

HESSENPARK OPEN AIR MUSEUM 

# WHERE HISTORY COMES TO LIFE



[www.hessenpark.de](http://www.hessenpark.de)

## NEVER MISS OUT AGAIN!

The Hessenpark Open Air Museum's newsletter keeps you up to date with the latest developments, current events and dates. Register now at [www.hessenpark.de/newsletter](http://www.hessenpark.de/newsletter)



Information  
and images  
of the park are also available  
on Facebook and Instagram.

Join in and  
post your  
pictures using  
the hashtag  
#hessenpark!

## QUESTIONS? CONTACT

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## HESSENPARK OPEN AIR MUSEUM

- Established in 1974
- Total area: 65 hectares (160 acres)
- More than 100 houses from the past
- Over 200,000 objects from everyday life
- Ark Park with more than 100 historical farm animals

## OPEN YOUR EYES, PRICK UP YOUR EARS!

The smells of floor wax, dung and fresh hay permeate the air, then from somewhere come the sounds of wet laundry hitting stone ...

The Hessenpark Open Air Museum takes its visitors on a voyage of discovery of everyday life in Hessian villages of yesteryear. More than a hundred buildings from all over Hesse open up areas of adventure to the senses: the cool walls of a 15th century church, hard school benches from the turn of the 20th century, the rattling of dishes in a 1950's pub. Most of the buildings have been reconstructed using the original materials from the relevant period in history.

## HOUSES TELLING STORIES

The open air museum was established in 1974 during the time when lots of old houses made room for new ones in the villages and small towns. However, in the town of Neu-Anspach, in the heart of Hesse, some of them made of wood and stone were saved to be witnesses to the past.

## OPEN AIR HISTORY

The special thing about an open-air museum is this: the exhibits are houses, workshops, trees, fields and even live animals. And the visitors? They are right at the centre, experiencing history first-hand through theatrical tours and workshops, and by exploring gardens, barns and kitchens or by dining in a historical tavern.

## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

We would love to tell you more about everyday life in Hesse's past. Bring your friends and family and enjoy our park's historical surroundings – with all your senses.



## YOUR SHOES WERE MADE FOR WALKING...

Hiking on mostly well-maintained tracks, you can experience the whole of Hesse: five regional and two special groups of buildings bring the character of building and domestic culture from different regions of Hesse alive. In our workshops, you can gain direct insights into the everyday working life of farmers and craftsmen of yesteryear. The 26 timber-frame buildings on the marketsquare attract visitors with art exhibitions and historical exhibits. And the small shops, inns and benches located there offer the opportunity to take a rest.

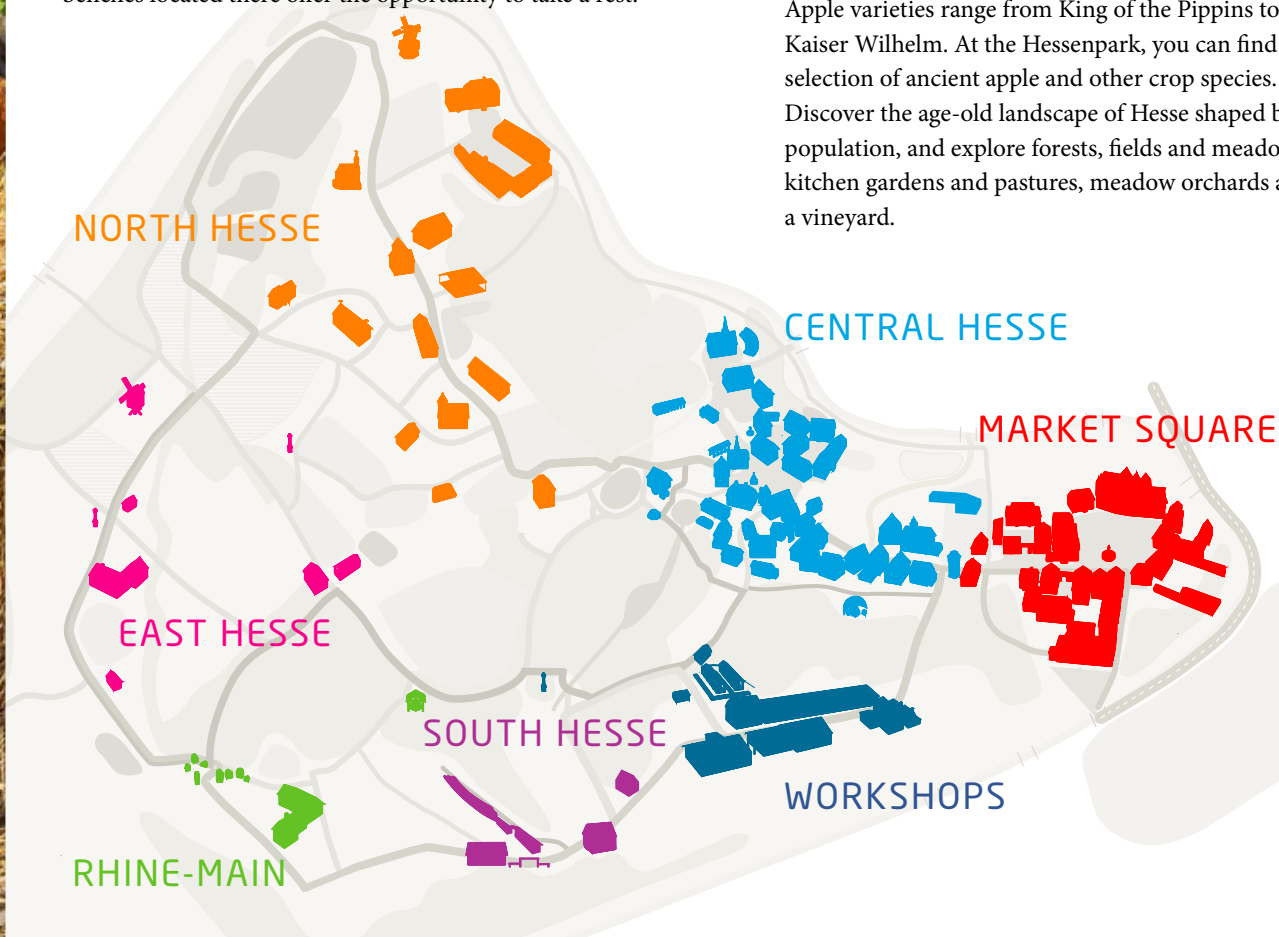
## FACE TO FACE WITH ANIMALS IN HESSENPARK'S "ARK"

Come to where the Vorwerk hens cluck and the Rhön sheep graze: about a hundred animals from eleven old domestic animal breeds live in the Hessenpark. A lot of them have become pretty rare, some of them are nearly extinct. Through managed breeding, we help to preserve the diversity of these endangered animals. As a result, we have been a certified Ark Park since 2012.



## FAR AND WIDE: THE LANDSCAPE AS A MUSEUM

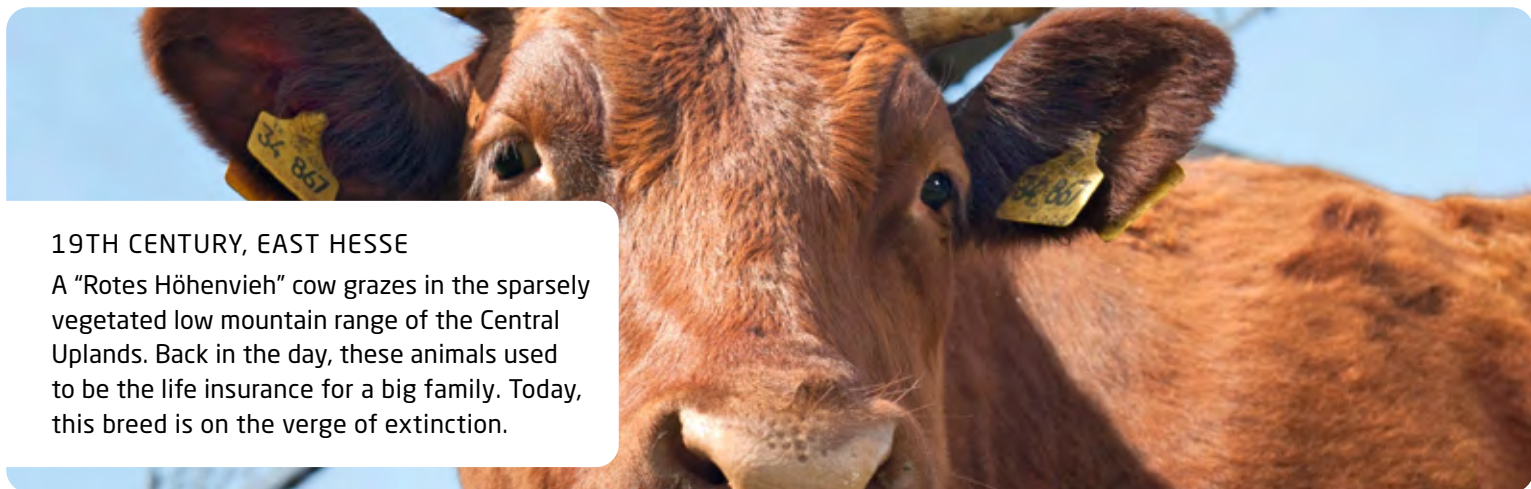
Apple varieties range from King of the Pippins to Kaiser Wilhelm. At the Hessenpark, you can find a rich selection of ancient apple and other crop species. Discover the age-old landscape of Hesse shaped by its population, and explore forests, fields and meadows, kitchen gardens and pastures, meadow orchards and a vineyard.





### 1927, CENTRAL HESSE

The kettle whistles on the stove.  
The floorboards creak with every step.  
What's that? Eleven people used to live here?  
And shared those narrow beds?



### 19TH CENTURY, EAST HESSE

A "Rotes Höhenvieh" cow grazes in the sparsely vegetated low mountain range of the Central Uplands. Back in the day, these animals used to be the life insurance for a big family. Today, this breed is on the verge of extinction.

## EYE-OPENERS AND FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCES



### 1900, WORKSHOPS

Fingers are stuck together by claggy clay.  
There is already a huge stack of bricks drying  
under the wooden roof. Come again?  
A single worker used to make between 2,000  
and 3,000 bricks in just ten hours? Not bad!





YOU CAN FIND THE DATES AND  
TOPICS OF ALL OUR PERMANENT  
AND SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS AT  
[www.hessenpark.de](http://www.hessenpark.de)

## WITH OPEN EYES...

There is plenty to explore behind those creaky wooden doors. Permanent exhibitions show visitors how people used to live in earlier times, with topics ranging from fleeing and homecoming to the history of communication, from Jewish life in rural areas to the importance of traditional 'Tracht' costumes. At certain times, volunteers answer visitors' questions and share fascinating anecdotes.

## A CLEAR VIEW OF REAL LIFE

Crossing the threshold of some buildings will take you back into a different time. Original artefacts – from bed frames to soup ladles – give an authentic glimpse into the past. In selected houses, everyday life from times long gone is revived by craft workers, actors and cultural interpreters. Outside, the show goes on where animals, landscapes and agriculture are also exhibits in the open air museum.

## LOOKING AT THE DETAIL: FINDING TODAY IN YESTERDAY

What does the past have to do with the present? At the Hessenpark, this question is of great importance. In order to answer it, we regularly organise special exhibitions which address over-arching and trans-regional topics concerning everyday culture. In these presentations, artists show their view of rural life, technical advancements are reconstructed and creative responses to social issues are demonstrated.



TAKE A LOOK AT OUR SPECIAL OFFERS  
FOR SCHOOL CLASSES AND GROUPS  
OF ALL AGES AT  
[www.hessenpark.de/besuch/buchbare-angebote/](http://www.hessenpark.de/besuch/buchbare-angebote/)  
[www.hessenpark.de/downloads/#flyer](http://www.hessenpark.de/downloads/#flyer)

## GRASP THE OPPORTUNITY ...

Understanding begins with hands-on experience. At the Hessenpark, we take this quite literally. We aim not only to convey the everyday culture of past times as accurately as possible – we also allow visitors of all ages to interact with it wherever possible.

## CLOSE ENOUGH TO TOUCH: STORIES OF EVERYDAY LIFE

Themed tours give an insight to the various facets of village life – from timber-frame buildings and traditional bread-making to living without electricity. In our guided tours, we revive times long past: actors in historical costumes reveal the harsh everyday reality of the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries, divulge the origin of idiomatic expressions and reveal the world of the 1950s through the eyes of a time traveller. During the performances of the museum theatre, the timber-frame houses, barns and gardens become a realistic setting for the everyday joys and sorrows of our ancestors.

## EXPERIENCING HISTORY TO THE TIPS OF YOUR FINGERS

Age-appropriate school projects encourage historical awareness among children and young people. Here at the Hessenpark, children can help to build a timber-frame house, make textiles and have lots of other hands-on experiences. Naturally, adults also have the opportunity to try out and learn historical craft techniques and traditional skills in one of our many workshops.



## FOR BODY AND SOUL...

### ENJOYING TRADITIONAL TREATS

Shopping in the marketplace. The baker hands the warm loaf of bread over the wooden counter - even on Sundays. Buying gifts. Feasting in rustic taverns. You can even do this - usually - without an admission ticket.

### MARKET DAYS: A PLEASURE FOR THE SENSES

Then as now, on market days and holidays the daily routine is quickly forgotten. Come and indulge in local specialities at the farmer's market - the authentic environment enhances the pleasure!

### A TIME TO CELEBRATE

Tie the knot in a 500-year-old chapel made of natural stone. Have your baby baptised in a half-timbered church. With your friends and family around you.

YOU CAN FIND THE DATES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE OPEN AIR MUSEUM AT [www.hessenpark.de/veranstaltungskalender/](http://www.hessenpark.de/veranstaltungskalender/)





**ACCESSIBILITY:** At the ticket office, our visitors with restricted mobility will be given a special map showing suitable routes within the open air museum. Due to authentic building materials and faithful reproduction of the area, not all of the museum's attractions are wheelchair accessible.

## OPENING HOURS + ADMISSION FEES

The museum is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (last admission: 5 p.m.) from March to October. In addition to the standard admission fees, there are also discounts and family and group rates. Attractive end-of-day prices apply from 4 p.m. You can find our current prices on the internet. During the winter months, the museum is open only on weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (last admission 4 p.m.).

## FINDING THE HESSENPAK

By car: 30 minutes from Frankfurt and 40 minutes from Gießen. By bus and train: from Bad Homburg to Wehrheim or Neu-Anspach. Take bus number 64 from Wehrheim, or bus number 63 from Neu-Anspach railway station to bus stop "Hessenpark".

**Tip:** The Hessenpark Open Air Museum is also easy to reach by bike – we are just 13 kilometres away from the centre of Bad Homburg.

