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Second UNESCO-World Heritage Day on the 4th of June

The UNESCO-World Heritage Day will take place nation wide for the second time on the 4th of June 2006. The host of the event is the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation in cooperation with the city of Dessau, the Foundation of Culture Dessau-Wörlitz and the Luther Memorials in Wittenberg. The objectives will be to increase the awareness of the importance of the 31 World Heritage Monuments in Germany as places of particularly preservation and to strengthen their role as a mediator of the UNESCO ideals.



The German UNESCO-Commission and the UNESCO World Heritage Association declare the nationwide second UNESCO World Heritage Day on the 4th of June 2006. Since 2005 it has been celebrated on the first Sunday in June. The aim is to stress the cultural and historical relation the 31 World Heritage Sites in Germany have to their regions and, at the same time, to experience the universal mind of the manifold heritage of humankind. This day should provide the cultural and natural sites with a forum for communication with the people. At the World Heritage Day the World Heritage Sites will present their activities in a special program that go far beyond the preservation of ancient monuments and the assurance of authenticity.

The opening event at the Bauhaus of Dessau is this year under the patronage of the Premier of Saxony-Anhalt, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Böhmer. The occasion is the 80th birthday of the Bauhaus of Dessau and the 10th anniversary of the Bauhaus and its Sites in Weimar and Dessau as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The welcome speech will take place in the assembly hall of the Bauhaus, followed by the award ceremony of the photo competition “We have inherited – Luther, Bauhaus, Garden Kingdom” and a panel discussion on the topic “UNESCO World Heritage Sites – partner or godfather for other endangered places?” Special guided tours to the Bauhausbuilding and the Masterhouses, the experimental Steel house, the Törten-Settlement, the Gallery of Anhalt and the Garden Kingdom will be offered. The Foundation of Culture Dessau-Wörlitz also offers guided tours to the castles Luisium, Mosigkau, Oranienbaum, Wörlitz and the Gothic House, as well as roundtrips with gondolas, exhibitions and sightseeing of the island “Stein” and the Villa Hamilton.

The local church, castle church and the Luther Memorials in Wittenberg will offer an own program on the 4th and 5th of June. The tower of the local church can be climbed every hour on the World Heritage Day; holiday services and concerts will take place in the protestant national church of St Marien and in the castle church. On Whit Monday there will be a special guided tour with the title



“Europe in the castle church” and a guided tour on the building history of the Luther Memorials with a lecture afterwards. Altogether there are 51 events going to be presented in Dessau, Wörlitz and Wittenberg. A complete program of the World Heritage Day in Dessau, Wörlitz and Wittenberg can be found under www.bauhaus-dessau.de/welterbetag.html

Other UNESCO World Heritage Sites are also participating nationwide with numerous events regarding the Second World Heritage Day. Amongst others the following events will take place:

Dresden will open the gates of the castle of Lingner for guided tours and also lectures and panel discussions will take place in the castle. Other guided tours will invite the visitors to take a look at the parks of the three castles at the Elbe or enjoy the Dresden Elbe valley on a float ride. The motto of **Postdam** is “Experience World Heritage”. There will be festivities in the Russian colony Alexandrowka and in the Belvedere Palace on Whitsun hill. Guided tours will impart knowledge about these historical facilities, their history, exploration and conservation. In the ‘Alte Wache’ in the town hall of **Stralsund** the photo exhibition “Church castles in Siebenbürgen” of the Romanian organisation “Miriotics” will be inaugurated and a quadrilingual multimedia CD about the villages and church castles of Siebenbürgen will be presented. **Wismar** offers guided city tours “Tracing the city history with format” and offers a shuttle transfer to Stralsund. **Weimar** invites to a special guided tour with the title “UNESCO World Heritage - fascination of time”.

In the former Dominican church in **Bamberg**, which is the assembly hall of the University today, lectures, guided tours and presentations will be offered all day long, for example about digital mapping technology and digital terrain model. A GPS controlled mobile phone game guides teenagers through the historical old town. **Hildesheim** invites to holiday services in the Mary’s cathedral and the St Michael’s church. A guided tour through the construction site provides an opportunity to have a look at the excavations in the St Michael’s church. The director of the institute of the cultural facilities offers guided tours for visitors of the buildings. There will be a holiday service and a concert in the Cologne cathedral. In **Speyer** a lecture will inform visitors about the Speyer cathedral. In **Trier** a lecture with the title “The significance of the monuments in Trier as World Heritage Sites” will be presented. City tours with “historical personalities” will include the Porta Nigra, the thermae of the emperor and the amphitheatre. There will be special guided tours in the cathedral of St Peter, the Church of Our Lady and the Igeler Säule. The abbey of Lorsch invites to an open-air service in the hall of the king and also to a “market of ideas”.

An exhibition with the motto “hidden treasures of the UNESCO World Heritage Mines of Rammelsberg” will be inaugurated in **Goslar** and guided tours to the ore dressing and the historical cellar in the historic old town are in preparation. The Foundation tariff union invites to a full-time program in **Essen**, which includes guided tours, sightseeing of the coking plant and the centre of design; a concert and a theatre project with teenagers will also be presented. The town hall in **Bremen** will be open all day, offering guided tours over the whole time.

The Castle of Augustusburg in **Brühl** offers a slide show and a special guided tour, while handicrafts can be done by everyone in the Castle of Falkenlust with the motto “World Heritage in North-Rhine Westphalia”. The Upper Middle Rhine Valley offers guided tours in Braubach and the “Augusta-Fest” in Koblenz with rides in horse drawn wagons and music. Oberwesel invites to a “Mediaeval racket”. An open day of World Heritage will take place in the Loreleycentre. The Limes museum in Aalen presents special guided tours and museum educational events, and selected films will be shown.

More information:

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