

Moments that inspire



TRAVEL WITHOUT BORDERS.
THROUGH THE CENTURIES.
TIME FOR REFLECTION.



SAXONY.



STATE OF THE ARTS.

TRAVEL WITHOUT BORDERS

Feel freedom, enjoy the discoverer within and find inner peace – on the “Via Sacra”, a new tourist route that takes you through an ancient European cultural era ...

... for encounters with unique sacred places and works of art in the geographical triangle formed by Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic.

They are fascinating evidence of the similarities in the history, culture and spiritual tradition of a cross-border region on both sides of the Neisse, in which Upper Lusatia, Silesia and Bohemia intertwine with each other.

As a result of the divisions of Europe in the 20th century, this culturally rich and scenic region is still something of a terra incognita – unknown territory.

“Via Sacra” promises a quiet adventure full of astonishing new discovery.



From west to east and east to west.

Some can perceive on its paths the sacredness – often of European importance – that lies at the heart of this cultural region, in which political borders have become trivial.

As a result of the new German, Sorb/Wend, Polish and Czech cooperation in what has become a larger Europe.

Unique in Germany, significant for Europe: the Large Lenten Veil of Zittau from 1472 with 90 biblical scenes



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1. The large church hall of the world-famous protestant fraternity in Herrnhut

2. Heads with forked tongues in Wang Church in Karpacz, once a Viking symbol for wisdom

3. Moved from Norway to the Riesengebirge: the Wang Stave Church from the 12th century

4. Small Zittau lent cloth from 1573, a unique testimony to the history of piety in Germany

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5. In Zittau's central church, St. John's, constructed by Karl Friedrich Schinkel

6. Tomb of the Imperial General Albrecht von Wallenstein in the Chapel of St. Anna in Mnichovo Hradiště

7. Frýdlant Castle – provided the inspiration for Kafka's novel "The Castle"

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TRAVEL THROUGH THE CENTURIES

Travel back in time, breathe in history and experience the power of historic masterpieces.

The “Via Sacra” leads you through a thousand years of central European culture and piety – where the main trading routes between the East and West, North and South used to cross.

The route connects key churches, monasteries/ convents and additional sacred locations and treasures in Upper Lusatia, Lower Silesia and North Bohemia.

For example, the famous Zittau lent cloths, St. Marienthal Abbey, which is the oldest women's convent of the Cistercian Order in Germany, the world famous Herrnhuter Brüder-Unität (Moravian Church), the Church of Peace in Jawor, which is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the tomb of Imperial General Generalissimo Albrecht von Wallenstein in Mnichovo Hradiště.

All are stops on the “Via Sacra” of significant cultural and historical value with enthralling stories.



“One cannot claim to appreciate the cultural assets of one’s time properly, if one does not appreciate the assets of the past”.

A quote from Goethe who himself visited Bohemia and Silesia. In this sense, the “Via Sacra” can be considered a kind of bridge, leading back to common roots in the heartland of Europe.

Basilica of the Visitation of Our Lady in Hejnice; after Mariazeil (Styria) the most important place of pilgrimage in ancient Austria-Hungary



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1. Stone pulpit in the monumental Church of the Holy Cross in Jelenia Góra

2. The late Gothic monstrance in the treasure chamber of St. Peter's Cathedral in Bautzen

3. The Church of Peace in Jawor – after its sister church in Świdnica, Europe's largest sacred half-timbered building

4. St. Peter's Cathedral in Bautzen: Catholics and Protestants together under one roof since the Reformation

5. Annen altar (ca. 1520) in the Minster St. Annen in Kamenz, one of the town's total of eight valuable late Gothic carved altars

6. The 500-year old Holy Grave in Görlitz, the most faithful reproduction of the holy places in medieval Jerusalem

7. Five-nave Protestant Church of St. Peter and Paul in Görlitz completed in 1497. Together with the Heiligem Grab (Holy Sepulchre), Kreuzweg (Way of the Cross) and Ölberggarten, it forms a unique ensemble illustrating the history of piety and landscape architecture.

8. Archaeological find in the medieval monastery of St. John's Knights, discovered a few years ago, in Český Dub

TRAVEL FOR REFLECTION

Feel the silence and expanse, let calmness sink in,
trust your senses.

The “Via Sacra” builds on the unique appeal
of sacred buildings and art treasures, and on
the search of more and more people for spiritual
experiences to compensate for the stress and
hectic pace of everyday life.

As places of spirituality and reflection, the churches,
monasteries, convents and other places of religious
history along the “Via Sacra” can stimulate
self-contemplation. For all those who make
the time for it and are open to it.
For Christians and non-Christians alike.

A special spirit seems to dwell inside many places –
the genius loci. On the “Via Sacra”, for example,
you can find it in the spirit of tolerance associated
with St. Peter’s Cathedral in Bautzen, which has been
shared since the Reformation by the Roman Catholic
and Protestant-Lutheran communities.



Another example is the spirit of reconciliation
in the pilgrimage Church of the Visitation in Hejnice,
which is reminiscent of a wondrous cure.

Discover, marvel, ponder – those who open
their souls are capable of experiencing new
things on the “Via Sacra” both around
themselves and within themselves.

Main altar of Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed
Virgin Mary in Krzeszów with its legendary shrine



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1. Archaeological sensation: discovery and excavation of the monastery of St. John's Knights from the 13th century in Český Dub

2. Tomb of St. Zdislava, a legendary healer in Jablonné v Podještědí

3. Church of St. Laurentius in Jablonné v Podještědí, papal basilica minor since 1996

4. Prayer service at the St. Marienstern convent in Panschwitz-Kuckau, erected in 1248

5. Mausoleum of the Piasts from Jawor-Świdnica in the Baroque monastery complex of Krzeszów

6. Castle and monastery ruins of Oybin, monastery founded by Emperor Charles IV – an atmospheric subject for painters of the German Romance period

7. A portrait of Philipp Melancthon's in a Cunewalde village church window

8. A Baroque church in Cunewalde, Germany's biggest Protestant village church, with room for a congregation of more than 2,600

ENCOUNTERS IN THE CENTRE OF EUROPE

1. Large Lenten Veil of Zittau/Small Lenten Veil of Zittau
2. Castle and monastery building, Oybin
3. Protestant fraternity, Herrnhut
4. Village church, Cunewalde
5. St. Peter's Cathedral, Bautzen with treasure chamber
6. St. Marienstern Cistercian Abbey
Panschwitz-Kuckau/Kamenz altars
7. Holy Grave, Cross and Protestant Church
of St. Peter and Paul, Görlitz
8. St. Marienthal Cistercian Convent, Ostritz
9. Church of Peace under the invocation
of the Holy Ghost, Jawor
10. Krzeszów Abbey, Krzeszów
11. Wang Church, Karpacz
12. Holy Cross Church, Jelenia Góra
13. Basilica of the Visitation of Our Lady, Hejnice
14. Monastery of St. John's Knights and
Commendam, Český Dub
15. St. Anne's Chapel, Mnichovo Hradiště
16. St. Laurentius Church, Jablonné v Podještědí



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Cover picture: With the nuns at St. Marienthal Abbey near Ostritz, the oldest women's convent of the Cistercian Order in Germany

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Both unfold an opulent magnificence which is unparalleled. Cheers to all!



www.kloster-marienthal.de