

## CULTURE HARZ

## HARZ

[www.harzinfo.de](http://www.harzinfo.de)

## CATHEDRAL TREASURES

[www.domschaetze.de](http://www.domschaetze.de)

left to right: The apocalyptic Christ, the Christ-Apostle Tapestry, Halberstadt Cathedral treasure. The Cistercian Monastery Walkenried. View of the Brocken.

## “Der Harz ist ein Deutscher”

### INFORMATION

#### Harzer Verkehrsverband e.V.

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#### Harz Narrow Gauge Railway

Europe's longest narrow gauge railway network (140.4 km) takes you through the Harz region and to the top of the Brocken. The steam locomotives with their wonderful sound are capable of climbing more than 1000 meters in height during their trips. The whole system is classed as a historical monument and therefore protected. The three sections are the Harzquerbahn, the Selketalbahn and the Brockenbahn.

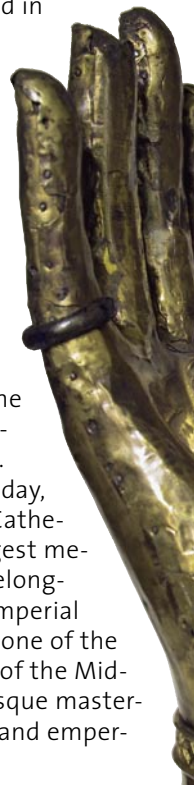
[www.hsb-wr.de](http://www.hsb-wr.de)

If one was to quote Heinrich Heine correctly, his words would be: “The Brocken is a German”. Indeed, the Harz with its history and culture is definitely the most German of all low mountain ranges. The cradle of German kingship can be found in Quedlinburg, and in Goslar you can find evidence of the beginning of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation.

The Brocken received its literary ordination from Germany's greatest poet, Goethe. This mountain is, after decades, freely accessible again and a symbol of German re-unification. It was Wendhusen Monastery near Thale where the conversion to Christianity in the Harz region began. Charlemagne was eager to keep a tight rein on the stubborn Saxons by using the Christian faith. However, the Saxons decided not to fight against a superior opponent. In-

stead they reached an agreement with Charlemagne and in 919 under Heinrich I chose to accept the East-Franconian throne. An early case of “change by rapprochement”.

The Harz was the powerhouse of an empire stretching from the North Sea across parts of what is now France to Poland and Italy. The Harz became the platform of world history. Much is still visible today, e.g. the Halberstadt Cathedral Treasure, the largest medieval treasure still belonging to a church. The imperial palace in Goslar with one of the largest hall buildings of the Middle Ages is a Romanesque masterpiece. Thirteen kings and emper-



ors held court here. The imperial palace of Tilleda is the only one in Germany to have been completely excavated.

To locate the origin of the Saxon kings you need to visit Bad Gandersheim. The Saxon Duke Liudolf (806–866) rightly sensed the mood of the times and converted to Christianity.



left to right: Historical Town Hall of Wernigerode. Historical Sehusa-Festival in Seesen.

## A HarzCard in your luggage

**E**njoy the Middle Ages in the Harz and still economise? Not possible? But it is! With the HarzCard. More than 100 castles, palaces, churches, monasteries, museums, exhibitions, caves, mines, mining museums, gardens, parks, zoos, thermal and leisure swimming baths, leisure facilities and organisers of cultural events: they all participate. The ride up the Brocken by rail is free of charge on a 4-day-HarzCard, and so are others such as the old Narrow Gauge Harz Railways, funiculars, chairlifts, sightseeing tours in Goslar and Wernigerode, boating trips on the Oker Lake. There are

reductions in the Thale Bergtheater, for family holidays in Güntersberge “KIEZ,” for guided tours, child care and cycle hire. For the enthusiast of the Middle Ages there are entrance fee reductions at: Regenstein

Castle and Fortress, Michaelstein Monastery, the Mining Museum in Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Falkenstein Castle, the Imperial Palace in Goslar, the UNESCO World Heritage Site Rammelsberg, Halberstadt Cathedral Treasure and Gleimhaus, the Nebra Ark in Wangerode and Wernigerode Castle.

[www.harzcard.info](http://www.harzcard.info)

### The HarzCard: 1 Ticket – 100 Experiences

The **HarzCard** is available either as a 48-hour HarzCard at 27 EUR for adults and 17 EUR for children between 5 and 14, or as a 4-day HarzCard at 45 EUR for adults and 25 EUR for children. It gives you free entrance at more than 100 sites and places, or means of transport. Children up to the age 4 will receive a free Bambino-HarzCard if accompanied by at least one fare-paying adult. The HarzCard is available from many tourist-information offices and partner offices. You can also order it directly from the Harzer Verkehrsverband (Tel. +49 (0) 5321. 34040) or by internet under [www.harzcard.info](http://www.harzcard.info)

### The Middle Ages in the Harz Region

Roswitha von Gandersheim, one of the first female authors after the end of early times, lived in the Bad Gandersheim Convent. Walkenried Monastery was the third Cistercian settlement and it became very rich and very influential. Today it is a museum. A centre for all things to do with music is Michaelstein Monastery near Blankenburg. This complex of a former Cistercian Monastery now houses a museum of more than 700 musical instruments. Fabulous concerts are performed by well-known artists. It also has a herb and vegetable garden, and the culinary delights on offer are outstanding. Blankenburg has beautiful castle gardens and the impressive Regenstein Castle ruins. And there is much more to be seen!

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reliquary,  
Cathedral  
Treasure of  
Halberstadt