

Saxony's Mulde River, from Zwickau to Bad Dürren



The Valley of Castles! Most think immediately of the Rhein, Mosel or Saale, and while these celebrated rivers have their share of castles, Saxony's Mulde river is by no means less entitled to the name. In the 100 km-long course of the Mulde from Zwickau to Bad Dübén, there is still today an abundance of castles and fortresses, in addition to the valley's numerous other historical treasures: the proud ramparts of a castle on one side, or a mighty fortress overlooking a village on the other, or an ancient fortress wall in a wooded park, surrounded by lush forest, dreaming of long ago. The peaceful enchantment of the valley's farms and the architectural splendour of so many historical buildings all come together with the legends and myths which haunt grey castle walls. The image of Rochsburg: isn't this the romantic castle one always dreams of?

The life-force of this region is the Mulde river. Flowing peacefully from Zwickau to Glauchau, the river breaks through swelling headlands into the rocky bluffs and cliffs of central Saxony, where it then cuts west and meanders through the region. The river valley quickly becomes narrow, surrounded by steep wooded walls and here, far away from the daily grind of a hectic existence, the lone wanderer can find peace; just as quickly the valley opens

into broad meadows, and then once again becomes narrow: an ever-changing landscape of secluded vales and wide pastures, of peace and activity.

Downstream of the Göhren railway viaduct, between Wechselburg and Rochlitz, the scenery becomes mountainous and is marked by the Rochlitzer Berg, more than 200 metres (600 ft.) high. Just to the north of Colditz, the Zwickau and Freiberg Mulde rivers join again to become one, and the river gains in power and girth. At Grimma, it once again encounters steep cliffs, but then becomes wider and flows through calm, spacious pasturelands. Between Wurzen and Eilenburg the now-wide Mulde flows gently, and arrives at Bad Dübén where lush meadows and their inexhaustible wealth of flowers complement spring and summer in one of nature's most beautiful landscapes.