

The University City of FREIBERG



Germany's SILVER CITY

Charming. Future-oriented. Strong.
The University City of Freiberg in Saxony



The Allure of Silver

Freiberg, with the charm of its historical architecture, is idyllically situated at the foot of the Erzgebirge – the Ore Mountains. The City's face is etched with the riches and radiance of over 800 years of silver mining.

A future born of a rich tradition

Freiberg is home to the Technical University Bergakademie Freiberg. Addressing the issues of raw materials and resources in its research and teaching, the University confronts one of the greatest challenges of the new millennium. The oldest mining sciences university in the world, this renowned German resource university enjoys a strong international reputation.

The Home of Innovation

The mining industry produced many inventors and entrepreneurs, who define the City to the present day. Research, development, and industrial production go hand in hand and secure Freiberg as one of the strongest commercial growth hubs in Saxony, with solid prospects in a variety of industries.



Splendid. Memorable. Unique. The Allure of Silver

The Silver City captivates visitors with its old walled town. Settled in the middle of the 12th century, the city exudes vitality with its narrow alleys, historical facades and picturesque ensembles. Impressive monuments bear witness to the long and significant tradition of silver mining, through which Freiberg became the most populous city and the most important trade centre of the former Margraviate of Meissen.

Solid native silver from Freiberg – referred to as „wire silver“ due to its bizarre natural form. Freiberg's mining area was Europe's largest silver district for hundreds of years. Today silicon carries the name of the city, which is regarded a leading location of the semiconductor industry, out into the world.



Town Hall, Obermarkt



St. Mary's Cathedral and the City and Mining Museum, Untermarkt

The "Stadt am Freyen Berge" (Town at the Free Mountain), as Freiberg was known in ancient times, brought fame and splendour to all of Saxony. Some of the famous rulers, such as the Albertine Princes, are buried in Freiberg's famous St. Mary's Cathedral. The Cathedral is regarded as a cultural treasure at the European level, and not just because it contains two wonderful examples of the work of the genius of organ-building, Gottfried Silbermann.



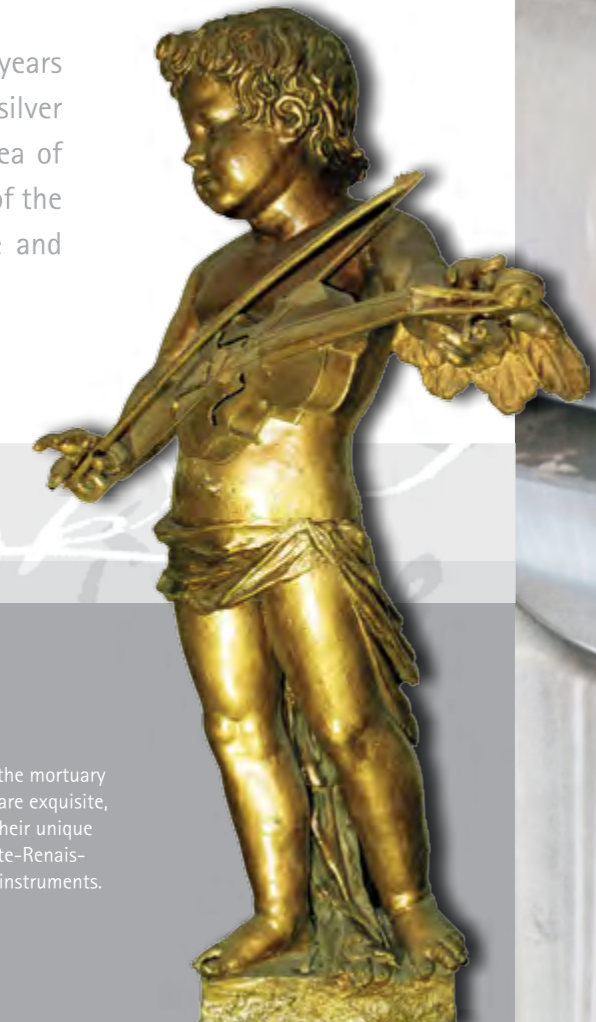
One of the many architectural treasures worth seeing in Freiberg: the beautiful late-Renaissance oriel window on Burgstrasse.

In 2018 Freiberg celebrates 850 years of Silver Rush – as it started after silver was discovered in 1168 in the area of present-day Freiberg – the origin of the mining rush, which led to fame and glory for all of Saxony.



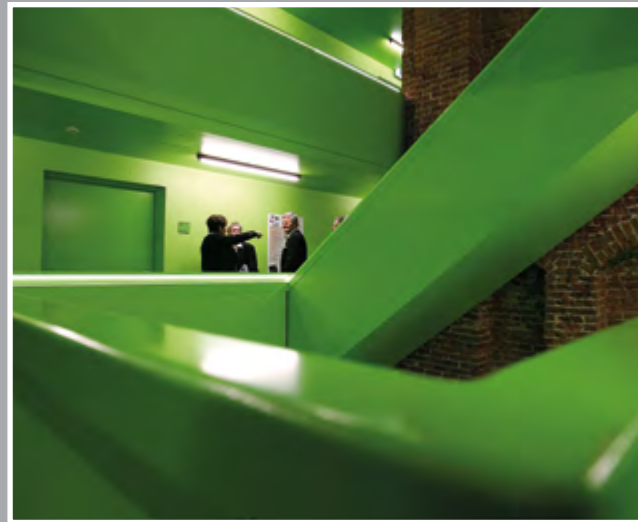
The treasures of the Cathedral include the famous Golden Portal, The Miners'- and Tulip Pulpits, the Graves of Princes with the Moritz Monument, and much, much more.

The angels on the mortuary chapel ceiling are exquisite, and still hold their unique and original late-Renaissance musical instruments.





terra mineralia, Freudenstein Castle



Saxon Mining Archives, Freudenstein Castle

Rich. Full of Life. Young. A future born of tradition

Freudenstein Castle, once the cradle of the famous Wettin rulers, is home today to the terra mineralia, one of the largest and most beautiful mineral collections in the world. The Castle is also home to the Saxon Mining Archives, which preserves documents from six centuries of mining and smelting history.

The historical centre of Freiberg is the Castle Square, the perfect starting point for a stroll through the City. The Square symbolises the close connection between the City and the University and is part of a future "Science Corridor", which will, as part of an urban plan, bring the Bergakademie campus closer to the City Centre, further reinforcing the University in the consciousness of our citizens. A further step was the renovation of a new administrative building at the Square, named after benefactor and patron Peter Krüger, in which minerals from all over Germany will complement the terra mineralia. A modern lecture hall will soon be constructed on a site facing the Castle.



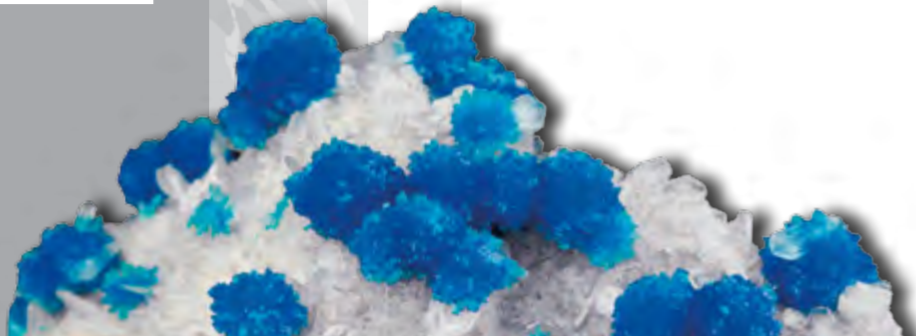
Student City Freiberg: The coveted "Diploma Fribergensis" is awarded to each student that completes an amusing but demanding course around Freiberg to get to know their new place of study.



Getting a ticket for riding one of the majestic bronze lions in the fountain of Margrave Otto on Freiberg's Obermarkt is a must for every student in Freiberg, and a perfect souvenir of their studies!



Much-loved by visitors and locals alike is Freiberg's "Science and Business Night", when the Technical University Bergakademie, the City and local companies open their doors to offer a fascinating view behind the scenes, underlining their importance for the development of the region.





Rich in Tradition. Globally Aware. Leading. A Centre of Science

The University City of Freiberg is home to the Technical University Bergakademie Freiberg. Founded in 1765, it is the oldest mining university in the world. As the German university for sustainable materials and energy management, the Bergakademie always keeps the efficient use of raw materials along the entire chain of value creation firmly in focus, from exploration to recycling. Four core fields – Geo, Materials, Energy and Environment – give the University an unmistakable profile today.



Through intensive co-operation with industrial partners across Saxony and around the world, it has become one of the strongest research universities in Germany. Teaching and research guarantee an education of the highest level in natural-, engineering- and economic science courses. Around 5,000 students bear witness to the excellent conditions for study at the Bergakademie, and heap praise on their hands-on, personal tuition. Graduates from Freiberg are sought after around the world as highly competent experts in their chosen field.



The first gas lamp in Europe, erected in Freiberg in 1811, was named after its inventor: Wilhelm August Lampadius, a scientist at the Bergakademie.



A scientific network of seven associated institutes, several spin-offs and further renowned facilities forms an excellent research landscape and guarantees the intimate interplay of research, development and practical application.



Young talent is also included and encouraged. Children's interest for the sciences is awoken and inspired, and a Junior University is regularly held – the first children's university in Saxony.

Famous figures like A. von Humboldt, A. G. Werner or M. W. Lomonossov studied and taught in Freiberg. A tradition of crowning moments of scientific discovery up to the present day is reflected in the City's visage, and will soon be even more visible along the "Scientific Corridor".



ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT
1769-1859
STUDENT IN FREIBERG 1791-92
GEOWISSENSCHAFTLER UND OBERBERGRAT
KOSMOPOLIT UND LITERAT



Practical. Innovative. Successful. Industry-focussed Research



Freiberg's research university aims to help define the highest standards of teaching and research, and to attract the best academic minds to Freiberg. Practical research ranges from the exploration of new and indigenous deposits, through the development of alternative energy technologies and materials, to recycling and technologies for the post-oil age. The attractiveness of Freiberg as a research location is increased by co-operation with the Helmholtz Centre in Dresden-Rossendorf. The partnership research institution Helmholtz Institute Freiberg for Resource Technology will help secure the supply of urgently needed minerals and metallic raw materials for German industry.

Innovation and a competitive edge at national and international level are extremely important today, and the University is linked in an interdisciplinary fashion to enable the resolution of the ever-more-complex questions of the future. Close ties to industry, other universities and non-university research institutions have been cultivated both at home and abroad.

Sustainability – a word from Freiberg: The term was coined more than 300 years ago by Freiberg's Chief Mining Officer, Hans Carl von Carlowitz (1645-1714).

Freiberg students have been proving their knowledge and skills since 2006 with growing success at the annual international competition "Formula Student", which combines engineering and business administration with racing.



The DBI (Deutsche-Brennstoffinstitut | bergakademie – German Fuel Institute) has strengthened Saxony as a research location since 2011, serving as a centre of competence in coal research. The efficient and environmentally-friendly use of lignite is researched here in co-operation with large industry partners. This means that Freiberg is well on its way to establishing itself comprehensively as a national centre of competence in resource research and energy supply.

Diverse. Established. Efficient. Economic Centre



The two companies Freiberger Compound Materials GmbH (FCM) and Siltronic AG represent this centre of semiconductor technology. FCM is the world-wide largest producer of gallium arsenide wafers and substrates which can be found in mobile phones, PCs and tablets, laser and LEDs.



When looking for flourishing locations in the former East Germany, it is impossible to overlook Freiberg. Almost three decades after the Reunification of Germany, Freiberg can proudly conclude that it has established itself as a thriving centre for science and business. What silver once was for Freiberg, silicon is today. More than half a century

As Freiberg's scientist Ferdinand Reich (together with Theodor Richter) discovered the element Indium, and Clemens Winkler the element Germanium, they had no idea what treasures they had extracted from the rock below Freiberg: the foundation of the essential field of semi-conductor electronics had been born.



of professional expertise in electronic materials had laid a solid foundation for the establishment of Freiberg as a world-leading production and research location for the semiconductor industry. Due to the steadily increasing demand in micro- and optical electronics for our mobile information society products from Freiberg are distributed all over the world.

In addition Freiberg provides innovative technological solutions to the question of environmentally-friendly energy production. The spectrum ranges from solar and wind energy to geothermal energy. Freiberg has traditionally had huge strengths in geosciences. Recycling and disposal are also cornerstones of local industry.

Freiberger
Freiberg



Enduring. Enchanting. Colourful. The Silver City of Freiberg

The technological tours de force of Freiberg's mining and smelting experts set standards in European mining for hundreds of years. Mining helped shape the solidarity, but above all the inventive spirit and entrepreneurship that secure Freiberg's wealth and prospects up to today. This becomes apparent from a stroll through the lovingly-restored City Centre, which dates to the Middle Ages, as well as from a look at the prospering and flourishing industrial estates.

Mining traditions are lived and breathed here. One highlight is the parade of Freiberg's historic Miners' and Smelters' Guild, some of Freiberg's finest ambassadors.



Art and culture of a high level have belonged to the City from the start. The traditional and modern combine here to an impressive cultural diversity. This diversity ranges from the enchanting tones of the famous Silbermann organs to the productions of the oldest city theatre in the world; from the concerts of the Philharmonic Orchestra of Middle Saxony to the international line-up of the renowned "Freiberger Jazztage". Many different clubs, venues and events ensure daily variety.

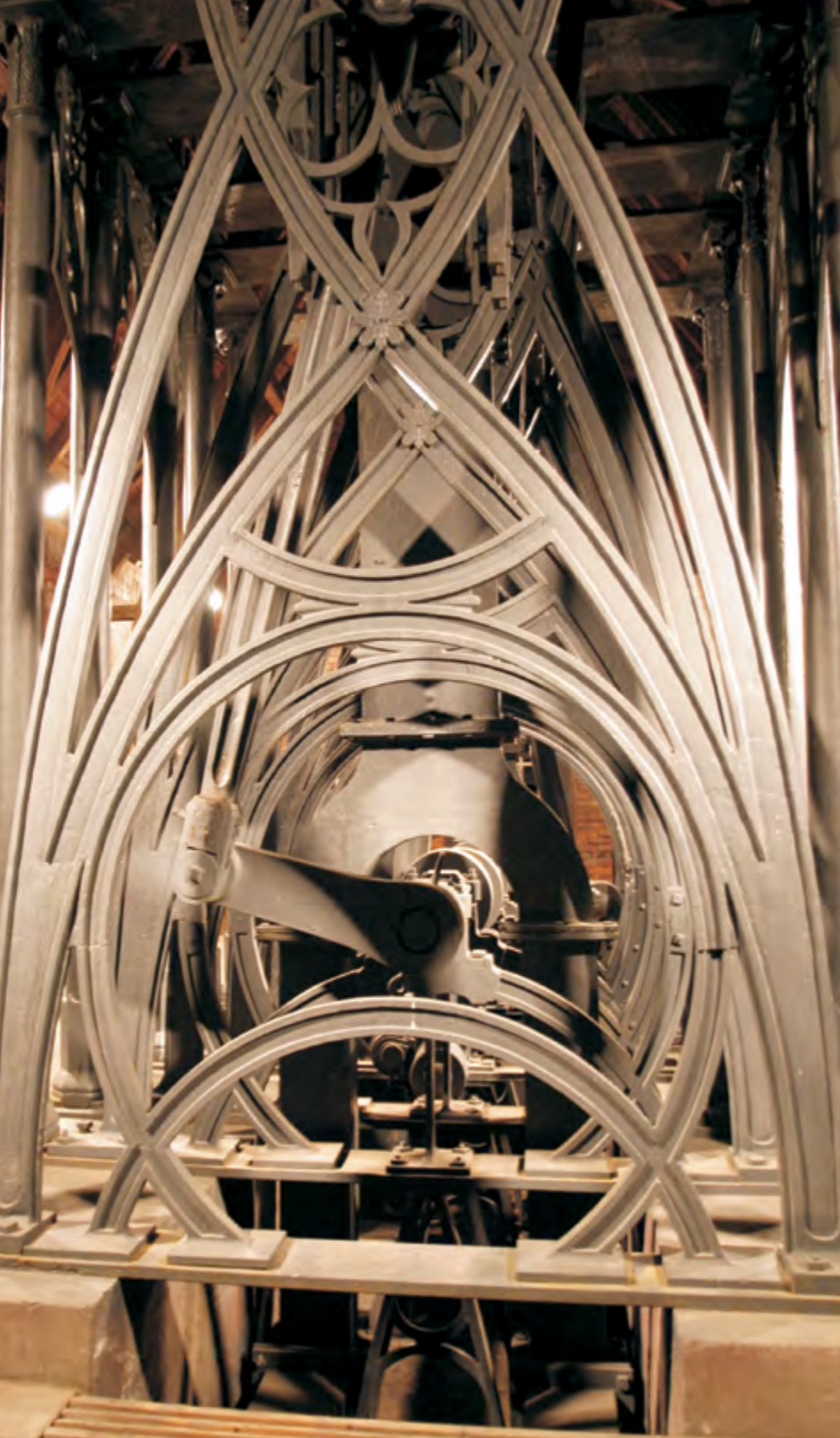


"The Organ Mecca" is how Freiberg is referred to in the music world. Extraordinary listening experiences are guaranteed by the Gottfried Silbermann Contest, which brings budding artists together around these unique historical instruments.



The oldest City Theatre in the world is found at the old Butter Market, and is lovingly referred to as the "Little Semper Opera".





Exciting. Valuable. Interesting. On the Trail of Silver

"Glück auf" is the traditional greeting in Freiberg, as it once combined miners' hopes of finding a rich vein of silver with their wish to return safely home from the depths of the mine. Today the words "Glück auf", along with the "Steigerlied" of the same name, speak of the pride of the citizens and their love for their city. The miners' achievements and traditions are therefore still visible, audible and tangible today, and may be experienced by visits to the City and Mining Museum and the silver mine "Reiche Zeche", where the Silver Trail can be followed underground.

Historically, one of the most important works of German machining technology is the Schwarzenberg Bellows, which is exhibited near the "Alte Elisabeth" shaft.

A miner with his pit light. The "Freiberger Blende" is a so-called closed pit lamp, and typical for mining in the Erzgebirge of the 19th century.



Above ground again, the Trail leads through the unique and attractive landscape of the Erzgebirge region – the "Ore Mountains". The region is distinguished by a multitude of valuable technical and industrial monuments, including shafts, rock heaps or hydro-powered equipment. The preservation of these treasures across national borders and making them accessible and open for the public is the goal of the "Montanregion Erzgebirge", which is preparing in the longer term for recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



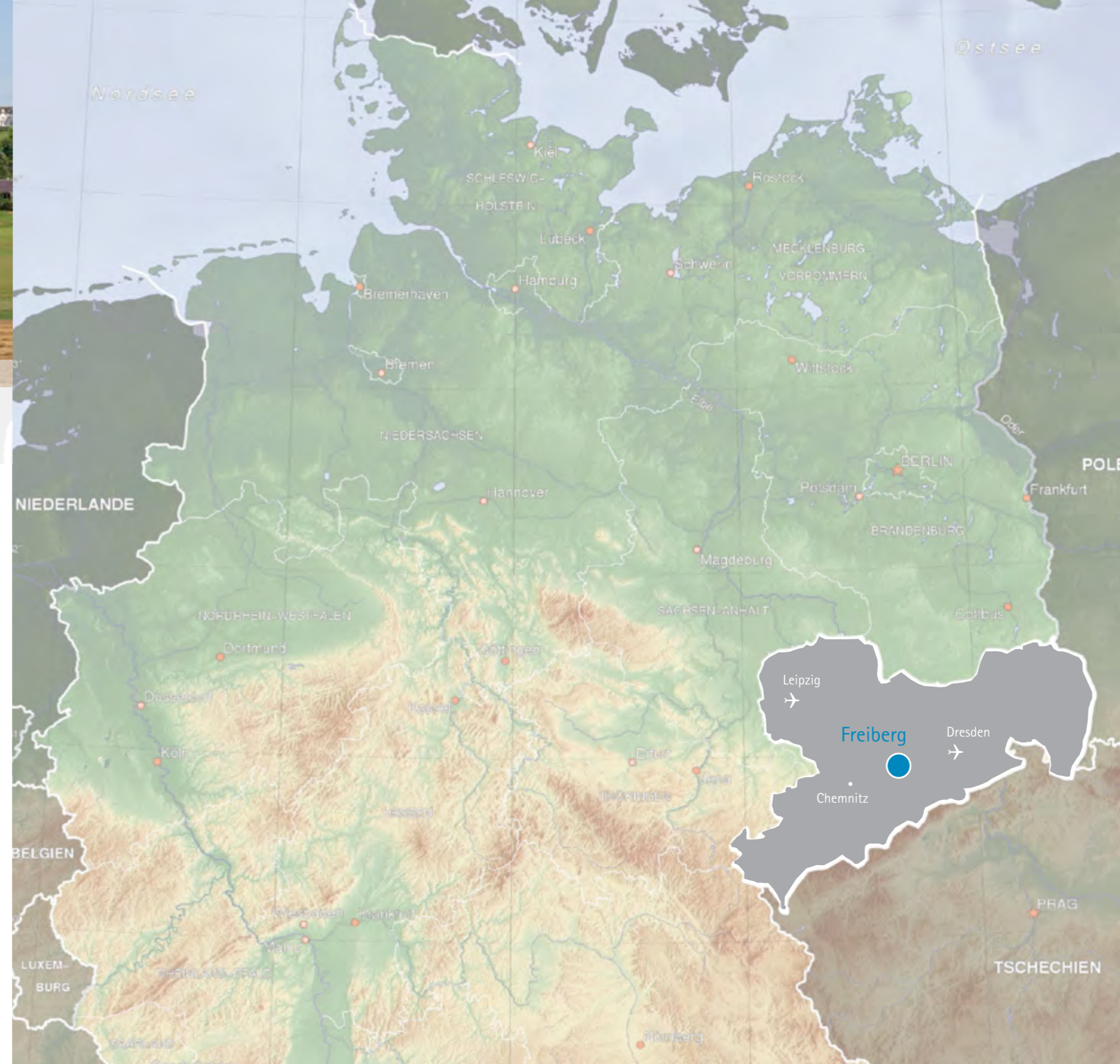
Freiberg's pits are used for tourism as well as for research purposes – the combination of teaching mine and visitor mine in the "Reiche Zeche" (Rich Mine), and the surface installations "Alte Elisabeth" is unique in the world. The Abraham shaft and other shafts form the mining landscape "Himmelfahrt Fundgrube" and are part of the chosen sites of the application for the UNESCO World Heritage title.



Alluring. Charming. A Must-See. Montanregion Erzgebirge

Freiberg is the regional capital and administrative centre for the region of Middle Saxony, which is composed of the former districts of Döbeln, Mittweida and Freiberg. This region is the "Heart of Saxony" and, economically, is one of the strongest in the Free State of Saxony. The silver and university City of Freiberg serves as an important hub of growth, with its geographic location giving it many strategic advantages. Freiberg is located not far from Leipzig, and just 40 km from Dresden, the Capital of Saxony, as well as the industrial centre of Chemnitz, and is equipped with excellent trans-regional infrastructure links. Because of its geographical location, Freiberg is often referred to as the "Gateway to the Erzgebirge". The northern regions of the Czech Republic, including Prague, are easily accessible from Freiberg. Well-developed hiking and cycling trails and a host of places of interest invite visitors to explore the countryside, the towns and the communities of the Erzgebirge. In the winter season, the excellent ski-slopes and cross-country ski-trails of the region attract visitors from far and wide, while the region's romantic Christmas Markets are regarded as some of the best and most beautiful in Germany.

Freiberg is the seat of important authorities and institutions, such as the Upper Mining Authority of Saxony, which realises the supervision of all mining activities in the Free State. In line with its long tradition, the President is granted the title of Chief Mining Officer. The work of the Authority today is focussed mainly on surface mining of lignite, stone and clays, as well as mine rehabilitation and the continuation of several centuries of supervision of old mining activities.



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