



The Weißeritztal Railway

The Weißeritztal Railway, Germany's oldest narrow gauge railway in regular operation, runs through the Eastern Ore Mountains.

The line between the town of Freital, next to Dresden, and the municipality of Schmiedeberg was opened in 1883 and extended to Kipsdorf, a health resort, some years later. The 750-mm-gauge railway is now an attraction for tourists: as it links three different natural spaces, its scenic variety makes it one of the most beautiful routes in Europe. The Weißeritztal Railway over-comes a height difference of 350 m, traverses the wild, romantic Rabenauer Grund (a valley with a little river named Rote Weißeritz), the area around

the Malter dam, and the hilly landscape of the upper Ore Mountains. On its 26-km route the railway crosses 34 bridges. The line was largely destroyed by the floods in August 2002. After extensive reconstruction work the section from Freital-Hainsberg to Dippoldiswalde was reopened in December 2008. According to tradition, a narrow-gauge railway festival is held along the route in the summer and a big light railway festival on the first advent weekend. All year round, sights and museums along the line invite visitors to spend time there.

Sights to see:

Schloss Burgk in Freital, Sächsische Porzellan-Manufaktur Dresden in Freital-Potschappel, Chairmakers' Museum in Rabenau, Tanners' Museum in Dippoldiswalde, historic mining locations in Altenberg and Zinnwald, Altenberg bobsleigh run

Hiking and local recreation areas: Rabenauer Grund, Dippoldiswalder Heide, Malter dam, Tharandt Forest with botanical garden

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Suggestion:
»Enjoy German beer tradition on narrow gauge tracks.«



The Kirnitzschtal Tram



Suggestion:
»Fascination of engineering and nature«

This is unique in Germany: a tram travelling around rock formations. The Kirnitzschtal tram has run for more than 100 years on its 8-km route in the Elbe Sandstone Mountains.

In 1898 it set out on its first tour. Between the starting point in the heart of the town park of Bad Schandau and the end point next to the Lichtenhain Waterfall, the tram winds its way along the little river Kirnitzsch. On its way there are nine stops, including the mills in Ostrau and Mitteldorf and the Beuthenfall, a waterfall. Since May 1997, the Kirnitzschtal tram has been operated with up to 30 % solar energy. If you have a soft spot for nostalgia, you might like to know that you may

charter an original 1928 carriage for a very individual trip. The valley of the river Kirnitzsch is the starting point for wonderful hiking tours through the rock formations. A trip with the Kirnitzschtal tram may well be combined with a visit to great sights in Saxon Switzerland.

Sights to see:

Lichtenhain waterfall; German Museum of Handcrafted Flowers in Sebnitz; the rock formations of Saxon Switzerland; the National Park Centre in Bad Schandau, Toscana Therme (leisure pool) in Bad Schandau; Toscana Therme (leisure pool) in Bad Schandau; Toscana Therme (leisure pool) in Bad Schandau; Felsenbühne Rathen (open-air theatre)



For your orientation



Enjoy the Extraordinary.

Historic transport in and around Dresden



Das Tourismusbüro im VVO



The Lößnitzgrund Railway

The »Lößnitzdackel« is not really a dachshund (in German: Dackel) but a traditional steam-powered railway running through the Lößnitzgrund valley. This elderly »lady« is one of the oldest narrow-gauge railways in Germany and puts on steam between Radebeul Ost, Moritzburg and Radeburg.

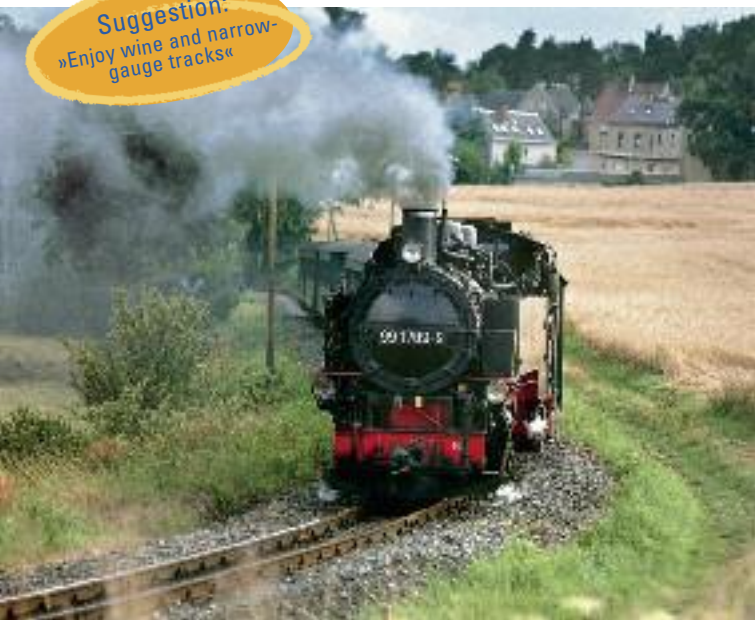
In September 1884, the Lößnitzgrund railway was taken into service as the fourth narrow-gauge railway line in Saxony. The 17-km stretch leads through the narrow Lößnitzgrund with its seven former mills. The steam-driven trains run daily, in nice weather even with some open carriages. Vintage trains are used to celebrate special occasions. In accordance with the original, the

carriages feature upholstered seats or wooden benches, hand-meshed luggage nets and round iron stoves. Travelling along at leisurely speed you see the countryside passing by almost as in slow motion, and there is plenty of time to enjoy the sights and scenery along the route thoroughly. A trip with the Lößnitzgrund railway can be combined with a visit to major sights in Moritzburg and Radebeul.

Sights to see:

Moritzburg Palace, the Saxon State Stud Farm in Moritzburg; the Karl May Museum, the Landesbühnen Sachsen theatre, Wackerbarth Palace in Radebeul

Suggestion:
»Enjoy wine and narrow-gauge tracks«



The Meißen City Bus



Suggestion:
»Sightseeing tours combined with visits«

Enjoy the charm of Meißen, the town of wine and porcelain, over 1,000 years old. In the summer, a tour by city bus is the most convenient way of doing this.

The bus links the Staatliche Porzellan-Manufaktur Meissen with the buildings on the castle hill, the Cathedral and the mighty Albrechtsburg Castle. The city bus operates daily from 10 am to 5.30 pm, starting at the porcelain manufactory every full and half hour. The driver informs the passengers about the most important sights en route. What makes the tours really special is that you may conveniently hop on and off at any time to fit in your visits to the sights of Meißen.

Sights to see:

Old town of Meißen; Staatliche Porzellan-Manufaktur Meissen with new visitor centre; Albrechtsburg Castle and Cathedral



The Dresden Funicular Railway

Starting at Körnerplatz square near the famous »Blue Wonder« bridge, the funicular takes you uphill to the fashionable district of Weißer Hirsch.

The funicular was taken into service in 1895 to link the villa district atop the Elbe hills with the city of Dresden. The distance between the lower station at Körnerplatz square and the upper station opposite the »Luisenhof«, a restaurant for outings, is 547 metres. Midway along the single-track route there is a passing place where the two carriages meet. Incidentally, the machine house of the upper station is worth a visit. A trip with the funicular can be combined with a visit to major sights in the old town of Dresden and along the River Elbe.



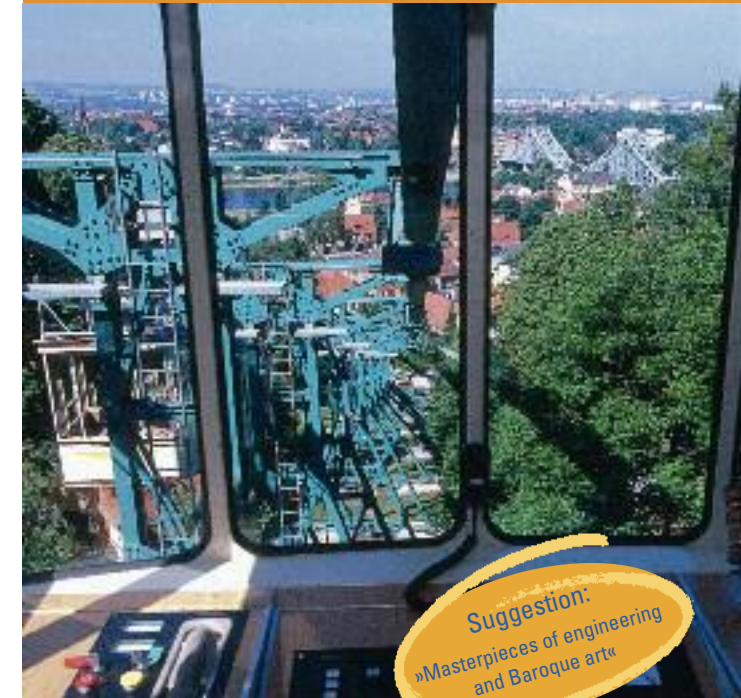
Sights to see:

The famous old town of Dresden with the Zwinger, the Semper Opera House, the Frauenkirche, Brühl's Terrace, the picture gallery, the Green Vault treasury, historic steamers, the »Blue Wonder« Elbe bridge

Suggestion:
»World Heritage: Dresden Elbe Valley«



The Dresden Suspension Railway



Suggestion:
»Masterpieces of engineering and Baroque art«

Starting at Körnerplatz square near the famous »Blue Wonder« bridge, the Dresden suspension railway links the city with the district of Loschwitz.

As the first suspended mountain railway in the world, it has astounded its passengers since its maiden trip in 1901, for it is a remarkable construction: just one of the 33 supports carrying the tracks is a fixed point. On the Loschwitz heights, 84 metres above Körnerplatz square, passengers may visit the historic machine house of the railway, which was originally steam-powered, or

enjoy the marvellous view from the lookout terrace to the Eastern Ore Mountains, Saxon Switzerland and the vineyards. A trip with the suspension railway can be combined with a visit to remarkable sights in the new town of Dresden and along the River Elbe.

Sights to see:

New town of Dresden with trendy pubs and boutiques, »Pfunds Molkerei« - the most beautiful dairy shop in the world, the Golden Horseman, the »Blue Wonder« bridge, the palaces by the River Elbe, named Schloss Albrechtsberg, Schloss Eckberg and Lingnerschloss, Pillnitz Palace.