

ENTER THE

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■ CLASS



Welcome in the green region of Hunsrück and Naheland
Living and working in a genuine vacation site



Birkenfed County, situated in the southwest of the Federal State of Rhineland-Palatinate, is embedded in the diverse highland scenery of Hunsrück and Naheland with its ancient forests, river valleys and streams. Here, in the heart of Europe, its terrain forms a large part of the natural and cultural landscapes of the Saar-Hunsrück nature park within the European greater region of Saarland, Lorraine and Luxemburg. Its natural topography was a main reason why this region became one of the first areas for human settlements in central Europe. The upcoming Hunsrück National Park will sustainably preserve for future generations the intact natural beauty of this environmentally valuable landscape.

Due to our **central location** in the midst of important north-south and east-west transport routes, large national and international urban centers and airports are easily accessible. Thereby, the main transport routes are the federal highway A 62 and the federal roads B 41 and B 269. The Frankfurt-Hahn airport is actually located directly before our front door. There are also good connections to the airports in Frankfurt, Saarbrücken, Luxemburg and Zweibrücken. The train stations of Idar-Oberstein and Neubrücke enable direct access to the main railway line Mainz-Saarbrücken. Short distances and the absence of traffic jams is a reality for car journeys, bus trips, emergency services and the access to medical care. Furthermore, a dense network of general practitioners and specialists, as well as several clinics with its specialist departments, look after the well-being of the people.





For centuries, the traditional jewelry and gemstone industry has had a **strong economic influence** in this region in the German gem route. The many streams around Idar-Oberstein were used to operate the grinding machines for the exploitation of the mineral resources in the region. The international significance of Germany's gemstone capital is shown in the fact that the German Gemological Institute is based in Idar-Oberstein, and also one of the most important jewelry fairs is held here every year. The available skills used in the production of jewelry have also promoted the establishment of many hightech companies of the metal and plastic industries, as well as of the sensitive laboratory equipment industry. Some of these enterprises are leading national or international companies. Especially the regional automotive supply industry has build up a level of technological competence that has made it a preferred supplier of renowned automotive manufacturers. The unique mix of large, medium and small enterprises in the sectors of tourism, commerce, trade, industry and agriculture provides a solid offer of job and training opportunities.

Private retailers, fashion and electronics chains, as well as stores for building supplies and furniture can fulfill every demand relating **shopping**. In addition to supermarkets and neighborhood shops, there are weekly markets and numerous farm shops which offer a wide choice of natural foods and organic products from the region. The water from the Schwollen mineral springs are widely known beyond our region for its quality. Our district area also has a highspeed broadband network which allows comfortable access to the homeshopping market. Furthermore, appealing specialist and consumer fairs provide information about new products and offer the chance to acquire products at discount prices.





The county is also first-class in matters of **family-friendly life and living**. A wide network of day nurseries, kindergartens and schools with full-day care facilities, as well as a baby-sitter service, ensure that the youngest are being cared optimally the whole day. The advantageous housing offers make this region an affordable paradise in a green environment. The average price per square meter for rents, utilities not included, is under 5 Euros, and less than 1000 Euros for the purchase of real estate. Also, the price per square meter for building land is between 30 to 60 Euros. Additionally, relatively low insurance classes are offered in several insurance tariffs. Enthusiasts of historic buildings can apply for the subsidies of the village renewal program of the regional government. Thus, nothing stands in the way to your own dream house.

A **vast educational offer** includes all classic primary schools, intermediate secondary schools (Realschulen plus), academic highschools (Gymnasium), integrated comprehensive schools (integrierte Gesamtschule) – also with full-day offerings, as well as vocational schools (berufliche Schulen) and universities of applied sciences (Fachhochschulen). The Birkenfeld environmental campus and the campus for gemstone and jewelry design of the University of Trier in Idar-Oberstein are internationally leading study locations. Also, the regional Elisabeth-Stiftung adult education center in Birkenfeld and other local associations offer a broad range of learning opportunities for adults





You will be spoilt for choice with the **lively cultural life** in the region. A 3D cinema center and arthouse cinemas present latest blockbusters and film classics. Hundreds of thousands visit the countless funfair events along the year, including the nationwide well-known Spießbratenfest in Idar-Oberstein, the Veitsröder Prämienmarkt, as well as a wide variety of other fairs. The several thousand year-old regional history comes alive in a unique museum landscape. In the worldwide known German Gemstone Museum, along with the Celtic settlement Altburg, the slate mine in Herrenberg and the copper mine in Fischbach, human history lives from the early Iron Age until today.

A wide variety of musical and theater events offer the right program for every taste, from rock, pop and folk music through jazz and big-band swing to classical music. Some highlights are the numerous open air events like the Idar-Oberstein Jazz Days, the Altburg folk festival, the Hexenrock festival, chamber concerts in Castle Birkenfeld, as well as regular opera performances on natural settings – with nationally and internationally renowned musicians. The State Theater Idar-Oberstein and other smaller stages complement the county's extensive stage program with theater, cabaret and smaller artwork performances. Thereby, the top events every year are the Idar-Obersteiner Theatersommer in Castle Oberstein, as part of the Kultursommer Rheinland-Pfalz, and the Karl May Festival at the open-air stage in Mörschied, well known across the regional borders.





Almost every community stands out with a local sports club and own sport complexes with a comprehensive program of **sport activities**. The wide choice of sports range from classical ball sports, athletics and swimming through fitness activities and martial arts to equestrian sports and golf. For ambitious gymnasts stands ready the regional training center for gymnastics. Aviation sports enthusiasts can find two clubs with own airports for gliding, motorized and ultra-light flying, as well as model airplane flying. Motor sport, with several active clubs, has a long regional tradition. That is why it is not surprising that the ADAC Germany Rally route for the World Rally Championship also leads through the Birkenfeld County. Especially for those who want to experience unspoilt nature, there is an exemplary offering to discover the scenic attractions by bike or on foot. There is also a dense network of award-winning premium hiking trails, certainly unique in Germany. For them who like more thrilling activities, the

Baumholder climbing and high rope course and the Hambachtal holiday park is just right. Due to its rich fauna, the region is also an attractive ground for hunters and anglers. Also the Hunsrück heights, with the 816 meter high Erbeskopf, the highest mountain in Rhineland-Palatinate – is an ideal surrounding for skiing and luge sports – which even offers a summer toboggan.

The local **gastronomy in Hunsrück and Naheland** treats its guests to regional culinary specialties like the Idar-Oberstein spit roast, potato sausage, stuffed dumplings and, of course, venison dishes of all sorts. The top gourmet cuisine is also at home in Hunsrück. Three of the 100 best German restaurants are located in this region. Many family-run restaurants complement the offers of restaurants and country-inns with a wide variety of Italian, Greek, Turkish, Indian, Japanese and Chinese cuisines.



Further information can be obtained at:

Media and Press

Nahe-Zeitung/Rhein-Zeitung
Wochen-Spiegel Idar-Oberstein
Birkenfelder Anzeiger
Stadtfacette Idar-Oberstein
Dorfschelle (VG Herrstein)
Idarwald-Rundschau
Westricher Rundschau
Radio Idar-Oberstein

Leisure

Naturpark Saar-Hunsrück
Saar-Hunsrück-Steig
Naheland-Touristik
Deutsche Edelsteinstraße
Deutsches Edelsteinmuseum
Landesmuseum Birkenfeld
Historisches Kupferbergwerk Fischbach
Wildfreigehege Wildenburg

Housing and Real Estate

Gebäudebörse VG Herrstein
Gebäudebörse VG Baumholder
Kreissparkasse Birkenfeld
Volksbank Hunsrück-Nahe eG
Raiffeisenbank Nahe eG

Administration

Kreisverwaltung Birkenfeld
Stadt Baumholder
Stadt Birkenfeld
Stadt Idar-Oberstein
Verbandsgemeinde Birkenfeld
Verbandsgemeinde Herrstein
Verbandsgemeinde Rhaunen
Verbandsgemeinde Baumholder

Schools and Universities

Göttenbach-Gymnasium
Gymnasium an der Heinenwies
Gymnasium Birkenfeld
Berufsbildende Schule Wirtschaft
Berufsbildende Schule Technik
Umwelt-Campus Birkenfeld, Hochschule Trier
Campus für Edelstein - und Schmuckdesign, Hochschule Trier

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