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PRESS RELEASE

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## Hessen is also in the race: Deutschland Tour stage starts in Lorsch



Bad Soden – February 21, 2018. Lorsch in southern Hessen will host the start of a stage in the new Deutschland Tour. With Rheinland-Pfalz (Koblenz, Trier), Baden-Württemberg (Stuttgart), the Saarland (Merzig) and Hessen (Lorsch), the Deutschland Tour from August 23-26 now runs through four German states. The complete course will be presented on March 2.

Lorsch is famous for the Lorsch Abbey, which is amongst the half-timbered houses in the city center, and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The city is the gate to the Bergstrasse and attracts many cyclists who are looking for an especially mild climate and challenging tours. Lorsch has already hosted, amongst others, a cycling criterium, the German national junior championships in individual time trial and the cyclo-cross European championships. This year the German riders will get a taste of the cycling enthusiasm in southern Hessen in June, when the German national championship will be held in Einhausen, right next door to Lorsch.

“With the Deutschland Tour we have won a very special event for Lorsch. We are happy to have this opportunity to offer our residents a highlight and to show our guests the charm of our city. Especially the cycling tourists can look forward to a solid cycling infrastructure and great tours on the Bergstrasse,” said Christian Schöning, mayor of Lorsch.

“Our region is perfect for cycling: The Ried, the Bergstrasse, and the Odenwald offer a great variety for cyclists. We constantly work at the further development of our cycling infrastructure. The Deutschland Tour gives us the excellent opportunity to present this and to make advertisement far beyond our local area for recreation in our region,” added Christian Engelhardt, County Commissioner of the Landkreises Bergstraße.

Claude Rach, Director of the Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Radsports, which organizes the Deutschland Tour, said: „Lorsch fits in perfectly as a stage host for the Deutschland Tour. With the Lorsch Abbey, the city offers a wonderful setting and the Bergstrasse offers a course which will especially please the Classics specialists and puncheurs.”

The entire course of the new Deutschland Tour from Koblenz to Stuttgart will be presented on March 2 in a press conference attended by German pro cyclists as well as representatives of the stage cities and states. Keeping up with the motto “Deutschland. Deine Tour”, fans can continue to take part in shaping the Deutschland Tour and send in their suggestions to the website [DeutschlandDeineTour.de](http://DeutschlandDeineTour.de).

### About the Tour of Germany

The new Tour of Germany will take place for the first time on August 23-26, 2018 as a four-day stage race. Like the cycling classic Eschborn-Frankfurt, the Deutschland Tour is also organized by the Amaury Sport Organization (A.S.O.) and its German subsidiary Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Radsports GmbH. The A.S.O. has agreed with the German Cycling Federation (BDR) to organize at least ten events of the Deutschland Tour. In addition to racing for professional, junior and amateur cyclists, the bike will be featured in its full diversity at the Tour of Germany. For the first time, fans can actively participate in creating a cycling event. More than 1,500 route suggestions and ideas have already been submitted, making the motto “Germany. Your Tour.” come alive.