

Hiking around Treis-Karden

Tourist-Information Treis-Karden - St. Castor-Str. 87 - 56253 Treis-Karden - Tel. 0049 2672-9157700 - touristinfo@vgcochem.de - www.treis-karden.de



The Lenus Mars Trail (5,1 km)

The 5,1 km Lenus Mars Trail links the villages of Karden and Pommern. Information boards en route tell you everything you need to know about the excavations and settlements at the temple complex. As you make your way up the trail, you'll find a number of wooden sculptures of Celtic warriors, a Roman lady and the saint Castor. A map of the route can be found on the information boards in Karden (at the end of the street called "Unter den Weinbergen") and in Pommern ("Am Goldberg"). The marked trail can be used all year round. Sturdy footwear is recommended. There are places to stop for food and drink in the villages.

Martberg hill, about 180 metres above the river Moselle between Pommern and Karden, was the location of a fortified town-like Celtic settlement. The centre of the settlement, known as an *oppidum* by the Romans became the site of a Gallo-Roman temple, a visible reminder of the tumultuous history played out by the Celts and the Romans in the Moselle region. It was a shrine to Lenus Mars, the Roman god after whom Martberg hill was named. In its heyday, around 200 AD, this ritual site was home to numerous temples. Thanks to many years of excavation, parts of the temple complex have now been restored. Guided tours of the complex and the main temple with its wall paintings are available throughout the year. Archaeological finds - including weapons, jewellery and thousands of Celtic and Roman coins - provide an insight into the ritual activities that took place some 2,000 years previously.

Individual items are on show in the Museum of Religious History. Numerous information boards are found in the temple complex and along the Lenus Mars Trail. They tell you all about the reconstructions and archaeological research into the Celtic oppidum and the fortifications.

Boxwood Walking trail (4,1 km)

The Boxwood Walking trail (4,1 km) connects the village of Karden with that of Müden. Information boards at the beginning (in Karden: at the end of the Burg Eltz road and in Müden at the Early Frankish Graveyard) show the course of the trail. There are four information boards along the route explaining the common boxwood, the flora and fauna, St. Castor and the terraced scenery of the Moselle river.

From Müden: The trail leads along a broad road through the vineyards and further along a small path to Krailsbach. Going uphill the trail leads into Karden. Once you reached the grill hut, follow the small trail and proceed to Karden.

From Karden: Follow the narrow vineyards path upwards as far as the grill hut. Via forest roads and going uphill you will reach the Krailsbach. After that the stroll will be proceeded along narrow vineyard trails direction Müden. You can return to your starting point by train.

Further walking suggestions are marked in red on the map.

Because the walking trail partly runs along narrow vineyard trails / rocky trails, it is advised to bring strong shoes, like boots, and to be in good walking condition.

On the steep hillsides of the Middle- and Lower Moselle, you can find - due to the mild climate - the most northerly presence of free nature common Boxwood in Europe. The in free nature appearing boxwood can be found in an area of approx. 300 hectares between Karden and Müden. On warm days a mediteranean scent can be smelled while strolling around through the vineyards. Even today in the Moselle region the " palm branches " given out on Palm Sunday are gathered from Boxwood twigs; These are hung at home as a bouquet and are said to award God' s blessings.

Slate Mining Trail (6,4 km)

There is a map on the information board in Lütz (Moselstrasse, at the village entrance) with the route of the trail and plans of the mine workings. From here the route takes you along Moselstrasse, then down Herrengrabenstrasse. The Slate Mining Trail starts at the end of the street and can be walked in either direction.

Pictures of the mines and interesting facts about slate mining and the natural history of Lütz can be found on 14 illustrated information boards along the 6,4 km-long circular trail.

Find out all about the history of mining for roofing slate as you pass the many slate quarries and mines. The marked trail can be used all year round. Sturdy footwear is recommended.

There are places to stop for food and drink in the village. Learn all about the history of slate mining in the village of Lütz in one of the loveliest side valleys of the Moselle river.

Slate mining was once an important industry here. Underground mining for roofing slate, thought to have started in the mid-19th century, reached its peak between 1900 and 1910.

There were eleven mines in Lütz - Westfalia, Herrnfeld, Rechtenberg, Weinsberg, Rudolfsglück, Wolf/Mosella/Luise, Burgberg, Burgwiese, Himmel, Philippsberg and Glückauf - with 19 tunnels and five exploratory tunnels.

The Herrnfeld mine (formerly the Westfalia mine) with its central tunnel called "Erna" was in operation for the longest period, until 1953. The tunnel system in "Mosella", the longest mine, extended for about 600 metres. The working chambers were up to 30 metres high.

The map on the information panel in Moselstrasse at the village entrance shows the layout of the mine and gives you an impression of the size and complexity of the network of tunnels. The tunnels shown were in three horizontal layers one above the other and extended for several hundred metres.

For safety reasons, and to protect hibernating bats, all tunnels are blocked with metal grills but the network of tunnels is illustrated on the information boards.