

Starting point is the **Swan Castle in Kleve** - former residence of the counts and dukes of Kleve – later, from 1609/1647, the western residence of the Elector of Brandenburg. The footpaths lead as far as **Moyland Castle** – today a museum for the art of the 19th – 21st centuries. Since 2007 the **Prince Moritz Path** connects the former terraced gardens near the Swan Castle with the tomb of Prince Moritz of Nassau-Siegen (1604–1679) at the Papenberg in Berg and Tal.

The **Voltaire Way** leads from the **Papenberg to Moyland Castle**. It passes over the remains of the moraines of the Saale ice-age (about 200,000 years ago). The course of the Rhine changed the landscape over centuries. Both heights and low plains have always characterized this area. Information boards and nine further notice boards along the way present historical facts: archeological finds from Roman and Frankish times, buildings like St. Markus, Haus Rosendal and Moyland Castle as striking examples of this special cultural landscape. Each period left its mark.

The outstanding early creations of European garden culture in Kleve and its surroundings go back to the Brandenburg Stadholder Johann Moritz of Nassau-Siegen. His representative Alexander Freiherr van Spaen bought Moyland Castle as his summer residence and altered it in the Baroque style. The avenues radiating from there were an essential creative element, which followed the example of the landscaped parks created by Johann Moritz of Nassau-Siegen.

Total length: Kleve – Moyland	10.0 km
Papenberg – Moyland Castle	6.5 km
Papenberg – town hall Bedburg-Hau	2.1 km
Town Hall – Moyland Castle	4.4 km

Time: Papenberg to Moyland Castle	90 mins
-----------------------------------	---------

**Route:**

**i Start of the Voltaire Way**

Information boards at the starting-point (P) Papenberg / Hauer Straße  
a) to Kleve – Prince Moritz Path  
b) to Moyland – Voltaire Way.  
After crossing the railway-line turn into the driveway to Loosen Farm.

1 – The owners of the former estate, called Loosen Farm, were connected to the counts and dukes of Kleve. In the fifteenth century, the proceeds from the farm were already used to support the needy. Today it is a home for people with special needs maintained by the Landschaftsverband Rheinland. At present, the former farm contains a so-called "Geburtenwald" ("birth wood", trees planted to celebrate the birth of a baby) and orchards, and it is used for sheep and rabbit breeding.

2 – In September 1740, the French writer and philosopher Francois Marie Arouet, known as **Voltaire**, and the Prussian King **Frederick II.** met at **Moyland Castle** for the first time. Later, Voltaire stayed several times at the Swan Castle as a guest of the Prussian King and in 1750 he wrote about **Kleve**: "The natural charms of this most beautiful place (...) have been enhanced further by the art of landscaping." And he went on to say "that a certain Prince Moritz of Nassau (...) created all these marvels." Voltaire praised the art of landscaping in Kleve, saying that the "view" was superior to that in Meudon and that "the area is planted like the Champs-Elysees." From this notice board you can see the silhouette of the Swan Castle in the distance above the hill.

Voltaire and Frederick II.: a significant meeting of "intellect and power" – from Absolutism to Enlightenment.

3 – Across open fields and grassland the spire of Qualburg indicates the centre of the village. The higher ground, a protection against



floods, offered a safe place for a settlement already in Roman times. Roman finds from the second to the fourth century were also discovered in neighbouring villages. It appears certain that the way from St. Markus in Bedburg to St Martinus in Qualburg follows a former Roman road. Fragments of memorials in St Martinus are evidence of Frankish settlements in the seventh century.

4 – Following the Voltaire Way along the "Waldmannspfad" we return to the footpath again, then along the Schermgraben with its blackthorn and whitethorn bushes we approach the centre of Bedburg-Hau with its town-hall and Markus-Centre.

In 1124 Count Arnold I. of Kleve and his wife Ida founded a monastery in Bedburg, of which today only the Romanesque church remains. The founders of the monastery were first buried here but later moved to the Stiftskirche in Kleve.

**i Markus-Centre – near the town-hall**

5 – Crossing the Bedburger Weg we reach the Rosendal Forest. On one side there is a peat bog below the ridge of the ice-age moraine. Originally this was an arm of the Rhine, which was separated from the main river, dried up in the course of time and became a low moor. The ponds we see today are the result of former peat-digging. The vegetation of a low moor consists of various plants that are well adapted to this environment, such as reeds, certain grasses and alder trees. The new alder moors around the Moyland peat bogs are left to their own natural development and thus offer an undisturbed sanctuary to various water fowl.

6 – Legend has it that the name Haus Rosendal comes from an old burial ground where the Romans used to plant roses on their graves. In the Rosendal Forest we come across a double "Landwehr", (still intact), a border fortification, which Count Adolf II. had built around 1400 to control the fertile plains of the Rhine valley between Kleve and Kalkar. The Prussian kings were repeatedly guests at House Rosendal. The owner at that time, Konrad Wilhelm von der Mosel, became famous as the governor of the fort at Wesel for his coura-

geous intervention when the furious Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm I. aimed his sword at his son, the later King Frederick II.. For thirty years the von der Mosel family held public offices in Kleve.

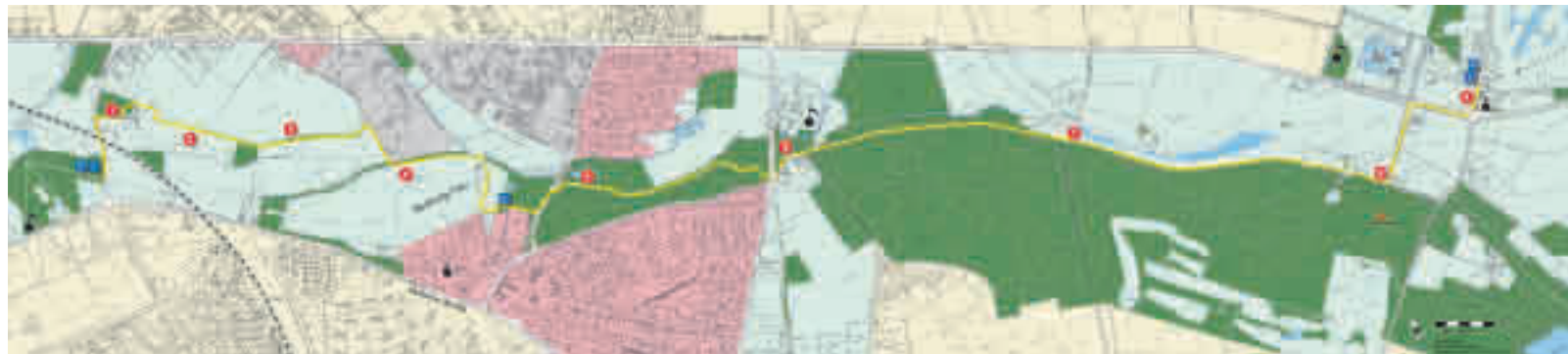
7 – The restaurant "Schwanenhof" offers the possibility of having some refreshments and then we reach Moyland Forest. There are old beeches here with inscriptions carved into them. The oldest is from 1861. Particularly outstanding single trees, rows of trees and avenues are registered as natural monuments. The tops of some oaks or beeches measure up to 27 metres in diameter and the circumference of some of their trunks reaches 610 cm.



Historical maps and travel reports prove that since 1655 the postal route from Cleve via Berlin to Königsberg led along the somewhat higher road "Alte Bahn". Before, this old postal route was part of the connections to the Netherlands, to Aachen, Wesel etc.. Famous travellers along this road were among others: King Frederick II. of Prussia, Voltaire, Jean Baptiste "Anacharsis" Cloots, Princess Luise of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the later Queen of Prussia, Tsar Alexander I. of Russia, Heinrich Friederich Karl Reichsfreiherr vom und zum Stein, Johann August Sack and Peter Wilhelm Beuth.

8 – Along this beautiful route walkers can enjoy several idyllic peat bogs, filled with water, on one side of the path with occasional views over pastures and meadows, on the other side they can see the varying contours of the ridge. From the highest point, the Katzenbuckel (Cat's Back) – 48 m above sea level – paths lead into Moyland Forest. Alexander Freiherr van Spaen, the owner of Moyland Castle since 1662, had a star-shaped system of paths laid out in the second half of the seventeenth century. This lay-out of the paths reflects French hunting-parks and served the observation and hunting of animals.





### i-Key

Information Points:

- 1 Loosenhof
- 2 Voltaire
- 3 Qualburg
- 4 Markuskirche
- 5 Peat Bogs
- 6 Rosendal
- 7 Former Postal Route
- 8 Katzenbuckel – Alexander van Spaen
- 9 Protestant Church

The Voltaire Way leads through a grand oak avenue and then about 100 m to the right to the pedestrian crossing of the B57 – Kalkarer Straße. Turning into the Moyländer Allee at the roundabout we find ourselves in front of a gate which offers a view through an oak avenue of the front of Moyland Castle .

9 – We reach the small white castle church. Alexander van Spaen had the medieval moated castle in Moyland changed into a baroque castle and erected this church especially for the Reformists. Until 1958, the owners of Moyland were the patrons of the church and also of the parish, which was founded in 1696. The patronage included the obligation to pay for the financial demands of the parish. In 1695, Moyland Castle was sold to Frederick III., the Elector of Brandenburg and after 1701 King in Prussia, and thus the ownership of the church changed, too.

Today a group of sponsors take care of the maintenance of this gem of a church.

### i Moyland Castle

Moyland was first mentioned in a document in 1307. Over the years the ownership of the castle changed several times. On September 11th, 1740, the first meeting took place between Voltaire and the young King Frederick II. of Prussia, later called Frederick the Great.

In 1766 Adrian Steengracht bought Moyland Castle. In the middle of the nineteenth century it was altered in the Neo-Gothic style by Ernst Friedrich Zwirner, the architect of Cologne Cathedral. Since 1997 there has been a museum at the castle (Museum Schloß Moyland) with the former private collection of the van der Grinten brothers. It contains art from the nineteenth century to the present and also the largest collection of works by Joseph Beuys and the Joseph Beuys archive.

In the park of the castle, which was laid out at the end of the nineteenth century, baroque elements (avenues, moat systems) are combined with parts in the style of the English Garden and structures of the Architectural Garden. Sculptures from the end of the twentieth century and a large herb garden fit in well with the historic garden – there are some tennis courts and golf-courts in the vicinity of the castle.

Cartography: Ludger Baumann, Kleve  
Layout: MiBaMa digital design  
Geobasisdata: Kreisverwaltung Kleve,  
Licence-number: 10/03 v. 24.02.10



Photography: Bruno Meesters, Kleve  
Text: Arbeitskreis Kermisdahl-Wetering  
English: Gillian Hallem, Kleve  
Graphic-Design: Art Studio Hendricks, Kleve

Twin Town:  
La Ferté Gaucher south of Paris

### Tourist Information:

www.bedburg-hau.de  
Tel.0049.2821 / 6600  
www.moyland.de  
Tel. 0049.2824/ 95 10 60  
www.kleve.de  
Tel. 0049.2821/ 89 509 0  
www.museumkurhaus.de  
Tel. 0049.2821/ 750 10

### Along the Via Romana

Different signs mark the international route of this beautiful cultural-historical hiking-path.

### Public transport

Starting from the i-boards it is easy to follow the routes to the north and south. Marked glacial boulders help you to find your way. The Voltaire Way is connected to the public transport system (Kalkar – Moyland Kleve) along the Kalkarer Straße (B 57) by the bus route 44. Further directions along the paths.

### Initiators

The members of the Kermisdahl-Wetering group have made it their business to raise public awareness of the existing traces of the country's cultural history and to restore them. The impressive stretch of landscape from the Swan Castle in Kleve up to Moyland Castle embodies the roots and at the same time the spirit of its citizens.



A project of the "Kermisdahl-Wetering Working Group" in the Kleve Cultural and Historical Society.  
www.kermisdahl-wetering.eu



### Acknowledgements

We want to express our gratitude for all the help we were given. The information system along the route was sponsored in 2010 by the NRW-Foundation Natur-Heimat-Kultur and by the Karl and Maria Kisters Foundation.

The footpaths from Kleve to Moyland were made possible in 2007. We thank archivist J. Stinner und B. Thissen for expert advice. The stonemason firm Josef Tripp shaped the glacial boulders, which came from local gravel pits and were kindly donated.



STADT KLEVE



Gemeinde  
Bedburg-Hau

# Voltaire-Way

Papenberg to  
Moyland Castle

