

Selected Hotels and Restaurants



1 Ausflugsstätte und Hotel
„Helsunger Krug“ Blankenburg
www.helsunger-krug.de
☎ (0049 39 44) 35 30 61



2 Gasthaus und Hotel
„Königsruhe“ Thale
www.koenigsruhe.de
☎ (0049 39 47) 27 26

3 Ferienhotel und Reisedienst
„Forelle“ Treseburg
www.forelle-reisen.de
☎ (0049 394 56) 5 64 - 0



4 Parkhotel/Family Club Harz
Quedlinburg
www.familyclub.de
☎ (0049 39 46) 7 72 20

5 Berggasthof und Pension
„Ziegenkopf“ Blankenburg
www.ziegenkopf.de
☎ (0049 39 44) 35 32 60


6 Berghotel Rosstrappe
Thale
www.rosstrappe-berghotel.de
☎ (0049 39 47) 30 11


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Harz · Braunschweiger Land · Ostfalen



The general map tells you where to find Landmark **9** - Bode Valley – „Teufelsmauer“ (Devil’s Wall). This flyer, like all the others, will help you plan your next visit to the Nature and Geopark Harz.



 Landmarks of the Geopark Harz

 Association area of the Regionalverband Harz



Publisher: Regionalverband Harz e. V., Hohe Straße 6, 06484 Quedlinburg
☎ (00493946) 96410, Fax: (00493946) 964142, Internet: www.harzregion.de,
Email: rvh@harzregion.de

Authors: Dr. K. George, C. Linke & Dr. T. Steiger

Photos: George, Linke, Tierpark Thale, Landesamt für Denkmalpflege und Archäologie des Landes Sachsen Anhalt

Editing: Dr. K. George, C. Linke

Translation: Dr. H. Watts, Dr. T. Steiger

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Geological Hiking Trail Blankenburg

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Starting at the monastery Michaelstein near Blankenburg, a five km long geological hiking trail includes several exposures that provide an extraordinary insight into 400 million years of the earth's history. Of particular interest is the slope of the "Teufelsbach" valley, where vertical limestone layers of the Muschelkalk occur. These are sporadically overlain by late Cretaceous (Campanian) sandy marls and sandstones. The geological uniqueness of this slope gives it international significance. On the well marked hiking trail

you will also find the audit opening of a medicinal mud pit. Information panels at each exposure present specific information about the particular site.



Exposure along the Geological Trail



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The map will help you to schedule your personal "geo-route". Also tours guided by experts can be arranged (contact: leader of the geo-guide working group in the Regionalverband Harz, Dr. T. Steiger, ☎ 00493944-369085 or email: T_Steiger@gmx.de). The Regionalverband Harz e.V. wishes you a pleasant holiday and interesting insights into the geology and history of this portion of the Natural Park Harz/Sachsen-Anhalt.

The Blankenburg Syncline The "Helsungen Moor" near Timmenrode

10

The area northeast of the "Teufelsmauer" near Timmenrode is covered by an erosional basin that developed in the ice-age. Waters descending from the Harz mountain range washed out the depression. The basin is divided into two hollows resulting from subterranean dissolution of salt. Later, at least one lake then developed in one of the depressions, supplied by calcareous formation waters. Typical lacustrine muddy sediments were deposited (Mudden). At the bottom of the lake, which is poor in nutrients, a dense carpet of charophyte algae grew. Across it, dissolved calcareous material could be precipitated. Small bivalves found in the calcareous muds indicate that the Helsungen swamp represents the only calcareous lower-moor area in the northern Harz foreland. During periods of siltation, the area became overgrown with reeds. The peat covering the muds consists almost entirely of decomposed reed material. The exploitation of peat in the "Helsungen Moor" began in 1752, after the Prussian King FRIEDRICH II. ordered the excavation of peat. After the beginning of brown coal mining in the areas of Nachterstedt and in the Königsau, peat lost its importance as an energy supply. Nowadays, peat is excavated only in small areas for medical purposes and is used in the "Teufelsbadklinik" in Blankenburg to treat spinal and joint diseases. Remains of the undisturbed swamp are protected in the wildlife reserve "Hammelwiese".



Peat Bog

Castle of a Robber Count in the Sandstone Cliffs Regenstein near Blankenburg

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The "Regenstein" is an isolated sandstone massif characterized by a steep slope of 75 meters dipping to the north. The rocks are composed of late Cretaceous sandstones (Heidelberg beds). Because of its exposed position, the site was early used for fortification. It is assumed that the counts of Regenstein settled here in the 12th century. In these days, the castle was

almost completely embedded in the cliff. The history of the town of Quedlinburg tells us that 1336 Count ALBRECHT II. of Regenstein came into conflict with the Bishop of Halberstadt. The Count assaulted Quedlinburg, occupied parts of the town and the castle of Gersdorf as well. In the end, the Count was defeated and taken into custody. According to the legend, he was held in the so-called "Raubgrafenkasten" (Robber Count Cage), which is still on display in the castle museum of Quedlinburg. In the 17th century, the history of fortification on the Regenstein began. Although the fortress was razed by the Prussians in the 18th century, one can still discern the former military complex as a whole and in many of its details.

Opening hours castle ruin: Apr.- Oct. daily 10 am - 6 pm and Nov. - Mar.: Wed. - Sun.; 10 am - 4 pm



"Regenstein" Fortress Ruins

The Quedlinburg Anticline

Castle-Hill of Quedlinburg

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The Castle-Hill of Quedlinburg is located on the southern flank of the Quedlinburg anticline. The Quedlinburg anticline with hercynian orientation divides the eastern portion of the "Subherzyne Kreidemulde" (subhercynian cretaceous syncline) into two parts: the Halberstadt syncline in the north and the Blankenburg syncline in the south. Along the western slope of the Castle-Hill, there is considerable exposure of early Cretaceous sandstones. Because of the elevated position of the Castle-Hill, its proximity to the Bode River and the fertile soil surrounding it, the German Emperor HEINRICH I. ordered that an imperial palace, called a "Pfalz," be built here. He and his wife Mathilde founded a secular endowment and residence for ladies of rank, which afterwards was to play an important role in the German Empire. In the Romanesque church of this endowment, still well preserved, the "Domschatz" (church treasures) of Quedlinburg are exhibited, a collection of precious relics and illuminated manuscripts. In addition, five panels of the oldest known knotted carpet of the occidental world are preserved in the church. The castle, in use as a residence and for representational purposes of the endowment until the year of 1802, now houses a museum with exhibitions devoted to the geological and historical development of the town of Quedlinburg and of its surroundings. The old city of Quedlinburg, containing approximately 1,200 half-timbered houses, constitutes one of the largest historical aeriels to be designated in its entirety as a monument in Germany. It belongs to the UNESCO world cultural heritage.

Cliffs of the Castle Hill, Quedlinburg

The "Camel" and a Vineyard

The "Königstein" Cliff near Westerhausen

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Vineyard on the "Königstein"

There is, in fact, a vineyard on the "Königstein", a rock formation called the "camel" by the locals. The site consists of a spectacular cliff with an outline resembling a camel in repose. Like the Castle-Hill of Quedlinburg, the lithified sandstone of the "Königstein" (190 m above sea level) marks the southern flank of the Quedlinburg anticline.

The sandstones here are also impregnated with silica, and a silicification process that converted them to „quartzite“ is responsible for the remarkable hardness of the rock. The undulating surfaces of the rock walls were generated by silicified veins and zones of unequal lithification. To the northwest, in the proximity of the cliff, the new B 6 highway passes over the ridge where, in the course of preliminary construction work, an elaborate grave-site of the Bell-Breaker culture from the middle Neolithic period (about 3,000 to 2,800 years B.C.) was excavated.

A Hill Rich in Fossils

"Salzberg" Quedlinburg

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The "Salzberg" is located at the southwestern exit of Quedlinburg to Warnstedt and belongs to the southern flank of the Quedlinburg anticline. Lithologies designated as the Salzberg marls are part of the Upper Cretaceous (Santonian). These beds are exposed along the road as a late Cretaceous deposit. The site represents a local concentration of a great variety of fossils of certain types, in particular bivalves and snails from Cretaceous times. For this reason it is protected as a nature reserve.



"Marienglas"

The Sewecken Mountains of Quedlinburg

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The wildlife reserve "Seweckenberge" constitutes the eastern portion of the Quedlinburg anticline. The area can be reached from Quedlinburg on the road to the Gersdorf castle. From the "Seweckenwarte" tower, once part of a system of watch towers surrounding Quedlinburg, one has a good view of both the Blankenburg syncline and the "Gegensteine" in the "Aufrichtungszone" (Landmark 15) as well as of the Harz Mountains. The former mayor of Magdeburg, Otto von Guericke, best known for his scientific experiments (the half globes of Magdeburg), described the fossil remains of bones found in the "Seweckenberge" in 1663. He assumed that the bones were those of a unicorn. The universal genius Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz published this report in his "Protogaea" (Early History of the Earth). It turned out that these bones were actually those of a mammoth. Later, bone material of mammals from the Weichsel period was also found in gypsum holes. In the former quarries, excavation of gypsum of the Anhydrite sequence took place. "Marienglas" – a special variety of gypsum – also occurs here. "Marienglas" is a transparent, flat window-like gypsum. The name "Marienglas" is derived from replacements for windowpanes or glass covers made of gypsum, which were used in the Middle Ages for relic receptacles and for images of the Madonna.

the Castle-
dlinburg



Seweckenwarte

Geological Development of the Area

The geological history of the Harz region and its foreland is characterized by certain fundamental processes of elevating. Evidence of these phenomena is to be found in typical rocks and tectonic features. The first formation of morphological relief presumably took place during the ascent of the Ramberg pluton, manifesting the intrusion of granite magma predating rocks from the border of a subduction zone already in a phase of ascension. This took place 300 million years ago at the end of the Paleozoic. The second phase of uplift can be recognized in the area of the so-called "Aufrichtungszone". Here, the emergence of the Harz ramp structure can be observed. This movement began approximately 75 million years ago in late Cretaceous times. In this phase, the Harz rocks moved along main tectonic faults, located north and south of the mountain range, therefore designated as the "Harznordrand-Störung" (Harz north rim fracture zone) and "Harzsüdrand-Störung" (Harz south rim fracture zone). An impressive example for these tectonic movements are the steep sandstone beds of the "Teufelsmauer" (Devil's Wall). Another episode of processes of ascension in the Harz area can be recognized in the Quedlinburg anticline. This structure was formed in the course of "updoming" movements of a longitudinal subterranean salt dome (from 190 million years ago up to the present). The Blankenburg syncline is located between the "Aufrichtungszone" and the Quedlinburg anticline, and is characterized by horizontal beds of Cretaceous and Tertiary age. In addition, there are remains of Pleistocene phases of glaciation. Loess beds, built up of windblown sediments, are also of ice-age origin. In the Harz foreland, these beds are covered with fertile, black-earth soils. The rocks of the Harz express the effects of weathering and erosion processes in different ways. The granite of the Ramberg formed typical figures of so-called "wool-sack weathering". Due to their rigidity, slate, greywackes and limestones were washed, dissolved and eroded in varying climatic regimes, and, as a result, the most recent hilly landscape of the Lower Harz mountain range could evolve. The "Aufrichtungszone", as a narrow zone of almost vertically positioned sediment beds, is located along the northern Hercynian boundary fault, which offers a spectacular and complex documentation of the mountain building processes of the Harz.

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Landmark 9

Bode Valley – „Teufelsmauer“



www.harzregion.de





View from the “Rosstrappe” Cliff to the
Königsruhe Inn

Recommended starting point: There is always parking space to be found in the vicinity of the Thale train station. After a walk of a few minutes you will reach the valley station of a chair lift – the most convenient way up the “Rosstrappe” (horse hoof-print) site (N51°44.139, E011°01.071). People who prefer to hike should take the route “Präsidentenweg” via the “Eselsteig” up to the “Rosstrappe”. The “Präsidentenweg” begins at the bottom of the Bode Valley just beyond the valley station of the “Hexentanzplatz” cable car lift. After crossing the path of the chair lift overhead and rounding a few turns in the zigzag trails, you will arrive at a stairway of 32 steps up to the granite cliffs of the “Bülowhöhe”.

Although you do not have an overview of the entire expanse of Landmark 9 from the “Bülowhöhe” nor, respectively, from the view point at the mountain hotel “Rosstrappe”, on clear days you will be able to see a wonderful panorama of the Harz foreland. The actual goal, the “Rosstrappe” itself, can be reached from the mountain hotel on a clearly designated trail.

According to a myth from the realm of the giants, Brunhilde, daughter of the king, was pursued by Bodo, a bohemian prince. She could save herself in a bold leap with her horse from the “Hexentanzplatz” across the Bode Valley. Bodo’s horse failed. Both horse and rider plunged into the depths, where



The “Rosstrappe”

Bodo – now turned into a black dog – still guards the crown that Brunhilde lost during her jump. The river is said to be named after Bodo.

The cliffs of the “Rosstrappe” consist principally of granite. In numerous places quartz veins of varying thickness traverse the rock.

After the visit to the “Rosstrappe”, it is worth taking the rocky, winding path of the “Schurre” down into the Bode Valley. The “Schurre” leads through rubble slopes comprised of weathered rock boulders. Upon arriving at the Bode, the Königsruhe Inn invites you to take a rest.

Guided geological tours are organized by the “Thale-Information” agency.

Geo?logical, a somewhat different concept for experiencing nature, combines site-related discoveries with understandable scientific explanations.

Contact: Martin Danielzik,

☎ (0049 39 47) 77 94 99 5 and (0049171) 28 68 360



Thale-Information
in der Rathausstraße 1
☎ (0049 39 47) 25 97
www.thale.de



A Cult Site, a Wildlife Sanctuary and a Mountain Theatre

"Hexentanzplatz Thale"

2

Recommended starting point: The "Hexentanzplatz" (Witches' Dance-floor) can be reached by cable car from the valley station in the "Bodetal". It is also possible to walk or to drive up by car (following the indications of the park's navigation system). The "Hexentanzplatz" is located at the point where the Bode River emerges from the lower end of the valley. The cliff, 451 meters high, is made up primarily of Ramberg granite. "Quartz, Mica, Feldspar – I won't forget what you are". This geological couplet declares that everybody who has memorized the rhyme will recall the trinity of minerals composing this type of rock.

"Hexentanzplatz" and "Rosstrappe" (horse hoof-print) represent important cult sites of pagan beliefs. The intermittent presence of humans at these sites is documented by prehistoric finds dating back to the Neolithic period. Around 750 BC, the Saxons erected a rampart here. Remains of this "Sachsenwall" are still visible along the walk from the parking lot to the mountain theatre.

Bernhard SEHRING, an architect from Berlin influenced by various tales of the "Hexentanzplatz", built the Walpurgis-Hall on this site. In 1907, construction of the blockhouse, which was designed in old Germanic style, was completed. In the interior, there are five paintings by Hermann HENDRICH illustrating the festival of Walpurgis ("Walpurgis Night") from "Faust" by Goethe. Furthermore, a sacrificial altar inscribed with Germanic runes found during the construction work on the Walpurgis Hall is on display.

The animal park on the "Hexentanzplatz" is a popular goal for excursions and is famous as a refuge for native and formerly native species of the Harz Mountains. A special attraction is the Harz mountain theatre, which is embedded in a gorge opening up to the northeast. The founder of the institution, Dr. Ernst WACHLER, constructed the open-air theatre, built in imitation of Greek amphitheatres, in 1903. If you wish to visit a performance, be sure to arrive in advance, early enough to enjoy the fantastic view across the Harz foreland before the actual program begins.

www.tierpark-thale.de

Opening hours cable car & chair-lift:	May - Oct.	9 am - 6 pm
	Nov. - Jan.	10 am - 4.30 pm*
	Feb. - Apr.	10 am - 4.30 pm

* often open only on the weekend



Wildcat in the animal park of Thale

The Metallurgical Museum of Thale is located between the train station and the valley station of the cable car. Opened in 1986, the museum exhibits the 300-year history of metallurgical engineering and production in the ironworks of Thale. Who can ever forget the enamelled pots from Thale? Here, in 1835, the factory owner Johann Carl BENNINGHAUS built the first plant in Europe for the enamelling of kitchenware. He was the inventor of the double-sided enamelling process for sheet metal. By 1910, ten percent of all the enamelware produced in the world came from Thale. A very special machine - the "Tandem-Walzenzugdampfmaschine" - a steam-powered tandem engine, was in operation as a rolling mill from 1912 up to 1990, when the plant was closed down. This steam engine propelled a rolling mill via a comb-roll through three stations. Photographs, a functional model and a video presentation demonstrate how the machine worked. In 2005, the restored original became part of the museum, and it can be visited in action once a year on the "Day of the Open Monument." Guided tours and pedagogical demonstrations are available on request: ☎ 03947-72256.

Opening hours: Nov. - Apr.: Tue - Sun 9 am - 5 pm
May - Oct.: Tue - Fri 9 am - 5 pm Sat/Sun 10 am - 6 pm



www.huettенmuseum-thale.de



Thale

The Klamm Gorge and Metamorphic Rocks as Hörnfels

Tour through the Bode Valley to Treseburg

The dramatic valley of the River Bode, situated between the small towns of Thale and Treseburg, represents the most important cliff gorge north of the Alps. Numerous German authors, such as HEINE, FONTANE, GOETHE and KLOPSTOCK, found poetic inspiration in the Bode Valley. The guidebook "Fuehrer durch das Bodetal" (Guide through the Bode Valley) published by the city authorities of Thale is recommended for tours through the valley. This publication offers information on the geology, history, flora and fauna of the valley, as well as summaries of its legends. Examples of the spectacular geological phenomena of the valley include the following: first, the all but vertical, sheer rock walls of the only gorge in the Harz region (just upstream from the Königsruhe Inn) and second, further upstream, the "Teufelsbrücke" (The Devil's Bridge) with its visible line of contact between granite and hornfels, a metamorphic slate resulting from magma contact at a high temperature. A walk from Treseburg to the scenic view of the "Wilhelmsblick" ④ (N51°43.399'; EO10°58.017) is recommended, a site to be reached from either the road to Treseburg or to Wienrode via a tunnel hewn through the rocks. Alongside the road, one encounters huge boulders in a slate matrix. These are part of the submarine glidings ("olisthostroms") which originated at the beginning of the mountain forming ("orogenic") processes. Their discovery has greatly enriched the geological understanding of the Harz Mountains.



Entry to Mining Tunnel at "Wilhelmsblick"



Two episodes of glaciation reached the northern margin of the Harz mountain area: the phases of Elster-glaciation and of Saale-glaciation. Around 480,000 years ago, in the course of the Elster-glaciation, a glaciation front reached the Harz Mountains for the first time. To the east, the ice up to the level of Friedrichsbrunn blanketed the Harz. ⑥ “Eiszeit-Denksteine”, or ice-age memorial stones, located on the main street of Friedrichsbrunn and at the Lühnertor Square in Blankenburg, delineate the southern boundary of the continental glaciation.



Ice-Age Memorial Stone, Friedrichbrunn

Another line of division demarcating the border between the dukedom of Anhalt and the kingdom of Prussia is designated by the “Preussischer Saalstein”, or the “Boundary Cliff of Prussia” (N51°43.006'; E011°06.081) at a point situated on the left-hand (Prussian) side of the “Kaltes Tal” (Cold Valley) between the towns of Friedrichsbrunn and Bad Suderode. Like the “Anhaltinischer Saalstein” (the “Boundary Cliff of Anhalt”) on the opposite side (see the flyer for Landmark 15), the “Preussischer Saalstein” is a spectacular cliff-like structure with rubble strewn slopes composed of two-mica granite of the Ramberg pluton.

The town of Friedrichsbrunn is both the starting and the end point of the “Köhlerhüttenweg” (Trail of the Charcoal Burners’ Huts), an 8,5 km long round tour. This trail passes by remains of charcoal manufacturing, forestry and mining from the past (mining holes and old stock piles, shaft holes). Signs bearing the symbol of a charcoal hut mark the trail. Finally, the former border between the kingdom of Prussia and the dukedom of Braunschweig (Brunswick), which was measured and marked in the course of the Prussian land survey of 1844, also passes through Landmark 9 from south to north.



On the Prussian Side

„Aufrichtungszone“ (Zone of Ascension)

„The Grandfather“ and „The Coat of Arms of Hamburg“ near Blankenburg

Between the “Grandfather” near Blankenburg, the westernmost rock-cliff of the “Teufelsmauer” (Devil’s Wall), and the village of Timmenrode lies one of the most adventurous hiking areas of the region. A challenging trail with numerous short sections for climbing runs on top of or alongside the rocks of the “Teufelsmauer”, which, for the most part, are hidden in the forest. Many are high enough, however, to offer scenic views of the edge of the Harz and the northern Harz foreland. Parallel to the rim on the southern slope of the five km long elevation, there is another trail without obstacles. The forest is very diverse: old red beech trees, chestnut oak, as well as pine trees accompanied by orchards strewn over the meadows all together comprise the habitat for seven species of woodpeckers ranging from the black woodpecker to the wryneck.

Children are certain to find ample entertainment in this area for a two-week vacation; caverns and other places to hide between the cliffs guarantee exciting adventures. The outline of the rock formations close to Timmenrode resembles the towers appearing in the coat of arms from the Hanseatic city of Hamburg. Because of these similarities, the cliffs have been named “The Coat of Arms of Hamburg” (N 51° 46.609’;

E 011° 00.108). The exposed rocks belong to the Heidelberg Formation, which contains large pebbles of older rocks along the margin of the Harz. These are indications of the early uplift of the Harz mountain area and of erosion processes of Buntsandstein and Muschelkalk rocks.

Popular starting points for excursions in this area are the “Helsunger Krug” hotel (just off the federal road B 6 between Blankenburg and Westerhausen in the direction of Timmenrode) or the “Am Großvater” restaurant. You can also reach the area on a 3 km long hiking trail that begins at the Blankenburg train station.

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Cliff Ensemble “Hamburger Wappen”



View of the “Teufelsmauer” to the “Helsunger Krug”



**Tourist- und Kurinformation
Blankenburg**
☎ (0049 39 44) 28 98
www.blankenburg.de



The "Teufelsmauer" near Weddersleben

You can begin a round tour, part of it on newly completed paths, from the parking place at the "Friedensbrücke" between the small towns of Weddersleben and Neinstedt. Human hands did not erect the imposing „Teufelsmauer“ (Devil's Wall), nor was it influenced by the devil. According to the legend, God and the devil decided to parcel out the earth between them. They agreed that the devil should possess all the land that he could encircle within a wall during the course of one night before the first cockcrow. The devil was very busy and had almost finished his work. A woman, however, was on her way to the market before dawn to sell her cock. She stumbled and startled the cock, who began to crow. Bad luck for the devil – his construction time was up. Furious, he tore down parts of the wall, which explains its appearance today.



Bird's eye view of the "Teufelsmauer"

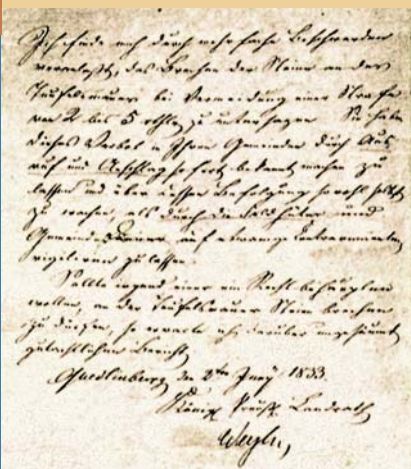
In actual fact, however, the "Teufelsmauer" came about in the movements of rock formation that occurred during the uplift of the Harz Mountains and the steep inclination of the massive beds of the Heidelberg-Sandstone. About 80 million years ago, the Harz mountain range was lifted up and transported northward. The layered crest of the "Teufelsmauer" consists of sili-cified sandstone formations.

First human settlements date back to Palaeolithic times. The broken off boulders strewn about everywhere on the "Teufelsmauer" site were exploited throughout the 19th century and used for architectural purposes. Later, material was taken directly from the outcropping. It was obvious that the

cliff was in danger of disappearing completely. For this reason, in 1833 the Royal Prussian District Administrator WEYHE placed a prohibition on the excavation of stones and sand at this site, because, in the words of his edict: "It is not to be tolerated, that the 'Teufelsmauer', which constitutes a true ornament for the entire region, be destroyed."



Nationaler Geopark



Edict of 1833