



# SUMMER CAMP

## WELCOME TO MAGDEBURG, GERMANY!

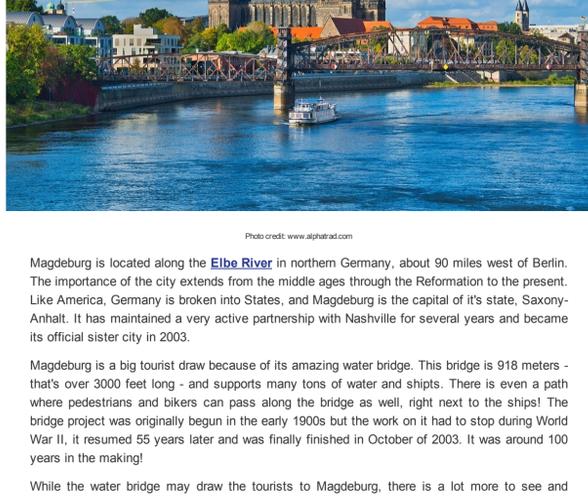


Photo credit: www.alphaad.com

Magdeburg is located along the **Elbe River** in northern Germany, about 90 miles west of Berlin. The importance of the city extends from the middle ages through the Reformation to the present. Like America, Germany is broken into States, and Magdeburg is the capital of it's state, Saxony-Anhalt. It has maintained a very active partnership with Nashville for several years and became its official sister city in 2003.

Magdeburg is a big tourist draw because of its amazing water bridge. This bridge is 918 meters - that's over 3000 feet long - and supports many tons of water and ships. There is even a path where pedestrians and bikers can pass along the bridge as well, right next to the ships! The bridge project was originally begun in the early 1900s but the work on it had to stop during World War II, it resumed 55 years later and was finally finished in October of 2003. It was around 100 years in the making!

While the water bridge may draw the tourists to Magdeburg, there is a lot more to see and experience! Let's explore together!

[Sights around Magdeburg - a short video](#)

[Sights around Magdeburg - a longer video](#) | [Magdeburg Water Bridge](#)



Photo courtesy of www.interesting-amazing-facts.blogspot.com

## ~ FESTIVALS AND FUN ~



photo credit: www.urbanite.com

### KAISER OTTO FEST

A newer festival, Kaiser Otto Fest is a celebration of the history of Magdeburg. Magdeburg is home to two famous Ottos, Otto the Great and Otto Von Geuricke.

[Otto the Great](#) was a German King who became Holy Roman Emperor and was credited with uniting and strengthening the land that is now known as Germany. His remains are buried in the [Magdeburg Cathedral](#).

[Otto Von Geuricke](#) was a German scientist and inventor and is most famous for discovering the physics of [vacuums](#) (not that kind!), which is the absence of all matter.

The Kaiser Otto Fest celebrates these two famous Ottos each year in the fall and takes place on the grounds of the Magdeburg Cathedral-- kind of like a giant Medieval Times. The festival features middle aged costumes and food, music, dancing, theatre, [knights jousting](#), puppet shows, and circus acts. You can see more pictures and videos of the event on their [Facebook page](#).

Would you like to get in on the fun? [Let's make our own Medieval shields!](#) If you have some leftover cardboard you can even craft a sword to go with it!

[Kaiser Otto Fest Video](#) | [Live Music from Kaiser Otto Fest](#) | [Craft your own Medieval Shield](#)



Photo courtesy of www.ringelw-dringelw.de

## OKTOBERFEST IN MAGDEBURG

Another celebration of the history of Germany is [Oktoberfest](#). This large festival is held each year and originated in Munich, Germany in 1810 to celebrate the marriage of the crown prince of [Bavaria](#). The festival is two weeks long, ending on the first weekend in October. It is full of good food, music, dancing and celebration, and of course, German beer. [Beer](#) is a very big part of the culture in Germany, and they even have their own way of brewing it, called [Reinheitsgebot](#). This involves using only water, hops, and malt in the beer.

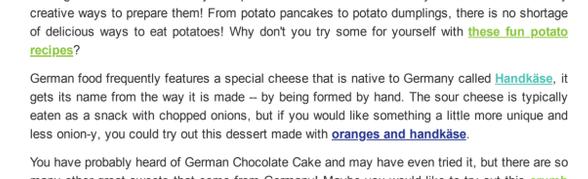
We aren't big fans of kids under 21 drinking German beer, or any other kind of beer, but we are really big fans of Root Beer! So, in honor of our week of Magdeburg camp, try this amazing [Root Beer Float](#) or plan on having a [Root Beer tasting](#) of your own! How many types of root beer do you already know about?

[Root Beer Float recipe](#) | [Host a Root Beer Tasting](#) | [5 Fun Oktoberfest Activities for Kids](#)



Photo credit: www.virtualrights.com

## ~A TASTE OF MAGDEBURG-- RECIPES!~



Images from www.cooking4glbce.com

German food tends to follow a guideline of hardy [root vegetables](#) and meat, especially sausages. Potatoes are a major staple of the German diet and they have found some very creative ways to prepare them! From potato pancakes to potato dumplings, there is no shortage of delicious ways to eat potatoes! Why don't you try some for yourself with [these fun potato recipes](#)?

German food frequently features a special cheese that is native to Germany called [Handkäse](#), it gets its name from the way it is made -- by being formed by hand. The sour cheese is typically eaten as a snack with chopped onions, but if you would like something a little more unique and less onion-y, you could try out this dessert made with [oranges and handkäse](#).

You have probably heard of German Chocolate Cake and may have even tried it, but there are so many other great treats that come from Germany! Maybe you would like to try out this [crumb cake](#) recipe or this [butter cake](#) recipe. We can't wait to find out which one you like more!

[Crumb Cake](#) | [Butter Cake](#) | [Handkäse and Orange Dessert](#) | [Popular Potato Dishes](#)



## ~ LET'S PLAY! AN ACTIVE, OUTDOOR CULTURE ~

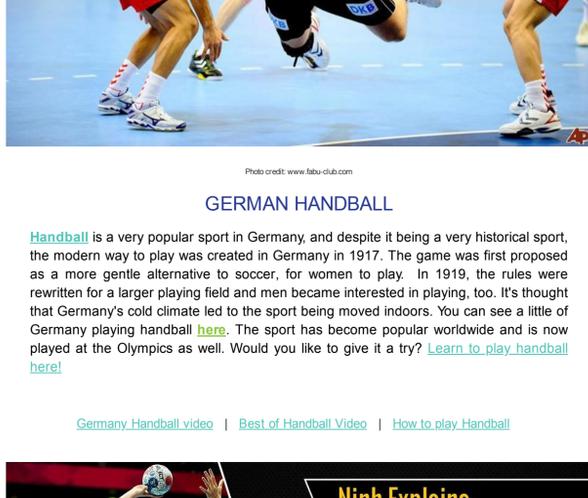


Photo credit: www.fsbu-club.com

### GERMAN HANDBALL

[Handball](#) is a very popular sport in Germany, and despite it being a very historical sport, the modern way to play was created in Germany in 1917. The game was first proposed as a more gentle alternative to soccer, for women to play. In 1919, the rules were rewritten for a larger playing field and men became interested in playing, too. It's thought that Germany's cold climate led to the sport being moved indoors. You can see a little of Germany playing handball [here](#). The sport has become popular worldwide and is now played at the Olympics as well. Would you like to give it a try? [Learn to play handball here!](#)

[Germany Handball video](#) | [Best of Handball Video](#) | [How to play Handball](#)



## MAGDEBURG OUTDOORS

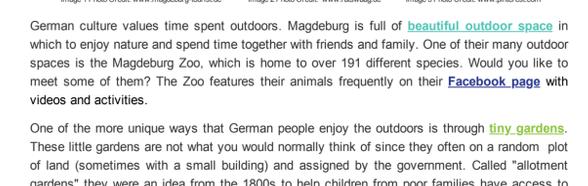


Image 1 Photo Credit: www.magdeburg-tourist.de Image 2 Photo Credit: www.rabwaag.de Image 3 Photo Credit: www.pinterest.com

German culture values time spent outdoors. Magdeburg is full of [beautiful outdoor space](#) in which to enjoy nature and spend time together with friends and family. One of their many outdoor spaces is the Magdeburg Zoo, which is home to over 191 different species. Would you like to meet some of them? The Zoo features their animals frequently on their [Facebook page](#) with videos and activities.

One of the more unique ways that German people enjoy the outdoors is through [tiny gardens](#). These little gardens are not what you would normally think of since they often on a random plot of land (sometimes with a small building) and assigned by the government. Called "allotment gardens" they were an idea from the 1800s to help children from poor families have access to nature. These gardens still exist today and are a very popular part of recreation across Germany. There is a waitlist for spots in Berlin (another large German city) that is over 10,000 people long!

In honor of the German love of the outdoors, let's get outside this week! Tennessee has some great hiking trails, [let's go and explore!](#)

[Popular Magdeburg Parks](#) | [Magdeburg Zoo Facebook Page](#)

[The German Culture of Tiny Gardens](#) | [Kid Friendly Hikes In and Around Nashville](#)

[Create your own Allotment Garden](#)

## ~VENTURING INTO SCIENCE~

### JAHRTAUSENDTURM, A GIANT TOWER OF SCIENCE

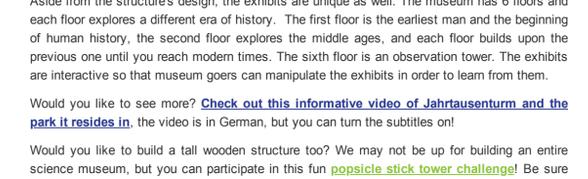


Image 1 photo credit: https://www.eventinc.de Image 2 photo credit: Sister Cities of Nashville Image 3 photo credit: vermittlung.mvimg.de

[Jahrtausendturm](#), at 60 meters high, is one of the tallest wooden structures in the world! Germany is on the [metric system](#), so instead of measuring in feet, they measure in meters. Do you know how to [convert meters to feet](#)?

Jahrtausendturm is a [museum of science](#) in Mageburg, but it's not like any you've seen before. Aside from the structure's design, the exhibits are unique as well. The museum has 6 floors and each floor explores a different era of history. The first floor is the earliest man and the beginning of human history, the second floor explores the middle ages, and each floor builds upon the previous one until you reach modern times. The sixth floor is an observation tower. The exhibits are interactive so that museum goers can manipulate the exhibits in order to learn from them.

Would you like to see more? [Check out this informative video of Jahrtausendturm and the park it resides in.](#) the video is in German, but you can turn the subtitles on!

Would you like to build a tall wooden structure too? We may not be up for building an entire science museum, but you can participate in this fun [popsicle stick tower challenge!](#) Be sure and show us your final towers!

[Jahrtausendturm Video](#) | [Popsicle Stick Tower Challenge](#)

## ~JOIN US NEXT WEEK!~

We hope you enjoyed this week's activities! Be sure and post pictures of your camp activities and tag us on Facebook (Sister Cities of Nashville) Instagram (@SCNashville) and Twitter (@SCNashvilleTN)! We can't wait to see all the fun you get up to!

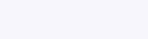
**Next week we will venture to our sister city Mendoza, Argentina!**

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