



Deutsche
Fachwerk
Straße

INFORMATION ON THE GERMAN HALF-TIMBERED HOUSE ROAD

Choose from the extensive selection of brochures that we have put together for you:

- Road maps of the seven regional routes – some with cycle routes



- Additional cycling brochures are available for routes along the German Half-Timbered House Road



- Charming hotels and restaurants along the German Half-Timbered House Road

We have compiled the details of particularly magnificent, unusual, and romantic – i.e. charming – hotels and restaurants along the German Half-Timbered House Road for you in this brochure.



- Motorhome pitches along the German Half-Timbered House Road
- Discover the cultural highlights along the German Half-Timbered House Road in your home on wheels. This brochure features the details of selected motorhome pitches with all relevant information in our member towns.

You are welcome to order these publications from us. Give us a call or send us an email. Detailed information on the regional routes and towns, guided tours, festivals and special events can also be found on our website.

We wish you a pleasant read and an enjoyable time planning your holiday!

WWW.DEUTSCHE-FACHWERKSTRASSE.DE



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IMPRINT

HALF-TIMBERING CONNECTS

WWW.FACHWERK-ARGE.DE

For 40 years the Deutsche Fachwerkstädte working group e. V. has been linking more than 130 towns and communities throughout Germany which have significant numbers of half-timbered houses. These half-timbered towns work together to exchange their experience and expertise to preserve their heritage of historic urban half-timbered buildings. Three interdisciplinary teams represent the Deutsche Fachwerkstraße (German half-timbered house road), construction engineering and education in the working group. Legal interests collaborate in the



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ALL REGIONAL ROUTES

COMPLETE OVERVIEW

■ FROM THE RIVER ELBE TO THE HARZ MOUNTAINS ■ UPPER LUSATIAN LOG AND HALF-TIMBERED HOUSE ROAD ■ FROM THE HARZ MOUNTAINS TO THE THURINGIAN FOREST ■ FROM THE WESER HILLS VIA NORTH HESSE TO THE VOGELSBERG MOUNTAINS AND SPESSART UPLANDS ■ FROM THE WESTERWALD VIA THE LAHN VALLEY AND THE TAUNUS TO THE RIVER MAIN ■ FROM THE RIVER RHINE TO THE RIVER MAIN AND THE ODENWALD FOREST ■ FROM THE RIVER NECKAR TO THE BLACK FOREST AND LAKE CONSTANCE

WE KNOW HALF-TIMBERING



- NORTHERN REGION**
■ FROM THE RIVER ELBE TO THE HARZ MOUNTAINS
- EASTERN REGION**
■ UPPER LUSATIAN LOG AND HALF-TIMBERED HOUSE ROAD
- CENTRAL REGION**
■ FROM THE HARZ MOUNTAINS TO THE THURINGIAN FOREST
■ FROM THE WESER HILLS VIA NORTH HESSE TO THE VOGELSBERG MOUNTAINS AND SPESSART UPLANDS
■ FROM THE WESTERWALD VIA THE LAHN VALLEY AND THE TAUNUS TO THE RIVER MAIN
■ FROM THE RIVER RHINE TO THE RIVER MAIN AND THE ODENWALD FOREST
- SOUTHERN REGION**
■ FROM THE RIVER NECKAR TO THE BLACK FOREST AND LAKE CONSTANCE

WELCOME

on the German Half-Timbered House Road



Dear Guests,

We would like to bid you a very warm welcome, and to invite you to explore the towns along around 3,500 km of the German Half-Timbered House Road.

This popular holiday and cultural route which came into being in 1990 stretches from the Elbe in the north via Upper Lusatia in eastern Saxony to Lake Constance in the south. It has been divided into a total of seven regional stretches, and passes through just as many federal states: Lower Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Hesse, Thuringia, Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg.

Around one hundred towns have joined together under the motto of "Half-timbering connects" to present their charming historic old towns. The German Half-Timbered House Road not only brings together idyllic half-timbered towns, stunning scenery, historic sites, and carefully restored monuments, but also the people who live and work there.

Health resorts and festival locations alternate with nature parks and romantic nooks. Just as varied as the entertainment on offer in our half-timbered towns are the culinary delights.

Relax in romantic half-timbered surroundings, indulge in regional products, wander winding alleyways, embark on fun tours with the kids or adventure tours, hike or cycle the route – the German Half-Timbered House Road really does have something for everyone.

We would like to invite you to enjoy a cultural journey of discovery along the German Half-Timbered House Road. Our member towns look forward to your visit!

Kind regards

Head Office
German Half-Timbered House Road

HALF-TIMBERED STRUCTURES

in Germany

Half-timbered towns and villages remain a characteristic of the landscape in many parts of Germany to this day. Indeed, the country's more than 2.5 million half-timbered structures are the pride and joy of municipalities and owners.

Wood is the basic material used in the construction of half-timbered buildings. The characteristic features of this wood, the climatic conditions and the carpenters' skills are decisive to the dimensions and forms of the half-timbered houses.

Half-timbered structures have a wood-saving skeleton with self-supporting timber and curtain walls made of clay or brick. This building method is extremely ecological, environmentally sustainable and aesthetic.

In Northern Germany, the half-timbered buildings are essentially based on the Lower German hall house in which people, livestock and the harvest were brought together under one roof. Central German timber frames are characterised by a central section divided into three areas open to the eaves, which primarily served as living space. In Southern Germany, the half-timbered frame developed from the Alemannic wooden post structure, an earlier construction method with wide post positions.

With the half-timbered houses, we immerse ourselves in the ways of life and structures of centuries past. We encounter living testimonies here in an abundance of forms, embellishments and symbols, such as the Saint Andrew's cross (the other cross of the Germanic people), which in Christian times came to commemorate Saint Andrew, who was nailed to a slanted cross. "Wild men" and fanned rosettes, flared and straight rhombuses, and a whole variety of trees of life through to Christian symbols count among the traditional tradesmen's embellishments added to half-timbered buildings.

Half-timbering gems do not always come singly: Streets, squares, and often even entire half-timbered towns are characterized by unique ensembles of inestimable historic value.

Professor Manfred Gerner



GERMAN HALF-TIMBERED CONSTRUCTION STYLES



Lower German half-timbering is characterised by two- and four-post constructions for large hall houses which feature a central hall and entrance hall that can be accessed directly from the street. The floor plan of these houses has three sections. Originally the sections at either side of this type of house were used as stalls for the livestock, the central section formed the hallway, and the living area and bedrooms faced the garden. This basic floor plan was adapted early on, particularly in towns. Here, the typical oriel windows were developed.

Central German half-timbering is common in all low mountain range areas as far as around the River Neckar in the south, Poland in the east and the French Alsace in the west. The gables of these houses mostly face the street and are divided into different sections: the parlour faces the front, followed by the kitchen and stairway, with the bedrooms at the back. The stalls, crop store and bake house were mostly housed in separate buildings. In larger settlements, the houses were adapted to urban conditions early on.

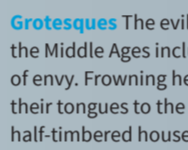


Upper German half-timbering In the fourteenth century, a different style of house with wide post positions and double frame beams developed from the Alemannic wooden post structure in the region between the River Neckar and Lake Constance, the Black Forest and Bohemian Forest. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, more and more construction methods were adopted from Central Germany until the basic construction methods ultimately became identical in around 1600.

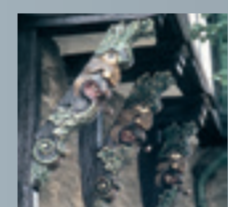
St Andrew's cross Our early ancestors, the Germanic people, were already using "the other cross" as the symbol for multiplication, which we still use in calculations today. In Christian times, the cross was reinterpreted as the Saint Andrew's cross commemorating holy Saint Andrew. In its flared form, the Saint Andrew's cross is also known as the "firoidog".



Fanned rosettes In the first third of the sixteenth century, the fanned rosette appeared as an ornamental motif in Lower Germany in particular, and dominated as the gable embellishment in the centuries that followed. The shape is believed to originate from the classic shell form or from symbols for the sun.



Grotesques The evils one had to guard against in the Middle Ages included the "evil eye" and the sin of envy. Frowning heads or grotesques sticking out their tongues to the envious were therefore affixed to half-timbered houses.



FROM THE RIVER ELBE TO THE HARZ MOUNTAINS

Northern region



"The most beautiful in the north" – River Elbe, Elbe Valley and Wendland, Altmark, Harz, Eichsfeld, Weser Uplands, Middle Weser and Wiehen Hills: the scenery along the regional route from the River Elbe to the Weser Hills could hardly be more diverse.

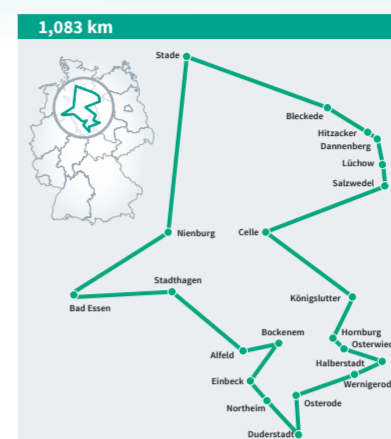
Centuries-old half-timbered structures await visitors at every turn.

Owners and inhabitants, towns and municipalities appreciate the historic value of these half-timbered structures as individual hand-crafted creations, unique contributions to the townscape, and cultural assets. The half-timbered structures are valued and cared for with love.

Dukes, counts and kings have influenced the towns, yielding outstanding testimonies to European cultural history.

The towns' history is brought to life. Cosy inner courtyards, sprawling squares, and splendid façades testify to centuries past. The towns' museums skilfully bridge the gap between tradition and modernity.

Take your time to enjoy the many sights during a stroll through the half-timbered towns.



The half-timbered towns invite visitors to stop off in homely hotels, cosy cafés, rustic wine cellars, corner pubs, and classy restaurants.

Whether travelling by car, motorhome, motorcycle or bicycle, the half-timbered towns from the Elbe River to the Harz Mountains offer a very special experience at all times of the year.

UPPER LUSATIAN LOG AND HALF-TIMBERED HOUSE ROAD

Eastern region



In the heart of Europe is a region with an unmistakable character that is, even today, shaped by a special type of architecture: the Upper Lusatian log and half-timbered house. An estimated 19,000 of these noteworthy buildings still exist across several borders. This architectural landscape sits on the border triangle of Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic, stretching from Upper Lusatia and Saxon Switzerland to Lower Silesia and Northern Bohemia. The sight is like no other in the world as nowhere else in Europe has folk architecture been preserved with such great density.

There are many theories about the origins of the Upper Lusatian houses but none of them can be definitively confirmed. The trend of building Upper Lusatian houses began in around 1400 and ended in the first half of the 19th century, when stone houses took over from the previous architectural style. For centuries, the textile industry ('linen weaving'), textile processing and textile retail were of critical importance to the towns and villages along the Upper Lusatian House Road. This is still evident in the region's many factory-like structures.



Today, many of the Upper Lusatian houses skilfully combine their rustic charm with modern home comforts. Carefully looked after by their proprietors, the houses radiate a down-to-earth feeling, owner pride and great hospitality.

The 112-kilometre section of the German Half-Timbered House Road is designed as a circular route and passes through the towns and municipalities of Ebersbach-Neugersdorf, Seifenhennersdorf, Großschönau, Mittelherrnhut, Oderwitz, Herrnhut and Kottmar. The route is located in a spectacular landscape that belongs geologically to the Upper Lusatian Mountains and the Zittau Mountains Nature Park. The towns and villages all have their own draw and offer not only enchanting architecture but also plenty of holiday and leisure activities.

FROM THE HARZ MOUNTAINS TO THE THURINGIAN FOREST

Central region



For many generations now, the people dwelling between the Harz mountains and Thuringian forest have been accustomed to adopting cultural influences from all over and lending these their own characteristic touch. The architectural styles from Gothic to historicist, regional particularities from Lower Saxony to Southern Germany, and ultimately the function of representative town halls through to labourer dwellings led to the construction of a multitude of half-timbered structures developed over a period of six hundred years.

The strictly structured half-timbered construction style and palmette as a characteristic of Lower Saxon half-timbered structures is clearly discernible in the towns of Stolberg and Worbis. These influences are particularly visible on the half-timbered structures in Wanfried, which was once the terminus of the historic Werra-Weser waterway. The former potash town of Bleicherode is a rare example of the short-lived revival of the half-timbered construction method at the end of the nineteenth century.

The "Thuringian ladder" and "wild man" gain in importance as half-tim-



bered construction elements from the town of Mühlhausen through the Werra meander to Treffurt. The spa and rose town of Langensalza is not only impressive due to its parklands but also due to the great many half-timbered buildings featuring baroque stucco façades. In Schmalkalden, a special style combining Hessian and Franconian elements dominates the town's historic centre.

During a tour, visitors are able to admire the carefully restored half-timbered structures and a variety of stone testimonies to times long past in all eight towns, follow in the footsteps of historic figures, enjoy the local hospitality, and relax in the undulating landscape of the Wartburg-Hainich World Heritage region.

FROM THE WESER HILLS VIA NORTH HESSE TO THE VOGELSBERG MOUNTAINS AND SPESSART UPLANDS

Central region



A multiplicity of half-timbered styles opens up before you in the golden heart of Germany. It is no surprise to learn that construction of the German Half-Timbered Road began here in 1990. The diversity of half-timbered styles and forms with influences from Lower Saxony, Hesse and Thuringia via Franconia to Italy is simply unique.

This road through this region leads through romantic river valleys and skirts mountains shrouded in legend, such as the Hoher Meissner, also known as "the Mother Holle mountain", the Knüll or the Vogelsberg.

It begins in the north in Han-noversch-Münden (the half-timbered, three-river town) and continues through Bad Sooden-Allendorf (the beauty of the Werra Valley), Eschwege (the half-timbered town in the Werra Valley), Spangenberg (the centre of the art trail "KunstWanderLand") and Melsungen with its symbolic "Bartenwetter" figure and on to Wolfhagen (the idyllic town in the Habichtswald Nature Park).

From there the route leads through Fritzlar (the cathedral city of the Emperors) and Homberg (Efze) (the Reformation town of Hesse) to Rotenburg on the Fulda (town of the landgraves in the central Fulda Valley). From here it continues to the



spa and festival town of Bad Hersfeld and then on to Schwalmstadt (in Red Riding Hood country). Then comes Homberg (Ohm) (the half-timbered jewel on the River Ohm), Alsfeld (the European half-timbered town) and Schlitz ("romance meets joi de vivre"), then the route via Lauterbach ("the town of the lost sock") and Grünberg (500 years of picture book beauty). Lastly comes the Kinzig Valley, where the oldest half-timbered church in Hesse can be found in Gelnhausen and all the characters from Grimm's fairy tales in Steinau, the town of the Brothers Grimm.

All of these towns are quintessential of the unprecedented cultural diversity of the 18 member towns.

FROM THE WESTERWALD VIA THE LAHN VALLEY AND THE TAUNUS TO THE RIVER MAIN

Central region



This stretch takes you to the show-pieces of history; the residences of former princes, important trade centres, spa and festival towns. Learn about our cherished old towns featuring picturesque half-timbered houses, splendid palaces and castles, impressive churches, monasteries and cathedrals. Your journey begins in the northern foothills of the Hessian West-erwald, and leads along the banks of the Dill River to one of the most roman-tic rivers in Germany, the Lahn. The route then follows the river's course to explore the beautiful Middle Lahn Valley. Continuing on, the route passes through the Taunus mountain range to the Rhine-Main metropolitan region.

Allow yourself to be captivated by the beautiful half-timbered houses in a Hessian-Franconian style. Every town will impress with a range of other high-lights in addition to its half-timbered structures. Thus Dillenburg awaits with one of the largest underground fortifications in Western Europe dating from the Early Modern period, while the unique flair of the multi-floor half-timbered houses in the town of Herborn form a chain of half-timbered jewels in the Dill Valley. A young Goethe gained inspiration for his epistolary novel "The Sorrows of Young Werther" in Wetzlar from his lodgings overlooking the town's mighty cathedral. The historic



town ensemble of Braunfels is one of the most appealing townscapes in Hesse. Seven-towered Saint George's cathedral, which is one of the most impressive architectural monuments in Europe, is the landmark of the town of Limburg. Bad Camberg – the oldest Kneipp spa town in Hesse – awaits visitors with a fabulous Kneipp spa park and one of the longest half-timbered houses in Germany. Idstein is impressive with its sheer density of half-timbered buildings, castles and castle grounds in addition to the splendidly ornate Union Church. Across the 65 hectares of the Hessenpark open-air museum you can see 100 half-timbered houses, the history of Hesse, everyday culture and the whole kaleidoscope of building, living and working. Bolongaro Palace, Saint Justin's church and the world-famous porcelain factory are sites well worth visiting in the town of Höchst. Your Hessian hosts bid you a very warm welcome.

FROM THE RIVER RHINE TO THE RIVER MAIN AND THE ODENWALD FOREST

Central region



Half-timbering in South Hesse reflects the significance and blossoming of the towns during the Middle Ages and this can be seen in all the towns and villages along the route:

In Trebur you can discover angular courtyards and around 300 half-timbered houses in the Franconian style. The medieval kernel of Dreieichen-hain is encircled by a city wall and is a highlight of the Hayn castle complex which dates from the 11th century. The Steinheim district of Hanau not only has medieval timber-framed houses but also an almost intact city wall, aristocratic residences, the tithe and administrative buildings of the Elector of Mainz and the castle. The lanes of Seligenstadt's old town have beautiful half-timbered houses and a visit to the convent garden and imposing Einhard Basilica are highly recommended. A comfortable stroll through the half-timbered houses of Babenhausen brings the visitor to the modern regional museum. The marketplace in the cosy Dieburg pedestrian precinct, surrounded by half-timbered houses, lies between the Fechenbach Castle Museum and the baroque pilgrim church and invites the visitor to stroll around and look. There are plenty of half-timbered houses to discover along Kirchstrasse in Reinheim, with its historic old town, manor house, city wall and town park.



Gross-Umstadt, the "wine island of the Odenwald" has five castles and two aristocratic residences and possesses rural charm combined with Mediterranean flair. Miltenberg "Pearl of the Main", has magnificent half-timbered buildings, for example in the old marketplace – the "Schnatterloch" – or the oldest inn in Germany "The Giant". In Walldürn the visitor experiences history at close quarters: as well as half-timbered houses there is the "Holy Blood" pilgrimage basilica, the Odenwald open-air museum, Roman excavations and the Limes trail. The half-timbered old town in Erbach is renowned for its castle, Schloss Erbach, with the collections acquired by its counts and the German Ivory museum. Between Spessart and Odenwald, on the Main and the Tauber, lies the holiday region of Wertheim – heart of the "Route of Delights" and part of the Romantic Road since 2016.

FROM THE RIVER NECKAR TO THE BLACK FOREST AND LAKE CONSTANCE

Southern region



This star-shaped regional route in Southern Germany leads from Mosbach in the Neckar Valley through Sasbachwalden in the Black Forest to Meersburg beside Lake Constance. Fertile farmlands, steep vineyards, colourful fruit orchards and vast forests as well as untouched waters, moors, picturesque mountains and wide valleys can be found here.

30 half-timbered towns with medieval appeal and a romantic atmosphere lie in this regional stretch of the route, presenting the visitor with the many varieties of half-timbering in south-west Germany; predominantly the Alle-mannic and Franconian styles. The diversity of the Southwest German half-timbered structures is due to lengthy construction era, as well as the different construction types and stylistic embellishments. Magnificent half-timbered buildings dating from the thirteenth to the nineteenth centuries adorn these historic towns. The oldest houses still in existence can be found in the towns of Esslingen and Markgroeningen in the central Neckar region as well as in Upper Swabia, e.g. in Biberach an der Riss. The holiday regions of the Odenwald Forest, Northern and Central Black Forest, Swabian Jura and Lake



Constance-Upper Swabia as well as the wild and romantic valleys of the Neckar, Enz, Kinzig, Riss and Danube rivers offer variety and opportunities for regeneration. This ensemble of charming landscapes and half-timbered silhouettes brings the charm of ancient towns to life, and creates a tranquil ambience that will allow visitors to relax and regenerate. The age-old tradition of market rights is upheld in the towns, and markets and festivals are today special occasions that draw the crowds and help fill the towns with life. Take a stroll through the street of our towns, and sense the spirit of days gone by in many of these places.