



Premium City Hiking Trails

High standards for hiking in and around the city

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Tourists and residents alike explore cities on foot

Tourists with a desire for active exercise, with a wide range of needs and the desire for flexible ways of organizing their visit are increasingly exploring cities on foot. Also locals are getting to know their city in a new way. Reflection on local and regional values, tourist behavior that shows an appreciation for resources, and demographic changes in society have led to a desire among hikers for hiking trails that are close to the city and logistically less complex, with recreational

value in nature connected with cultural and urban experiences. The urban area offers a wide range of possibilities for staging city hiking trails based on the history of the city, the development of urban areas, the haunts of well-known personalities, or the landscape.



Closed urban ensembles appreciated by tourists guarantee a high quality of experience in the city. Ranges of hills, rivers and streams, ramparts, city forests and parks, and cemeteries offer possibilities for dramaturgical planning of hikes in the city green. Viewpoints, monuments, individual historical buildings, revitalized historical industrial buildings, streams, ponds, springs, and solitary rock formations are highlights along the urban and peri-urban hiking trail. Close to public transport, furnished in a hiker-friendly way, and also marked within the city, a green city becomes an experience for the hiker.

Premium City Hiking Trails...

... are trails in cities that include over the entire route a contiguous and balanced ratio of interesting urban and touristic sites and nature experiences both in and close to the city.

Hiking through the city in premium quality

Premium City Hiking Trails are trails in cities, for which a usual hiking fitness is required. The layout, variety, and experience value of these trails are based on the experience and quality orientation of Premium Hiking Trails.

Certification as a Premium City Hiking Trail is carried out by the Deutsches Wanderinstitut e.V. Independent specialists collect a wide range of experience-relevant data for each kilometer. Each criterion considered is weighted differently according to its importance for the hiking experience. As for the **Premium Hiking Trail**,



these raw data relevant to the hiking experience are used both to calculate an experience profile of the hiking trail route, which is used as a measure of the density and characteristics of the experiences, and to calculate an overall score of the experience value of the City Hiking Trail.

After successful completion of the examination, the certification is awarded for a period of three years and then requires recertification.

Criteria for the evaluation of Premium City Hiking Trails

The evaluation of a City Hiking Trail is based on an extensive catalogue of criteria, which are a modification of the criteria for the evaluation of a Premium Hiking Trail. The possible ways of evaluating the characteristics of individual criteria are adapted to the specific types of experience of the urban area.

The core criteria are those evaluation aspects that must be at least achieved as decision thresholds for the certification of a city hiking trail as a Premium City Hiking Trail.



Core criteria for Premium City Hiking Trails

- circular or linear hiking trails
- with a length of at least 6 kilometers
- trail design with a balanced relationship between urban and nature experiences
- at least 1/3 of the total trail length passes through contiguous areas of urban and tourist interest
- at least 1/3 of the total trail length leads through urban or peri-urban green areas
- at least 50% of the total trail length is on near-natural paths or paths with fine gravel
- hard surfaces (natural stone pavement and composite surfaces) as trail surface are only acceptable up to max. 50% of the trail and up to max. 3 kilometers at a time. The limit for asphalt/concrete is 40%.
- user-friendly markings are required along the entire trail length, also within the city
- starting and ending points at a maximum distance of 500 meters from an actively operated public transportation stop at prominent urban starting points

Planning and certification of Premium City Hiking Trails

The planning of Premium City Hiking Trails should be carried out by local experts and external consultants.

Consultants of the Deutsches Wanderinstitut e.V. have expertise in the certification of Premium Hiking Trails, Premium Walking Trails and Premium Hiking Regions / Locations, the construction of trails, the development and description of city hiking trails, as well as hiking guidance and tour management in near-natural and urban areas.



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