

Press Release

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www.visit-thuringia.com

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An introducing into Thuringia

A rough summary of Thuringia may read like this: very centrally located in Germany, about 2.2 million inhabitants on slightly over 16,000 km², five nature parks, two UNESCO biosphere reserves, one national park. 18 UNESCO-listed sites, birthplace of Bach and Bauhaus, Reformation history, ca. 400 castles and palaces. 7,500 km of hiking trails, 1,700 km of long-distance cycling paths. So much about some facts – but what is Thuringia like and what can you do there? Let's have a look at basic things:

Feel the pulse of nature

Yes, in Thuringia there are regions where you stand alone in the middle of a forest and all you can hear is bird calls and the wind in the trees. Hiking takes you through unspoiled nature, cosy mountain villages and historical sites. Unexpected treats *en route* include views of distant galaxies in the Rhön Dark Sky Reserve. The primeval beech forests of the Hainich embrace you with their natural wilderness, the upper Saale valley takes your breath away with dramatic river landscapes, and the peaks of the Thuringian Forest provide for panoramic views. Slowing you down in a positive way – that's what Thuringia's nature can do for you.

Satisfy your curiosity

Always looking for the hidden gem around the corner? Thuringia's towns and cities may be your choice of a travel destination then. Like Erfurt for example. The description of the old town as having 'one of Germany's largest historical city centres' doesn't prepare you for its beauty. And this is not just about architecture, it's about having all things in one place that make your stay likewise pleasant and entertaining: be it the beer-garden next to the river, the life music in a traditional German 'Kneipe' or the shopping on a medieval bridge. The secret of Erfurt? Probably the mixture of historical and easy-going. And it's just so beautiful!

Give in to fascination

Have you ever stood in a place that fuelled your imagination? Felt good, didn't it? Thuringia's castles and palaces have the potential to do the same with you. One of them maybe more than the others: Wartburg Castle in Eisenach. It's the epitome of a German castle and so full of stories and legends that it has provided plenty of food for books and movies. Standing on a mountain top surrounded by dark forests it requires a little effort to get up there. It is worthwhile, however. This is the place where the 'War of Minstrels' took place that Richard Wagner immortalised in his Tannhäuser opera, it is where Saint Elisabeth lived her short but momentous life and where Martin Luther translated the New Testament. The Castle is mystic and majestic and thoroughly Thuringian.

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Join the club

You know all about Bauhaus, Bach or the German classics? Time to have a look at the real thing! Where? Well, where Walter Gropius founded the famous Bauhaus School, for example. In Weimar. In celebration of the Bauhaus's 100th anniversary, the city opened a brand-new museum in April 2019. By presenting a kaleidoscope of Bauhaus aspects, it gets to the bottom of the question 'How do we want to live?' Bauhaus and Modernism are two expert areas that Weimar covers. Classical literature, art and music are the others. If you're a culture lover who likes to look deeper, you will love it!

Information and brochures on the holiday state of Thuringia, accommodation and travel programmes, event information, tickets and last-minute offers are available from the Thuringia Tourist Board on the hotline +49 (0) 361-37420 or on the internet at www.visit-thuringia.com.

Thüringer Tourismus GmbH (TTG)

The company Thüringer Tourismus GmbH (TTG) is the tourism marketing organisation of the Free State of Thuringia. Its main activities and objectives include external marketing, image and product advertising and providing services in the tourism market. With nearly 10 million overnight stays, a gross turnover of more than 3.1 billion euros and over 100,000 jobs, the tourism industry represents an important economic factor for the state. The State of Thuringia is the sole shareholder of the company Thüringer Tourismus GmbH.