Located close to Cologne, the metropolis on the Rhine, and the Federal City of Bonn, Eitorf is nested in the heart of the Sieg region of natural beauty. The healthy climate, the varied undulating landscape with extensive woodland, picturesque valleys, forested upland ridges, marvellous views and the untouched river landscape of the river Sieg offer a wealth of opportunities for leisure and relaxation. On the Natursteig Sieg nature trail and the Sieg experience trails, enjoy pure walking pleasure in a rich and varied cultural landscape. Numerous sporting activities including golfing, water touring on the river Sieg, cycling and mountain biking, and much more are all topped off with a lively cultural scene. This wide range of activities makes Eitorf the ideal holiday destination. Be inspired and escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life. We look forward to your visit!

By the way: travel comfortably to Eitorf via the Cologne-Siegen railway line. (RE 9, S 12 and S 19).
St. Agnes catholic church
Part of the historical grounds of Merten Castle is the former monastic church of St. Agnes, a three-nave Romanesque basilica from the second half of the 12th century, which can be seen from afar rising high above the Sieg Valley. The entire monastery and parts of the church were destroyed by fire in 1699. Reconstruction took a hundred years. Following the secularisation of the monastery in 1803, the church became the parish church of Merten and the surrounding area. When not in use for services, the church can be entered via the inner courtyard of Merten Castle.

Kirchweg, Eitorf-Merten

Merten Castle
The monastery believed to have been founded by Countess Mathilde von Sayn was first mentioned in a document by Otto von Kappenstein in 1217. Although Merten was not a rich monastery, it enjoyed considerable fame thanks to a relic of Saint Agnes and many other celebrated saints. The monastery was eventually secularised in 1803. In 1909, the aristocratic family Droste zu Vischering von Nesselrode-Reichenstein acquired the monastic buildings. They had the site converted into a castle and expanded the grounds into a neo-baroque park based on the model of French landscape gardening. During this period, a neo-baroque outbuilding was added, known as the Orangery, which today is home to a small café restaurant. The entire estate today houses a residential care and nursery home for the elderly. The grounds including the park and the Orangery are open to the public.

Schloßstraße 14, Eitorf-Merten, S-Bahn station: 500 m

The Phantom
When the castle grounds were redesigned, the then lord of the castle Felix Count Nesselrode erected a temple gate on the opposite bank of the river Sieg, referred to jokingly by his family as the ‘Phantom’. The trompe l’oeil building known as the ‘Gloriette’ resulted in the creation of a viewpoint of the style made famous by French landscape gardening, a so-called ‘point de vue’.

Skulpturengarten Vetere
The 11,000 m² sculpture garden with exhibits of the work of the Italian painter and sculptor Giovanni Vetere and of various other artists is located in the centre of Eitorf. The garden can be visited by appointment. The Atelier Giovanni Vetere and the Galerie Incontro are based in the adjacent ‘Zigarrenfabrik’ (cigar factory).

Schümmerichstr. 1, Tel. +49 2243 840086 www.giovanni-vetere.de

Stadtrundgang Eitorf
The town tells tales
The Town Tour through Eitorf offers an introduction to the meaningful history of the township of Eitorf. Having already been a market centre in the Middle Ages, following the arrival of the Cologne-Siegen railway, Eitorf quickly became an important industrial centre. The 5.6 km-long historical tour gives a clear idea of the economic rise of Eitorf – take for example the large industrialists’ villas and attractive middle-class residences along the route. Today as in the past, relaxation is a highly esteemed tradition in Eitorf.

Start/finish: Eitorf railway station forecourt, Bahnhofstraße

Additional information is found on the marker posts along the route and in the brochure ‘Stadtrundgang Eitorf’ available from the tourist information centre.

www.eitorf-erleben.de

Halft suspension bridge
In 1946, shortly after the end of World War II, as part of a community project, the local residents built the suspension bridge over the Sieg using any material available to them. The cables, for example, were salvaged from a former cableway.

Located on the L333 rural road between the town centre and Eitorf-Alzenbach.

www.eitorf-erleben.de
ACTIVITIES

Cycling
Discover the Sieg Valley by bicycle! Whether following the pleasant Radweg Sieg cycling path through the picturesque river valley, or enjoying a more sporting challenge by mountain bike along the mountain ranges and steep slopes, the landscape offers the ideal backdrop for every age and every level of fitness.

Radweg Sieg cycling path
The Sieg is a 146 km-long upland river with a course that has been left in its natural state. It rises in the Rothaar Mountains and flows into the Rhine near Niederkassel. The cycling path closely follows the course of the river. Over a 60 km section between Windeck and its water mouth, the cycling path is practically level and traffic-free, making it ideal for family cycling tours.

TIP: Siegtal pur - car-free Sieg Valley - first Sunday in July, cycle from Siegburg to the source of the river Sieg in Netphen.

Bicycle rent
Zweirad Viehof, Siegstraße 75, Tel. +49 2243 2638
Hotel Schützenhof, Windecker Str. 2, Tel. +49 2243 8870

Bicycle repairs
Lukas Fahrräder, Hardtstraße 1, Tel. +49 2243 3694
Zweirad Viehof, Siegstraße 75, Tel. +49 2243 2638

Angling
Angling is possible on the river Sieg for those in possession of a valid permit and day ticket. Special rules apply for catch volume and fishing period.

Day tickets can be purchased at the following locations:
Aral filling station
Bahnhofstraße 43, Tel. +49 2243 3133
Campingplatz Happach
Hennefer Straße 8, Tel. +49 2243 3533
Raiffeisenwarengenossenschaft
Uferstraße 6, Tel. +49 2243 927920

Hermann-Weber-Bad
The water park in the centre of Eitorf, just a few metres from the railway station and the Sieg cycling path, offers water fun for the entire family, featuring
• giant 60 m slide
• adventure pool
• paddling pool with elephant slide and toy boat canal
• sports pool 10 x 25 m
• heated outdoor pool 8 x 16 m
• shaded children’s outdoor paddling pool
• large extensive lawn area with playground shaded by ancient trees
• beach volleyball pitch
• Finnish sauna
• infrared booth with salt water nebuliser
• bistro with sun terrace

Hermann-Weber-Bad
Am Eichelkamp 14, Tel. +49 2243 923050, www.freizeitbad-eitorf.de

Canoeing
A canoe trip on the river Sieg as it flows between undisturbed meadows and delightful pasture landscapes is an unforgettable experience. Special rules apply on the section between Windeck-Oppersau and the water mouth into the Rhine, as this area is a protected nature reserve.

Information: www.eitorf-erleben.de

Canoe rental:
Aktive Elemente
Tel. +49 2207 8475070 or +49 172 2479418
www.aktive-elemente.de
Aktivevents Kanustation Eitorf
Am Eichelkamp, Tel. +49 228 9084973, www.aktiv-eventsbredthauer.de
Siegtours Kanuverleih Eitorf
Tel. +49 2243 9239117, www.siegtours-kanuverleiheitorf.de

Golfing
The golf course is located close to the centre of the town, in an idyllic hilly area.
• 27-hole championship course
• Stay & Play for all
• driving range with covered tee
• golfing academy
• hotel and restaurant

Gut Heckenhof Hotel & Golfresort an der Sieg,
Heckerhof 5, Tel. +49 2243 923232, www.gut-heckenhof.de

Archery
Schützenverein Eitorf
Information Tel. +49 2243 80430, www.schuetzenverein-1859.de
Eitorfer Bogenschützen
Information Tel. +49 2243 841145, www.bogensport-eitorf.de

Hot air ballooning
Erika & Reiner Schröder
Tel. +49 2243 6063, www.ballon-schroeder.de

Horseback riding
Reitsporthalle & Reitschule
Heidehof Eitorf-Lindscheid,
Kalkstraße 60, Tel. +49 2243 83455, www.heidehof-eitorf.de
Breathtaking panoramas, unforgettable views and the imposing, ever changing interplay of the Sieg, brooks, pasturelands, forests and meadows, up mountains and down dales, the changing colours of the seasons, tarred roads or soft hiking trails... Eitorf and the Naturregion Sieg offer the ideal backdrop for strolling and rambling along routes entirely of your own choosing. There is something for everyone, young and old, from challenging to casual.

**Hiking on the Natursteig Sieg**

The Natursteig Sieg hiking trail offers almost 200 km of pure enjoyment for hikers, between Siegburg and Mudersbach. The route travels through the solitary natural landscapes of the Sieg Valley, taking in numerous sites of cultural interest, and amazes visitors with its impressive river landscapes and fabulous views. Narrow tracks rather than broadly-laid hiking trails and an appealing route characterise this remarkable hiker’s paradise. The entire trail can be comfortably hiked in 14 one-day stages. Numerous railway stations follow the trail along the Sieg Valley, ensuring easy access to the various stage points using public transportation.

Three stages of the Natursteig Sieg pass fully or partly through Eitorf.

**Stage 3 from Blankenberg to Merten**
- Distance: 12.6 km
- Walking time: 4 hours

**Stage 4 from Merten to Eitorf**
- Distance: 13.9 km
- Walking time: 4.5 hours

**Stage 5 from Eitorf to Herchen**
- Distance: 20.7 km
- Walking time: 7 hours

All information about the nature and adventure trails can be found at www.naturregion-sieg.de and in the Naturregion Sieg tourist information centres.

**Hiking on the Erlebniswege Sieg**

Switch from untouched nature to inhabited farm landscapes. The Sieg Adventure Trails that connect with the Natursteig Sieg hiking trail cover distances of between 6 and 23 kilometres, and offer interesting insights into the life of the local people and the history of the region.

Four adventure trails pass fully or partly through the township of Eitorf.

**Dreitälerweg**

The Three Valley Trail travels from the heights of the town of Blankenberg into the Ahrenbach Valley and the Krabach Valley nature conservation area, as far as Merten Castle, with its neo-baroque castle grounds and Orangery.

- Start: hikers car park Hennef-Stein, alternative S-Bahn station Eitorf-Merten
- Distance: 16.7 km
- Walking time: 4-5 hours

**Wildwiesenweg**

On the Wild Pasture Trail, the main focus is to experience the local landscape. As well as wild pastures, arable land and meadow orchards, this route also takes in the contrast with the intensive farming and widely-used rich pasture lands. The variety of landscapes

- Start: hikers car park Windeck-Stromberg
- Distance: 16.6 km
- Walking time: 5-5.5 hours

**Dörferweg**

Go back in history: sheep pastures, historical woodland and pasture trails with lonely roadside crosses, villages with their half-timbered houses and meadow orchards. The idyllic Village Trail takes you across the gentle undulating heights of the Leuscheid, and offers fantastic panoramic views. On your return to Eitorf, make use of the many stop-off points for a rest and relaxation.

- Start: Eitorf railway station
- Distance: 13.1 km
- Walking time: 4 hours
Anyone looking to experience and understand the life of the honeybee, or to find out how bees cohabit with other woodland creatures; anyone wanting to find out why honeybees are endangered, and what we can do to prevent their loss, must pay a visit to the Educational Bee Trail in Hüppelröttchen.

11 information panels contain exciting facts and curious details for children and adults alike. Interactive elements and experience stations offer the perfect opportunity to find out more about bees and other woodland animals. The new friends of the bees can reveal what they have learned by solving the puzzle, and with a little luck receive an attractive reward. Entry cards are available from the Natursteig Sieg tourist information centres.

How to get there:
Travel to Eitorf-Käsberg. Pass through the village and at its exit follow the road ‘Zum Hohen Schaden’ as far as the signpost ‘Wandergebiet Hüppelröttchen’. After approx. 1 km, when you reach the hikers car park Melchiorweg, you will have found the start of ‘Melli’s Bienenlehrpfad’.

Waldlehrpfad
For most people, all trees look the same. Visitors to the Educational Tree Trail will soon know better. The Tree Trail is part of the Educational Woodland Trail and on 23 information panels offers interesting stories and facts about oak, beech and pine. The information panels also offer interactive puzzle questions to help the young tree experts test out their new knowledge in a playful manner. As well as these information panels, various other information points show facts about woodland animals including bats, spiders and birds, and woodland nature.

How to get there:
Travel to Eitorf-Käsberg. Pass through the village and at its exit follow the road ‘Zum Hohen Schaden’ as far as the signpost ‘Wandergebiet Hüppelröttchen’. After approx. 1 km, when you reach the hikers car park Melchiorweg, you will have found the start of ‘Melli’s Bienenlehrpfad’.

The 5.6 km-long Wild Pasture Trail leads through a protected nature reserve, which is home to many sometimes rare animals. However, because some of these animals are particularly timid, the inventors of this ‘safari’ can offer a little assistance: at the edge of the trail, a number of not entirely realistic animals have been hidden. Anyone who discovers and photographs these animals can take part in the annual prize draw.

How to get there:
www.naturregion-sieg.de

Photosafari on the Wildwiesenweg

Kinder-Erlebnis-Lehrpfad
A 2 km-long Children’s Adventure Trail with ‘Kiki Eichhorn’ the squirrel, on the heights of the Keltersberg, with a whole series of interactive stop-off points including animal long jump, barefoot trail and much more. Keltersberg access via Kelterser Straße.

Adventure hill landscape
Am Eichelkamp, located between Siegtal-Gymnasium and gym.

Playgrounds
Multi-generation playground with
• toddlers’ play area
• picnic places
• cable ride
• climbing pyramid
• mini football pitch
• outdoor fitness trail
• championship jeu de boule facilities all in the Siegpark, located by the school centre between the Brückenstraße and Siegstraße

Other playgrounds: Buchenweg, Ginsterweg, Parkstraße, Schmidtgasse
Alzenbach: Canisiusstraße
Halft: Feldergasse
Harmonie: St.Martinsweg
Irlenborn: Dorfstraße and Waldweg
Mühleip: Linkenbacher Straße

Skate bowl
Siegauenplatz, to the north of the railway station. Alongside the skateboarding bowl is a basketball court.
Cultural events

Throughout the year, in the Theater am Park (Park Theatre) and at other historical locations, in churches and galleries, an ever-changing cultural programme is on offer. From music and cabaret through to children’s theatre, the six-monthly cultural calendar offers all the relevant details and for the latest news visit www.eitorf.de.

Tickets for cultural events are available at the town hall in Eitorf, Markt 1 and Copy-Shop, Asbacher Straße 11 and Glashaus, Kirchstraße 6.

Recurring events

APRIL

Eitorfer Frühling spring fair
Exhibition of trade, handcrafts and local commerce, with car show.
Market square and surrounding streets
Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

JUNE

Fairy tale festival
Family afternoon based on the theme of fairy tales, with puppeteers, fairy tale narrators, handcraft and experience and learning games.
Merten Castle grounds, Eitorf-Merten
2.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Eitorfer Kneipennacht ‘Spätschicht’
(‘Late Shift’ pub night)
Live music at various locations in the town centre.

JULY, EVERY 2 YEARS

Hot air balloon gathering
www.ballon-schroeder.de
30 hot air ballooning teams or more attend this three-day event and competition. For the public, opportunities to take a balloon ride and an entertainment programme culminating in the glowing balloons with Bengal fire. On the meadows along the Sieg by the L 333 between the centre and Eitorf-Alzenbach, near the industrial area.

LAST SUNDAY IN JULY

Eitorf bric-a-brac market
www.naturregion-sieg.de
The L 333 rural road through the Sieg Valley is closed to motorised transport over a distance of 120 km from Siegburg to Netphen.
All along the route, musical events and street parties are organised.
Closure: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

JULY / AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

Siegthal Festival Sommer
Series of cultural events organised by Siegburg and Hennef and the townships of Eitorf and Windeck.

4TH WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER

Eitorfer Kirmes fair
The traditional Eitorfer Kirmes is the largest fair in the Rhein-Sieg district with numerous attractions, displays and a large market ending with fireworks.
Town centre. Saturday to Tuesday

LAST SUNDAy IN JULY

Eitorf Christmas Market
Market square, Friday to Sunday
11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER

Kunstpunkte im Doppelpack
(twin arts event)
An annual arts event organised each year together with the town of Hennef. Art and design are displayed in the historical Werkshallen industrial complex, at special locations and in selected shop windows in Eitorf and Hennef.

1ST ADVENT WEEKEND

Eitorfer Christmas Market
Market square, Friday to Sunday
11 a.m. to 8 p.m.