



Saxon-Bohemian
SWITZERLAND

DISCOVER

SAXON SWITZERLAND

www.saechische-schweiz.de/en

**PLANS ARE MADE,
BAGS ARE PACKED,
AND WE'RE READY
TO GO.**

Excitedly, we travel from one place to the next. In eager anticipation, we track down the top recommendations from Instagram, Pinterest etc. and try to snap the best shots. But who says the most popular hits on social media will also give us the best memories? Maybe we're missing out on countless fabulous moments because we only focus on reaching our destination. Is not the journey its own reward?

Sometimes, all it takes is a small step off the beaten track to enter an entirely new world.

Saxon Switzerland is precisely such a place: inconspicuous, but once you're there, you'll love every second. The peaceful River Elbe winds its way through a picturesque rocky landscape, narrow gorges and idyllic forests. The National Park is a place of wonder, and there are many breath-taking views just waiting to be discovered.

So, let's take some time to explore and allow ourselves to be enchanted by the countless hidden beauty spots the region has to offer.

FACTS & FIGURES

Saxon Switzerland is full of surprises and is definitely well worth exploring. But to save you from jumping in at the deep end, here are 10 facts about this special holiday destination.

1

Covering an area of roughly 700 km², the Elbe Sandstone Mountains run along both sides of the Elbe River: as Saxon Switzerland in Germany and as Bohemian Switzerland on the Czech side.

Elbvalley from Lilienstein © Philipp Zieger

2

In 1990, the region became Saxony's first National Park. It is the only distinctly rocky National Park in Germany.

Sandstone cave © Britta Hirschburger

3



There is a network of more than 1,200 km of hiking trails, including the 116 km long Malerweg trail, which takes you all the way across Saxon Switzerland in eight stages.

Malerweg Sign © Sebastian Thiel

4



Cycling enthusiasts can start their trip in Hamburg and follow the 1,000 km long Elbe cycling path, which also crosses Saxon Switzerland and ends in Prague.

Elbe cycling path © Felix Meyer

5



The region boasts a total of more than 1,100 freestanding sandstone rocks, which can be explored on roughly 21,000 climbing routes.

Climbing girl © Marko Förster

6



For a nostalgic experience, take a ride on the more than hundred-year-old Kirmitschtalbahn. It is the world's only tram that serves a National Park.

Kirmitschtalbahn © Florian Trykowski

7



The national park frequently plays host to film crews: roughly 70 films are made here every year, including two to three feature films. Global superstars such as Brad Pitt, Tom Hanks, Halle Berry and Til Schweiger already came to shoot scenes in this impressive natural setting.

Filmcrew © Weltkino

8



The 76-m-long stone Bastei Bridge was built in 1851 and is now listed as a "technical monument"

Bastei Bridge © Rico Richter

9



At 562 m, Großer Zschirnsstein is the highest elevation in Saxon Switzerland and offers spectacular views.

Hiking sign © Yvonne Brückner

10



The city of Pirna with its historical town centre is the perfect starting point for trips into Saxon Switzerland.

Old town of Pirna © Achim Meurer

Spreads

IMAGE

The best reason to visit the region is the gorgeous landscape and its charm. Numerous painters roamed the ragged rocks in the 18th century to capture their unique beauty. These

days, most people leave their easel and paintbrush at home and use their camera or smartphone to snap souvenir photos instead.



ARRIVING AND ...



At Nationalpark-Bahnhof Bad Schandau



The Hiking boat docks on its way to Hřensko



Bus stops at Nationalpark-Bahnhof Bad Schandau © Florian Trykowski

Exit the train, board the S-Bahn (commuter train) and watch as the city metamorphoses into National Park outside the train window. The historic Kirnitzschtalbahn even takes you right into the heart of the nature reserve. We have compiled a number of gentle modes of travel to ensure a holiday with genuine deceleration.

Mobility guest card

Travel with ease with the mobility guest card "Gästekarte mobil" – This allows you to use local public transport in the tariff zones Pirna (70), Bad Gottlieb (71), Bad Schandau (72) and Neustadt (73) as well as the Kirnitzschtalbahn without an additional ticket.

More information:
<https://elbitogo.link/transport>

Dresden main station

Dresden main station is the first step towards a relaxing holiday. It offers numerous connections to destinations all across Europe and links metropolises such as Berlin and Prague. From here, Pirna is only 20 minutes away.



S1

The S-Bahn service S1 runs along the River Elbe and links Saxon Switzerland with Dresden and Meissen. The S1 runs hourly between Schöna and Bad Schandau and half-hourly between Bad Schandau and Pirna.

Hiking buses

Cross country buses provide access to the entire region. Key interchange points between S-Bahn and bus are the bus station ZOB in Pirna, Reißiger Platz in Königstein, the national park station Bad Schandau and the main station in Dresden. The routes with the most sights are marked "Wanderbus" (hiking bus).

Kirnitzschtalbahn

For more than 120 years, the Kirnitzschtalbahn has been taking hikers to the starting points of their trips through Saxon Switzerland. It is the world's only tram that serves a national park. In summer, the Kirnitzschtalbahn leaves half-hourly, in winter every 70 minutes. Historic tramcars run on special occasions.

Hiking boat

The hiking boat serves as a kind of water taxi and can take you 10 km along the twists and turns of the River Elbe. It leaves four times daily from Bad Schandau and stops at Krippen/Postelwitz, Schmilka and Hřensko before returning. Every stop is a great starting point for walks.



HIKING TIPS



Malerweg trail, stage 1 © Sebastian Thiel

When you travel to Saxon Switzerland, you simply have to go hiking! Discovering the region's beauty spots on foot has a long tradition and is still worthwhile today.

But don't worry, you don't have to go on exhausting five-hour hikes. The region has something to offer for everyone. Both short trails for those who are not so keen on walking and demanding trails for experienced hikers. Take a look at our website and see what tickles

your fancy: you can choose between different destinations, difficulty levels and hiking duration. We would definitely recommend you make a stop at one of the many rustic mountain inns for a refreshing drink and to rest your feet.

To narrow down the huge array of choices, here a few of our many favourites. The respective QR codes will take you to detailed trail descriptions and the GPS link – use your preferred hiking app to support you along the way.

Tour suggestion 1 Hike to the “balcony” of Saxon Switzerland



elbitogo.link/1

This hiking trail will take you to the Brand viewpoint, the so-called “balcony” of Saxon Switzerland. Here, the landscape ends in a sheer drop, and you can look down into the deep Polenz Valley. The location is exposed, and views down into the canyon-like valley and into the landscape beyond are truly spectacular.



Viewpoint Brandaussicht © Philipp Zieger



Gorge Schwedenlöcher © Anna Meurer

Tour suggestion 2 Hike from Kurort Rathen to Stadt Wehlen via the Bastei rock formation



elbitogo.link/2

Shortly after leaving Kurort Rathen, you will arrive at the reservoir Amselsee. Continue through the gorge-like valley Schwedenlöcher to the Bastei Plateau, from where you can enjoy endless views. The starting point in Kurort Rathen is easy to reach by S-Bahn (suburban train).

Tour suggestion 3 From Königstein to Lilienstein



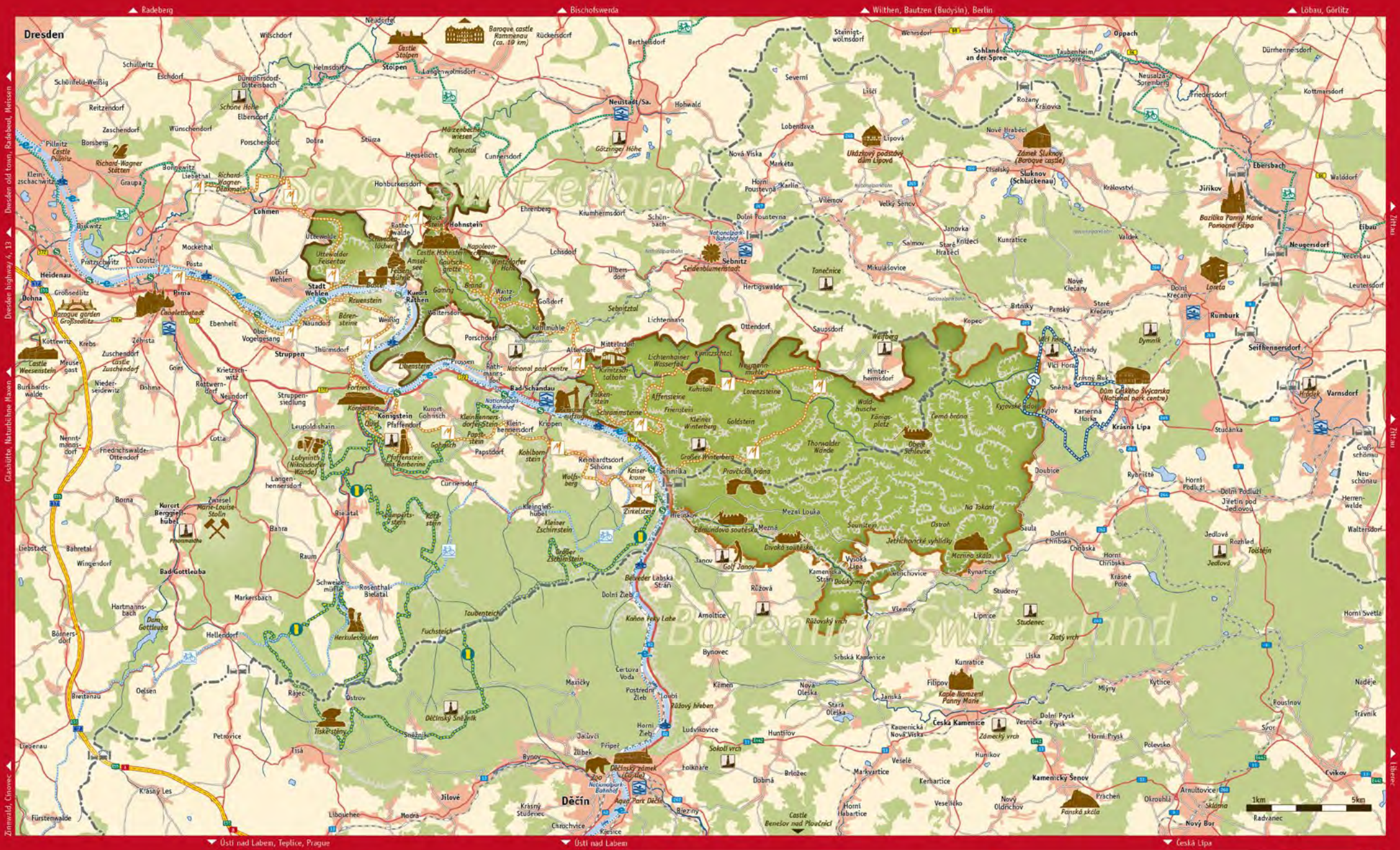
elbitogo.link/3

The distinctive table mountain Lilienstein is the landmark of the national park Saxon Switzerland. Climbing this colossus is an exhausting but also a rewarding hiking adventure.



Lilienstein at sunset © Rico Richter





Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland

Sächsisch-Böhmische SCHWEIZ

www.saechsische-schweiz.de/en

European Union, European Regional Development Fund, orientation map status february 2021 tourism association (listed non-profit organisation)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Highlights | Painters' Way | Elbe Cycle Path |
| look-out | Kügler's Nature Trail | ferry |
| swimming bath (indoor) | Forest trail | boat service |
| border crossing for vehicles | Cycle Path | National Park Saxon Switzerland |
| | Cycle Path | National Park Bohemian Switzerland |



Dresden old town, Radeberg, Meißen
Gaschwitz, Naturhölzer Meyen
Zinnwald, Cossow

Zittau
Zittau
Zittau

BUCKET LIST

Saxon Switzerland may be a small region, but it is jam-packed with picturesque views, giant rock formations and magical woodlands. In addition to the many natural highlights, there are also a number of other attractions waiting to be explored. To ensure you make the best of your time here, we have compiled a list of our favourites.

1



Marvel at the Herkulesssäulen (rock formation Pillars of Hercules)

© Maik Rähder

2



Enjoy a slice of Eierschecke (regional layered cheesecake) in the historic town centre of Pirna.

© Marko Förster

3



Conquer the castle Königstein on foot

© Britta Hirschburger

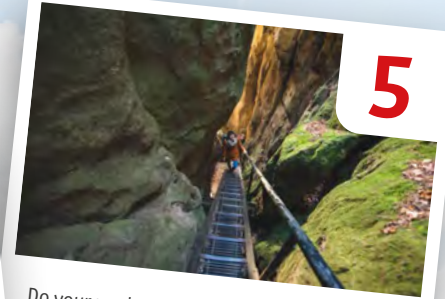
4



Hike at least one of the eight Malerweg stages.

© Sebastian Thiel

5



Do your workout on a natural stepper (e.g. Wolfsschlucht, near Hohnstein)

© czechvibes

8



Explore the Elbe Valley by rubber dinghy

© Yvonne Brückner

7



Climb a mountain (beginners' climbing courses are available)

© Marko Förster

9



Take the tram Kirnitzschtalbahnhof to the Lichtenhain Waterfall

© Marko Förster

6



Enjoy pure relaxation on a boat trip through the Hinterhermsdorf upper lock (Obere Schleuse)

© Philipp Zieger

10



Try regional products i.e. in the organic village of Schmilka

© Achim Meurer

4 SEASONS

...but when is the best time to travel to Saxon Switzerland?

Always, of course! Every season has its own charm – you'll have to decide for yourself which one your favourite is.

WINTER

The cosiest of the four seasons wraps the rocky landscape in a thick blanket of snow. Everything looks idyllic and magical. An atmosphere that warms the heart. The festive season in the Elbe Sandstone Mountains is full of fascinating traditions and is a time to relax.



Sunrise at Bastei bridge in winter © Iven Eissner



Evening break at Papstein hut © Jens Wegener

SUMMER

Hiking on hot summer days? Great idea! You'll be hard put to find a better (dry) way to cool off than a gentle walk between the gigantic rock formations and cool gorges. Take a break and enjoy a fresh lemonade or beer in a rustic, historic mountain inn. Sounds like a perfect summer's day.

SPRING

Lush meadows and a newly formed, dense leaf canopy – a green oasis of calm. After the dark winter days, the first warm rays of sun allow the region to radiate. Perfect for soaking up some much-needed vitamin D on long hikes.



Spring snowflakes at Polenztal © Yvonne Brückner



Pfaffenstein with Barbarine © Britta Hirschburger

AUTUMN

A rocky landscape in a blaze of colours. Autumn brings an explosion of yellow, red, gold and brown, swirling mists and that fresh forest scent. This tends to be the favourite season of rock climbers, and it is clear why. It's a chance to get some colourful memories before the grey and cold winter months.



Spreads

REGIONAL PRODUCTS

Fresh, from the area and bursting with flavour! Beyond the supermarket range, which is dependably always the same, the many farm shops and weekly markets offer an individual and authentic shopping experience.

But if you're looking for a real treat, the local chefs cook with passion and flair. They know exactly with what to thrill their guests, so there is sure to be something great for everyone.



SAXON-BOHEMIAN SWITZERLAND

The rocky fairy tale world of the Elbe Sandstone Mountains doesn't all of a sudden stop at the border. Saxon Switzerland is just half of a much bigger landscape: the other half is Czechia's youngest national park, Bohemian Switzerland.

Prebischtor (Pravčická brána)

The most famous landmark of Bohemian Switzerland is the 16-metre high Prebischtor (pravčická brána). Located just beyond the German-Czech border, this natural rocky archway – the largest in Europe – is definitely worth a visit.

Grundmühle (Dolský mlýn)

Close by, in the Kamnitz Valley, lies the romantic ruin of a former mill, the Grundmühle. In the past, you could take a boat along the Ferdinand Gorge from here. These days, you can explore the gorge on foot.

Tourist centre Dům Českého Švýcarska

You'll be able to get plenty of information on Bohemian Switzerland in the city of Krásná Lípa, which is also a popular starting point for hiking trips. The tourist centre Dům Českého Švýcarska is located on Křínické náměstí 1161/10 and also hosts changing exhibitions on the region.

The National Park railway U28

The National Park railway U28 links the two regions of Saxon and Bohemian Switzerland. It goes from Děčín via Bad Schandau, Sebnitz, Dolní Poustevna and Mikulášovice dolní nádr. to Rumburk. The transborder service thus connects destinations along the Elbe Valley, the Sebnitz Valley and the so-called Schluckenauer Zipfel.



Prebischtor (Pravčická brána)

© Zdeněk Patzelt



© K. Mrkusová



Grundmühle (Dolský mlýn)

© Václav Sojka



National Park railway U28

© Martin Schmidt



BOOKING SERVICE

You're ready for a trip to Saxon Switzerland? Then find your rucksack and get packing.

We have compiled a list of essentials we like to take on hikes to make sure you won't forget anything important. But should you need anything else, the hiking centre Aktiv Zentrum on Marktplatz 1-11 in Bad Schandau is always happy to help. Here, you can hire equipment

and find additional inspiration for active holidays in the Elbe Sandstone Mountains.

We can also help you decide on suitable accommodation: just write us an email, and together we will find the perfect place for you to stay on your trip through beautiful Saxon Switzerland.



Our Booking service team will be happy to answer any questions you may have about overnight stays
© Amac Garbe

Book your
accommodation.

Booking and Information Service
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www.saechsische-schweiz.de/en



Well equipped

PACKING LIST

- ☐ Fleece jacket / pullover
- ☐ First aid kit incl. thermal blanket and blister plasters
- ☐ Hiking map & guide
- ☐ Drinking bottle
- ☐ Provisions
- ☐ Passport / ID card
- ☐ Cash / credit card
- ☐ Headgear
- ☐ Scarf
- ☐ Sunscreen & sunglasses
- ☐ Umbrella / rain cape
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Small seat pad
- ☐ Hand sanitiser
- ☐ Handkerchiefs
- ☐ Small binbag
- ☐ Penknife / multitool
- ☐ Small towel
- ☐ Torch



Rule of thumb:
pack heavy items near your back

© Yvonne Brückner

Imprint

Publisher: Tourismusverband
Sächsische Schweiz e.V.
Editorial: Emily Wolf
Set/Layout: TARADESIGN Pirna
Title: View point Bastei;
© Kai Stübner
Backtitle: View into the heart
of Saxon Switzerland
© Sebastian Thiel
Print: Saxoprint GmbH,
1. edition, July 2024





Sächsisch-Böhmische
SCHWEIZ

... NEXT VACATION INSIGHT

