

The Decentralized Archaeological Museum

The past can only survive as part of our culture with an appropriate framework and approaches allowing people to access and experience knowledge of the often distant past in a clear and comprehensible way.

Museums are important for the presentation of local and historic content. As a showcase of history, they do considerably more than collect, preserve and investigate. They offer compensation for our world of rapid change and are places of identification and communication.

The Saalburg Roman fort, constructed on the Saalburg pass in the Taunus near Bad Homburg by German Emperor Wilhelm II on the original foundations of a Roman fort, has been one of the most popular attractions in Hessen for generations. Over the past few years, the fort, with its large number of archaeological monuments, has been expanded to form an attractive archaeological park. In addition, the Saalburg has been a major international research centre for the history and culture of the Roman era since it was constructed and is now a non-university research centre housing a comprehensive collection of archaeological finds from that period.

Visitors to the World of the Celts can experience the inseparable link between the preservation of archaeological monuments on the one hand and historic research and communication on the other hand. The museum presents the results of archaeological excavations and the comprehensive research work carried out at the Glauberg site. In addition, the sensational finds from the Celtic era made during excavations are on permanent display to the public. The research centre attached to the museum, which is part of an international network, is a key centre for research into the important Celtic period of our history.

Archaeologists in the State of Hessen are extremely grateful to the State for investing a total of 26 million euros to date in the Saalburg and Glauberg sites, thereby assuming a leading position among the German states. In the Decentralized Archaeological Museum, currently consisting of the World of the Celts on the Glauberg and the Saalburg Roman Fort – Archaeological Park, the State has an outstanding centre of extramural learning which presents in an exciting way significant periods in the prehistory and early history of Hessen.

I look forward to your visit.



Prof. Dr. Egon Schallmayer
State Archaeologist



Contact

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hessenARCHÄOLOGIE

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World of the Celts on the Glauberg

Am Glauberg 1, 63695 Glauberg
(all year: open every day except Monday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)
phone +49 6041-8233-00, fax +49 6041-8233-011
info@keltenswelt-glauberg.de
www.keltenswelt-glauberg.de

SAALBURG

Saalburg Roman Fort – Archaeological Park

Saalburg 1, 61350 Bad Homburg
(March – October: open every day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; November – February: open every day except Monday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)
phone +49 6175-9374-0, fax +49 6175-9374-11
info@saalburgmuseum.de
www.saalburgmuseum.de

Photos: World of the Celts on the Glauberg: © Landesamt für Denkmalpflege Hessen (museum building, photo: B. Steinbring; statue/necklace, photos: U. Seitz-Gray); © World of the Celts on the Glauberg (fibula, photo: W. Fuhrmannek; museum and tumulus, photo: T. Lessing-Weller); Saalburg Roman Fort: © Saalburg Roman Fort (aerial photo: Foto Storch)

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Hessen State Ministry
of Higher Education, Research
and the Arts



Decentralized Archaeological Museum

The World of the Celts on the Glauberg –
Museum · Archaeological Park · Research Centre

Saalburg Roman Fort – Archaeological Park



Dear Readers,

In a variety of ways, archaeological museums give us a glimpse of life in the cultures of the past and bring the history of ancient periods to life. Museums are especially successful if they are located at the original sites. This is the basic principle

of the hessenARCHÄOLOGIE21 scheme, which aims to establish a decentralized archaeological museum in the State of Hessen.

At the Saalburg, the only reconstructed Roman fort on the Limes World Heritage site, Roman history has been presented and brought to life for over a hundred years. This is why the State of Hessen has already invested about 7.6 million euros in the development of an archaeological park at the fort and is investing a further 1.3 million euros in refurbishment work.

The new World of the Celts on the Glauberg is another key building brick of the decentralized archaeological museum. The outstanding finds at the site, the stone stele of the Celtic ruler and the valuable burial objects, are presented in a spectacular modern museum which allows visitors to travel through time to the era of the Celts in a variety of ways. This also applies to the archaeological park, where the burial site has been reconstructed and many relics from a number of epochs can also be viewed. Despite tight public funding, the State of Hessen has invested more than 17 million euros in the excavations and in the development of the World of the Celts.

However, the two museums not only help to maintain the cultural heritage of Hessen and bring it to life. They also make the region more attractive for tourists and businesses and are therefore a key element in the structural policy of the state.

I would be very pleased if you visited Saalburg Roman Fort and the World of the Celts very soon. I am convinced that you will find the experience worthwhile!



Eva Kühne-Hörmann
State Minister
Hessen State Ministry of Higher Education,
Research and the Arts

The World of the Celts on the Glauberg

Museum · Archaeological Park · Research Centre

The Glauberg on the eastern edge of the Wetterau is a ridge that can be seen from some distance, the last basalt foothill of the Vogelsberg.

This hill has always been important for people in the area. The first people settled here in the Neolithic period. At the end of the Bronze Age, the plateau on the hill was fortified for the first time. The Glauberg flourished in the Iron Age, when a large fortified settlement and a sacred area with tumuli developed.

2,500 years ago, the Glauberg was the hub of an entire region. Many people must have lived here at the time and archaeologists have discovered their traces, including mighty fortifications, settlements, burial sites and sacred areas from the time of the early Celts in about 450 BC. Many spectacular finds bear witness to this epoch, especially the unique sculptures of Celtic rulers.

The World of the Celts on the Glauberg includes the museum with the fascinating and unique finds, the archaeological park around the historic Glauberg site and the international Celtic research centre. In the museum, the past meets the present.

Spectacular archaeological finds are presented in distinctive modern architecture. The innovative exhibition concept and new presentation methods take us back to the time of the Celts.

Who were the Celts? Formidable warriors? Farmers and craftsmen? Bloodthirsty head-hunters? Or perhaps a little of everything?

The life-sized (1.86 m) statue of a Celtic ruler



You will find answers to these questions and many more in the modern, interactive exhibition. On your voyage of discovery to the world of the Celts, you will be able to study the unique Celtic finds from the Glauberg and also, thanks to audio installations, to hear what still links us to their world. Visitors can find out interesting things about the past by pursuing scientific investigations or follow the trail of a Celtic honey dealer.

Visitors walking through the scenic surroundings of the archaeological park can directly experience archaeological remains and reconstructions and witness for themselves the settlement of the Glauberg over thousands of years. Many of the traces of settlement from Neolithic farmers to the Celts and the Staufens dynasty of the Middle Ages can still be seen today or at least rediscovered thanks to the achievements of archaeologists. Impressive ramparts and ditches, the reconstructed tumulus, mediaeval cellars and the remains of fortifications all bear witness to the eventful history of settlement on the hill.

The research centre practises a broad-based interdisciplinary approach to the investigation of the Iron Age not only on the Glauberg but throughout Hessen and Europe and is becoming a regional, national and international centre for Iron Age archaeology.

The World of the Celts on the Glauberg offers a variety of activities for visitors. Interactive guided tours and special activities for schools allow students to pursue their own exciting investigations into the secrets of the Celts on the Glauberg.



Saalburg Roman Fort

Archaeological Park · the Limes, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Both in Hessen and beyond, Saalburg Roman Fort is well-known as a place where you can obtain information on Roman history and culture and the Limes in a way which is clear, comprehensible and vivid.

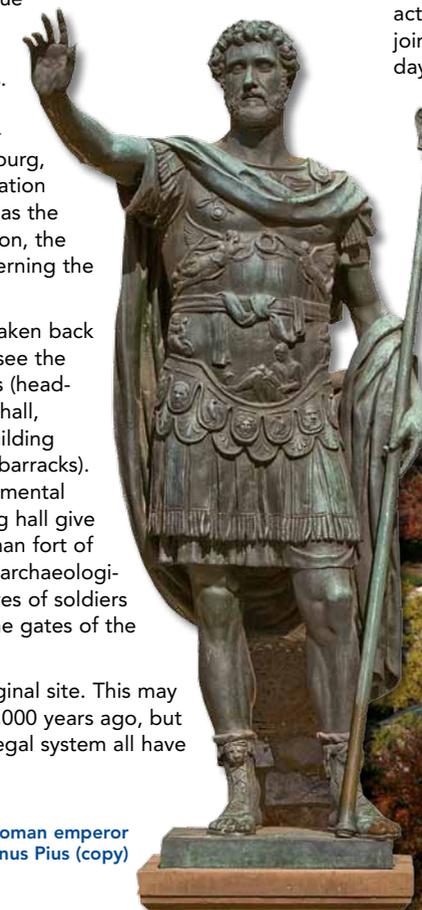
In Roman times, the Saalburg was a fort with a garrison of infantry and cavalry. The soldiers stationed here watched over a section of the Limes, which formed the boundary between the Roman Empire and the territories of the Germanic tribes for about 150 years from the beginning of the second century AD.

After many years of excavations, the fort was rebuilt as a research institute and open-air museum with a comprehensive archaeological collection in about 1900 at the initiative of Emperor Wilhelm II. The expansion of this unique facility to form an archaeological park was started in 2003 with the reconstruction of some additional buildings. In 2005 the Limes, including the Saalburg, became a UNESCO World Heritage site. At the entrance to the Saalburg, you will find the Central Limes Information Office of the State of Hessen, as well as the office of the German Limes Commission, the body responsible for all matters concerning the Upper German-Raetian Limes.

On their tour of the site, visitors are taken back to the time of the Romans. They can see the complete fortification, stone buildings (headquarters building with large entrance hall, commander's residence, workshop building and granary) and wooden structures (barracks). Reconstructed rooms such as the regimental shrine, a barracks room and the dining hall give an impression of the interior of a Roman fort of the time. Models, re-enactments and archaeological finds bring visitors closer to the lives of soldiers and residents of the village outside the gates of the fort.

Visitors meet Roman culture at an original site. This may be a culture which flourished about 2,000 years ago, but our language, our alphabet and our legal system all have their origins there.

Bronze statue of Roman emperor Antoninus Pius (copy)



Modern architects benefit from the achievements of their predecessors, who were pastmasters in the construction of cities, aqueducts, roads and bridges. Amenities which we take for granted like window-glass, under-floor heating or flush toilets were already highly appreciated by the Romans.

The Saalburg in its park in the midst of the magnificent scenery of the Taunus is a museum where visitors can join in and become active. A wide range of activities for children and adults and a comprehensive programme of events bring the Roman age to life. Witnesses of antiquity come to the theme days, while the activity days provide ample opportunity for looking, listening and joining in. The programme includes bread-baking days, family days and holiday activities. Guided tours and talks also provide information on a number of different topics.

There are a variety of guided tours for groups as well as activity and advance programmes such as archery or presentations of Roman clothing. In the "Taberna", the museum cafeteria, visitors can even develop a "taste" for the Roman age. The historic rooms of the fort also provide the ideal venue for private and corporate festivities.

Exploring the world of the Romans at the Saalburg is a high-quality leisure experience for young and old – informative, exciting, active and entertaining.

