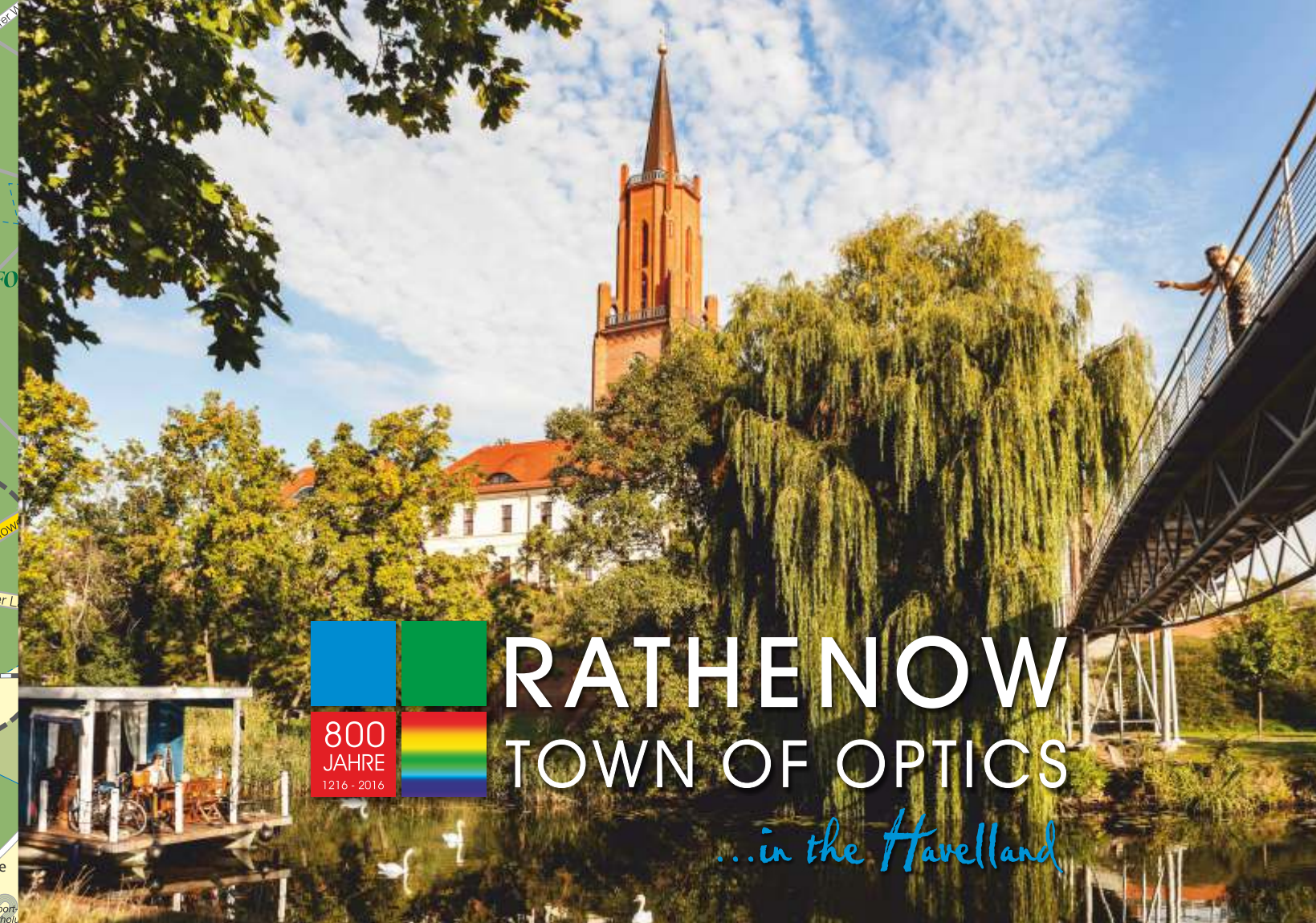




- Legend**
- ✠ church, chapel, cemetery
 - ⚔ war-, natural-, memorial
 - 🏛 town hall
 - ℹ information, information pillar
 - 🏥 hospital/clinic, health centre
 - 🩹 first-aid post, chemist
 - 🚗 car park, multi-storey car park
 - 🚗 park and ride, coach park
 - 🚚 mobile home parking
 - ⛽ petrol station, taxi rank
 - 🏦 bank/cash machine, post office
 - 📖 library, shopping centre
 - 🏟 stadium, sports facilities
 - 🎾 tennis courts
 - ♨ indoor swimming pool
 - 🏊 bathing area
 - 🏊 sports hall, mini-golf course
 - 🎰 bowling-, ninepins alley
 - 🚤 jetty, boat berth
 - 🏰 lighthouse, boat tour
 - 🦁 animal enclosure
 - ★ places of interest



RATHENOW

TOWN OF OPTICS

...in the Havelland



Welcome to Rathenow!

Dear citizens, residents of the Havelland und visitors,

On the following pages we'll take you on a cultural and touristic landmark tour of our town and the surrounding area.

We'd like to bring our country and its people closer to you, point out places of interest, inform you of interesting facts about the history of the region and its culture, and give you tips on leisure activities as well as hints on hotels and restaurants.

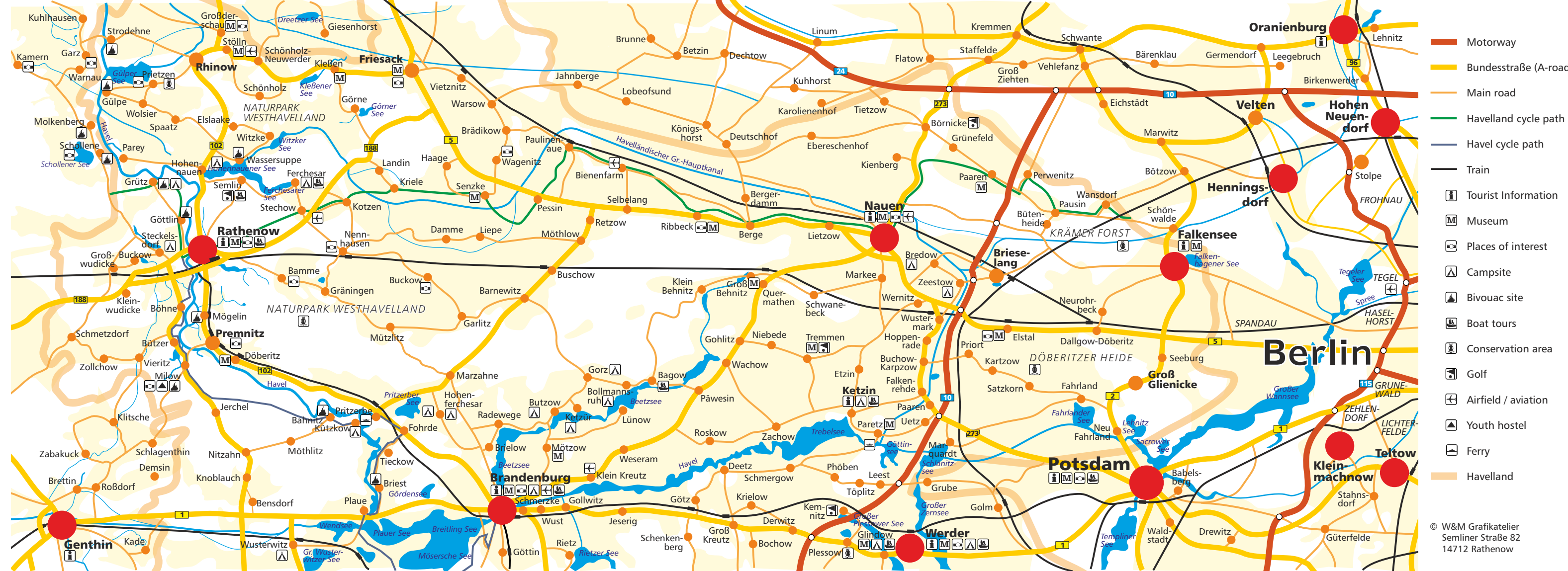
It's nice when you realise: even as a native there's always something new to discover. Our motto for our visitors is: We're only happy, when you are!

As good hosts, the State Horticultural Show in 2006 and the Federal Garden Show in 2015, but also all the years between these major events, allowed us to present our region in all its beauty. We remain committed to that.

Dear visitors, I hope that you will always have fond memories of our beautiful tourist region and that you, dear fellow citizens, will always feel at home in our town.

Ronald Seeger

Ronald Seeger
Mayor



Content & Imprint

Welcome

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | Content & imprint | 37 | The whole weekend |
| 2 | The oldest tourist association in the tourist region Havelland | 42 | A relaxing week with the family |
| 3 | Ten years of the Optikpark Rathenow | 51 | I not only want to look around, but also do something – leisure activities |
| 4 | History of the town of Rathenow | 55 | Denominations |
| 16 | History of the optical industry | 56 | The Havel |
| 22 | Places of interest in Rathenow | 58 | The nature park Westhavelland |
| 32 | Rathenow's lovely neighbourhoods | 60 | Havelland customs and recipes |
| 36 | Now that I'm here ... what can I do? | 64 | List of references |
| 36 | I'm only here today | | |
- Inside back cover:
Map of the Havelland area
- Back cover:
Map of Rathenow

The rough draft of this booklet was twice as long. We had to accept that it's impossible to fit the tourist offers of a whole region into a handy-sized brochure.

Please consider the information available as a short teaser of what distinguishes the „Westhavelländer“ and what we're proud of.

Well-produced and more extensive up-to-date information can be found on the Internet on www.rathenow.de as well as www.tv-westhavelland.de.

Since it's currently popular, we could have placed these eye-catching QR codes for fast access to appropriate websites in numerous places in the brochure. But we didn't, because it doesn't serve clarity. Instead, just to show that we can:



Issued by:
Stadt Rathenow, Berliner Straße 15
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Tel. 03385 596 322 · www.rathenow.de

Concept, Layout, Design:
W&M Grafikatelier · 14712 Rathenow, Februar 2016
Cover photo: Am Alten Hafen, © BUGA-Zweckverband



Westhavelland,
water – woods – lush fields,
pure nature – guaranteed relaxation!
The nature park in Westhavelland
is the largest in the
holiday destination Brandenburg.

Hint!

We are the organisers of the traditional
"Waldweihnacht" in Rathenow's town forest.
On the 3rd weekend in Advent, Rathenow's
town forest is the setting for a peaceful
Christmas market in natural surroundings.
No more annoying tinkling of rides, but still
fun for the whole family.

A nice tradition! - Just ask us!

The Westhavelland Tourist Association

... who we are

The association was founded in 1990 and is thus the oldest tourist association in the Havelland travel area.

Our members are touristic service providers, backers from banks, commerce, the trades, industry as well as private individuals and local authorities.

Our aim is to contribute towards the development of the Westhavelland into a jewel for eco-tourism.

Furthermore, we are an experienced and friendly contact point for all citizens of the Westhavelland and our visitors.

Since 2009 the Tourist Information Office of the Westhavelland Tourist Association has been certified with the red i-Marke from the German Tourist Association.



**Tourist-Information
and Regional Market**

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OT Ribbeck
Tel. +49 (0)33237 859030
www.havelland-tourismus.de

Optikpark Rathenow:

10th Anniversary in 2016



The Optikpark is an extremely positive source of pride for the town of Rathenow and the Westhavelland. The park is impressive in its standards and horticultural quality. The urban prime factor Optik is reflected throughout the park in a popular, diverse and informative manner. It wasn't without reason that the park was one of the central BUGA sites in 2015. Its beaver mascots, Opti, Havi and Flori became town heralds for Rathenow.

Since the State Horticultural Show in 2006, more than 1.1 million guests have taken a stroll in the park.

Meanwhile, it has become an economic factor with welcoming side-effects: During

the park season, there is, among other things, an increase in boarding house guests. Retailers are observing more and more out-of-town customers.

With its programme of events, the Optikpark has acquired a high reputation among organisers, artists and the public. There is also praise for the friendliness of the personnel and the quality of park maintenance.

The educational project „Grünes Klassenzimmer“, recognised well beyond the borders of Rathenow, offers information on different themes to over 4400 children and youngsters in more than 160 events.



optikpark ■■■
rathenow

Optikpark Rathenow
Nature. Culture. Recreation.

24th April – 3rd October 2016
www.optikpark-rathenow.de



The history of the town of Rathenow

Settlement in today's Havelland began approx. 12.000 years ago. Around **3500** BCE settlers grew crops and kept livestock. Findings prove the manufacture of ceramics. In the Bronze Age (from 1700 BCE) copper alloy was manufactured for weapons, jewellery and tools. There are numerous findings of independent smelting from the Iron Age (500 BCE).

At the time of the Roman Empire (new epoch) the Germanic Semnones settle in the Havelland. In the course of mass migration starting in the year **357**, they leave for the Western Roman Empire and the Slavs from the Hevelli tribe arriving from the east and the south take up residence. Four Slavic castles sprang up within the boundaries of Rathenow.

Time and again it came to warlike confrontations, culminating in the so-called Wendish Crusade of **1147** and ending in the submission of the Slavic Hevelli.

During the course of the peaceful transition of rule from the Hevelli King Pribislaw-Heinrich in Brandenburg to the Margrave Albert the Bear in **1150**, areas of Rathenow were also likely to have been passed over to the Germans. Being the only effective Havel crossing between Brandenburg and Havelberg, Rathenow gained regional importance in the Havelland. A German castle was also built on the east bank of the Havel to safeguard the Havel crossing which in the meantime consisted of a multi-part bridge system.

Besides the market settlement developed under the protection of the castle, a large Romanesque basilica modeled on the monastery church in Jerichow arose around **1160** on the Kirchberg.

Construction work was carried out on the Long Bridge in **1188** und **1194**. These dendrochronological details are currently the oldest precise data of the town history of Rathenow.

In its almost 800 year history, Rathenow only too often experienced alternations between troubled and "untroubled" times.

Robber baron feuds, sieges, wars but also natural disasters, industrial and political revolutions, left behind their mark.

...interesting!



„Ratenowe“ was first mentioned by name in the year **1216** in a document from Siegfried II, Bishop of Brandenburg, as being a border town of his property.

In **1276** an agreement was reached between the Margraves and the Archbishop of Magdeburg regarding the boundary lines of the territory of Rathenow (“land over the river Havel”).

In **1284** the residents were given permission to extend their houses into public street spaces by way of cantilevered floors (overhanging upper floor) and balconies.

In **1288** the Margraves granted Rathenow its own jurisdiction without the influence of the Margravian bailiff.

Elevation to a town was effected in **1295** by Otto IV, Margrave of Brandenburg. Coupled with this, he bequeathed his castle to the town for demolition, determining that the bricks be used for the completion of the town wall. Even day parts of the wall can be seen are a reminder of this early period of history.

In the year **1319** Markgrave Waldemar gifted Hof Rodewalde, including the transfer of all its lands, to the citizenry of

Rathenow. Thus Bürgerheide came to be Rathenow's present-day town forest.

In **1320** the lineage of the reigning Margraves of Brandenburg died out. These were difficult times for Rathenow. Economic development stagnated. Feuds in the Mark increased. In **1394** the Archbishop of Magdeburg used this in order to seize Rathenow with its important Havel crossing and gateway to the Mark. The town was completely looted and the inhabitants mercilessly driven out of their homes. Two years later in **1396**, Emperor Wenzel forced the Archbishop of Magdeburg to the restitution of the town. The returning inhabitants found only ruins. Extensive construction work was needed in order to make the town habitable again.

A short time later the town fell into the hands of the notorious robber baron family Quitzow, whose power continued until **1411**. Emperor Sigismund issued an order to Friedrich von Hohenzollern to put an end to the feuds. The power of the Quitzows and other robber barons was broken, not

PLAN VON DER STADT RATHENOW



least with the help of the emerging bourgeoisie. Land and town recovered slowly, which was documented by the bestowal of important privileges.

In **1446** the municipal council received the exclusive rights for the sale of salt, a significant source of income. In the year **1536** the town introduced the „Deichselfennig“ - a tax on wagons and charged a bridge toll. The importance of the river Havel grew with increasing trade.



In **1512** economic development took its course with two flour mills and a brick factory.

In **1540** Rathenow numbers about 2500 inhabitants.



In **1561** the sovereign and the municipal council divided the lock duty. With this revenue a degree of prosperity gradually developed in the town. Some of the proceeds were used for the conversion of the church into a late-Gothic hall church (1517-1562) and the construction of the town hall (1564).

In the 16th century, the Rathenow craftsmen organised themselves into professional associations, the Guilds.

In this century there were also, among other things, devastating fires and floods. In **1598** and **1631**, the plague and other diseases claimed many lives. The 30-year war left a terrible mark on Rathenow. Due to its favourable location on the river Havel, Rathenow was drawn into the turmoil of war and exposed to severe devastation by the armies of all the warring factions. There were enormous casualties amongst the population. In the year **1648**, Rathenow had only about 40 inhabitants.

Between **1636** and **1646**, a walk mill, a bark mill and a saw mill came into operation.

By **1660** most of the war damage was cleared and the number of inhabitants rose to 1141.

In **1662** the ruined council brick factory was rebuilt and began once again to manufacture bricks.

In the midst of reconstruction, Swedish troops, as allies of the French king Louis XIV in dispute with the German Emperor, once again occupied the towns of Havelberg, Brandenburg and Rathenow. The Elector Friedrich Wilhelm urgently marched forward from the Rhine to the Mark Brandenburg in order to liberate them from the Swedes. In a surprise attack, the Swedes sojourning in the town were defeated by the Great Elector's troops and driven out of the country during the subsequent Battle of Fehrbellin (1675). After the expulsion of the Swedes, the sovereign, Elector Friedrich Wilhelm, left behind soldiers in the town.

In 1733 Rathenow was appointed to a garrison town. An expansion of the town was necessary.

The baroque new town was built between 1733 and 1738. Furthermore, old thatched roofs were replaced by tiled roofs. The open, dirty wells were replaced by pumps.

A new cemetery was built on the Weinberg in Rathenow. The old cemetery near the St. Marien-Andreas Church wasn't sufficient

for the increasing population. In 1740 Rathenow numbered about 3.830 inhabitants.

During the reign of Frederick the Great (1740-1786) further architectural trends were set. Among other things, the weavers' settlement arose in the period 1765-1767 (currently Neufriedrichsdorfer Straße). The weavers worked in the textile factory, which occupied an important place in Rathenow till about 1800. The main task was the production of fabric for the Prussian military. After 1800 the workers largely moved to the optical industry.

In 1801 J.H.A. Duncker received the royal privilege to build an optical industry institution. Further economic facilities in Rathenow at that time were the royal lime works and the provisions office as well as the city brickworks.

In 1815 Rathenow became a principal district town.



Monument to the Elector



District hall



Bismarck Tower

The first Rathenow weekly newspaper „Rathenowsches gemeinnütziges Wochenblatt für alle Stände“ was published in the year **1816**. At that time there were about 4.000 people living in Rathenow, including the military.

In **1817** the first steamboat sailed along the river Havel through Rathenow. Later there was a regular service to Berlin and Hamburg.

In **1820** the optical industry institute of Eduard Duncker, manager and son of the founder, relocated to the Berliner Straße 5.

In **1843**, J.H.A Duncker, founder of the optical industry in Rathenow, died.

In **1845** the institute was taken over by Emil Busch, nephew of Eduard and grandson of J.H.A Duncker.

A year later, the first steam engine in Rathenow was installed on the Busch factory premises. The optical industry began to develop rapidly, helping Rathenow to quickly gain an international reputation as the „Town of Optics“.

In 1849 Prince Otto von Bismarck was chosen by electors of the town as a delegate to the 2nd Prussian Parliament. He later became one of the most important personalities in German history. In 1875 Bismarck was made an honorary citizen of Rathenow. In **1914** the Bismarck Tower was inaugurated in the Weinberg (vineyard) in his honor.

In **1851** the Zieten Hussars (3rd Brandenburg Hussar Regiment) arrived in Rathenow. They were later placed in the Zieten barracks. The optical company Schultze and Bartels was founded in the same year. It was the second optical company in the town.

In **1866** the third of the large optical concerns, „Nitsche and Günther Optical Works“ was established in the Berliner Straße. The town gasworks were built in the same year.

After German unification in **1871** Rathenow recovered economically. This resulted in a rapid growth in the population.

The railway line Berlin – Stendal - Hannover was completed in the period **1867-1871**. This was an important factor for the economy of Rathenow. Furthermore, the main train station in Rathenow was completed.

In **1883** the General Post Office was built in Rathenow. A sewage system was installed in the town in **1887**. Rathenow got its own slaughterhouse in **1888** and the Engelhardt brewery started operating in **1892**.

In **1901** the district-owned small train, popularly known as „Stille Pauline“ came into service. Furthermore, the „Neue Schleuse“ (new lock) near Rathenow was built on Steckelsdorf land, which initially still belonged to Steckelsdorf. This settlement first became independent in **1910** and was officially named „Neue Schleuse“. The major shipping route between Berlin and Hamburg no longer passed through the town lock. In the course of administrative reform in **1952** the „Neue Schleuse“ was assigned to the newly formed district of Rathenow and was re-named Rathenow-West.

In **1902** a waterworks facility was built in Rathenow and water pipes were laid in the town.

In **1904** the Brandenburg urban railway came into operation. Rathenow had electricity since the power station was now completed. The court house was also built in **1904**. At that point in time Rathenow comprised of about 23.000 inhabitants.

The First World War, **1914** to **1918**, disrupted the economic development of the town considerably.

The northern and southern settlements were built between **1919** and **1924**. Both settlements continue to be extended through new constructions up to the present day.

Rathenow was an independent town from **1925** until 1952. 25.000 residents meanwhile lived in Rathenow. Two years later the number totaled about 27.700.

In **1928** new construction work began on modern public housing in today's Friedrich-Ebert-Ring. These were modeled on the



Apollo Theater



Monument to the Hussars



Berliner Straße / corner of Fabrikenstraße



Berliner Straße



Steinstraße / corner of Kirchgang

famous Bauhaus buildings in Dessau under the direction of the architect Haesler.

In the year of the stock market crash in **1929** and the subsequent Great Depression, Rathenow's industry was hit hard. This resulted in several thousand being temporarily unemployed. Economic recovery was helped by the build-up of arms.

From **1936 to 1938** the optical company Emil Busch AG built large industrial plants in the Bergstraße and Fabrikenstraße (today Wilhelm-Külz-Straße). Furthermore, the settlement for front-line soldiers (today's Waldsiedlung) was created for victims of the First World War.

In **1938/39** the Nordbahnhof (railway station) was completed. A branch of the ARADO aircraft factory was built in Heidefeld. Employees were given apartments in the „ARADO BUILDINGS“ (today Heinrich-von-Rosenberg-Straße, Friedrich-Ebert-Ring and Dunckerplatz).

In **1938** the town's synagogue was looted

and partially destroyed in the „Reichskristallnacht“.

In **1939** Rathenow was an economically prosperous town housing 31.600 inhabitants (without garrison). 2.655 dwellings with 10.587 households were registered.

During World War II, **1939 to 1945**, soldiers from the Rathenow garrison were deployed on all fronts.

On **18th April 1944** a massive air raid was carried out by American bombers on Rathenow. It killed more than 60 citizens. 2.200 people were homeless. Many houses were destroyed. From **25th April to 6th May 1945** Rathenow was „defended“. Heavy fighting claimed many victims: over 400 people died, the town's east-west axis was almost completely destroyed, 90 % of the town centre was reduced to rubble. 70 % of Rathenow was totally destroyed. After the war Rathenow belonged to the Soviet occupied zone of Germany.

The Second World War deeply affected the town's economic life. The optical company

Emil Busch AG was destroyed, the facilities of the company Nitsche und Günther were partially damaged. Cleanup work began in both factories in **October 1945**.

Machinery and equipment were recovered from the ruins. In the course of reparations the remains of the factories were dismantled and removed. The optical firms were dispossessed because they had engaged in the production of military equipment.

In **1946** the factory „Rathenower Optische Werke m.b.H“ was developed on the grounds of the Emil Busch AG and the company Nitsche und Günther. Spectacle frames, glasses and magnifying glasses were manufactured there.

In **1948** the factory became the state-owned (VEB) Rathenower Optische Werke (in 1950 approx. 1960 employees).

The years **1948-1951** were marked by the first stage of reconstruction. Based on the Haesler buildings in the Fr.-Ebert-Ring, the area around the former market (today's Platz der Jugend) was completely redesigned. At the same time buildings arose at the

Schleusenbrücke. Reconstruction took shape in several stages until 1962. As part of these measures the Lutherplatz was designed, the buildings in the Friesacker Straße, Goethe Straße and Forststraße arose, the Berliner Straße and the Schleusenplatz were redeveloped and the school „Am Weinberg“ was completed. In **1958** the cultural centre was finished, the department store was built and the dance café and shop blocks were created. The residential area Rathenow-Ost was built on the outskirts in 1968.

In **1958** the producers' cooperative of the optical trade, „Johann Heinrich August Duncker“, developed out of many private optical businesses and later the „OBERKA KG“ also came into existence. Only a few companies remained private property.

In **1962** the VEB Rathenower Optische Werke, the PGH Duncker, Ruhne (under the administration of the state), and the companies Gebrüder Nitschke KG and Runge und Kaulfuß were the most important optical companies in the town.

In **1972** the former PGH „Johann Heinrich August Duncker“, the OBERKA KG and Duchrow KG became the VEB Ophthalmic Optics „Hermann Duncker“. It developed into a branch of the state combine VEB Carl Zeiss Jena. Above all, spectacle frames, spectacle lenses and optical instruments were manufactured. The microscope programme was of great importance. In addition to the optical industry other businesses also developed.

Building of the centre of town with the redesigning of the Märkischer Platz and the surrounding residential and commercial buildings were finally completed in **1989**.

However, the majority of the medium and large enterprises, which previously determined the town's economic structure, were not able to survive in a free-market economy. Many liquidations and privatisations with drastic reductions in personnel led to the loss of 5.000 jobs in the industry alone.



In the years **1994 to 1996**, there were new medium-sized economic structures. In the field of industry, there were now 47 companies operating with approx. 2.200 employees. Based on the volume of optics / precision mechanics that were presented in Rathenow up till 1989, the 22 companies with almost 900 employees currently participating in this industry were rather modest. However, since almost all traditional areas of business (spectacle lenses, spectacle frames, special optical machinery, tool manufacture) were carried on in at least one company, the foundation was laid for the continuity of the optical industry in Rathenow.

A significant upturn was registered in the trade. Whereas at the end of 1991 only 236 companies existed, by May 1996, 290 companies with approx. 2370 employees had developed the trade into the mainstay of the economy in Rathenow. A positive development was recorded in the trade and service sectors.

The development of the industrial area Rathenow-Süd was completed in mid-**1994**. In the meantime, 16 companies with 516 employees worked here.

The former CIS estate „Heidefeld“ was prepared specifically for industrial conversion, so that local authorities would have land reserves which were ready for building on at their disposal even in the medium and long-term.

Ongoing redevelopment work has been taking place on the Kirchberg since **1997**. Restoration of the church tower of St. Marien-Andreas Church, erection of the Kirchberg bridge and floating jetties at the Old Harbour (Alter Hafen) with supply and disposal facilities, as well as redesigning of the square at the Old Harbour, path development on the Weinberg and redevelopment of the Bismarck tower as a lookout tower have created an interesting touristic axis. Guests are guided through the town by a tourist orientation system. The trail around Lake Hohennauen-Ferchesar as well as the Havelland long-distance cycle path from Berlin-Spandau to Sachsen-Anhalt with further connection to the Altmark circuit and the cycle path along the Elbe reveal the beauty of the region.

In **1998** an important building project was realized with the completion of the

technology park Technologie- und Gründerzentrum (TGZ) in the southern industrial estate Gewerbegebiet Süd.

In **2001** Rathenow celebrated the jubilee „Rathenow 2001 - 200 years of the Optical Industry in Germany“ with many guests. Rathenow won the bid to host the State Garden Show in the year 2006.

In **2001** the communities Böhne, Göttlin, Grütz, Semlin and Steckelsdorf were incorporated administratively.

Apart from a few remaining areas, the industrial estate Rathenow-Süd „Grünauer Fenn“ has a current capacity of 55 companies. In **2001** the new production and logistics centre of the Fielmann AG, which is known under the name of the Rathenower Optische Werke (ROW) began operating on the industrial estate „Heidefeld“.

In addition to providing affordable industrial space, great efforts were made by **the end of 2004** to improve the infrastructure. New roads, reactivation of the industrial harbour in the south of the town, complete renewal

of the telecommunications infrastructure or construction of a co-generation plant for district heating and power generation are examples of how the infrastructural conditions have been improved continuously and Rathenow could become even more interesting for investors as an industrial location.

Restoration of the Bismarck Tower finished in **2002**. In addition, the pedestrian and cyclists' bridge from the harbour to the Kirchberg was opened to the public as the „Kirchberg“ bridge.

In **2003** preparations began for the LAGA 2006 (State Garden Show) in Rathenow. Since then, numerous changes in the townscape are visible almost daily: For example, renovation of the side areas of the Bahnhofstrasse, the redesign of the station forecourt, redevelopment of the Old Harbour and the southern slope and complete renovation of the sports complex on the Schwedendamm.

At the end of **2005**, 26.985 inhabitants lived in Rathenow.





The State Garden Show in Rathenow in 2006 was a great success. The target was 350.000 visitors within 6 months. In the end there were nearly 500.000 visitors. As luck would have it, there were 500.000 plants. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and ending „in the black“ this major event also wasn't a financial flop. The LAGA mascots Havi, Opti and Flori - three Havel beavers which were immensely popular with young and old - became celebrities. It was a gain for the townscape and especially for the people of Rathenow. We were and are very good hosts! The LAGA was also a success on a purely touristic level: To date, the town is pleased about the growing numbers of overnight guests - above the level in the year of the LAGA.



The townscape changed impressively in the years after 2006. Streets and squares were renovated, new areas were created. About 1.000 flats have been demolished since 2002. Urban redevelopment concept and town centre Forum Rathenow 2020 - designed by the citizens of Rathenow - were ever-present buzzwords. South of the railway station there was vast industrial wasteland (concrete factory).



Up until 2015 this newly created area served as the Park & Ride car park and currently as a car park for the Federal Garden Show. Even in 2016 there are no objections to the commercialisation of the site. Park & Ride remains.

The most remarkable change concerns the town centre. In the years 2011 – 2014, the Berliner Straße and the Märkische Platz were symbolically turned upside down. It was a huge sandpit. In with modern infrastructure and out with all the old cables. As a neutral observer, one sometimes wondered: „Hmm, will they get it all back together again?“ They did! The reward is a modern look, including roundabouts and quiescence in the fundamentals for many decades.

And the people of Rathenow endured everything with interest and stoic composure. Particularly for the central retailers it was all about keeping their heads above water. The citizens stuck by them. They just went shopping around the construction sites. And beach volleyball on the sandy construction site of the Märkischen Platz was part of it all too!

At the end of **2008**, the world's largest „Brachymedial“ telescope from the Rathenow engineer Edwin Rolf moved into its new home in the Optikpark in Rathenow. A logistical and technically complex undertaking.

Since **2009** Rathenow is the town with the highest lighthouse in Brandenburg, placed in the entrance area of the Optikpark. A reminder of the specialist optical companies in Rathenow, whose complicated lens systems have equipped over 100 lighthouses world-wide.

In the years **2009-2011**, with a lot of time and also financial effort, Deutsche Telekom connected Rathenow and its communities to broadband.

In **2015** the town centre will once again get a VDSL expansion. Thanks to vectoring, up to 100 Mbit/s should be possible for almost all citizens.

Almost all major housing companies in Rathenow already offer modern glass fibre connections with TV, telephone and high-speed Internet in thousands of flats.

Meanwhile expansion of the LTE network is also almost complete with 3G virtually everywhere.

The results of the preparatory measures for the Federal Garden Show can be admired by all visitors to the newly designed Weinberg and the Optikpark. Highlights on the Weinberg are the Bismarck Tower with the outdoor terrace and the play area. A spectacular bridge over the Rathenow town canal serves like a clamp over to the Optikpark.

Rathenow has developed both substantially and self-assuredly. In **2016** the „grand dame“ will celebrate her 800th birthday. The town doesn't look its age. In fact, it looks very good. Many times though throughout the centuries it was entirely different, which accounts considerably – that is the tragedy of the story – for today's modern appearance.





Rathenow – Town of Optics:

For over 200 years
Rathenow has been the
centre of optics in Germany.

The history of the optical industry

The history of the optical industry in Germany is closely connected with the history of the Duncker family from Rathenow.

Essentially, three members of this family, Johann Heinrich August Duncker, his son Eduard Duncker and later his nephew Emil Busch, marked the beginnings of the optical industry in Rathenow.

The founder of the optical tradition was the preacher of the Sankt Marien-Andreas Church, **J.H.A. Duncker** (14.01.1767 – 14.06.1843).

During his theological studies in Halle, he gained theoretical knowledge about optics at the Franckesche Stiftungen (Foundation) and became involved in glass grinding. After graduation, he took over a post at the church in Rathenow. Partly hobby, partly to supply him with a sideline, Duncker decided to put his acquired knowledge in the field of optics into practice. Since as a preacher, Duncker was not allowed to carry out a trade without due cause, he had to ask the

Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm III for permission.

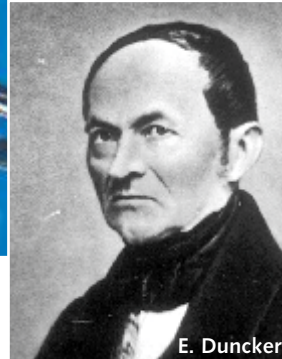
On 03.10.1801 he received the royal privilege to operate an optical industry institution. His self-constructed multi-grinding machine was patented on the same day. It provided evenly ground optical lenses for magnifying glasses, microscopes and spectacles. His first workers were disabled soldiers and orphans who thus earned their living. The production facilities were located in the attic of his birthplace, the rectory at Kirchplatz 12. Duncker was supported by his partner and main funder, the Rathenow garnison and field preacher, Samuel Christoph Wagener. Duncker led the technical production, Wagener was responsible for sales.

The company developed continuously until the war 1806/1807. Branches were opened in several German cities. The first catalogue was published in 1803. After the economically difficult years 1806 to 1815, the company enlarged so that new premises were rented in the so-called „preacher widows' houses“, Kirchgang 4-5.

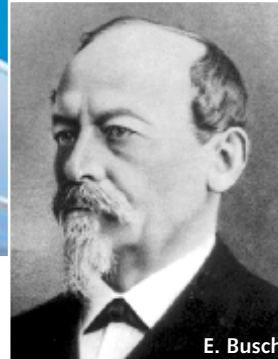
... made in Rathenow



J.H.A. Duncker



E. Duncker



E. Busch

In 1819, during a visit to his daughter Jeanette and her husband, a businessman named Busch, in Berlin, Duncker became ill with nervous fever. The severe illness made it impossible for him to continue running his business.

His son **Eduard Duncker** (1797 - 1878) took over the management of the optical institution in 1820. His particular skills were in the commercial area. Under his management, the range of products was

extended and distribution expanded. On 10.04.1834, after several relocations, the company found its final domicile in a corner house purchased in the Berliner Straße no. 5.

The constant increase in production and the lack of space associated with it, led Eduard Duncker to providing his workers with machines in order for them to be able to produce at home. „Wash house productions“ developed, which were typical for Rathenow.

J.H.A. Duncker - Curriculum Vitae

14th January 1767

Duncker's birth, grew up in humble circumstances

1786 - 1789

Theological studies in Halle

Since 1789

Full-time preacher in Rathenow
Marriage, started a family:
2 daughters and a son

Since 1801

Founding of an optical industry institution with Samuel Christoph Wagener
Patent for the multi-grinding machine

Since 1806

Expansion of the business and branches all over Germany

14th June 1843

Duncker died in Berlin



J.H.A. Duncker's multi-grinding machine



Busch plc, Berliner Str. 5

After 26 years of management, Eduard Duncker handed over the optical industry-institution on 1st April 1845 to his nephew Emil Busch (1820 - 1888), who had already been with the company since 1840. Under his guidance a medium-sized enterprise became a factory-like large concern. Among his achievements were the introduction of the steam engine in 1846 and the expansion of manufacturing areas that were rare on the German market. In 1854, the number of employees increased from 67 to 130. In the same year, the company presented its optical products at the Great Exhibition in London.

Busch's successful company policy made it possible to invest in extensive expansion and construction of the new plant in the Berliner Straße 5. In 1861 the company had a massive factory building and a huge newly constructed rear building at its disposal.

In 1852 Busch began to produce photographic equipment. In the year 1857, he succeeded in establishing the conformity of focal points of light from different wavelengths in lenses (compensation of the

difference in focus). His success in this field led to a significant upturn in the production of photographic lenses and cameras.

Busch's products enjoyed worldwide reputation and presented serious competition to foreign suppliers. They were characterised by reliable precision work, reasonable prices and innovations. Among the spectacular innovations, was the first wide-angle lens „Pantoscop“, produced by Busch in 1865.

The optical industry institution had developed into a leading company well beyond the Germany borders. In 1872 it was transformed into a public limited company, the Emil Busch plc.

The increased demand for optical articles resulted in the founding of other companies. These included:

1851: Kaufmann Schulze,
Buchbinder Bartels

1857: Karl Ludwig Hauptner, Wilhelm
Seeger, Christian Laake, August Picht

1859: L. Friedrich, Gebrüder Picht,
Michaelis und Co.

1860: Carl Wusthoff, Fr. Wilhelm Mewes

1863: L. Friedrich Braeckow

1864: Hausner

1866: Nitsche & Günther

In the year 1896 there were 163 optical businesses in Rathenow. Even at that time Rathenow had acquired a reputation as the „Town of Optics“. The company „Nitsche & Günther“ had developed into the second largest and best-known company, especially in the field of optical lenses.

The First World War and the ensuing economic crisis inhibited further development of the optical industry. Sales areas were lost, parts of the workforce were drafted and contacts to foreign partners

were impeded. Production was mainly for the needs of the army. In the postwar period, inflation led to extensive restrictions, layoffs and bankruptcies in the optical industry. Nevertheless, in 1930 there were 200 enterprises in the town.

During the Second World War, the two major enterprises in the town were completely involved in the production of armaments. The civilian production was severely limited by administrative order. Even those sentenced to hard labour worked in the optical industry.

Most of the town was destroyed during heavy fighting in the last days of the war. The optical company Emil Busch plc lay in ruins and the factories of the company Nitsche & Günther were heavily damaged. Due to the war and postwar turmoil, the production and marketing mechanisms in the precision and optical industry in Rathenow collapsed. Enormous damage, reparations and the lack of skilled personnel made a new beginning difficult.



Nitsche & Günther



Model of glasses, from 1820



As in all areas of the optical industry in Rathenow, medium and large-sized enterprises were expropriated, some companies left Rathenow.

In March 1946 the „Rathenow Optical Works Ltd.“ was founded out of the company Nitsche & Günther, which was expropriated in November 1945.

On 1st July 1948, this, together with the Emil Busch plc, became the state-owned enterprise Rathenow Optical Works (VEB ROW). 1.856 workers were employed there by the end of 1950. In 1966 the company was under the control of the combine Carl-Zeiss-Jena.

In addition to these large firms, privately remaining companies were still able to produce until 1958. The state-directed economy of the GDR though demanded the concentration of all small businesses. In March 1958, initially 45 of the 72 remaining optical firms merged to become PGH „J.H.A Duncker“.

In 1972 the Cooperative for the Production of Crafts (PGH) was classified as a state-

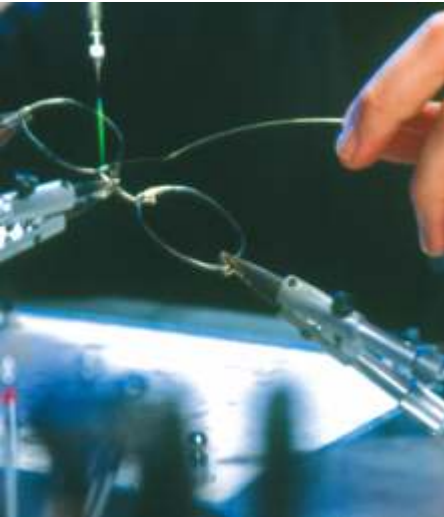
owned enterprise (VEB) and named after the labour leader Hermann Duncker. Six years later, the VEB optometry Hermann Duncker also became affiliated to the combine Carl-Zeiss-Jena.

The VEB Rathenow Optical Works „Hermann Duncker“ came into being in 1980 through the merger of both large optical firms. Up until 1989, this company with approximately 4,420 employees was the sole manufacturer of spectacles in the GDR.

With the fall of the wall in 1989, the ROW broke away from the combine Carl Zeiss Jena.

In July 1990, the state-owned enterprise was transformed into a limited liability company. A new concept was born. Advisors helped to try and improve opportunities on the market.

In 1991 the trust company decided to divide the company into three areas. Most of the staff was dismissed and old production buildings demolished. In 1992, the ROW GmbH was privatised into a number of individual businesses and the properties were sold by the company.



Of the individual businesses privatised in 1992 and companies that subsequently established themselves in the years to follow, not all managed the leap onto the market economy. For economic reasons one company even moved its base abroad, which was particularly bitter for Rathenow.

Being closely connected to the optical industry, the Brandenburg Guild of Optometrists chose Rathenow as its headquarters.

Since June 1998, there is the Centre for Training and Technology in Ophthalmic Optics in the industrial park "Grünauer Fenn". The centre is furnished with all the latest optical equipment from leading suppliers in the industry. This assumes an optimal standard of industry-wide training for opticians and master craftsmen.

Today 25 fine-mechanical and optical businesses provide for the continued existence of Rathenow's reputation as a town of optics. Some companies are known worldwide. Development of market companies show that „Optics - made in Rathenow“ are on the rise again.

Another step forward is the establishment of the Competence Centre OPTICS RATHENOW. This is an interest group, actively looking for further expansion and the forming of Rathenow as an attractive optics' location.

Established at the beginning of 2008, the optics' network oabb - optic alliance berlin brandenburg e.V is based in the technology park Technologie- und Gründerzentrum Havelland. More than 40 partners cover all the skills in the fields of eye care and ophthalmic technology. The network's companies employ approximately 1.800 people and focus on the development of innovation and skills, market development, as well as industrial and location profiling.

At the end of 2013, the networks photonic Brandenburg Berlin and OABB announce a future cooperation.

Since 2008, cooperating partner, the Brandenburg University of Applied Sciences, offers a Bachelor's degree program (B.Eng.) in Microsystems and Optical Technologies.

The goal of establishing an optical institute still remains.



Production and logistics center ROW



Centre for Training and Technology in Ophthalmic Optics

Places of interest in Rathenow

The historical old town

Kirchplatz

The historical centre of the town with the Kirchberg and St. Marien-Andreas Church is situated on an island surrounded by four arms of the River Havel. In the 11th century the church was built as a timber construction, later as a Romanesque stone cruciform. It burnt down completely during the last days of the war in 1945. Reconstruction of the choir began in the early '90s. Today, seven newly designed windows by the local artist Gerhard Henschel adorn the restored choir of the church.

Reconstruction of the church tower from 1999 until 2001 was successfully completed with the installation of the new bell cast in Lauchhammer and the erection of the church spire in a spectacular helicopter operation in the autumn of 2001. This was followed by the redesigning of the Kirchplatz. Many of the existing old buildings around the church have now been lovingly restored. Vacant lots were closed. Even in the next few years the Kirchplatz will be subject to ongoing changes – for the better.

From the vestiges of time past
to remarkable modern times
as witnesses of the eventful
history of Rathenow..



St. Marien-Andreas church



Windows in the choir



Contact person:

Förderkreis zum Wiederaufbau der St.
Marien-Andreas-Kirche in Rathenow e. V.

Dr. Heinz-Walter Knackmuß

Tel. +49 (0)3385 5200224,

0049 (0)152 29954166

Church opening hours:

Tourist-Information

Tel. +49 (0)3385 514991

Opposite the west door of the church is the birthplace of the preacher Johann Heinrich August Duncker, founder of the optical industry in Germany. He ran his first optical workshop here in 1800. Originally a single-storey timber-framed building, which

verifiably served as a rectory since 1604, the current building was built in the early 20th century.



Duncker's place of birth

The old sexton house, Kirchplatz 6, together with the adjacent building at no. 5, is the oldest preserved ensemble of residential buildings in the town of Rathenow.

Built in 1575/76 as typical regional half-timbered houses, eventful history since the 16th century is visible in them in many parts. After years of vacancy and extensive renovation work, the houses have been used again since 1996 as residential and commercial buildings and are today listed buildings.



Sexton house



Lighthouse

The Optikpark and lighthouse

Schwedendamm 1

The Optikpark measuring approx. 11 hectares is popular with Rathenow's citizens and guests. Enclosed by the arms of the river Havel, the area - also popularly known as the Schwedendamm Island - lies in the heart of the town. In 2006, the park was already the central backdrop for the State Garden Show in Rathenow. Comprehensive construction work was carried out in preparation for the Federal Garden Show in 2015.



Bismarck tower

The motto of the Optikpark: nature-culture-recreation. Coloured pyramids of flowers, walk-in coloured spaces, play areas and idyllic rafting on the Havel - a feast for the senses.

Since 2009 the tallest lighthouse in Brandenburg stands at the entrance to the Optikpark in Mühlenweiher. This is a reminder of Rathenow's specialist optical companies, with whose complicated lens systems over 100 lighthouses have been equipped worldwide.

Weinberg with the Bismarck tower

Weinberg

A mature park and forest landscape in an area of approximately 13 hectares offers room for peace and quiet, but also for excitement and adventure, such as in the spaciouly laid-out play areas. On and off in between, fascinating horticultural elements. What began so well in 2006 with the LAGA, is now being continued after extensive renovations.

On the crest of the Weinberg stands the Bismarck Tower, which was inaugurated on 24th June 1914, in honor of the Imperial Chancellor, Prince Otto von Bismarck. Bismarck's political career began in Rathenow. The tower, badly damaged in the last days of the war in 1945, has been in use again since 2003 after elaborate renovation. Historical monument renovations were last carried out in 2011. An ascent of the tower offers an impressive panoramic view of the Westhavelland. Marriages can take place in the tower room too. Interesting information is provided on the website www.bismarcktuerme.de.

The Weinberg bridge

From the Optikpark to the Weinberg

In wide arches, the bridge swings over two arms of the Havel and allows a broad view of the Havel landscape. In a slightly rising course, the demanding and visionary design compensates for the difference in height between the banks of the Havel.

Highlight of the bridge are two arch bridges with an attached deck on the one side which expands towards the center of the arch, creating a lookout area with benches. The one-sided suspension cable allows unobstructed views of treetops in the surrounding area of the bridge.

The bridge is open for use all year round. A competition among Rathenow's citizens resulted in finding a name. The design of the bridge was a prizewinner of the 154th Schinkel competition of the Berlin Architects and Engineers Association in the spring of 2009. The first delve of the spade took place in December 2012. Construction time was 22 months.

Total length of the bridge is 348 m,
clear height over the Havel ~ 10 m,
clear height over Hellers Loch ~ 7 m.

The Weinberg cemetery

Weinberg

The Weinberg cemetery in Rathenow is one of the most scenic of its kind in Germany. From 1759, even the gatehouse at the entrance is a historical peculiarity. Lavishly restored, today it can be used as „Haus der Stille“, for communication but also as an exhibition venue.

In this lovely cemetery with its rich stock of rare trees, interesting graves trace the burial culture from the 18th century until today.

The names of important Rathenow personalities are being preserved for posterity by loving maintenance of their graves. The association Memento e.V. ensures preservation value just as recently the restoration of the tower of the Church of the Resurrection, which was destroyed in the last days of the war.

Guided tours by appointment.
Tel. +49 (0)3385 512390



The Weinberg bridge



Cemetery path with gatehouse

Monument to the Great Elector

Schleusenplatz

The monument to the Elector is the most important baroque sandstone monument in northern Germany. It was built between 1736 and 1738 by the sculptor Johann Georg Glume to commemorate the triumphant battle of the Great Elector against the Swedes.

The **Schleusenplatz**, once used as a parade ground by the stationed military, is bordered by baroque town houses built in 1735, the town lock and the lock attendant's lodge in neo-Gothic style.



Monument to the Great Elector

Lock attendant's lodge

Pleasure craft lock

In the immediate vicinity of the monument to the Great Elector, the neo-Gothic style lock attendant's lodge stands resplendent in its former glory. Brandenburg's Water and Shipping Authority – a federal authority – once promised the town of Rathenow: „If you bring the State Garden Show to Rathenow, then we'll spruce up the lock attendant's lodge again.“ They didn't just keep to their word! Since 2008, you can also „tie the knot“ in the lock attendant's lodge.



Lock attendant's lodge

The lock spitters – not very fine

At the old harbour

In the 1920s and '30s, day labourers waited at the harbour in Rathenow in order to earn a few Marks unloading the barges mooring there. The long hours of doing nothing were spent chatting, with occasional spitting competitions. They were popularly called „lock spitters“. The sculptural group was created by the Rathenow sculptor Volker Roth with financial support from several initiatives in Rathenow.



Lock spitters

The Kirchberg bridge

At the old harbour

Since 2002, the pedestrian and cycle bridge one again connects the Weinberg to the Kirchberg after 700 years or the present area at the Old Harbour with the oldest district in Rathenow.

Until 1288 it was possible to get from the Kirchberg to the Weinberg through a valley. This hollow was cut through by the citizens in order to maintain permanent protection of the town through the canal thus formed.



Kirchberg bridge

The town wall

Burg-, Bader-, Steinstraße, Kirchgang, Schleusenkanal

The town wall was built after 1295 from red bricks typical of Rathenow. The old master mason's house at the corner of Ziegelstraße and Am Schleusenkanal, is the last evidence of Rathenow's municipal brickworks from the 18th century. It is built directly into the town wall. The Rote Rathaus in Berlin, the Dutch Quarter in Potsdam, the courthouse in Rathenow are testimonies to the former brick making industry in Rathenow and the brand „Rathenower“



Town wall

The „Alte Schmiede“

Museum restaurant with old town wall

A blacksmith actually worked in the old smithy until the 1960s. The building was extensively renovated and is now used as a restaurant „Zur Alten Schmiede“. A variety of original forging tools are on show.

The old town wall is a building component and was left in its original state. During renovation of the old smithy, further remnants of the town fortifications were uncovered. These can also be viewed.



„Zur Alten Schmiede“

The Zieten Barracks

Bahnhofstraße

Rathenow has many centuries of tradition as a garrison town. This era just ended in 1994 with the withdrawal of Russian troops. Of the various barrack complexes, the Zieten Barracks are the best preserved. Built between 1887 and 1891 for the hussar regiment „von Zieten“, the police riding school was stationed here after its relocation. Today, there are apartments here. The stables and outbuildings were mostly dismantled.



Former Zieten Barracks

Das „Kreishaus“

Berliner Straße

The district hall in neo-Gothic style built by Franz Schwechten from 1893 until 1895 is an eye-catcher in the town.

The bricks needed for the construction of the building were made in Rathenow's brickyards. After partial destruction of the building in 1945, the pediment on the south façade was rebuilt in a simpler manner. The renovated gable of the east façade conveys an impression of the rich neo-Gothic forms.



„Kreishaus“ (Administrative district office)

Der „Kaiserbahnhof“

at the main railway station

The original name was „Royal Pavilion“. From 1913 the house served as a separate reception building for the daughter of Emperor Wilhelm II, Victoria Luise and her husband, Ernst August Duke of Brunswick and Lüneburg, who was transferred as an officer to the hussar regiment in Rathenow in 1913. Both the architecture and the name suggest the Norwegian-style imperial seamen's station „Kongsnæs“ built in Potsdam from 1892-95 as role model.



Kaiserbahnhof

District court

Bahnhofstraße

The history of this listed building is closely linked to the history of Rathenow. As a consequence of the laws of justice from 1879, Rathenow became seat of the Royal Prussian District Court for which at the beginning of the 20th century a new worthy representative building made from Rathenow bricks was built and inaugurated in 1905. Time and again the building turned out to be too small for the growing industrial town and was repeatedly enlarged and renovated true to style from 1935 to 1996.



District court

Historical pharmacy

Steinstraße 1

Since 1901 in the Steinstraße 1, the historical pharmacy is at the moment the oldest still operating in Brandenburg Mittelmark. Here interested visitors get an overview of the development of pharmacy since the 17th century through the lovingly restored pharmacy fittings from the Biedermeier period and the dispensary in Art Nouveau style.

Contact person:

Herr Dr. H.H. Schultze,

Tel. +49 (0)3385 - 57 36-0



Historical pharmacy

The Haesler buildings

Friedrich-Ebert-Ring

The architect Otto Haesler, based in Celle since 1906, received the contract from the Rathenow Municipal Building Association for a project of 600 apartments in the Friedrich-Ebert-Ring in 1928. Strictly designed according to the principles of the „Bauhaus Dessau“, only a part of the project could be realised due to the onset of the Great Depression. After 1945, Haesler led the reconstruction of the ruined old town. Up to 1951, more „Bauhaus Apartments“ were developed on the Platz der Jugend.



Haesler buildings (Fr.-Ebert-Ring)

The Brachymedial telescope

Optikpark

The Rathenow telescope is the largest of its kind worldwide. It is mounted without a dome and rotatable on two axes. It was designed and built in the years 1949-1953 by the Rathenow engineer Edwin Rolf (1899 to 1991). The telescope is a technical monument. It was completely restored between 1994 and 1996 and now has a fantastic location in the Optikpark.

Detailed information can be found on the Rathenow town website (www.rathenow.de).



Optical monument

Traffic roundabout

The optical landmark of the town of Rathenow „Lichtbogen“, created and designed in 2001 by the Rathenow artists Michael Student and Gerhard Henschel, formerly stood on the Platz der Jugend and has now found a new location in the centre of the traffic roundabout at the former main intersection.

The sculpture represents the connection of the town to the optical industry and the interaction of colour and light.



Building with a history

Berliner Straße 15

The merger with the companies Gebrüder Picht and C.W. Muth led to the impressive development of Nitsche & Günther AG. The main entrance of the administrative building of the company built in approx. 1912 was designed in the style of the magnificent buildings in Berlin made of Sicilian sandstone and crowned by a tympanum (gable) resting on six columns. This was destroyed in the Second World War. The building was reconstructed in 1996/97 and today serves as the townhall.



The Cultural Centre

Märkischer Platz 3

The „Kreiskulturhaus“, opened on 7th October 1958, became a modern cultural centre after 5 years of structural and restoration work between 2000-2005.

Today the event centre with auditorium, gallery, the „Blaue Saal“ with clubrooms, the Optik Industrie Museum as well as the restaurant „Harlekin“ are together under one roof.



Cultural Center with the Märkischer Platz

Das Optik Industrie Museum

Im Kulturzentrum · Märkischer Platz 3

Around 15.000 optical instruments, spectacles, scientific equipment and machines as well as a specialist library with some 10.000 publications, which were amassed by the optical museum with the support of the society „zur Förderung, Pflege und Erhaltung der Optischen Tradition in Rathenow e. V.“ as well as many companies, ophthalmic opticians and collectors, are evidence of the impressive industrial history of Rathenow. A small part of this can be seen in the museum's permanent optical exhibition.



Optik Industrie Museum

Brickyard boy and the tree of life

Roundabout in front of the post office

12 – 14 year-old boys toiled in the former town brickworks in the summer months. They carried the soft clay bricks in wooden boxes from the moulding plant to the drying chamber - a form in each hand and a third on top of the head. In 1988 the Rathenow sculptor Karl Mertens dedicated a lasting monument to the boys.

The „**tree of life**“ is an interactive object of art in the form of a tree made of bricks with a dedication from the sponsors.



Brickyard boy, tree of life

Since 1st January 2002 the former communal authority communities Böhne, Göttlin, Grütz, Semlin and Steckelsdorf are districts of the town of Rathenow. Common to all the districts is that active local mayors make sure that the „parts“ belong to the „whole“. And that's good!

All districts lie directly on the Havel or by a lake.

For insiders: (V) DSL and LTE are well-expanded everywhere.



Church in Götlin

Rathenow has lovely neighbourhoods

Göttlin

In 1373 Emperor Charles IV from the House of Luxembourg acquired the Mark-Brandenburg. After his death in 1378, it was taken over by his son Sigismund, the future German Emperor and King of Hungary. The county of Jerichow was already taken by the Archbishop of Magdeburg in 1354. Schollene Castle belonged at that time to the Lords of Rosenberg. Buckow Castle, located on the left bank of the Havel to protect Rathenow's larger settlements, belonged to Hermann von Treskow, the founding father of the widely spread Treskow clan in the nook of the Elbe and Havel. The villages Götlin and Grütz belonged to neither of them. Probably both places could be regarded as free communities for a long time. Götlin is first just mentioned in the feudal registers of the archbishops of Magdeburg 1381-82. Archaeological finds indicate a settlement since the Neolithic period (about 3000 to 1500 years BC).

Located on the Havel, Götlin offers welcome relief from urban life. An ideal place to live and relax.

...ideal for relaxing.

The people of Götlin are proud of their lively nursery school and active community. Here there's always something going on.

Götlin has a popular river bathing area including a neighbouring bivouac and resting place for canoeists and cyclists. It's lovely here.

Remarkably, despite the large scale protected natural environment, the adjoining military training area Kietz with more than 9.000 hectares of exercise area, is one of the largest in Germany. Much of the area is forested. The open countryside is almost completely rated with the European classification for nature conservancy.

The area has the third largest practice range and the most modern target range in Germany. Its particular characteristics and its connection to the Havel and Elbe are unique and make it a versatile exercise area for NATO allies from all over Europe.

Böhne

Leaving Rathenow in the southwesterly direction of Genthin, one arrives in Böhne after about 5 km. First mentioned in a document in 1381, Böhne is now a quiet and contemplative district of the town of Rathenow. The nationally important river bike path „Havel cycle path” has a stop-off point here. Strict European nature conservancy classifications apply for the entire area between Rathenow and Böhne. Once here, one understands why.

Not especially worth seeing, but historically significant is the Swedenhaus in Böhne. It was built in 1661 by Jacob Friedrich von Briest, former district administrator of the Westhavelland. Frederick William, the Great Elector of Brandenburg, spent the night of 14th to 15th June 1675 in this house before the attack on Rathenow by the occupying Swedes. The house is the last authentic place in the region in connection with the victory over the Swedes in Brandenburg.

The literary role model for Fontane's novel „Effi Briest” was most probably Elisabeth Baroness von Ardenne, born Baroness and noble of Plotho. She lived with her family for several years in Rathenow. Her husband,

Armand Leon Baron von Ardenne served as riding master with the Zieten Hussars. In the eighth chapter of the novel however, Effi says, that she was descended from that Briest, „who carried out the raid of Rathenow on the day before the Battle of Fehrbellin”. It refers to that very Jakob Friedrich von Briest (1631-1703).

Böhne is worth a stop for yet another reason, then at this point, the river Elbe once flowed into the Havel. No joke. Up until the 12th century, the Elbe swung in a wide easterly direction meeting the three main arms of the river Havel at Premnitz. The Elbe cut-off to the north of Stendal and the construction of the eastern dyke of the Elbe 800 years ago allowed the current to ebb away. But it has not dried up yet. Water from the Elbe still flows through the Stremme and the Königsgaben into the Havel.

If you follow the Havel cycle path towards Rathenow, you reach the so-called „Burgwall”, the original settlement of Rathenow, just before the underpass of the Havel bridges in Rathenow. Some on-site information boards explain the links.



„Swedenhaus”



Havel cycle path

www.steckelsdorf.de
www.campingplatz-rathenow.de
www.big-dd-ranch.de



Bivouac and rest area Grütz



The needle weir

Grütz

Grütz lies approximately 10 kilometers north-west of Rathenow's town centre, beyond Göttilin and only accessible by car along one road. Nestled between landscaped and nature conservation areas, Grütz is a worthwhile destination for nature lovers. Grütz is first mentioned in the feudal registers of the archbishops of Magdeburg from 1381. In these documents the village name is written as „Groc”. Worth seeing in Grütz are the church with the newly designed village square and the needle weir.

Both the long-distance cycle routes „Havel cycle path” and the „Havelland cycle path”, as part of the „Hamburg-Berlin” long-distance cycle path with connection for example to the „Elbe cycle path”, stop off at the popular bivouac and rest area Grütz - the most beautiful bivouac area far and wide. Here, cycling enthusiasts and paddlers can experience pure nature, chatting by the fire in the evenings and spending the night in tents.

The Havel flows through the Grützer lock on its way to the Elbe. The marina in the centre with small restaurants and holiday apartments, a small communal jetty and a campsite on the outskirts of the district round off the amenities offered.

The needle weir in Grütz

There is a special feature in the area of the Grützer lock - an intact needle weir. Needle weirs are very rare in Germany. However, the nearest one is just a few kilometers down the river Havel at Garz.

Needle weirs follow a simple principle: The flow rate is regulated by so-called needles. These needles, several meters long, are now made of aluminum, but up until a few years ago were originally made of wood.

You can reach the needle weir by taking the marked exit on the combined Havelland cycle path and Havel cycle path. Coming from Grütz in the direction of Schollene, turn right in the direction of the Havel and you can admire the Grütz needle weir after about 2 km.

Caution: Access to the needle weir prohibited! Risk of fatal injury!

Some details on the needle weir:

UHW km 117.150

Complete width 69.70 m

Width of the weir 61.05 m

Weir gate with 472 needles

Steckelsdorf

The neighbourhood of Steckelsdorf is synonymous with bathing in „Steggel“, a 4-star campsite on the lake, horse riding and the most delicious home-made ice cream far and wide. Justifiably, the two long-distance cycle paths „Havel cycle path“ and „Havelland cycle path“ have a stop-off here. The campsite also offers pretty log cabins for overnight stays. Everything is very modern yet in tune with nature.

Due to its location it's also enjoyable to live here. Smart family housing estates have emerged.

An active heritage society looks after the village's interests. There is a near-natural footpath around the lake, then a stop off at the campsite restaurant. In summer there's bathing here, in winter ice-skating.

The Big DD Ranch has numerous offers on everything to do with horses. Western riding, but also classical or Spanish, as well as carriage and charabanc rides. If you want, you can spend your holidays here: ideal for „Wild West“ fans.

Semlin

www.semmlin.de

Semlin is the „holiday mecca“ of the town of Rathenow on the Hohennauen-Ferchesar lake. A few years ago, the small resort with just 500 inhabitants had more beds than Rathenow. The charming resort with its tranquil lakeside location in the idyllic countryside is made for a relaxing holiday for the whole family. Sailing is a major sport here. No less important, rowing boats, canoes or pedal boats. The jetties for houseboats are modern, the bathing area Bauerndeich is a popular destination and with a rental bike you can reach Rathenow in a leisurely half hour along a cycle path. The long natural path around the lake (approx. 24 km) offers several stop-offs on the way. There is an experienced local nature reserve guide for an entertaining day trip by canoe. A holiday and leisure centre offers fitness, wellness and sauna facilities. The Golf Resort Semlin is one of the most beautiful golf courses in Germany.

A highlight is the annual summer festival in Semlin on the last weekend of July. Just for form's sake: the place was first mentioned in a document in 1441. Worth seeing is the half-timbered church built in 1730.

A special feature is a sandstone sculpture commemorating Anna Ropien from Semlin. She was tried and burnt as a „Butterhexe“ in 1672 in Rathenow. It was the last burning of a witch in the town. There were controversial discussions beforehand. The sculpture now stands as a clear statement against ignorance, superstition and lordly arbitrariness.

Another person held in honor is the author Axel Rudolph. Between 1933 and 1943, the successful crime and adventure writer published more than 50 novels. In addition, screenplays for the UFA film industry, which were filmed with international stars of the time. Today, the „Pension am See“ was the villa in which Rudolph enjoyed being host to the Berlin film and literary scene. It felt comfortable far from the hustle and bustle of Berlin. A delicate balancing act between the Berlin bohemian society and local Nazi leaders, his free spirit proved to be his downfall. He was denounced. He died under the guillotine in October 1944 in the Brandenburg-Görden jail.

Now that I'm here ... what can I do?

I'm just here today...

Your first port of call is the tourist information office which is open daily during the tourist season. Just walk in the direction of the Saint Marien-Andreas church with the golden cross widely visible in the distance. Collect some information leaflets and off you go!

You can choose from a number of guided tours to get a first impression.

Time: one hour

Optikpark and Weinberg! Various impressions on the mind, time to unwind.

How's my time? 2-3 hours are up, lots of walking, but very relaxing.

In case you want to do something for your education – the Optik Industrie Museum in the Rathenow Kulturzentrum (Märkischer Platz). Here there's an interesting crash course regarding optics and Rathenow.

Once again, 1-2 hours are up. There are plenty of opportunities to stop for a break along the way.



We'll finish at this point and hope you had a lovely day.

The whole weekend...

First of all: tourist info ... You know! Sort out accommodation, tips for restaurants, bars, special events?

Remember information leaflets! Can the staff at the tourist information help me with any activities that I'm planning (bookings, reservations, ...)?

Typically you've arrived by car / mobile home, train or by bike. By plane is also possible, but we don't take ourselves that seriously. We offer suggestions, you decide according to your needs.



Online tips:

www.rathenow.de

www.tv-westhavelland.de

www.optikpark-rathenow.de

www.havelland-tourismus.de

www.reiseland-brandenburg.de

www.buga-2015-havelregion.de

www.oimr.de



...the town has many facets

With regard to hired mobility, everything is conceivable from pick-up service, taxi, car-rental to bicycle hire (e-bikes are fun).

In Rathenow itself ... you already know this from the tips on day trips.

In addition there are bathing possibilities here, boat or charter trips, fishing, canoe hire, guided tours and the usual leisure activities in a small district town with cinema, theatre, shopping facilities, ten-pin bowling...

In the near vicinity there are also excellent opportunities for overnight stays in absolute tranquility. The routes back to the town are generally short and easily accessible via consistent and well-developed cycle paths.

Hint:

By bike from Rathenow-West (starting at the roundabout) to Milow via Böhne and Bützer on the newly constructed cycle path. Then from there back to Rathenow via Premnitz (approx. 35 km). Everything is signposted. There are maps to assist you.

In addition to the huge range of museums in Berlin, there are points of interest in the immediate surroundings. Just ask at the tourist office, they will be happy to help you further.

Here are some tips for you:

- Optik Industrie Museum Rathenow
- Naturpark-Besucherzentrum Milow
- Lilienthal-Centrum Stölln
- Spielzeugmuseum Havelland, Kleßen
- Kolonistenhof Großderschau
- Bienenmuseum Karls Erlebnishof
- N'Ostalgiemuseum Mötzow
- Industriemuseum Brandenburg
- „DDR-Museum“ Döberitz



NaturparkZentrum Milow

(approx. 10 km)

Situated about 70 kilometres west of Berlin, the Westhavelland Naturpark, founded in 1998, is the largest conservation area in Brandenburg with an expanse of 1315 km². The district town of Rathenow is located centrally. The nature park encompasses the largest inland contiguous wetland area in western Central Europe.

The NaturparkZentrum in Milow provides an informative and descriptive insight. Events about everything to do with the nature park are also offered here regularly.

There are excellent opportunities for an on-site rest afterwards or in neighbouring Premnitz.

NaturparkZentrum Westhavelland
Stremmestraße 10
14715 Milower Land OT Milow
Tel. +49(0)3386 211227
www.nabu-westhavelland.de



„Sternenpark Westhavelland“

(15-25 km)

Yes, we are the first Star Park in Germany. As we say locally: It's pitch-black here! Westhavelland is one of the darkest places in Germany, comparable to Namibia. You've never seen the Milky Way like this! There are particularly good observation opportunities in the approx. 40 km² central zone between Gülpe and Nennhausen.

Here you can also observe the so-called airglow, the night sky light, a faint glow of higher layers of the atmosphere (ionosphere), which is now usually outshone by artificial stray light.

Despite the relative proximity to the metropolis Berlin, nights in the Westhavelland are so dark due to the sparse population, that the Milky Way with its thousands and thousands of stars can be seen as a graphic image.

Information available in the NaturparkZentrum

Hint: That one goes stargazing in absolute darkness - ideally moonless and cloudless - is understood.

You should also drive with proper lighting to the place.

But then: Please turn off „dim lights"! You can even forget the flash of your mobile phone for capturing the enlightening moment. It's pointless! Of course ... proper photography with a tripod.

To our knowledge red light is ok. Bright light bothers everyone – in the end you too. Just take part in a guided stargazing walk! Everything worth knowing can be read on the association's website.

www.sternenpark-westhavelland.eu

Gülper See – a paradise for birds

(approx. 22 km)

You have never seen so many birds in the flesh at once - a spectacle that you shouldn't miss!

The Gülper See Nature Reserve in the small district of Rhinow is a unique paradise for birds.

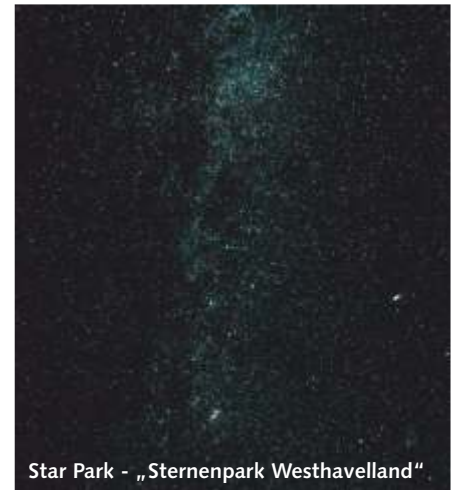
Equipped with observation towers and a nature trail, it provides an opportunity to experience one of the most important migration areas, resting sites and wintering grounds for waterfowl and waders in inland Central Europe.

Spring and autumn here are the most spectacular times for bird watching. In the autumn already more than 100.000 bean geese and white-fronted geese and over 3.000 cranes were counted here in one day.

www.nabu-westhavelland.de und
www.birdinggermany.de/havel.htm



Gülper See



Star Park - „Sternenpark Westhavelland“

Birnbaum von Ribbeck – Fontane sends his regards (approx. 39 km)

„Herr von Ribbeck auf Ribbeck im Havel-land“ ...any questions? Such a poem can be a blessing for a small community.

But between us: many pupils hated the poem during their time at school. Theodor Fontane was born in Neuruppin on 30th December 1819. In his „Walks through the Mark Brandenburg“ he described the beauty of our local landscape. Through his poem, Ribbeck and his pears are still on everyone's lips.

The simplest way is to sign up at the information in Ribbeck Castle, pick up some information materials and advice, perhaps a guided tour?

Theodor-Fontane-Straße 10, 14641 Nauen OT Ribbeck, Tel. +49(0)33237 8590-30
www.ribbeck-havelland.de

And off to Ribbeck!

You can visit the adjacent children's farm „Marienhof“ afterwards.

Children's farm „Marienhof“ (approx. 41 km)

Dear children, Fontane's pear tree in Ribbeck - that was something for your parents. That surely brought back old memories of their own time at school, since they were forced to learn that famous poem.

Now, however, off to the children's farm „Marienhof“. You and your parents can reach it quite easily by hired bike. By car of course too.

Marienhof 1, 14641 Nauen OT Ribbeck,
Tel.: +49(0)33237 88891
www.marienhof-ribbeck.de



Church in Ribbeck



Ribbeck Castle



Children's farm

Lilienthal Centre in Stölln and „Lady Agnes“ (approx. 22 km)

IL 62 in a meadow – amazing!

The exhibition in the „Alte Brennerlei“ revolves around everything to do with the aviation pioneer Otto Lilienthal, who undertook his spectacular attempts to fly on the oldest airfield in the world in Stölln.

During one of these experiments, he was grievously injured and died the next day. That was on 10th August 1896. The fascination for flying still remains – as here in Stölln.

The exhibition is informative and worth a look.

Off to the IL 62 in the „open field“ afterwards. How did it get there? ... Have a look at the short film in the „Airport“! You'll be astonished.

Hint: Buy a combined ticket for the exhibition and the plane. It saves money.

Otto-Lilienthal-Str. 50
14728 Gollenberg OT Stölln
Tel. +40(0)33875 90690
www.otto-lilienthal.de



Lilienthal Centre in Stölln



„Lady Agnes“

That's it: your weekend is over, went much too fast and yet we hope you had a good time. Of course there is still much more to experience ... but:

Hint: Don't keep „romping around“, but sometimes „take a relaxed view of things“ - as we like to say here. The country and its people are made for it, nice to relax – just take it easy!



Raft ride in the Optikpark

As an introduction,
the information already
given under the category
„The whole weekend ...“
applies here too.

Besides things worth seeing, in
Westhavelland there is a wide range of
leisure activities from A to Z including
fishing and camping, as well as bad
weather activities. Information is
available on the websites mentioned as
well as in the tourist information office.



Maze in the Weinberg

A relaxing week with the family ...

Ostrich farm in Großderschau – at eye level (approx. 24 km)

The gait, behavior and lives of these big beautiful animals are not just interesting for kids. At the ostrich farm you learn a lot, from the breeding of ostriches through to marketing.

By the way, the thing with the eye level probably only applies to a few people. The animals are up to 2.5 m tall. Whoever is on the lookout for fresh eggs for breakfast will make a find here. But you need a certain amount of time for the eggs which weigh up to 1.5 kg. Cooking time is 1 hour. But you're on holiday!

Kleinderschauer Str.7, 16845 Großderschau, Tel. +49(0)33875 900110
www.der-straussenhof.de



Sostrich farm

Kolonistenhof Großderschau (approx. 24 km)

The colonisation of a fascinating natural landscape in the 17th/18th centuries. In the colonist farm in Großderschau one follows in the footsteps of the Prussian kings Frederick William I and Frederick II. The history and origin of the colonies in the Frederician era, life, customs and crafts, such as the art of making butter are demonstrated in the museum and the outdoor area. The farm's shop offers fresh regional products and fresh crusty bread from the clay oven during events.

Kleinderschauer Str. 1, 16845 Großderschau,
Tel. +49(0)33875 90810
www.grossderschau.de



Harvest festival at the Kolonistenhof

Animal film school Harsch

in Sieversdorf (28 km)

In the animal film school Harsch a variety of two- and four-legged animals are prepared for their roles before the film cameras. You can see the results of this work in many films, TV series, TV shows, commercials, music videos or in the animal film show in the Filmpark Babelsberg. A trip to Sieversdorf is an experience for the whole family.

Hauptstraße 2, 16845 Sieversdorf,
Tel. +49(0)33970 50828
www.filmtierschule-harsch.de



Animal film school

„Ritter Kahlbutz“ in Kampehl (approx. 36 km)

Germany's most famous mummy, the knight Christian Friedrich von Kahlbutz (1651-1702), also called Kalebuz, lies in the crypt of Kampehl church in Neustadt. According to the legend, Kahlbutz, who was charged with murder, vowed the following oath of purification: „If I was the murderer, then so God's will, my dead body should never decay.“ Many well-known scientists, including R. Virchow and F. Sauerbruch have since busied themselves with the phenomenon. Interpretative attempts remain vague. Schulstr. 3, 16845 Neustadt/Dosse OT Kampehl, Tel. +49(0)33970 13265 www.kalebuz.de



Ritter Kahlbutz

Brandenburg state stud farm

Neustadt/Dosse (approx. 34 km)

One of Germany's oldest stud farms with a lot of trappings. Every year in September the stallion parades are an attraction at the stud farm. The choreography and high skill of the performers excites audiences again and again. In addition, many horse riding, show jumping and driving tournaments in the Graf von Lindenau Hall as well as the Coach Museum enrich the range of events.

Hauptgestüt 10, 16845 Neustadt/Dosse
Tel. +49(0)33970 5029-0
www.neustaedter-gestueete.de



Graf-von-Lindenau-Halle

Great Bustard protection project

in Buckow (approx. 19 km)

The largest European research and breeding centre for Great Bustards, which together with the Kori Bustard in Africa belongs to the heaviest flying birds on earth, is located in Buckow near Nennhausen. In the mating season (early April - mid-May) these shy animals can be watched from observation towers.

Reservations for guided tours in the mating season can be made on
Tel. +49(0)3386 211227, daily except Wednesdays.

Buckower Dorfstr. 34, 14715 Nennhausen,
Tel. +49(0)33878 60194
www.grosstrappe.de



Kunsthof Gräningen (approx. 12 km)

With the Kunsthof Gräningen, the artist and beekeeper Hans Zimmermann has no doubt created a unique ensemble along the theme „art in the apiary“.

Probably the smallest church in the world was also built by him and is inviting for rest and meditation.

Am Wiesenweg 11, 14715 Gräningen
Tel. +49(0)3385 513447
www.kunsthof-graeningen.de



Karls Erlebnis-Dorf in Elstal near Berlin (approx. 59 km)

A nice day trip for the whole family. The offer is huge and just right for young and old.

The apiary museum, formerly located in Möthlow, is also now lovingly and interestingly integrated here.

Zur Döberitzer Heide 1, 14641 Wustermark
Tel. +49(0)33234 243030
www.karls.de/berlin-freizeitpark-kinder.html



Apothecary garden in Milow (ap. 11 km)

The garden at the Anker pharmacy in Milow is lovingly designed and rich in species. A wide range of medicinal plants grow here on a reasonably-sized area. The plants and herbs are well described for the layman. Here you can learn about medicinal herbs, admire its flowers and features and indulge your senses.

Anker-Apotheke, Friedensstraße 105
14715 Milower Land, OT Milow
Tel. +49(0)3386 280380
www.anker-apotheke-milow.de



Apothecary garden

Schollen (approx. 14 km)

„Where dark woods of Brandenburg pine trees cover acres and acres of land, where moor brushes with heather, where the blue Havel rushes in numerous turns through lush meadows to its mergence with the Elbe, where the lake with its swarming gulls flashes like silver in the sun. Here lies Schollene, in the nook of the Elbe and Havel south of Havelberg.“ This is how the people of Schollen describe their beautiful surroundings. Interesting too is the unique medicinal mud (Pelose) from Lake Schollen and a visit to the museum barn.

www.schollene-land.de



Lake Schollen

Frau Harke's path of legends

The path of legends „Frau Harke-Sagenpfad“ has its origin in the resort Kamern in the nook of the Elbe and Havel. Frau Harke is the patron saint and handed down from pre-Christian times as Frigga, Freia, Frau Herke and Holle. So far, there are 13 so-called milestones along the path of legends. These are artistically designed rest stops („Edel-Knopelschenke“). Further milestones will follow soon in the Brandenburg region with Brandenburg an der Havel as destination via Rathenow.

www.tourismusverein-westhavelland.de



„Edel-Knopelschenke“

Lake Hohennauen – Ferchesar (approx. 7 km)

The lake is not as long as its name, but beautiful! The Hohennauen-Ferchesar lakeland area is 10 km long, with links to the Havel and Lake Witzke. The villages Semlin, Ferchesar, Wassersuppe and Hohennauen are located around the lake. The lake's tourist centre with camping sites and a whole range of accommodation offers has a tradition reaching back to the last century. Around 1920, Ferchesar as „pearl of the Havel country” was already a popular destination of the people of Berlin.

It is possible to cycle along the near-natural path around the lake (about 24 km) and

there are several opportunities for stop-offs.

The Semlin Golf Resort is yet another attraction. The days when high fences were pulled up around golf courses in order to be kept to themselves were never an issue, at least not in Semlin. Here there is always a very open atmosphere with trial offers for beginners. Even a popular hiking trail from Rathenow - the Ferchesar Way - runs right through the golf course, without any perceptible disturbance to both sides.

www.semllin.de und
www.golfresort-semllin.de

Nennhausen Castle (approx. 14 km)

The castle, (1737, private property) received its neo-Gothic form around 1860. The public park was created in Baroque style at the beginning of the 18th century. The splendid view from the castle to the „Fouqué” oak tree was a special experience. Unfortunately, this majestic tree toppled over in 2006 after more than 450 years. Many decades will pass until a new oak will gain a similar stately appearance.

The poet Friedrich Baron de la Motte Fouque once lived and worked here from 1802-1833. His poems and dramas originated here.



He has earned his place in literary history with two works; the literary fairy tale „Undine“ and the story „The Hangman“. „Undine“ is the epitome of the romantic literary fairy tale.

Fouqué's lively friendships with reputable poets and philosophers made Nennhausen a famous meeting place for great personalities. Among others, Adalbert von Chamisso, ETA Hoffmann, Johann Gottlieb Fichte, Joseph Freiherr von Eichendorff and Wilhelm Freiherr von Humboldt belonged to his circle of friends.

Fouqué-Platz 4, 14715 Nennhausen
Tel. +49(0)33878 60505



Castle Nennhausen

Toy museum

in Kleßen (approx. 34 km)

The exhibition in seven rooms of the old village school shows outstanding examples of the German toy industry from the past two centuries. The town of Brandenburg an der Havel was considered a „toy town“. Many toys travelled from here to nurseries around the world. Really well made with attention to detail.

Right next door is Castle Kleßen (privately owned).

Schulweg 1, 14728 Kleßen
Tel. +49(0)33235 29311
www.spielzeugmuseum-havelland.de



Toy museum in Kleßen

Bad weather activities – Rappelkiste

in Brandenburg/Wust (approx. 38 km)

Playing with a roof over your head! The large indoor play area is also perfect as a venue for boisterous children's birthday parties.

An der Bundesstraße 1
14776 Brandenburg an der Havel
Tel. +49(0)3381 890880
www.indoorspielplatz-brb.de



Town forest and nature trail

Once a donation from the Margrave of Brandenburg to the town of Rathenow, today the town forest is a beauty spot and idyll for ramblers and cyclists - the „green axis“ on the eastern outskirts. Marked walking routes and an interesting nature trail (starting point: Waldparkplatz Ferchesarer Weg) guide you in the right direction. There are marked running tracks for sports lovers. The inter-regional Havelland cycle path also runs through the forest and is great for in-line skaters. The informative foldable map „Walks through Rathenow's town forest“, available at the Tourist Information Office, can provide you with assistance.



Forest lake in Rathenow's town forest

Water tower in Premnitz (approx. 8 km)

The landmark of 100 years of industrial history is really well preserved thanks to a private initiative. The tower was built in 1915-16 and served as a repository for industrial water from the operational facilities for the production of gunpowder and later major spun rayon and synthetic fibres. An exhibition in its interior gives an insight into the interesting development of the site.

Visits: Tel. +49(0)3386 27150



Water tower in Premnitz

Bockwindmühle Bamme (approx. 6 km)

One of the oldest windmills in the Havelland region, probably dating back to 1334, was severely damaged by the hurricane „Kyrill“ in 2006. A foundation strives towards its preservation and reconstruction. The signs are good and money is already flowing. The aim is to restore the mill to working order as a „show mill“.

Visits are possible by appointment.

Tel. +49 (0)3385 505319

www.bockwindmuehle-bamme.de



Windmill

Kaiser- und Hansestadt Tangermünde (approx. 31 km)

Tangermünde has preserved its medieval townscape up till the present day. The ancient castle and the town which arose under its safeguard about 800 years ago lie on a plateau. It is towered over by St. Stephan's Church with its 87 metre high north tower, around which many towers and town houses are assembled. It is all enclosed by the town wall, the red brick of which is reflected in the waters of the Elbe.
www.tangermuende.de



Tangermünde

Hansestadt Havelberg (approx. 40 km)

Havelberg celebrated its 1050th anniversary in 1998. Since 2008 Havelberg again bears the name „Hanseatic Town“ thus following the tradition founded in 1358. In the Rostock register Havelberg is listed from the outset as being a member of the Hanseatic League. A guided walking tour through the historic old town, including a visit to the cathedral allows you to breathe the magnificent air of the past.
www.havelberg.de



Havelberg

Brandenburg an der Havel (approx. 31 km)

Brandenburg Cathedral is considered as the cradle of the Mark. The town of Brandenburg an der Havel looks back on 1000 years of history. The historic Old Town, New Town and Cathedral Island with its outstanding monuments bear witness to turbulent national and local history. The independent town is a modern urban centre in the immediate vicinity and beautifully situated on the waterfront.
www.stadt-brandenburg.de und
www.stg-brandenburg.de



Brandenburg an der Havel

Potsdam (approx. 80 km)

The city of Potsdam is a UNESCO world heritage city, the city of palaces and gardens by the idyllic Havel lakes, a magnificent, historic city of culture, a centre of film, education and science, marked by more than 1000 years of history as royal seat and state capital. Sanssouci, Babelsberg Film Park, the Biosphere ... it's not possible in one day. The city of Potsdam is one of the most livable cities in Germany.

www.potsdam.de



Berlin (approx. 75 km)

The federal capital is one of the most popular cities in the world, world city of culture, politics, media and science. A city second to none. You should plan in advance what should be visited and in which order. With the sheer diversity of impressions, it can also be nice to end the day again in your peaceful retreat in our Westhavelland. The train leaves every hour - less than an hour travel time - Brandenburg-Berlin-Ticket! By the way, the world clock at the „Alex“ originates from Rathenow!

www.berlin.de



Too bad, but unfortunately

the holiday week is now already over. And somehow you certainly can't help feeling, that you still haven't seen everything. But that's no problem; just extend or even better:

Please come again!

Good to know:

Our partner towns are Rendsburg and Zlotow (Poland).
www.rendsburg.de and www.zlotow.pl



I not only want to look around, but also do something ... leisure activities

Angling

Angling of non-predatory fish is possible for children and adults without a fishing licence.

A fishing permit and fishing tax stamp are required, which are widely available in pet shops, fishing tackle stores as well as in tourist information offices. For angling predatory fish, a fishing licence is additionally required after completion of the fishing exam. The fishing licence is valid indefinitely.

International guests need 3 documents for fishing (non-predatory and predatory fish):

- filled out documentation booklet with an adhesive fishing tax stamp
- fishing permit
- passport / identity card

Bathing and swimming

Natural bathing areas – all unguarded!

Lake Hohennauen-Ferchesar with bathing opportunities in **Semlin** (Bauerndeich)

Ferchesar (Dranseschlucht)

Hohennauen (fish restaurant „Strandgut“)

Lake Steckelsdorf at Rathenow's campsite

Lake Wolzen in Rathenow

Natural bathing areas on the Havel:

It is essential to note that the Havel is a river with a considerable flow at times. Keep away from weirs or similar!

The bathing areas at the bivouac camps in Göttlin and Grütz are good for practising. Otherwise our river trail map from the tourist information office will help you further.

Swimming pools

Schwimmhalle Rathenow

Naturbad Premnitz

Schwimm- und Erlebnisbad „Marienbad“

Brandenburg

Kristall Kur- & Gradietherme Bad Wilsnack

At this point it doesn't make sense and we don't claim to want to present the entire leisure activities in Rathenow and the surrounding area. Data simply changes too fast. But we gladly give you suggestions here. Coupled with encouraging you to badger our tourist information with your questions, we can assure you: it won't be boring here.

More extensive and up-to-date information with contact details is available on the Internet on the website of the town of Rathenow and the Tourist Association Westhavelland e.V.

www.rathenow.de und
www.tv-westhavelland.de

The following is a rough summary in alphabetical order from A for Angling to „V for Veranstaltungen“ (events). It was not enough for „Z“ unless „zelten“ (tenting), but that operates under camping with us. Let's go now!

Boat hire & Passenger ship berths

Use the river trail map „Wasserwanderkarte der Flusslandschaft Untere Havelniederung“, which is available in all the tourist information offices.

www.havel-fun.de

Houseboats

Havelland Hausboote in Götlin

Passenger ship berths

MS „Sonnenschein“ and MS „Havelland“: at the Haveltor-Kinos near the Optikpark

Motor boats

MSW Havelboot GmbH in Grütz

Canoe hire

Rathenower Wassersportver. Kanu 1922 e.V.

Sport Bölke Rathenow

Optikpark Rathenow (April - Oktober)

Restaurant „Fischerhütte“ (rowing boats, pedal-boats too)

MSW Havelboot GmbH in Grütz

Licence-free

Boats with a length of less than 15 metres and an engine power of up to 15 HP are licence-free for persons 16 years and older.

Details are governed by the rental regulations for inland waterway transport and pleasure craft. Info: www.elwis.de

Popular river trail rest areas

Rathenow: Am Alten Hafen, Optikpark,

Seesportclub

Semlin: Gastanleger

Grütz: MSW Havelboot

Ninepin & Tenpin bowling

Waldschloss in Rathenow, Berliner

Straße/Fr.-Ebert-Ring (tenpin bowling, ninepin bowling);

Launepark, Puschkinstraße (tenpin bowling);

Superbowl in Premnitz, Bunsenstraße (tenpin bowling)

Camping & mobile homes

Campsite „Am Steggel“ **** Rathenow
OT Steckelsdorf;

Campsite „Seeblick“

Seeblick OT Hohennauen;

Campsite „Buntspecht“ **** Stechow-
Ferchesar OT Ferchesar

Bivouac areas on the Havel

Grütz, Götlin, Mögelin and Gülpe

Mobile home parking areas

Car park Baustraße with supply and waste disposal, central location, free of charge
Campsite in Steckelsdorf, good bus connections, cycle path 20 minutes to the centre of Rathenow

Bicycle hire

Operators:

Wienmeister (e-bikes too), Berliner Str.;

Fahrradhaus Berger, Schleusenstraße / Am Alten Hafen; Hotel „Sonn'Idyll“, Semliner Straße (e-bikes too)

Information leaflet at the tourist information

Fitness & Wellness

This is a very broad concept. Here it includes:
 Family Fitness in Rathenow and Premnitz (indoor area of the outdoor swimming pool);
 Fitness- & Gesundheitsstudio Rausch Semlin;
 Golf Resort Semlin, Fitness- and Wellness Club;
 Fitness- & Gesundheitsstudio Rausch Semlin;
 Golf Resort Semlin, Fitness- and Wellness Club;
 Sonn'Idyll, Saunalandschaft, Yogawelt, Rathenow;
 Neue Salz Schleuse, Rathenow-West;
 Schwimmhalle Rathenow with Sauna

Gliding and aerial tours

Flugsportverein „Otto Lilienthal“ Stölln e.V.
 Luftsportclub Havelland e. V., Sonderlandeplatz Stechow on the B188

Golf

Golf Resort Semlin, www.golfresort-semlin.de
 27-hole championship course, 9-hole short course for everyone (“trial golfers” are welcome), ****-Sporthotel.

Children & youth

Children and youth club

in the „Freizeithaus Mühle“ – youth centre for children and teenagers with multimedia centre, youth club, creativity room, hobby cooking, games room (strategy games, card games and board games like chess or Go), billiard, fitness, sports programs and holiday camps.

Evangelical youth church „Oase“

Meet people, listen and make music. Drum groups, rock bands, guitar lessons, talk about everything under the sun, evening meals, billiard, table tennis, games, discussions, weekend activities, address problems, look for answers, meditate ... and all this not just for church goers!

Archery

www.bogenfuechse-rathenow.de

Youth work of the Diakonie in the Havelland

www.facebook.com/streetworkrathenow

Youth Club PreJu e.V. in Premnitz

www.preju.de

Cinema

Haveltor-Kinos, Rathenow

www.havelorkino.de

More cinemas in Brandenburg and Stendal

Crazy golf

Pension „Tivoli“, www.tivoli-rathenow.de

Cycle tours

See under **Bicycle hire** (e-bikes too)

Marked hiking trails

Numerous marked hiking trails lead you through the Westhavelland Nature Park surrounding Rathenow. Maps are available at the Tourist Information Office.

Route Tips

Havel cycle path and Havelland cycle path with good opportunities for round day-trips
 Junction signposting exists throughout the Havelland. The cycle network is modernly signposted in accordance with the hbr Brandenburg.

Circular trail round Lake Hohennauen-Ferchesar (approx. 24 km)

Inline skaters: Havel bike path in the town forest and bike paths to Semlin and Steckelsdorf

Nordic walking

The Finnish way of walking is trendy with us too. Endless forest paths, very seldom snow and envious looks from the Forest Animal Guild.

Hiking trails through Rathenow's town forest

For the best-marked hiking trails in Rathenow's huge town forest use the folding map „Wanderungen durch den Rathenower Stadtforst“ (Tourist Information). Especially recommended is the **nature trail** which starts and finishes at the Waldparkplatz Ferchesarer Weg

Jogging and walking hints

Rathenow's town forest offers woodland paths in great profusion. Here everyone should be able to find his favorite route. A running track is already marked out. It is best to drive along some routes with a speedometer beforehand. This way you can quickly gather some kilometer references in connection with distinctive waypoints for your orientation. Those who “cannot see the wood for the trees” should, at least initially, stick to marked paths. Otherwise we have to go looking for you.

Some nice running routes around Lake Hohennauen-Ferchesar for all levels are described on the website of the 3-Seen-Lauf Semlin.

www.drei-seen-lauf.de

Dancing etc.

„**Studio B**“ - pub & cocktail bar

„**Tanzcafé Angels**“ - dance and cocktail bar

„**Havelrestaurant Schwedendamm**“ – individual events such as Over 30s Night

„**Musikbrauerei Rathenow**“

„**Irish Pub & Grill**“ in the Waldschloss

The annual „**Rathenower Musiknacht**“ in August is an event in the entire city with free shuttle bus and live music everywhere.

Theatre

Theatre in the Kulturzentrum Rathenow – www.kulturzentrumrathenow.de

Brandenburger Theater -

www.brandenburgertheater.de

Theater der Altmark Stendal -

www.tda-stendal.com

River Trails

The area territory of the Havel between Brandenburg and Havelberg is called „Flusslandschaft Untere Havelniederung“, a unique natural landscape and ideal for canoeing and houseboat tourism.

www.flusslandschaft-untere-havelniederung.de

The appropriate river trail map is available at the Tourist Information

Parking for mobile homes

See under „**Camping and mobile homes**“

Events

A calendar of events is available at the tourist information

www.rathenow.de and

www.havelland-tourismus.de

Hints:

Serenade under the starry sky

3 day town festival

Sweden festival

800 years of Rathenow

Waldweihnacht

Mühlenweihnacht

Denominations in Rathenow

Evangelical church Sankt Marien-Andreas Rathenow

Kirchplatz 10 · 14712 Rathenow
Church office Tel. +49 (0)3385 512390

Including:

The **Sankt Marien-Andreas-Kirche** on the Altstadtinsel. Concerts, church festivals, special church services and exhibitions take place here.

The **Lutherkirche** mit dem **Lutherhaus (community centre)** in the Jahnstraße 1 · 14712 Rathenow

Sunday 10 am church service

The Gemeindehaus Süd

Small community centre in the Süd district
Felix-Dahn-Straße 1 · 14712 Rathenow

Every second Sunday - 9 am church service

Evangelical youth centre „Oase“

Bergstraße 6 · 14712 Rathenow
open daily. Tel. +49 (0)3385 516006

Village church Semlin

Regional church community:

Bergstraße 6 (courtyard entrance) · 14712 Rathenow · Sunday 5 pm church service

Wednesday 6.30 pm Bible study

Tel. +49 (0)3385 5200839

The **Hoffnungsgemeinde Elb-Havelwinkel** includes:

Evangelical church and community centre Göttlin · Göttliner Dorfstr. 10 · Tel. +49 (0)3385 510320

Every second Sunday - 10 am church service

Evangelical parish hall Neue Schleuse

Gebhardtstraße · Rathenow

Tel. +49 (0)3385 510320

Every second Sunday - 10 am church service

Evangelical church Grütz and Steckelsdorf

Sunday 10 am, monthly church service

Tel. +49 (0)3385 510320

The parish of **Milow** includes:

Evangelical church Böhne

Rathenow Baptist Church:

Member of the Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany

Community centre Berliner Straße 29

14712 Rathenow, Tel. +49 (0)3385

510145 · Sunday 10 am church service,

Wednesday 2.30 pm Bible meeting,

Every second Friday 7 pm Friday club

Parish of the Seventh Day Adventists

(Advent parish):

Community centre Fr.-Engels-Straße 26,
14712 Rathenow

Saturday 10 am church service

Tel. +49 (0)3381 211334

Catholic parish:

Church, parish hall and priest's office
„**Sankt Georg**“

Friesacker Straße 3-5 · 14712 Rathenow

Sunday 10.30 am, Tues 9 am,

Thurs 7 pm, Holy Mass,

Tel. +49 (0)3385 503405

Catholic curacy „Sankt Josef“

Horstenweg 15 · 14712 Rathenow

Sunday 10.45 am, Holy Mass

Tel. +49 (0)3385 515361

These parishes of the town of Rathenow are ecumenically connected in the Council of Christian Churches (ACK).

The Havel

The river owes its name to a Slavic community, the Hevellers, who settled in this region and called it the "Hevel". After centuries of linguistic development it became the "Havel".

With a length of 341 kilometres, the River Havel is the dominant river in Brandenburg (80% of Brandenburg drains into the Havel). Industrialisation in the 19th century made it an important transport route for inland waterway transport between Berlin and Hamburg.

In the mid-19th century, the Havel was a strongly meandering river with many larger and smaller tributaries.

The people who settled on the banks of the Havel took advantage of the abundance of fish, but were also exposed to the dangers emanating from it. Already in the 8th and 9th centuries, resident Slavs constructed numerous weirs here, which on the one hand guaranteed successful fishing, but on the other hand delayed the runoff of water. In the Havel itself there are numerous islands to which cattle were previously ferried by boat in order to pasture, and which today are increasingly discharged

The Havel,
lifeline of the town
and the entire Havelland,
encloses the town with its
four river arms and
guarantees an outstanding
backdrop for recreational use.



from use. The meadows and pastures are the result of the centuries-old use by humans and today take up about 3/4 of the Havel lowlands.

In the 12th century, construction of dikes began in order to protect the lowlands. Later weirs (1324) were also built in Brandenburg and Rathenow. Together with the backwater of the Elbe up to Rathenow, this led to long-lasting flooding of the lower Havel plains. It wasn't until 1771/72 that the risk of flooding was reduced by the construction of a separating dike between the Elbe and the Havel subsequent to the old Jederitz dike at Sandau.

Lifeline of the West Havelland



The development of the inland waterway Berlin-Hamburg was spurred on after the war 1870/71 through its straightening, avulsion of meanders as well as the construction of locks and weirs. The comprehensive regulatory measures were carried out in several phases from 1875 to 1901. The straightening shortened the course of the river so severely that a steady drainage of floodwater couldn't be effected. In the summer months, there was an extreme low tide due to the lack of natural water retention of meanders and tributaries.

In order to improve drainage capability, accelerate flood discharge and dry up the flooded Havel meadows, needle weirs and run-off capacity systems were constructed in Bahnitz, Grütz and Garz. In Rathenow the „Archen“ (Magazininsel) fulfilled this task, probably the last of this size in a German river.

In future, the mill dam and the „Großen Archen“ will regulate the water level of the Lower Havel. The „Kleinen Archen“ is no longer needed.

Restoration of the lower Havel

(Article cont. on page 58)

90 kilometres of the lower Havel will be re-created close to nature. The 8.900-hectare core area between Gnevsdorf in Saxony-Anhalt and Pritzerbe in Brandenburg will be restored.

Why?

Since the late 19th century the Havel has been widened, deepened and straightened again and again for the use of shipping and agriculture. In the 20th century its meadow banks - previously a natural protection against flooding - were partly diked and then intensively used for agriculture. The ecological damage of the expansion is felt by the residents of the Elbe and Havel. The natural wetlands have suffered as an ecosystem on the whole.

The task - reclaim nature!

Together with the federal government and the states of Brandenburg and Saxony-Anhalt, the NABU will bring the disturbed water resources of the river back into balance. A natural paradise will be created, which should be exemplary for all German rivers. Thus, there will soon be sandbanks, islands and a

The Westhavelland Naturpark

natural riverside forest on the lower Havel. More than 1.100 protected and threatened species will find refuge here. Even formerly displaced fish species can be resettled in the natural course of the river - for example with the aid of fish passes. The lower Havel will return to a natural, intact and relaxing river area for humans and animals.

What will be done!

Dike sections will be dismantled thus gaining additional flooding area during flooding.

A new riverside forest will be planted which will naturally purify the river and serve as a drainage area at high watermark. Stone fill will be removed. Natural sandy beaches will re-emerge.

Artificially cut off backwaters and flood channels will be reconnected. Certain terrain elevations located on the banks of the river will be removed. This enables a more frequent and longer-lasting flooding of the meadows.

It is Europe's largest river restoration project!

Source: NABU Naturschutzbund Germany

Approx. 70 km west of Berlin, the nature park, opened in June 1998, lies in one of the richest water regions in Germany and is therefore particularly suitable for nature-friendly water tourism. With 1315 km² it is the largest inland contiguous wetland in Western Central Europe.

The surface shape of the nature park was marked by the Weichsel glacial age, which ended about 10.000 years ago. Mighty glaciers and melted water streams shaped the landscape. End moraine tracts and glacial drifts, outwash plains and broad glacial valleys remained.

In the deep layers, large moor and marshlands were formed, the Havelland Luch, the Rhinluch and the Dossebruch. A special feature of the Westhavelland are the glacial drift plains and end moraine „islands“ - the so-called „Ländchen“.

250 years ago, the people began to dry out the lowlands through dikes, pumping stations, dams, ditches and the relocation of the estuary of the Havel. Parts of this unique landscape however have been preserved, so

that you can still experience its scenic appeal today.

The reclamation of the Rhin and Dosse territory prompted Frederick the Great to exclaim: „This is contrary to my expectations! It's beautiful! I must say that, to everyone who worked on it.“

With increasing land reclamation and a partially industrialised agriculture, the abundance of species and diversity of landscapes decreased. The adaptable and sustainable cultivation of the nature park should benefit the population as well as flora and fauna. Many threatened and strongly endangered plant and animal species find their habitat here.

The region is of international significance for waders and waterfowl. Thousands of Nordic geese and swans, cranes, ducks and sandpipers find indispensable resting places rich in water and food here in spring and



Recreational area and natural habitat



autumn on their long migration routes. The magnificent ruff can be observed courting during the spring. Like other meadow breeders which have become very rare in Germany, e.g. the black-tailed godwit, common redshank, curlew, common snipe and corncrake, in the nature park it is a breeding bird. Beavers and otters are equally at home here just like a remarkable

variety of amphibians, fish, insects and plants.

In addition to rafting and boating along the Flusslandschaft Untere Havelniederung, the best way to access the nature park is by cycling along the marked hiking trails or on horseback.

Naturpark administration

Pareyer Dorfstraße 5
14715 Havelaue OT Parey
Tel. +49 (0)33872 743-0
www.naturpark-westhavelland.brandenburg.de

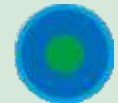
Naturpark centre Milow

Stremestraße 10, 14715 Milower Land
Tel. +49 (0)3386 211227

Nature rescue Westhavelland

Tel. +49 (0)33872 70025 and
+49 (0)3386 200419

**Naturpark
Westhavelland**



The largest nature park in Brandenburg is an internationally significant wetland and home to many endangered animals and plants.

Havelland customs and recipes

To our ancestors, many processes of nature were inexplicable and shrouded in legend. They believed that the gods were responsible for forces of nature and human destinies. Each region even had its own protective gods. The patron goddess of the Havelland was „Frau Harke“. She was the wife of the one-eyed Germanic god Wotan. As maternal earth goddess, she rewarded the diligent and ruled strictly over the lazy. She was considered the protector of family happiness, animals and crops. Friday was a hallowed day for her. Many young couples married on this day, in order to be bestowed with blessings and good fortune.

In the period from Christmas to Epiphany, also known as the „Twelfth Day“, she moved about the country controlling the spinning rooms, because all the distaffs had to be spun empty by the end of the year. If that wasn't the case, the house faced „so many little hairs, so many evil years“. During this period it was particularly necessary to be alert. Except for children's diapers, no laundry could be washed and hung up.

Anyone who still did this should die. There should be no turning of cartwheels and no whirring of spinning wheels. Whoever nevertheless used the spinning wheel during the holy days would be overtaken by illness and disaster.

It also means that the weather calendar for the next year will be made during the „twelve days“. The weather on the 12 holy days was considered to be a forecast for the 12 months of the coming year.

There were also rules for the menu. No lentils and peas should be eaten, otherwise there would be ulcers. Only what was fresh and green by nature should be prepared.

Yule meals included a pig's head on the table. In addition there was lung sausage with kale. Whoever doesn't eat kale, it was said, will run out of money in the coming year. A Havelland myth reports from a curly kale thief. The man had no kale in his garden. But since he didn't want to go without the lucky vegetables during the festive season, he stole the kale.

Strange customs and old superstitions have always shaped people's lives.

Many of them have already been forgotten. Others have been passed down from generation to generation and enjoy even greater popularity today.



The good Lord, however, had forbidden stealing. He put him on the moon as punishment. By full moon you can still recognize the thief there today as he holds the kale in his hands.

The typical New Year's Eve's dinner in the Havelland are potato and herring salad with sausages. However, carp is preferred as evening and New Year's meal. It is frequently prepared as carp „blue“, but the true Havelland locals enjoy it in beer. There are boiled potatoes with it. In former times it was served with rice pudding. Fish in beer with rice pudding was a popular wedding dinner in the Havelland.

Some scales from the New Year's carp tucked into a purse should provide a windfall throughout the whole year.

Easter time is connected with the spring. An old rule in the Havelland says that something green must be eaten on Maundy Thursday. The colour green and fresh herbs should give us strength. It is therefore common for boiled potatoes, fried eggs and spinach or green beans to be on the menu in many homes on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Jacket potatoes and gravy are also popular.

Recipe for Havelland curly kale

750 g curly kale
 500 g pork belly
 1 finely diced onion
 2 tablespoons of oatmeal
 Salt, pepper, caraway seed

Clean the kale, blanch and chop finely. Cook the pork belly in a litre of salted water, add kale and spices and cook. When cooked, add the oatmeal and boil again.

For a more creamy texture, add a mixture of butter and flour.

Recipe for jacket potatoes and gravy

Boil the potatoes in salted water, peel and keep warm.

Fry the diced bacon in a pan until glazed. Lightly brown the flour in the fat and quench with water.

Eat with pickled cucumbers and a raw vegetable salad.

For more flavor, you can add a medium-sized chopped onion to the pan.

Easter in numerous surrounding communities includes a bonfire on Easter Sunday. They have their origin in the pre-Christian spring fires, to which a cleansing effect has been attributed. They should protect humans, livestock, farm and hallway from harm, illness, misfortune and evil. Today young and old meet in a sociable atmosphere at the bonfire on Easter Saturday.

The tradition of Easter water should not be forgotten. Originally it was drawn by girls from Rathenow from the Körgraben and later from the Havel. The people of Rathenow believed in its healing power and beautifying effect. There are various popular customs that have to do with the 1st of May, Ascension and Pentecost. On Walpurgis Night, from 30th April to 1st May, the scary winter ghosts are driven out with a lot of noise, uproar and pranks. Out of fear and in order to protect their animals against being enchanted by evil witches who ride at this time to Blocksberg, local farmers used to mark the stall doors with three large crosses on the evening of 30th April.

On Ascension Day or "Father's Day" men make collective excursions by bike or with a horse and cart. Mostly they go from one restaurant to another. For some years now, not only the fathers are on the road, but the whole family. With "kith and kin" out into the countryside.

A very old custom at Pentecost was to put up a Pentecost tree. It was regarded as a symbol of health, fertility and freedom. A birch served as the Pentecost tree. In the villages it was decorated with colorful ribbons, wreaths or crowns. There was dancing around the tree. It was guarded overnight so that it couldn't be stolen by the boys from the neighbouring village. Decoration of households with birch twigs was also widespread. They were attached to doors, pictures, wall mirrors and on the front of house and courtyard doors. In the Mark Brandenburg, a ban on Maypole trees was issued on 21st July, 1747 with the aim of protecting the forest which was ruined at the time. The birch twigs were depicted as being harmful to people's health. Even in 1824, the Rathenow magistrate prohibited

decorating with wild flowers. At present, the custom is enjoying great popularity again.

In the autumn Thanksgiving and the „Schlachtfest“ contribute to rounding off the year. Since 1770 harvest festivals were celebrated as religious festivals. Parades were usually held which focused on the harvest crown. It was bound with ears of corn and flowers. In the villages, it headed a procession to the church or to the manor house. After the service there was a feast of fricassee at the farms. In addition, there were various amusements such as „Hahnenreiten“. In the afternoon and evening there was dancing. In Rathenow the harvest crown was handed over at the end of the procession through the city to the mayor and celebrated with music, beer, brandy and cake in the evening.

„Schlacht“ festivals resembled family reunions. Nearly all the relatives were involved. Everyone had his task. Thus the carrying of water fell on the youngest member of the family and blood stirring on the oldest woman. For the preparation of

meat and sausage, there were exact recipes, which of course were a secret. Tastings were rinsed down with one or more schnapps. The neighbours got boiled belly of pork and sausage hotpot. Today house slaughterings have become rare. However, there are many butchers with slaughter houses. Whether sausage or meat, everything is recommendable. There is a whole series of delicious-sounding recipes from which any chef can conjure up a very special menu.

Hint:

Ask at the Tourist Information. They have several cookery books with typical Havelland recipes, e.g

Havelländer Kochbuch (Havelland cookery book)

Birnen – meine Lieblingsrezepte (Pears – my favourite recipes)

Recipe for carp in beer

5 pounds of carp
4 bottles of malt beer
300 g onions
1.5L malt coffee
3 cloves
1 bay leaf
250g butter
Vinegar, salt and sugar to taste

Boil the spices in the liquids.

Trim and clean the fish and cut into handbreadth pieces. Simmer for about 10 minutes (until just cooked) then remove.

Melt the butter in a pan, sauté with flour, add to the sauce and return the fish pieces again.

Eat with boiled potatoes or rice pudding.

Fish in beer with rice pudding was a popular wedding dinner in Havelland.

Much of the information in this brochure is the result of Internet research from numerous sources. We cannot guarantee either the accuracy or the completeness of cross references. We are of the opinion that this should not be overrated in a non-commercial information brochure.

We are also always open to suggestions for improvement and corrections in the content so that we can consider these where appropriate in reprints. In this respect, the brochure stays „alive“. The section on „personalities“ is missing in this issue, since other topics should also be given a platform.

In addition, here is a list of printed references:

Rudolf Guthjahr · Havelstadt Rathenow – Kleine Chronik · Rathenow 1991

Kreisverwaltung Rathenow in Verbindung mit der Stadtverwaltung Rathenow · 775 Jahre Rathenow · Berlin 1991

Kreismuseum Rathenow - Fouqué · Rathenow 1993

Historisch archäologisches Inventar für die Stadt Rathenow im Auftrag des Landesmuseums zur Früh- und Urgeschichte

Dipl. oec. Willi Osterburg · Vergangenheit, Gegenwart und Perspektive der Rathenower Optischen Werke · Rathenower Heimatkalender 1960

Jupp Pütz · Johann Heinrich August Duncker · Rathenower Heimatkalender 1967

Helmut Batzke · „Duncker“ und die Entwicklung der Brillenoptik in Rathenow · Rathenower Heimatkalender 1972

Martin Sommerfeld · Die Entwicklung der Optischen Industrie in Rathenow nach der Wende · Rathenower Heimatkalender 1999

Dr. Karl Albrecht · Die Geschichte der Emil Busch AG · Erfurt 1925

Erika Guthjahr · Havelländers Jahreslauf Bräuche und Rezepte · Rathenow 1994

Gabriele Matthies · Die Havel

Eugen Gliege · Heimatsagen aus dem Havel-land · 1999

Ulla Röhle, Claudia Voigt · Aus dem Leben und Schaffen des Ingenieurs und Amateur-astronomen Edwin Rolf · maschinengeschriebenes MS · 1996

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Town of Rathenow

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