

min+clm



Come and discover all the sides of the city:

*Minden – Absolutely remarkable!*

Weserstadt **Minden**



seit 798 merk-würdig

*min + din*

The founding of Minden:

In 772 A.D., during the Saxonian conquests, Charlemagne (Karl der Große) pit his armies against rival chieftain Widukind (Wittekind). After years of bitter struggle, in 798 A.D. a peace treaty was created and signed at the foot of his castle on the banks of the Weser. It was then decreed that, "This castle shall from henceforth on be 'min' (mine) and 'din' (yours)." That's how 'Minden' got its name – *remarkable!*



## Welcome to Remarkable Minden

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### Credits

#### Publishing and Content:

Minden Marketing GmbH  
Domstraße 2 • 32423 Minden  
phone: (05 71) 8 29 06 59  
fax: (05 71) 8 29 06 63  
www.mindenmarketing.de  
E-mail: info@mindenmarketing.de  
www.minden-erleben.de

Editing:  
Minden Marketing GmbH

Printing:  
JCC Bruns GmbH

© 2009 | Auflage: 5.000  
Schutzgebühr: 5,00 €

Layout and Design:  
mlorenz@etageins.de

Photographs and Images:  
American Jewish Archives (Cincinnati/Ohio),  
Atelier Pfeleiderer/S. Pohlmann, A. Bernhard  
(Ring der Wassersportvereine um die Porta  
Westfalica e.V.), R. Brune, W. Hedrich,  
B. Horstmann (www.treffpunkt-minden.de),  
P. Hubbe, V. Krusche, Minden Marketing  
GmbH, M. Lorenz, M. Otto, B. Schulte,  
Chr. Schwier, Chr. Weber, A. Weigelt,  
H. Wiese, D. Wilkening.

This brochure was made possible  
with the generous financial  
support of the JCC Bruns GmbH.



### Dear Guest,

Welcome and thank you for reading! In the next few pages, the team here at Minden Marketing GmbH would like to introduce you our gem of a city and some of the possibilities that it has to offer! We highly encourage all of our guests (and locals!) to explore our remarkable city and also the surrounding region!

Minden is host to a long history filled with traditions and customs! Today our city is enriched by diverse cultural activities, magical festivals, athletic events, unique shopping locales, delectable cuisine and last, but not least, abundant recreation and leisure opportunities. Together they help make Minden into the remarkable place that it is.

All of these opportunities are available both as individual and group packages through our booking service! Whether you're planning an extended vacation, day-tripping, or just passing through; our booking service can help make your visit to Minden unforgettable!

### Your Team at the Minden Marketing GmbH



Minden  
Marketing  
GmbH

## Welcome to Historic Minden Once upon a time in 798 ...

...Charlemagne (Karl der Große) called for an assembly in Minda. Found in the French annals, this record is the first official mention of Minden and marks the beginning of more than 1200 years of history. In the year 800, Minden became a diocese town (Bischofssitz) and established its first cathedral. By 977, Minden enjoyed many privileges including the right to coin money, furnish markets, levy tariffs and to hold court. These laid the foundations for the further development of the episcopal town.

Located where the town market (Marktbetrieb) now sits, Minden's successful medieval market drew traders, craftsmen and commerce to the city. In the Middle Ages, Minden was part of the Hanseatic League, an extensive network of trading cities and guilds. These ties to commercial cities helped Minden to grow and flourish. Eventually, the Marien- and Simeon- hamlets (Vorstädte) came to be. In Minden an economic boom followed the Reformation. Today many of the constructions built during this time still grace the city. One can also find many architectural remnants and traces of the years under the Brandenburg-Prussian monarchy. See the sights and stroll through the centuries!



The old hamlet (Vorstadt) of Minden, a picturesque fishing village ('Fischerstadt'), has had its own fortifications since the Middle Ages.

## Minden well worth seeing

Minden's exceptional history becomes even more apparent when strolling through the town's upper and lower districts! Wandering along the cobbled streets and lanes can feel nearly medieval; the narrow timbered houses harkening back to a time when craftsmen and merchants still traded their wares.

Close by sit the proud and stately 16<sup>th</sup> century houses of merchants and gentry – impressive reminders of the wealth and self-confidence of this era. The quiet beauty of the buildings' romantic angles and ivy-covered facades makes for a perfect pause.



A view of Minden from the columned cloister of the cathedral's westwork.



Every Thursday at exactly 8:00 p.m., Minden's night watchman Helga Simon begins her rounds at the city-hall alcove (Rathauslaube). From here she winds her way through the picturesque passages of the old city (Altstadt). Company is heartily welcomed and is sure to find a very special sort of nightlife!

More than 1000 years old, Minden's cathedral harmoniously combines romantic and gothic architectural styles. Considered by many to be the most beautiful hall church in Germany, the cathedral is not to be missed! Just a few steps away sits the impressive town hall, complete with the oldest 'town hall alcove' (Rathauslaube) in Westphalia.

Today Minden bears the traces of Romanesque, Gothic, Weser Renaissance and Classical styles, all of which add to its distinctive history and charm. Come and get away from it all! Enjoy the magic of Minden!

Shopping thoroughfares flanked by stores and broad open squares alternate with narrow alleyways and quiet lanes. Minden's proud inhabitants have worked passionately to restore their city to its pre-war charm.



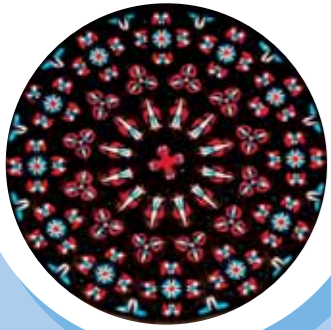
The Straße am Weingarten is a typical street in the Old Town (Altstadt). The regal "Haus Voss" was originally the town's curia (administrative building), but was taken over by the locksmith and metalworker Julius Voss in 1893. The blacksmith's lingering craftsmanship still adorns the doors. Near St. Martinkirche stands a timbered house (Fachwerkhaus). In bygone centuries, this was the home of Minden's 'waits', who served as the city's watchmen, tower keepers and also musicians. The "Windloch" was built next door to serve as a storage barn.



Learning about Minden can be very entertaining! Try a walking history lesson while strolling through the many sites with a friendly tour guide. Groups can book themed tours focusing on Minden's churches (Kirchen in Minden), the botanical garden and old cemetery (Botanischer Garten und Alter Friedhof), Prussian Tour (Preußentour), the Weser Renaissance (Weserrenaissance), as well as the "Cool Wine and Fresh Beer" (Kühler Wein und frisches Bier) tour. Check the Tourist Information booth on Domstraße for more information and current tour offerings.

The so-called "Alte Münze" (Old Coin) was built out of sandstone blocks in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Though the original purpose of this building is now unknown, it was used as a mint in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The city-hall (Rathaus) was built in 1260 out of stone to serve as a tribute to the town. The beautiful, gothic alcove (Rathauslaube) is still present today. After sustaining extensive damage in the wars, the building was restored by Berlin architect Werner March.



Minden's cathedral is located in the center of the city. One can climb the towers on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 11:00 a.m. sharp. A stained-glass window known as the 'Rose of Minden' (Mindener Rose) graces the northern nave.



This row of "Weser Renaissance" houses is part of the Minden Museum of History, Region, and Folklore.

## Church City Minden

The history of Minden's cathedral starts at the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> century when a simple Saalkirche (hall church) without any towers was constructed on the cathedral hill. Later, this minimal edifice was replaced by a 3-aisle long-house, with an eastern transept, a choir and most likely an exterior crypt. During the 10<sup>th</sup> century, a central western-transept was added, giving the cathedral its final shape. Construction on this section was completed in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Sometime before the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, a late-Romanesque choir ledge with richly moulded glassed-fronts was built.

The gothic hall with its famous tracery windows was attached to the earlier structure. The cathedral was heavily damaged during World War II, but has been completely restored to its earlier form. For almost 450 years, the original Golden Tablet (Goldenen Tafel) crowned the cathedral's choir. A replica tablet was commissioned for the 1200-year anniversary celebration of the diocese. It has been on display since Pentecost of 2002. Inside the cathedral, diverse Christian artefacts certainly warrant closer examination. But, whatever you do, don't miss the cathedral's treasury! The Minden Cross (dating from 1070), the Petri shrine (1071) and the silver Madonna (1230) are among the many marvels contained within. If your visit to the cathedral left you eager for



more, try touring some of Minden's other churches (shown below). The Simeonis church (founded at the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century) and the church of the Benedictines (built by the same order who founded the St. Mauritius monastery in 1042) also have rich histories and are always worth a visit!

Pictured from left to right: The Martinikirche dates back to an arched-basilica (Gewölbebasilika) from the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. However, the original building burned to the ground on multiple occasions. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century the Martinikirche's aisles were modernized and the structure was converted into a hall church (Hallenkirche). The Marienkirche was built as a convent church (Klosterkirche) by Benedictine nuns. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, this church was also converted into a Hallenkirche. The simple baroque Petrikerche was constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century for the Evangelist-Reformation congregation. The Johanniskirche has been home of Minden's "BÜZ" culture center (Kulturzentrum "BÜZ") for 25 years.



## Minden in the Weser Renaissance

The "Haus Hagemeyer" is the former home of the merchant (Großkaufmann) and mayor (Bürgermeister) Thomas von Kampen. It is the most well-known example of Weser Renaissance architecture in Minden. These structures are characterized by frieze patterns and figures. There are many more examples to be found in the Minden Museum and residences (Bürgerhäusern) around town.



Although the structures are much older, the term Weser Renaissance (Weserrenaissance) was first coined in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The style of building is characterized by decorated timbered houses and embellished sandstone facades on both citizen and noble residences. This style of building reflects Minden's economic prosperity in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and examples can be found throughout the city. Together buildings like these create the perfect backdrop for the Minden Museum (Ritterstraße 23–33) which looks very much like a 17<sup>th</sup> century lane. Inside the museum you can find versatile exhibits about Minden's civic and cultural histories and numerous remnants from middle-class dwellings done in the Weser Renaissance style. Interested in the Weser Renaissance? We recommend an informative sightseeing tour for anyone who would like to learn more!



What would the hometown of the world famous Melitta Company be without a coffee museum? The Minden Museum has dedicated an entire section to the diverse cultural and historical aspects of coffee; most importantly, the rich evolution of the coffee filter.



## Minden and Prussia

The Fort A building dates from the times of the Prussian fortification, but was left to itself for many years. More recently it has been used as a performance space by the Minden's Tucholsky-Bühne theatre troupe.



The tracks of the Cologne-Minden railway were protected by Minden's various forts. Of these, Fort C (above) and Fort A have been almost completely preserved. (Left: Fort B).



The former fortress' supply larder (Proviantmagazin) is still in use by the Weserkolleg.



After the Peace of Westphalia in 1648, Minden was received by Brandenburg-Prussia, and subsequently governed and fortified by the monarchy. Until 1873, the ramparts protected the province of Westphalia from the Hanoverian empire. Visitors to the Prussian Museum can follow these traces of time. Here a 1500 square meter exhibition space has been dedicated to the display of original artifacts of, extensive reproductions from, and vivid multi-media exhibits about the era. The museum is located in a former defense barracks, one of the earliest large-scale military edifices still present in Minden today.

Many other souvenirs of the Prussian era remain in Minden today, such as the garrison military hospital, the supply depot, the army bakery, 'Fort C' and the train station. The Prussian-style buildings show the influence of the famous Prussian architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel. The Cologne-Minden railway was established in 1844. Since 1845, the rails and buildings of the Cologne-Minden railway have been integrated into the fortress system.



The Silver Crown (commissioned in 1730) is brought out of the museum to celebrate Minden's Freischießen (literally, 'free-shooting') festival. The Latin inscription reads: "A noble gift from the king to his people who support the forts."

Minden's bi-annual Freischießen (literally 'free shooting') festival is the most important festival in the area. The citizen battalion (Bürgerbataillon) has been a town tradition for more than 300 years.



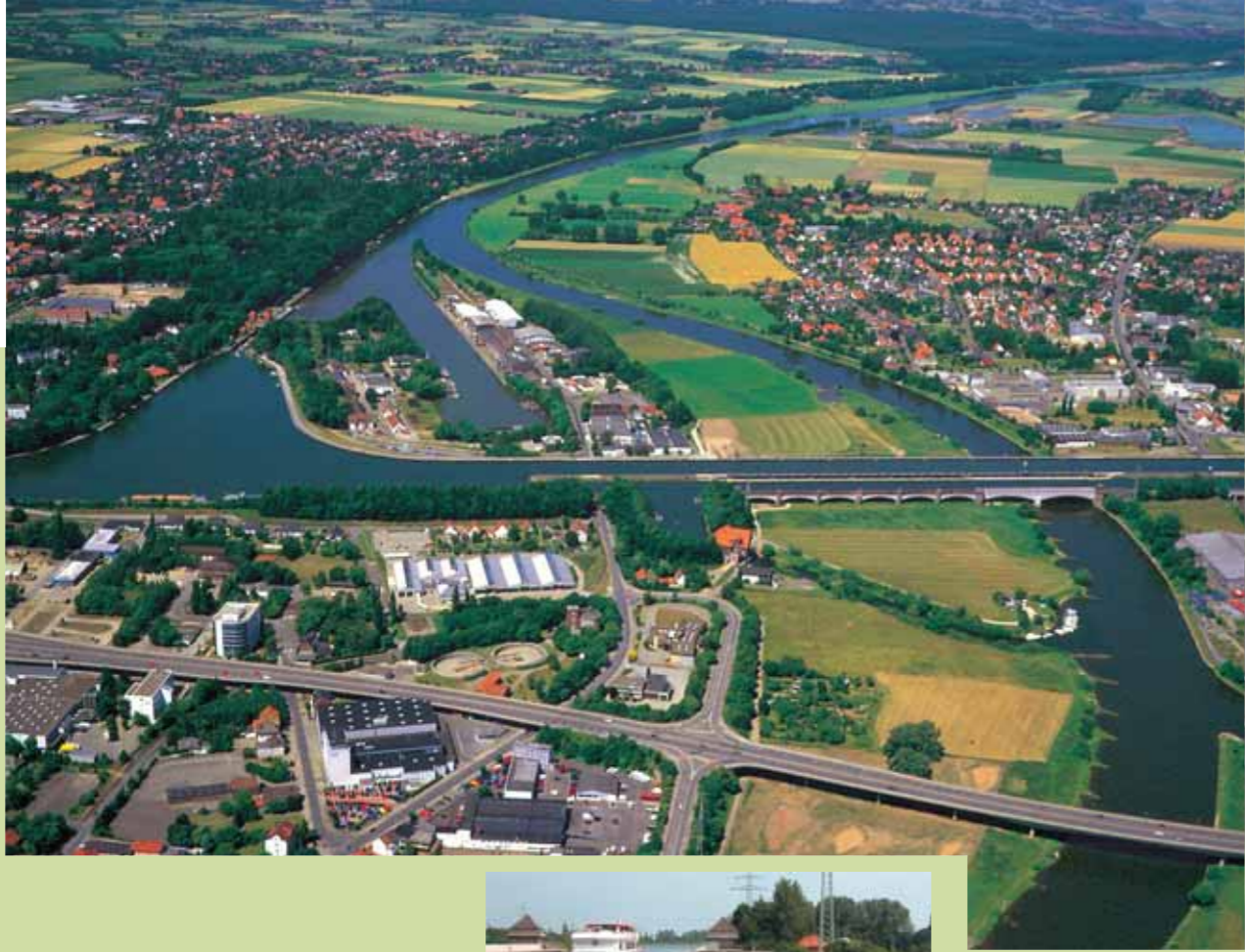
Minden was a highly desirable settlement site due to its location on the banks of a river. As a result, it needed to be constantly defended against invaders. Fire could also be devastating as it could spread uncontrollably through the densely settled area inside the fortress. In order to counter these threats, the town's residents were pressed into military service – a practice that would evolve into Minden's citizen battalion (Bürgerbataillon). In the 17<sup>th</sup> century Marksmanship training became mandatory for all Minden's citizens. Eventually the town council decided to dedicate a festival to the practice. The best shooter was determined and then rewarded with tax relief for a year. The term 'free-shooting' (Freischießen) was born. Nowadays Minden's Bürger battalion is still keeping the tradition alive by celebrating a multi-day festival which is enjoyed by Minden's locals and visitors.



Brandenburg-Prussian rule began in Minden under Friedrich Wilhelm von Brandenburg, the so-called Great Elector (Große Kurfürst).

The intersection at Minden's Aqueduct (the Mindener Wasserstraßenkreuz) is an important hub for inland water navigation.

In 1998 a new water bridge was added to the aqueduct during. As a result of this enterprise, large 'Europashiffe'-type barges (some reaching 1,350 tonnes) can pass through the aqueduct.



The bocce pitch near the ship-mill grinder (Schiffmühle) is a favorite meeting place in the summer for informal gatherings.



## Leisure in Minden Leisure

In 1906, construction finally began on one of the region's largest water projects: The Rhine-Weser canal. In 1914, construction was completed on a massive aqueduct in Minden. Here two parallel water bridges allow the "Midland Canal" (Mittellandkanal) to flow over the Weser River. At 371 meters, this structure is one of the largest water bridges in the world. Minden's passenger navigation service offers informational cruises where visitors can learn about the central lock, pumping station, canal bridge and the southern route.

The high point of any Weser cruise is a trip through the locks that connect the river to the canal.

Don't miss the turning (filling or emptying) of the central lock! The visitor center at the central lock offers all sorts of information, exhibits, models, and films detailing inland water navigation. You will find a special treat on the banks of the Weser! A fully-functioning 18<sup>th</sup> century mill has been reconstructed and guests are invited to watch the grinding of grain into flour. Weser visitors should definitely book a trip on our lovingly restored paddle steambot, complete with an original steam-engine! Nostalgic fun for everyone!



It takes only seven minutes for the lock to turn (mechanically raise or lower the water level in the chamber) over 13 meters!



Across from "Kanzlers Weide" (literally, 'the chancellor's pasture') lies the reconstructed ship-mill grinder (Schiffmühle) which heartily welcomes visitors.

Try a stroll along the glacis, the embankment that now runs where Minden's wall once stood. Here you will find a charming green space, perfect for leisure, sports, or just relaxing. Whether you want to organize an afternoon picnic, or else try something more active – running, walking, or power-walking – this secluded, natural trek is perfect when you just want to get away from it all. The glacis also hosts two playgrounds, perfect for the little ones!

Whether walking, biking, or inline skating, the Weser Promenade offers pleasant and natural paths along the river. Cycling enthusiasts can enjoy the attractive Weser bike trail, which leads along the Weser Promenade and into the city.



If the weather's nice, make sure not to miss the old cemetery (Alte Friedhof) and the botanical garden (Botanischer Garten). Tours are also available!



Many Minden locals enjoy spending their spare time along the Weser.



A foot-bridge connects the Kanzlers Weide (now used as a free parking lot and camping area for recreational vehicles) to downtown Minden (the Innenstadt).



In 1996, archaeologists discovered a monument of great historical and artistic importance at the Widukind (Wittekind) Castle. The site was discovered within the grounds of the pre-Roman fort structure. The structure contains the foundations and walls of a rare 10<sup>th</sup> century church whose ground plan follows the form of a cross.

The well-preserved, unadorned stone blocks form a Greek cross embedded in the earth.



The cross itself measures approximately 14 meters across. Five graves were unearthed inside the church, three of which belonged to children. A glass enclosure helps to protect the artifacts from the elements.

Contact and Info:  
00 49 -(0) 5 71 - 3 31 02

## Experiencing Minden

Looking for an unusual excursion? Try an exploration of the Solar System via Minden's planet trek. Using a scale of 1:1 billion, the route mimics the enormous size and distance of our solar system. Here the Sun measures 1.39 meters, the Earth 1.3 cm and Pluto is a 'mere' 5.9 kilometers away. The planet trek commemorates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of astronomer Friedrich William Bessel and was established in 1996 by the pupils and teachers of the Besselgymnasium. This attraction can be best experienced by bike. Start at the Prussian museum (the Sun) and continue along the Weser towards Petershagen. More planets are waiting for you along the bike path...

Note: programs featuring specific visitor attractions can be individually tailored for groups and school classes



Great fun awaits young and old alike at Potts Park theme park and "Terra Phänomenalis" (Phenomenal Earth) science center!



The mine at Kleinenbremen is open for tours and offers its visitors a journey through the underworld. Tours will leave visitors with a lasting impression of the interior workings of an iron ore mine. The accompanying Museum of Mining and Earth Science offers additional information.

The Minden Museum invites you to learn more about steam trains and trams.



Several super straight-aways make Minden an inline skater's paradise!



In keeping with their 'hands-on' motto ("Anfassen erlaubt"), the Lille Kunterbunt art school offers classes, hands-on art activities, and themed day events suitable for children and young people. Info: 05 71 - 2 43 68



The outlying Haddenhausen Castle (Schloss Haddenhausen) captivates visitors with its delightful location and typical Weser Renaissance ornamentation.

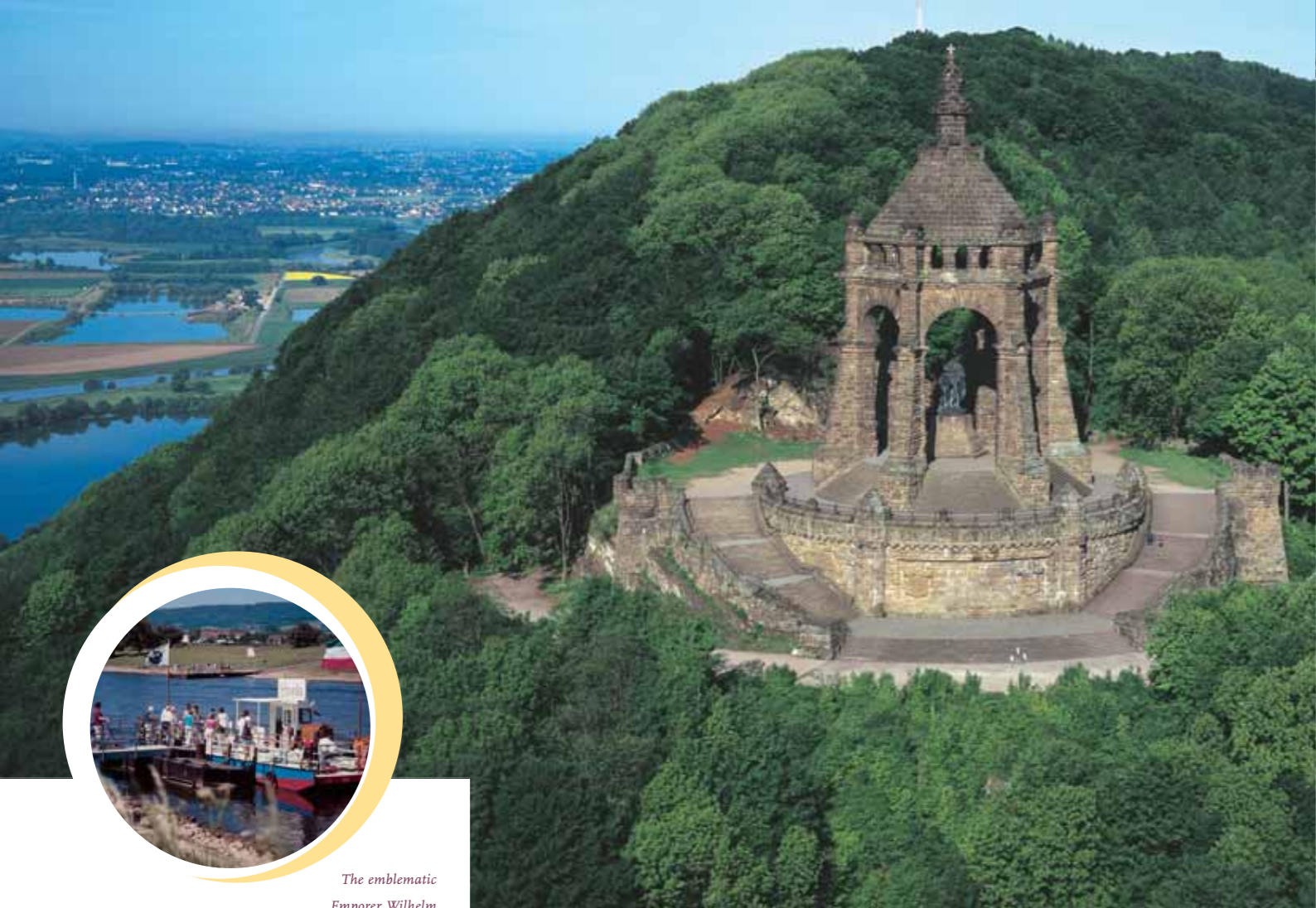


Minden's large equestrian tournament is a high-level sporting event! With its diverting program, this lively event is fun for the entire family!

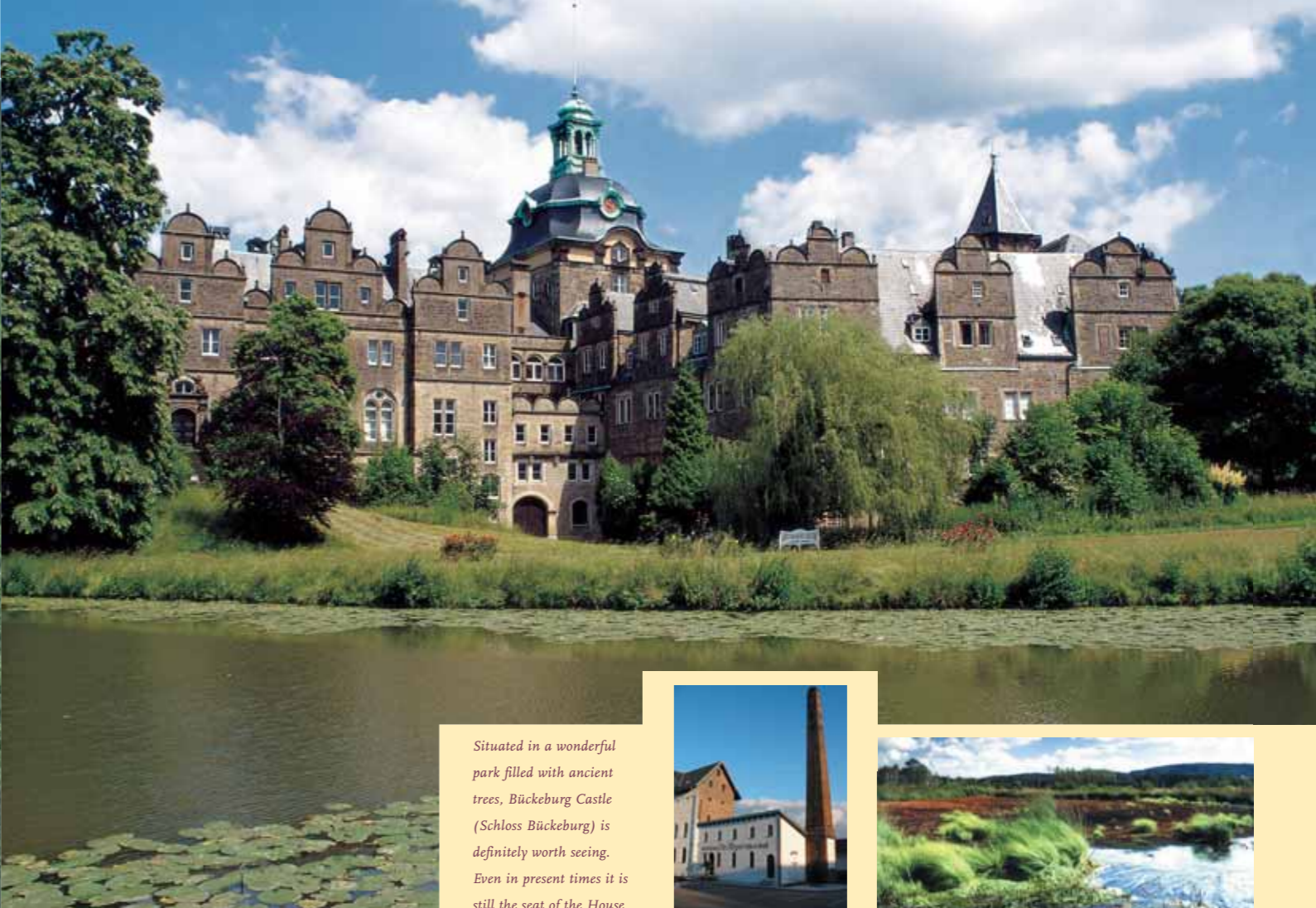
During the traditional "Kranzreiten" (wreath-ride), jockeys attempt to grab a frond from a wreath hanging high above them while galloping their horses at full speed around a track. A brave jockey might even stand on the back of his fast-moving horse in order to better reach the wreath (hanging as high as 4.50 meters)!

Minden's attractions are as numerous as they are marvellous! Why not travel with the museum railway and venture into the surrounding countryside? You can either visit the Südhemern windmill and continue into the Hiller moorland or else take a tour of the mine at Kleinenbremen? Perhaps you want to try the mill route and go by steam train and/or ship? You can even do it all! The museum railway's daily route makes combining trips easy.

Here with kids? Potts Park will make everyone's day! Perfect for families, the unique fun park offers unusual rides and attractions, including the wild water course and water roundabout, roller coaster, and (our favorite) merry 'pig' rides on the Lazy Sow. Everyone can take part in the interactive fun of the pedal ride, water fun park and slide areas, complete with crazy bikes. Want to feel young again (or at least small)? Then try the fun house where everything is scaled to make you the same height as your two year old. (Try putting your nose over *this* table ledge!) In search of something educational? The "Terra Phenomenalis" science center is a new addition to the park. This 'weatherproof', interactive exhibition fosters fun *and* learning.



The emblematic Emperor Wilhelm Monument (Kaiser-Wilhelm-Denkmal) is built out of genuine Westphalian sandstone and is definitely worth seeing!



Situated in a wonderful park filled with ancient trees, Bückeberg Castle (Schloss Bückeberg) is definitely worth seeing. Even in present times it is still the seat of the House of Schaumburg-Lippe.



The former grain distillery and the "Großes Torfmoor" ("great peat bog") nature preserve are special features of the Hille municipality (Gemeinde).

## Minden's Surrounding Region

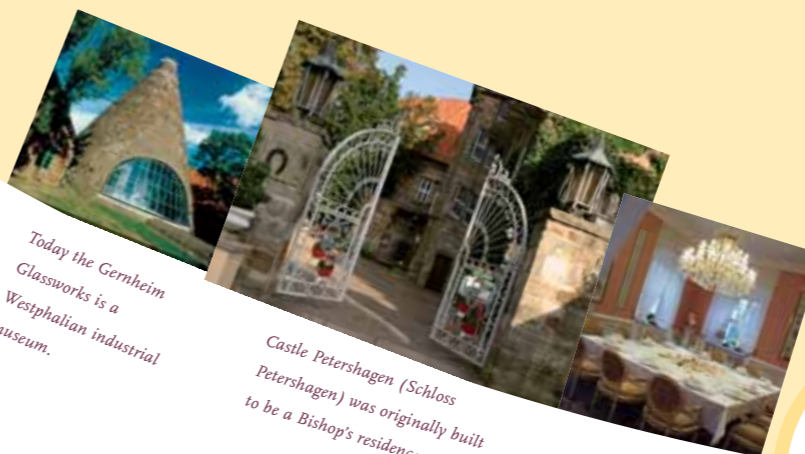
Porta Westfalica, literally "the gate to Westphalia", connects the southern Weser highlands (Weserbergland) to the lowlands to the north. This area is an ideal start point for hiking or cycling trips. Eleven long-distance trails begin, end, or lead through the slopes of the Weser and Wiehen hills, some passing below the Emperor Wilhelm Memorial.

Nearby one can find the spa town of Bad Oeyenhausen which was founded 150 years ago. Here guests can relax and unwind. The impressive Imperial Palace (Kaiser Palast) and spa (Bad) stand as testaments to the long history of the local spring.

In former times Bückeberg acted as a seat of government (Residenzstadt). Today several attractions await you: the local castle with the Golden Hall, the park and the mausoleum, the town church complete with Weser Renaissance facade, the helicopter museum with more than 40 real helicopters and the National Museum with its valuable collection of costumes. The unscathed wilderness of Hiller Torfmoor (peat-bog) is heaven for nature lovers. The marsh reserve provides a safe habitat for endangered flora and fauna.



The Imperial Palace (Kaiserpalais) and hotel spa (Kurhaus) buildings are stony reminders of the rich history and tradition of the public spas at Oeyenhausen.



Today the Gernheim Glassworks is a Westphalian industrial museum.

Castle Petershagen (Schloss Petershagen) was originally built to be a Bishop's residence.

The rare White Stork still nests around Petershagen.



See rare water birds and White Storks along the Petershagen "Stork Route." This 50km long adventure trek leads you to the many attractions of the Weser floodplain (Weseraue). In the area you will find various mills, the Heimsen Museum of Homeland and Herring-fishing (Heimat- und Heringsfängermuseum Heimsen) and the Westphalian Industrial Museum Glassworks at Gernheim. Here you can look over a glassmaker's shoulder as he prepares glass using traditional techniques. The impressive Castle Petershagen on the Weser (Schloss Petershagen) was built in 1306. One can take a tour to learn of the building's turbulent history.

Barre's Brewery in Lübbecke is one of Germany's oldest pilsner breweries. After a tour of Ernst Barre's Private Brewery (Privatbrauerei Ernst Barre) museum, enjoy a fresh draught beer in the "Old Storage Cellar"!

The museum at "Barre's Brauwelt" (Barre's "Brew-world") reveals the time-honored history and brewing traditions of Ernst Barre's Private Brewery (Privatbrauerei Ernst Barre). For tours and info: 0049(57 41) 2 30 49 50.





Minden Marketing GmbH  
Domstraße 2  
32423 Minden  
Germany

phone: (05 71) 8 29 06 59

fax: (05 71) 8 29 06 63

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

E-mail: [info@mindenmarketing.de](mailto:info@mindenmarketing.de)

[www.minden-erleben.de](http://www.minden-erleben.de)



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