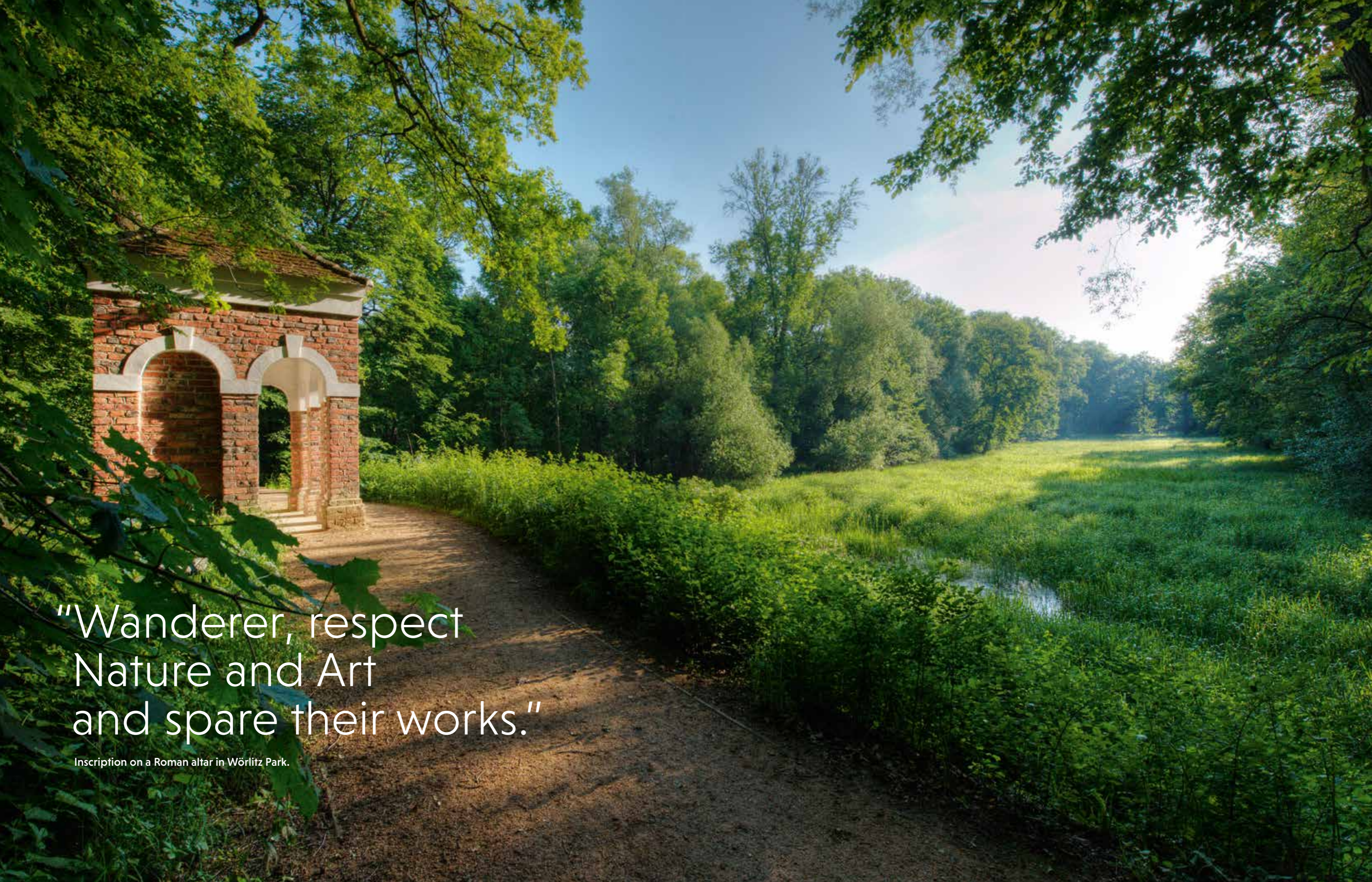




Dessau  
↳ Roßlau

# Gropius Louise Tante Ju Visit Dessau.

A European journey  
[visitdessau.com](http://visitdessau.com)



"Wanderer, respect  
Nature and Art  
and spare their works."

Inscription on a Roman altar in Wörlitz Park.



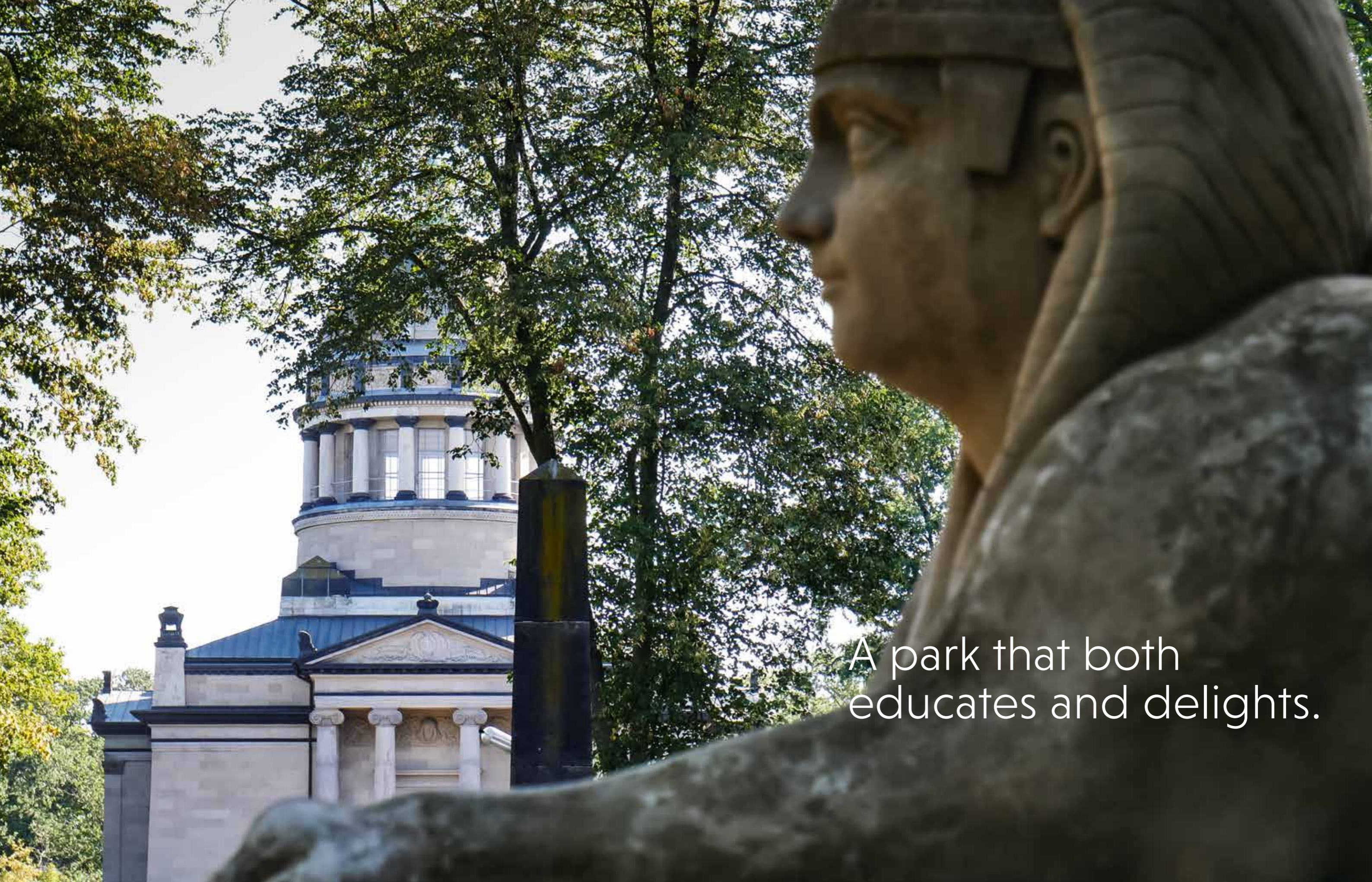
Bauhaus students on the balcony of the studio building.

# Welcome to Europe

When Prince Franz von Anhalt-Dessau set off on an educational trip through Europe in 1765, he could not have foreseen that his home region would still bear the stamp of his Grand Tour to this day. After his return, filled with new impressions and inspiration, he decided to make his principality an enlightened European country. During the following decades, English-style parks, Roman and Dutch edifices that had nothing to envy the originals and even Greek temples grew up here.

In the early 20th century, the Bauhaus attracted artists from all over Europe. Wassily Kandinsky brought a Russian influence, to which Paul Klee added ideas from Switzerland, and László Moholy-Nagy his experience of the Hungarian School. They were all teachers at the Bauhaus School and later disseminated the spirit of the Bauhaus all over the world. At the same period, Hugo Junkers was laying in Dessau the foundations of civil aviation that linked Europe more closely together.

To this day, the town and its surrounding region reflect this European way of thinking in many different ways. We'll take you on a European journey through the Dessau-Roßlau region, where you'll discover UNESCO World Heritage sites, the venues of the region's eventful history, cultural gems, gorgeous gardens, unspoiled river landscapes and much more besides.



A park that both  
educates and delights.



View of the Mosigkau Rococo Palace from the palace garden



## The whole country a garden

**The Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz has enraptured visitors for generations. Today, it is one of UNESCO's World Heritage sites. But even at the time of its creation in the 18th century, it was considered to be one of Europe's most beautiful man-made landscapes. Goethe visited it frequently. "It is infinitely beautiful here," he wrote to Charlotte von Stein. "It moved me deeply that the gods have allowed the prince to create a dream around himself."**

Let's start our European journey in England. In our case, that's in Wörlitz Park, the first landscape garden in continental Europe created on the English model. Wörlitz Palace is one of the earliest neoclassical palace buildings outside the British Isles. It has an impressive collection of Wedgwood pottery and numerous elegant details. Another reminder of the United Kingdom is the Iron Bridge over the Georgskanal (George Canal), which is a scaled-down replica of the Iron Bridge at Coalbrookdale.

Our next stop is Italy. Insel Stein, the Isle of Stone, is a reminder of the prince's stay in the Bay of Naples. It has rocky passageways, grottoes, temples, an amphitheatre and an artificial volcano modelled on Vesuvius which, thanks to clever sound, light and water effects, can even spew out "lava". At the foot of the artificial volcano lies Villa Hamilton, reminiscent of the Casino di Mappinola on

the Posillipo coast. But an Italian flair also permeates Georgium Park – the outline of which is similar to the boot-shape of Italy – the Piedmontese farmhouse, the Weinbergsschlösschen, or "wine château" in Kühnau Park, and the Pantheon on the river side of the flood wall in Wörlitz.

The journey continues to Holland. Together, Oranienbaum and the palace park are an impressive example of a largely Netherlands-inspired Baroque site with a large collection of citrus plants, one of the longest orangeries in Europe and, in Oranienbaum Palace, a summer dining room tiled entirely with Dutch tiles. Similarly, in the Gallery of Mosigkau Palace, you can discover Dutch and Flemish painters, such as Rubens and Brueghel.

Three countries in one day? You can certainly manage even more than that.

**Luisium Park and Palace → Georgium Park and Palace → Grosskühnau Landscape Park → Oranienbaum Park and Palace → Mosigkau Park and Palace → Sieglitz Hill → Wörlitz Park**

"Combining utility with beauty."

**Prince Leopold III Friedrich Franz (1740 – 1817)**

In the almost 60 years of his reign, the prince succeeded in carrying out an unparalleled programme of landscape embellishment. Back then, visitors to the parks could learn a lot about the buildings of antiquity, the fine arts and architecture, and they still can today.



**DON'T MISS →**

**Old Masters in the Garden Kingdom**

The Anhalt Art Gallery in Dessau is one of the most important sights in the UNESCO World Heritage Site Dessau-Wörlitz Garden Kingdom. Following the restoration of Georgium Palace, the Old Masters from Cranach to Rubens returned to their original location in 2023. The collection can now be experienced in a literally new light in a breadth and completeness never before possible since its foundation. Paintings from the late Middle Ages to the early modern period provide a rich insight into European art history.

The painting collection focuses on Dutch painting from the 15th to 18th century and German painting from the 15th to early 19th century. The rich collection of prints and drawings includes drawings and prints from the 14th century to the present day.

More at [gemaeldegalerie.dessau-rosslau.de](http://gemaeldegalerie.dessau-rosslau.de)



**DON'T MISS**

**Mosigkau Palace via app**

The ceremonial rooms of Mosigkau Castle can be explored via app. In the digital tour, you can learn more about the famous paintings in the Garden Hall, their painters and the stories behind them.

[gartenreich.de](http://gartenreich.de)

**← DON'T MISS**

**Princess Louise's hideaway**

250 years ago, Prince Franz gave his wife a plot of land near the royal seat of Dessau for her 24th birthday. This was also linked to the promise to erect a princely building for her here. The result was a masterpiece by the architect Erdmannsdorff: a classicist palace with simple yet perfect proportions. It is surrounded by an intimate English landscape park.



**DON'T MISS**

**Gartenreichsommer festival**

Concerts and theatrical performances in the palaces and parks of Dessau-Wörlitz Garden Kingdom  
May – September

[gartenreichsommer.de](http://gartenreichsommer.de)

**← DON'T MISS**

**Cabaret festival**

On two summer evenings, Oranienbaum Palace Park will host top-class cabaret on around 20 stages.  
14. and 15.06.2024

**DON'T MISS**

**The volcano is calling!**

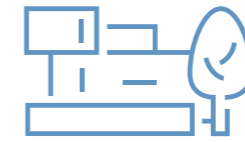
The artificial volcano on Stone Island will once again spew smoke and ash. The eruption of the Wörlitz Vesuvius is an unforgettable experience  
16. and 17.08.2024



In search of the spirit  
of modernism.



Garden view of Lyonel Feininger's Master's House



## The happiness of clean lines

**In Dessau-Roßlau, there is no escaping the Bauhaus. Nowhere else can this architectural style be experienced in such abundance. The town has more than 300 original buildings, including some, such as the Bauhaus Building, the Masters' Houses and the Houses with Balcony Access (Laubenganghäuser), which are UNESCO World Heritage sites. Wassily Kandinsky, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Marianne Brandt – all of them were here. When will you be coming?**

When the school of art, design and architecture designed by Walter Gropius was inaugurated in 1926, visitors came from Europe and all over the world to marvel at it. Such a Gesamtkunstwerk of glass, steel and concrete had never been seen before. The building still cogently embodies what the architect wished back then: "Together let us create the new building of the future!"

With bold blueprints, functional design and a delight in experimentation, from that time on the Bauhaus revolutionised the architecture, art and crafts of the 20th century. Out of the academies, into the workshops and into life was the artists' credo. They wanted to develop "radical solutions to the problems of our time", to create beautiful and useful things and affordable, modern living space for all. This "joy of clean lines" comes across when

you visit the Master's Houses estate, where white cubes shine out between the pine trees. But the Historical Employment Office and the idyllically situated riverside restaurant, the Kornhaus, show that functional architecture can also have sweeping, rounded lines.

Bauhaus Museum Dessau was inaugurated in 2019 to mark the centenary of the founding of the Bauhaus. The following year, the International Association of Art critics (AICA) named it Museum of the Year. The collection recounts the history of this famous school with more than 1,000 exhibits. It describes the Bauhaus as a lively place of learning and teaching, where artistic experiments were conducted and industrial prototypes developed. A must, whether for Bauhaus connoisseurs or anyone just discovering it.

**Bauhaus Building → Masters' Houses → Houses with Balcony Access → Bauhaus Museum Dessau → Kornhaus → Törten Housing Estate → Konsum Building → Historical Employment Office**



**Walter Gropius**  
Founder of the Bauhaus and its first director  
from 1919 to 1928

„Colourful  
is my  
favourite colour.“



**DON'T MISS**

Learn, explore and experiment  
in **Bauhaus Museum Dessau**

Can you dance with glass? Can light create? What is the origin of all creativity? These and other questions are investigated in the exhibition Versuchsstätte Bauhaus (The Bauhaus Laboratory) in Bauhaus Museum Dessau. This does more than display the treasures in one of the world's greatest Bauhaus collections. The museum is an open stage that invites visitors young and old to actively explore, and even to become Bauhaus designers themselves, to experiment with materials and forms or be inspired to play a Bauhaus game. You can do all of this and much more besides in the new, glazed museum building.

Tickets at  
[bauhaus-dessau.de](http://bauhaus-dessau.de)



← **DON'T MISS**

A view of the Elbe from the  
**Kornhaus terrace**

In Dessau, the most beautiful view to be had is at the curve in the River Elbe called the Elbbogen. On this popular excursion destination a restaurant was built in 1930 on the site of a former granary to designs by Carl Fieger.

More at  
[kornhaus-dessau.de](http://kornhaus-dessau.de)

**DON'T MISS**

Sleep in style in the  
**Bauhaus Building**

In the workshops, restored to reflect how they looked at the time, the atmosphere of the Bauhaus persists to this day. You sleep where people such as Marcel Breuer, Hannes Meyer, Marianne Brandt and Gunta Stölzl once lived.

Book at  
[bauhaus-dessau.de](http://bauhaus-dessau.de)



**DON'T MISS**

**Spatial stage**

The foyer in the Bauhaus Museum Dessau becomes a space for movement and encounters. Christina Werner – Rhythm is a dancer  
08.02. – 03.12.2024

**DON'T MISS**

**T. Lux Feininger and  
his Bauhaus family**

Exhibition at the Feininger Master's House  
24.02. – 21.04.2024

← **DON'T MISS**

**Bauhaus Festival 2024**

The Bauhaus dances! 100 years  
of the legendary Bauhaus band.  
06. and 07.09.2024



European theatre  
to commemorate and  
experience.



Performance in the historic wind tunnel of the Junkers factory



## When the town becomes a stage

**While the influence of Prince Franz is clearly visible first and foremost in the Garden Kingdom, the architect and master-builder Carlo Ignazio Pozzi also left his mark on the Dessau townscape. During his time as head of urban planning in Anhalt-Dessau in the 19th century, he drew inspiration from a large number of European influences that can still be seen today.**

Dessau's historical buildings are not only witnesses to an eventful European past. At the same time, they serve as the backdrop for a contrasting range of cultural offerings that attract numerous visitors to the town year after year. Within the space of a few square kilometres, an exceptionally large cultural diversity can be enjoyed here. In Dessau-Roßlau, only a few steps separate the princely palace from the modernist Bauhaus. Or one of the largest theatres in Saxony-Anhalt from the art gallery with its German, Dutch and Flemish paintings by old masters.

If you like, you can continue the European trip you began in the Garden Kingdom in the town: right in the middle of Dessau town centre, outside the Museum of Natural History and Prehistory, you are suddenly reminded of Italy. No wonder – the architecture is modelled on that of the Santo Spirito hospital in Rome. The journey continues to Greece. The Napoleon

Tower in Mildensee was modelled on the Tower of the Winds in Athens. Even Russia is represented. Haideburg hunting lodge in the south of the town is a visual relative of Königsberg Castle – Königsberg being the former name of Kaliningrad. The Fremdenhaus, or "guest house", in Georgium Park combines no fewer than four European architectural styles. Each façade presents a different country: Italy, Netherlands, Germany and England.

These different European settings really come to life during the annual festivals that take place throughout the town. These include the Kurt Weill Festival, which commemorates one of Dessau's best-known sons. During the Bauhaus Festival too, the whole town becomes a stage where culture unfolds in often the most unusual places – in St. Mary's Church, the Masters' Houses, the zoo or in historic workshops. Where will we find you?

**Hugo Junkers Engineering Museum → Anhalt Theatre → Johannbau Palace → Federal Environment Agency → Anhalt Art Gallery → Moses Mendelssohn Centre → Kurt Weill Centre → Roßlau Navigation Museum → St. Mary's Church → Zoo → Water Castle Roßlau → Middle German Theatre**

# The performing arts, a window on the world

The theatre tradition in Dessau goes back a long way. There has been a permanent theatre company here for over two hundred years. Today, the town offers a broad and exciting range of performing arts. First and foremost among them is the Anhalt Theatre's wide-ranging programme from opera to puppet theatre for children and adults. Exciting venues and unusual backdrops for concerts can be found throughout the town. Enjoy cultural events in the Bauhaus Building, the Water Castle in Roßlau, the DB vehicle maintenance workshop, and the palaces and parks of the Garden Kingdom.



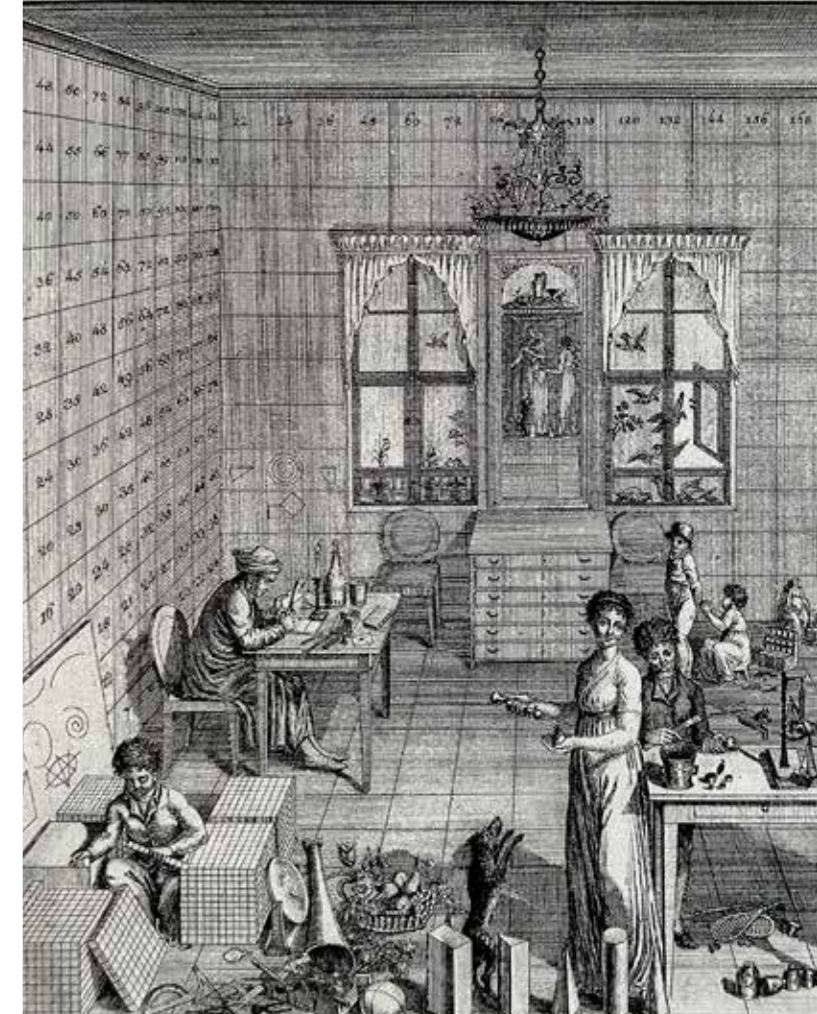
**DON'T MISS →**

## 250 years of **Philanthropinum**

The Dessau Philanthropinum, founded in 1774 by Johann Bernhard Basedow, is regarded as the most important German reform school of the 18th century. The institution was a showpiece of its time, whose innovative power extended far beyond Dessau and not only had an impact on potential pupils and their parents and teachers, but also prompted enlightened publicists in Germany and Europe to focus on Dessau in their writings.

Even today, the Dessau Philanthropinum enjoys an exceptionally high level of national and international renown. The enormous educational impact of the Dessau Philanthropinum to this day is to be honoured in a year of celebrations in 2024 to mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of this school.

More information about the festive programme:  
[visitdessau.com/250-years-of-philanthropinum](https://visitdessau.com/250-years-of-philanthropinum)



**← DON'T MISS**

## **Hugo Junkers Engineering Museum**

Learn more about Hugo Junkers' pioneering spirit and visit "Tante Ju" ("Aunt Ju") – one of the best-known aircrafts in aviation history.

More at  
[technikmuseum-dessau.org](https://technikmuseum-dessau.org)

**DON'T MISS**

## **Dessau Zoo**

In an idyllic location next to the Park Georgium, the Dessau Zoo is home to 120 animal species. Special emphasis is placed on native species that have become rare.



**DON'T MISS**

## **Kurt Weill Festival**

International music festival in honour of the Dessau-born composer Kurt Weill.  
23.02. - 10.03.2024

**← DON'T MISS**

## **Cultural diversity at the Water Castle**

Europe's largest ska festival "This is Ska" has been inspiring a loyal fan base for over 20 years  
20. - 22.06.2024

During the Burgtheater Summer, the Water Castle is transformed into a fantastic theatre setting.  
16.07. - 18.08.2024



Cyclists by the Kornhaus on the Elbe Cycle Route.



## Paradise on wheels

**This is the ideal region for anyone wishing to explore it by bike. Thanks to the largely flat and well-developed network of cycle paths, cycling here is pure pleasure and easy even for children. But if the distance is too great for you, there's a convenient alternative: bikes can be taken free of charge on local trains.**

Everything worth seeing in Dessau-Roßlau can be easily explored on two wheels, for example, by taking the Prince Franz Garden Kingdom tour, a circular route that takes in all the palaces and parks and leads you through the uniquely scenic water meadows by the Elbe. Or a tour of all the Bauhaus buildings in and around the town – from the Kornhaus by the Elbe to Törten Housing Estate.

If you prefer a more natural setting, you'll get your money's worth in the virtually unspoiled water meadows of the UNESCO MittelElbe Biosphere Reserve. Through green pastures with grazing Heck cattle and mighty solitary oaks, through dense forests, past sleepy lakes and ponds, moments of paramount enjoyment await nature-loving visitors. The flora and fauna are both diverse and unique. If you are lucky, you might even spot some wild horses.

Here, even the tiniest creatures are surrounded by a hint of romanticism – such

**Prince Franz Garden Kingdom Tour → Bauhaus Buildings cycle trail → Elbe Cycle Route → R1 European Cycle Route → Mulde Cycle Route → Fläming Cycle Route → Luther Way → Hiking paths through the Elbe water meadows**

as *Brachyopa silviae*, a new species of hover fly that was discovered in this region. The water meadows are also ideal for long walks. They are crossed by the E11 European long-distance hiking path, as well as the Luther Way hiking path that takes ramblers on a pilgrimage in the footsteps of the great Reformer. The water meadow nature trails, of which there are many here, are perfect for shorter rambles. They are a great way of combining restful recreation and discovery.

Do you want to set off on a long journey from Dessau? Easy! Dessau- Roßlau is a crossroads where numerous inter-regional cycle paths meet. The Mulde Cycle Route snakes its way from here to its source in the Erzgebirge, or Ore Mountains. Moreover, the route of the Elbe Cycle Route, regularly named Germany's most popular cycle path, passes through the town. And via the European Cycle Route, the more valiant cyclists can go as far as St. Petersburg or Brittany.

# A day in the saddle

## The Prince Franz Garden Kingdom Tour

You can join the 68-kilometre circular route anywhere, but the official starting point is at the place where the Elbe Cycle Route turns off the Aken-Dessau road. From there, it takes you through Kühnau park to the Beckerbruch water meadows in the park of Georgium Palace. It continues via the Luisium and Sieglitz Hill, past Vockerode to Wörlitz. From there, the route takes you to Oranienbaum, then via Mildensee, Törten, Haideburg and Kochstedt to Mosigkau, from where you can return to your starting point.



## DON'T MISS →

### Head for adventure with your caravan or motorhome

Whether in Dessau-Roßlau or any of the surrounding towns in the World Heritage region of Anhalt-Dessau-Wittenberg, on the banks of the Elbe or in the Fläming or Dübener Heide Nature Parks – the region offers caravanning fans numerous idyllic spots for a relaxing holiday in their very own house on wheels. You can access all the not-to-be-missed tourist sights and destinations at very little cost – especially if you have your bikes with you as well. Our Tourist Information team will be glad to help you plan your trip.

More information

[visitdessau.com/en/campground](https://visitdessau.com/en/campground)



## ← DON'T MISS

### Take a dip!

Several outdoor pools and bathing places in and around Dessau-Roßlau provide a chance to cool off on hot days. On the lakes in the former lignite mining area around Bitterfeld, you can have fun swimming, wakeboarding, sailing or taking out a pedal-boat. If you prefer something less energetic, you can take a boat trip on the extensive Lake Goitzsche, or enjoy the view from the Goitzsche area's emblematic landmark, the Pegelturm tower. Or take a canoe trip on the Elbe to discover the Mittelbe Biosphere Reserve from a whole new perspective.

More information

[visitdessau.com/freizeit/aktiv-unterwegs](https://visitdessau.com/freizeit/aktiv-unterwegs)



## ← DON'T MISS

### Get closer to nature

In the Auenhaus Information Centre on the road between Dessau and Oranienbaum, the special features of the Mittelbe Biosphere Reserve come to life. Numerous interactive terminals provide fascinating facts and information for all the family. Admission is free. By bike, the Information Centre is accessible from the Prince Franz cycle path. The Dessau-Wörlitz train also stops close by.

The reopening of the beaver enclosure is scheduled for 2023. Here you can get a direct insight into a beaver lodge.

More at

[mittelbe.com](https://mittelbe.com)

# A wealth of experiences at any season

Dessau lies at the centre of the Anhalt-Dessau-Wittenberg World Heritage region. Nature parks, towns with a rich history and witnesses of past industrial times invite you to discover and linger – all within a radius of some 30 kilometres around Dessau.



Sailing trip on Lake Bergwitz



Impressive lignite mining technology

Bathing fun, water sports and cultural highlights in the former coal-mining area. The structural change is tangible here. For example, in Ferropolis, where five lignite excavators form a unique backdrop for an open-air museum and festival ground.

Whether you travel back in time to the year 1517 in the Asisi Panorama or visit the original sites Castle Church, Melancthon House, Town Church and Luther House in the historic town centre, all part of the UNESCO World Heritage: Lutherstadt Wittenberg offers many opportunities to discover the history of the Reformation.



Luther House in Wittenberg

Not only in Dessau, but also in the Anhalt residence towns of Bernburg, Köthen and Zerbst, you can learn a lot about the history of the Princely House and important personalities such as Johann Sebastian Bach, Catherine the Great or Johann Friedrich Fasch.

On excursions and explorations in the Dübener Heide and Fläming nature parks there is much to experience for young and old. Information centres introduce visitors to the local flora and fauna and explain the history of the formation of the end moraine landscape.

Learn more

[anhalt-dessau-wittenberg.de/en](http://anhalt-dessau-wittenberg.de/en)



Autumnal play of colours in the Luisium Park



# Tourist Information Offices in Dessau and Roßlau

Before setting off on your European journey, you can find further inspiration on our online and social media channels.

All our offers of excursions, guided tours, events, town tours, sights to see and full information direct to your screen.

We look forward to seeing you.  
Have a good trip!

[visitdessau.com](https://www.visitdessau.com)

 [visitdessau](https://www.facebook.com/visitdessau)  [visit.dessau](https://www.instagram.com/visit.dessau)

## Dessau Tourist Information

Ratsgasse 11  
06844 Dessau-Roßlau  
Tel +49 340 882920-00  
[post@visitdessau.com](mailto:post@visitdessau.com)

### Opening times

November to March  
Mon – Fri 10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.  
Sat 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.  
April to October  
Mon – Fri 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.  
Sat 10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.

## Roßlau Tourist information

Hauptstr. 11  
06862 Dessau-Roßlau  
Tel +49 34901 82467  
[post@visitdessau.com](mailto:post@visitdessau.com)

### Opening times

Mon 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 a.m.  
1.00 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.  
Tue 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 a.m.  
1.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.  
Thu 1.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.  
Fri 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 a.m.

By the way, it's easy to get here from any direction:



## By car

**A9 Berlin – München**  
Dessau-Ost and Dessau-Süd exits  
**A2 Dortmund – Berlin**, Burg exit  
**A14 Magdeburg – Dresden**,  
Calbe exit  
Trunk roads B 184, B 185, B 187



## By air

Leipzig-Halle **60 km**  
Berlin **130 km**  
Dessau commercial airfield **5 km**  
[flugplatz-dessau.de](https://www.flugplatz-dessau.de)



## By bike

Elbe Cycle Route [elberadweg.de](https://www.elberadweg.de)  
R1 European Cycle Route  
[europaradweg-r1.net](https://www.europaradweg-r1.net)  
Mulde Cycle Route [mulderadweg.de](https://www.mulderadweg.de)



## By rail

[bahn.de](https://www.bahn.de) Information for train connections to and from Dessau, hourly or half-hourly connections to major railway stations in Berlin, Magdeburg, Leipzig, Halle, Lutherstadt Wittenberg  
[insa.de](https://www.insa.de) Information for rail, buses and trams in the city and the region



## By water

Elbe, **river kilometre 261**  
Moorings and slipway in Leopold Harbour  
Elbe / Historical reaction ferry from Coswig to Wörlitz



## Dessau-Wörlitzer Railway

19 kilometres of track to the Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz  
[dvg-dessau.de](https://www.dvg-dessau.de)

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Curtain up on exciting  
things to see and do!



#VisitDessau