

## Press Release

Thüringer Tourismus GmbH \* Willy-Brandt-Platz 1 \* 99084 Erfurt, Germany  
Mandy Neumann, tel.: +49 361 3742-219, [m.neumann@thueringen-entdecken.de](mailto:m.neumann@thueringen-entdecken.de)  
[www.visit-thuringia.com](http://www.visit-thuringia.com)

Erfurt, Germany, 2 December 2022

# UNESCO World Heritage in Thuringia Discover Thuringia's World Heritage treasures

With four entries on the UNESCO list, Thuringia has more World Heritage than almost any other region of Germany. Its UNESCO World Heritage sites, Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, the Classical Weimar ensemble, the Bauhaus in Weimar and Hainich National Park, are a mix of impressive cultural assets and stunning natural beauty. Elsewhere, exceptional holiday experiences are guaranteed in the Thuringian Forest and the Rhön Hills UNESCO biosphere reserves. They are two of 15 model regions in Germany that represent the diversity of the country's habitats, fauna and flora, and serve as educational sites for sustainable development.

## **Wartburg Castle: a UNESCO World Heritage site with almost a thousand years of history**

Wartburg was the first German castle to be added to UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites. The building is the most famous landmark in Eisenach and has been shaped by many historic events and personalities over the centuries. Figures such as Walther von der Vogelweide, Saint Elisabeth of Thuringia, Richard Wagner and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe have all contributed to its considerable historical significance. The castle is one of the best-preserved secular buildings of the late Romanesque period north of the Alps and provided, among other things, the blueprint for Neuschwanstein Castle in Bavaria. Martin Luther's stay here in the late 16th century is without doubt a key event. The persecuted church reformer found refuge in the castle and translated the New Testament from the original Greek into German. The room in which Luther lived and worked has been a destination for countless pilgrims ever since, and it is widely considered to be the cradle of written German. Wartburg Castle is still full of life today, as the exceptional acoustics in the ceremonial hall are a draw for music lovers from around the world. The performances of Wagner's opera 'Tannhäuser and the Singers' Contest at Wartburg Castle' are the stuff of legend – after all, you are experiencing this romantic opera in its actual setting. The castle is also the venue for the MDR Summer of Music, the largest music festival in central Germany. The walk up to the castle on foot, or a ride on the back of a donkey for younger visitors, is rewarded with magnificent views of the Thuringian countryside. During the festive season, visitors can enjoy the historic Christmas market, where artisans of almost-forgotten crafts, including candle, soap, robe and lantern makers, stonemasons, herbalists, pewterers and travelling traders, offer their goods for sale.

## **Classical Weimar: the 13 sites that make up Weimar's UNESCO World Heritage**

A mere 50 kilometres or so along the motorway lies Weimar, where visitors can look forward to many memorable encounters with classical literature. In Weimar, you can still very much feel the spirit of famous writers and poets: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Christoph Martin Wieland, Johann Gottfried Herder and Friedrich Schiller all played their part in ensuring that this former royal seat became a hub for writers and philosophers in

## Press Release

Thüringer Tourismus GmbH \* Willy-Brandt-Platz 1 \* 99084 Erfurt, Germany  
Mandy Neumann, tel.: +49 361 3742-219, [m.neumann@thueringen-entdecken.de](mailto:m.neumann@thueringen-entdecken.de)  
[www.visit-thuringia.com](http://www.visit-thuringia.com)

the late 18th and early 19th century. Original books and manuscripts by these classical masters are on display in the Duchess Anna Amalia Library. The Goethe House, a baroque building that was Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's home for almost 50 years, is now one of the most important examples of Weimar Classicism. Visitors can take a look around the poet's grand living quarters, including the rooms where he worked and where he slept, and the reception room with its collection of historical keepsakes. Just a stone's throw away, Schiller's House is a reminder of the last three years of Friedrich Schiller's life, which he spent in Weimar. It was here that he wrote his last great dramas, 'The Bride of Messina' and 'William Tell'. Classical Weimar includes other significant UNESCO World Heritage sites, such as the Residence Palace, Wittums Palace, Herder Church, Herder House and Old High School, and the Park on the Ilm. These sites can be experienced either on the award-winning Belvedere Express tour, the old-fashioned way in a horse-drawn carriage or on foot along the charming paths through the parks.

### **The Bauhaus World Heritage sites in Weimar**

The town on the river Ilm is actually home to two UNESCO World Heritage sites. Alongside its importance as a centre of classical thinking, Weimar is also synonymous with revolutionary ideas in design and architecture. To this day, the Bauhaus is regarded as a pioneer of classical modernism in all areas of the liberal and applied arts. The heart of Weimar's Bauhaus sites is the main building of the Bauhaus University, the cradle of the movement. It was here that Walter Gropius gave the art school the name 'Staatliches Bauhaus in Weimar' in spring 1919. He managed to attract international avant garde artists such as Lyonel Feininger, Johannes Itten, Wassily Kandinsky, Paul Klee, Oskar Schlemmer and László Moholy-Nagy to Thuringia and thus boost the art school's profile. Bauhaus fans should definitely take time for a student-led stroll around the Bauhaus University with its original staircases, murals and Gropius's office. In 2019, the town acquired a new cultural quarter, where the striking new Bauhaus Museum Weimar and the redesigned Museum Neues Weimar lie within close proximity of one another. The Bauhaus Museum Weimar features treasures from the oldest Bauhaus collection, while the Museum Neues Weimar is dedicated to early modernist art.

### **Hainich National Park – ancient woodland in the heart of Germany**

Hainich National Park is part of the 'Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe' UNESCO World Heritage site. One of the most popular attractions here is without doubt the rare wildcat. If you listen closely, keep still and are very patient, you might spot one of these shy forest dwellers. Around 30 wildcats currently live in the national park, but anyone who doesn't manage to catch a glimpse of one in the wild can see them up close in the Wildcat Village in Hütscheroda. Also impressive is the number of forest bats, woodpeckers and rare spring flowers that call the national park their home. This type of dense beech forest only exists in Europe, and nowhere else in the world. The best way to discover the national park is on one of the many marked trails, of which there are more than 100 kilometres. On a tour with the ranger, visitors can learn fascinating facts about the national park's extraordinary trees and rare animal species. Guided walks are available at weekends and on public holidays from May to October. There is no minimum group size and no need to book in advance.

## Press Release

Thüringer Tourismus GmbH \* Willy-Brandt-Platz 1 \* 99084 Erfurt, Germany  
Mandy Neumann, tel.: +49 361 3742-219, [m.neumann@thueringen-entdecken.de](mailto:m.neumann@thueringen-entdecken.de)  
[www.visit-thuringia.com](http://www.visit-thuringia.com)

Visitors can enjoy magnificent views over the entire national park from the canopy walk as it winds its way through the treetops for more than 500 metres. Taking in the heights from up there or joining a lofty yoga session are just two ways to get a completely different perspective of Hainich National Park. An overnight stay in a tree house or teepee in the Urwald-Life-Camp is a real adventure in the heart of the national park.

### **Application for inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage list**

The largely intact medieval old town of Erfurt contains unique architectural evidence of its Jewish community from the period between the end of the 11th and the middle of the 14th century. These architectural reminders are complemented by an unparalleled wealth of exhibits. Together, they shine a light on the religious and everyday life of the Jewish community, and reveal how Jews and Christians lived side by side in medieval towns. No other place in the world offers such a comprehensive insight, which is why Erfurt, the state capital of Thuringia, has applied for UNESCO World Heritage status for its Jewish legacy.

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](http://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.