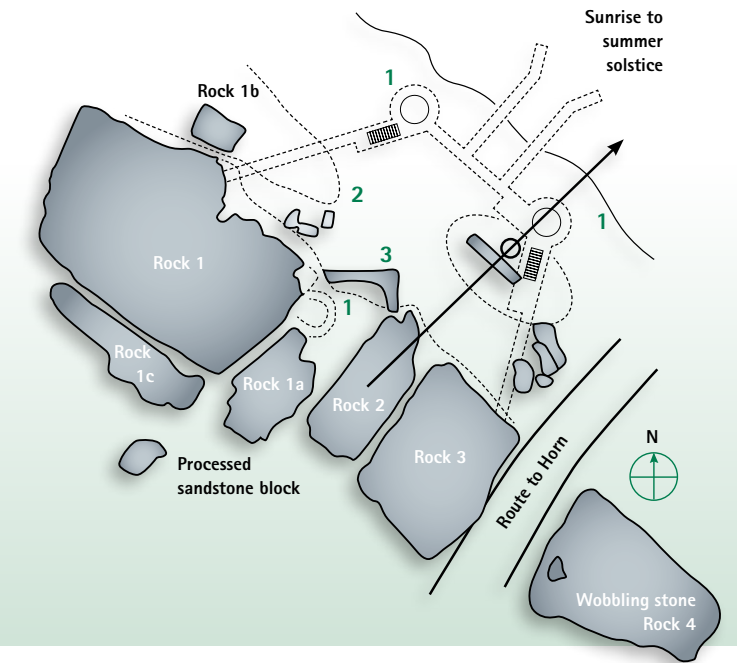


Site plan of the rock formation

Archaeological finds from the excavations of 1934/35 (no longer visible today):

- 1 Remains of the sovereign fortification with approach, towers and stair tower to Rock 1
- 2 Graves from the Christian era
- 3 Medieval dry stone wall



Ecology of the Externsteine

The group of rocks called the Externsteine is situated within a 127-hectare nature reserve of the same name.



- **Knickenhagen and Bärenstein:**
Mountain heath on the ridge with juniper, heather, blueberry bushes and birch trees
- **North-western foot of the Knickenhagen:**
Marshy alder forest, common oak, ferns, peat and hair moss
- **"Schliepstein":**
Old oaks, whitethorn, hazelnut bushes, ample herbs and flowers, large quantities of ilex (holly, photo)

You are welcome to explore these areas following the GPS-guided nature trails. You will find further information on the on-site information boards and at the Externsteine Information Centre.

Externsteine Information Centre



The eventful history of the monument and the surrounding landscape is explained in the exhibition of the information centre. On a surface area of 200 m² the exhibition uses texts, interactive technology and clear explanations to offer an exciting introduction into the experience world of the Externsteine. **Admission free.**

Guided tours:

Tours (including the grotto) start at the Information Centre. They take place regularly at 11.00 on Sundays and public holidays between 1 April and 31 October. Approx. duration 1 hour.

Groups:

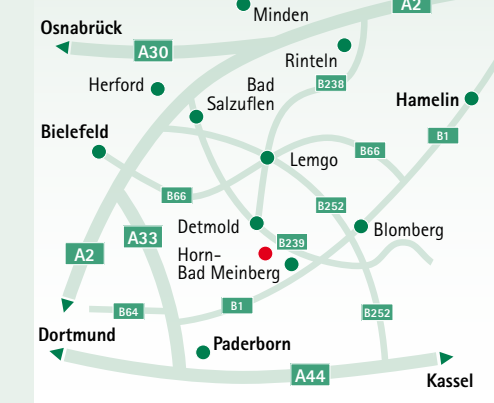
Guided tours also available on enquiry:
Tel. +49 5234 2029796
info@externsteine.de

Opening times:

1 April – 31 October, 10.00 – 18.00
1 November – 31 March, please visit our website
www.externsteine-info.de

Prices:	Adults	Children (to 14 years)
Guided tours (including rock climb)	6,00 €	3,00 €
Rock climb (without guided tour)	3,00 €	1,00 €

Getting here, information and addresses



Infozentrum Externsteine

Externsteiner Strasse 35
32805 Horn-Bad Meinberg
Tel. +49 5234 202 9796
info@externsteine.de
www.externsteine-info.de

Information on Landesverband Lippe:

www.landesverband-lippe.de

Gastronomy:

Felsenwirt Externsteine

Owner: R. Bilgi
Externsteiner Strasse 35
32805 Horn-Bad Meinberg
Tel. +49 (0) 5234 2310
kontakt@felsenwirt.de
www.felsenwirt.de
Closed on Mondays (March – October)

The Externsteine and nature reserve can be visited all year round, and it is possible to climb the rocks during ticket office opening hours.

Special thanks for assistance in the production of this flyer are due to Roland Linde of the Schutzgemeinschaft Externsteine e.V. and the



Graphic design: www.medienwerkstatt.net
Images: Landesverband Lippe, Markus Krüger, Joseph Metz, Rolf Knickenhagen, Robin Jähne, Pippa, noramedia@redalib

LANDES
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The Externsteine
70 million years of history in stone





Presenting the Landesverband Lippe

Situated in the midst of the health and cultural region of Ostwestfalen-Lippe, the Lemgo-based Landesverband Lippe is responsible for the heritage that has been passed from the State of Lippe to the Landesverband Lippe owing to historical development.

The tasks of the Landesverband Lippe include:

- Archäologisches Freilichtmuseum Oerlinghausen
- Monuments and real estate
- The Externsteine at Holzhausen-Externsteine
- The Hermannsdenkmal at Detmold
- Lippische Kulturagentur
- Lippische Landesbibliothek Detmold
- Lippisches Landesmuseum Detmold
- Malerstadt Schwalenberg
- Musikburg Sternberg
- Staatsbad Meinberg GmbH
- Wald- und Forstmuseum Heidelbeck
- Weserrenaissance-Museum Schloss Brake
- approx. 15,900 hectares of forest
- approx. 3,300 hectares of agricultural land

The Landesverband Lippe considers itself a modern service provider for people in Lippe. It is particularly committed to the region's cultural, scientific and educational facilities.

The wide range of tasks and duties of the Landesverband Lippe ranges from active cultural work and the protection of nature and historical monuments to promoting health and tourism facilities.

The Landesverband Lippe and the activities for which it is responsible are also important economic factors for Lippe: its active asset policy sets structure-enhancing accents in towns and communities.



Geology and prehistory

The Externsteine at the heart of the Lippe region are a medieval, sacral site in the midst of bizarre rock formations. The nature reserve and surrounding forests are perfect for a ramble through the region's prehistory.

The Externsteine are a part of the middle mountain chain of the Teutoburger Wald, which was formed mainly from sandstone of the Early Cretaceous age. As a consequence of the shifting of the earth's crust 70 million years ago enormous pressure gradually pushed the sandstone layers up vertically. This monumental rock formation – one of the most remarkable natural and cultural monuments in Europe – continues to raise many questions to this day.

Finds of flint tips and blades indicate that hunters were in the area of the Externsteine in the late Paleolithic and Mesolithic eras.

The stone tools were primarily found below the smaller rock located in the forest, which appears to have been used as a natural rock shelter during the Ahrensburg culture 10,000 years ago. In contrast, there is no archaeological evidence of human activity at the Externsteine from the Neolithic Era until the Carolingian dynasty (8th/9th century AD).

From abbot's rest stop to excursion destination

In the years 1932-1935 archaeological excavations were conducted in front of rocks 1-3. Ceramic and metal finds from the High Middle Ages indicate that the site was settled in the 10th to 13th centuries. The finds point to a grand structure, which is confirmed by documents dating from the 12th century. The abbot of the key monastery of Werden, near Essen, owned a residence at the Externsteine that served as a resting point for him on his regular journeys to the affiliated monastery at Helmstedt. The Externsteine lay on an important route leading from the Rhine to the Elbe.

In the 14th and 15th centuries hermits lived in the grotto, under the protection of the noblemen zur Lippe. Around 1660 Count Hermann Adolph zur Lippe constructed a fortress in front of the rocks, however, this soon fell into disrepair. In the early 19th century, the Externsteine were set up as a tourist attraction and a pond was established.

Mysterious features

There are numerous traces of human activity at the Externsteine, but it is these features that fascinate visitors most:

- the monumental relief of the Descent from the Cross (Rock 1)
- the artificial grotto that lies behind it
- the side entrance to the domed grotto with the remains of a sculpture of St Peter
- the open tombstone in an arched niche (Rock 1)
- the upper cell with altar niche (Rock 2)



To the north of the main grotto is a smaller grotto with a circular window.

The age and original function of the site continues to be disputed to this day. One theory which dates back to the 16th century is that it was the Christianisation of an ancient pagan shrine. The belief continues to this day that the Externsteine were an important shrine in either Celtic or Germanic times and were also used to observe the stars, although archaeological findings contain no evidence of this. Science prefers the theory that it was a Late Medieval reproduction of the holy shrines of Jerusalem with Christ's tomb, the grotto of the Finding of the Cross and the Rock of Golgotha.



The relief of the Descent from the Cross, c. 1150

The relief of Christ's Descent from the Cross is unique of its kind, and an artwork of European importance. In the presence of Mary and John the Evangelist mourning, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea remove Jesus from the Cross. In the heavenly sphere, the sun and moon are draped in mourning, while God the Father grants the salvation His blessing. In the underworld, a monster has wrapped itself around two people (Adam and Eve?), a symbol of the original sin brought into the world by Adam and Eve is redeemed by the death of Christ on the cross. The majority of art historians date this relief back to the 12th century.

Luminescence dating

The "Luminescence dating at the Externsteine" project has been re-examining one of the central puzzles of the Externsteine: the age of the grottos in the rocks.

The research project has revealed that two fire traces in the floor areas of the main and secondary grottos date from the late medieval period and a further trace is from the high medieval period or younger. They probably originate from the ovens of the hermits that lived here at that time. These findings are therefore in agreement with the state of research conducted thus far.

However, the investigation of the core samples from the fire-heated ceiling of the domed grotto revealed an even greater age. One fire trace is dating from the Ottonian era (10th century). It only proved possible to establish a maximum age for a second trace: it was caused after 735. The traces are probably relicts from the creation of the domed grotto using the old method of fire setting.

