

**Keen on green? Frankfurt is! The Main metropolis is big on nature and sustainability.**

**Frankfurt am Main, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014 (tcf):** Frankfurt is a green city. Some 52 percent of its metropolitan area consists of green spaces and expanses of water. Those who take the time to look more closely will discover palm trees lining the River Main, sand dunes nestling within the city's green belt and wilderness spreading freely at the Old Aerodrome Bonames. And let's not forget the city's countless parks, playgrounds and forested areas. Frankfurt has a natural landscape for every interest. In fact, Frankfurt recently won the **"European City of the Trees 2014"** award. The European Arboricultural Council (EAC), an association of tree experts from across Europe, bestowed this honour upon Frankfurt because of the city's exemplary maintenance of its trees and the importance of trees for a sustainable and liveable city.

**Bethmann Park** is just one of the many parks situated throughout Frankfurt, a place where one is able to relax and forget the day-to-day hustle and bustle. It is well worth a visit, particularly because of its magnificent floral landscape and wide range of plants. In the park's south-western corner, sectioned off by a high wall, a surreal, far-eastern world awaits visitors – the **Chinese Garden**. This magical spot, with its romantic bridges, idyllic ponds and rugged stone tables, exudes a wonderful atmosphere of peace and tranquillity.

Those looking for an unusual day-trip destination of great natural beauty are urged to pay a visit to the **Old Aerodrome Bonames**. This former military airport has been partially deconstructed and returned to the care of Mother Nature. Its landing strips have been mostly broken up and resown with all manners of plant life. Over the years, the aerodrome has been transformed into a unique stretch of wilderness situated just a stone's throw from an otherwise bustling metropolis. Some of the runways remain intact, inviting inline skaters and cyclists for a bit of fun, while there is also plenty of room for various codes of football to be played. The ponds have become the home of many forms of life, with frogs, birds and insects performing a natural concert of sounds throughout the day. For their efforts, the Department of Parks and Gardens of the City of Frankfurt am Main – the caretakers of this natural habitat – were awarded the German Landscape Architecture Prize back in 2005.

If you are planning to visit Frankfurt's vast municipal forest, you should definitely stop off at the popular **Goethe Tower**. This wooden observation tower offers superb views of Frankfurt's "GreenBelt", a winding, 70-kilometre-long nature reserve encircling downtown

Frankfurt, as well as the city's famous skyline and, in times of fair weather, the surrounding Rhine-Main region. Some 43 metres in height, the tower is one of the tallest wooden observation platforms in all of Germany.

Frankfurt is known to be an energy-efficient city. It is home to the largest number of low-energy houses as well as Germany's most efficient office buildings. Interested parties have the opportunity to take a closer look behind the scenes of climate protection in Frankfurt by booking a place on a **KLIMAtour**. Here, roofs are scaled, doors opened and cellars visited in order to show how a combined heat and power unit functions, how the air-conditioning in a low-energy house works and how the offices of a high-rise are cooled in an energy-efficient way.

The Main metropolis has been a role model for environment-friendly and energy-saving architecture for many, many years. Built in 1997, the **Commerzbank** high-rise was even then well ahead of its time. Today, the skyscraper remains a shining example of sustainable and energy-efficient construction. In 2009, it was awarded the "Green Building Frankfurt" prize for its forward-looking architecture. Some 144 metres tall, the office tower is naturally air-conditioned thanks to the gardens established on various floors throughout the building. **Kap Europa**, meanwhile, is the first event location in the world to be awarded a pre-certificate in gold from the German Sustainable Building Society for its sustainable and economical construction. Built with sustainable materials and environment-friendly elements, this green building meets all the standards of a modern, energy-efficient construction. For the new home of the **European Central Bank**, decision-makers called for a building that would be 30 percent more energy-efficient than required by the Energy-Saving Regulations of 2007. The building's energy concept includes, amongst others, measures for rainwater utilisation, regenerative heat recovery and natural air-conditioning.

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