



"Quellenturm" Tower in Bad Ems



For adjacent areas see p. 63 and 67

## Leisurely cycling along the Lahn

The Lahn River is a magnet for sports enthusiasts and holidaymakers. Flocks of visitors enjoy the varied riverine delights on, in, and around the water. Aquasports enthusiasts, hikers, and cyclists alike appreciate the excellent choice of options. In 2006, the Lahn Valley Cycle Route was quality-tested by the ADFC and certified as a four-star Quality Route.

■ On its way to the Rhine, the Lahn River flows through diverse landscapes. Green forests and hills, lush fields and meadows, steep slopes and rocks – a scenic ride awaits cyclists between the spring and mouth of the Lahn.

This immensely varied cycling tour starts in the Rothargebirge hills and ends in Lahnstein, where Lahn and Rhine converge. Following the river's course takes you to Bad Laasphe with its charming Old Town and Biedenkopf, which merits a visit to the landgraves' castle and "Sackpfeife" leisure park. The next highlights are the vibrant university towns of Marburg (castle) and Giessen (Mathematikum interactive museum). In the Goethe town of Wetzlar you can cross the river on an ancient stone bridge dating back to the 13th century, and Braunfels Castle is also a must-see. In fact, you will stumble across castles, abbeys, churches, chateaux almost every step of the way – impressive architectural remnants of the past.

The route runs mostly right along the water, so that you hardly ever lose sight of the Lahn. In Weilburg, at the foot of the palace gardens, look out for canoes paddling through the only ship tunnel in Germany. The red-and-white St. George's Cathedral in Limburg's Old Town is a sight right out of a fairytale. Don't miss the baroque palace of Oranienstein in Diez, Obernhof (the only wine village along the Lahn) and Nassau Castle, the ancestral seat of the House of Nassau-Orange.

The list of attractions could go on and on, and the health spa Bad Ems is definitely one of them. The former meeting place for members of Europe's higher nobility exudes a quiet elegance even today. And then it's only a short stretch before you reach Lahnstein at the foot of Lahneck Castle. Goodbye Lahn – welcome Rhine!



Feudingen, 6 km downstream from the Lahn's source



Dünsberg hill, landmark of the Gleiberg region

**LENGTH:** 245 km  
Netphen (source of the Lahn) – Lahnstein (where it flows into the Rhine)

### TERRAIN



Cycle paths are mostly asphalt and largely traffic-free. Predominantly level river landscapes, some short stretches with inclines and descents (some of them steep). In 2006 the Lahn Valley Cycle Route was certified as a four-star quality route. The criteria evaluated included trafficability, signposting, safety, and tourist attractions along the route.

### COUNTRYSIDE

Initially open riverside landscape with meadows and hills; later on (from around Löhnberg) the Lahn is flanked by the partly steep and tree-clad slopes of the Taunus hills and Westerwald forest (Nassau nature reserve, Upper Taunus nature reserve).

### PLACES TO VISIT

Historic old quarter of Bad Laasphe, Biedenkopf (landgraves' castle, "Sackpfeife" leisure park), old quarter of Marburg, Hesse wood-working museum in Wetzlar, Giessen (New Palace, armoury, "Mathematikum" interactive museum) Goethe town of Wetzlar (Lotte's House and Jerusalem House, cathedral), Braunfels Castle, Grube Fortuna visitors mine in Solms, Weilburg (castle, Germany's only ship tunnel), marble bridge in Villmar, Limburg (cathedral, old quarter), Diez (baroque palace Oranienstein, old quarter), wine village Obernhof, Nassau (ancestral castle of the House of Nassau-Orange, Stein Palace), Bad Ems health resort (spa museum and municipal museum, Balmoral Castle artists' centre, thermal spa), Lahnstein (Lahneck Castle)

### PLANNING YOUR TOUR

- "Lahntal-Radweg" cycle tour book, 1:50,000, bikeline, published by Verlag Esterbauer
- "Radwanderweg Lahntal", spiral-bound map, 1:75,000, published by VUD Verlag und Druck GmbH

### GETTING THERE BY RAIL

Feudingen, Biedenkopf, Marburg, Gießen, Wetzlar, Weilburg, Limburg, Bad Ems, Niederlahnstein

### TOUR PACKAGES

**"2 to 7-day tour along the Lahn from its source to its mouth: cycling, hiking, canoeing"**

**Price per person sharing a double room:**

**110 - 480 €**,

**single supplement 20 € per person and night**

Additional packages available, also for groups and including luggage transfer

Lahntours-Aktivreisen GmbH  
Phone +49 6426 9280-0, Fax -10  
www.lahntours.de  
info@lahntours.de

Velociped Fahrradreisen  
Phone +49 6421 88689-0, Fax -11  
www.velociped.de  
info@velociped.de

### FURTHER INFORMATION

Lahntal Tourismusverband e.V.  
Karl-Kellner-Ring 51, 35576 Wetzlar  
Phone +49 7000 LAHNTAL or +49 7000 5246825  
Fax +49 721 151298296  
www.daslahntal.de  
info@daslahntal.de