



LANDES
VERBAND
LIPPE 

erhalten | fördern | gestalten

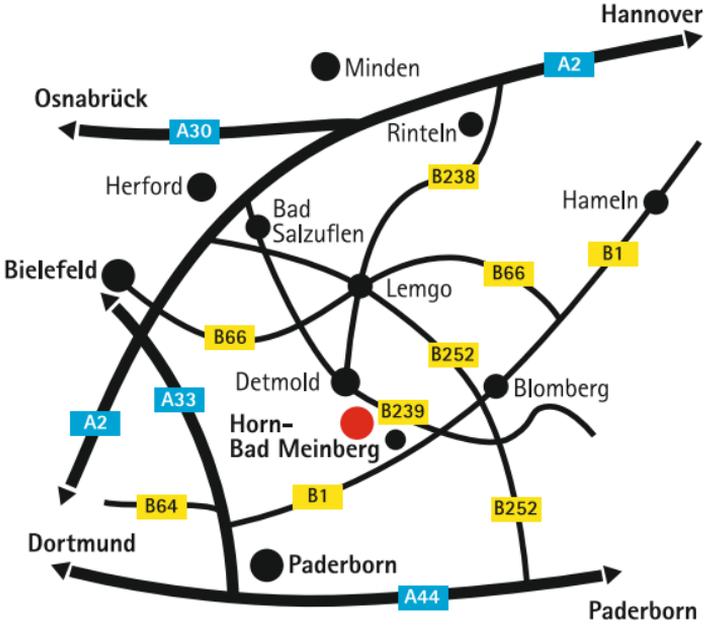
The Externsteine
Exciting and Energetic



70 Million Years History in Stone

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Externsteine-1487098188279616/?ref=hl>

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Disclaimer The Denkmal-Stiftung of the Landesverband Lippe, owner of the Externsteine and the surrounding nature reserve, shall not be liable for material or personal damage caused when taking part in an event organized by the Denkmal-Stiftung, when climbing the rocks, or when visiting the information centre and the surroundings of the Externsteine respectively.

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Fotos: Landesverband Lippe; Robin Jähne; privat





The Externsteine

*Unique Natural and
Cultural Monument
in Central Europe*

The Externsteine

The Externsteine are a unique cultural monument that is situated at the heart of the Lippe region. They have always fascinated people. A medieval, sacral site in the midst of bizarre rock formations – this is how visitors perceive the Externsteine.

The distinctive rocks rise up to a height of 40 metres. Both the observation platform with stairway dating from the 19th century and the medieval grottos bear witness to the varied history. Above all, the relief of the Descent from the Cross, carved into the rock by medieval stone masons, is of international significance.

The Externsteine nature reserve, the oldest in the Lippe region, invites with its surrounding habitats to immerse in prehistory.

The Externsteine are 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 more than 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.

The relief of the Descent from the Cross



The relief of the Descent from the Cross (about 1150)

The relief of Christ's Descent from the Cross is unique of its kind and a piece of art renowned throughout Europe.

The focus of activity shows Jesus being removed from the cross by Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea. To the left and right Mary and John the Baptist mourn.

In the heavenly sphere sun and moon are draped in mourning. God the Father grants the salvation his blessing.

In the lower section the devil surrounds two people – perhaps Adam and Eve? – in form of a beast. The overall composition stands as a symbol for the original sin which was brought into the world by Adam and Eve and redeemed by the death of Christ on the cross.

The majority of art historians date the relief back to the 12th century. It belongs to the most important works of this kind in north-western Europe.



Mysterious Features

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
- 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
- the upper cell with altar niche

The age and original function of these features remain a matter of dispute to this day. As early as the 16th century the theory was mooted that a heathen sacred place at the Externsteine had been transformed into a Christian one.

Today, the view is still held that the Externsteine rocks were a Celtic or Germanic holy place. However, there is no archaeological evidence to back this. The art-historical research tends towards the view of the site as a medieval reproduction of the holy sites in Jerusalem, with the tomb of Christ, the grotto of the Discovery of the Cross and the rock of Golgotha.

Learn more about the Externsteine in our guided tours.



Information Centre Externsteine

Opening Hours

April – October
daily: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

November – March
Please have a look on:

www.externsteine-info.de

The Information Centre Comprising an Interactive Exhibition

On a surface area of 200 m², the information centre documents the varied history of the monument and the nature reserve. By means of written information, interactive devices and vivid explanations, the exhibition provides an exciting introduction to the world of the Externsteine. Admission free.

GPS-Devices can be loaned from the information centre, which also provides information about the GPS-nature trails. There are individual offers for classes.





Climbing the Rocks

Opening Hours

April – October
daily: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

November – March
Please have a look on:

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Climbing the Rocks

April – October:
10:00 am – 6:00 pm
(Depending on weather)

Tickets

Adults: € 3.00
Children (up to 14): € 1.00

Combined Tickets

(Externsteine and Hermannsdenkmal)

Climb both touristic highlights in
the Lippe region and enjoy
a budget price

Adults: € 4.50
Children (up to 14): € 1.50

The combined ticket is valid one year.

The Externsteine and the nature reserve
can be visited throughout the year.

Climbing the rocks is possible
within opening hours.



Nature Meets Culture

The 127 hectare nature reserve Externsteine enjoys European protection under the Directive on Conservation of natural habitats, wild fauna, and flora (FFH).

The distinctive rock formation was created through a natural process. Other habitats in the nature reserve, however, can be traced back to human use.

Mountain meadows and pasture woodland with their characteristics, for instance, bear witness of centuries of grazing.

Nature Meets Culture

Around half a million people visit the Externsteine each year. This high number of visitors poses a particular challenge for the nature reserve. Therefore, the Landesverband Lippe as owner and the Biologische Station dedicate themselves to harmonizing nature protection and tourism.

On a surface area of 200 m², the information centre invites to travel through the history of the monument. Visitors can immerse themselves in nature and culture by taking part in guided tours or by exploring the GPS-nature trails. Starting point of the GPS-nature trails is the information centre.

You can download the applications for iOS (iPhone, iPad), Android and Windows Mobile with information in German, English, and Dutch free of charge at: www.externsteine-info.de.

Devices with pre-installed applications can be loaned from the information centre.

A group of people, mostly older adults, are gathered in a narrow, rocky passage. A woman in a dark jacket and glasses is pointing upwards with her right hand, holding a white folder or map in her left. She appears to be the guide. The group is listening attentively. The background consists of large, weathered rock formations.

Guided Tours at the Externsteine

Enjoy the manifold guided tours offered at the Externsteine, immerse in the mysticism of the rocks and its varied history.

**Ticketing, registration,
and information**

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Guided Tours

Open Guided Tours
(Including a view into the
grotto and climbing the rocks)

April – October:

Open Guided Tours on

Saturdays, Sundays, and Public Holidays:

Meeting point:

Information Centre | 11:00 am

Adults: € 6.00

Children (up to 14): € 3.00

April – October:

Open Guided Tours for both the Externsteine and the Hermannsdenkmal

Two guided tours at a budget price.

Includes a view into the grotto and

climbing the rocks (Externsteine),

and a view into the statue

(Hermannsdenkmal) on

Saturdays, Sundays, and Public Holidays:

Meeting point 1:

Information Centre | 11:00 am

Meeting point 2:

WALK, Hermannsdenkmal | 14:00 am

Adults: € 10.00

Children (up to 14): € 5.00

The combined ticket for both tours

is valid for one season.

Guided tours for groups

Available at the information centre;

Registration required;

Limited number of participants;

Excludes climbing the rocks;

Prices: on request

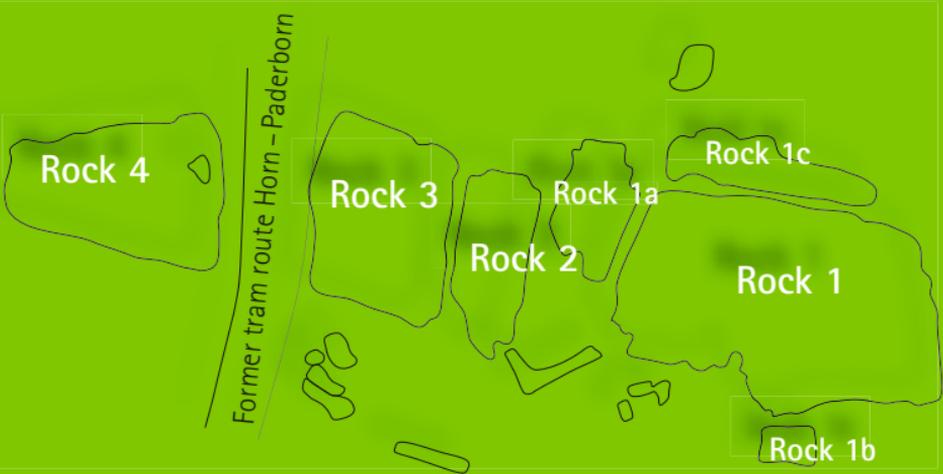
In English or French:

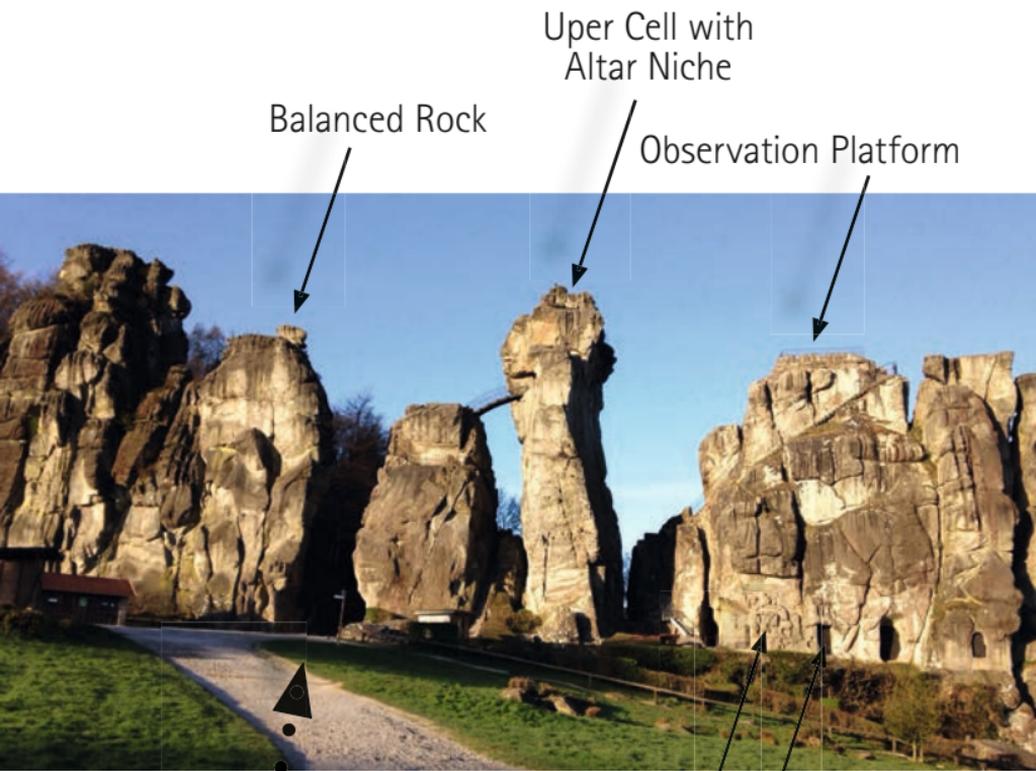
extra charge of € 20.00

Further guided tours, programs, or courses:
please contact the Information Centre

During school holidays additional guided tours are offered. Look at: www.externsteine-info.de

Map of the Rocks





Balanced Rock

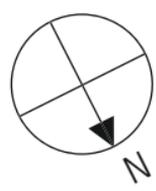
Uper Cell with
Altar Niche

Observation Platform

Relief of the Decent
from the Cross

Artificial Grottos

*Former tram route
Horn – Paderborn*



Information for your visit

Climbing the rocks is possible via a narrow, steep stairway that counts 124 steps.

The information centre, the restaurant "Zum Felsenwirt" and the way from the information centre to the rocks are accessible for wheelchair users.

Disabled WCs can be found at the car park and in the restaurant "Zum Felsenwirt".

For people with walking disabilities, the extensive landscape around the Externsteine is only suitable to a limited extent.

Guided tours for disabled people can be booked on enquiry.

GPS-devices for exploring the GPS-nature trails (suitable also for disabled or visually impaired people) can be loaned from the information centre.

Further information: Please contact the information centre.

We look forward to your visit.

Service

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