

Draisines and Tourism

New perspectives on historical railway tracks

Locations of Draisine rentals in Germany Companies meet the following criteria:

- Operating with special-constructed rail-vehicles for tourist purposes
- Tour distance of at least 4 kilometres
- Reliable operating season (April to September)

Map created by Brauckmann 2011



Draisines or hand-cars are rail vehicles formerly used for track control nowadays for tourist purposes. In Germany this tourist attraction was first permitted in 1996. Today there are approximately 250.000 customers each year driving a Draisine on one of the 30 locations. The German market is still booming. Already 500 kilometres of abandoned historical railway tracks retained from demolition on that way.

Theoretically Draisines allow to view a railway track from the perspective of a railway maintenance worker and to learn about the history. In reality, there is a lot of unexploited potential for a better linkage between "event" and teaching history.



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Research foci: Real Estate Development, Urban and Rural Development, Cultural Landscape, GIS, History Marketing, Tourism, Principles of teaching Geography and History.