The University City of FREIBERG

Germany’s SILVER CITY
Charming, Future-oriented, Strong.
The University City of Freiberg in Saxony

The Future of Silver
Freiberg, with the charm of its historical architecture, is stylishly situated at the foot of the Erzgebirge - the Ore Mountains. The City’s face is etched with the riches and radiance of over 900 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 Heart 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 retains its original narrow alley, 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.

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 ruins, such as the Altertums Prinzipal, 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.

In 1918 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.
A future born of tradition

Freudenstein Castle, once the cradle of the famous Wettin rulers, is home today to the terra minerals, 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 synthesizes the close connection between the City and the University and is part of a future "Science Garden", which will, as part of an urban plan, bring the Bergakademie campus closer to the City Centre, further reuniting 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 minerals. A modern lecture hall will soon be constructed on site facing the Castle.

The University City of Freiburg is home to the Technical University Bergakademie Freiberg. Founded in 1764, 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 benefit from 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.
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. Research ranges from the exploration of new and Indigenous resources, through the development of alternative energy technologies and materials, to recycling and technologies for the protection of the environment. The attractiveness of Freiberg as a research location is increased by co-operation with the Helmholtz Centre in Dresden-Rossendorf. The partnership research institute Helmholtz Institute Freiberg for Resource Technology will help secure the supply of urgently needed minerals and metallic raw materials for the German industry.

Innovation and a competitive edge at national and international levels are extremely important today, and the University is keen in an interdisciplinary fashion to make 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 great new frontier:
The IDEM Institute was established three years ago under the industry ‘Joint Mining Initiative’ from SUEZ and Vattenfall (2006-2014).

We see ourselves as a valuable partner to today’s industries and tomorrow’s industries. We believe in the importance of scientific research and we foster it to provide tomorrow’s society with the resources it needs.
When looking for flourishing localities in the former East Germany, it is impossible to overlook Freiberg. Almost three decades after the Reunification of Germany, Freiberg can proudly claim 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
Enduring, Enchanting, Colourful.
The Silver City of Freiberg

The technological tauß de force of Freiberg’s mining and smelting expertise set standards in European mining for hundreds of years. Mining helped shape the validity, 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.

Art and culture of a high level have belonged to the City from the start. The traditional and modern combine here in an impressive cultural diversity. This diversity ranges from the enchanting halls 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 internationals live-up at the renowned “Erzburger Jazz Tage”. Many different clubs, venues and events ensure daily variety.

Mining techniques are time and tradition, now, this highlights the quality of Freiberg’s mines: Ferne Kaolin and Silbermann, name of Freiberg’s firm enthusiasm.

“The Empire Hall”, now a meeting place, is elevated as in the days of the ancient Imperial Assembly, which was held here together with other events, e.g., political and religious assemblies.

The oldest City Theatre in the world, its facade on the old Bridge Market, was always intended to be the “Little Saxon Opera”.

The Industrial District, a place of modernity, is a Second World War ruin and a symbol of the city’s economic rejuvenation.
"Glück auf!" is the traditional greeting in Freiberg, as it once combined miners’ hopes of finding a rich vein of silver with their anxiety to return safely home from the depths of the mine. Today the words "Glück auf!" along with the "Stripped" of the same name, is 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 visitors to the City and Mining Museum and the silver mine "Nicol Zeche", where the Silver Trail can be followed underground.

Above ground again, the Trail leads through the unique and attractive landscape of the Erzgebirge region – the "Silver Mountains". The region is distinguished by a multitude of valuable technical and industrial monuments, including shafts, rock terraces 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 "Märkisch Erzgebirge", which is preparing in the larger term for recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Montanregion Erzgebirge

Freiberg is the regional capital and administration centre for the region of Middle Saxony, which is composed of the former districts of Děčín, 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 geographical location giving it many strategic advantages. Freiberg is located not far from Leipzig, and just 48 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 far and wide, while the resort’s romantic Christmas Markets are regarded as some of the best and most beautiful in Germany.

Freiberg is the heart of important authorities and institutions such as the Upper Mining Authority of Saxony, which realizes the supervision of all mining activities in Saxony, and of the Upper Mining Authority of Saxony, the region of the Erzgebirge. The name Freiberg is a Latin word meaning “free mountain”. The name of the city was changed from Freiberg to Freiberg in the 13th century, and from Freyberg in the 15th century, and the继续 it was changed to Freiberg in the 18th century.