

General press information

Press information to the map “German Museum’s route

Germany discovers its automobile museums - 250 times pure vintage car fascination!
Pure vintage car fascination – a route with 250 auto museums

A museum’s route with 250 goals: Germany and its vintage car collections.

The Association presents “The German Museum’s route” with vehicle museums of the whole nation.

Honestly, did you know how many auto-and motorcycle museums are existing? And did you evaluate it at 250? If not, you are not alone – also experts of the vintage car scene were astonished.

To compile and to make available a complete directory of all German automobile and motorcycle museums for everybody has been the basic idea of the “Association of German Museums for Auto, Motor and Technology” which exists since 25 year.

All of Germany should once discover the host of its mobile treasures in museums and collections, beginning in their own neighborhood at best. The outcome is now presented to you.

Golden Map for orientation

Mayor part is a special map, fully brass-colored and in line with the vintage car era. It classifies the nation into 8 regions and these ones into individual areas, well-known bigger cities within these areas will guide you to the museums you like to visit. A notional route, showing the way from one area to another, from the far North to the Alps, can be generated.

The whole diversity of our automobile history

Visiting these museums visitors can find all sorts of “self-propelling” vehicles, namely automobiles of every description, motorcycles, mopeds or motor-assisted bicycles, special vehicles like police cars and fire engines as well as steam – and electric powered vehicles. This diversity can be continued with the already showed marks – current ones as well as ones which got out of sight. Other museums additionally come up with other means of transport like trains, steam engines or planes, they show stationary machines or accessories- according to the collector’s museum’s director individually set up objectives.

Do automobile museums bloom in hiding?

One might think so. Because compared with other cultural establishments, auto- and technology museums are rarely in the spotlight. A view on the museum’s map shows one of the reasons: The collections often reside faraway from well-known cultural metropolises – they had been established out in the country, in rather unknown places – one couldn’t find them without a directory. Moreover that one almost never knows or hears about them is due to another reason: driving a museum is not a profitable business- deducting maintenance costs there is almost nothing left for advertising and public relations. It is even the automobile which deserves a lot of attention and a detailed look into its fascination past.

The automobile – for most of us of great importance

Where does the common saying “The automobile- the Germans favorite plaything” comes from? There are different answers. First of all the well-known facts: Gentlemen Daimler and Benz not only invented the automobile but also started to drive it on the street- this is in the meantime an indisputable fact – it has its origin in Germany. The fact that in the following years German technology again achieved top performances shows the Germans inventive genius and pursuit of perfection, their impulse to work meticulously. This development can be

followed until nowadays. German auto marks are the world's most renowned ones, the Frankfurter IAA is the biggest automobile exhibition and at formula one races or at the 24 hours of Le Mans German drivers, automobiles and engines rank first.

If you go ahead you will see that Germans are reliant on automobiles. Every seventh German directly or indirectly deals with this industrial sector. But also the ones who are not directly concerned really loves autos – in rarely no other country one pay more attention to this vehicle as in Germany. No matter whether it is due to their sheer driving pleasure or their leading position in technology it shows Germans affinity for and their multiple connections to their car. Not to mention their intensified passion to motorsports, which, since successes of the “Schumacher Brothers”, captivates an important part of the population at each Grand Prix. The oldie scene keeps up with this trend. More than 1.000 clubs tenderly care for the historical pieces, every season weekend offers various possibilities to meet or to go for a ride.

German – vanguard of the museum's scene!

The presentable number of 250 museal collections is europeanwide supposed to be unsurpassed- The concentration in the South West of Germany shows the Mecca of Germany's “national treasure”. Therewith the museum's scene retraced the special importance of two-and four-wheeled vehicles in our country. Where else one can trace, by means of more than 20.000 exhibits, automobiles history of development started in 1886. Or in other words: Technological progress- driving spirit of motorized locomotion- where can you find, study and compare it- and finally adapt it to future developments. As the objective of the exercise may be to learn from the issues arising from this discovery tour through a multitude of designs and inventions. A look back to the past sharpens notion of future as the chief engineer of a car company, himself vintage car fan, recently remarked. It is not a matter of preserving “ashes”, the point is to feed the fire. Therefore 250 cultural sites have been establishes!

Individual presentation with accessories

Museums refuse to be like car parks, therefore they attach great importance to accessories. Automobile industry even raised the bar. Thanks to remarkable investments the subject “tradition” is presented in new formats, former works museums became and will become new glass palaces for the past, the present and the future of each mark. Numerous other museums are challenged with the task of a neutral, cultural and historical overall view – from different angles. Entering a museum one can often already imagine, by the selected decoration, what the museum's owner likes to communicate to his visitors. Be it with lovely decoration and equipped with accessories here and with pure technology there. Also places differ: Castle stables, restored barns, former factories or modern halls. This makes out the special charm, there are always new spotlights, restaged car presentations, all museums are different from each other. Moreover there are often further local places of interest or scenic attraction around the museums, so that a trip is worth it in every sense.

Museal highlights nearby your route

No matter whether you have fun following the proposed route or you come around here and there on a business or holiday trip, you will be surprised anew by a fascinating contingent of interesting, sometimes even unique vehicles. Take your time, have your senses spoiled – each museum whets the appetite for the next one!

Worthwhile visits –worth one's while!

Kindly enjoy all of your visits at the museums; the visual experience will surely persuade you that the museums owners did their best to give you an understanding of their “treasures” and

their mobile past. Mostly it is a question of idealism from the side of the museum's initiator and his volunteers, which keeps on moving museum's activities and its existence. It is an obvious fact, that museum's owners don't earn their livings or become wealthy by the admission fees of their visitors.

Further information available on : www.deutsche-museumsstrasse.de

Official Museum' directory for the museum's map

In close cooperation with the author Dieter Lammersdorf a museum's directory called "Vintage Car Museums in Germany" had been elaborated, summarizing all member organizations of the association. It serves as an official museum's directory of the association. Similarly to the eight areas of the museum's map the directory is also classified in eight chapters. Every museum is accurately described: Name, address, phone, fax, internet-address, opening hours, entrance fees, directions partly with maps, vehicle type and number as well as special exhibition pieces. Please find in the attachment two imprinted registers. The first one is sorted alphabetically to the name of the location. The second one is arranged according to the museum's name and contains, apart from postal codes and locations, also museum's internet-addresses. The compact size and the useful spiral binding really proves that the directory has been designed by a practician. The book page with the selected auto museum may remain flipped open on the co-driver's seat. This year the 5th edition of the directory will be reprinted and published in time for the 25th anniversary of the association.

Further Information available on: www.oldtimermuseen.de

Previous 4th edition (remainder): Vintage car museums in Germany, 196 pages, 166 black-and-white photographs, 42 maps, format 11x 22cm, spiral binding, Johann Kleine-Vennekate-publishing, 32657 Lemgo (ISBN 3-935517-06-8. Data in regard to the 5th edition (starting on 7th of July 2014) is forthcoming.

Let's go for a discovery tour

On the museum's map (download) some of our museums will be presented in a short form, for a first impression and in order to show the dissimilarity of the individual collections. It is easy to relocate each of the three-figure numbers on the map. The first figure presents the region (1-8), the second one the area and the third one the position of the museum. It is no longer difficult to relocate small villages, if necessary also with a real map.