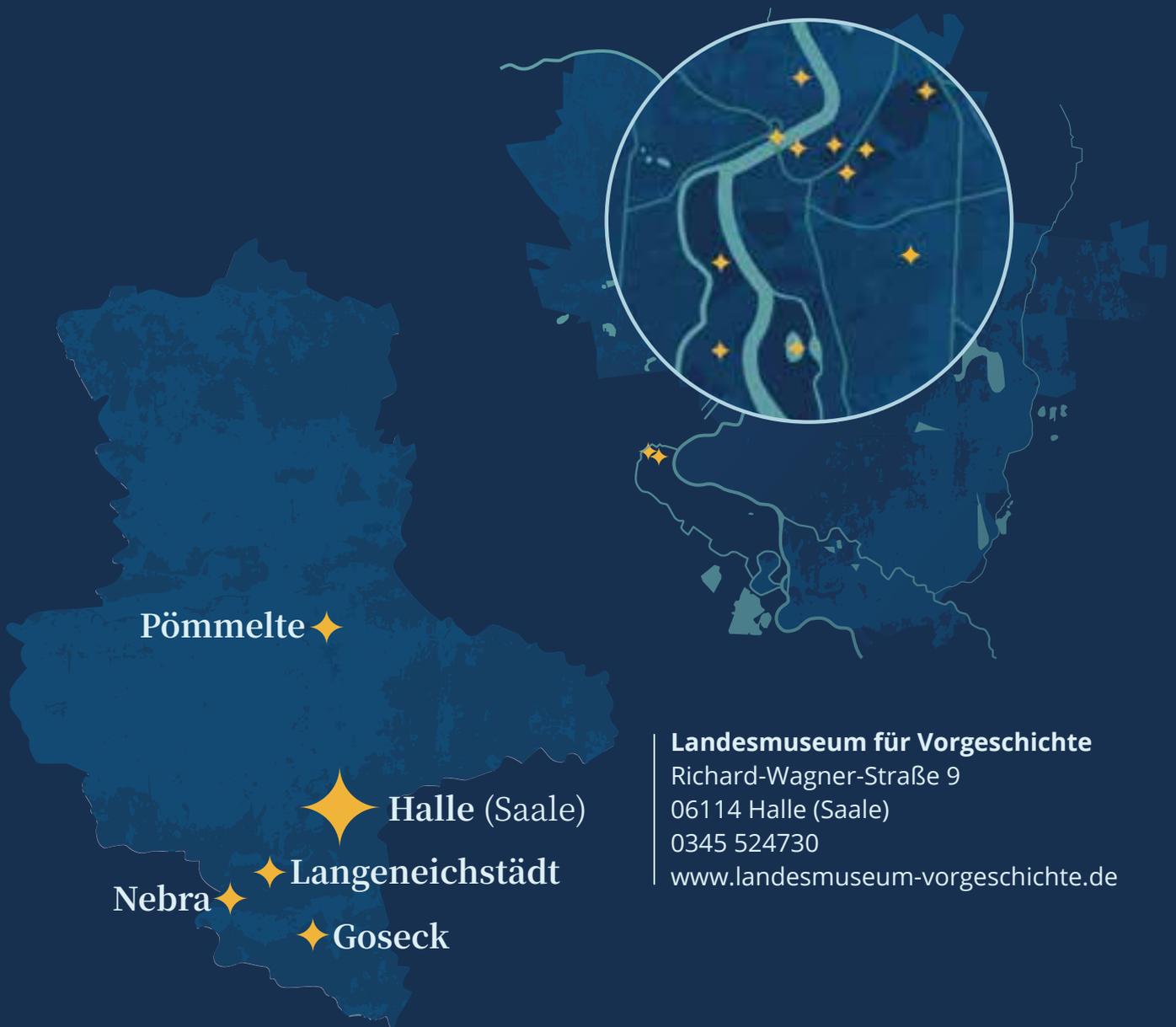


Further highlights

The tour can be extended as desired. To the north of the State Museum of Prehistory, **A** **Halle Mountain Zoo** invites you to visit. Its viewing tower crowning the hill affords a wonderful view over the zoo and the neighbouring districts of Halle.

Between it and the Saale lie the **B** **Klausberg hills** – a popular destination for nature lovers. They belong to the “Lower Saale Valley Nature Park” and impress with their unique flora and fauna that have colonised volcanic rock. South of the high fountain are the grounds of the **C** **Burg Giebichenstein University of Art and Design Halle** at Neuwerk. The salt production site discovered during an excavation on the premises testifies that as early as 900 BC salt was extracted on a large scale in Halle. The opulent Villa Steckner, with its quirky mix of Gothic, Renaissance, and Art Nouveau elements, now serves as the teaching building for the design department and the administration building of the university.

In the old town, the market square with the Handel monument is a good starting point for further destinations. From here, the **D** **Botanical Garden**, the **E** **Leopoldina**, the **F** **Moritzburg Art Museum**, the **G** **Red Tower**, die **H** **Market Church**, the **I** **City Museum** and the **J** **Handel House Halle** – the birthplace, and now the museum, of Georg Friedrich Handel – are well within walking distance. The **K** **Stadtgottesacker (Town Cemetery)**, to the east of the old town, a Renaissance cemetery modelled on Italian Camposanto grounds, and the **L** **Francke Foundations** to the south number among the most prominent sights of the city and should not go unmentioned.



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The Sky Paths in Saxony-Anhalt combine five extraordinary archaeological locations around the Nebra Sky Disc. They invite you on a journey into millennia long past and open up new vistas into the sky.

www.emuseum-himmelswege.com



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