



Walpurgis and the witches

Every April 30th the famous Walpurgis festival takes place on Goslar's historic market square. People dress as witches and warlocks and dance and drink to welcome spring.

Before Christianization took place, people of this area believed in heathen gods like Wodan and Walburga and celebrated the end of winter and coming of spring with bonfires and dancing. And even after they had been christianized they secretly continued their rites. Walpurgis then was named after the legend of St. Walburga (a monastery nun in the 8th century) and celebrated on the day of her canonization. It is believed that on that day witches ride on broomsticks, forks, goats and other stuff to places of old pagan sacrifices in the Harz mountains. The Brocken, also known as the Blocksberg, is considered the main hotspot of Walpurgis Night where they brew secret recipes and flirt with the devil. Today, Walpurgis is celebrated in nearly all the towns of the Harz region.

Special Tip: Visit the legendary Brocken – with its 1.141 m the highest mountain of the Harz – whether on one of the nice hiking trails or on the railway with the nostalgic steam engine.



Christmas market

One of the best times to visit Goslar is during Christmas season when the Christmas market and Christmas forest are set up and the romantic old town becomes a winter wonderland. Approved by thousands of visitors from all over the world every year, Goslar has one of the most beautiful Christmas markets in Germany. Framed by the background of the market square, 80 lovingly decorated wooden huts invite you to stroll around and give yourself a delicious treat. In the fairytale Christmas forest right in the historic city center, in an ensemble of 60 tall, illuminated pine trees on pleasantly fragrant woodchip ground, your visit to this wintry land- and townscape will get you in just the right mood for Christmas.

Many events for the small and larger guests, tempting aromas, a fine selection of festive goods and gifts for the grown-ups, a children's zoo and a miniature train for kids will turn a visit to Goslar's Christmas market into a magical experience that one will remember for years to come.



Hiking

Goslar and especially its sister district Hahnenklee are the perfect starting points for hiking adventures in the beautiful Harz region. The pure air resort Hahnenklee is the hub of an extensive network of hiking trails as well as the starting point of the funicular railway, which takes passengers to the top of the Bocksberg (727 m) in about 10 minutes, from where there is a magnificent view over the Harz mountains and Harz fore lands. In winter, ski slopes, cross-country ski trails, a toboggan run and ice skating make Hahnenklee a popular winter sports location. Snow-making facilities assure snow in the skiing and tobogganing areas, which are easily accessible by the trail network and the funicular railway.

Tour tips for hikers: Advanced: Liebesbank Trail Hahnenklee – A 7 km round trail with 25 individually designed wooden benches which are each dedicated to specific occasions of love and wedded life. The Liebesbank Trail was the first premium hiking trail in Lower Saxony.

Professionals: Harzer Hexen-Stieg (Harz Witches Steep Path) – An approximately 100 km hiking trail across Germany's northernmost Middle Mountain Range and via the legendary Brocken.



Shopping and dining

Goslar offers lots of opportunities for you to enjoy yourself within romantic atmosphere. Many cafes and restaurants around the old town offer a broad palette of different tastes and cuisine and invite to linger. At first the "Harzer Roller" may come to your mind when thinking of Harz regional cuisine. This is a typical cheese specialty of the Harz Mountains which is served with onions and cumin. But the local cuisine offers much more. For example: the traditional meal called "Hackus and Knieste" with potatoes and raw minced meat. In Goslar you will find a restaurant for every taste.

Special Tip: You shouldn't leave without trying the local beer – Gosebier is brewed in Goslar to a centuries-old recipe which includes coriander and salt. A variety of small shops, numerous boutiques or the shopping center "KaiserPassage" on the other hand offer a unique shopping experience and several possibilities to grab a souvenir or a local specialty to take home.

Tip: A fluffy Goslar mascot, assorted culinary delicacies or informative literature and useful accessories can all be bought at the tourist information within the Historic Town Hall on the market square.



Between witches and World Heritage



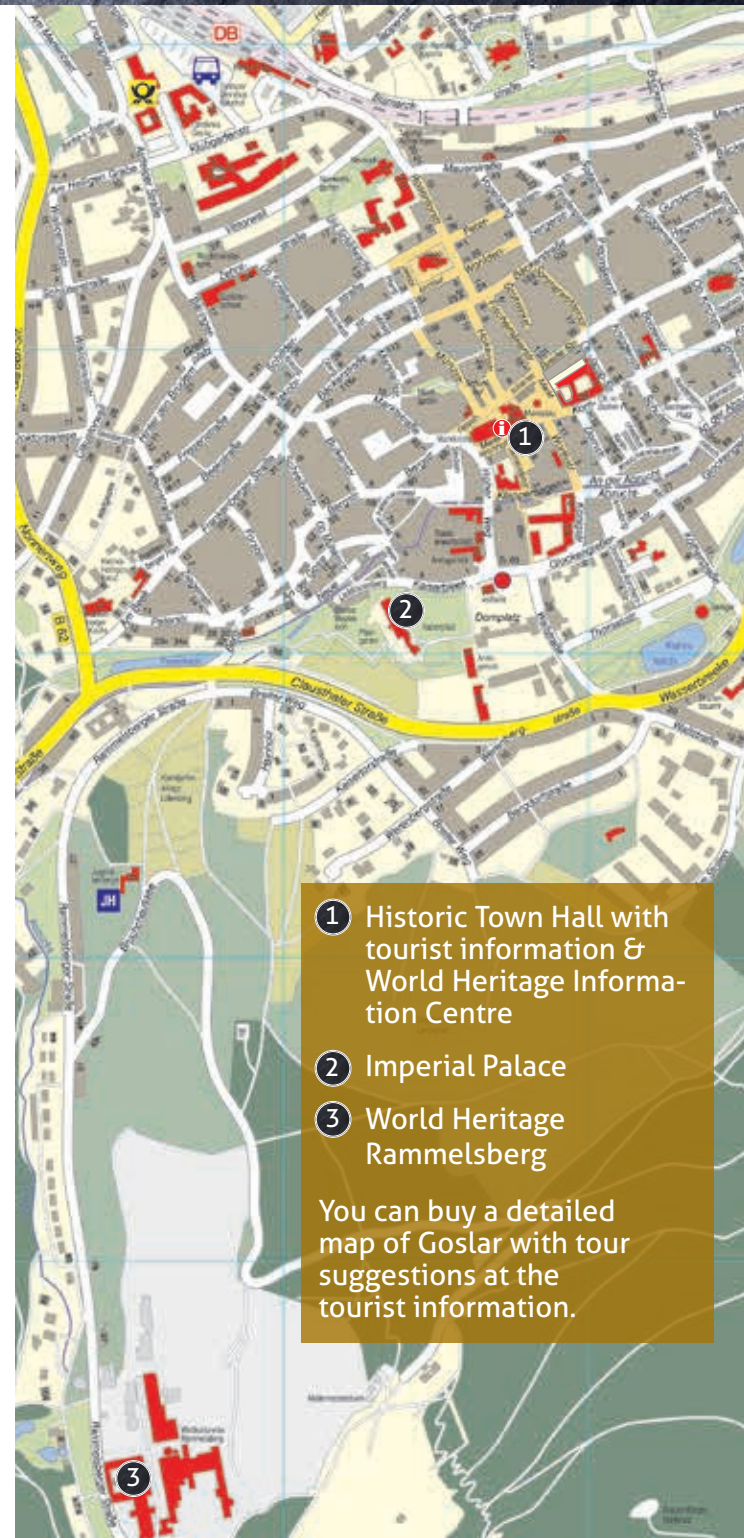
Welcome to Goslar, the city of emperors and miners

Founded in 922, Goslar becomes an Imperial City about 100 years later and one of the most important seats of power in the Holy Roman Empire. Mining plays a significant role in the development of the town, as does its membership in the Hanseatic League, an important trading organization.

Nestling at the foot of the North Harz Mountains, Goslar is set amidst a splendid natural landscape. Numerous churches, over 1.500 colorful half-timbered houses and cobblestone streets make up the medieval face of the town.

A first impression of the unique architecture can be found on the market square. The market fountain, crowned by the symbol of Goslar, the eagle, forms the center of the square, surrounded by imposing buildings, such as the Kaiserworth and the Town Hall. The famous chimes in the gable of the house at market no. 6 ring daily at 9 am, 12 am, 3 pm and 6 pm. The wooden figures tell the history of mining in Goslar. The former ore mines at Rammelsberg together with Goslar's historic center and the Upper Harz Water Management System are a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site.

Today Goslar is home to over 50.000 people and a broad spectrum of businesses, partly world leaders in their branch.



- ① Historic Town Hall with tourist information & World Heritage Information Centre
- ② Imperial Palace
- ③ World Heritage Rammelsberg

You can buy a detailed map of Goslar with tour suggestions at the tourist information.



World Heritage

The Rammelsberg ore mines and the Historic Town of Goslar were entered on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List in 1992. The Upper Harz Water Management System was added in 2010.

The Historic Town of Goslar ...

... was declared an UNESCO World Cultural Heritage due to its special conservation status of over 1.500 half-timbered houses from different periods. Not far from the center you will find the mighty Imperial Palace – which also belongs to the World Heritage – an unique monument to secular architecture and a must see for every visitor. For over 200 years, history was made here at numerous empire convocations and court gatherings. The “Domvorhalle” near the Imperial Palace is all that remains of the former Collegiate Church of St. Simon and St. Judas.

The ore mines of Rammelsberg ...

... are the only mines in the world which were in uninterrupted operation for over 1.000 years. The ore mines were closed in 1988 and turned into a museum: A visit will take you on a journey through time to discover the different ages of mining at Rammelsberg. The buildings of the ore dressing plant can be explored on a variety of tours. The highest point of the above ground area can be reached by an inclined lift. You are invited to experience a miner's working life by taking the mine train underground where you learn all



Rammelsberg

about the daily work of the Rammelsberg miners. Follow the route of the water in the Roeder Gallery, a network of galleries and water wheels used to both transport the ore and to lift the water out of the mine.

Tip: Watch for the ten lumps of ore along your way through the city. Each symbolizes one century of mining and its close connection to the city of Goslar. The stones serve as a bridge between the past and the present and the miner's handprints are used as metaphors for their hard work.

The Upper Harz Water Management System ...

... is both an industrial monument and a beauty of nature. In part over 300 years old, the waterways include 107 lakes, long water courses, galleries and mechanical constructions which served the miners as a source of energy. Today, hiking paths, educational trails and museums trace evidence of mining in the Harz.

What nowadays appears to be a calm and romantic lake/pond landscape with historic architecture by the wayside, is in truth one of the most significant and greatest pre-industrial structures in the whole world. The water of the Upper Harz region functioned as an engine moving water cycles of mines & huts, above and below ground. In Hahnenklee, you will find 12 of originally 165 ponds of the Upper Harz Water Management System.



Special tips for a day in Goslar

- Enjoy stunning views from the Marktkirchturm tower
- Visit the oldest railway station in Germany with the railway museum in Vienenburg
- Take a ride on the choo choo train through Goslar's old town
- Excursion Tip: Go on a guided tour and taste the home made schnapps at the monastery Wöltingerode
- Enjoy a coffee or ice cream on the Schuhhof – the oldest square in Goslar
- Hike to the Maltermeisterturm or the Steinberg Alm – Northern Germany's most beautiful mountain pasture

Imprint

Tourist information of the GOSLAR marketing gmbh
Markt 1, Historic Town Hall,
38640 Goslar

Open daily 10.00 a.m. - 05.00 p.m.
Closed 24.12./31.12. + 01.01.

Tel.: +49 (0) 5321 - 78060
tourist-information@goslar.de
www.goslar.de
www.weihnachtswald.de

Issue: January 2023
Photos: Stefan Schiefer, diedrehen!,
gleisbergs.de

