



Prime tourist attractions in Darmstadt-Dieburg district and surroundings

2 The Rhine-Main-Neckar region ...

Distances (direct)

Frankfurt25 km
Offenbach25 km
Mainz40 km
Wiesbaden40 km
Ludwigshafen40 km
Mannheim40 km
Heidelberg40 km
Aschaffenburg	...20 km

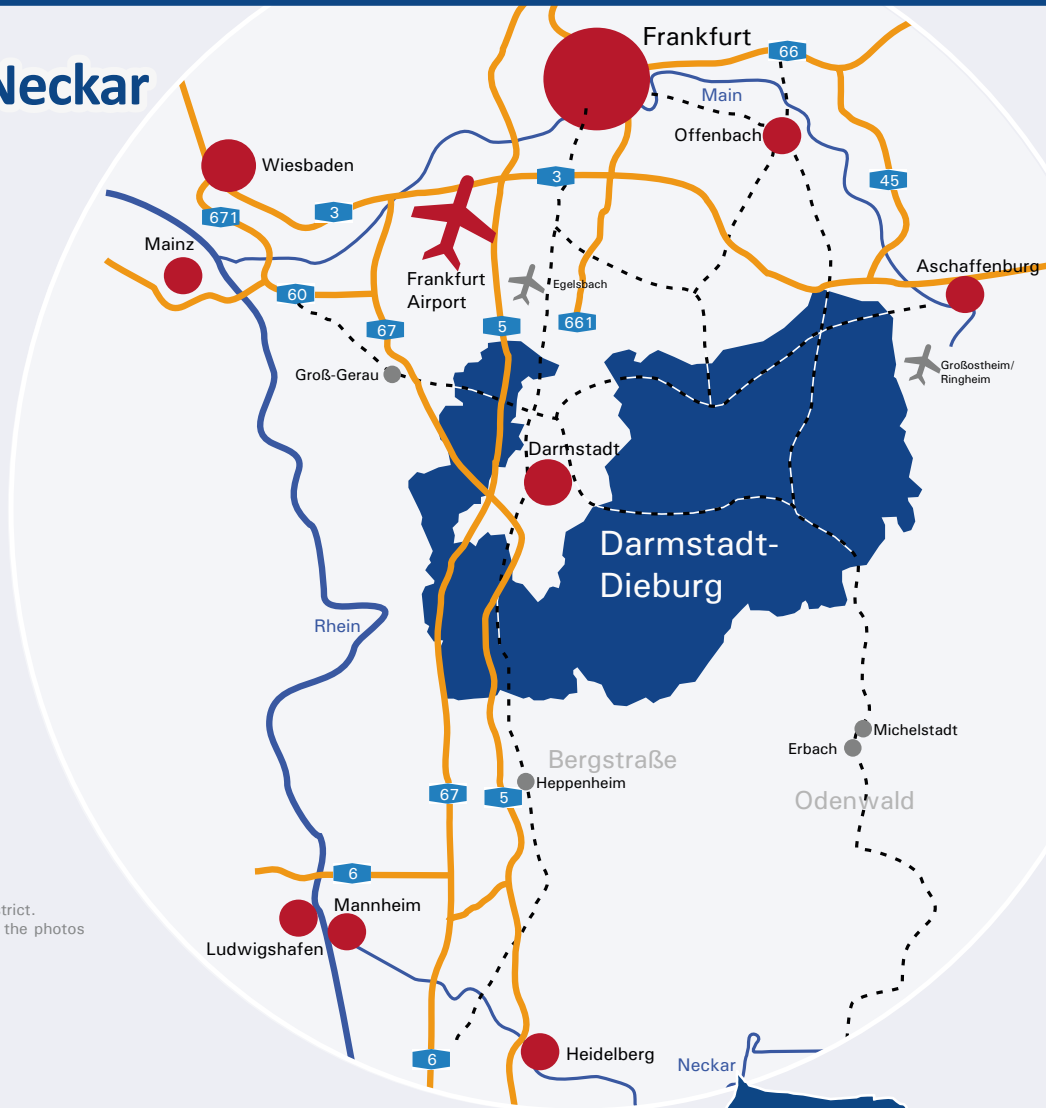
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... and Darmstadt-Dieburg district.

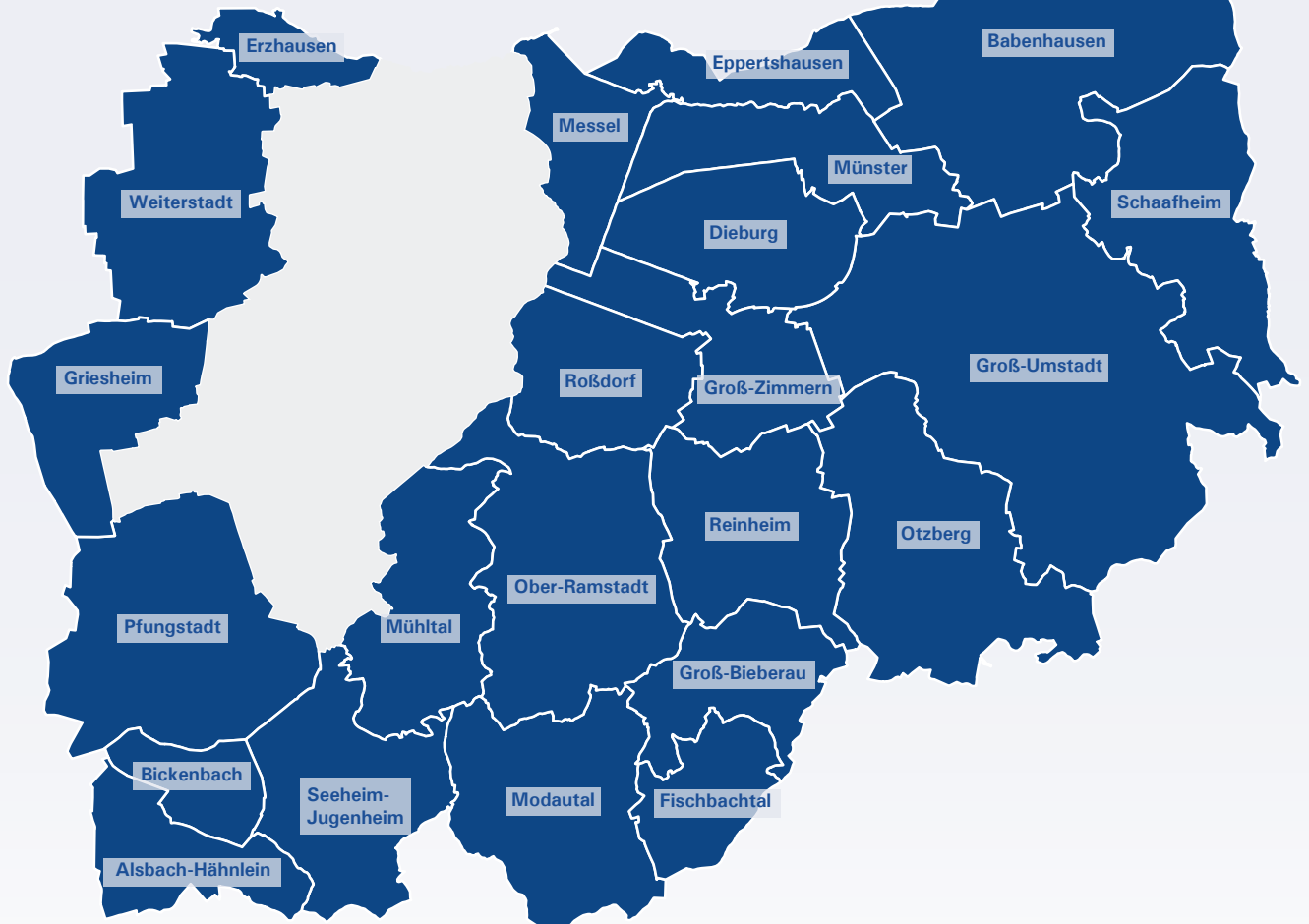




Table of contents

Rhine-Main-Neckar region	4
Starkenburger region	6
Darmstadt-Dieburg district	8
Twin towns of Darmstadt-Dieburg district	10

Visiting friends in Darmstadt-Dieburg district

Darmstadt-Dieburg district is situated in one of the economically strongest and culturally most interesting regions of Germany and Europe. Whether you want to take a trip to Frankfurt or the hessian state capital Wiesbaden or would rather relax in a tranquil town in the Odenwald mountain area – a visit to Darmstadt-Dieburg district offers infinite possibilities to spend one's leisure time.

The hospitality practised here makes a stay in one of the 23 municipalities an unforgettable experience. Enjoy the benefits of our beautiful district – we are looking forward to your visit.



Klaus Peter Schellhaas
District commissioner



Just like the skyline, the 'Römer' (city hall) is one of Frankfurt's landmarks.



Frankfurt skyline at twilight: the metropolis at the Main river is known for its nightlife far beyond the borders of Germany.

Enjoying the view

It can already be seen from far away and offers a backdrop that is not only impressive but unique in Europe: Frankfurt skyline. The bank's imposing skyscrapers signify clearly: Frankfurt is one of the most important financial centres in the world. For anyone who wants to learn something about stock markets, money and international economic flows Frankfurt is the right place. Some banks like the European Central Bank for example offer interesting tours for sightseers. A perfect view and a really spectacular photo subject are provided on the viewing platform of the 200 metre tall Main Tower. Not only does it offer a wonderful view of the Frankfurt skyline, in good weather conditions you can even see the landscapes of Odenwald, Taunus and Spessart (three low mountain ranges), as well as many cities with your naked eye.

However, Frankfurt does not only stand for finances and skyscrapers but also for tradition, culture and customs. One of the most well-known citizens of Frankfurt is the German prince of poets Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. His parental home and the attached Goethe museum are always worth a visit and convey a vivid impression of 18th century life. Another part of Frankfurt tradition is the 'Bembelsche' – that is what the Frankfurter call the pot bellied stone jar in which the local national drink is served: apple wine.

A trip to Frankfurt is only one of many highlights. The entire Rhine-Main-Neckar region provides a lot of diverse destinations for all kinds of interests. Scenically the region has a lot to offer. Romantic towns and cities along the picturesque river landscape of the Rhine, Main and Neckar river cause not only the hearts of those who love nostalgia or of peace seekers to skip a beat. Amidst this paradise there is also lots of room for action and adventure. Why don't you take a helicopter tour from Egelsbach airport, run down the stairs of a skyscraper during 'house running' or enjoy nature while climbing in one of the region's high rope gardens?

For those who like to take it easy, the many castles and palaces come highly recommended. Heidelberg palace, situated right at the foot of Neckar river, is the landmark of the city of Heidelberg and one of the most famous ruins in Germany. The historical old town of Heidelberg with its small alleyways and beautiful houses is a feast for the eyes and serves as a reminder of times long gone. After taking a walk through the old town, past city hall, the magnificent Renaissance building 'Ritter' (knight) and the oldest German university, it pays to take a detour to one of the many cosy pubs and bars.



Johannisburg palace is situated right at the Main river in the city of Aschaffenburg in lower Franconia.



Heidelberg palace and the historic old town are counted among the most beautiful of their kind in Germany.

Just as elegant and shapely as the old town of Heidelberg, Aschaffenburg palace is beaming in red with its four characteristic corner towers. Mainz Cathedral captivates people not only because of its size but also due to its many architectural forms. Over the centuries were added time and again, therefore the cathedral consists of Romanesque as well as of Gothic and Baroque elements.

Another highlight are the many spas, that offer their visitors peace, relaxation and health treatments. In Wiesbaden, the Hessian capital, a healing bath can be combined with a visit to the magnificent Kurhaus. This building has been the social centre of Wiesbaden since the 19th century and bestows its unique character of majestic grandeur upon every festivity. And those who would like to try their luck can play a round of Black Jack or Roulette at the Wiesbaden Casino.

In the region around Frankfurt, Mainz, Wiesbaden, Offenbach, Darmstadt and Heidelberg those seeking relaxation as well as those who want to stay active can get their money's worth.



Mainz Cathedral consists of Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque components.



At 129 metres the Kurhaus in Wiesbaden has the longest portico in Europe and it is also the social centre of the city.



The small castle in the Orangerie in Darmstadt is mostly used for concerts, conferences and private events.

Experience art, culture and nature

At Mathildenhöhe it becomes apparent for everyone why Darmstadt is the centre of Art Nouveau in Germany. The extraordinary architecture of the wedding tower, also known as five finger tower, resembles an outstretched hand. Grand duke Ernst Ludwig was a great supporter of this modern style that developed between the 19th and 20th century. Seven young artists answered the grand duke's call and moved to the artist colony that was named after them in order to live and work there. Over the years they created many interesting works of art and buildings that are well worth seeing.

As the upper centre of the Starkenburg region Darmstadt has much more to offer than that: next to art, culture and design, high tech and science play a major role. The European Space Agency's mission control centre ESOC (European Space Operations Centre) for example is in Darmstadt and offers exciting tours through the world of aerospace to interested parties. Darmstadt also houses a considerable number of theatres, like for example the recently renovated state theatre or the Comedy-Hall, where puppets talking in Hessian dialect make the audience laugh. Restful relaxation offer the many parks in Darmstadt like the 'Herrngarten' for example and for several years now people have once again been able to enjoy spa and wellness treatments in the 'Jugendstilbad'.

No less interesting are the surrounding cities and areas. Erbach in the Odenwald has not only a beautiful old town and a palace, but also the only ivory museum of its kind worldwide. In Frankenstein Castle near Eberstadt there is every year the biggest Halloween party in Europe. Even hardcore fans of the horror genre are overcome with fear and panic when zombies and vampires hide behind trees to ambush people in the moonlight.

In the German Leather museum in Offenbach you will not only find all kinds of interesting facts and exhibits about the art of leather making but also marvel at the greatest collection of shoes in Europe. There you will find shoes from 4000 years of human history like for example the slippers of the Austrian empress Sissi.

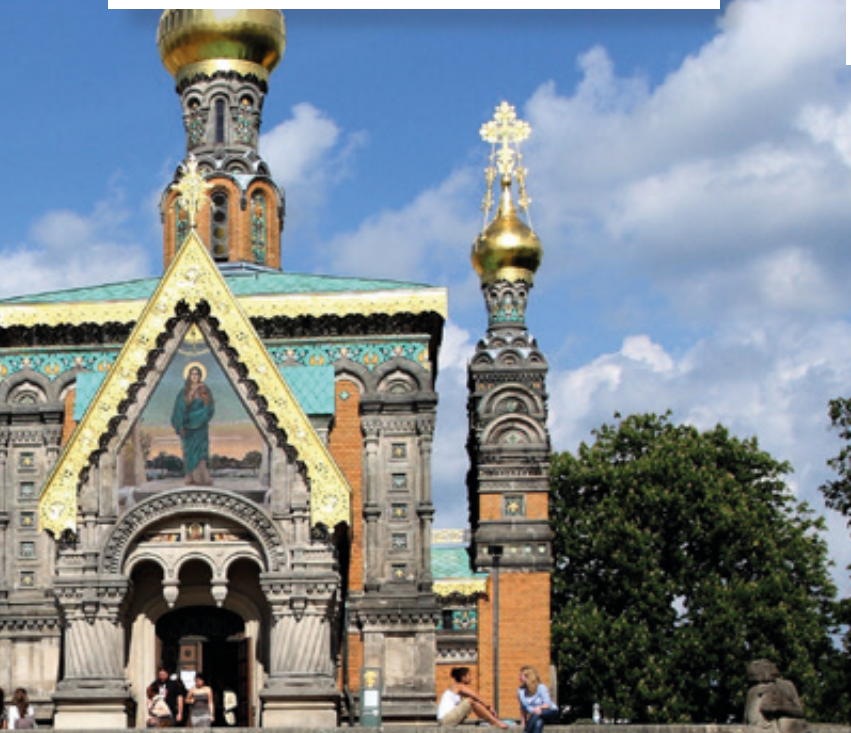
For extended hiking and bicycle tours many diverse routes are available. The hiking trails along the Bergstraße lead from Darmstadt to just behind Heidelberg and invite in many places to delicious wine tastings. In the Odenwald it is just as much fun to experience the unique landscape as it is to learn mysterious facts about nature. There are for example a number of legends and myths about giants and dwarfs surrounding the Felsenmeer ('sea of cliffs') in Lautertal – go on a voyage of discovery in the Geo-Naturpark Bergstraße-Odenwald.



The 'Wooded Spiral' apartment house in the 'Bürgerpark' (literally: citizen's park) quarter of Darmstadt was built based on a design by artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser.



The completely renovated state theatre in Darmstadt is shining bright in new splendour and stages many interesting plays.



The Felsenmeer ('sea of cliffs') in Lautertal is one of the highlights in the Geo-Naturpark Bergstraße-Odenwald.



The ruins of the famous Frankenstein castle that has been housing the biggest Halloween party in Europe for years.



Starkenburg castle in Heppenheim gave the former Southhessian province its name.



There are also a number of places in the region where one can play some golf.



Lichtenberg palace in Fischbachtal was first built as a castle in the 12th century and later converted.



At first glance Messel Pit looks inconspicuous – but it is a world-wide unique treasure of fossils.

A district for all the senses

In Darmstadt-Dieburg district urbanity meets rusticity in a special way and allows for an abundance of amazing sensory impressions. Whether you are tasting delicious wines from Groß-Umstadt, smelling the wonderful scent of flora and fauna in Fischbachtal or letting yourself be overwhelmed by the fantastic landscape while enjoying the view of the Odenwald from the Veste Otzberg (a castle) – in Darmstadt-Dieburg district all senses are sharpened.

A window to the past and one of the greatest attractions in the entire region is Messel Pit. The former quarry for oil shales houses fossils that are more diverse and better preserved than anywhere else in the world. Therefore, in 1995, Messel Pit was the first site in Germany to be included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites so that it is placed side by side with such famous natural heritage sites as the Grand Canyon in the USA or the Galapagos Islands off the coast of South America. In the newly opened visitor centre amateur researchers can find out more about the earth and its fascinating history. Experts offer guided tours into the around 65 metres deep pit and explain details about the excavations and the spectacular findings that provide an excellent picture of the earth millions of years ago.

Those who like fun and action should take a couple of laps on the go-kart tracks in Schaaheim or Groß-Zimmern and try to beat the local records. Or they can increase their strength and skill on the climbing wall in Groß-Zimmern. Being active while learning something at the same time is fun and engages your mind. Opportunities for that are afforded for example by the educational wine trail in Groß-Umstadt or the geological educational trail in Fischbachtal.

The numerous palaces and castles in Darmstadt-Dieburg district will catapult you back into the glorious times of the nobility. Braunshardt palace is referred to as the 'pearl of the Rococo'. The famous British Queen Victoria visited the palace frequently and is said to have called it a "colourful box of chocolates" because every room is painted in another colour.

With its concerts, exhibitions and summer gallery Lichtenberg palace in Fischbachtal is not only the cultural centre of the region but also one of the gateways to the Geopark Bergstraße-Odenwald. No matter what you want to do: to hike, to ride a bicycle, to experience action or to simply enjoy nature in peace – all these opportunities are available to you in Darmstadt-Dieburg district. Sharpen your senses!



Braunshardt palace is also called the 'pearl of Rococo'. The colourful rooms are always worth a visit.



Schaafheim watch tower was already built in 1492 and served as protection for carters and merchants.



Alsbach palace also known as Bickenbach castle provides an excellent view of the Bergstraße.



Ride a couple of laps in a go-cart – either in Schaafheim or in Groß-Zimmern.



Even many wine connoisseurs can still learn something about the cultivating of vines on the educational wine trail in Groß-Umstadt.



There are numerous swimming pools in Darmstadt-Dieburg district to swim or relax in.

Twin towns

From Portugal to Sweden, from Great Britain to Italy, the bonds of friendship reach from the 23 municipalities of Darmstadt-Dieburg district across Europe. Darmstadt-Dieburg district also has four twin counties: District North East Derbyshire (Great Britain), Zwickau district (Germany), District Mlada Boleslav (Czech Republic) and the province Florence (Italy). The partnerships were established in the endeavour to contribute to peace, freedom and international understanding.

Great Britain

- 1 Retford (Pfungstadt)
- 2 North East Derbyshire
(Landkreis Darmstadt-Dieburg)

France

- 1 Verneuil sur Seine (Weiterstadt)
- 2 Aubergenville (Dieburg)
- 3 St. Fargeau Ponthierry (Groß-Zimmern)
- 4 Stadt Nemours (Mühltal)
- 5 Chaource (Eppertshausen)
- 6 Bar-le-Duc (Griesheim)
- 7 Bouxwiller (Babenhausen)
- 8 Lenclouire (Otzberg)
- 9 St. Philbert de Grand Lieu (Bickenbach)
- 10 Richelieu (Schaafheim)
- 11 Gradignan (Pfungstadt)
- 12 Cestas (Reinheim)
- 13 Villenave d`Ornon (Seeheim-Jugenheim)
- 14 Saint-André (Ober-Ramstadt)
- 15 Saint-Péray (Groß Umstadt)
- 16 Montmeyran (Groß-Bieberau)

Portugal

- 1 Santo Tirso (Groß-Umstadt)

Germany

- 1 Fürstenwalde / Spree (Reinheim)
- 2 Mansfeld (Schaaflheim)
- 3 Thurm (Ober-Ramstadt)
- 4 Leutersbach (Fischbachtal)
- 5 Crinitzberg (Alsbach-Hähnlein)
- 6 Landkreis Zwickau
(Landkreis Darmstadt-Dieburg)

Sweden

- 1 Vingåker (Mühlital)

Czech Republic

- 1 Mnichovo Hradiste (Erzhausen)
- 2 Mlada Boleslav
(Landkreis Darmstadt-Dieburg)

Poland

- 1 Sanok (Reinheim)

Hungary

- 1 Diósd (Alsbach-Hähnlein)
- 2 Heviz (Pfungstadt)
- 3 Szőlősgyörök (Modautal)
- 4 Gyöng (Griesheim)

Austria

- 1 Vösendorf (Roßdorf)
- 2 Abtenau (Münster)

Italy

- 1 Kiens (Weiterstadt)
- 2 Vermezzo (Ober-Ramstadt)
- 3 Prigelato (Ober-Ramstadt)
- 4 Cogoletto (Ober-Ramstadt)
- 5 Codigoro (Eppertshausen)
- 6 Provinz Florenz (Landkreis Darmstadt-Dieburg)
- 7 Pontassieve (Griesheim)
- 8 Pelago (Modautal)
- 9 Bagno a Ripoli (Weiterstadt)
- 10 Reggello (Roßdorf)
- 11 Incisa in Val d'Arno (Erzhausen)
- 12 Figline Valdarno (Pfungstadt)
- 13 Dicomano (Groß-Umstadt)
- 14 Tricarico (Bickenbach)
- 15 Licata (Reinheim)



