

A **comprehensive range of sport activities** offers programs ranging from ball sports, athletics, gymnastics and swimming through fitness activities, martial arts, equestrian sports and golf to gliding, motorized, ultra-light and model airplane flying. Motor sport fans are delighted about the annual rally world championship which crosses the county. A unique network of award-winning premium hiking trails and a good network of cycling paths provide a motivation to explore the landscape on foot or by bike. The region is also an attractive ground for hunters and anglers. Also, the Hunsrück heights and mountains are ideal surroundings for skiing and luge sports.

The local **gastronomy** treats its guests to regional culinary specialties like the Idar-Oberstein spit roast. Also, top gourmet cuisine is at home in Hunsrück. Three of the 100 best German restaurants are located in our region. Many family-run restaurants complement the offers of restaurants and country-inns with a wide variety of international cuisines.

Further information can be obtained at:

Media and Press

Nahe-Zeitung/Rhein-Zeitung
Wochen-Spiegel
Birkenfelder Anzeiger
Stadtfacette Idar-Oberstein
Dorfschelle (VG Herrstein)
Idarwald-Rundschau
Westricher Rundschau
Radio Idar-Oberstein

Leisure

Naturpark Saar-Hunsrück
Saar-Hunsrück-Steig
Naheland-Touristik
Deutsche Edelsteinstraße
Deutsches Edelsteinmuseum
Landesmuseum Birkenfeld
Historisches Kupferbergwerk Fischbach
Wildfreigehege Wildenburg

Housing and Real Estate

Gebäudebörse VG Herrstein
Gebäudebörse VG Baumholder
Kreissparkasse Birkenfeld
Volksbank Hunsrück-Nahe eG
Raiffeisenbank Nahe eG

Administration

Kreisverwaltung Birkenfeld
Stadt Baumholder
Stadt Birkenfeld
Stadt Idar-Oberstein
Verbandsgemeinde Birkenfeld
Verbandsgemeinde Herrstein
Verbandsgemeinde Rhaunen
Verbandsgemeinde Baumholder

Schools and Universites

Göttenbach-Gymnasium
Gymnasium an der Heinenwies
Gymnasium Birkenfeld
Berufsbildende Schule Wirtschaft
Berufsbildende Schule Technik
Umwelt-Campus Birkenfeld, Hochschule Trier
Campus für Edelstein- und Schmuckdesign, Hochschule Trier

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Welcome in the green region of Hunsrück and Naheland

Living and working in a genuine vacation site

Birkenfeld County is situated in the beautiful highland scenery of Hunsrück and Naheland, in the southwest of the Federal State of Rhineland-Palatinate. Its terrain forms in the heart of Europe part of the natural and cultural landscapes of the Saar-Hunsrück nature park. The upcoming Hunsrück National Park will sustainably preserve the natural beauty of this valuable landscape.

Large urban centers and airports are easily accessible due to its **central location** in the midst of important north-south and east-west transport routes. The Frankfurt-Hahn airport is actually located directly before our front door. The train stations of Idar-Oberstein and Neubrücke enable direct access to a main railway line of the German Federal Railway. Short distances and the absence of traffic jams is feasible for car journeys, bus trips and the use of medical care. A dense network of general practitioners and specialists, as well as several clinics, look after the well-being of the people.

The traditional jewelry and gemstone industry has had a **strong economic influence** in the region. Not only is the German Gemological Institute based in Idar-Oberstein, Germany's gemstone capital, but also the INTERGEM, one of the most important jewelry fairs, is held here every year. Many hightech companies of the metal and plastic industries, as well as the laboratory equipment industry, produce here high-quality products. Some of them are leading national or international companies.

Private retailers and local chain stores can fulfill every demand relating **shopping**. Supermarket, and also weekly markets and farm shops offer a wide choice of foods and organic products from the region. Furthermore, our district area has a highspeed broadband network which allows comfortable homeshopping.

The county is also first-class in matters of **family-friendly life and living**. A wide network of care facilities and a child daycare ensure that the youngest are being cared optimally during the whole day. Additionally, the advantageous housing offers make this region an affordable paradise. The prices per square meter for rents and the market for real estate and building land are significantly below the national average.

A **vast educational offer** includes all classic and secondary schools – also with full-day offerings. The Birkenfeld environmental campus and the campus for gemstone and jewelry design of the University of Trier in Idar-Oberstein are internationally leading study locations. Also, the regional adult education center and local associations offer a broad range of learning opportunities for adults.

The **cultural life** in the region is convincing in its whole range. A digital 3D cinema center and arthouse cinemas present latest blockbusters and film classics. Hundreds of thousands visit the countless funfair events along the year, including the nationwide well-known Spießbratenfest in Idar-Oberstein, the Veitsröder Prämienmarkt, as well as a wide variety of other fairs. History comes alive in a unique museum landscape, from the German Gemstone Museum and the Birkenfeld State Museum to the Open Air Museum and the mines.

A **wide variety of musical and theater events** offer the right program for every taste, from rock, pop and folk music through jazz and big-band swing to classical music. Some highlights are numerous open air events like the Idar-Oberstein Jazztage, festivals, concerts and operas on natural settings. The State Theater Idar-Oberstein and other smaller stages delight the public with theater, dance and cabaret performances. Thereby, the Idar-Obersteiner Theatersommer and the Karl May Festival are the top events

