

Profile of Biosphere Bliesgau

Name:
UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Bliesgau

Size:
362 km²

Municipalities:
Blieskastel, Gersheim, Kirkel, Kleinblittersdorf, Mandelbachtel, St. Ingbert and parts of the town of Homburg

Rare animal species:
Kingfisher, beaver, golden fritillary butterfly, white stork

Rare plant species:
Many orchids, chalk milkwort, wild service trees

Watercourses:
Blies, Mandelbach and Bickenalb

Highest mountains:
Betzental Mountain (402 m), Great Kahlenberg (401 m)

Favourite fruit:
Apples, plums, sloes, grapes, Mirabelle plums

Favourite drinks:
Bliesgau apple juice, applesecco

Motto:
Orchid country and savoir-vivre

Imprint

Publisher: Saarpfalz-Touristik
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Germany

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Are you looking for current events? You are welcome to look for information here:
www.biosphaere-bliesgau.eu/veranstaltungen
www.saarpfalz-touristik.de/erlebnisse/veranstaltungen
Most events can also be reached by public transport.

start-werbeagentur.de

Our Biosphere Bliesgau. Our home. Our responsibility.

The world, which is being shaped by people, needs change. We are excessively consuming natural resources. We consume much more than what can be replaced. More than the Earth needs to regenerate itself. And more than we need for a good life.

Every biosphere reserve in Germany protects its cultural landscapes while maintaining and developing valuable habitats for people and nature. In this way, they ensure a balanced interaction between human use, natural cycles and regional creation of value. The focus in German biosphere reserves is on nature and the people who manage it. Agriculture, commercial activities, culture, forestry, settlements, social issues, tourism, transport - all of these need to develop positively in harmony with nature.

Shaping a good life.

This is exactly what the 714 biosphere reserves around the world want to achieve. To protect, preserve and develop our diverse world. For the people, the animals and the plants. Each biosphere reserve is a model region. And our Biosphere Bliesgau is one of them.

Our identity.

We love Biosphäre Bliesgau as we do our home - the people, the diverse nature, the cultural landscape, the history, the towns and villages. We are responsible for the maintenance and sustainable development of our habitat. We take action.

For more information, go to: www.biosphaere-bliesgau.eu



Markus Däw



Saarpfalz-Touristik, Elke Dubois

Biosphere Bliesgau is engaged. For people and nature.

More and more regional businesses and providers from the tourism, agriculture, forestry, retail, outdoor experience and environmental education sectors are committing themselves voluntarily to supporting the biosphere reserve's objectives. As certified partners, they will provide you with information about the protected area and are committed to sustainable business practices.

For more information, go to:
www.biosphaere-bliesgau.eu/partner

Partner

Biosphärenreservat
Bliesgau



Delicious Biosphere Bliesgau. Good products.

In addition to its varied landscape and diverse nature, Bliesgau is also known for its culinary art and food culture. Everything the region has to offer is freshly and professionally prepared.

The Bliesgau shopping guide provides information about the people involved in regional marketing, producers, food processing companies, merchants and restaurateurs. The Bliesgau Regal, or Bliesgau Shelf, filled with regional specialities, can be found at over 50 locations in our region and passionate chefs serve typical regional dishes with the same ease as they do nouvelle cuisine with regional ingredients.

For more information, go to:
www.biosphaere-bliesgau.eu/produkte



Elke Birkelbach



Saarpfalz-Touristik, Manuela Meyer

Smart Biosphere Bliesgau. Climate-friendly travel.

Two regional train lines and one light rail line connect 13 stops in the Bliesgau Biosphere to the surrounding towns of Saarbrücken, Homburg, St. Ingbert and Zweibrücken, at least every hour. Bus lines supplement this service every day. The Biosphere Bus 501 runs daily at hourly intervals from Homburg in the north to Kleinblittersdorf in the south on the French border. There, you can connect to the light rail towards Saarbrücken and Sarreguemines.

Timetable information is available at www.saarfahrplan.de or on the saarVV app.

saarVV call and season ticket centre Völklingen
Tel.: +49 (0) 68 98 / 500 4000, Email: service@saarVV.de
Mo.-Sa. : 6 am to 7 pm, Sundays and public holidays: 8 am - 6 pm



Saarpfalz-Bus



Tourismus Zentrale Saarland, Markus Gloger



Blieskastel

On-site information

Tourist Information and Biosphere Reserve Bliesgau Information Centre, Luitpoldplatz 5, 66440 Blieskastel, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 68 42 / 9 26 13 14, Email: tourismus@blieskastel.de
www.blieskastel.de/touristinfo

Tourist-Info Homburg, Talstraße 57a, 66424 Homburg, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 68 41 / 10 18 20
Email: touristik@homburg.de
www.homburg.de

Tourist-Info Saarbrücker Castle, Schloßstraße 1-15, 66119 Saarbrücken, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 68 81 / 506 60 06
Email: touristinfo@rvsbr.de
www.regionalverband-saarbruecken.de/tourismus

European Culture Park Information Centre, Robert-Schuman-Straße 2, 66453 Gersheim, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 68 43 / 90 02 11
Email: info@europaeischer-kulturpark.de
www.europaeischer-kulturpark.de

Roman Museum Information Centre, Homburger Straße 38, 66424 Homburg, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 68 48 / 73 07 77
Email: info@roermuseum-schwarzenacker.de
www.roermuseum-schwarzenacker.de



Tourismus Zentrale Saarland, Markus Gloger



Saarpfalz-Touristik, Elke Dubois

With an area map

THE BLIESGAU BIOSPHERE DISCOVERY REGION

Good ideas for a good time!

Biosphärenreservat
Bliesgau



Der Saarpfalz-Kreis
Die Saarpfalz-Touristik

The UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Bliesgau...

...is located in the immediate vicinity of the Palatinate Forest and the Northern Vosges Mountains. Even though it is only one eighth the size of the Saarland region, this tranquil gem of a location surprises visitors with its diversity. The southern Bliesgau is on a fossil seabed, which has been farmed extensively for centuries. Be it extensive orchards, colourfully dappled flower meadows or splendidly blooming orchids, the south is a refuge for particularly rare species and boasts a captivating, gently rolling landscape. The northern part is completely different, where extensive beech forests on high ridges alternate with valleys and rock formations in the red sandstone. And right in the middle of it all, the River Blies, which is accompanied by a wildly romantic floodplain landscape for long stretches of its path through the region. The scenic charm of the region is complemented by the town of St. Ingbert with its industrial heritage sites and cultural offerings.



Weir on the Blies



Gersheim Orchid Area



Biosphere Town St. Ingbert



Mining Museum of the Saarland and Gulliver's World 2.0

The tour of the Mining Museum of the Saarland starts from the panorama platform on the Hindenburg Tower at a height of 40 m. The full range of topics relating to the coal industry in the Saarland is presented there. The underground facility offers you the opportunity to experience different types of mining and machinery as well as the working life of the miners. There is free access to the surrounding parkland with its playground, two ponds and Gulliver's World 2.0, which can be visited free of charge.



Beeder Biotope

The biotope in Beeden is home to numerous animal species. The famous white storks feel at home at this biotope, as do many other birds that breed or take a break here. Heck cattle, water buffaloes and Konik horses are used to graze this treasure. You can observe all the animals in their habitat from two viewing towers. One of the two is located on the road "Am Sandweg" between the two pitches.



Baroque Town of Blieskastel

The town centre of Blieskastel is listed in its entirety as a historical monument and is ideal for strolling and discovering. The old town is an ornate Baroque ensemble with impressive buildings from the period such as the Paradeplatz Square, the Hercules Fountain, the Napoleon Fountain, the former Privy Council Houses, the Orangery and the Castle Church. Lively cafés, restaurants, ice cream parlours, owner-run boutiques and shops round off the feel-good atmosphere.



European Culture Park

The 70-hectare European Culture park offers Gallo-Roman history to marvel at, walk through and touch. One highlight of this collaborative Franco-German project is the reconstructed burial mound of the Celtic Princess of Reinheim, which is accessible to visitors. There are also various museum and exhibition buildings, a Roman garden, a landscape park with a large open-air area, the foundations of a small Roman town with a craftsmen's quarter and a thermal bath complex.

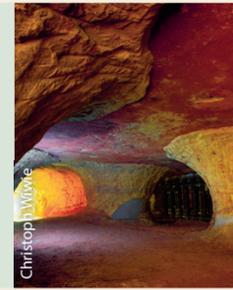
Legend

- Biosphere Reserve
- Town/city
- National border
- Road/motorway
- Trainline
- Bus line with daily services
- Bus line with services Mon-Sat
- Bus line with services Mon-Fri
- ★ Natural attractions
- ★ Cultural attractions
- i Tourist Information
- i Info-point for Biosphere Reserve Bliesgau



Schlossberg Caves

In the depths of the Schlossberg below Homburg's Vauban Fortress, the gates open into the mysterious world of the Schlossberg Caves, Europe's largest and man-made red sandstone caves. This is where you can discover exciting passageways and imposing domed halls, cave spiders, the footprints of a miniature dinosaur and the story of the "white lady".



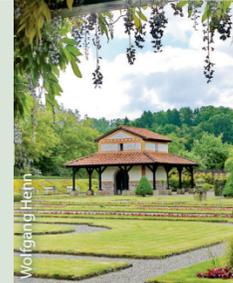
Kirkeler Burg Castle

In the Middle Ages, Kirkel Castle was a proud symbol of the power of the nobility. Today, it is the symbol of the municipality of Kirkel. Kirkeler Burg Castle originated as a county castle, of which one round tower remains from which you can enjoy a wonderful view of the region. In summer, Kirkeler Burg Castle Summer attracts a lot of activity in the craftsmen's village. Come and get an idea of what life was like in the old days of chivalry. There is a local history and castle museum at the foot of the castle, where the life of the "Kirkel day labourers" is brought vividly to life.



Roman Museum

Visit the Roman Museum and learn that the ancient Romans also loved socialising and stopped for a glass of wine at the "Roman Innkeeper" named Capitolinus. His restaurant, and many other things, can be viewed at this open-air museum in Homburg-Schwarzenacker. An eye doctor also settled in this small trading town and treated our ancestors. Other gems also include a cellar with Roman columns, a Roman shopping street and a temple dedicated to Mercury.



Gersheim Orchid Area

At Gersheim Orchid Area, you can discover almost half of the orchid species found in Germany alongside other rare animals and plants. The orchid path presents special species at ten stations, explaining why they occur here of all places and how we can preserve their habitat. We recommend visiting the orchid area during the main flowering period from May to mid-July. The starting point and the first stop on the orchid path is Lachenhof between Gersheim and Herbitzheim.



Hiking and Cycling

Sunlit forests, hidden ponds, magical paths, babbling brooks or natural rocks - hike along premium trails and exciting themed trails in the Bliesgau Biosphere. The tours include "Kirkeler Tafeltour" above the town of Kirkel, "Schlossbergtour" around the ruins of the Fortress, "Hüttenwanderweg" to various hiking lodges, "Der Bliesgauer" across meadows and the edges of forests, "Blies-Grenz-Weg" through meadows and ruins, "Orchideenpfad", a series of stations with different orchid species, and "Erlebnisweg Ökologischer Rucksack", an educational ecology trail. www.saarpfalz-touristik.de/erlebnisse/wandern

If you prefer to cycle through the Bliesgau Biosphere, you can ride through the region from north to south along the Blies River, for example. The Glan-Blies Trail, which has been awarded 4 stars and is approx. 135 km long, will show you the beauty of the region along the way. In addition to the popular staged cycle route, you can also experience the Bliesgau Biosphere on numerous circular tours. www.saarpfalz-touristik.de/erlebnisse/radfahren

