



Diemel Cycle Route

A Five Star Cycle Route from Sauerland to the River Weser

Maps and Infos

Willingen Diemelsee Marsberg Diemeltstadt Warburg Liebenau Hofgeismar Trendelburg Bad Karlshafen

www.diemelradweg.de

The Diemel Cycle Route

Awarded as 5 stars by the German Cycling Association (ADFC), this well-developed and easy to navigate cycle path is one of two 5-star quality cycle routes in Germany. Covering a total of 112km it begins in the Waldeck mountain range making its way via the Lake Diemel Nature Park, with its more gentle hills to the Weser River in the town of Bad Karlshafen.

The route begins at the source of the Diemel River, located 2km south of Usseln. The first section takes you through the idyllic Diemel Valley to Lake Diemel. There you will find a varied range of restaurants and cafes as well as attractive beach areas for a relaxing break.

After a steep climb in Marsberg-Padberg, there is a welcome cycle service station. From here, the route goes downhill to Marsberg where a train station as well as attractive shopping facilities can be found.

The route then takes you past former gravel pits and impressive apple orchards in Diemeltstadt, leading you across wide, flat fields via Germete – home to Geremte Mineral Springs Ltd – to Warburg. This medieval town is nearly 1000 years old and consists of a historic old and new town. Here you will find a wide range of restaurants and hotels for groups of all sizes.

On the latter stage of the route to Bad Karlshafen, the cycle path once again shows off the beauty of the landscape; with narrow

valley sections interspersing wide meadows and fields. The impressive limestone slopes and sparse grasslands of the Diemel Valley are home to one of the largest butterfly populations in Central Europe.

The path continues on to Trendelburg passing Trendelburg Castle on the way, which if you know of the Brother Grimms' fairy-tales, the castle looks like a real-life Rapunzel tower.

The next highlight is the Carlsbahn tunnel near Deisel, the oldest railroad tunnel in Hesse. It is open every year from April to October closing in winter from 1 November to 31 March as it serves as a hibernation site for bats. Those who have managed to push their bike up the steep path to the tunnel's entrance, can enjoy having taken a shortcut of about 1km to the crossing. The official route does not lead directly through the tunnel but detours around it due to the steep incline.

The route continues along a former railroad line through a broad-leaved forest with a view of the Diemel river meandering its way to Bad Karlshafen. The small spa town with its square white houses, picturesque harbour with its baroque style houses, graduation tower and thermal baths invites you to linger. This is also where the Diemel river flows into the Weser. Here the Diemel cycle path ends but you could choose to continue north along the Weser cycle path or to the south via the Fulda cycle path.

Lake Diemel Nature Park & Grasslands at the Reinhardswald Nature Park

The Diemel flows through two nature parks: Lake Diemel Nature Park and Reinhardswald Nature Park. The Lake Diemel Nature Park covers an area of around 33,500 hectares. Two thirds of the area is located in the far north-west of Hesse, while one third of the park is located in neighbouring North Rhine Westphalia. The high mountains of Sauerland, wide valleys and deep forests alternating between fields and pastureland sets the scene. The heathers in the high areas of Willingen (Upland), which are protected throughout Europe, are breathtaking; unfolding their purple blossom in late summer. In the middle of it all is Lake Diemel – a paradise for nature lovers, water sport enthusiasts, hikers and cyclists alike.

In the middle of the Reinhardswald Nature Park between Liebenau and Trendelburg, there is an impressive 450 hectare area of calcareous grassland and juniper heather in the Diemel Valley.



There are many rare animal and plant species in the parks that have long since become extinct in other regions. They are therefore, areas of particular importance for the protection of these species. This has been taken into account by designating several nature conservation and flora and fauna areas along the Diemel and its tributaries. In addition, the Diemel Valley with its most remarkable butterfly population – over 100 species have been recorded here – is one of the most important butterfly areas in Europe.

Tourist-Information

Tourist Information Willingen
Am Hagen 10, 34508 Willingen (Upland)
Tel. 05632 9694353, willingen@willingen.de
www.willingen.de

Tourist Information Willingen-Usseln
Sportstraße 19, 34508 Willingen (Upland)-Usseln
Tel. 05632 5202, usseln@willingen.de
www.usseln.de

Tourist Information Diemelsee
Kirchstraße 6, 34519 Diemelsee-Heringhausen
Tel. 05633 91133, info@diemelsee.de
www.diemelsee.de

Stadtmarketing und Wirtschaftsförderung Marsberg e.V.
Bäckerstraße 8, 34431 Marsberg
Tel. 02992 8202, info@tourismus-marsberg.de
www.tourismus-marsberg.de

Stadtverwaltung Diemeltstadt
Lange Straße 6, 34474 Diemeltstadt-Rhoden
Tel. 05694 97980, info@diemeltstadt.de
www.diemeltstadt.de

Tourist Information Hansestadt Warburg
Hauptstr. 55, 34414 Warburg
Tel. 05641 922800, info@warburg-touristik.de
www.warburg-touristik.de

Stadtverwaltung Liebenau
Lacheweg 1, 34396 Liebenau
Tel. 05676 989810, info@stadt-liebenau.de
www.stadt-liebenau.de

Tourist-Information Naturpark Reinhardswald
Marktstraße 5, 34369 Hofgeismar
Tel. 05671 999222, mail@naturpark-reinhardswald.de
www.naturpark-reinhardswald.de, www.hofgeismar.de

Stadt Trendelburg
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www.trendelburg.de

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Tel. 05672 9226140, touristinfo@badkarlshafengmbh.de
www.bad-karlshafen-tourismus.de

Transport

Train stations can be found at the starting point in Willingen-Usseln, in Marsberg, Marsberg, Westheim, Warburg-Scherfede, Warburg, Hofgeismar-Hümme, Bad Karlshafen, near Willingen and Hofgeismar.

Timetable Information can be obtained from:

Nordhessischer Verkehrsverbund
Servicetelefon Tel. 0800 9390800
www.nvv.de

Regionalverkehr Ruhr-Lippe GmbH
persönliche Auskunft Tel. 0800 6504030
elektronische Auskunft Tel. 0800 3504030
www.rlg-online.de

Deutsche Bahn
Servicetelefon 030 2970
www.bahn.de

There is no direct rail connection between Bad Karlshafen and Willingen-Usseln.

Detailed information on connections can be found in Bad Karlshafen or on our website www.diemelradweg.de just click on service.

Individual transportation for **up to 4 bicycles** is available with Stephan Taxis, Diemelsee.
Tel: 05633 9933770

Tokovic Reisen GmbH, Beverungen is available for **up to 32 bicycles**
Tel 05273 3685003

Reservations can be made via "fähr-mit"- Mobithek
Tel. 05251 2930400

„WISENT LINIE“ BUS AND TRAIN TRANSPORT RUN BETWEEN BAD KARLSHAFEN AND WILLINGEN-USSELEN



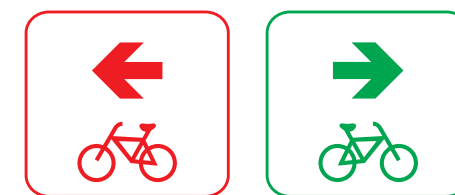
TIP

From May to October, the Wisent line runs on the Bad Karlshafen Warburg-Scherfede route on Sundays and public holidays, with stops at Warburg and Scherfede train stations.

From here, the train (RE 17) takes you to Brilon-Wald where you change to the RE97 to take you to Willingen-Usseln.

Signposting

The Diemel cycle route is signposted all the way from its start; at the source of the River Diemel to its end, where the Diemel joins the River Weser. Signposts show the direction and distance to nearby and distant destinations on the route. There are also intermediate route markers between crossroads (red for the North Rhine Westphalia side, and green for the Hessian side).



There are also information boards at selected points, providing information on the route and its attractions.



Route Features

The Diemel cycle path runs mainly next to the river and mostly on asphalt. After the steep climb near Marsberg-Padberg, the route goes gently downhill.

Quality Certified Cycling Tourism

German Cyclists' Association (ADFC) Award

The ADFC (German Cyclists' Association) certifies the quality of cycle routes in accordance with German criteria including ease of navigability, surface quality, quality of route guidance, infrastructure and public transport links. The certification assessment is viewed from the cyclists' perspective. A cycle path can be rated up to five stars, depending on the number of points achieved.

The Diemel cycle path has a 5-star rating, making it one of the highest rated cycle routes in Germany.

www.adfc.de



Bed & Bike

Accommodation that bears this symbol, has been rated by the German Cycling Association as bicycle-friendly establishments.

The ADFC has quality criteria that has been tailored to the needs of cyclists which such establishments must meet.

www.bettundbike.de



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Further information on places and accommodation, rental and charging stations, route planning and more

Recommended Map:

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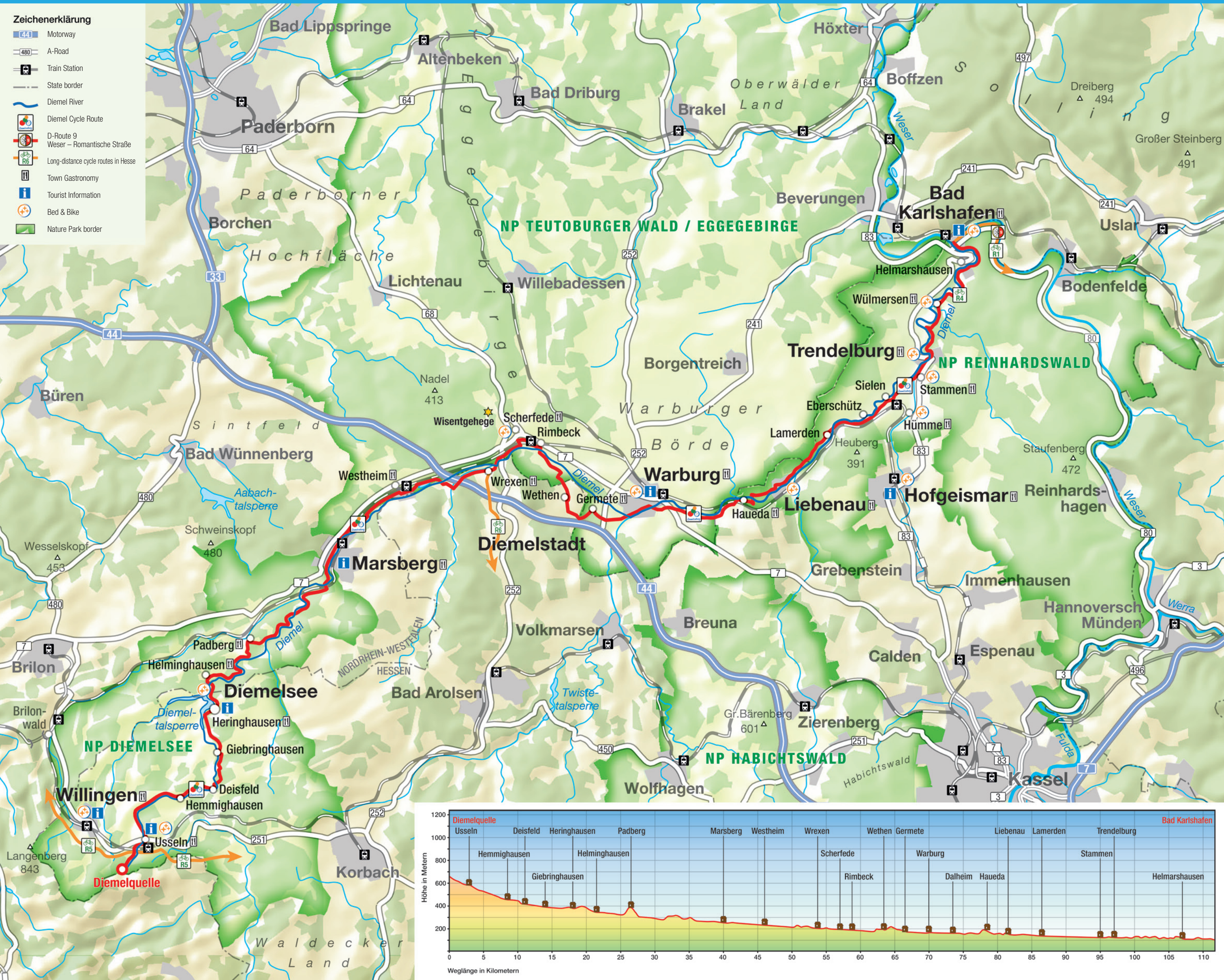
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mit über 100 Jahren Erfahrung.





The Diemel Cycle Route: 112km



Places to see along the Diemel Cycle Route

WILLINGEN (UPLAND)

Willingen offers cyclists of all ages an exceptionally wide variety of tours; whether you are touring on racing bikes, e-bikes or mountain bikes. Situated near the beginning of the Diemel Cycle Route, you can visit the MTB zone bike parks, Green Trails, children's tours and leisure cycle routes.

Tip: Visit the world's largest ski jump and Willingen's Skywalk – Germany's longest suspension bridge located only 2km from the source of the Diemel River.

LAKE DIEMEL

An inspiring outdoor region for cyclists, hikers and water sport enthusiasts alike.

Lake Diemel offers 52km of Green Trails and 150km of trails within the Lake Diemel Cycle Adventure Park. Cycling routes around Lake Diemel and its neighbouring regions are signposted and have connecting trails.

You can do a 13km tour around the lake or for more ambitious cyclists a 38km long PanoRadel tour covering the entire holiday area.

Tip: Visit the Visionarium Nature Park Exhibition Centre, Adventure Golf Park, Family Leisure Pool Heringhausen



MARSBERG

Marsberg offers visitors culture, history and leisure fun activities: Klus Church, Butten Tower and a pillory. The historical sites of Klus Church, Butten Tower and the pillory line up in a row; opening up a window into the past. Sport enthusiasts can enjoy a wide range of activities: hiking, golfing, swimming, bouldering and lots more.

Designer glassware from RITZENHOFF and Westheimer brewery are also located here.

Tip: Padberg village square has a bike service and charging station. Visit Giershagen, a place where charcoal was traditionally made, and Kilianstollen's former coal mine.

DIEMELSTADT

Take a break at the water-powered mills and hammers in the Orpe valley. The beautiful square in Wrexen's village centre invites you to take a break and for those looking to cool off after cycling up Steinberg's hill, there is an outdoor pool. There is also a supermarket in Wrexen. Drinks and ice-cream are available at the self-service farm store in Wethen.

Tip: Wrexen's church made of local sandstone, half-timbered houses and a church with a fortified tower and crypt in Wethen.

WARBURG

The almost 1000 year old medieval town delights visitors with its historic churches and market squares, lovingly restored half-timbered and stone houses and a largely preserved medieval town wall. Take advantage of the wide range of restaurants and cafes in the town centre.

Tip: Dalheim Information Centre in Warburg has an interactive exhibition about the Diemel Valley.



LIEBENAU

Embedded in the Diemel Valley, surrounded by limestone and calcareous grasslands, rich in butterfly and orchid populations.

Another highlight is an imposing viaduct near Haueda dating back to 1853.

Tip: St Albert's distillery, Haueda, gin distillery in an old church with weekend gastronomy in summer, e-bike charging station and rest area in Liebenau church square.

HOFGEISMAR-HÜMME

This picturesque half-timbered village invites you to explore its history. Next to a collection of half-timbered buildings is the church with its gothic half-timbered tower and the historic railroad station. Hümme's old train station "Generationenhaus" is well worth seeing. Taking a 7km detour to Hofgeismar is well worth a visit. The town looks like and is known as a sleeping beauty town. Quiet old town corners, historic half-timbered buildings give the town a certain charm. There is also a spacious pedestrian zone.

Tip: Visit the "Zum Löwen" Inn & Beer Garden, "Hofcafe in den Wiesen" cafe. E-bikes can be rented at the Inn and there is an e-bike charging station at Hümme's old train station.



TRENDELBURG

Idyllic squares, lovingly preserved half-timbered houses and historical monuments characterise this picturesque town that is situated above the Diemel river. The castle that gave the town its name is now home to a hotel and restaurant. The fortified tower is also open to visitors. Just outside of Trendelburg is an e-bike charging station in Eberschütz and a bike service station in Stammen.

Tip: Carlsbahn tunnel near Deisel, Wülmersen Castle with its moat and cafe, ostrich farm in Wülmersen with a farm store.

BAD KARLSHAFEN

A baroque style township with parallel streets and a picturesque harbour with its baroque buildings is a very special place. The River Weser thermal baths with its large sauna area and thermal pool invites you to stop and relax. You can learn about the first inhabitants of Karlshafen at the German Huguenot Museum. If you want to cycle further, there are various options (Weser Cycle Route, Fulda Cycle Route, D Route 9).

Tip: A bike shop with e-bike charging facilities and bicycle parking can be found at the harbour square. Take a boat trip on the River Weser, provision is made for bikes.

