Dear Readers,

In a variety of ways, archaeological museums give us a glimpse of life in the past in a clear and comprehensible way. 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.

At the Saalburg, the only reconstructed Roman fort on the Limes World Heritage site, Roman history has been presented and brought to life in a variety of ways. 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 block 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. They also apply to the archaeological park, where the burial site has been reconstructed and many relics from an epoch 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!
The World of the Celts on the Glauberg

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 Saxon 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

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.

Modern architects benefit from the achievements of their predecessors, who were pastmasters in the construction of cities, aqueducts, roads and bridges. Anomalias 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 broad-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.

Bronze statue of Roman emperor Antoninus Pius (copy)