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Escape into nature - discover the lakes and summer magic of Saxony-Anhalt

From secret shore spots to glamping: Natural bathing idyll between Altmark, Elbe and Harz

No crowds, but plenty of greenery, peace, and that certain something: Saxony-Anhalt offers undisturbed nature enjoyment for those seeking refreshment away from crowded beaches – at pristine lakes and idyllic lakeside spots and in river pools. Those who prefer a particularly wild and romantic getaway can stay overnight outdoors, in a tent, caravan, or comfortable glamping accommodation.

It was the famous leap into the cold water. Sophie and Dennis Reipsch from the Börde region recently fulfilled their dream about 15 kilometers from the state capital of Magdeburg. An outdated site has been transformed into the Camping & Adventure Resort Jersleber See, a modern camping resort including a beach bar with white sand, playgrounds, an XXL volleyball court, hammocks, saunas, and accommodation such as igloos, tiny houses, and tent lodges. It is a recreational destination for both campers and "glampers" - people who prefer a more comfortable setting. The restaurant is run by a culinary expert from Jersleben. The resort, with its blend of nature and comfort, has been attracting visitors from all over Germany since its opening, not least because of the clear, algae-free water, as Dennis Reipsch emphasizes.

From rustic retreats to family adventures

In Saxony-Anhalt, you find a relaxing camping adventure in a variety of settings: Nature lovers can enjoy the outdoor lifestyle on the banks of the Elbe River, in the Harz Mountains, in the forest, or by lakes – whether at Heidecamp Colbitz in the Middle Elbe region, at the small motorhome and camping site of the activity provider OUTTOUR in Kirchscheidungen directly on the Unstrut River, or at the Altmark Waldbad campsite in Wischer. Each site has its own special features, many of which are gems set in a natural setting. And those looking for fun and entertainment can head to one of the small adventure parks, which, in addition to accommodations surrounded by forest and water, also offer games, food, and sports.

The Plötzky Adventure Park in the Salzlandkreis district is one of them, combining camping with action. It offers adventure mini golf, an adventure farm, a bowling alley, children's electric jeeps, and playgrounds. Particularly beautiful in the region: Several forest lakes are located directly next to the campsite, which boasts holiday homes, "woodlodges," apartments, living barrels, and glamping accommodations. The Little Forest Lake, located right in the adventure park, is particularly suitable for families and features a slide, water trampoline, and beach bar.

Quiet Oases in the Magdeburg area

It gets even more natural: The area around Gommern, directly in the neighboring Jerichower Land district, is lined with hidden forest lakes, which are marked by small signposts with names like Blauer See, Balatonsee, and Dannigkower See. Those who follow the trails will find gems with "mini beaches" where you can enjoy undisturbed access to the cool, clear waters. Up to 30 such quiet oases - mostly created from former quarries - can be discovered in the Magdeburg area.

One of these oases is Kolumbussee. It resembles an eye in the forest, with only a small, steep sandy beach, but crystal-clear water that offers profound tranquility. Just a stone's throw away lies Lake Königssee, surrounded by trees bathed in sunshine. This is the feeling at every turn. Romantics also love Lake Giselasee, which ripples peacefully next to Lake Edersee. Concrete steps there still recall the lido that used to be here. Otherwise, frogs croak, dragonflies fly, and trees sway in the breeze. The neighboring AWG lakes 1-3 are technically one lake, and it is often described as the most beautiful quarry lake in the Plötzky-Pretzien area. The transition to the water is shallow and easily accessible. Right next door is its charming little brother: the Sandkuhle.

Natural bathing spots rarely found

Saxony-Anhalt boasts numerous natural bathing spots. In the Harz Mountains, for example, the mountain lake in Güntersberge attracts bathers. It's small but charming and surrounded by forests, ensuring the water stays cool even in the hottest weather. Between Dixförda and Steinsdorf in the Wittenberg district lies the Dixförda bathing lake, which was created from an open-cast mine. Its most impressive feature is its fine, white sandy beach, which many call the "Baltic Sea of the Jessen Region." And, of course, Lake Arendsee. While the blue pearl of the Altmark region is no longer an insider tip, quiet bathing spots can still be found here.

Around Staßfurt in the Salzland district, there are several bathing lakes that, while not quite as remote, are unique. The Staßfurt beach saltwater pool offers health-promoting bathing pleasure with its saline water. Around what is probably the only inland saltwater outdoor pool in Central Europe, greenery stretches as far as the eye can see. The nearby Albertinesee in Üllnitz is somewhat smaller. This natural outdoor pool was created by lignite mining and boasts an idyllic setting and excellent water quality. The Mondsee recreation park near Hohenmölsen is another example of how open-cast mining landscapes can become true oases

of well-being. The family-friendly facility owes its name to the crescent-shaped lake. Even while camping in the evening, you can relax and gaze at the stars.

Renaissance of River Baths: Feel the Flow in Saxony-Anhalt

Bathing in flowing waters is currently experiencing a comeback. Bathers in Saxony-Anhalt naturally take to the cool waters at the Rehsumpf river bath in the water town of Dessau-Roßlau. Here, they also delve into a piece of regional history. Opened in 1907 and supported by aviation pioneer Hugo Junkers, the facility is one of the oldest river baths in Germany. The bath is located in the middle of nature, in the middle of the river and in the middle of the swamp. A tributary of the Mulde River forms a loop, creating a kind of peninsula. Under the motto "More Light, Air, and Sun!", people swam here for over 100 years, until the historic bathing establishment was threatened with decay. The Rehsumpf Association finally saved it and has been lovingly restoring it ever since. The historic white and blue bathing cabins are mostly rented out to members, who passionately restore them. The listed site in the idyllic floodplain landscape is not a public swimming or camping area. However, visitors are warmly invited to explore the traditional river pool and use it to linger and relax. Association chairman Bodo Grundey advises those interested to register in advance: "A quick phone call in advance helps us ensure guests have a pleasant stay in the Rehsumpf."

Heading in the opposite direction: In a protected river landscape, the Osterburg Biesebad offers a seamless blend of nature experiences and family fun. The Biese River winds its way through the meadows in the north of the state, forming a blue-green ribbon that flows through the Hanseatic city in Altmark. Boats can also be rented at the small pool. The kids romp on the playground or splash around in the children's pool, and adults enjoy snacks, pedal boats, and SUP boards.

Simply letting yourself drift is a natural experience here and in many other places. Little paradises slumber throughout the state. Summer is in full flow. Those who let themselves drift in Saxony-Anhalt will find peace, clear water and plenty of space to settle in.

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More Information:

- Camping & und Erlebnis Resort Jersleber See: https://jerslebersee.de/
- Erlebnispark Plötzky https://www.ferienpark-ploetzky.de/
- Echt schön: Die schönsten Campingplätze in Sachsen-Anhalt https://echtschoensachsenanhalt.de/ausflugstipps/dieschoensten-campingplaetze-in-sachsen-anhalt-2/
- Echt schön: Die schönsten Badeseen in Sachsen-Anhalt
- Flussbad am Rehsumpf: https://www.rehsumpf.net/
- Osterburger Biesebad: https://www.osterburg.de/sport-freizeit/biesebad/
- Erholungspark Mondsee: Erholungspark Mondsee bei Hohenmölsen | Camping und Zelten
- Concordia See: harzerseeland Startseite

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