



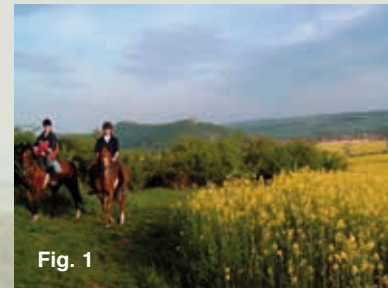
Welcome!



Enjoyable

Thuringian Castle Country Drei Gleichen lies at the foot of the Thuringian Forest Mountain Range. This unique landscape is home to numerous rare plants and animals and abounds with outstanding geological attractions as well as interesting cultural sites that recall an eventful history.

Here you can wallow in the romantic stories associated with old buildings, enjoy pure nature, give yourself a workout (Fig. 1), find inspiration and let your spirit flow. Our hosts can meet all your culinary and accommodation requirements and the Thuringian cuisine will satisfy even the most discerning gourmet.



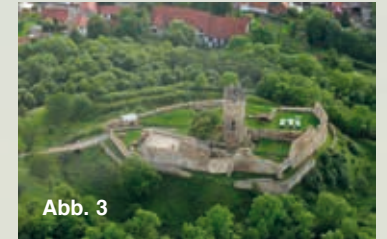
There are many ways to explore the Drei Gleichen Area: by bicycle, by horse or on foot:

- Cycle route Thuringian Town Tour (Thüringer Städteketten)
- Bach Experience Cycle Tour (Bach-Rad-Erlebnisroute)
- Graf-Gleichen-Trail
- Gustav-Freytag-Trail
- Otto-Knöpfer-Trail
- 5 GeoRoutes (see reverse side of flyer)

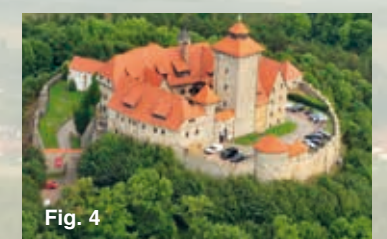


Worth knowing

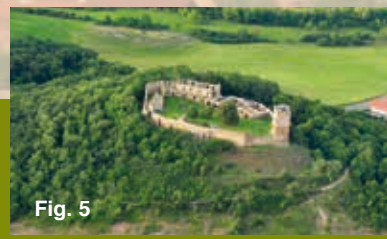
The legendary **Drei Gleichen castles** are the landmarks of our region. The story goes that one night in May during the 13th century, all three castles were struck by lightning and set on fire simultaneously, burning so brightly that the whole region was lit up.



Mühlburg Castle (Fig. 2 and 3): the oldest castle of the Drei Gleichen Area, first recorded in 704. The complex includes the remains of the Radegundis chapel and a lovingly designed museum with changing exhibitions (open March to October)



Wachsenburg Castle (Fig. 4): Abbot Meingoth of Hersfeld Abbey laid the foundation stone in 936; completely preserved castle complex with hotel, restaurant, museum and wedding chapel (open all year)



Gleichen Castle (Fig. 5): first officially recorded in 1089; notorious for the legend about the double-wedded Count von Gleichen; permanent natural history exhibition of local flora, fauna, soil & geology (open all year)

Worth discovering

Bach Family Place of Origin - Wechmar

World famous composer Johann Sebastian Bach comes from a line of simple musicians and minstrels. The town of Wechmar is the cradle of the Bach family of musicians. There, in the historic centre, you can still see the original places where the ancestors of Johann Sebastian Bach lived and played, including the Bach family residence (Fig. 6) and the Veit-Bach-Mühle. Other places of interest are Sankt Viti church, the largest village church in Thuringia and the manor house Studnitz with a wonderful Rococo hall, built in 1700.



Menantes Town - Wandersleben

The poet Christian Friedrich Hunold (pseudonym Menantes) was born in Wandersleben in 1680. He is one of the most significant authors of late Baroque German romances. More than this, he was also a remarkable satirist and penned poems that were set to music by Johann Sebastian Bach and Georg Philipp Telemann among others. The Menantes-Literature-Memorial contains a fascinating exhibition of the life and work of this interesting author.

Another curiosity of this town is the medieval keep (Fig. 7). This was once the seat of a dynasty during the 13th century and was only rediscovered in 1985. A keep is the smallest type of castle.

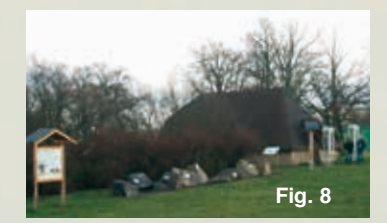
Other interesting sites are St. Peter Church, which boasts a Schröder organ and the stone crosses near the Freudenthal (Fig. 11).



Worth visiting

Schwabhausen

- Trinitatis Church, altar with triptych
- Reconstruction of a clubhouse in the style of a long house from the Linear pottery period (Fig. 8) with rock park and GeoInfoCentre



Günthersleben

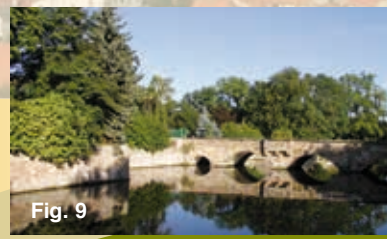
- St. Peter Church
- premises of the former water castle with GeoInfoCentre and regional history exhibition (Fig. 9 and 18) (advance reservation: 036256-22846)

Mühlberg (one of the oldest towns in Thuringia)

- with well-preserved historic town centre
- Baroque St. Luke Church with Radegundis memorial chapel
- Oil and pot barley mill
- Karst spring "Mühlberger Spring"
- GeoInfoCentre Kulturscheune with exhibition about the Triassic and the researcher Prof. Hermann Müller from Mühlberg
- Golf course (18-hole) at the Ringhofen Estate
- Campsite Drei Gleichen

Seebergen

- St. George Church with Hesse organ
- Hermann-Löns-Monument
- Geotope Bergbeule



- historic water tunnels

Grabsleben

- St. Magdalena Church
- Information point Wächersbrunnen along St. James Way

Cobstädt

- Lutheran Church
- Cobstädt Estate with show garden

Großbrettbach

- St. Gotthard Church
- Natural monument "Sinkholes on the Geierhügel"

Sülzenbrücken

- St. Wigberti Church
- Geotope Salzquelle ("Salty Spring")

Haarhausen

- St. Nicolas Church
- Geotope Schottergrube (gravel pit)
- experimental archaeology site

Bittstädt

- St. Giles Church: has Romanesque origins and is one of the oldest churches of the region.

Holzhausen

- Holy Trinity Church
- Otto-Knöpfer-House (Fig. 10)
- 1. German Bratwurst Museum



Röhrensee

- St. Nicolas Church

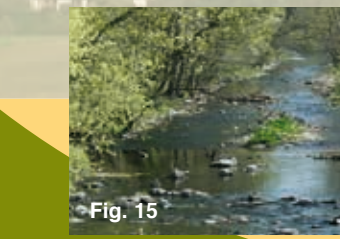


Worth exploring

Hiking in the Thuringian Castle Country Drei Gleichen with its nature protection areas is a very pleasurable experience! The trails along the northern slopes of the mountains pass through shady forests with pleasant resting places. This is where stag beetles Fig. 12), eagle owl and bats live. In the **Badlands** (see reverse for explanation) along the south slopes, you will find species-rich dry and semi-dry meadows, the habitat of protected animals such as the sand lizard and the Dorcadion beetle.



Enjoy the happy song of the kingfisher (Fig. 14), the colourful meadow orchards and most of all enjoy the rich diversity of rare plants including the Adonis (Fig. 13) and many orchids.



We look forward to seeing you!

Contact:

Tourist information and GeoInfoCentre Kulturscheune - OT Mühlberg

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from April to October 10 am - 5 pm

from November to March 10 am - 4 pm

www.drei-gleichen.de

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Nationaler GeoPark Thüringen Inselsberg - Drei Gleichen

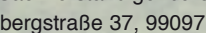
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www.thueringer-geopark.de

The leaflet is also available in German.





Exploring Pangaea in the National GeoPark Thüringia Inseleberg - Drei Gleichen

There are 5 GeoRoutes for you to explore the Drei Gleichen-Area of the Geopark:

Panorama Trail GeoRoute 2

Discover the secrets of the colourful mudstones and how to make alum along the Panorama Route. On top of that, this trail offers fascinating views of the Drei Gleichen Area.

Category: thematic hiking trail
Difficulty: easy to moderate
Length of the GeoRoute: approx. 17 km
Points of interest: 19

Castle Trail GeoRoute 3

This trail lets you look far and wide into the landscape from the three castles as well as deep into our Earth: what did the landscape of the Drei Gleichen Area look like 240 million years ago?

Category: thematic hiking trail
Difficulty: easy to moderate
Length of the GeoRoute: approx. 30 km
Points of interest: 27

Apfelstädt-Jacobsweg-Tour GeoRoute 4

In addition to the ancient pilgrimage sites along the St. James Way, you can explore the sinkholes, springs and the river landscape of the Apfelstädt (Figs. 15 and 16) and the plants and animals that live there.

Category: thematic cycling route
Difficulty: easy
Distance: approx. 33 km
Points of interest: 22



Fig. 16

Seeberg Trail GeoRoute 5

This hike takes you from Gotha across the Seeberg with all its quarries to Günthersleben-Wechmar.

Category: thematic hiking trail and cycle path
Difficulty: easy to moderate
Length of the GeoRoute: approx. 32 km
Points of interest: 19

Geo and Pleasure Trail "From Beer to Bratwurst" GeoRoute 17

How important is the fertile soil of the region for the development of the cultural landscape and the culinary traditions found here? You will find the answers along this trail between Arnstadt and Holzhausen.

The information points include attractive sculptures, real soil profiles and an audioguide (Fig. 17).

Category: thematic hiking trail
Difficulty: easy to moderate
Distance: approx. 16 km
Action stations: 15

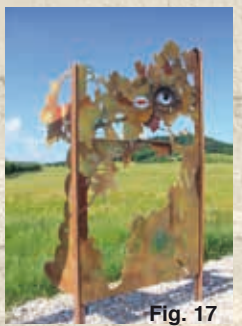


Fig. 17

For more information:
www.vom-bier-zur-bratwurst.de

A separate flyer is available for each of these GeoRoutes, containing a detailed description of the trail. These are available in the GeoInfoCentre Kulturscheune Mühlberg.

Would you like one of our GeoPark guides to accompany on your tour? Information about current offers is available at the GeoInfoCentres.



Fig. 18



Rocks can Talk

Everyone has a different thrilling life story to tell. You don't think so? The geopark exposes the fascinating and eventful geological history that is recorded in the rocks. We invite you into another world to explore Pangaea, the most recent supercontinent where all today's continents were united.

Around 240 million years ago, a sub-tropical inland sea covered parts of Pangaea: the Muschelkalk Sea. Many marvellous animals lived in it such as ammonites (Fig. 20) and the coelacanths (Fig. 19). You can dive into this distant habitat at the GeoInfoCentre Kulturscheune Mühlberg.



Fig. 19

A characteristic feature of the region are the gentle forms and bright colours of the so-called **Badlands** (Fig. 22). These sparsely vegetated landscapes are very rare in Germany. The subsurface rocks have been exposed by the forces of erosion to reveal the different reddish-brown, greyish-green to dark-green mudstones. You can explore the Badlands on the south-facing slopes of the three castle hills as well as the Seeberg.

One important raw material produced in the region is the famous **Seeberg Sandstone**, which has been quarried here for centuries. The dimension stones were not only used locally, but also to build Erfurt Cathedral and the Bundestag in Berlin. The imposing Kammerbruch quarry (background picture) is well worth a visit. You can find out more about the sandstone and regional history in the GeoInfoCentre in Günthersleben (Fig. 9 and 18) – for advanced reservation, call: 036256-22846.



Fig. 20

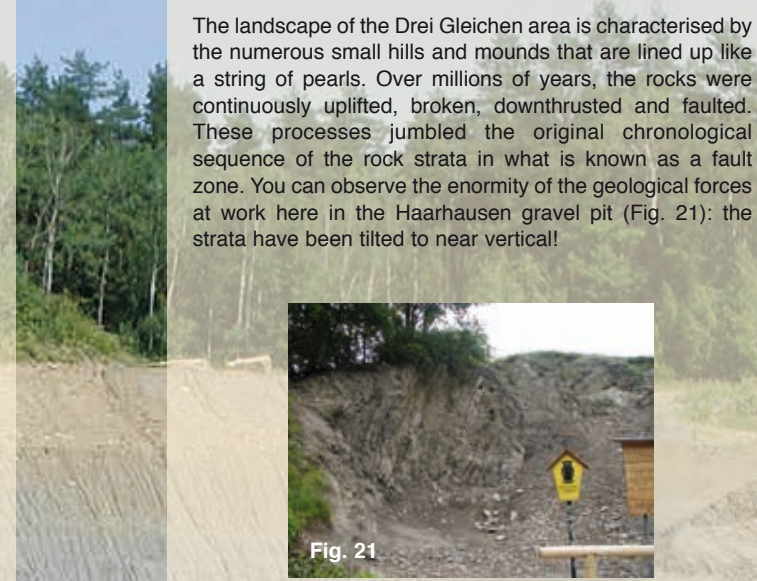


Fig. 21

The soils that developed from the rocks tell us more recent stories: the settlement history of our region is very closely linked to the geology. Did you know that Mühlberg at the foot of Mühlberg Castle was first officially recorded in 704 AD, making it one of the oldest towns in Thuringia?

Many **archaeological gems** have been unearthed in this region: for example, Celtic coins from the 1st century BC as well as a longhouse from the Linear pottery period were found in the Schwabhausen gravel pit. A clubhouse in the style of a longhouse was built next to a small rock park near the sports field in Schwabhausen (Fig. 8). In it is the GeoInfoCentre and a display of regional archaeological treasures. A Roman furnace found in the region has been reconstructed on the experimental archaeology site in Haarhausen.



Fig. 22