

ADVENTURE GRIMMHEIMAT NORDHESSEN

NATURAL LANDSCAPES
FABULOUS RELAXATION
WORLD HERITAGE & CULTURAL RICHES

WELCOME TO THE HOLIDAY WORLD OF NORTH HESSE

Once upon a time there was a fairy tale area of land, in whose dense forests primal tree giants put down roots. Amidst gentle ranges of hills gleam the red roofs of romantic half-timbered villages and the silvery blue of numerous rivers and lakes.

This is North Hesse, the home of the Brothers Grimm. The renowned language researchers spent the “freshest and happiest part” of their lives here as Jacob Grimm once wrote. It is not difficult to imagine our forest-rich central highlands as the backdrop for their fairy tales.

On the following pages discover a holiday world like that in a book of fairy tales: dreamy and primal. Close by and easily reachable. With much to offer for leisure and recuperation, for culinary and cultural enjoyment, for adventure and relaxation.

We look forward to your visit!

Your holiday team from the Grimms' home North Hesse

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BROTHERS *Home of the* GRIMM



A landscape LIKE THAT IN A PICTURE BOOK



So enchanted and primal that the characters from Grimms' fairy tales could be alive and well. This is North Hesse, the home of the brothers Grimm.

Our journey to the fairy tale places begins in the far North where the defensive Trendelburg castle towers over the Diemel on a mountain spur. A long plait hangs down from the walls of the imposing keep, in which Rapunzel is waiting for her prince. Close by, in the middle of the dense Reinhard Forest, the onion towers of a dreamy hunting castle appear. Once left to rack and ruin, and, according to legend, entwined by a hedge of thorns: the Briar Rose castle Sababurg.

The fairy tale journey continues through the region. On to the legendary High Meissner, Mother Hulda's local mountain. The folk myth whispers: here, on the bottom of a deep pond stands the silvery castle of the legendary figure.

Our imagination carries us in a southerly direction. To Bad Hersfeld, a former cloth-making centre. Was this perhaps the home of a particularly brave example of his guild? To the West of the spa and Festspiel town, a girl roams through Schwalm. From afar gleams the typical red head covering of her traditional local costume from Schwalm. We hope that she does not get lost in the dense forests of the Knüll mountains.



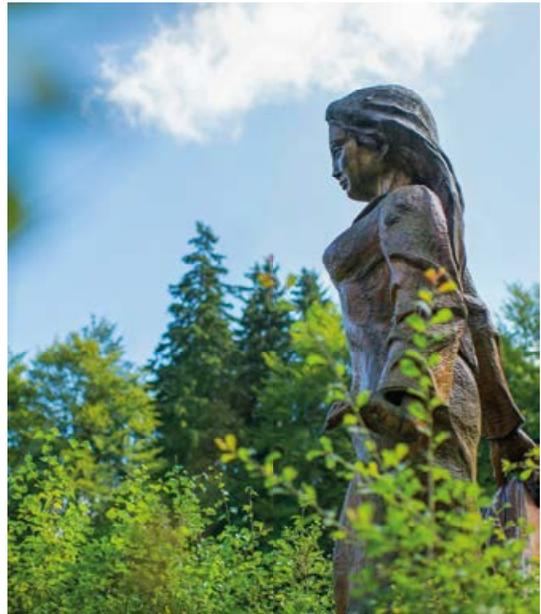
REALM OF THE IMAGINATION

Slowly we turn once more in a northerly direction. To Bad Wildungen, where once the beautiful count's daughter Margareth von Waldeck lived at Friedrichstein Castle. The remarkably beautiful girl grew up under the strict eye of her stepmother. And died prematurely under unexplained circumstances. Or did the beautiful girl flee and find refuge? Perhaps with the seven dwarves in the mining village Bergfreiheit?

Finally, a detour to Kassel, into the heart of the region. Here, 200 years ago, two scholars used to walk through the park on the hill, Wilhelmshöhe Bergpark. Whether they had eyes for its splendour? Or did their thoughts, even in their leisure hours, dwell on the secrets of language they wanted to investigate? And

on the origin of the fairy tales and legends flowing in to them from numerous sources? Today every child knows the name of these learned men: Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm.

Of course, we cannot put place names to the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm as they take place in the realm of the imagination. But our region, in which both linguists spent the greater part of their lives, sees itself as particularly associated with the legacy of Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm. Grimms' fairy tales can be felt here in many ways: in the fairy tale houses, fairy tale hours, during Kassel's Brothers Grimm Festival or as the inspiration for the imaginative dishes of our fairy tale cooks.

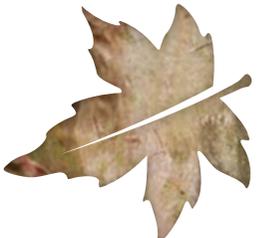




Fairy tale
FORESTS



NATURE'S TREASURE TROVE



The Grimms' home North Hesse is the region with the most forests in Germany's most forested federal state. Primal oaks, legendary beech woods, giant trees and the remains of primeval forests can be found here. One of nature's treasure troves.



In the region's nature reserves, the forest can be seen at its best. Thus in the Kellerwald-Edersee National Park, the wilderness of tomorrow is coming into being. The extensive old beech woods with unique remains of primeval forests are particularly worthy of protection and are a UNESCO world heritage site. Beeches with venerable ages of up to 260 years old have weathered time on the steep slopes of the Eder. Ancient woods on mountain tops and in gorges, cliffs and boulder fields, springs and brooks close to nature, peaceful meadow valleys and forest meadows: for nature fans there is a lot to discover in the Kellerwald-Edersee National Park.





Magical COLOURS

Pure air, soothing peace and quiet, fairy tale impressions and, in autumn, a really magical colour display: the forests of North Hesse are a paradise for active holidaymakers and those seeking recuperation.

No forest is like the other, nature produces surprises with its variety at every step along the way. The Nieste giants are real exotics: the giant sequoia, the hemlock, and coastal douglas, firs are more usually found in North America or Asia. At Nieste these giant trees are found in the middle of native deciduous forest. According to legend, the approximately 200-year-old trees are supposed to be giants under a spell.

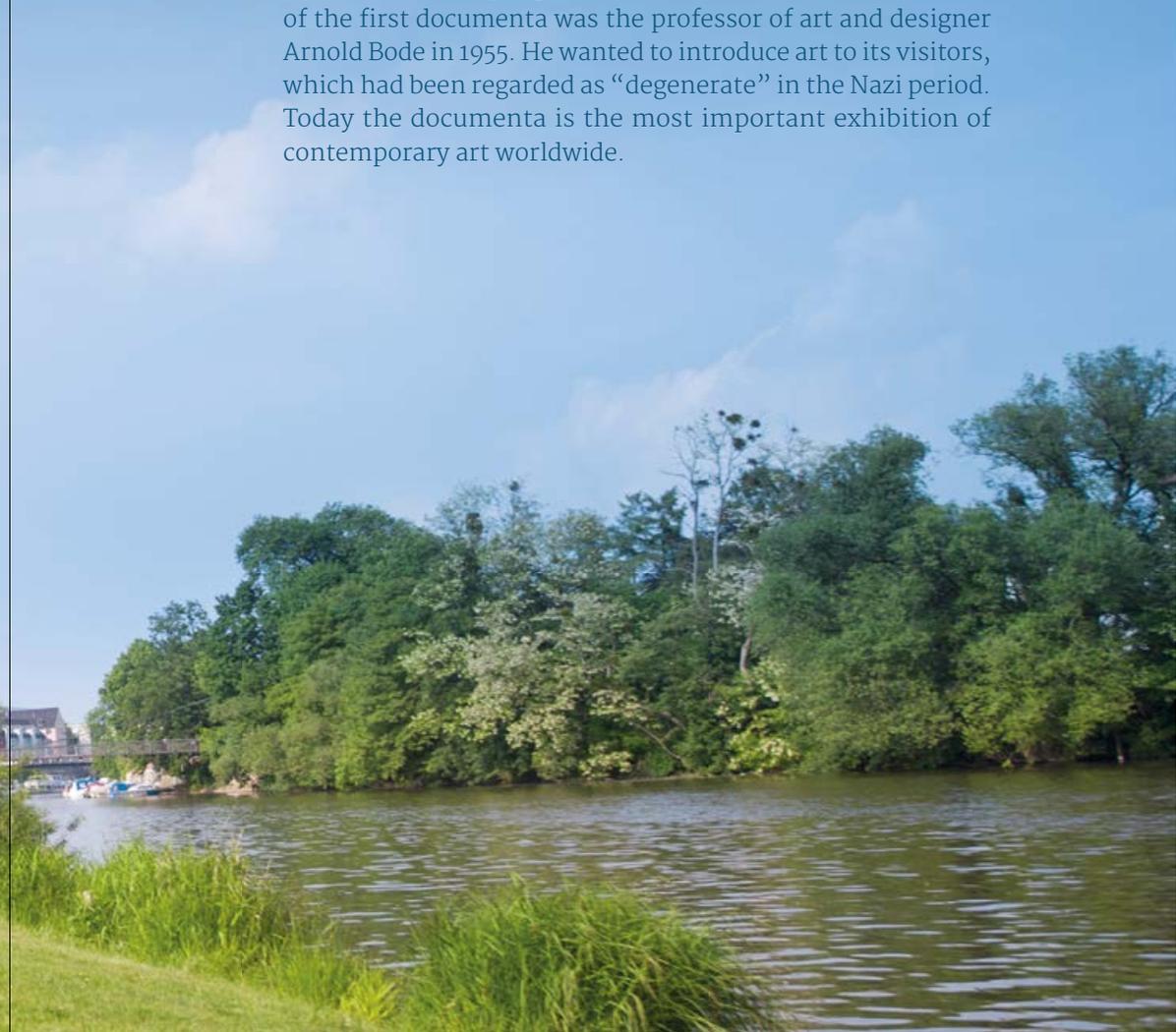
The Reinhard forest between Hann. Münden and Hofgeismar is the largest continuous wooded area in Hesse. And shelters the oldest nature reserve in Hesse, the Sababurg primeval forest. Substantial, old beech trees and gnarled oaks with mighty trunks and overarching crowns have put down their roots here. In between: tall ferns and toppled giant trees. A fairy tale forest just like one in a picture book.

REGION OF PIONEERS



With roots in the region and yet open to the world. Rural, but not sleepy. Tradition-conscious and yet open to new ideas. Creative, bold, innovative and sometimes a little headstrong. A forge for producing pioneers: this is North Hesse.

North Hesse gives creative impulses. Every five years here the museum of 100 days opens: the documenta in Kassel. Initiator of the first documenta was the professor of art and designer Arnold Bode in 1955. He wanted to introduce art to its visitors, which had been regarded as “degenerate” in the Nazi period. Today the documenta is the most important exhibition of contemporary art worldwide.



Exceptional MONUMENTS

One example of a pioneering spirit in town planning is Germany's first pedestrian zone. In 1953 the Treppenstrasse in Kassel was opened as a car-free shopping street, today it is listed.

There are outstanding monuments and stellar architectural achievements over the whole region, which are witness to the desire to design creatively. The Wilhelmshöhe Bergpark (park on the hill), Europe's greatest hillside park (UNESCO world heritage site). Or the white baroque town Bad Karlshafen with its model town layout. The list goes on.

At home in North Hesse: the computer pioneer Konrad Zuse (1910 – 1995). He lived in Hünfeld and is regarded as the inventor of the first functional computer in the world. For many years his company Zuse KG had its headquarters in Bad Hersfeld, the firm produced the first commercially marketed computers worldwide. Exceptional innovative power is exhibited by North Hesse companies, above all today in the areas of mobility, energy, logistics and health. They are mainly medium-sized firms, "Hidden Champions", indispensable for the world market.



Good fortune

The adventures of a fairy tale are made meaningful by the fortune that awaits the hero at the end: it may be a marriage that brings with it a new social position, or a whole kingdom, or it may be the good fortune of losing everything and being free of all care. "There is no one under the sun as fortunate as I," says Kim in luck on returning home to his mother empty-handed. We asked the writer and filmmaker Alexander Kluge about luck, fortune, and happiness.



HOME TO THE *fathers of language*

North Hesse, home to language pioneers: Konrad Duden published his dictionary of the German language in Bad Hersfeld.

With this he made a significant contribution to a standardised spelling of German. Germany's first interactive museum for language and communication, the "wortreich" (word-rich) in Bad Hersfeld, is inspired by the work of Konrad Duden and Konrad Zuse.

They also performed pioneering work: Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm. Their "Children's and Household Tales" are the first systematic collection and academic documentation of the entire European and oriental story tradition.

Originally, the brothers were on the trail of the secrets of language, laying the foundations for the most comprehensive dictionary of the German language, the so-called "Grimm", and are regarded as the pioneers of German studies. Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm were also democratic pioneers. They published political texts and wanted to play a part in the unification of the small German states at the time. Jacob Grimm was also a member of the first German national assembly in the Paulskirche in Frankfurt.

The region feels a particular affinity with the legacy and pioneering spirit of the Brothers Grimm. This is also the reason why North Hesse is today seen as the home of the Brothers Grimm.



WATER, FOREST AND SPACE



Gentle, forested central highlands characterise the image of the North Hesse landscape. On the hills and plateaus the view is of the far distance. Over dense, dreamy forests. Over picturesque valleys, traversed by the silvery blue of the rivers. An experience of space and freedom.

They are found almost everywhere in the region: spectacular distant views. Sometimes quite unexpectedly so, when a gap between the trees suddenly reveals valleys and small half-timbered villages.

SPECTACULAR VIEWS

Anyone travelling by canoe on the rivers discovers a secluded world, which unfolds its quiet splendour when viewed from the water. Elsewhere a viewpoint rewards walkers for their hill-climbing efforts. On the Weidelsburg for example: the castle built high up on the hill in the 13th century, now the largest ruined castle in North Hesse, enables far-ranging views over the Habicht forest. All around the Hoher Meissner, the highest mountain in the region, there are places enabling the observer to immerse himself in the views of the gentle mountain landscape. Castles, built on peaks and slopes for tactical reasons, today draw visitors for their viewpoints. Thus the entire Edersee lies at the feet of guests at Waldeck castle.

The Edersee looks almost like a fjord. It is Germany's third largest reservoir. Bordered by steep, wooded slopes, with its numerous bays, the water snuggles into the hills of the Eder's hills. A paradise for water sports enthusiasts and those seeking recuperation,

for walkers and nature-lovers. Wood and water: a combination to be found in many places in the region. At the Diemelsee and the Twistesee lakes for example. Or in the enchanting river landscapes of Fulda, Werra, Weser, Eder, Schwalm and Diemel.



MAGICAL VIEWS



These too are characteristic of the North Hesse landscape: bizarre basalt rocks, picturesque heaths, wide high plateaus, rare orchids and wild flowers, richly diverse habitats. And, an especially wonderful sight in early summer: fields of poppies in bloom. For four weeks the Meissner poppy flowers ensure a feast of the senses with their magical sight. Pink and violet as far as the eye can see.

A region with unique cultural treasures – this is the home of the Brothers Grimm, North Hesse. Here there are works by old masters as well as contemporary art. Festivals, theatre and music. A high quality range of museums. And a unique UNESCO world heritage site where the globally unique spectacle lasts around an hour: via cascades, waterfalls, artificial streams and ponds the water flows through the Wilhelmshöhe Bergpark in Kassel.

The production finishes with a spectacular 50 metre high fountain in front of Wilhelmshöhe palace. The water fountains, which enchant thousands of visitors in the summer months, are an attraction of the landscaped park, which has been a UNESCO world heritage site since 2013. Europe's largest hillside park is a unique cultural monument, in which there is much to be discovered: the monumental Hercules statue, the emblem of Kassel.

The supposed medieval Löwenburg (Lion Castle), which was built in the late 18th century as a fun castle. And Wilhelmshöhe palace with its museum. Rembrandt, Rubens, Titian and Dürer are at home here in the Old Masters' gallery. The collection of works by Rembrandt is regarded as unparalleled in Germany in quantity and quality. A highlight in the North Hesse museum landscape, in which there are many other outstanding and also unusual museums – such as the one for sepulchral culture, which is devoted to the topics of death and dying, or the “wortreich” in Bad Hersfeld, a unique interactive museum, the like of which is not found elsewhere in Germany, on the theme of language and communication. Brand new: the GRIMMWELT (THE WORLD OF THE BROTHERS GRIMM) in Kassel. The modern exhibition centre on Kassel's Weinberg is devoted to the life and work of the Brothers Grimm in a variety of ways – with artistic installations, multimedia and interactive exhibits. The Kassel personal annotated copies of Grimm's “Children's and Household Tales” can also be seen here. These first editions contain handwritten notes by the Brothers Grimm and are UNESCO world heritage documents.



art culture

Art is omnipresent in Kassel: on the approach to the Kulturbahnhof (culture station) the “Himmelsstürmer” (Heaven/Sky Stormer) wants to go onwards and upwards, the figure by the artist Jonathan Brofsky seems to be striding along a 25 metre long steel pipe heavenwards, confident of reaching his goal.

It is one of the works, which have remained permanently in Kassel in the wake of a documenta and today continue to give character to the townscape. The documenta is the most significant exhibition of contemporary art worldwide. It takes place every five years in Kassel.





Lively STAGE

And in the meantime the cultural events calendar in North Hesse is richly filled.

A contribution is made to this by North Hesse's Culture Summer, which puts on events throughout the entire region with small art installations, theatre and music events, sometimes in unusual locations such as old ruins, castles, vaulted cellars, barns and parks.

The State Theatre in Kassel is an institution regularly ensuring highlights in the cultural year.

Renowned beyond the region are the Bad Hersfeld Festspiele, which take place every year from mid-June until the beginning of August in this "Salzburg of the North". For two months the ruins of the abbey become the impressive backdrop for theatrical and musical performances in the open air.

TYPICAL NORTH HESSE



Cologne has the cathedral, Kassel the Hercules. Bavaria the Weisswurst (white sausage), North Hesse the Ahle Wurst (old sausage). By the Elbe they “schnacken” meaning “chat”, but by the Fulda in Hesse they “schnuddeln” with the same meaning. North Hesse has many regional peculiarities. Not always known worldwide. But always genuine and undisguised.

One always wants to join in when people from North Hesse are together having a natter (plaudern). Friendly and soft, round and melodic, this is the impression given by the North Hesse dialect. So completely without harsh sounds. Even when the talk is of Dilbel (dolt), “Dummejahn” (simpleton) or Ladderhannes (layabout), it does not sound as mean as if someone was being called Töpel (dolt), Dummkopf (simpleton) or Rumtreiber (layabout). However, the North Hesse dialect is no longer widely spoken. For some years now one is however encountering it again more and more often: in the texts of local music groups, at dialect events, on postcards and t-shirts and then, of course, when locals are amongst themselves. For example, having a convivial time together partaking of a delicious speciality (a “Schmeckewöhlerchen”).





Culinary cultural heritage

The Ahle Wurst, the culinary heritage of the region, is one such Schmeckewöhlerchen. This non-perishable raw sausage speciality is crumbly and spicy, and is closely associated with the rural tradition of self-sufficiency. Haste is a poor ingredient in its production. The Ahle Wurst (old sausage) needs time, its name says so. When at its best, the pigs have not been fattened up hastily but reach their slaughter weight in their own time. And in order to mature the Ahle Wurst is hung for months in sausage heaven amongst its equals until it is ready to eat. It is the same whether it's a "straight one", "round one" or "haunch": typically, only select spices are added. Chemical additives for accelerating the maturation process are proscribed. Hence the Ahle Wurst is also an example of originality and keeping old traditions alive. The German Slow Food Foundation has found it worth keeping and has included the Ahle Wurst in the "ark of taste". Weckewerk (dish from pigs head, onions and bread rolls) and Duckefett sauce, Speckkuchen (bacon quiche) and Kasseler green sauce likewise belong to the culinary customs being kept alive in the region. A piece of the homeland that tastes nice.





LEISURE *Your* OWN WAY

Peaceful worlds for walking in or lively urban flair? Being active in nature or recuperating in the wellbeing oasis? Fun at leisure with the family or demanding cultural enjoyment? The Grimms` home North Hesse is a region of variety – for a holiday full of possibilities.

Solitude and peace are found by walkers on their trails through dreamy forests. Streams close to nature, defiant castles and picturesque half-timbered villages lie to the side of the path. Rustic inns invite you to call in with their regional dishes and the evening is rounded off with a visit to the thermal springs. And overnighting? Perhaps in the family-run pension, the rustic inn or the centrally located holiday apartment.



ADVENTUROUS



That's how a holiday in the home of the Grimms can look. Or something completely different: a trip to the corn maze, a ride on the toboggan run, a visit to the wildlife park or plunge in the adventure pool – for families and those keen on adventure there is a high density of leisure facilities in the region.

Family-friendly hosts and accommodation for groups can be found everywhere, from the camping site via the generous holiday house through to the family hotel. The treehouse hotel awaits those keen on adventure: high in the treetops, surrounded by a canopy of leaves, lulled to sleep by the noises of the night-time forest. Children really enjoy spending the night at the straw hotel or in the decommissioned railway carriage.



Leisure Time Fun FOR ALL



Culture & Enjoyment



This too can be found in the holiday region at the heart of Germany. Unique museums and a rich range of cultural events provide inspiring impressions; guided tours vividly communicate the rich history of the medieval towns.

Excellent restaurants serve creative, culinary delights. For overnight accommodation there are romantic country hotels out in the countryside, as well as the five star hotel or the exclusive turret room in a hotel in a castle. And a holiday in Central Germany can also look like this: an extensive shopping trip through modern shopping centres or through high streets full of specialist shops. In between: a snack in the street café and a stroll in the town park. In the evening, perhaps a concert or a visit to the theatre. Urban flair with the rural backdrop of an original natural landscape.

IN THE HEART OF GERMANY



Notice: map contains only a part of the locations and towns in North Hesse.

The Grimms' home North Hesse lies at the heart of Germany and is thus quickly reached from all directions. Routes are also short within the holiday region as well. This is because leisuretime fun and recuperation are to be found all over here.

Going away for a few days, for a short downtime from the everyday: as a holiday region in the centre of Germany, North Hesse enables its guests to have a quick and stressfree journey there. Hosts have switched on to guests taking short breaks and offer packages to meet their guests' needs: wellness offers for those seeking recuperation, adventure packages for active holidaymakers, walking packages for nature enthusiasts. This way there is no need to spend a lot of time on planning your short break.



My perfect day



Plunge into city life for a weekend with delicious food and great shopping, warm hospitality and typically North Hesse flair: the towns of the region have developed experience-packed day programmes for those taking short breaks.

Under the motto “My perfect day” guests can get to know the nicest sides to a town within a short time.

A guided tour of the town full of experiences, a visit to selected sights or a diversion to a wellbeing oasis can – depending on individual wishes – be components of the “perfect day”. Romantic half-timbered buildings, medieval stonework, picture-perfect town houses – there is plenty to discover everywhere in North Hesse.

Monuments, a living town history and an impressive culture open the mind to the regional peculiarities. Museums providing experiences, mines that provide visitor tours and toboggan runs, thermal springs and leisure pools add to the leisure value of the region. Holidaymakers in the Grimms’ home North Hesse can not only save themselves long journeys but also in many cases the entrance money as well. This is

because with the guest card MeineCardPlus the entry to many leisure businesses is free. Also journeys by busses and trains belonging to the regional traffic network are free. Holidaymakers receive a MeineCardPlus free of charge from their host, the guest card is also valid for the day of arrival and that of departure.



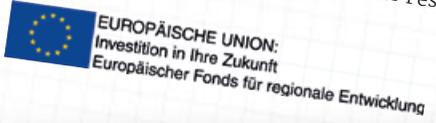
MEINECARDPLUS - THE ALL INCLUSIVE GUEST CARD

The times when wishing still worked – we'll take you back to them.

In the homeland of the Brothers Grimm your holiday wishes will come true. More than 120 hotels, holiday apartments and small hotels invite you to a free leisure bonus. There you will receive MeineCardPlus – and thus free entry into more than 100 leisure attractions and free journeys on the regional buses and trams.

www.MeineCardPlus.de

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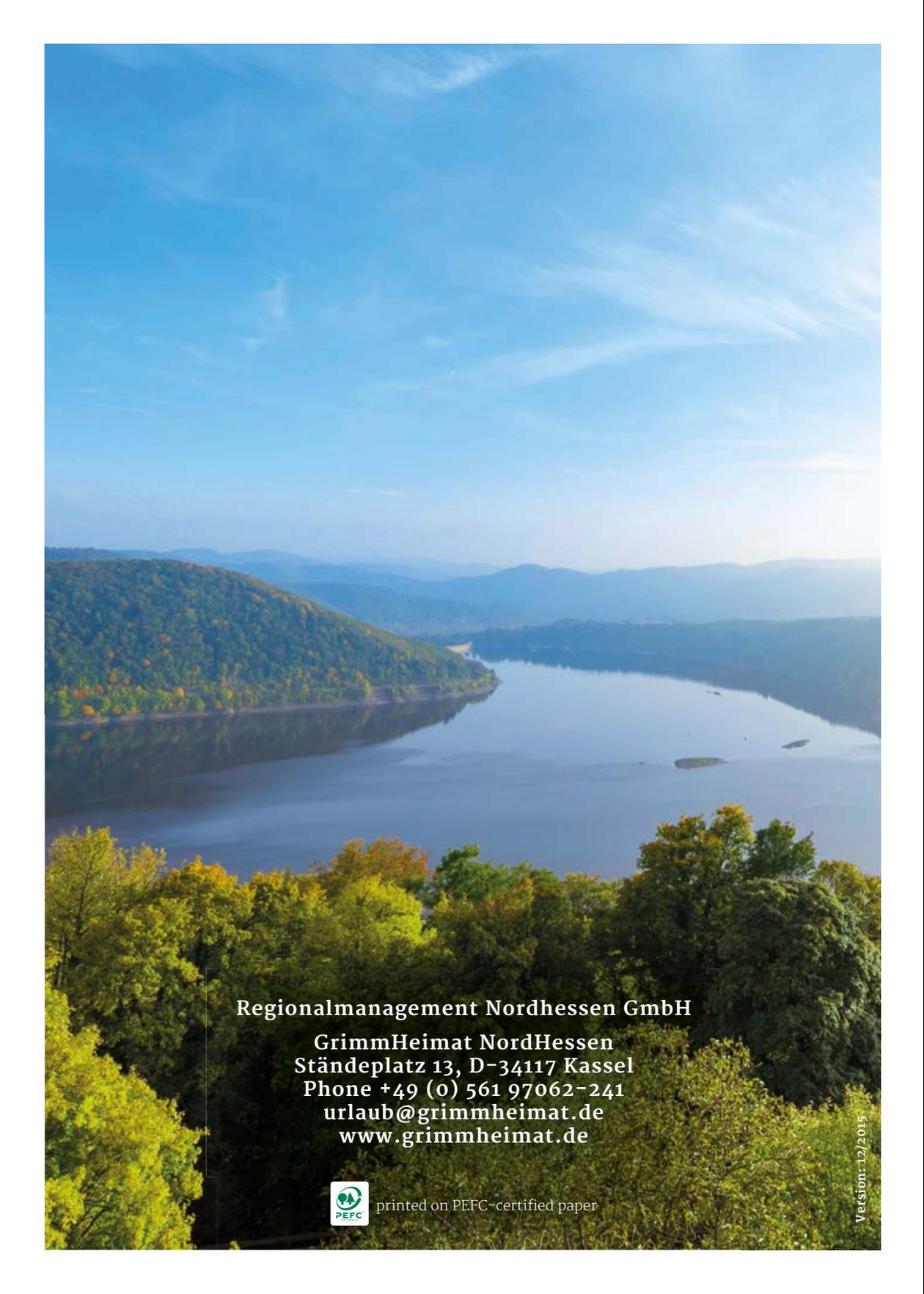
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