

# Highlights along the German Volcano Road in the Nature and Geopark Vulkaneifel



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Global Geopark



**Vulkaneifel**  
NATUR- UND GEOPARK

The logo for Vulkaneifel features a stylized, colorful graphic of a volcano or landscape element in shades of green, yellow, and blue, positioned above the text.



**Deutsche Vulkanstraße**  
www.deutsche-vulkanstrasse.com

# Your travel companion on the Deutsche Vulkanstraße

**The German Volcano Route** connects the GEO highlights of the Eifel's volcanic landscapes over a distance of around 280 kilometers. Along the charming and varied route, you can admire maars, cinder cones, lava flows, domes, calderas and countless bubbling springs. The geological, volcanological and cultural-historical sights are fascinating – the geo-museums, where you can discover the secrets of this special natural heritage, are interesting and entertaining.

Several car and motorcycle stages invite you to discover and explore a variety of geological phenomena. The drive alone is an enjoyable experience; just follow the "Vulkanstraße" road signs.

Long stretches of the German Volcano Road lead through the nature park and UNESCO Global Geopark Vulkaneifel. In addition to the wide range of hiking and cycling opportunities, it's particularly important to us to invite car and motorcycle tourers to discover the nature and the geopark. The German Volcano Road takes you comfortably to special highlights, which you can reach in just a few steps.



This tour book should be your useful and practical companion when planning your tour. 22 highlight portraits are divided into a WEST and an EAST tour, each of which is suitable as a car day tour. Of course, individual stages can also be put together.

Of course, a successful day tour also includes enjoyable breaks, which can be taken at our Geopark hosts along the routes. Here you will also find a comfortable place to stay at night for a nice start to the next tour.

**Our tip:** Plan plenty of time to linger and slow down.



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# Travelling in the land of maars and volcanoes

With its vast peaks, dense woodlands, clear streams, fragrant meadows and picturesque villages – the Vulkaneifel is a neat holiday region which couldn't be more peaceful.

But there is more than just silence beneath the surface. The tremendous volcanic forces which once led to the creation of this magical, sometimes harsh landscape are still active. Fire and water shaped the Vulkaneifel and still shape it today. Its legacy to date is impressive: around 350 small and large volcanoes, maars, lava flows and countless mineral and carbonic acid springs. The geological history of the Vulkaneifel offers even more: red sandstones, tropical reefs and mighty ocean deposits tell of calm and troubled times during the past 400 million years.

Few regions of our earth give us such a clear and fascinating insight into how it is becoming and changing. This makes the Vulkaneifel a valuable natural heritage, awarded in November 2015 as a UNESCO Global Geopark Vulkaneifel. In 2010 it was inaugurated as a nature park in Rhineland-Palatinate.

GEO museums reveal scientific phenomena and beautiful cycling and hiking tours lead to the treasures of this fascinating landscape. Like pearls on a necklace, special highlights line up along the German Volcano Road through the Vulkaneifel Nature and Geopark. Car and motorcycle tourers are also comfortable on the road **in the land of maars and volcanoes.**

# Mosbrucher Weiher

A marvelous pond!

**A maar volcano created this broad basin** which is about 1.5 kilometres in diameter.

There was originally a maar lake in the basin, but this became silted up. Already in Roman times, however, a dam was built to create a pond stocked with lots of fish. After the pond was drained in 1838, the western part was used as arable land.

It is now meadowland where we stand today, while the eastern part has been taken over by bogland. Turf was dug there until the 1950s. The fenland with eared willow and buckthorn shrubs is now protected as a nature reserve.





## Ulmener Maar

A young firebrand

The **10,900-years-old Ulmener Maar** is the youngest volcano in Germany.

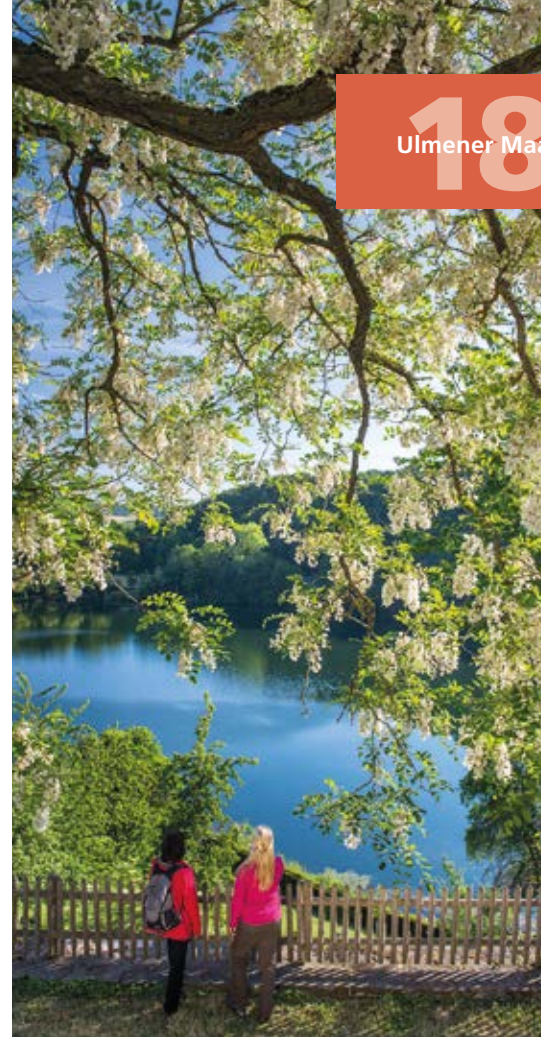
If we imagine the whole of the Earth's history compressed into 24 hours, it is only a moment ago that hot magma was rising up from 60 kilometres below the Earth's surface here. That which gets going slowly and sluggishly to start with, suddenly becomes highly explosive! As soon as magma from inside the Earth comes into contact with groundwater, there are almighty explosions, in which all the water suddenly turns into steam.

The violent shock waves from these explosions break up the surrounding rock which is ejected from the mouth of the volcano and then builds

up a circular rim of loose volcanic rock (tephra) on the surface.

The layers of rock above the space which has been emptied by the explosion collapse, creating a typical funnel-shaped maar. As everything calms down, the crater begins to fill with groundwater and water from precipitation. So a maar lake is formed. Typically, maars are hollow basins lower than the surrounding land surface. Beyond the church, just a few metres from here, it is easy to make out layers of rock which were ejected during the eruption.

18  
Ulmener Maar



Deutsche Vulkanstraße EAST-Tour

## Bad Bertrich

### Healing water

**The water which comes to us from deep under ground**

is pleasantly warm at a temperature of 32°C.

And it carries with it something special: healing compounds which have been dissolved from the rocks through which the water has passed. Ancient sediments, which were laid down on the seabed and then formed layers in the Rhenish Massif, are a source of sodium sulphate, in particular, so that the spring here in Bad Bertrich is the only Glauber's salt thermal spa in Germany. The medicinal water is renowned for its healing powers, especially where metabolic disorders are concerned.

Even the ancient Romans knew this: Already around 2,000 years ago, they built a splendid bathhouse with a colonnaded temple here in Bertriacum. A couple of hundred metres from the town centre, one can see that Bad Bertrich is surrounded by seven extinct volcanoes. There, in the valley of a tributary of the River Üssbach, the so-called 'cheese cave' (follow signs 'Elfengrotte') is a geological rarity. Weathering has given the basalt columns a peculiar shape, so that the ancient volcanic rock now resembles a pile of cheeses.

Elfengrotte/Käsegrotte Bad Bertrich

Landschaftstherapeutischer Park Römerkessel, Bad Bertrich



Vulkaneifel Therme Bad Bertrich

**Our tip:** Simply follow the signposted Bad Bertrich Geo-Route and allow yourself to be led along the 10-kilometre-long trail to all the places of geological interest in the locality. Further information can be obtained at the Tourist Information Centre only 50 metres away.



# Immerather Maar

## A volcano sees green

**Welcome** to the Immerather Maar nature reserve!

Here, on 66 hectares, you can discover that volcanoes are not just about lava. With its rim, the slopes down to the lake, the banks of the lake and the lake itself, the maar provides diverse habitats for valuable plants and wildlife. A three-kilometre circular trail shows you the green sides of the volcano. Follow the trail down into the basin. At first it takes you through a copper beech forest where the volcanic soil provides good growing conditions.

Sloe and broom bushes grow on the eastern slopes of the maar. The semi-circular lake at the bottom was originally circular. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century the maar was drained to provide farmland. Later, however, the drainage ditch fell into decay and the water could accumulate again.



Today the banks, fenland and meadow provide good shelter. There are willows and wild roses amongst the bushes at the side of the lake. In the wetter reed beds, bulrushes and water horsetails are spreading further and further over what was originally the bed of the lake. Also rare birds, frogs, dragonflies and butterflies have found a home in the green volcano.

# Gillenfeld – Pulvermaar

## Moor, mountain, lake

**The Pulvermaar is the northernmost of a group of volcanoes** which stretches from north to south. Magma forced its way up through a conduit and came into contact with groundwater. Huge steam explosions blew the overlying layers of the existing massif into the air. Rocks which fell back into the crater or were broken off the crater rim and rolled back in created a cone-shaped funnel, the Strohn Märchen (little Strohn maar). On its northwestern rim more magma soon rose up again. This time it did not meet any groundwater, but was ejected as lava and built up a cone which is now 65 metres high: the (Mount) Römerberg. The Strohn Märchen at the foot of the Römerberg slowly became silted up and is now a raised bog with a unique community of plants and animals. The last link in the chain was the Pulvermaar: A new vent formed to the northwest and led to the most violent explosions in this group of volcanoes. Magma met groundwater once again



and blew out a hollow space. As the layer of rock above collapsed, a crater formed which was once 200 metres deep. Bit by bit the rock of the crater rim was eroded away and deposits settled on the surface of the extinct volcanic vent. Nevertheless, the Pulvermaar, at 74 metres deep, is still the deepest of all the lakes in the Eifel. Around the maar you can see what the volcano ejected once upon a time: The formidable 20 metres high rim of the crater, made up of loose volcanic rock (tephra), is still almost complete and can be explored by following a circular path.

# Lava Bomb Strohn

## A hot snowball

23  
Lava Bomb Strohn



**When workers in the Wartgesberg quarry were doing some blasting in 1969, they were more than a little amazed!** A round boulder measuring 5 metres in diameter fell out of the middle of the wall of the quarry. A lava bomb? Even experts were uncertain to start with, because it is difficult to imagine that the Eifel's volcanic forces were powerful enough to throw 120 tons into the air.

Drilling into the centre of the 'lava bomb' clarified what had happened: During the eruption of the Wartgesberg Volcano, part of the crater wall came loose and a boulder rolled down the wall into the conduit. Just like a snowball which becomes bigger and bigger as it rolls down a slope, the piece of rock rolled through magma, which stuck to its surface. During the next eruption, the ball-shaped rock was thrown up and then rolled back down again. This happened again several times until

the rock became buried inside the crater and eventually reappeared thousands of years later.



**Our tip:** Under the motto 'Experiment with it! Touch it! Try it out!', the Vulkanhaus Strohn (Strohn Volcano House) presents an exciting interactive exhibition for everyone who is enthusiastic about the fascinating world of volcanoes.

## Holzmaar

### Muddy weather records

**And what was the weather like?** is a question we are often asked when we have been on holiday. And it is one we can answer easily.

It is much more difficult, though, when we have to look a lot further back – to a time before any weather records were kept. Scientists from the German Research Centre for Geosciences in Potsdam have been examining the mud of the Holzmaar as a way of investigating the weather in prehistoric times. The mud in the bottom of the maar serves as a valuable archive, because everything which lived in the lake or was washed into it over thousands of years has collected there. As algae are dependent to a large extent on water temperature and sunlight, scientists can tell from the amount of the remains of algae and the different species present whether those lived in warmer or cooler periods. The

point in time from which humans settled here is also recorded in the bottom of the lake.

Afforestation, deforestation and agriculture have all had an impact on the substances and nutrients which have been washed into the lake. The 'clock' on the bottom of the maar is formed of so-called varves. Each varve can be recognised as the series of layers of sediment laid down in the course of one year, with the layers differing in accordance with the seasons. By counting the number of varves, it is possible to establish fairly accurately when the mud particles were deposited. So far scientists have been looking back over the Holzmaar 'weather records in the mud' for the past 15,000 years.



## Dürres Maar

### Poor and valuable

**Unlike the circular lake** of the nearby Holzmaar (Wood Maar), the Dürres Maar has become increasingly silted up since its formation about 20,000 years ago.

Over thousands of years a particular kind of habitat has formed here: a raised bog. Its centre is surrounded by a thin strip of marginal bog (lagg). After heavy rainfall this ring of water makes the circular form of the maar basin very obvious. The raised bog in the centre of the basin forms a slight dome similar to a watch glass. This is due to the thick cushions of sphagnum moss, which grow above the level of the water table and can hold up to twenty times their dry weight in water. A raised bog is 90% water and very low in nutrients.

Anything which wants to live here needs a special survival strategy. So cranberry, for example, which is rare here, has developed a special strategy for obtaining sufficient nutrients without drowning. Instead of forming normal roots or stems to take up nutrients, the plant covers the cushions of sphagnum moss with a fine network of wiry stems.

A number of rare animals have also adapted to the extreme environment: Insects such as dragonflies and butterflies live here, and birds such as whinchats and lapwings come here to breed. And during the migratory season, short-eared owls and grey herons pay a visit to the Dürres Maar.

# Hetsche

The name says it all

About 20,000 years ago, a volcanic trio appeared along a crack in the Earth's crust: the Holzmaar, the Dürres Maar and the Hetsche Maar. In the course of time, the youngest of the three acquired the name 'Holzmaar', because it played a major role in securing the water supply to the nearby Holzühle (wood mill): The maar basin was used to create a reservoir to catch the water from the Stream Sammetbach. A little further northwest the silted-up basin of the Dürres Maar presents an entirely different landscape. Its name, 'Dürres Maar', is also a generic term for all the maars which are no longer filled with water and are therefore 'dür', i.e. dry or dried up. The almost circular maar is now covered by a rare raised bog which is still growing. The oldest of the three maars, the Hetsche Maar, has been known locally since time



immemorial as 'et Hetschemäärchen' ('the little Hetsche Maar'). It is obvious why the maar is called a 'Määrchen' (little maar): With a diameter of only 60 metres, it is the smallest of all the maars in the Eifel. Because of its small size, it soon became silted up. The valuable wetland biotope provides a habitat for toads and frogs. The locals knew this and simply named the little maar after its inhabitants: In the local dialect, a 'Hetsch' is a toad.

## Weinfelder Maar and Schalkenmehrener Maar

**The group of Daun Maars** consists of at least 6 maar funnels, of which the Gemündener, Weinfelder and (western) Schalkenmehrener Maar still contain a maar lake and two maars, the eastern and north-eastern Schalkenmehrener Maar, are so-called dry maars.

Geological studies have shown that the water-filled Schalkenmehrener Maar is actually composed of two merging maar funnels and still contains a small cinder cone in the northern edge area. The funnels of this maar group are lined up along a production crevice running south-east-northwest. One after the other and within a geologically short time interval, water vapour explosions blasted these maars into the old land surface.



Goats graze the areas around Weinfelder Maar



The ejecta which was produced consisted mainly of fragments of the shattered surrounding rock and only a small proportion of igneous material. The rocks which were not shattered by the explosions, which are slate, sandstone and claystone in the Vulkaneifel, have extremely water-retaining properties. As a result, maar lakes could form in the funnels, the lake levels of which are each at different height levels.

Age determinations and above all the investigations of the deposits in the maar lakes indicate that the Daun Maars were formed between 20,000 and 30,000 years ago. At this time, the last Ice Age ruled Central Europe.





# Gemündener Maar

## Siblings – and yet so very different!

**Inside the Earth**, huge amounts of hot magma are under great pressure and are being pushed towards the surface.

Where there are weaknesses in the Earth's crust, magma sometimes rises up and flows out onto the surface as lava. The Daun Maars were formed in a weak zone such as this. They have formed a row along a crack in the Earth's crust. The first of the maars was created near Schalkenmehren, but it was soon filled in when its younger brother erupted. We find species-rich fenland here today. Then the Schalkenmehrener Maar with its maar lake formed to the west.



The series of eruptions continued westward: Next, the Gemündener Maar was formed. It can now be seen as a deep funnel with a beautiful, wooded crater rim. The Weinfelder Maar is the youngest member of this group of volcanoes. It is now a quiet lake, surrounded by broom and other bushes. So each of the siblings of this family of volcanoes exhibits a very different kind of landscape.

## Eifel-Vulkan- museum in Daun

**What is going on deep beneath our feet?** How does volcanic activity affect the landscape? Experience volcanic phenomena and activity at close range.

This exciting exhibition, using the Volcanic Eifel and active volcanoes in Europe and Asia as examples, presents geological processes by means of astonishing photographs, unique exhibits and interesting information panels. Interactive models provide an insight into the fiery past, simulate volcanic explosions, and demonstrate what is going on inside the Earth. The Eifel-Vulkanmuseum takes you on a multimedia journey through time. And it not only presents a lot of fascinating information, but also provides an overview of what the region has to offer as regards places of geological interest. We are looking forward to your visit!



Information on **opening hours** and **admission prices** at:  
Eifel-Vulkanmuseum Daun, Leopoldstr. 9, 54550 Daun  
Tel: 06592 / 985 - 353 or 06592 / 933 - 284  
[www.vulkaneifel.de](http://www.vulkaneifel.de)

# Dreiser Weiher

## Sparkling greetings ...

**... from inside the Earth!** There are big bangs when water and magma meet.

When water comes into contact with hot magma, it turns explosively into steam and blows out a big funnel-shaped hole in the surface of the Earth. This explains how the Dreiser Weiher, one of the largest maar basins in the Volcanic Eifel, was formed. It is this volcanic past which is the source of something which appears on our tables at mealtimes – we cannot imagine life without it: mineral water. After falling to Earth as precipitation, water seeps down through cracks, porous volcanic rocks and the older layers of the underlying massif. While doing so,



it becomes enriched with minerals and is filtered very thoroughly. Somewhere deep in the Earth, the water then meets something moving upward: carbon dioxide.

Anyone who thinks it is quiet and peaceful inside the Earth is very much mistaken. Hot magma is constantly in motion and sends greetings up to the surface by releasing a lot of gases, including carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). When water and CO<sub>2</sub> mix, something is formed which we drink almost every day: sparkling mineral water.



## Arensberg

A hollow volcano

**Two volcanic eruptions created a mountain** where there was none before. The first eruption took place about 32 million years ago: Rising magma forced its way up through layers of slate, limestone and sandstone and with immense power dragged blocks of rock up with it. The pieces of rock were ejected from the vent with explosive force and became mixed with volcanic ashes which were being ejected at the same time. Until today, where rock is exposed in the sides of the quarry, the lighter-coloured blocks of rock can be clearly seen in the midst of the darker ash deposits. More magma pushed its way up from inside the Earth into these deposits, which were still loose, and formed a pear-shaped basalt dome.

The second eruption about 24 million years ago was rather quieter: Magma rose up again and pushed through until it was just beneath the solidified basalt which had been left by the first eruption. The Arensberg used to be a lot higher. While the layers of ash deposits of the first eruption were eroded away over millions of years, it was people who took away the top of the mountain in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Even the ruins of a mediaeval church had to make way for the basalt quarry. Now, a small wayside chapel is a reminder of it. People quarried further and further into the mountain and down into the conduit. Today, the old quarry offers an impressive view of the interior of an extinct volcano.

# Steffeln Volcano Garden

**The volcanic landscape** of the Steffelnkopf begins on the outskirts of Steffeln. It represents a window into the past: deep crevices, bizarre rock, red layers from a pre-volcanic desert and dinosaur era and, as a highlight, the mighty, torn wall of the half-dismantled and exposed Steffeln volcanic vent.

The entire old mining area of the volcano was transformed into a „volcanic garden“ some time ago. Deposits were exposed, a “cinder cone” was heaped up and a sample “maar” was modelled. Volcanic garden and volcanic landscape invite you to take exciting walks through this fossilised archive of the Earth. We recommend you go on a guided excursion, where experienced nature and geopark guides are happy to pass on their knowledge of the geological heritage of the Vulkan Eifel to all their guests. Plant lovers will also find interesting things in the



Leisure-place at the Vulkan-Pfad

volcanic garden. The nutrient-poor, dry and hot volcanic raw soils were initially colonised by pioneer plants. These are adapted to such extremes. Through their presence, they prepare the site for species of meadows and pastures, arable land, the edge of the forest and human settlement which will later migrate from the edge of the pit.

The volcanic garden Steffeln offers a unique nature experience due to its geological uniqueness and the multitude of rare plants.

# Mill Stone Cave Rother Kopf

## Hard toil

**A volcano erupts.** Hot drops of lava are thrown out of the vent and fall onto other fragments of lava which have been spewed out during earlier eruptions.

All the many lava fragments melt together and cool down. This is how the basaltic cinders which were exploited thousands of years later, came into being. The porous rock is full of little holes and is ideal for use as millstones, because the constant abrasion continually opens up new pores, so that the millstone remains sharp. Extraction here at the Rother Kopf began in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. With the tools available at that time it was not an easy task.

The workers usually had to hew the millstones out of the rockface above head height. A deeper and deeper groove was made all around what was to become the millstone. When the stone was eventually only connected to the rockface by small ‚bridges‘, wooden wedges were pushed into the groove. When soaked with water, these wedges swelled, so that the ‚bridges‘ broke and the millstone fell away from the wall.



**Our tip:** You may visit the caves at your own risk. Please be sure to take a strong torch (flashlight) and watch out for overhanging rocks at head height.

# Papenkaule

## Errant magma

**There really ought to be a mountain here.** Or at least a hill. But we find exactly the opposite: a hollow! Because something got in the way tens of thousands of years ago.

To start with, everything went according to plan for the young volcano. Hot magma rose up from about 70 kilometres underground. A conduit formed, the magma was under steady pressure, and the first fragments of lava began to build up a crater rim on the Earth's surface. That could have gone on for a long time, so that bit-by-bit, a regular volcanic cone would have been built up. But suddenly something happened: The flow of lava stopped, no more molten rock rose to the surface of the Earth. It was as if the top of the volcano had been turned off. What had happened?

The lava had simply gone a different way just before it reached the surface! The lava flow was diverted through an underground karst cave system and finally emerged about 300 metres away on a slope, the Hagelskaule, where it flowed into the valley of the River Kyll. And that's how the young volcano became famous. Because it is the only place in the whole of the Eifel where a lava flow left the vent sideways to find a new 'riverbed' in the cave of a karst river.



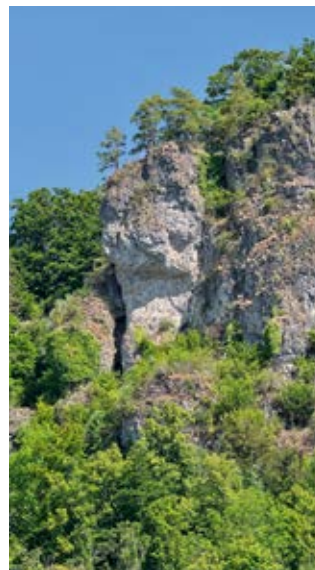
# Lava Flow Sarresdorf and Munterley

The **youngest lava flow in Germany** can be found in Sarresdorf, formerly a district of the well town of Gerolstein.

The Sarresdorf lava flow poured out at the end of the last ice age when volcanic eruptions occurred again in the West Eifel. The lava flow has its origin in a small crater on the north side of the Munterley Plateau. From there it rolled between Auberg and Munterley down into the Kylltal. Here it encountered the already existing Kyll and its terrace made of alluvial clay and rubble deposits, at a level which was about 3 m higher at the time.

The lava flow finally came to a standstill in the river bed of this Ur-Kyll and temporarily dammed it up. After a short time this relatively small basalt dam was flooded and the Kyll paved its current bed in the contact area between basalt and Devonian carbonate rock.

The Gerolsteiner Land is famous for its rugged cliffs made of Devonian dolomite, which includes the Munterley. These former reef bodies grew up in a tropical shallow sea. Their formation began around 400 million years ago, in the Devonian Era. On the right side of the Kyll you can see a quarry in which the calcium- and magnesium-rich carbonate rock is mined.



Of cultural and historical interest is the Buchenlochhöhle on the Munterley rock, a karst cave which once provided refuge for Stone Age people. Hewn stone tools found in it bear witness to the life of our Stone Age ancestors.





## „Brubbel“ in Wallenborn

A cold geyser

**About every 40 minutes** a water fountain billowing up to 4 metres rises up, a mixture of groundwater and volcanic carbon dioxide. The carbon dioxide gas ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) plays a decisive role in this.

A model to clarify the phenomenon is based on the following facts: When ascending from the depths,  $\text{CO}_2$  collects in a cavity in the 400-million-year-old fissured rock from the Devonian Age. Due to the limited space, a filling pressure builds up. If a saturation pressure is exceeded, the cavity is suddenly emptied through the borehole of the well. The escaping gas bubbles cause the water in the Brubbel to shoot up.

Another explanation is based on the assumption that rising  $\text{CO}_2$  is absorbed by the groundwater up to a critical level. When the saturation limit is reached, the first bubbles form, which combine to form larger gas bubbles as they rise. The buoyancy is also getting bigger and causes the water column to rise and swell. This process comes to an end in a violently shooting fountain. Detailed information can be found on the signs at the fountain.

**Tip:** Anyone who sniffs in the downdraft at the beginning of a geyser eruption will smell sulfur gases from the interior of the earth.

# Meerfeld

In the eye of the volcano

**A romantic village? An idyllic lake?** This would have been unimaginable 45,000 years ago!

Violent explosions blasted a huge crater in the landscape, vast quantities of volcanic ash built up a rim measuring 1.7 kilometres in diameter, and masses of rocks were thrown out as far as several kilometres. But the volcano calmed down eventually. And as time went on, rainwater and groundwater collected inside the funnel-shaped crater to form a circular lake. After a while a small stream managed to break through the rim of the basin. It washed stones and sediment into the lake and thereby confined it to the northern part of the basin. Many thousands of years later, around 1200 AD, the village of Meerfeld was built on the alluvial fan which the stream had created.



The small village community lived from ore mining, fishing in the maar lake, and farming, which was very successful. Where at first it seemed that nothing could grow, plants later found ideal conditions: Volcanic soils can hold moisture for a very long time and are exceptionally rich in nutrients. In order to extend the area of arable land, the villagers even went so far as to lower the level of the lake in the 19<sup>th</sup> century!

**Tip:** There is a circular walk around the lake, about 3 kilometres long, which gives you the opportunity to enjoy the luxuriant vegetation along the banks and the impressive carpet of water lilies.

# Mosenberg

## Meagre diet in paradise

**If you walk a little way further up**, you will see a geological feature which is a major exception in the Volcanic Eifel. The Windsborn cinder cone is the only volcanic crater north of the Alps which is filled with water. And not only that: Because of its particular location, it provides a habitat for extremely rare plants. Unlike other bodies of water, the crater lake on top of the volcano is not fed by groundwater, which would be enriched with minerals from the ground. Instead it relies on precipitation for the supply of water and nutrients. The lake is therefore very short of nutrients and also lacks oxygen. Although at first sight this might be a disadvantage, the situation is a paradise for particular plants. Bogbean loves the margins of the lake, and its white flowers make a fine show when they are in full bloom in May/June.



Marsh cinquefoil, which has red flowers, comes into bloom a little later in June/July. Together with sphagnum mosses, the bogbean and marsh cinquefoil form - with their adventitious roots - a wide carpet, which stretches from the bank out over the surface of the lake. In the course of time, the crater lake will become silted up and turn into a raised bog.

**Our tip:** You can explore the whole of the Mosenberg Crater Row on a three-kilometre circular walk. Along the path, display boards of the Manderscheid Geo Route provide more information.



## Maarmuseum Manderscheid

Experience the exciting history of the **Vulkaneifel** through **spectacular simulations**. And go on a journey inside the Earth.

The maars, unique archives of the past, are presented clearly here: One of the highlights of this interactive exhibition is a large model of a maar which you can walk on. Allow yourself to be led through the plant and animal world of the Eifel maars and take a look at the fascinating fossils of the Eckfelder Maar from about 45 million years ago, especially the famous ‚Eckfelder Urpferdchen‘ (‚Eckfeld prehistoric horse‘) and the ‚älteste Honigbiene der Welt‘ (‚oldest honey bee in the world‘). We are looking forward to your visit!



### Opening hours:

March to the beginning of Nov.: daily except Mondays 2-5 pm,  
Info under 06572-920312 or by mail:  
[museenstrohnmanderscheid@t-online.de](mailto:museenstrohnmanderscheid@t-online.de)



## Gesteinsfalte – Slip Fold

As you make your bed ...

**A warm, shallow sea.** Clay and sand particles float around gently and settle on top of each other in layers on the seabed. But this tranquillity comes to an abrupt end.

The sea is caught between huge forces from north and south, which push the layers together: And so the Rhenish Massif is formed. Although this happened 300 million years ago, we can see the results of these processes in the face of this old quarry. The layers which used to lie flat on top of each other can now be seen in wave form as so-called 'folds' towards the top of the face. But that was not enough! About 65 million years ago the massif began to rise up.

Where especially strong forces were at work, the folded layers broke up into separate slabs. This phenomenon is also visible here: Underneath the folds a diagonal line cuts through the face, marking the place where one slab is pushed up over another. And there was even more to come! The elevation of the Eifel range led to other things happening inside the Earth. Magma rose up and volcanoes erupted! The clay and sand may have wanted to rest in peace, but this was not to be. First the layers were folded together, then shoved on top of each other, and to cap it all they were riddled with volcanic vents and covered with ash.



**Our tip:** Walk in the footsteps of the Middle Ages and visit the Manderscheider castles nearby.

39  
Gesteinsfalte

Deutsche Vulkanstraße WEST-Tour

# The holiday regions in the Nature Park and UNESCO Global Geopark Vulkaneifel



## GesundLand Vulkaneifel

Lively - powerful - grounding. This is the GesundLand Vulkaneifel in the Vulkaneifel Nature and Geopark, the decelerating region around Daun, Manderscheid, Ulmen and Bad Bertrich.

### GesundLand Vulkaneifel

Leopoldstraße 9a · 54550 Daun  
Tel. +49 (0) 6592 951 370  
Fax +49 (0) 6592 951 320  
[www.gesundland-vulkaneifel.de](http://www.gesundland-vulkaneifel.de)

with Tourist information  
in Daun, Manderscheid,  
Ulmen and Bad Bertrich



## Kelberg Holiday Region

As a partner of the Nürburgring adventure region, motorsport is of course on the agenda. It's much quieter in the wonderful wooded landscape, which you can hike, for example, on the history route.

### Tourist information Kelberg

Dauner Str. 22  
53539 Kelberg  
Tel. +49 (0) 2692 872 18  
[www.vgv-kelberg.de](http://www.vgv-kelberg.de)  
[www.geschichtsstrasse.de](http://www.geschichtsstrasse.de)



## Gerolsteiner Land Holiday Region

Criminally good and geologically unique; this is how the Gerolsteiner Land Holiday Region presents itself. Eifelsteig and Vulkaneifel paths combine breathtaking views from rugged rock faces with gigantic volcanic craters, bubbling springs and deep dark caves. Cycle paths lead along idyllic streams to defiant castles and the staged search for clues turns out to be murderously beautiful on the professionally guided tours to the murder scenes of the Eifel crime novels and the favourite places of their authors. In short: Holidays in the Gerolsteiner Land are unbeatably diverse - from calming to tense, you'll find it here!



### GEROLSTEINER LAND

#### Tourist information:

##### Location Gerolstein

Bahnhofstraße 4 · 54568 Gerolstein  
Tel. +49 (0) 6591 13-3100

##### Location Hillesheim

Am Markt 1 · 54576 Hillesheim  
Tel. +49 (0) 6593 13-3300

##### Location Stadtkyll

Burgberg 22 · 54589 Stadtkyll  
Tel. +49 (0) 6591 13-3200  
[www.gerolsteiner-land.de](http://www.gerolsteiner-land.de)

## Wittlich Stadt & Land Holiday Region

The Wittlich Stadt und Land Holiday Region invites you to take part in activities close to nature. Wonderfully situated between the course of the river Moselle and the adjoining heights of the Eifel, the most beautiful places for excursions in the region can be reached easily and quickly.



### Tourist information Wittlich Stadt & Land

Neustraße 2  
54516 Wittlich  
Tel. +49 (0) 6571 4086  
[www.moseleifel.de](http://www.moseleifel.de)



# Infectious Enthusiasm!

On tour with the guides

The Vulkaneifel displays its history shaped by fire and water like almost no other landscape. A lot is easily visible, but some treasures only reveal themselves at second glance. For a more intensive examination of the Vulkaneifel Nature and Geopark, we recommend a tour in the professional company of a nature and geopark guide. The long past comes to life, cause and effect become plausible, traces in the landscape become clues. The enthusiasm of the specially trained nature guides for the fascinating geo-phenomena is contagious, the landscape and nature of the Vulkaneifel become an experience!

Around 30 certified nature and geopark guides with different specialist areas accompany interested guests and groups on hiking, cycling and GPS tours in the nature park and UNESCO Global Geopark Vulkaneifel. The offer includes a varied, exciting and diverse nature experience program all year round.

Most tours can also be booked individually. For this purpose, guests can contact the nature and geopark guides directly.

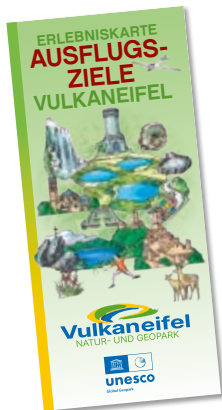


Programs and information:

**Nature experience program brochure**, available from tourist information or at [www.geopark-vulkaneifel.de](http://www.geopark-vulkaneifel.de)

## Interested in more information?

Available from the tourist information offices (see p. 58/59) or at the Natur- und Geopark Vulkaneifel GmbH.



**Adventure Map Vulkaneifel**  
with all special sights



**Panorama hiking map Vulkaneifel**  
with all hiking trails in the Vulkaneifel



**Cycle paths in the Vulkaneifel**  
Overview map and short profiles of all cycle paths

**Vulkaneifel-Magazine**  
66 p., in D, EN, NL



**Landscapes of the Vulkaneifel**  
with tour tips 72 p.



**The maars of the Vulkaneifel**  
52 p., in D, EN, NL



**Dreese – Mineral water and carbonic acid springs of the Vulkaneifel**  
76 p.



**NatureExperienceProgramme of the tour guides**  
with event calendar  
ca. 160 p., annual in D



**Orchids of the Vulkaneifel**  
84 p.





# Vulkaneifel

## NATUR- UND GEOPARK



**unesco**

Global Geopark

Tel. +49 6592 933-202 or 933-203 · [geopark@vulkaneifel.de](mailto:geopark@vulkaneifel.de)  
[www.geopark-vulkaneifel.de](http://www.geopark-vulkaneifel.de) · [www.naturpark-vulkaneifel.de](http://www.naturpark-vulkaneifel.de)



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ENERGIE UND MOBILITÄT