



"I was captivated by the incredible size of the Limes".

Interview with Member of the Board Mayor Thilo Becker



In 1995, the German Limes Road Association was founded with the aim of creating a tourist route for motorists along the Upper Germanic-Raetian Limes. Today, more than 25 years later, the association's members include more than 90 towns, markets and municipalities as well as numerous districts and tourist communities. The members are strung together like a string of pearls along the World Heritage Site Limes.

Along the UNESCO World Heritage Sites Upper Germanic-Raetian Limes (World Heritage since 2005), Lower Germanic Limes (World Heritage since 2021) and Danube Limes (World Heritage since 2021), the German Limes Road and the German Limes Cycle Path run across Germany from the Lower Rhine in

North Rhine-Westphalia through Rhineland-Palatinate, Hesse, Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria to Passau on the Danube.

The association is managed by an eight-member board chaired by the Lord Mayor of the City of Aalen. In this interview, we introduce you to our board member, Mayor Thilo Becker. He talks about the outstanding importance of the Limes World Heritage Site for the municipality of Höhr-Grenzhausen, about the interregional cooperation in the German Limes Road Association and about his personal impressions of the Limes.

Dear Mayor Becker. Thank you very much for taking the time for our interview. Would you start by briefly introducing yourself?

My name is Thilo Becker, I am 61 years old and have been mayor of the municipality of Höhr-Grenzhausen since 2009.

What is the connection between the municipality of Höhr-Grenzhausen and the Limes?

The municipality of Höhr-Grenzhausen, with a population of around 14,200, comprises the town of Höhr-Grenzhausen and the local communities of Hillscheid, Hilgert and Kammerforst. The Limes runs through the area of the town of Höhr-Grenzhausen and the municipality of Hillscheid.



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Hilscheid runs along the Limes. In places, the Limes can still be seen as an embankment, and it is possible to visit these sites, especially on the Limes hiking trail. The Limes is almost omnipresent in the municipality of Hilscheid. The Hilscheid Limes Trail, a circular route around 8 kilometres long, is an excellent way to explore the Limes sights in Hilscheid.

The reconstructed Limes tower (1/68), which contains a small museum, is certainly the main attraction of the Limes in our municipality. A Roman garden has been created



right next to the Limes tower by volunteers. The attractions are rounded off by the Limes pavilion. The small fort with WP 1/71 in Hilscheid can be reached via the circular route already mentioned. Part of the foundation walls has been reconstructed.

Every 2 years Hilscheid hosts the Limes Festival, which is very popular. This year, the time has come again. On 3 September 2023, the signal of Cohorte XXVI will sound again and open the festival. Other groups can be found at the "field camp", 7th Praetorian Cohort ("VII Cohors praetoria") and Legio Prima Germanica Augusta.

The Limes itself has also become a unique selling point for us.

We have summarised all the information on the Limes in the municipality of Höhr-Grenzhausen and presented it on our website, www.kannenbaeckerland.de/kultur/roemer-welterbe.html.

Limesturm 1/68, Bild: Manfred Knobloch



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You are active on the board of the German Limes Road Association. What links have you developed with the Limes as a result?

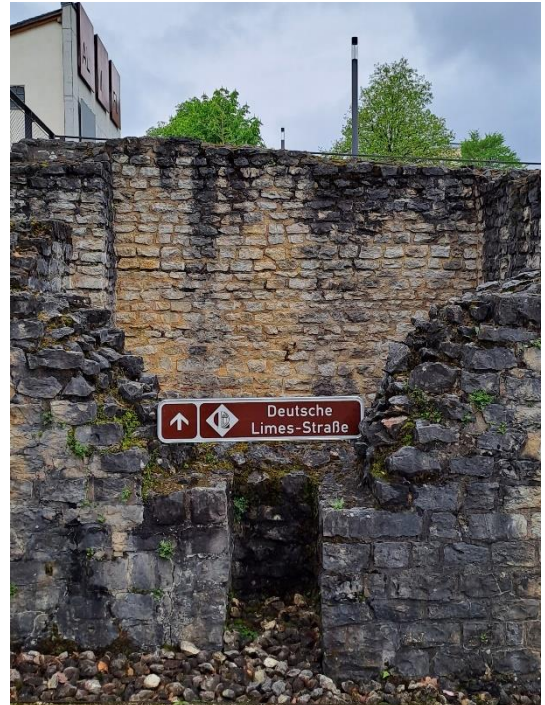
The incredible size of the Limes has captivated me. Following the German Limes Road when travelling or hiking offers many tourist treasures. As a passionate motorcyclist, I enjoy following the Limes Road. On the board itself, the efforts to preserve the cultural heritage are impressive.

How would you assess the awareness and perception in the municipality of Höhr-Grenzhausen of the Limes?

In the municipality of Hillscheid, the Limes and the World Heritage Site are already identity-forming. With the reconstruction of WP 1/68, a landmark was created for the community. I believe this says a lot about perception and awareness. The many volunteers around our Limes contribute to the permanent anchoring of the Limes with a lot of heart and soul.

What makes the municipality of Höhr-Grenzhausen so special as a pearl along the Limes Road?

Together with the Rhineland-Palatinate Limes communities, we have developed information brochures. We are keen to develop and expand this joint approach. The size of the Limes alone makes it clear that such a project cannot be limited to the boundaries of a municipality.





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The German Limes Road Association is constantly developing and growing. Recently, new towns and districts have joined the association due to the establishment of the new World Heritage Sites "Lower German Limes" and "Danube Limes".

What drives the German Limes Road?

The drive of the association is to bring together all Limes communities and regions, also internationally, under one roof. As already explained, a central umbrella organisation really makes sense. Otherwise we would only get lost in the minutiae.

What is the recipe for success of the German Limes Road?

The success of Deutsche Limes Straße cannot be measured by one parameter alone. It is the diverse offers and the great work of the administrative office. Through its contacts and constant willingness to embrace new ideas, the administrative office and its entire staff are the guarantors of the success of the Limes Road.

(The administrative office of the German Limes Road Association is located in the Limesmuseum in Aalen).





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How is it possible to fill a cultural route of this dimension (over 1000 km of route in 5 provinces) with life, create public awareness and work sustainably at the same time?

Here I have to repeat myself. The "life" mentioned above is created by the administrative office. At the same time, there is solidarity with the members through a multitude of activities and the coordination of marketing measures. The administrative office certainly also has the task of spreading the word about the innumerable offers of the members. Without the outstanding sights of the member municipalities, the German Limes Road would not be able to establish itself so well. Sustainability is part of every player's duties. Gentle tourism and the experience of ancient culture cast a spell over people. Especially for our section in Rhineland-Palatinate, the Limes Cycle Path and the Limes Hiking Trail are an integral part of the promotion of our region.

Mayor Becker, thank you very much for the interview.