Tour Tip 12: People, Animals, Park Attractions

Child-friendly tour from Mettann to Wuppertal

Your children or grandchildren will be delighted with this tour: it offers a history of humanity, meeting animals, wonderful parks and is – by the way – very informative.

Your first destination is Mettmann for a visit to the Neanderthal Museum and the site where the Neanderthal Man was found. In 1856 quarry workers found 40,000-year-old skeletal remains of a fossilized human in the Feldhofer Grotte in the Neandertal, who later became world famous as the “Neanderthal”. His world is vividly displayed in the museum which was opened in 1996. Walking through the gleaming green museum feels like walking through a snail-shell and you advance through evolution step by step. Outside you have access to the art path “Menschenspuren” (human traces) and a wildlife park with aurochs, wisents and wild horses. Finally you reach a mock discovery site designed as an archaeological garden. The original site, the Feldhofer Grotte, was forever lost through limestone excavations. The presentation closely resembles what really happened. Stone crosses, a timeline, a so-called Fluchtstange (a tool for surveying) and plant beds link up with the location’s topography. Artic species and ice-age collectible plants are united as a phytocoenose in two botanicas.

The next station of this tour is the Zoo in Wuppertal which because of its landscape design is one of the most interesting zoos in Germany. The comprehensive and partly very unusual collection of animals makes it very popular: 5000 animals of 500 species in Germany. The comprehensive and partly very unusual collection cause of its landscape design is one of the most interesting zoos. The next station of this tour is the Zoo in Wuppertal...
Tip
If you want to cycle, the tour is 30 km long (starting from Hochdahl station to Bahnhof Barmen). Please note the topography, you have to be fit! Near Wuppertal you will discover an interesting new cycling path: the line where trains of the so-called Burgholzbahn with the railway guide number 402 used to drive (because of its many curves it used to be nicknamed "Samba-Trasse") is now dedicated to cyclists.

Recommended travel season
An experience all year round is the Neanderthal Museum and the site where the Neanderthal Man was found. It is open Tuesdays to Sundays between 10.00 and 18.00 hrs (the site is opened from November until February until 16.00 hrs.). The Wuppertaler Zoo is opened daily from 8.30 until 18.00 hrs, until 17.00 hrs in the winter. The Botanic Garden in the Hardt is open daily from 7.30 hrs, Saturdays, Sundays and on public holidays from 9.00 hrs, closing times can be found on the Internet. The Toiletturm (Barmer Anlagen) is open Sundays from 11.00 until 17.00 hrs from April until October and on prior agreement.