

Bad Essen, Lower Saxony, Germany

A gentle spa town on the Mittelland Canal, Bad Essen rewards slow walkers with half-timbered squares, moated castles, and a rare set of 150-million-year-old dinosaur footprints just outside town.

 Docked (canal quay)  Typical call: 6–8 hrs  Currency: Euro (€)  Language: German  Health-resort town

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: River ships tie up at the MYC Mittelland marina on the Mittelland Canal, ~1.5 km from the historic town center.

Best For: Half-timbered architecture, castle day-trips, spa culture, canal cycling, and dinosaur tracks.

Walk to center: ~20-minute flat walk or short taxi from the canal quay to the market square.

Don't Miss: The 150-million-year-old dinosaur tracks at Barkhausen (a district of Bad Essen) and the moated Schloss Hünnefeld.

 Getting around:  Taxi  €10–€20

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Historic Old Town Walk** — Stroll the market square and surrounding streets to admire well-preserved half-timbered buildings that place Bad Essen on the German Timber-Frame Road.
- **Schloss Hünnefeld** — A moated castle first documented in 1146, with a late-Renaissance manor house (built c.1600–1614) and a round dovecote added in 1710.
- **Dinosaur Tracks at Barkhausen** — One of Germany's most unusual day-trip attractions: 150-million-year-old sauropod and theropod footprints preserved in a former quarry at Barkhausen...
- **Schloss Ippenburg Garden Exhibition** — A neo-Gothic aristocratic estate (the current house built 1862–1867 on older foundations) celebrated for its gardens, open to visitors on summer...
- **SolePark & Brine Pools** — Bad Essen's spa heritage is on full display in the SolePark, where salty brine trickles over blackthorn hedges to freshen the air.

BEST WALKS

- **Marina to Market Square** 1.5 km · ~20 min · Flat — Walk from the MYC Mittelland marina along the canal path, then turn south toward the town center.
- **Old Town Timber-Frame Loop** 2 km · ~30 min · Flat — From the market square, follow the signed German Timber-Frame Road route through the historic core.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				 DAYLIGHT &  MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 6:29AM–8:25PM · Jun 5:04AM–9:50PM · Aug 6:10AM–8:50PM · Sep 7:01AM–7:41PM · Oct 7:52AM–6:31PM	
Apr	57°	40°	11d	Currency: Euro (€)	
Jun	72°	55°	11d		
Aug	74°	58°	13d		
Sep	67°	53°	9d		
Oct	59°	48°	12d		

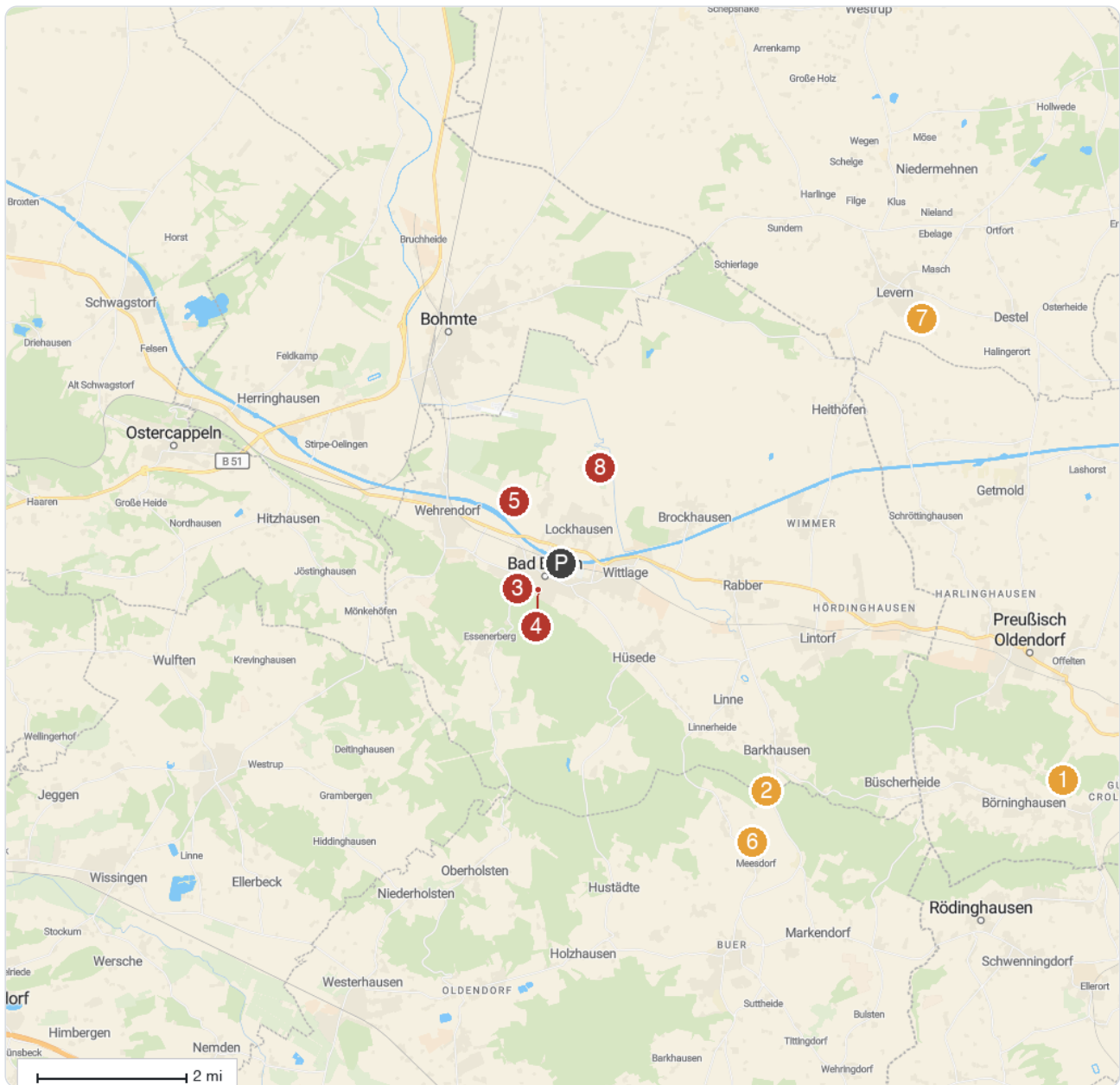
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Cash is king in small-town Germany. While cards are increasingly accepted, smaller cafés and the Old Watermill may prefer cash. ATMs are available in the town center.
- Sunday openings vary. The Old Watermill grinds on Sundays from May to October — a lucky bonus if your call falls on a weekend.
- Bring or rent a bike. The Mittelland Canal towpath is flat and well-maintained — cycling is the best way to explore beyond the town center without needing a car.
- The dinosaur tracks require a car or taxi. The Barkhausen track site is ~20 minutes from the town center by road — worth organizing via your ship's excursion desk if dinosaurs are a priority.
- Spring and summer are peak season. Schloss Ippenburg's garden exhibitions run seasonally — check dates in advance if this is your main draw.
- Bad Essen is a Kneipp spa town. The 'Bad' prefix means it's a recognized health resort — the SolePark brine pools are open to day visitors and make for a relaxing end to the morning.

Bad Essen, Lower Saxony, Germany — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 1 Limberg Castle | Limberg Castle is a historic castle ruin. | 2 Saurierfahrten Barkhausen | See ancient dinosaur footprints at Barkhausen. |
| 3 Water Mill Bad Essen | Visit a historic, working water mill. | 4 SoleArena | Relax and breathe healthy saline air outdoors. |
| 5 Schloss Hünnefeld | Hünnefeld Castle is a private historic estate. | 6 Obere Hunte | Enjoy scenic walks along the Upper Hunte river. |
| 7 Windmühle Levern | Explore a traditional, historic windmill in Levern. | 8 Schloss Ippenbürg - 7ha geöffneter Garten mit Schlosscafé | Stroll Ippenbürg Castle's beautiful 7-hectare gardens and café. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |