

REGIONAL PARK RHEINMAIN

WELCOME



WELCOME TO THE RHINEMAIN REGIONALPARK



The Frankfurt/Rhine-Main metropolitan region in the heart of Europe is home to 5.5 million people. The region is a fascinating combination of large cities and the hallmark Frankfurt skyline on the one hand and the many smaller towns and municipalities with their particular charm and open spaces on the other. Fields, meadows and woodland extend into the built-up areas and provide the people in the region with a variety of recreation opportunities right on their doorstep.

The goal of the RhineMain RegionalPark is to safeguard the green and agricultural areas as well as the woodlands that extend right into the heart of the conurbation, and to enhance their appeal through a network of attractive routes and sites. This will enable the further development of the landscape and firmly establish its value in people's minds. The RegionalPark is a community project of the towns and district authorities in the Rhine-Main Region. The federal state of Hesse and the Frankfurt/Rhine-Main Regional Authority are providing financial support for the project. For many years, Fraport AG, the Frankfurt Airport operator, has been contributing substantial sums of money to support the RegionalPark and has thus pushed the project forward.

Covering 550 km around Frankfurt, a number of attractive RegionalPark-routes that extend from the Rheingau region in the west to the Wetterau region in the north, and from the Hessian reed marsh in the south far into the Kinzig Valley to the east provide insights into the interesting features and rich variety of the region.

Many milestones have already been set in place over the past few years. The intention is now to build on what has already been achieved through a number of individual projects. More detailed information and attractive events are intended to make the RegionalPark more widely known.

Why not discover the many different facets of the RegionalPark for yourself? Cycle through evocative landscapes to sites of historical interest and stop off for refreshment or stroll along shady avenues, past orchard meadows in bloom to impressive objects of art, a challenging adventure park or a rose garden in radiant splendour.

This is the best place to discover the wealth of contrasts afforded by the Rhine-Main Region, experience nature first-hand and explore urban landscapes.

Claudia Jäger
Chair of the Supervisory Board
RegionalPark Ballungsraum RheinMain gGmbH

MAKING SENSE OF THE LANDSCAPE – AND A LANDSCAPE FOR THE SENSES

The RhineMain RegionalPark brings people together in the heart of the Frankfurt/Rhine-Main metropolitan region. A diverse range of natural scenery and fascinating contrasts between the dynamism of the metropolitan region and traditional cultural landscapes present local people and visitors with a rich variety of landscape experiences.

Urban landscapes

The Rhine-Main Region, an economically robust and densely populated area with over five million inhabitants, is one of the three largest metropolitan regions in Germany. For many people, the region is inextricably linked to the image of urban living, characterised by economic power, money, international flair and speed. At the same time, it is a pleasant place to live and a surprisingly green region!

Between Frankfurt am Main and the large number of nearby towns and municipalities, the region still boasts a number of large green expanses. Fields, meadows and woodland areas extend far into the core area around Frankfurt and provide local inhabitants with recreation opportunities right on their doorstep.

To ensure that this remains so, the RhineMain RegionalPark has the task of protecting these landscape areas, which are of vital importance for a quality lifestyle. They are a tremendous asset, which has been irretrievably lost in other densely built-up European metropolitan areas such as Greater Paris or London.

The diagrams show three European conurbations drawn to the same scale. The difference is obvious: in contrast to the Paris and London regions, the Frankfurt/Rhine-Main Region has large, open spaces of countryside that still reach far into the centre of the built-up area.

Greater London



Paris / Île-de-France



Frankfurt/Rhine-Main



Safeguarding green areas

Unlike what has been done in other European countries, German regional parks have been established in metropolitan areas. As regional community projects, they are intended to protect the urban landscape against further suburban sprawl.

In that respect, the tasks of the RhineMain RegionalPark extend far beyond simply preserving the countryside. In order to safeguard the landscape areas as an important quality feature of the region, they not only have to be protected in planning measures, but also actively designed and further developed. This takes place, for example, through landscaping projects and renaturation or by drawing attention to the marks left on the landscape by history. Signposted routes through the RegionalPark make the different landscapes accessible and link them together.



RegionalPark-routes are thus different from normal countryside footpaths. Specially designed areas and points of attraction along the routes invite people to pause for a while or recount interesting stories about particular landscapes. The routes take visitors past agricultural landscapes, idyllic "landscape islands", industrial heritage sites, historical gardens and parks, and sites of importance from pre- and early history through to the present day. Apart from making local history come alive, one of the aims is to arouse people's awareness of the environment and natural scenery in this part of Germany and to awaken a childlike spirit of discovery.

All that is set in a landscape that is rich in contrasts and places a fast-moving pace of life and strong economic performance side by side with picturesque natural areas.

A community project

The RhineMain RegionalPark is a successful community project, which is supported by the towns, municipalities and district authorities within the Rhine-Main Region. For many years, Fraport AG, the Frankfurt Airport operator, has been contributing substantial sums of money to support the RegionalPark. The federal state of Hesse and the Frankfurt/Rhine-Main Regional Authority are also providing financial backing for the project.

To date, some 220 projects have already been completed and attractive places for a day out have thus been created. They are linked into the RegionalPark-route network, which can be quickly entered from every place in the region.

For instance, the network of routes extends from Rüdeshheim in the Rheingau region in the west to the Wetterau region in the north, and from the Hessian reed marsh in the south far into the Kinzig Valley to the east. More than 550 km of the 1,500-km-long route network have already been established. Over the next few years the network will be extended one section at a time.



THE HEART OF THE REGIONALPARK

The nucleus of the RhineMain RegionalPark is in Flörsheim-Weilbach, where, over the years, gravel quarrying and recultivation have created a typical landscape. This was the starting point for the first section of the RegionalPark in 1995. Together with the well-established nature conservation centre, the first RegionalPark Gateway was established in 2011 in the gravel pit landscape.

REGIONAL PARKPORTAL WEILBACHER KIESGRUBEN

Frankfurter Straße 76
65439 Flörsheim am Main
Fon +49 (0)6145 936 36 20

The RegionalPark Gateway at the Weilbach gravel pits has become a popular destination for outings in the area and a key starting and stop-off point along the 190-km-long Circular Route. In addition to the Visitors Centre, the multimedia exhibition "Landscape at second sight" and environmental education opportunities, there is a restaurant and an extensive play area. The 41-metre-high RegionalPark-Tower has become a focal point for all who want to experience the landscape, find out more, learn and relax. Other Gateways, in the Wetterpark in Offenbach for example, will follow in the years ahead.



190 KM OF LANDSCAPE EXPERIENCE

The 190-km-long RegionalPark Circular Route stretches in a broad curve around Frankfurt, in the centre of the conurbation. It is both a symbol and the centrepiece of the RegionalPark-route network. It describes a full circle, for all to see and experience.



REGIONAL PARKRUNDROUTE

This is not merely about marking out another cycle track; the aim is to bring alive special landscape features along the route. The Circular Route links 35 municipalities and Frankfurt across the countryside, functioning as both a dividing and uniting feature: RegionalPark-routes lead from it inwards to Frankfurt's GreenBelt and outwards into the surrounding countryside. The Circular Route connects sections of the route that already exist and individual projects, places of interest are linked in and access is provided to typical landscape areas. In the future, the entire network of routes will form a unified whole.

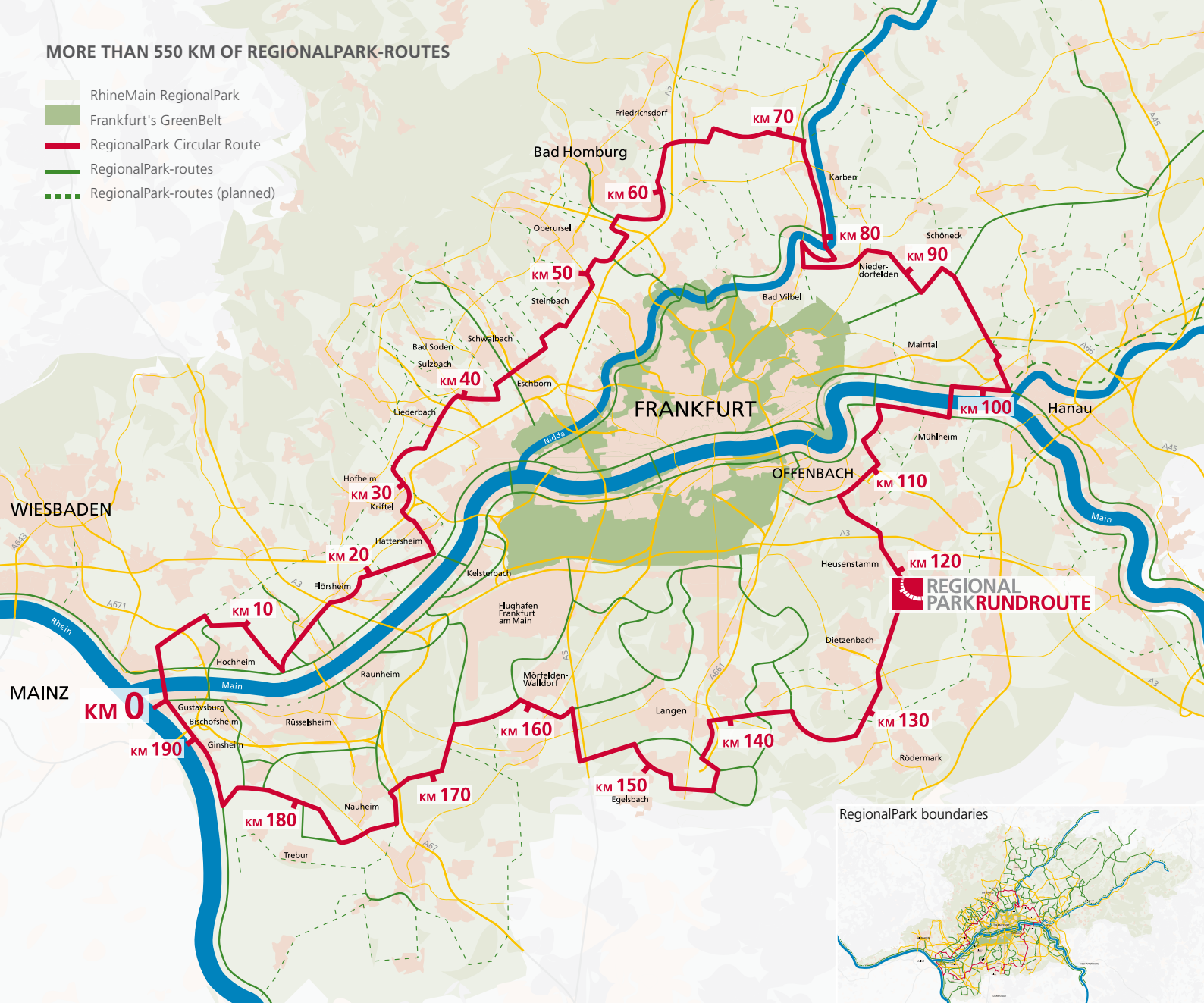
KILOMETRE MARKERS

The kilometre markers line up the points of interest along the circular route like the markers along a river. The zero marker is at the confluence of the Rhine and the Main. Starting from there, a 190-km circular route has been measured and mapped out. The distances indicated will help you to plan your excursions.



MORE THAN 550 KM OF REGIONALPARK-ROUTES

- RhineMain RegionalPark
- Frankfurt's GreenBelt
- RegionalPark Circular Route
- RegionalPark-routes
- RegionalPark-routes (planned)



Exploring the urban landscape – the RegionalPark themes

DISCOVERING THE LANDSCAPE

Is there anyone left who is still aware that the Rhine-Main Region is characterised by a decidedly large range of different natural areas? From river plains to vineyards, from fertile slopes in the Taunus to wooded hillsides ... many of these landscapes have already been noticeably reshaped by a dense road and rail network and by housing and industrial estates. Yet wherever you go, there are – sometimes tucked out of sight behind motorways and railway tracks – idyllic landscape areas with orchard meadows, grassy fields and streams.

The RegionalPark-routes are a way to rediscover forgotten treasures. They also provide access to attractive landscape areas and connect them to routes for enjoyable outings. Inquisitive minds will also find plenty to satisfy a thirst for knowledge.



Sometimes all that is needed is a relatively minor measure and the special characteristics of the landscape become clearly visible. A simple boardwalk, for instance, forms a path through the Schwanheim Dunes south of Frankfurt. It not only protects the valuable nature conservation area but also enables people to observe a number of rare and endangered animal and plant species. The landscape is unique; far from the sea, inland dunes of this kind are seldom found.

The RegionalPark is, however, also a landscaping area. For example, along the Nidda and Main rivers, parts of the reinforced river bank have been enlarged and redesigned, bringing the water closer to the people. Elsewhere, in Flörsheim-Weilbach, a gravel pit landscape that had degenerated into an unofficial refuse dump was very carefully recultivated and made accessible to visitors. Today, this is the site of the RegionalPark's first Visitors Centre.

HISTORY IN THE LANDSCAPE

Hidden from the untrained eye, centuries of human activity can nonetheless be traced in the landscape. The RegionalPark helps not only to safeguard enthralling testimonies of past eras such as the Limes – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – but also to restore their visibility so that people can explore them in greater detail. Everywhere you go, “clues” in the landscape tell stories of former land use. Remnants of old mill ditches tell of watermills and millers. Pools and ponds in former clay pits recall long-gone brickworks. Landslide areas and exposed rock faces came about as a result of quarrying for the stone needed to build homes and factories or for limestone and gypsum. Human activities have repeatedly restyled the landscape and have given it the face that it has today.





LANDMARKS AND LOOKOUT TOWERS

Gain an overview! From a number of lookout towers and viewpoints, visitors can enjoy panoramic views over the river and low mountain landscape of the Rhine-Main Region. However, the towers themselves are worth a visit. From near or far, they stand out as characteristic features of the landscape and are also useful orientation points. If they are historic in origin like the Flörsheimer Warte or original in design such as the “Ballet of Movement” tower on the Wingertsberg in Dietzenbach or the iron tree in Flörsheim, they become local hallmarks.

VIEWPOINT – FRANKFURT SKYLINE

The striking skyline of Frankfurt am Main, the only one of its kind in Europe, can be seen from many different places in the Rhine-Main Region. It lends the city and indeed the whole region an unmistakable image of its own. The RegionalPark-routes afford fascinating glimpses of the skyline.

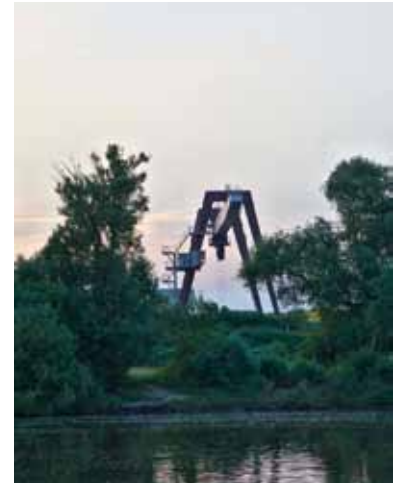


Deliberately created vistas, surprising perspectives or sweeping panoramas ... whatever the case, the skyline – the region’s “Matterhorn” – leaves its mark on the landscape, giving it an identity and a direction.

CONTRASTS IN THE LANDSCAPE

A vibrant conurbation and a traditional cultural landscape – the Rhine-Main Region is an area of fascinating contrasts! Located at different points throughout the RegionalPark, each has a special charm of its own.

Nowadays, one often looks in vain for the traditional appearance of the landscape as depicted for us by artists and poets. Set against a familiar backdrop, the present-day landscape looks different. What is really special about the Rhine-Main Region is clearly the encounter between traditional cultural landscapes and the ever-present visible, tangible and audible testimonies to the extraordinary dynamism of the business metropolis. It is precisely these contrasts in the RegionalPark that repeatedly generate new ways of viewing the special features about this landscape. They point to its unique appeal and particular fascination.



The contrast is particularly striking from the viewpoint terrace on the A3 in Flörsheim-Weilbach. From here there is a broad all-round view that extends from the ridge of the Taunus hills over the factory chimneys of the industrial area in Höchst, over a church tower and the nearby fields, and then over the vast airport site to the eight-lane A3 motorway and the ICE trains rushing past in the foreground. Barely 300 metres further on, a leafy avenue of tall old park trees leads to the romantic pump room in the historical park in Bad Weilbach.

REGIONAL PARK**RHEINMAIN**



Artistic arrangements that highlight the contrasts also change our view of things, e.g. in Frankfurt's GreenBelt. New light is literally shed in a dark, narrow motorway underpass thanks to the installation of "glistening moss", created by means of tiny pieces of metal that shimmer gold on the ceiling and walls. Equally surprising is a "romantic garden" beside a bubbling stream in the centre of the Langenselbold motorway junction.

A PLACE OF SOCIAL PROCESSES

The RegionalPark is far more than a "normal" recreation area. It is an area for solitary rambles but also for social activities with like-minded people, as well as for sports cyclists and lovers of art, history and nature. In addition to recreational, relaxation and sightseeing opportunities, the RegionalPark offers activities for groups and families. Children love the extensive and varied adventure park in Hochheim. It is not unusual for families to spend the whole day there.



In the future, there will be places designed to encourage active involvement – communal gardens, for example, where, under guidance from farmers, you can grow your own vegetables or learn bee-keeping and produce honey. For other leisure time occupations, there are plans to tie in meadows, sports grounds or other suitable recreation areas.

LINKS TO NEIGHBOURING LANDSCAPES

The area is perfect for long cycle tours through lonely stretches of countryside. Extensive RegionalPark-routes connect to the rural areas on the fringes of the conurbation and offer a range of possible options for outings to tourist attractions such as the Celtic Museum in Glauburg. They also connect the RegionalPark with the nearby nature reserves in the hills.



The route along the Nidda, for example, begins at the mouth of the Main in Frankfurt and extends 90 km northwards to its source. The Hohe Strasse was originally a historical trade route that went as far as Leipzig. Now a RegionalPark-route, it travels westward along a hilltop ridge and continually offers views of the Wetterau region and as far as the Spessart. To the west a former towpath along the Rhine, links the Rhine-Main Region with the Rheingau region and the Central Rhine Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

PARTNERING WITH AGRICULTURE

The landscape in the Rhine-Main Region is extensively farmed and forested. Very good soils and broad expanses of woodland establish a productive basis. The many different uses of the land for forestry, cereal farming, vegetable and asparagus growing and viticulture have a decisive impact on the landscape image.

As a result of the immediate juxtaposition of "town and countryside", many "townies" are trying to get back in touch with the things they eat; they are keen to know how food items are grown and who produces them. From adventure farms and educational opportunities through farmyard cafés and farm shops to "pick your own" vegetable gardens – in



the RegionalPark and especially along the Circular Route there are numerous opportunities to experience agriculture and its delights first-hand. In cooperation arrangements as Regional-Park "Farmyard Havens", a number of farmers provide other services such as bicycle repair shops, "pick your own" offers or extensive information about the RegionalPark. On the educational farm in Bad Homburg, farming really comes to life. Children and adults are equally thrilled by the contact with the animals on the farm and their products.

AN EXPLORER'S TREASURE TROVE

The RegionalPark-routes pass through the exceptionally varied Rhine-Main landscape. To find out more, you need to take the walking or cycling routes through the RegionalPark. The routes are marked with a red triangle and already cover more than 555 km. RegionalPark wooden pillars mark attractions and information panels provide information about things of interest. In conjunction with the detailed leisure maps, they offer local people and visitors a broad view of the area. People can then put together their own outings and explore the RhineMain RegionalPark at any time of the year.



VISIT US IN THE SUMMER!

With numerous events and in particular many different tours on offer by our certified guides – guided tours for individuals and groups, school classes and company outings – Regional-Park Summer offers a unique opportunity to actively explore the RhineMain RegionalPark with its different landscapes, with regional partners, friends and the family. Join us in the RegionalPark Summer from MAY TO SEPTEMBER.

**HIER
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WIR.**

REGIONAL PARKSOMMER

The Summer Programme will be available in the spring on the internet or as a brochure from your local community.

www.regionalpark-rheinmain.de



LEISURE MAPS

To help you prepare your outing, why not request the relevant leisure maps?

The leisure maps can be obtained from the Visitors Centre at the Weilbach gravel pits RegionalPark Gateway or by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Regionalpark Ballungsraum RheinMain gGmbH
Frankfurter Straße 76,
65439 Flörsheim am Main



Alternatively, you can plan your outing on the online maps portal at <http://karte.regionalpark-rheinmain.de>



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WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR VISIT!



**REGIONALPARK BALLUNGSRAUM
RHEINMAIN GMBH**

Frankfurter Straße 76
65439 Flörsheim am Main

Fon +49 (0)6145 936 36 20

Fax +49 (0)6145 936 36 44

information@regionalpark-rheinmain.de
www.regionalpark-rheinmain.de

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