



RARITIES DISCOVERY ROUTE

Distance: about 1.5 km

Duration: about 90 minutes

Not only can you find reconstructed, historical workshops, cottages, barns and stables representing the diversity of everyday life and social history of days gone by at Hessenpark, but also buildings which had – even historically speaking – rather extraordinary instead of everyday uses or uses which are not easily deduced at first glance. This thematic route lets you discover some of these rarities of our cultural history.

1. Electricity Distribution Substation (Replica)

The distribution substation was constructed but never built by the Kreiselektrizitätsamt [district department of electricity] Kirchhain in 1920. It has been built on the museum site in accordance with the original plans and represents the spreading electrification in the countryside starting in the 1920s.

2. Chapel from Lollar

The chapel from Lollar, a solid work of masonry from 1480, still continues to be the oldest building rebuilt in the open-air museum. Furthermore, it constitutes the only sacred building in the museum with a catholic background.

3. Hammer mill from Battenberg (Eder) (Replica)

The last original pieces of the trip hammer mill from Battenberg (Eder) are displayed in so-called Auhammer. The building of this hammer mill is an idealised reconstruction of a water-powered forge from the 16th century.

4. House from Ransbach (fortified house)

At the time of its construction, 1504/1505, the house from Ransbach was part of a smallholding belonging to the monastery Haina. It had been developed as a fortified building for storage, surrounded by a moat to provide it with a line of defence. The house amidst the pond is, up to now, the oldest secular building in the museum.



5. House from Sieblos

The small byre-dwelling was built about 1820/1840 as a home for an elderly couple of farmers of a large farm in the Rhön Mountains. The interior dates from around 1900 and illustrates how living and keeping house in old age were organised in the countryside back then.

6. Tar kiln from Eschbach (Replica)

The reconstruction of this tar kiln from Eschbach is based on the measurements deduced from archaeological evidence in the region Usinger Land. Ovens of this kind, built in the forest, were used to produce pine tar and could be found up until the 19th century in densely wooded areas.

7. Vineyard

The cultural landscape of the Rheingau is characterised by its terraced vineyards. Using three kinds of cultivation of the grape vines, viticulture techniques are demonstrated here.

8. Apiary from Mammolshain

The 1937 beehive from Mammolshain is in relation to its building type rather large. The small building no longer qualifies as up-to-date with beekeeping standards, but it was used to protect bees from the weather. The hive has been translocated to the museum largely in one piece.

9. Rest “Ruhe”

The 19th-century resting area “Ruhe”, made from sandstone, was used by travelling merchants as a bench to put down their wooden pack frames filled with heavy merchandise on one of the three different levels of the bench. Our replica is modelled after a resting area close to the Roman fort Saalburg.

10. Synagogue from Groß-Umstadt (Replica)

The building built from fieldstone replicates the original synagogue, which was inaugurated in 1874. It has been home to a permanent exhibition on Jewish life in the countryside of South Hesse since May 2016. The history of the Jewish community of Groß-Umstadt and their synagogue is also part of this exhibition.

11. Sawmill from Anspach

The sawmill from Anspach, which had been built by the brothers Störkel at the beginning of the 20th century, operated for more than six decades. Today, whole logs are sawed up on demonstration days using the original saw. The resulting lumber is used in the building yard of the museum.

Rarities Discovery route

