



monschau touristik

Oak forests

Hiking in Monschau

7,7 km

During this hike you will get an idea about how the city of Monschau and nature build a harmonious, seamless unity. This is last but not least due to the fact that they both share the same tree – the oak. From the parking you go down towards Rosenthal. Former factory- and office buildings define its character. They are witnesses of the times when Monschau was one of the leading clothier cities in Germany. Among them was the factory of the Scheibler family, founded in 1757. The last clothier factory was closed in 1908. Two buildings are reminders of those times: next to a multi-floor factory building, there is the former steam generator and machine house, which is used as an apartment today. (1)

The next part of this hike leads through an oak forest with little creeks and rocky, moss covered cliffs. (2) What nowadays awes people used to be seen under more useful aspects. Wood and stone served as important building materials.

After you cross the Rur bridge, you will be enchanted by the Kluckback, that flows untamed through its rocky river bed. (3)

Part of this walk will take you on the Eifelsteig, one of the ten premium German hiking trails. After about 650 meters, you will reach the forest museum with an historic, water powered saw mill. Next to information about the inhabitants of the forest you will also find information about the trade of the charcoal burners. (4) Around Whitsun you can witness a very special event: the burning of the charcoal pit.

At the border of the forest high above Rur and Kluckbach the landscape opens up to a pleasant vastness. Enjoy the spectacular views over the Rur valley, the forested highs in the north-east (5) and Rohren to your right with its hedges. Continue via untouched trails and paths with diverse forest sections. Several glades provide varied “light spots”.

Beyond the county road starts one of Monschau’s most beautiful ridge ways. You will always find new spectacular views onto the old town of Monschau. The Rosenthal with its Rur sinuosity and its steep cliffs shows its wild nature.

The Kierberg is the “summit” of this hike. (6) To the north you can see the Rahmenberg (frame hill) with its quarry stone terraces, on which cloths used to be hung to dry during the clothier times. Furthermore, you can see the Haller ruin that used to be Monschau’s first castle.

From the Sonntagsley (7) with its Marienkapelle (chapel) you look down onto the historic city centre with its slate roofs, the Red House and the protestant church. Across rise the mighty fortifications of Monschau’s castle.

The hike continues for another 500 meters via the Eifelsteig down to Burgau. Chariot tracks can still be seen in some of the rocks and are a testimony to the age of this path. Passing the “Haus im Turm”, that used to be a city gate in Monschau’s fortification, you will start the last part of this hike.

(8) Much that you have seen from above can now be seen up close. You will, one more time, cross a forest with centuries-old oak trees.

Many roofs and floors of the old buildings are made out of oak wood and as part of the half-timbered houses the wood gives the city its distinctive, picturesque character. (9)