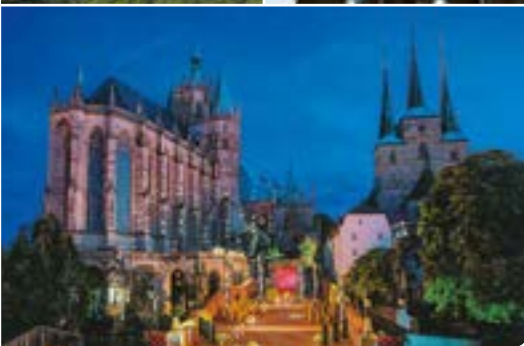


CULTURAL TOWNS OF THURINGIA



Pocket Guide



WWW.THURINGIAN-CITIES.COM

Thuringia
visit-thuringia.com



Welcome!

Thuringia is home to an unparalleled wealth of cultural treasures. The region was once made up of many different principalities, whose rulers established royal seats with splendid palaces, mighty castles and magnificent parks that remain as alluring today as they ever were.



Musical Heritage

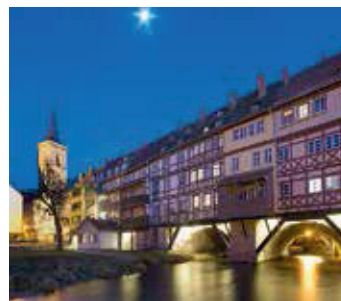
The poets Goethe and Schiller laid the foundation for a new era here, an era that saw many cities in Thuringia become centres of culture. Today, you can visit authentic sites associated with these seminal figures of German Classicism and see their original manuscripts. But Thuringia is not just famous for its literary greats. Musicians and composers have also left a legacy

of inestimable value. Bach, Brahms, Liszt and Wagner are among those who wrote some of their works in the region and who remain ubiquitous figures to this day. Hearing their music at the locations where it was originally composed makes for an unforgettable experience.

Thuringia has one of the most UNESCO World Heritage sites of Germany. Wartburg Castle, the most famous landmark in **Eisenach**, has been shaped by many historic events and figures over the centuries. Classical **Weimar** boasts sites associated with the life and legacy of Goethe, Wieland, Herder and Schiller, while the Bauhaus sites bear witness to the dawn of Modernism. The world-famous Bauhaus school of design was founded in 1919 by Walter Gropius, and from its home in Weimar went on to shape new developments in art, culture and architecture.



'Haus am Horn' Weimar



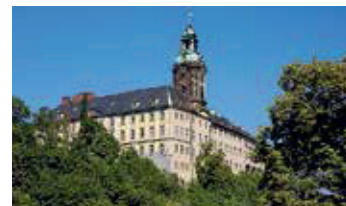
Merchants' Bridge Erfurt

Thuringia's towns and cities boast a diverse and internationally renowned art scene. Famous painters, artists and sculptors have left an inimitable legacy of work. Be it the influential Renaissance painter Lucas Cranach, the acclaimed Bauhaus master Lyonel Feininger or the incomparable painter and printmaker Otto Dix, who was born in **Gera**. The Lindenau Museum in **Altenburg** is home to one of the world finest collections of 180 early Italian Renaissance paintings by masters like Botticelli, Fra Angelico or Masaccio. The Kunsthau art gallery in **Apolda** mounts exhibitions of international acclaim. Paintings by Picasso and Matisse, sculptures by Camille Claudel and works by Karl Lagerfeld and Helmut Newton are just some of the rarities that have been on display here.

Mühlhausen is home to countless churches, many of which are used today as cultural venues, and the Kunsthau Meyenburg in **Nordhausen** has established itself as northern Thuringia's premier art centre with exhibitions devoted to Barlach, Hundertwasser and Dalí. The Merchants' Bridge in **Erfurt** is

a true gem. It is the longest bridge in Europe with inhabited buildings along its entire length and has many shops specialising in handicrafts and antiques.

Thuringia's towns and cities offer a fantastic mix of culture and leisure activities in unspoilt scenery. The town of **Suhl**, for example, is set amid dense forests just a stone's throw from the Rennsteig hiking trail. The same is true of **Ilmenau** and **Arnstadt** with their abundance of walking and cycling routes. Tucked away in the romantic valley of the White Elster river is **Greiz**, a former royal seat with two palaces and a summer residence. **Rudolstadt**, in the picturesque Saale valley, is overlooked by majestic Heidecksburg Palace. Only a few miles away is **Saalfeld**, where a former mine has been transformed into enchanting fairy grottoes. Mining heritage takes centre stage again at **Sondershausen** visitor mine, the world's oldest accessible potash mine.



Heidecksburg Palace Rudolstadt

It is hard to imagine Thuringia without its culinary specialties that are today enjoyed far beyond the region itself. Authentic Thuringian dumplings and 'bratwurst' sausages are as popular with locals as they are with visitors.

Other firm favourites include Altenburg goat's cheese, Erfurt's Born mustard, Nordhausen 'doppelkorn' schnapps, Saale-Unstrut wines, Köstritzer dark beer and Viba nougat from **Schmalkalden**. In Thuringia's towns and cities, you can while away the hours in idyllic beer gardens or dine in style at gourmet restaurants. Whether in Weimar, **Jena**, Erfurt, Mühlhausen or Eisenach, you can enjoy culinary creations made by award-winning chefs.



Friedenstein Palace Gotha



Traditional 'Bratwurst' sausages

Because the region is relatively small and offers such a wide variety of art, culture, nature and cuisine, you

really can see and do a lot in just a short space of time. Stroll around Friedenstein Palace in **Gotha** in the morning, enjoy panoramic views from Wartburg Castle in Eisenach in the afternoon, and spend the evening at **Meiningen** Theatre. Everything is within easy reach in Thuringia. The region also lies at the heart of Germany and is easy to get to from any direction by road, rail or air.

This pocket guide published by the Towns of Thuringia Tourism Association presents 19 of the most beautiful towns and cities in Thuringia. Discover a wealth of cultural and historical attractions at the heart of Germany.



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Palaces and castles

Because it is home to more former royal seats than almost anywhere else in Europe, Thuringia now boasts a wealth of splendid palaces, medieval castles and stately homes. A hotspot for art, culture and architecture.

Thuringia owes its extraordinary wealth of former royal seats to the principalities of the early modern era. The region's lands were ruled by many different dynasties for more than four centuries. The cultural treasures that originate from that time remain for everyone to admire today. As well as the great residences, there are many grand buildings located away from the main streets. In Arnstadt, the ruins of Neideck Castle and the New Palace with its museum provide fascinating insights

into courtly life. Heidecksburg Palace in Rudolstadt is beautifully preserved and highly sought after as a backdrop for TV and film productions, while Gotha is home to one of the region's finest baroque ensembles, the 'Baroque Universe' with its four museums, theatre and palace park. The Almanach de Gotha, the most famous directory of the European nobility, was also published here for over 180 years and remains an important means of proving aristocratic ancestry.

More information:

www.thuringian-cities.com

www.schatzkammer-thueringen.de



1 | ALTENBURG

Altenburg Castle and Playing Card Museum – extensive castle gardens with orangery and tea house

Lindenau Museum – with its exquisite collection of early Italian panel paintings

2 | EISENACH

Wartburg Castle – UNESCO World Heritage site, Reformation landmark and Eisenach's most famous attraction

3 | GOTHA

Friedenstein Palace, Ducal Museum, Palace Park with landscaped gardens, casemates

The baroque orangery

4 | GREIZ

Upper and Lower Castle Summerpalais with landscaped park – state collection of books and engravings with the Satiricum (cartoons and caricatures)

5 | MEININGEN

Elisabethenburg Palace – exhibition of historical stage sets belonging to the Meiningen royal theatre troupe (19th century) at the Theatre Museum

6 | SCHMALKALDEN

Wilhelmsburg Palace – four-winged Renaissance residence
Palace Church with Renaissance wooden organ

7 | SONDRERSHAUSEN

Neo-classical Palace with an English-style landscaped park
Palace Museum with art collections

8 | RUDOLSTADT

Heidecksburg Palace – three-winged baroque residence with magnificent *corps de logis*, museum featuring the 'Rococo en miniature' exhibition

9 | WEIMAR

Belvedere Palace – Elegant summer residence, today a popular visitor attraction and UNESCO World Heritage

City Palace – with stunning state rooms and a remarkable collection of European art

Tiefurt House – Summer residence of Duchess Anna Amalia

Ettersburg Palace – comprising the Old Palace, church and New Palace at the front

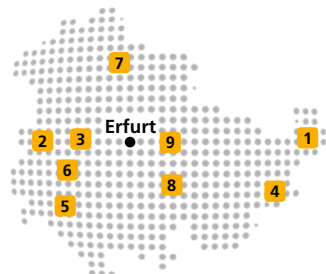
Summerpalais
Greiz



Golden Coach
Sondershausen



Belvedere Palace
Weimar



Parks and gardens

Thuringia's towns and cities are home to an abundance of royal estates, botanical gardens and stunning parks. They are both cultural treasures and places of great natural beauty.

Thuringia was once home to a number of ducal seats, which is why there are so many landscaped parks and gardens in the region today. In the early modern era, the region was divided into lots of tiny principalities, with each ruler investing heavily in making his palace gardens beautiful. Weimar is surrounded by no fewer than three parks. In Meiningen, the landscaped park stands out for its symmetrical design, while egapark in Erfurt reflects the city's horticultural traditions. The botanical gardens in Jena are the second oldest in Ger-

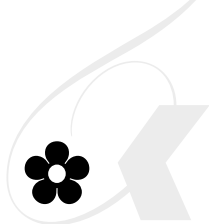
many. Relatively modern equivalents have been created for various garden shows. The site for the Federal Horticultural Show in Gera remains an attractive urban park with large green spaces, while 'Die neue Mitte' in Nordhausen combines a garden with the historical town wall. Every year, thousands of people also visit private gardens in Thuringia during the Open Gardens event in May and June.

More information:

www.thuringian-cities.com

www.thueringerschloesser.de

www.schatzkammer-thueringen.de



1 | A P O L D A

2017 Thuringia Horticultural Show – Schötener Promenade and Herressener Promenade

2 | E R F U R T

2021 Federal Horticultural Show, Egapark – founded over 50 years ago, this heritage-listed park and exhibition site is home to Citadelle Cyriaksburg, Germany's only horticultural museum

3 | G E R A

Hofwiesepark – exhibition venue for the 2007 Federal Horticultural Show

Baroque kitchen garden with orangery, which today houses the Gera art collection

Germany's oldest dahlia garden

4 | G O T H A

Palace Park with English Garden – the oldest English-style landscaped park in mainland Europe

5 | G R E I Z

Royal Park – in the English style surrounding the Summer Palace, with landscape design features including a lake and a collection of rare conifers

6 | J E N A

Second-oldest botanical garden in Germany (1586) with 10,000 species of plants on 4.5 hectares. The ancient ginkgo tree is a reminder of Goethe's time in Jena.

7 | S C H M A L K A L D E N

The 2015 Thuringia Horticultural Show themed on 'GartenZeitReise' (gardens through the ages): new parks (Westendpark, Viba-Park and Stadtpark) and a newly designed terrace garden at Wilhelmsburg Palace.

8 | W E I M A R

Park on the river Ilm – with Goethe's summer house

Tiefurt House – English-style landscaped park with country house and tea pavilion

Belvedere Palace Park – baroque summer residence with orangery, pleasure garden and maze

Ettersburg Palace Park – a gem of landscape design in the north of Weimar

All of these Weimar park grounds belong to UNESCO World Heritage 'classical Weimar'.

'Hofwiesepark'
Gera



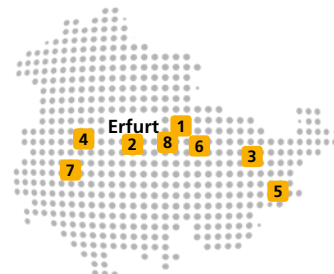
Botanical Garden
Jena



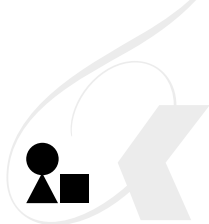
Landscaped Park
Meiningen



Royal Park
Greiz



Bauhaus and Modernism



Founded in Weimar in 1919, the Bauhaus had a profound influence on the fields of art, architecture and design. The school and the artists and designers who worked there have left their mark throughout Thuringia.

The Bauhaus celebrates its centenary in 2019. Its founder, Walter Gropius, was able to attract international avant garde artists, such as Lyonel Feininger, Johannes Itten, Wassily Kandinsky, Paul Klee and László Moholy-Nagy, to Weimar. Today, you can still see buildings belonging to the most famous workshop of the classical Modernist era, which were built to designs by Belgian architect and designer Henry van de Velde. Bauhaus architecture can also be found in many locations in Erfurt,

Apolda and Gera. Even in Suhl in southern Thuringia, there is a striking legacy from this era – the present-day Modehaus (fashion house), designed in 1928 by Bauhaus student Karl Otto in the New Objectivity style. Gropius had Auerbach House built in Jena, the first private residence in the style. The Bauhaus's Modernist principles reach into all fields of art and craft. Wilhelm Wagenfeld's tea service, for example, which is made from heatproof glass, is still produced today and has long been considered a design classic.

More information:

www.bauhaus-2019.de

www.100-jahre-bauhaus.de

1 | A P O L D A

Eiermann building – Architect Egon Eiermann's industrial building from 1938/39 reflects the shift towards the modernist style.

2 | E R F U R T

Margaretha Reichardt House – This Bauhaus student ran a hand-weaving workshop that disseminated the school's intellectual and cultural ideas.

Henry van de Velde's design for a museum in Erfurt

3 | G E R A

Otto Dix House – The house where Otto Dix, one of the most influential artists of the 20th century, was born.

Henry van de Velde Museum at Haus Schulenburg – Art nouveau villa designed by the Belgian architect with authentic furnishings and garden

53 buildings/projects by Thilo

Schoder and other exponents of the Neues Bauen architectural style

4 | J E N A

Ernst Abbe monument –

Memorial pavilion to honour Ernst Abbe, the physicist, industrialist and social reformer. Building: Henry van de Velde, bronze reliefs:

Constantin Emile Meunir, marble herm: Max Klinger

Auerbach House (1924) – the first Bauhaus design for a private residence, and Zuckerkandl House, both by Walter Gropius

Refectory on Philosophenweg and Abbeaum/Jena University – Bauhaus student Ernst Neufert

Schott Glass Museum – Jena glass teapot by Wilhelm Wagenfeld

5 | W E I M A R

Bauhaus Museum – documents the history of the Bauhaus at the place where it was founded, Weimar. (Featuring over 300 exhibits)

Art School and School of Arts and Crafts – Henry van de Velde's influential art school building from the turn of the 20th century was where the Bauhaus originated.

Haus Am Horn – Georg Muche's showcase home was the only Bauhaus building to be realised in Weimar.

Hohe Pappeln – Belgian architect Henry van de Velde built this house for his family.

Nietzsche Archive – The interior of the ground floor was designed by Henry van de Velde.

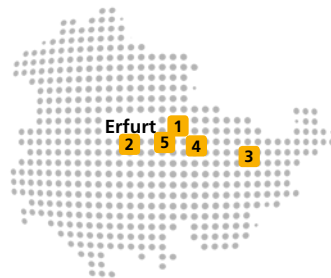
Signet of
Henry van de Velde



Ernst Abbe Memorial
Jena



'Haus Schulenburg'
Gera



Famous musicians

Bach, Wagner, Liszt and Co.

Thuringia's great musical heritage is a ubiquitous presence. Throughout the region, famous composers have left an extraordinary legacy that is cherished to this day.

Thuringia is known as a cradle of classical music because of its many associations with names such as Bach, Wagner, Paganini, Liszt, Reger and Mendelssohn. Their legacies are kept alive in the region through a wide programme of events. The Thuringian Bach Festival, for example, has long been a highlight in the international classical music calendar. In Eisenach, Arnstadt, Erfurt and Weimar, concerts take place in venues linked to the life and legacies of the great composers or on precious organs like the baroque

Trost Organ in the Altenburg castle church. There is also an excellent range of guided walks and bookable itineraries, be it a Liszt concert at Erfurt's Imperial Hall or Bach compositions at the Divi Blasii Church in Mühlhausen. The region's orchestras are also a feature. The Jena Philharmonic Orchestra give guest performances all over Europe, while the Staatskapelle Weimar is one of the most prestigious orchestras in the world.

More information:

www.thuringian-cities.com

www.bach-lebensreise.de

www.thueringer-bachwochen.de

www.bachfestival.arnstadt.de



1 | ARNSTADT

Bach Church – The young J.S. Bach was organist at the church from 1703 to 1707.

Bach statue – depicting the young Bach

Bach exhibition at the Palace Museum – several generations of the Bach family lived in Arnstadt.

Bach Festival – acclaimed music event

2 | EISENACH

Bach House – the world's largest museum dedicated to the life and work of the composer

Tannhäuser and the Singers' Contest at Wartburg Castle – romantic opera by Richard Wagner performed in its original setting

3 | MEININGEN

Brahms monument – Johannes Brahms conducted the Meiningen Court Orchestra. He conducted the very first performance of his Fourth Symphony in Meiningen.

Elisabethenburg Palace – centre of artistic endeavour between Weimar and Bayreuth, exhibition on the history of music with visual, audio and interactive elements

4 | MÜHLHAUSEN

Divi Blasii Church – Johann Sebastian Bach was organist at the church from 1707 to July 1708.

First printed cantata was produced in Mühlhausen, original documents at the town archive

5 | SONDRERSHAUSEN

Many buildings in the town centre bear witness to Sondershausen's rich musical heritage.

Venues for the prestigious Loh

Orchestra – Octagonal House (Achteckhaus), Blue Hall at Sondershausen Palace, House of Art

Liszt concerts on the Liszt grand piano at Sondershausen Palace

6 | WEIMAR

Liszt House – Franz Liszt summered in the former court gardener's house at the entrance to the Park on the Ilm between 1869 and 1886.

Bach Biennale in Weimar – Nikolaus Harnoncourt's prestigious Bach festival uses only instruments made during the composer's lifetime.

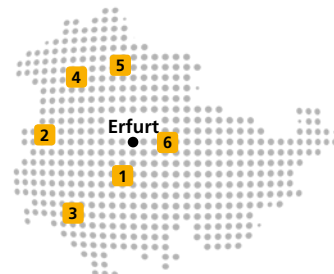
Bach Festival
Arnstadt



Historical Instruments
Elisabethenburg Palace Meiningen



Bach House
Eisenach



The Jewish heritage

There are many sites associated with Jewish life in Thuringia's towns and cities. Synagogues, mikvehs and burial sites provide an insight into a fascinating past.

There have been Jewish communities in many Thuringian towns and cities since the Middle Ages, and a number of cultural treasures bear witness to these earlier times. The Old Synagogue in Erfurt is one of the largest and best preserved medieval synagogues in Europe. The mikveh bath in Erfurt is another important part of Jewish tradition along with the synagogue and cemetery. In many places, houses and factories belonging to Jewish families are still intact. This region would not have enjoyed such prosperity had it not been for the skill and savvy of the

Jewish factory owners and merchants. Notable examples include the 'Simson' factory in Suhl and the Tietz department store in Gera, where the former department store chain 'Hertie' was founded. Festivals such as the Yiddish Summer in Weimar and events at Jewish cultural centres reflect the traditions of the Jewish people. The Holocaust memorials and the 'Stolpersteine' (stumbling blocks), which are embedded in the pavements of many Thuringian towns and cities, make reference to a tragic chapter in Germany's history. They commemorate the fate of those families who were deported to concentration camps during the Nazi era in the beginning of the 20th century.

More information:
www.thuringian-cities.com



1 | ERFURT

Old Synagogue – Oldest preserved synagogue in central Europe (11th century), with the Erfurt Treasure and a 14th century Jewish wedding ring

Mikveh – Jewish ritual bath from the 13th century

Small Synagogue – Cultural forum with exhibition on Jewish life in Erfurt in the 19th and 20th centuries

New Synagogue (1952) – Today a centre for the community

Jewish cemetery – from the 18th century

Application to UNESCO for these examples of medieval Jewish life to be granted World Heritage status

2 | MÜHLHAUSEN

Synagogue from 1840 – cultural forum with exhibition and library

Jewish cemetery – 100 intact graves from when this part of the municipal cemetery opened in 1872, first documented in 1417

3 | NORDHAUSEN

Mittelbau-Dora concentration camp – memorial and exhibition

'Stolpersteine' (stumbling blocks) commemorating victims of the Nazi regime

4 | SONDERSHAUSEN

Pre-1300 Mikveh (Jewish bath) – preserved as a monument with remnants of the town wall

Jewish cemetery – established in 1699, graves from the 18th and 19th centuries and noteworthy graves from a later time

5 | WEIMAR

Yiddish Summer – festival of Yiddish/Jewish music

Jewish cemetery – founded in 1774

Buchenwald concentration camp – memorial with four permanent exhibitions and outdoor grounds



Jewish Wedding Ring

*Medieval Mikveh
Erfurt*



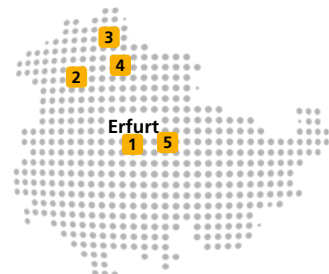
Jewish Bible



Hebrew Manuscripts



*Old Synagogue
Erfurt*



Classicism – Schiller and Goethe



Their legacy is one for all eternity. Goethe and Schiller have shaped cultural life in a host of Thuringian towns and cities. And their work continues to inspire people all over the world.

Goethe and Schiller were among the leading lights of German Classicism. Thanks to them, Thuringia became a place of great cultural achievements. Their works still feature on the school curriculum in many countries. While Friedrich Schiller was almost exclusively engaged with poetry, philosophy and history, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was a true all-rounder. In addition to his activities as a poet and public servant, he excelled as a naturalist, a mining official and a collector of minerals. He even wrote a theory of colours. Goethe and

Schiller's houses and manuscripts are a feature of the Classical Weimar UNESCO World Heritage ensemble. Sites associated with their lives and legacies can also be found in other places in Thuringia, including Jena University, where Schiller was a professor, and the Schiller House in Rudolstadt, where the pair first met. On the Schiller and Goethe walking trails, you can make fascinating discoveries amidst picturesque scenery – the perfect combination of culture and nature.

More information:

www.thuringian-cities.com

www.schiller-lockt.de

www.goethestrasse.info

1 | ERFURT

Dacheröden House – Goethe, Schiller and Humboldt were frequent guests to the house

Imperial Hall – first performances of Goethe's works and the premiere of Don Carlos by Schiller

2 | ILMENAU

Goethe Town Museum – featuring a room highlighting Goethe's efforts to support mining in Ilmenau

Museum Jagdhaus Gabelbach – late baroque hunting lodge with an exhibition on the hunting traditions of the Weimar court

Goethe's wooden lodge – The Wanders Nachtlied: over every hilltop is peace – translated into various languages

3 | JENA

Schiller's summer house – Commemorates the decade Schiller spent in Jena. Schiller and Goethe cemented their friendship in Jena. In 1797, the famous 'ballads year', they wrote many of their most famous ballads.

Schiller Church – The church where Schiller married Charlotte von Lengefeld in 1790

Goethe Museum at the Botanical Gardens – documents Goethe's

academic, literary and scientific work in Jena

4 | MEININGEN

Schiller Walking Trail – Schiller walked this route from his place of refuge in Bauerbach to Meiningen to get books, paper and snuff

5 | RUDOLSTADT

Schiller House – Former home of the von Lengefeld family and the place where Goethe and Schiller first met in 1788

Theatre – Built in 1793 as a summer theatre, Goethe directed the ensemble

6 | WEIMAR

Goethe's House – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe lived at this house on Frauenplan for nearly 50 years

Goethe's Garden House – Goethe's first apartment in Weimar before moving to Frauenplan

Schiller House – Friedrich Schiller spent the final three years of his life in this town house on what was then the Weimar esplanade.

Goethe and Schiller statue – Weimar's most famous monument. Goethe and Schiller have stood on Theaterplatz square since 1857.

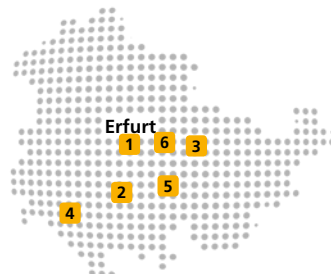
Schiller House
Rudolstadt



Goethe Town Museum
Ilmenau



Goethe's Garden House
Weimar



Luther and the Reformation



Thuringia is considered the heartland of the Reformation. The sites associated with Martin Luther and the legacies from that time offer exciting insights into this momentous period in history.

Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, where Luther translated the New Testament into German, and the Augustinian monastery in Erfurt, where he lived as a monk for five years, are among the most famous Reformation sites in Germany, but they are by no means the only ones in Thuringia. Schmalkalden was the seat of the powerful but finally defeated political protestant party. Weimar became a main residence with Cranach working as the duke's personal painter. Spalatin set forth the transformation of an idea into everyday reality in

Altenburg. Rich Mühlhausen with its many churches saw the cruel end of the peasant's war. Jena was chosen as the site for a new reformed university, and in Gotha one finds today one of the largest collections of Reformation manuscripts.

The Routes to Luther association and the Luther Trail offer the opportunity to learn more about the work of the great reformer and theologian who travelled extensively throughout the region. The Reformation fundamentally changed the way the church operated and its consequences can still be felt in our views of life and politics today.

More information:

www.thuringian-cities.com
www.wege-zu-luther.de

1 | ALTENBURG

Altenburg Castle – exhibition 'Freedom of faith' on Georg Spalatin and his work for Luther and the electors

St. Bartholomäi – Interactive Spalatin-path to five authentic sites of the early reformation

2 | EISENACH

Luther's House – Luther's home during his school days (1498–1501)

Wartburg Castle (UNESCO World Heritage) with the room where Luther translated the New Testament into German

St. George's Church – Luther gave numerous sermons at the church.

3 | ERFURT

Old University – Luther was a student here for five years.

Augustinian Monastery – An important site of the Reformation; Luther lived here as a monk for five years.

Erfurt Cathedral – Luther was ordained here.

4 | GOTHA

Research library – in the east tower of Friedenstein Palace – the collection of Reformation manuscripts is one of the largest of its kind.

5 | JENA

St. Michael's Church ('Stadtkirche') with the original memorial plate intended for Luther's grave, based on a design by Lucas Cranach the Elder

Municipal Museum with the Jena edition of Martin Luther's works

6 | MÜHLHAUSEN

Church of St. Mary – a memorial to Thomas Müntzer

Peasants' War Museum – exhibition on the events of the war and its aftermath

7 | SCHMALKALDEN

Luther House – Luther stayed here during the Schmalkaldic League convened.

Church of St. George – Luther preached at the church.

8 | WEIMAR

Church of St. Peter and St. Paul – with the famous Cranach altar

Duchess Anna Amalia Library – with the Luther Bible

Cranach Gallery City Palace – original paintings from the Reformation period

Luther Memorial
Erfurt



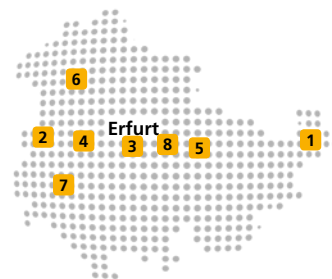
Luther House
Eisenach



Luther Memorial
Plate Jena



Church of St. George
Schmalkalden



Hiking and biking with culture



There's no better way to combine the cultural treasures of Thuringia's historical towns and cities with the region's unspoilt scenery than by bike, on one of the many cycle routes.

A cycling tour in Thuringia is a great way to follow in the footsteps of historical greats such as Bach, Goethe, Luther and Napoleon. Riverside tours beside the Saale, Werra, Unstrut, Ilm or Elster are equally appealing. The Towns of Thuringia Cycle Route links seven of the most historical towns in the region and is part of the Mittelland Route. This route, also known as D4, runs from Germany's most westerly point to its most easterly and connects to the national long-distance cycle path network. Getting around by bike

couldn't be easier in Thuringia. You can hire bikes at train stations and you have the option of taking a bike with you on the train. Eisenach, Erfurt, Weimar and Jena even have designated lockers so that cyclists can leave their luggage behind and explore the historical attractions on foot. Sightseeing tours by bike, such as the garden tour in Erfurt or the discovery tour in Jena, complete the range of services available. The perfect combination of culture and exercise.

More information:

www.thueringer-staedtekette.de

www.radroutenplaner.thueringen.de

1 | TOWNS OF THURINGIA CYCLE ROUTE (D4 ROUTE)

Eisenach – Gotha – Erfurt – Weimar – Jena – Gera – Altenburg (ca. 225 km)

The Towns of Thuringia Cycle Route is a long-distance route linking seven of the most beautiful towns in Thuringia. It passes through some of the most scenic and historically fascinating parts of the region.

2 | SAALE-RADWEG (D11 ROUTE)

Saalfeld – Rudolstadt – Jena

(ca. 420 km, 180 km in Thuringia)

Unspoilt upland forests are a feature of the Saale Cycle Route, which follows the course of the river Saale through a nature park to two reservoirs that comprise the 'Thuringian Sea'. From Saalfeld to the confluence of the Saale and Elbe rivers, this riverside path is family friendly with few hills. There are also many castles and palaces dotted along the route.

3 | ILM VALLEY CYCLE ROUTE

Ilmenau – Weimar – Apolda (ca. 120 km)

Thuringia's only four-star cycle route runs for 120 kilometres from the Thuringian Forest to the vineyards of Bad Sulza, passing through the UNESCO World Heritage town of

Weimar and a landscape of history, culture and natural beauty.

4 | WERRATAL-RADWEG

Suhl – Meiningen – Schmalkalden –

Eisenach (ca. 306 km, 200 km in Thuringia)

This long-distance route runs for 306 km from the two sources of the river Werra to where the Werra meets the Weser. It starts near the Rennsteig Trail in the Thuringian Forest Nature Park and it is family friendly and well signposted.

5 | RENNSTEIG CYCLE ROUTE

Suhl – Ilmenau – Eisenach (200 km)

The Rennsteig Trail, which runs along the ridge of the Thuringian hills, is Germany's most famous hiking trail. Keen cyclists who enjoy a physical challenge will discover many wayside attractions as they ride through woodland and meadows on the Rennsteig Cycle Route.

Other walking and cycling trails:

- Unstrut-Radweg (ca. 200 km, 150 km in Thuringia)
- Gera-Radweg (ca. 67 km)
- Elster-Radweg (250 km)
- Napoleon-Radweg (49 km)
- Bach-Rad-Erlebnisroute (69 km)
- Lutherweg (ca. 900 km)

Weimar



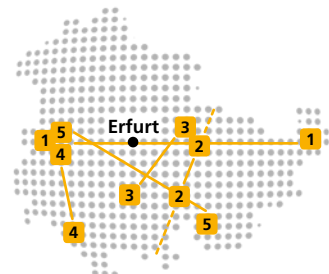
Erfurt



Arnstadt



Eisenach



Created by men and nature

As well as being a cradle of classical literature and music, Thuringia has also given rise to ingenious inventions, technical innovations and traditions that live on to this day.

Who invented it? The Thuringians! That goes both for Christmas tree baubles and for the kindergarten. The German word 'kindergarten' has even been adopted in many other languages. It might be hard to believe, but the Brooklyn Bridge in New York would not exist were it not for the engineering ingenuity of a Mühlhausen bridge builder. Today, many towns and cities in Thuringia continue to conduct research and drive innovation. Optical instruments and glass from Carl Zeiss in Jena enjoy an international reputation. Eisenach's

automotive industry has been producing various car models for more than 115 years. Thuringia has also been inventive with its natural resources. A former mine in Saalfeld has been transformed into fairy grottoes, while Sondershausen visitor mine boasts the deepest concert hall in the world. Whether in the field of optics, astronomy, automotive engineering or steam locomotives, Thuringia embraces the new opportunities that modern technologies bring but without losing sight of its traditional heritage.

More information:

www.thuringian-cities.com
www.feengrotten.de
www.dampflokwerk.de
www.awe-stiftung.de
www.planetarium-jena.de



1 | EISENACH

Automobile World Eisenach

- Manufacturing cars for 100 years
- Exhibition on the history of automotive manufacturing in Eisenach – from Dixis to Opels
- Historical vehicles, one-off vehicles, prototypes and engineering designs

2 | JENA

Zeiss Planetarium

- Oldest working planetarium in the world, open since 1926
- One of the world's most modern planetariums, with a unique full-dome laser projection system
- Multimedia science programmes and toe-tapping music shows for all the family

3 | MEININGEN

Steam Locomotive Works

- Only railway repair shop that still has the know-how and technology to repair and maintain historical steam engines
- The first German steam locomotive 'Adler' was restored here

4 | SAALFELD

Feengrotten

- The most colourful show caves in the world, open since 1914
- Grottoneum interactive museum
- Feenweltchen Adventure Park (May to October)

5 | SUHL

Weapons Museum

- The only specialist museum of its kind in Europe
- Documents the history of hunting and sports guns over seven centuries



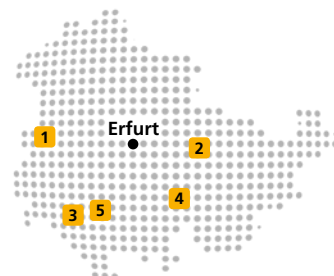
Planetarium Projector from Carl Zeiss Jena

Feengrotten
Saalfeld

Steam Locomotive
Meiningen

Automobile World
Eisenach

Weapons Museum
Suhl



Theatre and festivals

Whether it's jazz in the streets, opera on cathedral steps or world music at exhilarating events – international visitors flock to Thuringia's towns and cities every year to experience a vibrant theatre and festival scene.

As well as boasting a wealth of historical attractions, Thuringia also offers an eclectic calendar of events. Many, such as the Thuringian Bach Festival, Jena's KulturArena festival and the Rudolstadt Dance and Folk Festival, already have an international following. Then there are the traditional volksfeste such as the Sommergewinn festival in Eisenach and the Mühlhausen kirmes, which is Germany's largest town funfair. Another firm fixture is the Thuringian Jazz Mile, which is held across the

region. Suhl hosts the Provinzschrei, a multi-award-winning literature and arts festival featuring a line-up of prominent artists. By the way: with 15 producing houses Thuringia has more theatres and orchestras than any other German state. Often in beautifully restored settings like Meiningen. Thanks to art loving dukes and princes! The Greiz Autumn Theatre Festival is a nationally acclaimed event that sees theatre professionals, amateurs, artists and musicians working side by side.

More information:
www.thuringian-cities.com



1 | ALTENBURG

Castle theatre festival – historical theatre and musical festival in the courtyard of Altenburg Castle

2 | ARNSTADT

Bach Festival – a modern, wide-ranging and world-class festival of Bach's music, performed at original locations associated with the Bach family

3 | ERFURT

Merchants' Bridge Festival – largest medieval festival in Thuringia

Cathedral Steps Festival – annual open-air opera spectacle set against the romantic backdrop of St. Mary's Cathedral and the Church of St. Severus

4 | GOTHA

Ekhof Theatre/Ekhof Festival – the oldest baroque theatre in the world with original stage machinery

5 | JENA

KulturArena – seven-week open-air festival featuring theatre, music and film, world music, jazz and high-brow pop

Theatre in Motion – international dance festival

6 | MEININGEN

GRASGRÜN – summer festival offering outstanding concerts and open-air performances with different themes every year

7 | RUDOLSTADT

TFF – Roots-folk-world music – one of the biggest and most renowned festivals for world music in Europe

8 | SONDRERSHAUSEN

Palace theatre festival – lavish performances in the fairytale setting of the palace courtyard

9 | WEIMAR

Kunstfest – festival of contemporary theatre, music, performance and dance

Weimar Summer – summer theatre, open-air concerts, exhibitions, street festivals and more

Spiegelzelt – music, theatre and variety in a historical mirror marquee

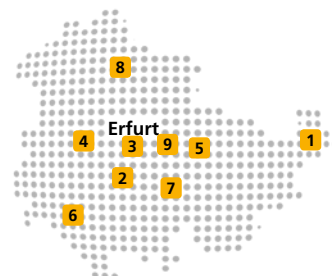
Ekhof Festival
Gotha



KulturArena
Jena



Theatre
Altenburg





Altenburg

Castle and
Playing Card Museum

Altenburg is known as the birthplace of Germany's most popular card game «SKAT». Only one hour's drive from Leipzig, Weimar and Chemnitz, the town is a place to time travel: Come and dive into 1000 years of German history from medieval Emperor Frederick Barbarossa to the Reformation and to the peaceful revolution 'Die Wende'. Strolling through narrow cobbled streets, along magnificent 19th century buildings, through parks or to market place, in Altenburg one is immediately taken back to a different world.

Altenburger Tourismus-Information

Markt 17 / 04600 Altenburg / Tel. +49 (0) 3447 512800

www.altenburg-tourismus.de



CASTLE AND PLAYING CARD MUSEUM

High upon a porphyry rock the Altenburg castle has dominated the town for more than a thousand years. The castle museum shows the lifestyle of dukes and princes with valuable collections of watches, porcelain and weaponry as well as changing exhibitions and the unique playing card museum with cards from five centuries and from all over the world.



LINDENAU ART MUSEUM

The collections of Bernhard August von Lindenau build the foundation of the museum, which is showing early Italian Renaissance paintings, ancient sculptures, antique Etruscan ceramics, expressionistic and modern art as well as special exhibitions. The Lindenau Art Museum is one of the most important museums in Germany and surely the most relaxed.

ARCHITECTURE

The Romanesque brick towers, the 'Red Spires', are a national monument as one of the oldest brick structures in Germany. The Gothic churches, the Renaissance town hall and the numerable baroque town houses are magnificent examples of the citizens' high self-esteem. The villas, boulevards, the castle park, the theatre and museum buildings show the wealth of the 19th century.

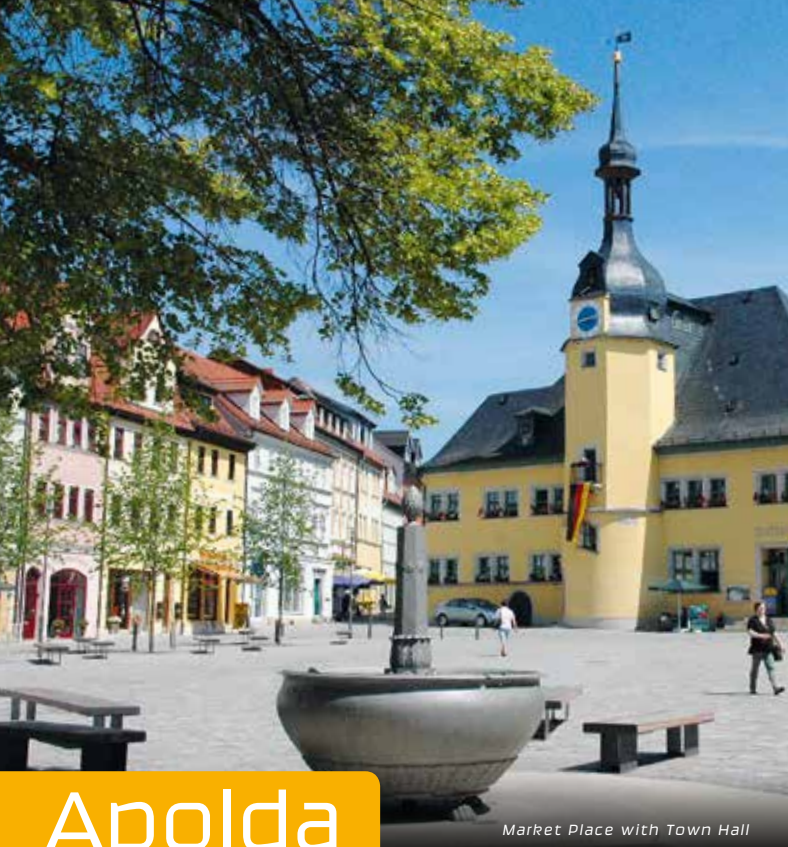


REFORMATION

Martin Luther sent his friend Georg Spalatin to Altenburg to realize the ideas of the Reformation in practical life. Today you can follow in the footsteps of Spalatin in order to visit five authentic places of the Reformation. Starting point is Spalatin's church St. Bartholomew with an exhibition on the time and ideas which made the Reformation a spiritual and political milestone to date.

GOOD TO KNOW

500 years ago the first playing card makers came from Nuremberg to Altenburg. Today nearly all German playing cards are produced here. A great souvenir to bring back home together with local specialties like beer, herbal liqueur, goat cheese and mustards.



Apolda

Market Place with Town Hall

In the 18th century Apolda developed into a manufacturing and trading town with noteworthy bell foundries and a flourishing textile industry. Knitwear from Apolda is still synonymous with fashion and quality. Over 20.000 bells cast in Apolda and now scattered over the world. Significant exhibitions attract thousands of visitors to the Apolda Art House every year. Even today, numerous villas and town houses in Art Nouveau style and dating from the turn of the century give Apolda its distinctive character.

Tourist-Information Apolda

Markt 1 / 99510 Apolda / Tel. +49 (0) 3644 650100

www.apolda.de



CITIZENS' FOUNTAIN

The fountain's bowl is modelled on Apolda's coat of arms, a tree stump with sprouting branches. Four relief plates show what made Apolda famous: the bell-founding, the brewery, the famous knitwear factory and the breeding of the Doberman dog.

ART HOUSE APOLDA AVANTGARDE

Internationally significant exhibitions attract thousands of visitors to the Apolda Art House every year. Since 2005 young artists have been able to exhibit at the 'Kabinett im Kunsthaus', which gives them the chance to present their work to a larger audience.

BELL MUSEUM

The museum, founded in 1952, shows the cultural history of the bell from its beginnings until the present day and pays tribute to the Apolda bell casters. And the special thing about the museum is that the visitors are allowed to touch and even ring most of the bells.



ZIMMERMANN BUILDING

The former 'warehouse, administration and factory building' of the company Christian Zimmermann & Son, the biggest knitwear producer around 1890, is now the seat of the administrative district office of the Weimarer Land. The terracotta frieze, which is positioned on the building at eye level, deserves particular attention. It vividly illustrates the 'way of the wool', the production process of knitted fabrics.

GOOD TO KNOW

The Dobermann can actually be traced back to the breeder Karl Friedrich Louis Dobermann from Apolda, which makes it the only breed of dog to be named after its breeder.



Arnstadt

*Bach church and
hops-fountain*

Arnstadt is the oldest town in Thuringia and was first mentioned in the year of 704. The lovingly restored old quarter is a fusion of half-timbered houses and baroque architecture. Every cobblestone here exudes music and history. Many legends permeate the walls of the town's ancient buildings. As a young man, J.S. Bach took his first post as an organist here. The modern Bach exhibition in the palace museum gives a comprehensive insight into the Bach family, and includes Bach's original organ console.

Arnstadt Tourist-Information

Markt 1 / 99310 Arnstadt / Tel. +49 (0) 3628 602049

www.arnstadt.de



PALACE MUSEUM INSIDE THE NEW PALACE

The palace museum in Arnstadt is inseparably linked with 'Mon plaisir', the unique baroque village in miniature which is on display there. Over 82 scenes present an intimate picture of life in an 18th century regal town. The former royal palace, an unpretentious baroque residence in the town centre, also houses the Bach exhibition which has become renowned far beyond Thuringia's borders. In 2014 the ballroom has been reopened.



CHURCH OF OUR LADY

For the most part the Church of Our Lady was built in the 12th and 13th centuries. Together with Naumburg Cathedral, it is considered the most significant ecclesiastical building in central Germany from the transition period from Romanesque to Gothic. Inside the church, the sculpture of the 'Beautiful Madonna' carved in linden wood and the ornate 15th century winged altar are particularly striking.



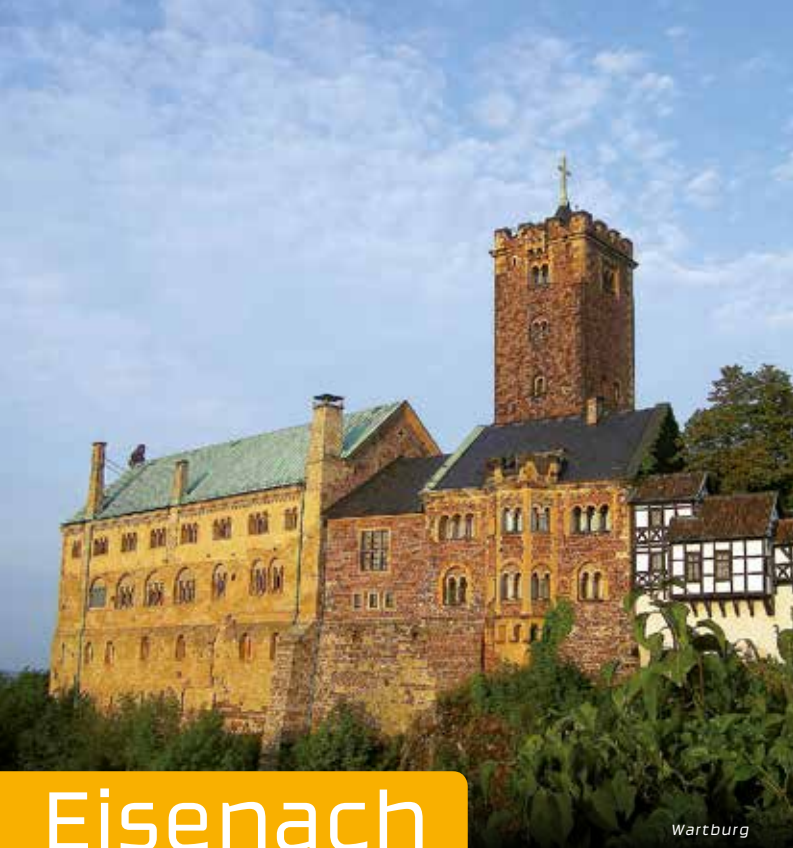
BACH CHURCH

First records of the former Church of St. Boniface on the market square date back to 1333. The organ builder Johann Friedrich Wender made an organ for what was by then called the New Church which was tested by Bach when he was only 18 years old. After authorities had noticed his talent he had been appointed as organist there in August 1703. He remained in Arnstadt until 1707. The church also houses a romantic Steinmeyer organ.



GOOD TO KNOW

Bach Festival Arnstadt – In March each year, visitors can experience the music of J.S. Bach at the original locations! Fantastic organ music, guided tours and walks in J.S. Bach's footsteps, theatre performances and comedy.



Eisenach

Wartburg

The town of Eisenach and Wartburg Castle both owe their fame to individuals of world renown. The UNESCO world cultural heritage Wartburg Castle was the home of St. Elisabeth and the inspiration for Richard Wagner's opera, *Tannhäuser*. It is also where Martin Luther translated the New Testament into German. Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach, Martin Luther was at school here for three years. Eisenach also has a strong tradition of car manufacturing and development which goes back over a hundred years.

Eisenach Tourist-Information

Markt 24 / 99817 Eisenach / Tel. +49 (0) 3691 79230

www.eisenach.info



WARTBURG CASTLE

The castle has been a mighty fortification and magnificent residence for almost a thousand years. Courtly art from the Middle Ages, St. Elisabeth's life and work, Martin Luther's translation of the New Testament and the German student fraternities' festival, all combine to make Wartburg Castle an outstanding monument of German history and culture.

BACH HOUSE

The 'musical museum' in the town where he was born – contains the world's largest exhibition on the life and work of Johann Sebastian Bach. Visitors can enjoy a live musical performance played on historical instruments in this authentic setting.



LUTHER HOUSE

It is 500 years old and almost certainly the oldest and most beautiful timber-framed building in Eisenach. It contains an exhibition and the Protestant Parsonage Archive. The Cotta family took such good care of Martin Luther during his schooldays here (1498–1501).



TOWN PALACE

Gottfried Heinrich Krohne built the town palace during the mid-18th century as a commission for Duke Ernst August. Today it is used by the Thuringian Museum to present the porcelain collection and temporary exhibitions.

GOOD TO KNOW

Heritage area 'Südviertel' – Aficionados of Art Nouveau ornaments, wrought-iron garden gate art or impressive bay variations will love the south district of Eisenach: In the largest one-piece mansion district of Germany Eisenach shows itself at its best.



Erfurt

St. Mary's Cathedral and the Church of St. Severus

Erfurt is Thuringia's 1,270 year old state capital. Situated at the crossing point of ancient trade routes Erfurt grew into a university town during the Middle Ages. Its medieval heart is one of the best preserved anywhere in Germany. Even now, its many lovingly restored Renaissance buildings, half-timbered houses, churches, abbeys, Cathedral Hill and Merchants' Bridge reflect its wealthy past. Erfurt has attracted numerous illustrious individuals, including Luther, Goethe, Bach and Napoleon.

Erfurt Tourist Information

Benediktsplatz 1 / 99084 Erfurt / Tel. +49 (0) 361 66400
www.erfurt-tourismus.de



CATHEDRAL HILL

The impressive ensemble of St. Mary's Cathedral and the Church of St. Severus on Cathedral Hill is one of the city's most famous landmarks. The windows in St. Mary's Cathedral are among the most significant cycles of stained glass in Germany in terms of their scale, thematic richness and artistic quality. The central tower houses the 'Gloriosa', the world's largest medieval free-swinging bell, which is over 500 years old.



MERCHANTS' BRIDGE

Krämerbrücke (14th century) is the longest bridge in Europe constructed completely with houses along its entire length (120 m). It is lined with galleries and boutiques offering traditional Thuringian blue printed fabrics, hand-painted ceramics, wood carvings and culinary specialities. The bridge takes centre stage every June during the Merchants' Bridge Festival – the largest Old Town festival in Thuringia.

CATHEDRAL STEPS THEATER FESTIVAL

Every summer the Cathedral Steps which run between the magnificent architectural ensemble of the Cathedral of St. Mary and the Church of St. Severus are transformed into one of the world's most beautiful festival stages. Each year the Theater Erfurt organizes this special open air festival.



PETERSBERG CITADEL

The only extensively preserved baroque town fortress in central Europe (17th century), was built on the site of a former Benedictine monastery. The fascinating passageways beneath the fortress can only be visited as part of a guided tour from Erfurt Tourist Information.



GOOD TO KNOW

Erfurt's Christmas Market with its tradition of 165 years approximately, is one of the loveliest in the whole of Germany and is the largest in Thuringia. Erfurt's medieval old town centred on Domplatz (Cathedral Square) is the perfect setting for the specially atmospheric time of Advent.



Gera

Town Hall

The many prestigious mansions and lovingly refurbished villas adorn the old town center. The Gera theatre with its rich traditions and four museums give the visitor an insight into Gera's colorful cultural life. The Gera art collection and the museum of Gera's most famous artist, the painter Otto Dix, host a variety of Fine Art treasures. A further, very special attraction in Gera is the labyrinth of caves and tunnels under the city, the so-called 'Geraer Höhler'.

Tourist Information Gera

Heinrichstraße 35 / 07545 Gera / Tel. +49 (0) 365 8304480
www.gera-tourismus.de



THEATER

The magnificent Gera theatre in Art Nouveau architecture combines theatre and concert hall under one roof, offering performances in 5 categories. The unrivaled program of opera, operetta, concerts and plays, musicals, ballet and puppet shows provides something for every taste.

OTTO DIX HOUSE

To honor the 100th anniversary of the birth of the painter and graphic artist Otto Dix on December 2, 1991 the house where he was born opened its doors as a museum. An extensive collection of paintings from all phases of his work await the visitor in a home depicting life in a worker's household around 1900.



HAUS SCHULENBURG

Today the 'Haus Schulenburg' is probably the only completely preserved Art Nouveau villa by the Belgian architect Henry van de Velde. The mansion hosts a convention center, a cafeteria and a Henry van de Velde Museum showing the world's second largest collection of book designs, diagrams, textiles and furniture which belonged to the artist.



GERAER HÖHLER - THE GERA CAVES

The underground labyrinth of corridors and niches under the city were created between the 16th and 19th centuries for the storage of beer and go up to eleven meters below ground level. Every two years the light and art exhibition 'Höhler Biennale' is held in the Gera 'underworld'.

GOOD TO KNOW

The best idea is to sample the taste of Gera with a Schmalzbrot (bread and dripping), which is called locally a 'Fettbemme' and is served with salt and a spiced gherkin.



Gotha

Friedenstein Palace

'Gotha is old – Gotha is beautiful'. Delightfully situated between the Thuringian Forest and Hainich National Park, Gotha is a fascinating town with much to offer. It is a rewarding place to visit either for a cultural break or to explore the beautiful countryside. The former seat of the duchy of Saxe-Gotha is easy to reach and with its historic buildings and monuments offers something for every taste. Gotha is first mentioned in writing as 'villa gotaha' in a document from Charlemagne in 775.

Tourist Information Gotha / Gothaer Land

Hauptmarkt 33 / 99867 Gotha / Tel. +49 (0) 3621 50785712

www.kultourstadt.de



'THE BAROQUE UNIVERSE'

The Baroque Universe of Gotha with Friedenstein Palace is the largest early baroque palace in Germany. It is quite extra extraordinary that such a historical ensemble – including a palace, park, church, theatre, library, archive and the ducal collections – has survived intact to this day. The exterior of the palace may be somewhat understated, but the ducal rooms inside are magnificent.



THE DUCAL MUSEUM

The Ducal Museum was built to provide a prestigious location for the numerous collections. The castle's treasures include Egyptian antiquities, antiques, paintings and pictures by Cranach, Dürer, Rubens and C.D. Friedrich, sculptures by Houdon and de Vries, porcelain from Meissen and Asia, Japanese lacquer work. Their richness and diversity reflect the entire world.



BAROQUE FESTIVAL

On the last weekend in August, Friedenstein palace becomes the setting for the Baroque Festival. This has plenty of visitor appeal, including an opportunity to see the 'duke' with his household and officials, perhaps out on a hunt or holding an audience. The biggest baroque festival of central Germany.



THURINGIAN FOREST TRAM

The Thuringian tram is valid as one of the nicest rural tram running out into the Thuringian Forest. She goes from Gotha to Tabarz (Thuringian forest) since 1929!

GOOD TO KNOW

The old residence city is world famous for its legendary aristocratic calendar 'The Gotha', first published in 1763. It was a 'Who's Who' of the blue-blooded and it was a must for people who wanted to be seen as nobility to be included in this calendar.



Greiz

View of the Upper and Lower Palace

Greiz, the 'pearl of the Vogtland', is in eastern Thuringia. The seat of the Princes of Reuss Elder Line for centuries, its two castles and architectural splendour reflect this legacy even today. Bridges are also a feature of Greiz: the White Elster river winds its way through the heart of the town and through the densely wooded valley.

Tourist-Information Greiz

Burgplatz 12 / Unteres Schloss / 07973 Greiz / Tel. +49 (0) 3661 689815
www.greiz.de



THE 'UPPER PALACE'

The 'Upper Palace' is the former royal seat and the symbol of the town. It is situated on a 50-meter high slate stone peak above the city. The 'Upper Palace' was first mentioned in official documents in 1209 and in 1225. During a guided tour through the palace, the visitors can find interesting details and they will enjoy a beautiful view of Greiz.



THE 'LOWER PALACE'

The palace was built in 1564 next to the church called 'St. Marien'. After the great fire in 1802, the palace was rebuilt in classical style. Today the museum of history of the town, the tourist information office and the 'Greiz Textile Studio', which is an exhibition of different kinds of looms, are situated in the 'Lower Palace'.

THE SUMMER RESIDENCE 'SOMMERPALAIS'

The summer residence was built from 1769 to 1779 in early classical style. These days, the visitor can find here different exhibitions: the book and copper engraving collection and the 'SATIRICUM', a collection of historical and contemporary caricatures.



ART NOUVEAU ARCHITECTURE

After the great fire in 1902, the houses on 'Marktstraße/Thomasstraße' were built in Art Nouveau style. The most beautiful house is the house on the corner of 'Burgstraße/Marktstraße'. It is decorated with a glass mosaic.



GOOD TO KNOW

Did you know ... that Greiz has streets in many different varieties of art nouveau?



Ilmenau

Ilmenau - city centre

Welcome to a university town with Johann Wolfgang von Goethe associations. Many things distinguish Ilmenau with its population of almost 30,000 – the natural beauty of the Thüringer Wald (Thuringian Forest) an old town centre, the campus of Ilmenau University of Technology, renowned for research, and the associations with the town's most famous visitor, Goethe. The minors room in the GoetheStadtMuseum gives an insight into Ilmenau's copper and silver mining and Goethe's efforts to keep the mining trade alive.

Ilmenau-Information

Am Markt 1 / 98693 Ilmenau / Tel. +49 (0) 3677 600300

www.ilmenau.de



COURTHOUSE WITH GOETHESTADTMUSEUM

It was built by the Dowager Countess Sophie von Henneberg as her home on widowhood, so that from 1756 there were courtrooms for the local justice and living accommodation for members of the ducal family. When Goethe came to Ilmenau on their behalf he used to stay in the room at the south-east corner. Today, the Amtshaus is home to the GoetheStadtMuseum. Here Goethe the poet, the public servant and the natural scientist is presented.

MUSEUM HUNTING LODGE

This building is in late baroque style though relatively plain. It is now set out as a museum offering fascinating insights into hunting as a pastime, into the social life of the Court of Weimar, and into the scientific pursuits of Goethe.



GOETHEHÄUSCHEN

The little wooden hunting lodge called the Goethehäuschen is situated on the Goethe Path. On its inside wall, 1780 Goethe inscribed one of his loveliest poems, reflecting on nightfall and old age: 'The Wanders Nachtlied'. In 1870 the original hut went up in flames because of the carelessness of people picking berries. It was restored four years later.

The Wanders Nachtlied

Hushed lie the hills;
Hardly a breath stirs,
The treetops barely whisper:
Silent now are the birds.
Hushed shalt thou also be,
Wait only, rest will come to thee.



GOOD TO KNOW

Sound of Science

One of the inventors of MP3, the data format, is Professor Karlheinz Brandenburg, who is head of Ilmenau's Fraunhofer Institute for Digital Media Technology.



Jena

Zeiss Planetarium Jena

Jena is in an idyllic setting on the banks of the river Saale, surrounded by hills where many orchid species thrive. Jena University was founded in 1558 but its heyday was after 1785, as a result of Goethe's patronage. One of the university's most illustrious professors was Friedrich Schiller. Today Jena is a much sought-after place to study in Germany. Ernst Abbe and Carl Zeiss, mould-breakers in the field of optics, both worked in Jena. Napoleon's famous battle against Prussia took place at Jena in 1806.

Jena Tourist-Information

Markt 16 / 07743 Jena / Tel. +49 (0) 3641 498050

www.jenatourismus.de



CITY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY JENA

Especially in the field of classical modern art like the works of Auguste Rodin, Emile Nolde and Wassily Kandinsky major exhibitions in Art Gallery Jena highly publicised. The city museum shows unique features such as the 7 wonders of Jena or a model of a planetarium from the 17th century.

ROMANTICIST HOUSE

The exhibition at the former home of philosopher Johann Gottlieb Fichte illustrates the theme of early Romanticism in Jena and explores the cultural and intellectual influences on this young generation of poets, literary critics and philosophers.

OPTICAL MUSEUM

Visitors to the Optical Museum can discover how optical instruments, such as spectacles, telescopes, microscopes and cameras, have developed over five centuries. In the historical Zeiss workshop of 1866 you can see how Carl Zeiss made microscopes in the mid-19th century.



MUSEUM 1806

On 14 October 1806 the famous battle of Jena took place here between the French Army led by Napoleon I and the Prussian Army. The background and the events of the Battle of Jena-Auerstedt are brought to life in the museum. Retrace the past with Janet Cardiff's Audio Walk.



GOOD TO KNOW

JenTower panoramic viewing platform

The JenTower is 159 metres tall and has a mirror facade, is Jena's most distinctive landmark. From 128 metres up you get phenomenal views of the town, the Triassic limestone cliffs in the distance.



Meiningen

Castle
Elisabethenburg

Without Meiningen – no Hollywood?! The town's ensemble of actors was considered the epitome of European dramatic art in the late 19th century. Meiningen is a destination for theatre aficionados as well as steam engine enthusiasts. In the various castles, parks and museums you'll encounter an abundance of historical figures – the composers Brahms and Reger, the poet Schiller and Princess Adelaide who, born and raised in Meiningen, became queen consort of the United Kingdom.

Tourist-Information Meiningen

Markt 14 / 98617 Meiningen / Tel. +49 (0) 3693 44650
www.meiningen.de



SCHLOSS ELISABETHENBURG

The former residence of the dukes of Saxe-Meiningen was erected as a three-winged Baroque palace complex in 1682–1692. Today, the castle accommodates one of the 'Meininger museums'. In the 19th century, thanks to the work of artists such as Brahms, Strauss, Reger, Wagner, Ibsen under the auspices of the theatre enthusiast Duke Georg II, the Meiningen court established itself as one of Germany's most important cultural centres.



THEATRE MUSEUM 'MAGIC WORLD OF SCENERY'

At the unusual venue – the former ducal riding hall – daily presentations, which include the display of a historic stage set with scenic illumination and a 20-minute movie (available also in English, French, Japanese) will give the visitor a vivid idea of how the 'Meininger' ensemble made European theatre history.



MEININGEN THEATRE

An important chapter in the annals of European theatre history was written here, since 'the Meiningen theatre is the place where modern Regietheater was invented' (R. Schechner, New York University) Performances from drama and opera to concerts, musicals and ballet at the great classicist building.

STEAM LOKOMOTIVE WORK

The German Railways Steam Lokomotive Work is the only railway repair shop in Germany that still has the know-how and technology to repair and maintain historic steam engines. The annual Steam Locomotive Festival attracts thousands of steam locomotive enthusiasts.



GOOD TO KNOW

The famous Thuringian dumplings were actually invented in the 16th century in Meiningen.

'Knastessen' – Dinner in the former city jail Fronveste, an extraordinary experience



Mühlhausen

View at
Jakobi and
St. Mary Church

Mühlhausen developed from a 10th century imperial palace into a flourishing imperial and Hanseatic town. Today, the townscape is still characterised by the town wall, eleven Gothic churches and the town hall. When radical Reformer Thomas Müntzer preached here in 1524–1525, Mühlhausen became a focal point of the Reformation and the Peasants' War. From the 16th century onwards, writers and composers – most notably Johann Sebastian Bach – earned the town a reputation as a centre of Protestant church music.

Tourist Information Mühlhausen

Ratsstraße 20 / 99974 Mühlhausen / Tel. +49 (0) 3601 404770
www.muehlhausen.de



HISTORICAL FORTIFICATIONS

The town wall with its sturdy towers is 2,750 metres long and was built in the 13th century. From the 'Inneres Frauentor', it is possible to walk along the fortifications for 330 metres.



CORN MARKET CHURCH – PEASANTS' WAR MUSEUM

The Corn Market Church houses an exhibition illustrating the course of the German Peasants' War, including its key events and aftermath, within the context of the era and German history in general.



CHURCH OF ST. MARY – MÜNTZER MEMORIAL

After Erfurt Cathedral, this is the largest hall church in Thuringia. It houses an exhibition on the life and work of the radical church reformer Thomas Müntzer.



DIVI BLASII CHURCH

It was built in the 13th and 14th centuries by the German Orden and was the first big church in Gothic style in central Germany. In 1707/1708 Johann Sebastian Bach worked in here as organist. High profile events and concerts take place here.



GOOD TO KNOW

walks through the UNESCO World
Heritage National Park Hainich

builder of the Brooklyn Bridge Johann
A. Roebling, was born in Mühlhausen



Nordhausen

Theatre

Nordhausen, the 1000 year old town, is the thuringian gateway to the Harz Mountains. The new town center, the marvelous surroundings with the unique plaster karst country, the wide range of leisure activities, the variety of arts and culture give the town a very special charm. Also fun and adventure doesn't come too short. The visitors can dare to go by steaming locomotives up a curvy track to the top of the Brocken, they can spoil their palate with sampling 'Echtem Doppelkorn', they can climb in the high-wire garden or admire the imposing Roland statue.

Stadtinformation Nordhausen

Markt 1 / 99734 Nordhausen / Tel. +49 (0) 3631 696797

www.nordhausen.de



HARZER SCHMALSPURBAHN

In Nordhausen, the Harzer Schmalspur Bahn (a traditional coal train) begins its curvy journey to the top of the Brocken; which is the highest mountain in the Harz Mountains.



KZ-GEDENKSTÄTTE 'MITTELBAU-DORA'

The 'wonder weapons' V1 and V2, as they were propagated by Goebbels, were built in the underground tunnel system from 1944. In the course of this, about 20,000 concentration camp prisoners lost their lives. The memorial contains the area of the former concentration camp, remaining buildings, a museum building and also parts of the tunnel system.

KUNSTHAUS MEYENBURG

The 'Kunsthaus Meyenburg' in Nordhausen is a center of arts and culture in northern Thuringia and the Harz Mountains. The alternation between regional and national significant special exhibitions is achieving more and more attention. The exhibitions of well known artists, for example Barlach, Hundertwasser or Dalí, which are shown as retrospectives, attract not only.



MUSEUM 'TABAKSPEICHER'

In the former tobacco warehouse from the 18th century, are now shown exhibitions about trade, industry and archeology in Nordhausen. Inter-active areas such as, the telecommunications engineering or the historic cinema room, invite the visitors to get active themselves.

GOOD TO KNOW

In the last traditional and lovingly restored distillery in Nordhausen. The visitors get a through tour to know the history and technology of the grain distillery. Subsequent to the tour is a tasting of homemade products, which are available in the new adventure shop.



Rudolstadt

Heidecksburg
Palace

Set amidst beautiful countryside, this vibrant, charming town boasts a wealth of historical attractions. It is overlooked by baroque Heidecksburg Palace, a former royal residence and now home to a collection of architectural, cultural and historical treasures. Beneath it is the old quarter with its winding lanes, churches and Renaissance houses. Today, the town where the poets Goethe and Schiller first met in 1788 is an ideal base for trips along the river Saale and into the Thuringian Forest.

Tourist-Information Rudolstadt

Markt 5 / 07407 Rudolstadt / Tel. +49 (0) 3672 486440

www.rudolstadt.de



HEIDECKSBURG PALACE

Formerly the seat of the princes of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, this is one of the most magnificent baroque palaces in Thuringia. The Thuringian Palaces and Gardens Foundation, the Thuringian State Museum and the Thuringian State Archive are all based here. The palace also houses the 'Rococo en miniature' exhibition, a porcelain collection, a natural history collection and a picture gallery. There are hourly guided tours of the state rooms and residential apartments.



SCHILLER HOUSE

The widow Louise von Lengefeld lived in this house, built in 1720, with her daughters, Caroline and Charlotte, who later became Schiller's wife. This is also where Schiller first met Goethe, in 1788. The museum documents this occasion, which had such a momentous impact on the literary world, but main focus of the exhibition is on Schiller and the two young women.

THURINGIAN FARMHOUSES

The Thuringian Farmhouses are the oldest open-air museum in Germany. At risk of dereliction, these half-timbered buildings were taken from several surrounding villages between 1914 and 1915 and relocated here. The museum features original furniture and all kinds of everyday objects that give an insight into rural life in Thuringia in a bygone era. Of particular interest is the authentic village pharmacy.



GOOD TO KNOW

'Transparent Porcelainmanufactory' -
In 2006/2007 the old factory building of the 'Aelteste Volkstedter Porzellanmanufaktur', built in the 18th century, was changed into a 'Transparent Porcelainmanufactory' and in this way four manufactories and one Department of Art were joined together. Visitors of the 'Transparent Porcelainmanufactory' now can look over the shoulders of the artists and watch, how pieces of art are originated.





Saalfeld

Discover the
'stone chronicle of Thuringia'

Saalfeld lies on the banks of the river Saale, surrounded by the mountains of the Thuringian Forest. The town has many beautiful old buildings from its 1,100-year history, which give it a medieval feel and have earned it the sobriquet 'the stone chronicle of Thuringia'. Today, Saalfeld is famous as the 'town of fairy grottoes' throughout Germany and beyond.

Tourist-Information Saalfeld

Markt 6 / 07318 Saalfeld (Saale) / Tel. +49 (0) 3671 522181

www.saalfeld-tourismus.de



FEENGROTTE SAALFELD - WORLD FULL OF FANTASY

The Feengrotten has earned a proud place in the Guinness Book of World Records as the most colourful showcaves in the world. Today, it is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Thuringia and stands as an impressive testimony to mining in the Middle Ages. Many centuries ago, the first miners began their search for gold, silver and other prized metals under the city of Saalfeld. However, it was alum shale that was discovered here, a mineral used for the processing of alum and vitriol. As the mineral was extracted, an underground cave was created which, over time, filled slowly with a fascinating dripstone world. Discover furthermore the Feenweltchen, the Fairyworld Adventure Park above the showcaves and the Experience-Museum Grottoneum. Spend an unforgettable day in the world of the miners and the realm of the fairies.



MUNICIPAL MUSEUM IN THE FORMER FRANCISCAN ABBEY

Founded around 1250, this is the best preserved abbey complex in Thuringia. The twin-aisled church dates back to around 1300, the monastery and chapels were built around 1500. Since 1904 it has been a museum.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

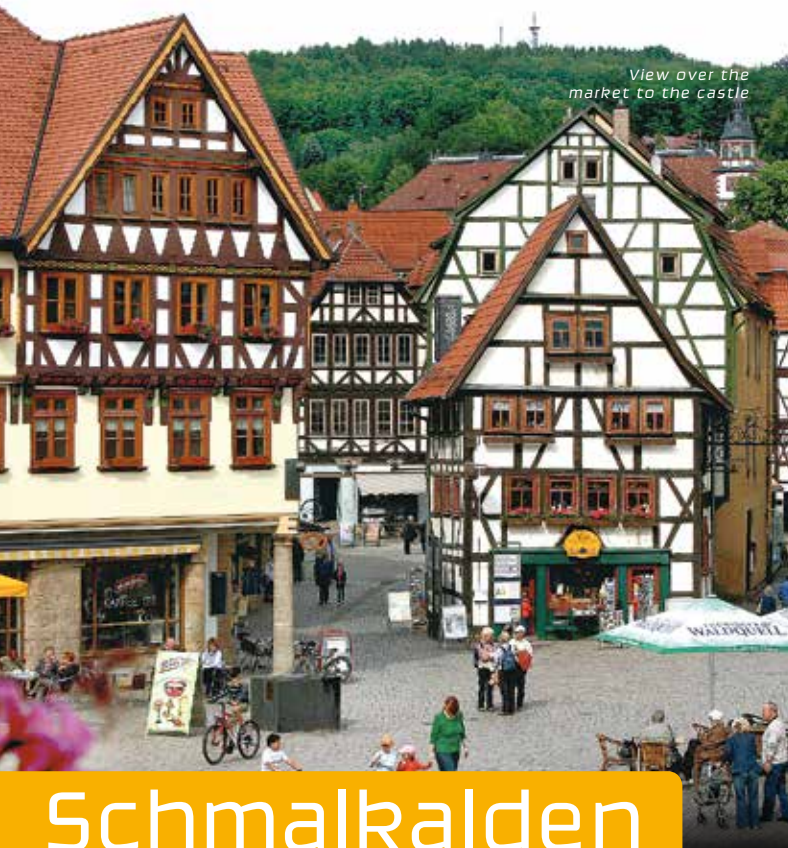
One of the largest hall churches in Thuringia, it was built between 1380 and 1514 and influenced by the Parler cathedral builders in Prague. Today it is a parish church. The interior features a Holy Sepulchre, botanical frescos in the choir vault and a life-size sculpture of John the Baptist.

HOHER SCHWARM CASTLE RUIN

The castle belonged to the Counts of Schwarzburg and was built around 1300 as a residential tower and bailiff's lodge. It has been a ruin since the mid-16th century.

GOOD TO KNOW

You can have an impressive view over Saalfeld and the surrounding area from the Darritor which is the oldest gate tower of the medieval fortifications.



View over the
market to the castle

Schmalkalden

Situated on the sunny side of the Thuringian Forest, the over 1139 years old medieval town of Schmalkalden makes an ideal destination for visitors interested in nature, history and art. The town played a central role in the politics of the Reformation, with the founding of the Schmalkaldic League and the publication of Martin Luther's Schmalkaldic Articles. Wilhelmsburg Palace is one of Germany's most important Renaissance monuments, housing original wall paintings and one of Europe's oldest wood pipe organs.

Tourist-Information Schmalkalden

Auergasse 6-8 / 98574 Schmalkalden / Tel. +49 (0) 3683 403182

www.schmalkalden.com



WILHELMSBURG PALACE

This treasure trove of Renaissance art and culture was built between 1585 and 1590 as a secondary residence for the Landgraves of Hessen and contains marvellous banqueting halls and palace apartments with original wall paintings and stucco work. A permanent exhibition takes visitors back to the time of the Renaissance, the Reformation in Europe and courtly life in the 16th century.



IWEIN AND THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE

The oldest secular wall paintings north of the Alps (created between 1225 and 1230) depict the 'Iwein' saga after Hartmann von Aue's verse epic and are of enormous historical and literary value. Although the originals are safely stored away from public view, a 1:1 scale reproduction at Wilhelmsburg Palace bring the legendary world of Iwein and King Arthur to life.

TOWN CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE

Built between 1437 and 1509 and dominating the old quarter, this is one of the finest gothic hall churches in Thuringia. Martin Luther and the most distinguished Protestant theologians of the Reformation preached here in 1537.



FINSTERTAL VISITOR MINE

Iron and manganese was mined in these 350 metres of tunnels until 1934. Visitors to the mine can view geological formations and remarkably colourful, fluorescent minerals, as well as equipment used by miners throughout the ages.

GOOD TO KNOW

The 'Transparent Chocolate' in the **Viba Nougat World**, visitors can enjoy a 2500 m² museum-type and interactive exhibition with show confectionery behind glass. On creative courses, they can learn all about the production of chocolate bars, chocolates or truffles.



Palace ensemble

Sondershausen

Sondershausen, once the seat of the Princes of Schwarzburg-Sondershausen, has a rich heritage of music and mining. Close to the history-steeped Kyffhäuser hills, it offers an ideal mix of culture, leisure and sport. The vibrant music scene extends to historical venues and even below ground, while the densely wooded surroundings are ideal for walking, touring and exploring. At Sondershausen Palace's annual summer festival, young soloists perform operas accompanied by the famous Loh Orchestra.

Touristinformation Sondershausen

'Alte Wache' / Markt 9 / 99706 Sondershausen / Tel. +49 (0) 3632 78811

www.sondershausen.de



POSSEN LEISURE AND RECREATION PARK WITH VIEWING TOWER

The recreation park with its former royal hunting lodge (now a restaurant with traditional German food), animal enclosures, high ropes course, horse riding, leisure pursuits and bungalow village is located just six kilometres outside Sondershausen in the Hainleite hills. The park is surrounded by open meadows and beech forests. Its octagonal half-timbered tower, built in 1781, is the tallest of its kind in Germany (44.8 m) and is a popular viewing point.

PALACE ENSEMBLE

The former residence of the Princes of Schwarzburg-Sondershausen is considered to be one of the most beautiful palaces in Thuringia. The extensive grounds include an octagonal baroque lodge, parkland and former stables which house the Sondershausen State Music Academy. A tour of the palace takes visitors on a journey through different centuries and period styles ranging from Romanesque to Historicism.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Consecrated in 1691, the Church of the Holy Trinity still serves the local parish, as well as being a venue for concerts. The Church's restored Hey organ with its baroque front, the Electoral box, pulpit and royal mausoleum (added between 1890 and 1891) all merit a visit. Guided tours by arrangement.



HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AROUND MARKET SQUARE

The historical buildings surrounding the modern market square reflect Sondershausen's past. They include the old royal guard house, the Prince's Palace, the Zum Schwan inn, the town hall and the old post station.



GOOD TO KNOW

'Glückauf' visitor mine - The world oldest accessible potash mine is a popular site of interest. In addition to a museum documenting 100 years of potash mining, visitors can expect unique and unforgettable experiences 700 meters below the ground, such as punting on a salt slide with 40 degree incline, concerts in the world deepest concert hall, as well as sports and other subterranean events.



Suhl

Armourer of Suhl

Suhl is situated in a charming valley on the southwest slopes of the Thuringian Forest. One of the most scenic towns in Thuringia, Suhl is surrounded by majestic mountains and endless forests. It is also close to the Rennsteig, Germany's famous mountain trail. The town is known for its long-established mining traditions and for the manufacturing of hunting and sports guns. For decades, marksmen around the world have associated the name of Suhl with well-crafted weapons and shooting competitions.

Suhl Tourismus-Information

Friedrich-König-Straße 7 / 98527 Suhl / Tel. +49 (0) 3681 788405
www.suhl-ccs.de



WEAPONS MUSEUM

The only specialist museum of its kind in Europe, documenting the history of hunting and sports guns over seven centuries. It also stages temporary exhibitions on different themes.



VEHICLE MUSEUM

The Vehicle Museum charts Suhl's manufacturing, motorsport and motor vehicle heritage since 1896 in 1,100 square metres of exhibition space. A special exhibition on the 'Thuringian Forest autobahn A71/A73' is currently on display in the atrium of the Suhl Congress Centre.

SHOOTING RANGE

A modern facility set in the most scenic surroundings in Germany that has hosted European and World Championships and World Cups.



SUHL CONGRESS CENTRE

In one of the most modern conference sites in Germany you will find everything under one roof: conference halls, fun pool, gastro-nomic establishments, gallery, multi-storey car park, tourist information and hotel.



GOOD TO KNOW

In Cold War times, Suhl was home to the only Japanese restaurant in all of East Germany. In 2012 the story of this extraordinary restaurant in this very special time was even made into a movie, Sushi in Suhl.

Weimar

Goethe's house

Weimar is an attractive destination in the heart of Germany, visited by more than three million people a year. The town captivates them all with its very special charm as they stroll along the narrow lanes of the beautifully restored old quarter, amble through the parks with their magnificent palaces and explore the houses of the poets Goethe and Schiller and the legacy of modernism at the Bauhaus sites. Despite its population of just 64,000, Weimar has a diversity of attractions to many larger cities.

Tourist-Information Weimar
Markt 10 / 99423 Weimar / Tel. +49 (0) 3643 7450
www.weimar.de



BELVEDERE PALACE

The entire palace grounds, the palace itself, the baroque gardens, the former animal enclosure and the orangery were built in the 18th century for Duke Ernst August. Porcelain, glassware and historical furniture from the late 17th to 19th century are on display at the palace.

BUCHENWALD MEMORIAL SITE

Between 1937 and 1945 more than 50,000 foreign prisoners and opponents of the Nazis were brutally murdered at Buchenwald. The today's memorial is dedicated to the victims of the concentration camp and the later Soviet internment camp (Speziallager Nr. 2).



WEIMARER WEIHNACHT

When the town centre of Weimar is lit up by fairy lights every evening, the aromas of roasted almonds and fresh Stollen cake waft through the streets, and the strains of carols can be heard, the Christmas Market has clearly opened again! Christmas in Weimar also means: tradition and stories. Weimar Tourist Information offers Journeys to Weimar, tickets for Christmas concerts and much more



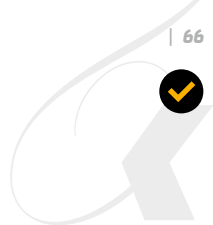
HISTORICAL ANNA AMALIA LIBRARY

One of Germany's most famous libraries. The rococo hall with its historical books and sheet music has been restored to its former glory after a devastating fire and is open to visitors.

GOOD TO KNOW

Weimar Onion Market - The humble onion is the star of the Onion Market held in Weimar every October. These are no ordinary onions lumped together in crates or sacks; these are onions plaited together in the traditional way and decorated with dried flowers of yellow, white or lilac. They come in all sizes too - from tiny ones to a whopping big one.

Annual events



Altenburg

April: farmer's market

August: Altenburger music festival

Apolda

July: Fashion night – with famous forty meter catwalk

September: Onion Market – local fair

Arnstadt

March: Bach-Festival

August: Bach:Summer

Eisenach

May: Tannhäuser opera in the Festival Hall in Wartburg Fortress

Erfurt

June: Merchants' Bridge Festival

July: Cathedral Steps Festival Plays

Gera

October: Höhler Festival – Town festival in Gera's underground labyrinth

Gotha

May: Gothardus festival

August: Baroque Festival

Greiz

June: Park and Castle Festival

September: theater autumn

Ilmenau

April: Ilmenauer Jazz day's

November: TonART – biggest A-cappella festival

Jena

July: KulturArena – Open-Air-Festival

Mühlhausen

August: Mühlhäuser town fair

Nordhausen

June: Roland's festival – traditional local fair and festival

Rudolstadt

July: TFF Rudolstadt – one of the biggest festivals for world music in Europe

August: Vogelschiessen fair

Saalfeld

June: Fairy Festival

August: 'Detscherfest', culinary festival

Schmalkalden

August: 'Schmalkalder' Hirschessen – historical town festival

Sondershausen

July: Thuringian Castel Opera Festival

Suhl

June: Children's-Culture-Night

September: City-Festival

Weimar

October: Onion Market – biggest and oldest local fair

August: Kunstfest Weimar

Traditional Christmas Markets in **every city** in december

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Upper and Lower Palace Greiz

