

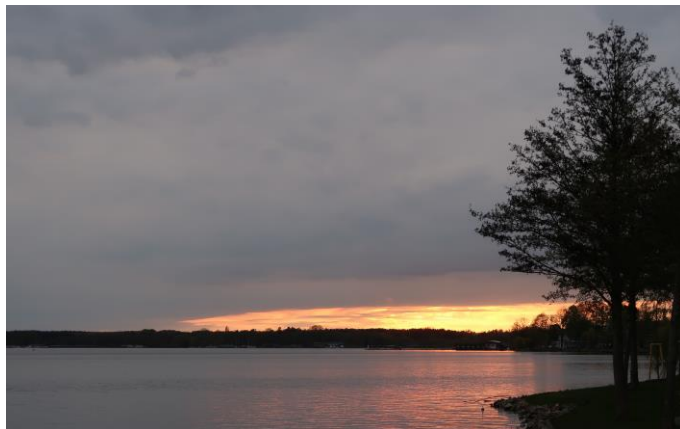
# A week during spring in Germany

May 1st to May 6th - **2022**



A week during spring...  
The first beautiful day in May...

I leave Helsingborg on May 1st and take the motorway through Denmark to catch the ferry from Gedser to Rostock, which is a varied route for me. Continuing southeast through Germany on small roads and it's evening by the time I reach Waren. There were plenty of cafes and restaurants and along this a nice selection of leisure boats and tour boats, all of which suggest that the town attracts many summer tourists.



### **Waren**

A town in the North German district of  
Mecklenburgische Seenplatte in the federal state of  
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Population: 21 267 (2022-12-31)

[Wikipedia](#)



The next day, the journey continues southeast through a number of beautiful villages by lakes and canals. The next stop is the Boat Lift in Niederfinow, with a long history of canal navigation. The Oder-Havel Canal connects Berlin with the Baltic Sea and is an important transport route. The canal is 54 km long from Oranienburg/Berlin to the Oder, the river that forms the border with Poland.



**Niederfinow boat lift** (German: Schiffshebewerk Niederfinow) is the oldest functioning boat lift in Germany. It is part of the Oder-Havel Canal near the town of Niederfinow in the federal state of Brandenburg. The boat lift has a lifting height of 36 meters, took seven years to build, and replaced a previous lock staircase with 4 locks in 1934. The lift currently transports about 11,000 boats each year, which is close to its maximum capacity. Due to this, as well as the fact that some barge trains do not fit in the troughs, a decision was made in 1997 to build a new larger boat lift next to the current one.





**New Lift** - Currently, around 11,000 boats pass through the lift annually, and due to the continued increase in traffic on the OHK (Oder-Havel Canal), as well as the fact that the current lift trough is too short for some barge transports, it was decided in 1997 to build a larger boat lift. The groundwork began in the fall of 2006, between the lift and the old lock staircase, by demolishing the lowest lock, and the first foundation stone was laid on March 23, 2009. The new trough will be 115 meters long, 12.5 meters wide, and 4 meters deep. The gross weight will be 9,000 tons. The cost is estimated to amount to 285 million euros. The old lift is expected to be usable at least until 2025.

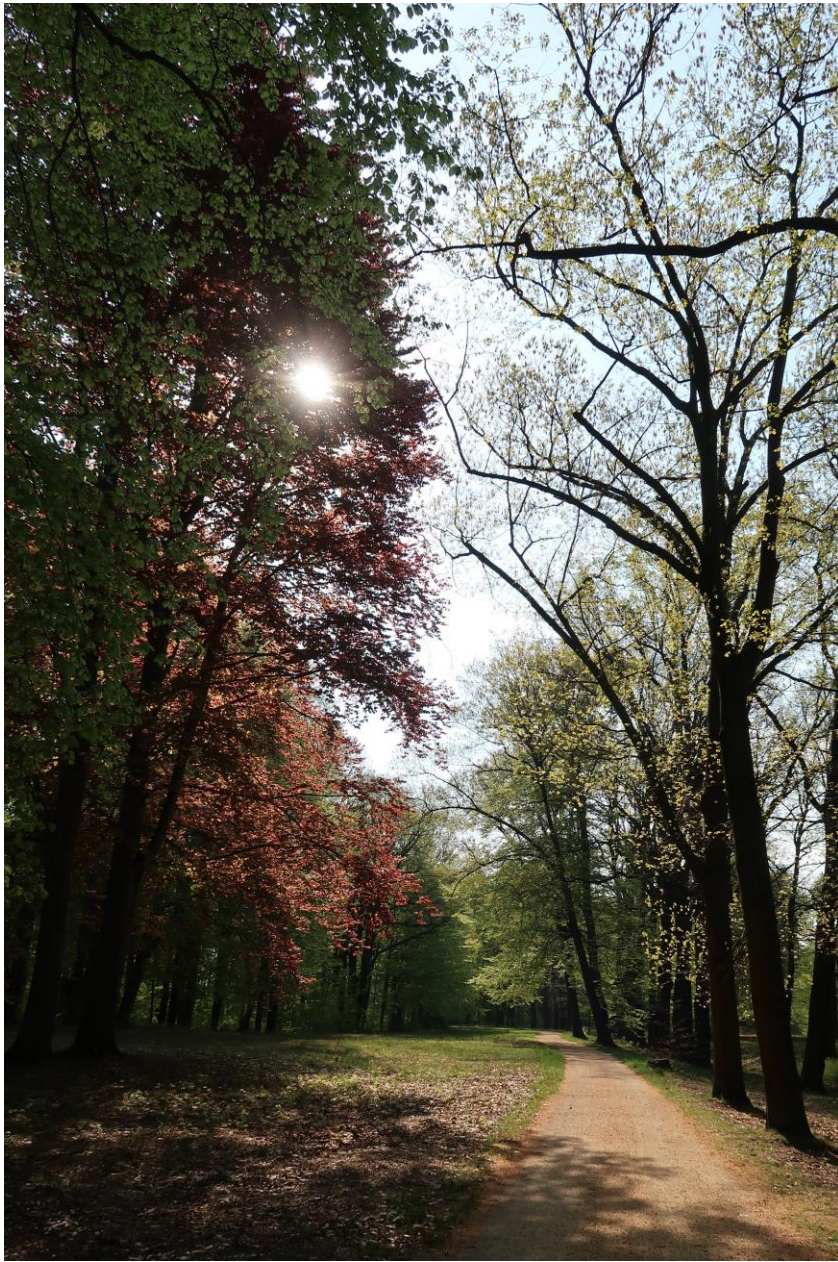
A new and larger boat lift is under construction. If I understood everything correctly, the new lift is expected to open in the fall of 2022. I am leaving behind a large and impressive construction in a well-functioning canal system.

The journey continues southeast via Frankfurt an der Oder, then further south to spend the night in Bad Muskau near the Polish border.

Along the way, I pass some of Germany's many large wind farms.







The first stop on day three is the Azalea and Rhododendron Park in Kromlau.

I knew from the start of the journey that I was too early for the rhododendrons to be in bloom, but the park covers 80 hectares, built in the 19th century in an English style, so there is still much beauty to see. Unfortunately, the park's castle was closed for renovation.





Rakotzbrücke is one of the major attractions in the park, inaugurated in 1860. The bridge, currently closed for safety reasons, is nonetheless best appreciated from a distance





The journey continues south on smaller roads and through small villages until I reach Sebnitz, where I drive into the city to look for a place to eat lunch. Suddenly, I find myself in front of the border to the Czech Republic, and on the first house on the other side of the border, there is a sign saying 'fish restaurant', so I ended up having lunch in Dolni Poustevna, Czech Republic

Back into Germany with my sights set on Bastei, a rock formation and an adjoining bridge, Basteibrücke. The rock is a famous viewpoint 194 meters above the Elbe River in the natural area of Sächsische Schweiz. The area is well worth a visit

The Elbe river

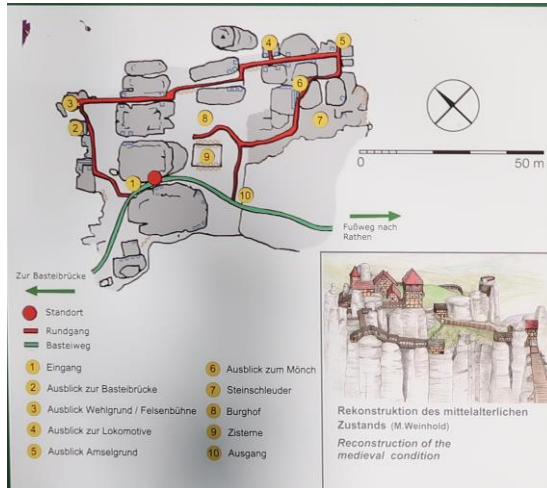


Basteibrücke





On the cliffs to the left in the picture, there once stood a castle



### The castle

*The former rock castle was the largest and most impressive object in Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland. It was first mentioned in the year 1289. 120 meters of the military parapet were made accessible for tourist traffic again.*

*It was built by the Bohemian nobility to protect the borders - from 1466 it became a bandit's castle.*

*In 1467, the castle was besieged by the elector of Saxony and its troops. Two years later, it was completely burned down.*

*Today, only the courtyard, the cistern, passages and traces of the rooms carved into the rock have survived. Especially worth seeing is the replica of a catapult.*



Bridge between mark 3 and mark 4 on the map above.

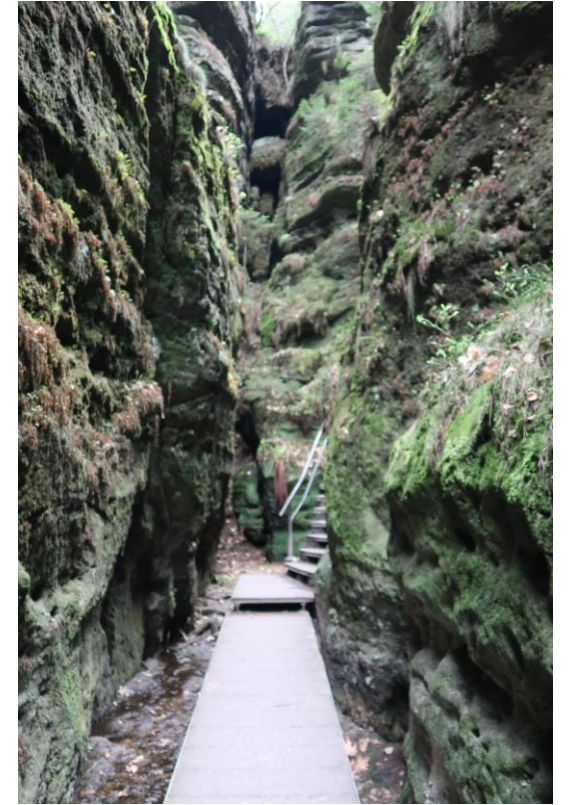
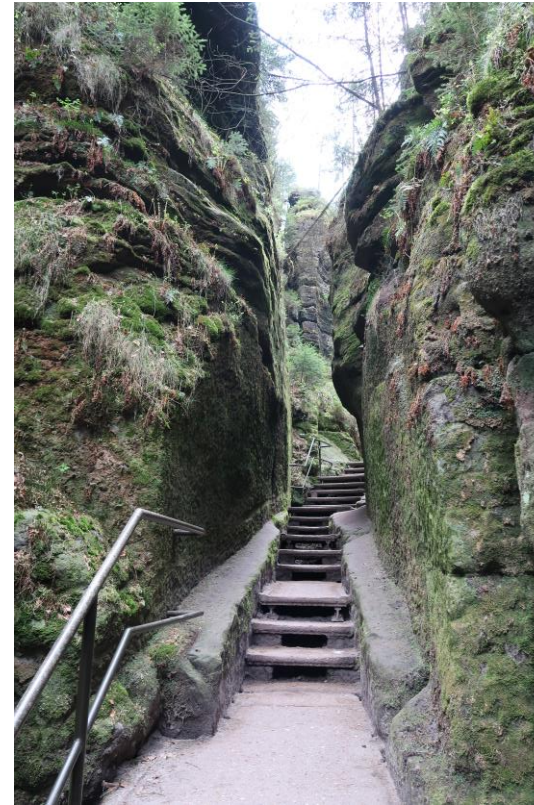


In the area, there are also 'Schwedenlöcher', which are ravines and high rock formations. Today, there is a staircase and a walking path through the grandeur of nature.

The length is 650 meters plus connections.

The elevation difference is 167 meters or 777 steps plus about 20 bridges.

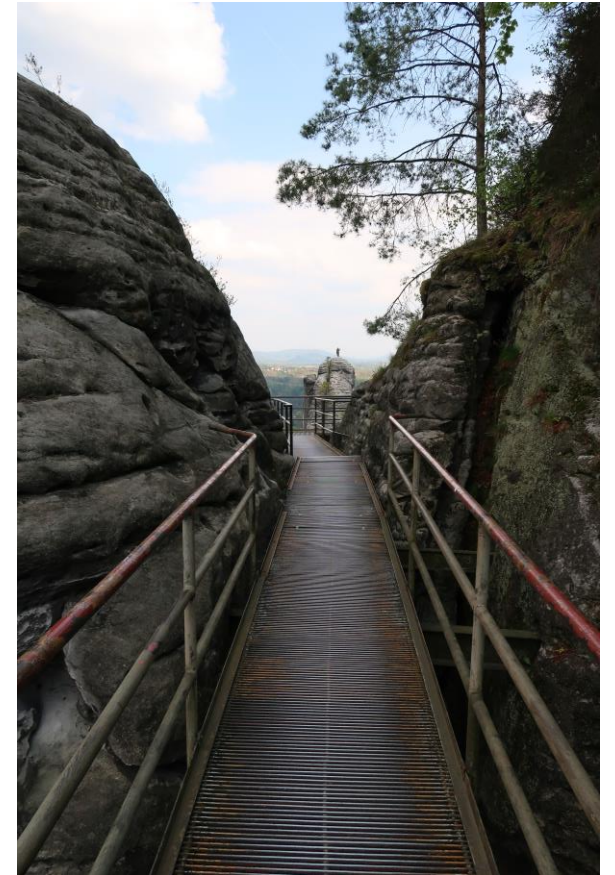
The name comes from the fact that the inhabitants of the village Rathewalde hid in the ravine and took shelter when Swedish soldiers attacked and destroyed their village in the year 1639.







Some more pictures of rock formations in the area around Bastei.





After staying overnight in Lohmen, I travel via Pirna, where I cross the Elbe to go south of Dresden down to Glashütte. From there, the main direction is northwest. Via Freiberg, Döbeln, Bad Lausick, Leipzig, Merseburg, Querfurt to get to Sangerhausen. Here, I enter the Harz Nature Park, a large natural area with beautiful scenery and great motorcycle roads. I cross the area straight north via Harzgerode to spend the evening in Quedlinburg. A city that has been on UNESCO's World Heritage List since 1994 with the reasoning, "an unusual example of a medieval European city", here about 1300 half-timbered houses are preserved.

Town hall in Quedlinburg



Street scene in Quedlinburg





## Quedlinburg square



After a lovely evening in the city and a night in an 'updated' hotel room, today's journey first heads southward, reentering the Harz Nature Park and National Park via Thale and through the Bode Gorge to the Rappbode Dam.

Updated hotel room, 2.00







Some have managed to build and live right in the midst of the beautiful nature, surrounded by peaceful environs. Moreover, being able to have breakfast in the morning sun is pure luxury.

A radiant morning in beautiful nature with wonderful motorcycle roads is unbeatable. It's easy to enjoy the surroundings and the natural beauty.





## Rappbode Dam and Titan Suspension Bridge



Upon arriving at the Rappbode Dam, I stop for a while. The dam is the tallest in Germany, standing at 106 meters high.

Titan is a suspension bridge with a length of 458 meters and a clearance height of 100 meters.

There is also a zipline here, with a length of 1000 meters and a drop of almost 100 meters.



The zipline



Titan suspension bridge



Rappbode dam



The travel route progresses through the Harz National Park, encompassing Braunlage and Altenau, and concludes its passage through the park near Goslar.

Now the journey home begins, with fewer stops along the way. From Goslar, the route passes through Braunschweig, Celle, Wallsrode, Rotenburg, and Zeven, concluding the day's travel in Bremenvörde.



The final day of the journey starts from foggy Bremenvörde, heading towards the Elbe Ferry at Wischhafen. Once across the Elbe, the fog clears, revealing beautiful May weather.

From Glückstadt, the route leads towards Brunsbüttel, but roadwork necessitates crossing the North-Baltic Sea Canal at Burg. Then the journey continues via Friedrichstadt, Husum, and Flensburg to Fynshav in Denmark. Next, a ferry ride to Ærö followed by Langeland and Lolland. As it gets late in the day, the remainder of the trip is on the motorway through Denmark, arriving in Helsingborg at midnight.



Fog over Elbe.

Apparently, German pigeons are quite comfortable hitching a ride over the Elbe with a truck.







A beautiful schooner  
in the harbor of  
Ærøskøbing

Heading towards  
Langeland, the  
bridge between  
Tåsinge and  
Langeland.

There wasn't much crowding on  
the ferries between the Danish  
islands on a Friday evening.

However, there were long waiting  
times for the next ferry ride, as  
these smaller ferries don't run very  
frequently.

