



SPECIAL MEANS OF TRANSPORT

Through the romantic Rabenauer Grund valley

Enjoy a trip on Germany's oldest narrow-gauge railway. The Weißeritztalbahn started puffing from Freital-Hainsberg near Dresden to Kipsdorf in the Eastern Ore Mountains as early as 1883. Over the 26-km distance it overcomes a height difference of 350 m.

After the reconstruction of the route following its destruction in 2002 by floods, steam trains now run again daily between Freital-Hainsberg and Dippoldiswalde. The 44-minute ride on the historic narrow-gauge railway takes you through three quite dissimilar natural spaces: the wild and romantic Rabenauer Grund valley, the area around the Malter reservoir, and the low-mountain scenery of the Eastern Ore Mountains.

TIP Treat yourself to some cool refreshment and taste Saxon beer specialities on »Master Brewer's steam train«. Combined with the charming landscape of the Weißeritz valley and with stories and anecdotes about the art of brewing and traditional crafts, this enjoyable train ride becomes an extraordinary experience.

Enjoy Dresden from above

The funicular railway connects the city with the beautiful villa district of Weißer Hirsch and with the adjoining Dresdner Heide forest. At the hilltop station you can not only enjoy a fantastic view from the »Luisenhof« restaurant but, if you phone in advance, can also visit the historic engine-house.

Even the ride on the funicular railway, which was taken into service in 1895, is a very special experience: operating on a 1,000-mm gauge, it travels a distance of 547 m and overcomes a height difference of 95 m and a maximum gradient of 29 per cent. In the middle of the single-track route there is a passing point where the uphill and downhill carriages of the funicular railway meet. The two carriages are connected by a rope which is driven and turned at the upper station. In 1984 the funicular railway in its entirety was declared a technical monument.

TIP Group reservations for guided tours of the engine-house are taken on +49 (0)3 51/857 24 10.

Fascinating technology and grand views

During a ride on the world's oldest mountain suspension railway, built according to engineer Eugen Langen's monorail conveyor principle, you enjoy a marvellous view of Dresden and the Elbe valley. By travelling the 274 metres from Loschwitz to Oberloschwitz on the suspension railway, which was taken into service in 1901, you overcome a height difference of 84 metres easily.

Anyone who wishes to see the capital of Saxony from above should be sure to go to the lookout terrace. On clear days you can see as far as the Ore Mountains. If you are interested in history, you should visit in the engine-house in the upper station. An amazing structural aspect of the suspension railway is the fact that only one of the 33 supports on which the tracks rest is fixed. All the others are designed as hinged pillars to compensate for temperature-related deviations in length.

TIP The upper station has a lookout platform providing a fantastic panoramic view of Dresden and the Elbe valley and exhibitions to fascinate everyone – not just technology fans.

Travel through the rock formations of Saxon Switzerland

Since 1898 the Kirnitzschtal tram has taken hikers, tourists and spa visitors from Bad Schandau into the Saxon Switzerland National Park, through the fascinating natural scenery of the Elbe Sandstone Mountains, to the final stop at the waterfall of Lichtenhain.

It is certainly the only tram in Germany that takes you through dense forests and ragged sandstone rocks shaped by wind and weather. Enjoy the beauty of the wild and romantic Kirnitzsch valley looking out of the windows of the tram, which takes one third of the energy it consumes from its own photo-voltaic system. Nearly all of the nine stops along the route are starting points for hiking tours in the Saxon Switzerland National Park.

TIP From Easter to the end of October you can see Saxon and Bohemian Switzerland from quite a different perspective on what may be one of the most beautiful Elbe River voyages. One hour upstream from Bad Schandau and half an hour downstream you have time to enjoy the beauty of the upper Elbe valley from aboard a ferry boat.

WEISSERITZTALBAHN RAILWAY

runs all year round; steam trains daily route: Freital-Hainsberg – Dippoldiswalde: 15 km; narrow-gauge railway festival every year in July; light railway festival on the first weekend in Advent every year; www.weisseritztalbahn.com

FUNICULAR RAILWAY

runs daily all year round; inspection breaks in March and November; route: Dresden-Loschwitz, Körnerplatz – Dresden Weißer Hirsch; festival at the funicular railway every year at Halloween; www.dvb.de

SUSPENSION RAILWAY

runs daily all year round; inspection breaks in March and November; route: Dresden Loschwitz, Körnerplatz – Dresden Oberloschwitz; daily guided tours of the engine-house; large Advent calendar every year in December; www.dvb.de

KIRNITZSCHTALBAHN TRAM

runs daily all year round; every half hour during the summer season, in the winter season roughly once an hour; route: Bad Schandau, city park – Kirnitzsch valley, Lichtenhain waterfall; Kirnitzschtal festival in July every year; www.ovps.de



ENJOY THE EXTRAORDINARY

- Steam trains
- Mountain railways
- Historic tram
- Sightseeing tour



On the way to Karl May and Augustus the Strong

Travelling on the Lößnitzgrundbahn railway you enjoy the lovely scenery of the Saxon Elbland using one of Germany's oldest narrow-gauge railways. Since September 1884 the Lößnitzgrundbahn has puffed its way through Karl May's home town daily, past romantic vineyards, through the narrow Lößnitzgrund valley with its once seven mills and the Moritzburg lake landscape, to the small town of Radeburg, the most famous citizen of which was the cartoonist Heinrich Zille. The leisurely speed lets the landscape pass by almost in slow-motion: a chance to thoroughly enjoy sights and nature along the way.

Vintage trains run on special occasions. Its carriages with upholstered seats or wooden benches, hand-knotted luggage nets and cylindrical stoves have been perfectly restored.

TIP Savour the fine wines of Saxony on a trip with the Lößnitzgrundbahn themed »Enjoy wine on a narrow-gauge line«.

LÖSSNITZGRUNDBAHN RAILWAY

runs all year round; steam trains daily; route: Radebeul – Moritzburg – Radeburg; 16.6 km; narrow-gauge railway festival every year in September; www.loessnitzgrundbahn.de

In search of porcelain the »White Gold«

A sightseeing tour on the small Meissen Bus takes you through one of Germany's oldest and most beautiful towns. On the tour, listen to interesting details from the history and the present-day life of the more-than-1,000-year-old town of Meissen. Narrow lanes with lovingly restored houses, small shops for leisurely shopping, traditional cafés and wine taverns make up the face of Meissen, the town of wine and porcelain.

On its trip to the top of the castle hill with the Gothic cathedral and Albrechtsburg castle, the Meissen Bus overcomes a height difference of 65 metres. The bus is also the best connection from the castle hill to the world-famous place where the »White Gold« with the blue swords is made. Manufaktur MEISSEN® welcomes visitors from all over the world.

TIP Boat trips on the ferry boat »Bosel«: see the varied Elbe valley landscape from its most beautiful side. Enjoy the unmatched sight of the majestic Meissen castle hill, of the impressive Bosel rock face, of the vineyards or the wide flood plains. The »Bosel« commutes for you between the towns of Radebeul and Meissen during the travel season.

MEISSEN SIGHTSEEING TOUR

daily from Easter to the end of October between Porzellan-Manufaktur, Old Town and castle hill with Albrechtsburg castle and cathedral; hop-on/hop-off tour with guide service; www.vg-meissen.de

1 Manufaktur MEISSEN®
In 2010, Manufaktur MEISSEN® celebrated its 300th anniversary. The Museum of MEISSEN Art with Schauhalle exhibition and demonstration workshop welcomes its visitors from all over the world.

2 Tanner's Museum in Dippoldiswalde
Built around 1750, the tanner's workshop together with the Baroque dwelling house provides interesting insights into the traditional craft of leather-making.

3 Karl May Museum
The house where the writer Karl May lived and died transposes visitors into the world of Winnetou and his friend Old Shatterhand.

4 NationalparkZentrum
Exhibitions on flora and fauna unveil some of the mysteries of the Saxon Switzerland National Park. The ultra-modern information centre makes visitors eager to learn more.

5 Pillnitz Palace and Gardens
Nestling in the picturesque Elbe river landscape, the former summer palace of Augustus the Strong is one of the highlights of palace architecture in Saxony.

6 Moritzburg Palace
Augustus the Strong's hunting palace is one of Europe's most beautiful Baroque ensembles, set amid wonderful lakes and forests.

Get to special means of transport quickly and easily

S 1 local train Meissen – Dresden – Schöna:

- Meissen City-Bus: Meissen stop
- Lößnitzgrundbahn railway: Radebeul Ost stop
- Kirnitzschalbahn tram: Bad Schandau stop

S 3 Dresden – Tharandt:

- Weißeritztalbahn railway: Freital-Hainsberg stop

Buses and trams to the funicular railway and the suspension railway:

- tram routes 6 and 12, city bus route 65 to Schillerplatz stop walk across the »Blaues Wunder« bridge
- city bus routes 61, 63, and 84 or regional bus route 309 to Körnerplatz stop.

Information on fares and timetables:
VVO-InfoHotline +49 (0)3 51/852 65 55
www.vvo-online.de

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