

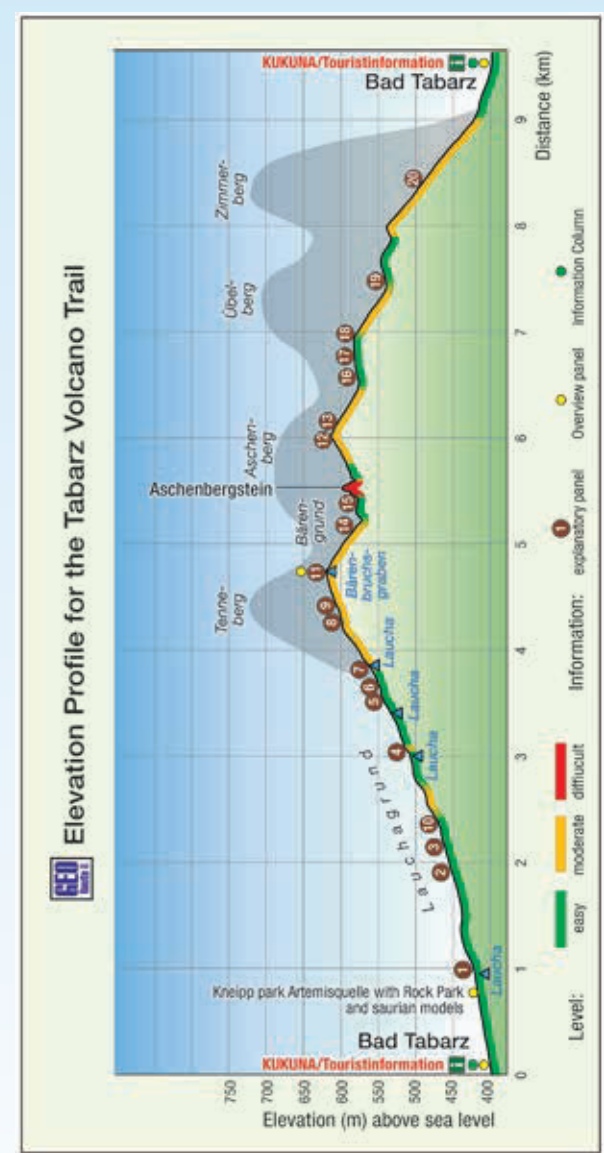
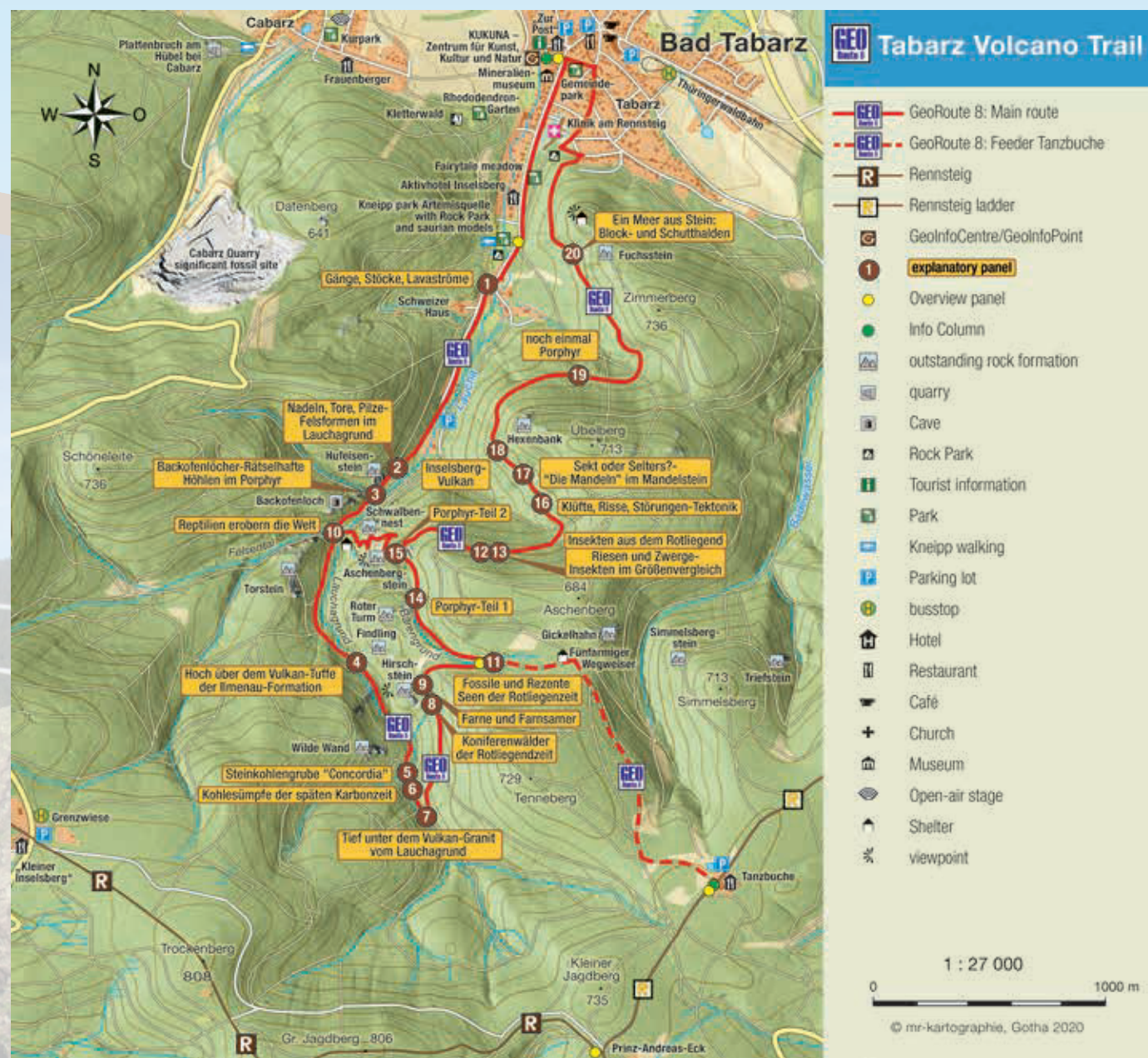


Tabarz Volcano Trail

Guide for GeoRoute ⑧



Explore the region around the **GROSSER INSELSBERG** & visit our **GEOINFOCENTRES**!



Our expert Geopark Guides are available to enhance your experience on this trail. Book here: Touristinfo Bad Tabarz (KUKUNA)

At the base of the Inselfberg volcano

This GeoRoute takes you from Bad Tabarz through the Lauchgrund towards the Rennsteig, the Aschenbergstein and along the Arno-Wiemann-Walk back to Bad Tabarz again. You can also take a shortcut from the Bärenbruchsgraben to the Aschenbergstein, reducing the distance by about 1/3.

The Lauchgrund is one of the most beautiful valleys in Thuringia. Several famous climbing rocks, the "Oven Holes" (Backofenlöcher) or the Torstein are just waiting here for you to explore.

Nearly every rock formation has its own legend!

GeoRoute: Distance: approx. 10 km (total climb 294 m)
Duration: approx. 4-5 hrs.
Difficulty: moderate (see elevation profile)
Start/end: Tourist information Bad Tabarz (KUKUNA)

Arriving by train: from Gotha main station take the Thüringer Waldbahn (Line 4) to the end of the line

Arriving by bus: Bus line 840, 842, 856, 857
Train schedule: www.bahn.de, www.vmt-thueringen.de

There are several places to eat along the route (see map and reverse site).

The circular route can be hiked in both directions, however it is recommended to start your hike towards the Lauchgrund.

Note: The overview map of the GeoRoute is not suitable for hiking. Trail maps can be purchased in the tourist information offices. gpx-Data for the GeoRoute are available for download at www.Bad-Tabarz.de or www.thueringer-geopark.de

We look forward to seeing you!

Contact:
Tourist Information Bad Tabarz (KUKUNA)
Lauchgrundstr. 12a, 99891 Bad Tabarz
Tel.: 036259-5600, Fax: 036259-56030
Email: info@tabarz.de, www.Bad-Tabarz.de

Opening hours:
Monday to Friday: 10 am -12.30 pm and 1 -5 pm,
Saturday 10 am – 2 pm, closed sundays

Geopark geologist:
Dipl. Geol. Stephan Brauner
Tel.: 03623-332014, geologe@thueringer-geopark.de

Impressum:
Gemeinde Bad Tabarz
Theodor-Neubauer-Park 1, 99891 Bad Tabarz

GeoPark-Management:
e.t.a. Sachverständigenbüro Reyer
Haarbergstraße 37, 99097 Erfurt
Tel.: 0361-4229000, Fax.: 0361-4229005
E-Mail: info@eta-reyer.de

Authors:
Nancy Schröter, Stephan Brauner, Sönke Krüll,
Antje Raßloff (Grafikdesign)
Map and elevation profile: © mr-kartographie Gotha

Fotos: S. Brauner, K. Fohlert,
N. Schröter, R. Bellstedt,
Kuramt Bad Tabarz, Sönke Krüll, Peter Ditter

Come and also enjoy our other GeoRoutes in the GeoPark!

All information subject to typesetting and typographical errors.
1st edition December 2018



Visit the nearby "Discovery Tower" with GeolInfoCentre and see the view from the Grosser Inselsberg

From here you can enjoy a magnificent view over the whole Geopark and the Thuringian Forest (when conditions are perfect even to the Rhön and Harz Mountains). More than this you can also visit the exhibition "Summit Meeting of Flora, Fauna and Fossils – The Inselsberg Show with a View", which was developed in cooperation with the Naturepark Thuringian Forest.



Opening hours of the lookout (with Tourist Information):
open daily from 10 am to 4 pm
(longer hours on request)
November-March: closed Tuesdays



9

Explore the volcano landscape of the Lower Permian

What did the area around Bad Tabarz look like around 290 million years ago? Back then, the "Grosser Inselsberg" was just one of many active volcanoes.

Learn the difference between lava and magma and how these develop into rocks such as trachyandesite, porphyry and granite.

The Lower Permian teemed with animals and plants! Have you ever heard of tree ferns or the giant insect of Tabarz?



Why are the Lower Permian rocks called Rotliegend in Central Europe? The Volcano Trail passes caves in the volcanic rocks of the Rotliegend called Backofenlöcher (Oven Holes). How were these formed? What are feldspar, quartz and mica? When was coal mined in the Lauchgrund and why were the mines abandoned?

These are all questions that will be answered along the Tabarz Volcano Trail..

These symbols will accompany you on the GeoRoute: they will show you which of the topics the information panel focusses on:



volcanic rocks



fossil animals

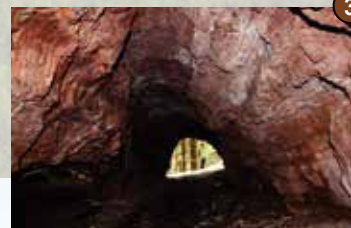


fossil lake



fossil plants

(Graphic design topic symbols: Antje Rassloff)



3

Visit the **Large Rock Park (Steinpark) in the Kneipp-Spa Park Arenarisquelle** – directly on the GeoRoute. There you can discover the diversity of rocks in the Geopark and enjoy the Kneipp walking pool, a barefoot walk and a herb garden. The rocks are guarded by a number of saurians. This is a GeolInfoCent.



The Kneipp Association of Bad Tabarz regularly hosts events here.

Stations along the Tabarz Volcano Trail

1 Dikes – stocks – lava flows

What is the difference between magma and lava?

2 Needles, gates, mushrooms: Rock formations in the Lauchgrund

How were these famous climbing rocks formed?

3 Mysterious caves in the porphyry

How were the legendary Backofenlöcher caves formed?

4 High above the volcano – the Ilmenau-Formation tuff

Have you heard of volcanic bombs?

5 The coal mine Concordia

When was the first coal mined in Tabarz?

6 Coal swamps of the late Carboniferous

How is coal formed?

7 Deep under the volcano – The Lauchgrund granite

How does one determine the age of rocks?



5

8 Conifer forests of the Rotliegend (Lower Permian)

What effects did the Permian climate change have?

9 Of ferns and seed ferns

Which features do palaeontologists use to identify fossil ferns?

10 Reptiles conquer the world

What are the different types of fossil left behind by saurians?

11 Fossil and recent Lakes of the Rotliegend period

How do lakes develop into climate archives?

12 The Rotliegend insects of Tabarz

Why is the fossil site Cabarz (in the Tabarz Quarry) famous? (background picture)

13 Giants and dwarfs – comparing insect sizes

Where was the biggest insect ever recorded in Germany found?

14 About porphyry – Part 1

How does one recognize porphyry?

15 About porphyry – Part 2

Why do geologists need a hammer and a magnifying glass?

16 Joints, cracks, faults – tectonics

How were the numerous ore deposits of the Thuringian Forest formed?

17 Sparkling wine or sparkling water? Almonds in basalt

How did bubbles get into volcanic rocks?

18 The Grosser Inselsberg – a Rotliegend volcano

Why was the Inselsberg so important for surveying?

19 ... and porphyry once again

Why are the highest hills of the Thuringian Forest made of porphyry?

20 A sea of rocks – Block fields and talus slopes

Which animals thrive in this special habitat?



5

More attractions in Bad Tabarz

- Rhododendron Garden
- Fairytale Meadow in the Lauchgrund
- High Ropes Course at the Datenberg
- Discovery Tower with a view on the Grosser Inselsberg (see before)
- tabs - Health, Sport and Family Pool with outdoor swimming pool

Places to eat along GeoRoute 8

- Hotel zur Post, Lauchgrundstr. 16, 99891 Tabarz
www.hotel-tabarz.de
- Aktivhotel Inselsberg, Lauchgrundstr. 64, 99891 Bad Tabarz
www.aktivhotel-inselsberg.de
- Hotel und Berggasthof Tanzbuche
(2 km off the Volcano Trail towards Rennsteig)
Auf dem Höhenberg, 99894 Friedrichroda
www.tanzbuche.de

Guided hikes along the Tabarz Volcano Trail with a certified GeoPark Guide

- on a regular basis from Feb to Oct depending on the weather
- Start at 2 pm at the tourist information in Bad Tabarz
- duration: approx. 3-4 hours
- necessary equipment: sturdy shoes, suitable clothes, something to eat and drink
- Please book 2 days ahead in the tourist information Bad Tabarz (see contact)
- schedule available in the tourist information, published in the monthly event kalendar and on the Bad Tabarz website



2

Timetable of the geological development of the Geopark

