At the core is Naumburg Cathedral

Under the name of "Naumburg Cathedral and the High Medieval Cultural Landscape of the Rivers Saale and Unstrut", the Saale-Unstrut region in the County of Burgenland (Federal Republic of Germany, southern Saxony-Anhalt) is applying for inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A nomination has been submitted to the UNESCO in Paris and the decision will be taken at the session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Vietnam in the summer of 2017.

At its core the nomination features the Naumburg Cathedral. It ranks among the continent's most prominent works of medieval architecture and represents, with the twelve founder figures in the west choir, a complex of international significance. The sculpture of Uta, in particular, is deemed to be a unique testimony to Gothic art. The architecture, sculpture and glass paintings in the cathedral's west choir offer tremendous insight into the prosperity and artistic achievements of the European High Middle Ages. At the same time, Naumburg Cathedral represents the core of the remarkable cultural landscape of the rivers Saale and Unstrut. It illustrates the social and political dynamics of its era. More than 3,000 surviving elements provide evidence of the significance of the region. Nowhere else in the world has such a great density of monuments and cultural landscape elements dating from the High Middle Ages survived in such a small area and in a largely authentic and landscape-shaping form.

Today, the specific frontier situation of the region, the so-called land development, can be seen in this remarkably large number of monuments. Germanic and Slav sections of the population met at the rivers Saale and Unstrut. Christian missionary work and the competition for territories and representation between a wide variety of secular and ecclesiastic rulers shaped the cultural landscape.

Many international scholars treasure this valley as a unique showcase of medieval cultural exchange, and have promoted a nomination for the UNESCO World Heritage list. The people of this region are very proud of their heritage. And look forward to sharing it with the world.
Zeitz Cathedral  (29 km)
Merseburg Cathedral (35 km)
Eckartsburg Castle  (20 km)
Arche  Nebra/where sky disc was found (33 km)
Memleben monastery and imperial palace (34 km)

Other excursion tips near Naumburg
Saaleck and Rudelsburg Castle  (14 km)  
Neuenburg Castle, Naumburg Cathedral and Goseck Castle.  

Naumburg Cathedral and cathedral precincts (cathedral town), Naumburg Old Quarter, St. Moritz Augustinian monastery
Naumburg Cathedral is one of Europe’s highest-ranking medieval buildings in art history. It enjoys international recognition for its important architectural remains, its sculpture, and its paintings. Together with the cathedral precincts, it forms the cathedral town, as compared with the so-called citizens’ town, today’s Naumburg Old Quarter.
www.naumburg.de, Visitors’ Service, tel.: 0 34 45/273125

Schönburg
Standing directly by the River Saale on a mottled sandstone crag, Schönburg Castle was in the Middle Ages the most important defence safeguarding the possessions of the Naumburg bishops. From the Castle, there is a sweeping view of Naumburg Cathedral, Neuenburg Castle and Goseck Castle.
www.burg-schönburg.de, tel.: 0 34 467/2010

Goseck
Goseck Castle with monastery church and Dechantenberg vineyard
It is assumed that Goseck Castle was built as a frontier castle as early as around 800. Adalbert later founded a Benedictine monastery in the castle complex and the monastery church was consecrated in 1053. Goseck Dechantenberg is the oldest continuously operated terraced vineyard in the nominated area.
www.schlossgoseck.de, tel.: 0 34 43/348258

Freyburg
Freyburg Old Quarter, Zscheiplitz monastery and Schweigenberg vineyard
High above the little vintner town of Freyburg towers the monastery and Schweigenberg vineyard extending to the west of Freyburg and is one of Germany’s most important vineyards in terms of cultural landscape.
The former Zscheiplitz monastery church stands opposite the mighty Neuenburg Castle.
www.klosterbruecken-zscheiplitz.de, tel.: 0 34 46/20720 (Mr. Skupin)

Schlebendorf and Ebersroda
The villages of Schlebendorf and Ebersroda were founded by clearance in the High Middle Ages as part of intensive land development. In both villages, the original ground plan of a round village dating from this era has survived.
www.schloss-neuenburg.de, tel.: 0 34 464/35530

Rödel
Grosswilsdorf, old quarries on the Rödel high plateau are another example of circular settlements in the High Middle Ages.

Kleinjena
The Rostel Eckhardiner fortress stood on Kapellenberg Hill near Kleinjena. However, it was abandoned before 1200 in favour of Naumburg. The layout of the fortress can still be traced by the site structures.
www.klosterbruecken-zscheiplitz.de, tel.: 0 34 46/20720

Schulpforte
Pforta monastery, Romanesque House, Kleine Saale, Köppelsburg and Saaleck vineyards
The Pforta Cistercian monastery founded in 1137 housed a state school as of 1543. The monastery church boasts treasures dating from the High Middle Ages – richly decorated west façade, glass paintings and the “triumph cross” painted on both sides. One of the greatest achievements of Cistercian hydraulic engineering was the construction of the “Kleine Saale” canal. It provided a water supply and operated several mills. The Romanesque House in Bad Kösen is part of this significant hydraulic engineering project. It is one of the very few Romanesque estate buildings to have survived outside of the monastery area.
The Cistercians were the major vintners by the rivers Saale and Unstrut. Starting from the Köppelsburg vineyard, they laid out additional vineyards from 1195 onwards.
www.schloss-neuenburg.de, Tourist Information, tel.: 0 34 45/273125

Saaleck and Rudelsburg
Rudelsburg Castle stands on a plateau, towering over the Saale valley. Directly opposite are the picturesque ruins of Saaleck Castle. These castles were built to guard the frontiers of the Naumburg bishops and Thuringian landgraves.
www.saaleck.info, tel. 0 34 463/26553

Flemmingen
Flemmingen is a street village founded by Flemish settlers. Of great interest is St. Lucia Church with wall paintings dating from the High Middle Ages.
www.naumburg.de, Tourist Information, tel.: 0 34 45/273124

Tourist programmes
www.saaletourismus.de
www.saale-unstrut-tourismus.de