



FAMILY ROUTE

Distance: about 800 m

Duration: about 75 minutes

The open-air museum Hessenpark offers an especially interesting and diverse experience for families. The family route lets children and adults alike discover how people in Hesse used to live and work in the olden days. The tour eventually leads to the playground. Just across, you will find the Martinsklause, an inn of which the interior invokes style of the 1950s and a perfect place to relax and enjoy a meal and something to drink.

1. House from Rauschenberg

The ground floor of the three-story building accommodates a pharmacy with an adjoining laboratory typical for smaller towns with basic equipment dating from the early 19th century. This includes ovens, retorts, crucibles, tongs, condensers, mortar and pestle as well as a pill machine. The two upper storeys of the house are home to an exhibition on the history of communications technology in Germany.

2. House from Schadeck

The 17th-century house accommodates a colonial goods shop resembling those from the 1950s. The broad range of products in colourful cans and boxes in the predecessor of the supermarket amazes visitors. The shop offered everything needed for everyday life. The customer was handed the goods personally, often without packaging or in a cone-shaped paper bag. These were carried home in the aprons of the customers or in bowls which people had brought along.

3. House from Eisemroth

The fully furnished building, which once housed a family of ten, illustrates the cramped living conditions in the countryside in 1928. The furniture and interior of the kitchen, parlour, bedroom and pantry have been chosen with the help of contemporary witness and former resident of this house Frieda Sommer. Demonstrations of “housewives’ traditional work” often take place in this building, sometimes even culminating in culinary treats.



4. House from Frankenbach

This so-called “Rauchhaus”, a type of Low German house without a chimney, offers a glance at life around 1800. The smoke from the hearth was not yet viewed as troublesome. A flue drew the smoke into the upper storeys, where it prevented rats, mice and other vermin from devouring the supplies and preserved food. The health issues in connection with the permanent exposure to smoke were not known back then.

5. Barn and stable from Bracht

Visitors of all ages are welcome to discover our animals and breath some fresh country air around the buildings from Bracht. This is where we keep the manure as well as our free-range Vorwerk chickens, in direct neighbourhood to the pigs’ pen.

6. House from Frickhofen (historical school)

Entering the ground floor of the house from Frickhofen, you will find yourselves in a classroom from about 1910. Not only differed the pedagogical principles from today’s, of which the worn cane on the teacher’s desk bears witness, but also the set-up of the classroom is very different from that of contemporary schools. Back then, classes consisted of more pupils than today and several age groups were taught simultaneously. During children’s week in the Hessian summer holidays, historical school lessons can be experienced first-hand at the open-air museum.

7. House from Breitenbach

In this tenement, visitors can roam without barriers and learn in detail about the fates of the former residents. Imagining that these living quarters sometime housed eleven people as well as chickens and pigeons conjures up a vivid picture of post-war life in the 1950s. Surveys among contemporary witnesses guaranteed authentic furnishing of the rooms. Our lively Altsteirer chickens, which are preserved through the certified Ark Park programme, are usually rummaging these grounds.

8. House from Ahlbach

The house from Ahlbach houses our historic post office, including telephone exchange. A multitude of interesting appliances are on display and on special days, volunteer workers are happy to provide you with details concerning the permanent exhibition “The history of



telecommunications technology”. The exhibition is situated in the upper storey of the house. Children might like to try the vintage rotary dial telephones and teleprinters.

9. House from Fellingshausen

The house from Fellinghausen offers insights into living around 1922 – without running water and electricity, and there is no bathroom as well. The detailed and realistic furnishings make it seem as if the residents had just left the building.

10. House from Probbach (poor shelter and bakehouse)

“Today, we will bake!” In past days, it was not a given that everyone could bake in their own oven to their heart’s content. Who could use the communal bakehouse and when was determined a week in advance by lot. The second room of the village building went through a series of different functions: school, fire station, communal storage space as well as lodging for the poor and refugees.

11. House from Remsfeld – Martin’s Tavern and playground

The last milestone leads to the North Hesse ensemble. The building contains an interesting exhibition on the history of Remsfeld and on the history of brewing and the house’s residents. Afterwards, the whole family can grab a bite to eat at the welcoming inn. And the playground just opposite the Martinsklause will put a smile on any child’s face.

Family route

