



“A park should be like a gallery of paintings; one should see a new picture every few steps.” Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau

Muskauer Park – Jewel of Lusatia

Muskauer Park attracts over 250 000 visitors every year, and the number continues to grow. This is hardly surprising, as there is more than just the landscaped gardens to captivate the imagination. Much has happened at the World Heritage site in the last fifteen years or so: the ruined castle has been restored, the park’s creator himself now guides visitors around a remarkable exhibition, and a tourism centre has been created to provide sightseers with information and assistance.

UNESCO World Heritage – Muskauer Park

Muskauer Park combines outstanding elements of nature with human creativity: rolling meadows decorated with majestic trees and linked by winding paths; fascinating buildings overlooking picturesque lakes; meandering rivers and streams crossed by elegant bridges. Covering 830 hectares on both sides of the River Neisse, this garden paradise can be explored on foot, by carriage, by bike or by boat. What appears to be a natural landscape is in fact the work of one man – Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau, the aristocratic owner of Muskauer Park. He created the landscaped park between 1815 and 1845, and specialists from Germany and Poland now maintain it in accordance with his vision. UNESCO added the park to the list of world heritage sites in 2004, on grounds that, “Muskauer Park/Park Mużakowski is an exceptional example of a European landscape park and ideal man-made landscape. The park was also the forerunner of a new approach to landscape design in urban areas.”

When he was laying out his park at the beginning of the 19th century, Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau drew inspiration from landscape gardens in Regency England. He developed his own design vocabulary which made the scenes in his park seem natural even though they were in fact very carefully arranged. The approach was very influential for other parks throughout Europe and in America; Pückler himself worked on the royal gardens in Babelsberg and was contracted to work in Neuhardenberg, Weimar and Paris, before finally creating a garden at his family seat Schloss Branitz, where he spent his later years.

Muskauer Park is notable for its extensive and varied design, its sweeping vistas and enchanting water features. In creating the park, Pückler made masterful use of the terrain he found in the Muskauer Faltenbogen, the landscape formed by a glacial end moraine. To this raw material, he added artificial rocky outcrops and water courses, shaping the land to his own design. Visitors can experience the innovative ideas and methods Pückler used at first hand on guided walks around the park, and also in elaborate animations, displays and posters in the exhibition “Pückler! Catch him if you can?” in the New Castle in Bad Muskau.

Heart of the Park – New Castle

Pückler's residence has three wings and is picturesquely encircled by flower gardens and the waters of the Luciesee. Two domed towers crown the castle, and visitors can climb the south-west one to enjoy a bird's-eye view of the park from 35 metres above the ground. The original baroque building was given a neo-renaissance look by Pückler's successors and subsequently remodelled several times. Fighting during the Second World War, particularly in 1945 when the main front ran through Muskau, caused terrible damage to the park and to the castle itself, which was destroyed by arson immediately after the end of the war and remained a ruin through the East German era. It was 1995 before the painstaking task of restoration began, and the building was finally opened to the public in 2008.

Visitors to the New Castle will find Pückler's study looking as if he has just stepped out for a stroll in the park, while the 17th-century stucco ceiling in the Callenberg library gleams in freshly restored splendour. The restorers did allow themselves one little liberty, however: they included a relief of a mouse in the ceiling. The south wing of the castle houses a permanent exhibition about Pückler and his garden paradise. Entitled "Pücker! Catch him if you can?", it covers two floors of his former home.

Pücker! Catch him if you can? – Exhibition

Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau (1785-1871) was famous as a writer, a traveller and a landscape architect – and notorious as a womanizer, a dandy and a bon vivant. His adventures are the stuff of legends and anecdotes, and he himself was only too happy to help spread the stories: "For me it is not a question of "What will people say?", but more of "Will people say anything?" The spectacular exhibition in his New Castle is entirely in this spirit.

The top floor of the exhibition explores the life of the Fürst, or Prince, of Muskau: In Family Theatre, a servant recites a ballad telling the story of the castle's owners; a Berliner Salon features several of Pückler's famous friends (including Bettina von Arnim, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Karl Friedrich Schinkel) talking about him; display cases present amusingly old-fashioned recreations of Pückler's travel journals; magical "Listening Hearts" reveal his amorous adventures; and a mechanical letter writing machine creates romantic messages in the style of the Casanova of Lusatia.

The ground floor features animations, posters and interactive displays showing the development of Muskauer Park under Pückler and his successors. A highlight of the exhibition is an imaginary carriage ride through the visions that Pückler set out in his richly illustrated garden book "Andeutungen über Landschaftsgärtnerei" (Hints on Landscape Gardening). An automated carriage takes the visitor between oversized pages of the book while Pückler himself comments on his park dreams. Visitors can see for themselves whether and to what degree these dreams were realised by taking a walk in the park outside. The views from the castle windows also enable links to be made directly between objects in the exhibition and reality outside. This idea is especially effective on the roofed tower balcony, from which visitors can enjoy views over the castle garden. Modern stainless steel structures indicate where Pückler intended to place flower beds, and so the garden itself becomes a picture within the exhibition.

Point of friendly contact – Tourism Centre

Whether it's information about guided tours, visits to the tower, accommodation or tips for excursions, the friendly and helpful staff in the Tourism Centre in the New Castle are there to help. Visitors can also use the interactive terminal to find events and locations in the region, and print out tips and details. The terminal is networked with well-known cultural and leisure institutions, and with tourist organisations throughout Lusatia. The park shop stocks exclusive garden-related souvenirs, maps, reading material on Pückler and Muskauer Park and, of course, a range of postcards.

Muskauer Park has a wide range of activities on offer; guided tours on foot or by bike through the park show guests many of the scenes from Pückler's life here. A map of the park with comments about different stations is also available in the Tourism Centre for those who prefer to explore independently. After their exertions, visitors can relax in Café Fürst Pückler in the former estate farm buildings, or – if they need more time – stay in one of the four holiday apartments in the park (awarded 3 stars by the German tourist association DTV). Muskauer Park's cycle tracks are integrated into several interesting long-distance bike routes (such as the Froschradweg, the Oder-Neisse-Radweg or the Fürst-Pückler-Weg), and so visitors can have their own bikes repaired, or hire bicycles in the former estate farm buildings. German and Polish companies offer carriage and cart tours following Pückler's footsteps around the park, or you can choose to see Muskauer Park from the water by taking an inflatable boat along the Neisse from Bad Muskau to Żarki Wielkie (Groß Särchen in German).

Few places are more romantic for a wedding than Muskauer Park. The Orangery and the Old Castle are perfect settings for marriage ceremonies and are officially approved as locations. Imposing rooms for private parties and meetings can also be hired in the Castle, the Orangery and the Stables.

Pückler's Inheritance – Stiftung "Fürst-Pückler-Park Bad Muskau"

The "Fürst-Pückler-Park Bad Muskau" Foundation was established in 1993 as a dependent foundation by the Free State of Saxony. The Foundation's objective is to restore the internationally important cultural landscape ensemble of Muskauer Park according to historical plans and to manage it jointly with the Republic of Poland.

The Board of the Foundation comprises representatives of the Free State of Saxony, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Poland. The Board is assisted by a Trustees Board and an international panel of experts.

The Foundation receives special support from the Federal Government via the Commissioner for Culture and the Media. The "Fürst-Pückler-Park Bad Muskau" Foundation is also a member of the Konferenz Nationaler Kultureinrichtungen Deutschlands, an association of major cultural institutions in eastern Germany, and is a member and/or co-operation partner in, among others, the association of world heritage sites in Germany, the "Schlösserland Sachsen" project linking castles throughout Saxony and Lusatia.

Tourist Addresses and Opening Times

Park

Muskauer Park

Open all year
Free entrance
www.muskauer-park.de

Exhibition

Exhibition "Pückler! Catch him if you can?"

Exhibition "Pückler! Catch him if you can?"
Stiftung "Fürst-Pückler-Park Bad Muskau"
Neues Schloss
02953 Bad Muskau
Tel. 035771-63100
Fax 035771-63109
E-Mail info@muskauer-park.de
Web www.muskauer-park.de

April – October
daily 10 am – 6 pm

Entrance € 6 / € 3

Reductions available in combination with guided tours, tower ascents or other attractions.

Tourism Centre

Your local contact for tourism attractions such as guided tours, events, holiday apartments in Muskauer Park, books and maps.

Tourismzentrum Muskauer Park
Stiftung "Fürst-Pückler-Park Bad Muskau"
Neues Schloss
02953 Bad Muskau
Tel. 035771-63100
Fax 035771-63109
E-Mail info@muskauer-park.de
Web www.muskauer-park.de

April – October
daily 10 am – 6 pm

November – March
daily 10 am – 5 pm

Guided tours

Public tours and walks

April – October
Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays 2 pm
Meeting point: Muskauer Park Tourism Centre
Length: ca. 1.5 – 2 hours
Price: € 4 / person

All year
Sundays 10 am
Guided walk, particularly suitable for senior citizens and spa patients
Meeting point: Muskauer Park Tourism Centre
Length: ca. 1 hour
Price: € 2.50 / person

Tourist Addresses and Opening Times

Castle Tower

Ascent of Castle Tower

April – October
daily 10 am – 6 pm

Price € 2 / € 1

Eating and drinking in
the Estate Farm Buildings

Café Fürst Pückler

Bauhof 14
02953 Bad Muskau
Tel. 035771-64488

April – October
daily 11 am – 7 pm
March + November
Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays 11am – 7pm

Bike hire and repair

Fahrrad-Nowak

Peter Nowak
Alte Schmiede
Bauhof 1
02953 Bad Muskau
Funk-Tel. 0174-5315359
Tel. 035771-60460

April – October
daily 10 am – 6 pm

Boat trips

Neiße Tours

Alte Schmiede
Bauhof 1
02953 Bad Muskau
Tel. 0700-01818888 (3 cent/ min)
www.neisse-tours.de

Carriage rides

A selection of carriage and cart companies on the German side:

Reit- und Sportverein Parkidylle Kromlau/ Gablenz e. V.
Spremberger Straße
02953 Gablenz
Tel./ Fax 03576-201132
Mobile 0177-3161633
E-Mail reitverein-gablenz@web.de
www.reitverein-gablenz.de

Berthold Schulz
Schulstraße 29 A
02953 Bad Muskau
Tel. 035771-50415

Carter on Polish side:

Franek Mukoid
PL-68-208 Łęknica
Tel. 0048-68-3753475
Mobile 0048-698-367540

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Website

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