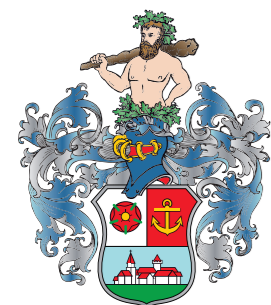


RISE

The legend of Riesa's giant

There was once a giant who came to the shore of the river Elbe on his travels. Before he crossed the river, he stopped for a short break. He felt a pinch in his boot, which was caused by little grains of sand and little stones that were collecting on his long travels. He sat down by the shore, took off his boot groaning and turned it around. What came out was a big hill on which the first buildings of Riesa were created. The people of Riesa interpreted the name of their city that way (Note: "Riese" is the German word for giant). However, it is historically proved that the name is derived from the convent name "Reszoa". This name also appears in a certificate from the year 1119, in which the foundation by Bishop Dietrich of Naumburg is mentioned, making it the first monastery in the Mark Meißen. He used the name of a small Slavic settlement in the mouth of river



INTERESTING

First mentioned

In 1119 the monastery "Reszoa" founded by Bishop Dietrich of Naumburg is mentioned in a document for the first time.

It is the first one of the Mark Meißen at that time and is run by the Benedictine order.

Name "Riesa"

The name comes from a small Slavic settlement at the mouth of the river Jahna into the river Elbe.

"Reszoa" means something like terrain cut, which is loosely translated as "place at the river mouth".

Population

- around 30,000 inhabitants

Geographical size

- an area of 58.84 square kilometres

Historical development

- monastic complex with extensive possessions
- became a manorial estate after the Reformation
- connection to the first German long-distance railway between Dresden and Leipzig
- 1843 foundation of an ironworks with a water-powered hammer
- development to an industrial location

Today

- country seat
- modern industrial location
- sports and event city



EXPERIENCES

House on square "Poppitzer Platz" (house of museum, arts and library)

"A visit to a museum is always dry as dust and boring!" Where as that might be true for some museums, that opinion is completely out of place in Riesa. After two years of extensive structural alterations and renovation the interactive, modern and educationally sophisticated exhibitions that are displayed at the Riesa town museum astonish even very demanding visitors.

Noodle Centre

- enter the unique pasta adventure world!
- transparent factory and noodle museum: We show you how macaroni get their holes.
- cookery studio in Riesa: For amateur cooks and gourmets
- restaurant "Makkaroni" and Nudelkontor an experience for the senses

Observatory of Riesa

- offers a clear view of the stars to visitors
- owns the largest mobile reflexive telescope in Saxony
- there are exhibitions, lectures, workshops, space travel events

Event hall "SACHSENarena"

- largest event hall in middle Saxony
- top-class events take place here, for example: rock and pop concerts, national and international sporting events, flea markets, fairs

Little town train "Stahlmax"

The train shuttles between restaurant "Riesenhügel" and square "Rathausplatz" from Wednesday to Friday, enabling the visitors to explore the town very conveniently.



SIGHTSEEING

Immendorff's sculptur "Elbquelle"

- Masterpiece of iron casting
- Europe's largest sculpture, 25 meters high weighing 234 tons
- the artist was inspired by one of the sessile oaks depicted in Caspar David Friedrich's paintings

Historic monastery complex

- public guided tours from May to September

Zoo

- directly on the east wing of the monastery
- about 55 native species
- In huge aquariums, which contain roughly 20,000 liters of water in total, fish romp about, which live naturally in the river "Elbe".

Chapter House

- former meeting room of the nuns
- restored in 1999
- used as a wedding hall today
- included in public tours

Churches

- Monastery church (Riesa's oldest church, church tower with Beroque dome, 370-year-old babtismal font)
- Trinity church (neo-Romanesque central building, 75 metres high, large altar made of Westphalian marble)
- Church of Riesa-Gröba (is located near the Elbe bike path, Baroque interior design, ornately carved ornaments, coats of arms and angel figures)

Information about sights and guided tours can be found in the RIESA INFORMATION.



ACTIVE

In Riesa you find lots of various possibilities for active recreation. On foot, by bike or boat – There are no limits to the movement in fresh air.

Do you want to do sports also in the wintertime? We have a big indoor swimming pool and several gyms and sport centers for sports activities.

Biking

Riesa is very friendly to cyclists! Many bike paths are located here. In the summertime You see a lot of cyclists in the city. The RIESA INFORMATION CENTRE offers a comprehensive service for cyclists.

Hiking/Walking

For hikers who want to take a day trip in the environment of, there are many possibilities. Do you like walking in the nature? Our highlights are routes along the river Elbe, the creek Jahna or the canal "Floßkanal".

Disc Golf

It's a new trend sport. Frisbees are thrown into target baskets. The same rules apply like in golf. You can exercise that sport all year round.

Boating

The river "Elbe" flows directly past Riesa from kilometre 107 till 110. It is a dream for every paddler to glide with a boat through the untouched nature of the river landscape. Try a dragon boat trip. Dragon boating requires team spirit and strength and it is great fun.

