

Mainschleifenbahn

In the year 1909 the Mainschleifenbahn between Seligenstadt and Volkach was opened on the line to Würzburg. It is one of the last secondary (or branch) lines from the time of the King's Bavarian State Railway. Located in Lower Franconia, it is a one-of-a-kind piece of technology and culture. In 1994 the Bavarian government considered taking out the line but private initiatives and farsighted politicians saved it. Since September 2003 it has been operated by the MSB. On the line the passenger is offered unique views of the Lower Franconian landscape around the Volkacher Mainschleife. The first 4 kilometers alongside the course run between shady fruit trees situated closely between green vineyards more than 70 meters high, before it crosses the agricultural landscape around the Seligenstadt end station in the area of Würzburg. At the Seligenstadt station, one can take a train from the DB and go into Würzburg or Schweinfurt. Along the undeveloped landscape one can enjoy the views without the distraction of tunnels and hear the rumbling of the railbus engine, and one can look over the engineer's shoulder and share the same view they have. The Mainschleifenbahn mostly operates in the summer to autumn seasons of the year. Whether it is for enjoyment or relaxation, there is always a good reason to ride. In spring are fields ripe with delicious asparagus, in the summer there are many romantic wine fests around the Mainschleife. In the autumn there is fresh duh and onion cake. You can simply come to enjoy the unique railway atmosphere or to relive memories from your youth.

From the various stations there are unique hiking opportunities. Our rail bus team will gladly give you handy tips and directions for traveling in the area. You can also get timetables from us directly, or on the internet. If you would like to charter the railbus for special events like a wedding or birthday, we can accomodate you outside of our regularly scheduled runs. To charter the railbus, please call 0152-02482125. Prices for charter service are available upon request. Souvenirs to remember your trip on the rail bus can be purchased at our end station in Volkach/Astheim or in our internet shop. (www.mainschleifenbahn.de)

Our rail bus was built in the year 1960. It drove until February 27, 2000 as one of the last two rail busses still employed by the DB in the area of Tübingen. Since February 2004 it has been owned and operated by the Mainschleifenbahn. It is powered by two Bussing diesel engines with 9 liters capacity and 150 HP each. The top speed of the rail bus is 90km/h, however it is only permitted to go 50km/h on the Mainschleifenbahn line. The vehicle is fitted with leaf springs with air shocks and has 56 seats. On each end is a control stand for the driver. The engineless control car is a genuine Franconian: it was built in 1960 by MAN in Nürnberg. At one end is a control stand from which the motorized bus can be controlled. Besides the 40 seat capacity there is a large baggage compartment for bicycles and strollers.

The course is a project of the "Fördervereins Mainschleifenbahn", these volunteers maintain and operate the stretch and the rail bus year round. Donations and additional volunteers are always cordially welcomed. For up-to-date schedules, news, and info about events around the MSB, please visit our web site: www.mainschleifenbahn.de. Our postal address is Foerdereverein Mainschleifenbahn, Industriestrasse 3, 97332 Volkach am Main. Our telephone number is 0152-02482125.