



**Germany - Elbe Sandstone Mountains Hiking Tour (2025)**  
**Individual Self-Guided**  
**8 days/7 nights**



**The Elbe Sandstone Mountains** have captivated nature lovers, romantics and hiking enthusiasts for centuries . Hike through the wildly rugged rocky world of Saxon Switzerland and enjoy breathtaking views of bizarre rock formations that alternate with romantic valleys.

During your hiking holiday you will experience both the well-known sights of the Elbe Sandstone Mountains, such as the **Bastei near Rathen** and the **Königstein Fortress** , as well as the less well-known but no less impressive rock formations and gorges of this extraordinary hiking region.



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### Itinerary

*Please note that the routes indicated in the itinerary are the hiking stages only. The places of accommodation may differ from the starting and finishing points of the hikes.*

#### **Day 1: Individual arrival at Bad Schandau**

After your arrival in Bad Schandau, either by car or train, you can take a short tour of the town. The massive, Protestant St. John's Church with its octagonal west tower has existed in its present form since 1679 and stands directly on the market square. Together with the numerous hotels bordering the Elbe and the two Elbe bridges, St. John's Church forms the town silhouette of Bad Schandau.

#### **Day 2: Bad Schandau – Brand – Fortress Hohnstein – Rathen (approx. 18 km, walking time: approx. 5.5 hrs)**

The first walking tour starts with an ascent to a fine panoramic view. Later on you will take around 800 stairs to reach the Brand – the "Balcony of the Saxon Switzerland National Park". Enjoy the breathtaking view over the Elbe River Valley and the Sandstone Mountains before you continue your hike to the impressive Hohnstein Castle. The last part of today's hiking tour takes you through idyllic ravines and forests, past wonderful Amsel Lake to the spa town Rathen.



#### **Day 3: Circular hike to the health resort of Rathen - Bastei - Rauenstein - Health resort Rathen/Königstein (approx. 11 km, walking time: approx. 4 hours, + 470 m, - 480 m)**

The third day of your hiking trip begins with the climb to the famous Bastei rock. Here you can enjoy the view over the Elbe and the green surroundings at a height of 300 meters. From the Bastei you continue hiking over the Höllengrund and the Wehlener Grund to the town of Wehlen. In the pretty resort you have the opportunity to see the Herbrig organ in the St. Michael's Church. You cross the Elbe by ferry (extra cost) and walk on the left side of the Elbe over the Rauenstein table mountain to your destination today: Königstein Fortress. The largest fortress in Europe awaits your visit! Alternatively, hike back to Rathen (depending on hotel availability)  
*and spend the night in Rathen or Königstein*



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**Day 4: Health resort Rathen/Königstein – (Königstein Fortress) – Pfaffenstein – Gohrisch (approx. 17 km, walking time: approx. 5.5 h, + 700 m, - 540 m)**

After spending the night in Rathen, you climb via Weißig to the fortress Königstein, the largest fortress in Europe. After crossing the town of Königsteins, you take comfortable forest paths to Pfaffenstein with the famous Barbarine rock pinnacle. This rock, over 42 meters high, is the best-known free-standing rock in the German part of the Elbe Sandstone Mountains and is one of the landmarks of Saxon Switzerland. The hiking tour then takes you further along the Pfaffenstein path up to the summit of the Pfaffenstein with its impressive view of the Lilienstein. We continue on the Muselweg to the health resort of Gohrisch, originally called "dorffe Gorusch".

*Overnight stay in Gohrisch*

**Day 5: Circular hike to Lilienstein from/to Gohrisch (approx. 11 km, walking time: approx. 4 hours, + 480 m, - 480 m)**

Today's breathtaking hike takes you from Gohrisch to Lilienstein, the landmark of Saxon Switzerland. The striking sandstone mountain rises majestically above the surrounding area and offers impressive views of the Elbe and the Elbe Sandstone Mountains. Take your time to thoroughly enjoy the view. You then continue today's circular tour and hike back to the health resort of Gohrisch.

*Overnight stay in Gohrisch*

**Day 6: Health resort Gohrisch - Papststein - Bad Schandau/Krippen (approx. 10 km, walking time: approx. 4 hours, + 290 m, - 450 m)**

After you have visited the region around Gohrisch, sometimes affectionately known as "the kingdom of stones" is called, have enjoyed enough, your hiking tour through the Elbe Sandstone Mountains will take you on to Gohrisch (448 m) and to Papststein (451 m). From both rocks you have a wonderful view of the rocky landscape of the Elbe Sandstone



Mountains. The rest of the route takes you through the adventurous Kleinhennersdorf caves across the Liethen valley to Krippen, a district of Bad Schandau on the left bank of the Elbe, or Bad Schandau.

*Overnight stay in Bad Schandau or crèches.*

**OK Cycle & Adventure Tours Inc. - 666 Kirkwood Ave - Suite B102 – Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1Z 5X9**

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**Day 7: Bad Schandau/Krippen – Schrammsteine – Lichtenhainer waterfall (approx. 14 km, walking time: approx. 4.5 h, + 530 m, - 460 m)**

You can take the ferry across the Elbe to the starting point of the last hiking tour. You begin with a somewhat arduous climb to the Schrammsteine - but don't worry, the effort is worth it, because from here you will have a breathtaking, wide view over the entire Elbe Sandstone Mountains. You then follow the forest path along the Affensteig and reach the Lichtenhain waterfall. From here you take the bus or the famous Kirnitzschtalbahn (extra cost) back to Bad Schandau.

*Overnight stay in Bad Schandau*

**Day 8: Individual departure**

With lots of wonderful memories you will start your journey back home. You are welcome to prolong your holidays with additional nights in the region or Dresden. We will gladly arrange the accommodations for you.

**Extra bookable experiences**

**Hike along the Caspar David Friedrich Trail**

Immerse yourself in the world of the famous Romantic artist Caspar David Friedrich, who celebrates his 250th birthday in 2024. The circular tour first takes you along the Elbe. The highlight is the ascent to the Kaiserkrone: enjoy the wonderful panoramic view of the Schrammstein mountain chain and Bohemian Switzerland (approx. 15 km, walking time: approx. 4.5 h, +395 m, -395 m).

Services:

- overnight stay incl. breakfast in Bad Schandau/Krippen

Price: from 82 € p.p. in a double room

**ArtPLUS: Romantic in Dresden**

Visit the Albertinum in Dresden with the New Masters Gallery (open daily except Mondays) and marvel at the works of Caspar David Friedrich's and many other romantic artists. You will receive a ticket for the

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permanent exhibition and stay overnight in Dresden. *Please let us know the desired date in the booking notes.*

Services:

- Overnight stay incl. breakfast in Dresden
- Luggage transport
- Public transport ticket
- Ticket for the Albertinum (permanent exhibition or special exhibition)

Price: from 120 € p.p. in a double room

### **Hike to the Prebischtor in Bohemian Switzerland**

Europe's largest rock gate awaits your visit! Public transport will take you to the start and end point of the hike to Hrensko in Bohemian Switzerland (approx. 14 km, walking time: approx. 4.5 h, +545 m, -380 m).

Services:

- Overnight stay incl. breakfast in Bad Schandau/Krippen

Price: from 82 € p.p. in a double room

### **Accommodation categories**

**Category A:** Hiker-friendly 3- and 4-star hotels, including 3 nights in our premium hotel Elbresidenz Bad Schandau and at least one other hotel with wellness and/or sauna, *Please note: for arrivals on Friday or Saturday, only an overnight stay with a minimum stay of 2 nights is possible at the Hotel Elbresidenz.*

**Category B:** We book hiker-friendly hotels and guesthouses with 3-star standard for you.





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### Route



### Technical Characteristics:

**Route Profile:** Average. Generally well-maintained footpaths with some more challenging sections, steep ascents and narrow descents via steps in some places, approximately 5-6 hours of walking per day, maximum daily difference in altitude of 650 meters

**Total Distance:** 80 km

**Travel Season:** Departures daily from April 1 to October 31

Season 1 April1-May 11 and October 5-31

Season 2 May12-October 4

**Prices per person:** *all prices subject to confirmation on booking*

	CAT A	CAT B
Double occupancy season 1	€1119	€925
Single occupancy season 1	€1559	€1225
Double occupancy season 2	€1159	€965
Single occupancy season 2	€1599	€1265
Single Traveler	On request	
Extra Nights	On request	

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**Included:**

- 7 x overnight stays in hotels of the booked category
- 7 x rich breakfast
- 7 x dinner
- For category A: entry to the Toskana Therme Bad Schandau
- Luggage transport from accommodation to accommodation (up to 2 pieces of luggage per person, max. 20 kg each)
- GPS data on request
- 1 package of detailed maps and information material per room
- Telephone service during your hiking holiday

**Not Included:**

- Visitors taxes, payable locally

*Assisting people in realizing their touring dreams worldwide is our passion.*

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**THIS IS A PARTNER TOUR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

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