



# PANGAEA

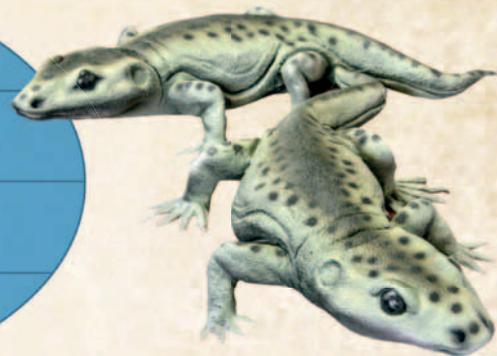
Exploring the  
Supercontinent

In the middle of Thuringia

[www.thueringer-geopark.de](http://www.thueringer-geopark.de)

Thüringen  
-entdecken.de 





# PANGAEA - EXPLORING THE SUPERCONTINENT

## TRACKERS

Around 300 million years ago, the Old-Red-Continent (Northern Continent) collided with Gondwana (Southern Continent). A gigantic continent was formed surrounded by ocean. In 1920, the German scientist Alfred Wegener named this continent Pangaea (“entire land”). This was the most recent supercontinent to have existed on Earth and the origin of all present day continents. For millions of years, Pangaea was a dynamic continent. Mountains were formed, volcanoes erupted and tore great fissures into the land, lakes and oceans grew and disappeared again. Aquatic life began to adapt to life on land and to evolve.

**The National GeoPark Thuringia Inselsberg Drei Gleichen covers an area of around 700 km<sup>2</sup> and unites two very different landscapes: the Thuringian Forest and the Thuringian Castle Country Drei Gleichen.**

Thus the Geopark is quite moderate in size and lies at the heart of Thuringia and the middle of Germany. At the same time it represents just a minute-sized section of the former supercontinent Pangaea. The Thuringian Geopark virtually lies on the junction where the ancient continents collided. The enormous diversity of rocks and fossils found in the landscape of the low mountain range Thuringian Forest, especially in the Inselsberg Region, as well as in the more level Drei Gleichen area, are an impressive legacy of the formation and break-up of Pangaea.

Thanks to the curiosity and thirst for knowledge of geologists, archaeologists, paleontologists and many other scientifically interested persons, their explorations have yielded many spectacular finds in the past 200 years. These people have shared their findings and work with us. As a result of this, we were able to create 17 thematic excellently marked GeoRoutes that allow us to dive deep into the various stages of Earth history. The multitude of information and overview panels along the trails provide answers to the following exciting questions amongst others:

**What do all the fossils and rock formations tell us about the origins of life and the development of our Earth as we know it today?**

**What was the climate like in Pangaea, what landscapes existed on this supercontinent and which plants grew here?**

**When and how did life evolve in water and on land?**

### TIP

Most of the GeoRoutes are walking trails. However, some have also been designed for cyclists who are also encouraged to take worthwhile side trips to explore the surrounding area. For all who want to delve deeper into the geology of the area we recommend a guided tour with one of our GeoPark-guides on the instructive and enjoyable tours.

# A LOWER PERMIAN LOVE STORY



## The Saurian Discovery Trail

Thirteen different species of saurians have been excavated in the area Tambach-Dietharz and Georgenthal between 1978 and 2010. One sensational finding was the discovery of the “Tambach Lovers”: two small saurians united in death. These and all the other fossils found in the Bromacker were terrestrial vertebrates that populated the supercontinent Pangaea around 300 million years ago. Many of these skeletons have been completely preserved. More than this, the tracks and other remains of these animals have also been found. All this evidence allows us to reconstruct early biotic communities on our Earth.

Relations of the “Tambach lovers”, *Seymouria sanjuanensis*, as well as the “Bratwurst saurian” *Tambachia trogallas* (see GeoRoute 17 ) and the “sailback saurian” *Dimetrodon teutonius* were previously only found in North America. This relationship is further evidence for the existence of the Palaeozoic supercontinent Pangaea in which all land masses were united.

When compared to their successors, the mostly gigantic dinosaurs, the saurians were much smaller, often no longer than one meter. By the way: the German popular name “Ursaurier” for these saurians was essentially coined by the international excavation team led by the palaeontologist Dr. Thomas Martens from Gotha.

After opening this geological window in the Bromacker, it became quite clear that it should not be allowed to close again. Walking the Saurian Discovery Trail between Georgenthal and Tambach-Dietharz provides an outstanding view through this window. Opened in 2011, the trail follows the tracks of the saurians past 17 life-sized models on 11 stations. The evolution from the saurians to the gigantic dinosaurs is told along the section between Georgenthal and the Bromacker site. The section from the Bromacker site to Tambach-Dietharz focusses on the work of the palaeontologists. Models describe how saurian skeletons are excavated, preserved, prepared and finally reconstructed as a life-sized model. All-in-all this is a walking, learning and discovery trail, exciting for kids and adults alike.

### GeoRoute 6

**Distance / Category** approx. 8 km,

Linear walk (1. section Georgenthal – Bromacker: approx. 4.5 km; 2. section Bromacker – Tambach-Dietharz: approx. 3 km)

**Elevation:** approx. 400 – 460 m above sea-level

**Difficulty:** easy

**Trail characteristics:** forest roads, partially covered with sandy gravel and paved in the towns

**geological stations:** Bromacker – internationally significant saurian fossil site

**Touristic stations:**

**Georgenthal:** Spa Park (start of the Saurian Discovery Trail) with abbey ruins and St. Elizabeth Church • Saurian playground at the community centre (Bürgerhaus) • swimming pool • Lohmühle Museum

**Tambach-Dietharz:** wild game park • forest swimming pool • Luther Church and end of the Saurian Discovery Trail

**Service:** Children’s Audioguide with 16 stations along the first section between Georgenthal and Bromacker

**Information:** Tourist Information & GeoInfopoint Georgenthal and Tourist Information Tambach-Dietharz, see p. 29

Tracks and skeleton of *Orobates* from Bromacker



Guided tour along the Saurian Discovery Trail

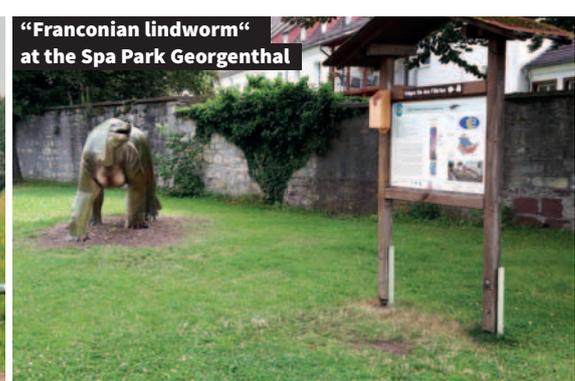
Keuper Tyrannosaurus from Thuringia





**Saurian Discovery Trail**

- GeoRoute 6: Saurian Discovery Trail
- Return trail
- Apfelstädt Cycle Route
- Saurian fossil site
- Saurian location
- Geoinfocentre/ Geoinfopoint
- Geotope (selection)
- Cave
- Tourist information
- Museum
- Abbey ruins
- Church
- Waterwheel
- Game reserve
- Park
- Outdoor swimming pool
- Boat rental
- Hotel with restaurant
- Restaurant
- Café, ice parlour
- Parking lot
- Busstop
- Youth hostel
- Campsite
- Mobile home stop
- Memorial
- Shelter

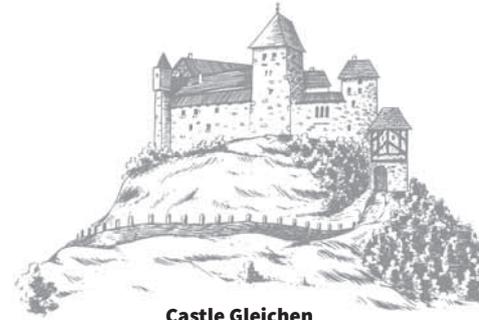


Sailback saurian from Bromacker

“Franconian lindworm“ at the Spa Park Georgenthal

# THE BADLANDS OF GLEICHEN

Mühlburg Castle



Castle Gleichen

## The Castle Trail

In the middle of the triangle formed by the towns Gotha, Erfurt and Arnstadt stand three proud landgrave castles on top of three hills. Mühlburg Castle, Castle Gleichen and Wachsenburg Castle look very different from each other and were built in different centuries. However the name of the group of castles probably comes from one of the numerous sagas and legends they are associated with. Accordingly, the gentle hilly landscape was hit by a heavy storm in May 1231. Suddenly all three castles were struck by lightning (in another version it was just one ball lightning). Fires broke out in all three castles and from further away it looked like three giant torches burning on top of the three hills. Since then, according to the legend, the castles and the surrounding area has been known as “Drei Gleichen” (“Three identical”).



Wachsenburg Castle

There is more to the Drei Gleichen-castles than the many legends about devastating fires, cruel robber-knights, kidnaped princesses or medieval bigamy. They also “guard” an exciting geological treasure that dates back over 200 million years. Back then, the first big dinosaurs like the six-metre long “Franconian Lindworm” *Plateosaurus engelhardti* roamed the area where now the three castles stand. We know this because of the fossils (bones, teeth) found in the Hasenwinkel on the Kallenberg close to Castle Gleichen. A reconstruction of this herbivore can be seen along the Saurian Discovery Trail (GeoRoute 6).

Even though the Thuringian Castle Area presents itself as a gentle and romantic landscape there is also a harsher side to it. These are the Badlands, extensive, nearly vegetation-free red and greyish-green slopes of claystone and marl on the south side of the three castle hills. The very low nutrient content of the soil only supports the development of a grassland or steppe landscape. This very exceptional environment is habitat to a very distinct flora and fauna. Badlands are an extremely rare type of landscape in Germany.

## GeoRoute 3

**Distance / Category:** approx. 31 km,

Circular trail (western section: approx. 12 km; middle section: approx. 7 km; eastern section: approx. 12 km)

**Elevation:** approx. 260 – 420 m above sea-level

**Difficulty:** easy – moderate

**Trail characteristics:** field roads, paved footpaths in the towns

**Geological stations:** dinosaur fossils in the Hasenwinkel (Freudenthal/Wandersleben) • Badlands on the castle hills • Karst spring “Mühlberg Spring” and Travertin (Mühlberg) • Alabaster quarry below Wachsenburg Castle • experimental archaeology site Haarhausen (reconstruction of a 3rd century Roman pottery)

**Touristic stations:**

**Wandersleben:** Castle Gleichen

**Mühlberg:** Mühlburg Castle

**Holzhausen:** Wachsenburg Castle

**Information:** Tourist Information and GeoInfoCentre “Kulturscheune“, see p. 29

Badlands beneath Castle Gleichen





## Castle Trail

- |  |  |  |                        |  |             |
|--|--|--|------------------------|--|-------------|
|  | GeoRoute 3                                 |  | Information point      |  | Viewpoint   |
|  | Attraction                                 |  | Campsite               |  | Busstop     |
|  | Geoinfocentre                              |  | Castle                 |  | Parking lot |
|  | Geological feature                         |  | Castle ruins           |  |             |
|  | Spring                                     |  | Church                 |  |             |
|  | Graf Gleichen Hiking Trail                 |  | Stone cross            |  |             |
|  | Main Hiking Trail Jena – Eisenach          |  | Religious monument     |  |             |
|  | Luther Walk                                |  | Hotel, bed & breakfast |  |             |
|  | Long distance cycle route Thuringian Towns |  | Restaurant             |  |             |
|  | Bach Discovery Cycle Route                 |  | Museum                 |  |             |

1 : 37 000  
 0 1 km  
 © mr-kartographie, Gotha 2019

Guided tour along the Castle Trail



Exhibition "Life in the Triassic Ocean" in the Geoinfocentre Kulturscheune Mühlberg



# FLYING HIGH OVER THE VOLCANO



giant mayfly of Tabarz

## The Tabarz Volcano Trail

Did you know that the mountain Grosser Inselsberg is the remains of a volcanic crater? A walk along the Tabarz Volcano Trail gives you some idea of how tremendous volcanic eruptions continuously shook and reshaped the supercontinent Pangaea 300 to 270 million years ago.

The wildly romantic Lauchgrund is one of the most beautiful ravines in Thuringia. Here the stream Laucha winds its way through some bizarre rock formations. These are impressive remains of the volcanic past and today offer excellent challenges for climbers.

The active quarry (Bad Tabarzer Hartsteinwerk) is a treasure for geologists and palaeontologists. This is one of the most important sites for finding insects from the Lower Permian (Rotliegend). In 1989 scientists made a sensational find here, a fragment of a giant mayfly. This insect had a wingspan of 45 cm and is the largest insect from this period ever to be found in Germany. A life-sized reproduction of the giant insect can be seen in the exhibition “Gipfeltreffen” in the lookout on the Grosser Inselsberg.

In addition to the numerous fossilized tracks and bones of terrestrial saurians palaeontologists also discovered a near-complete 40 cm long skeleton belonging to *Cabarzia trostheidei*. This saurian is several million years older than the famous “Tambach Lovers” and a predecessor of the later mammals. A reconstruction of this animal can be seen along the Saurian Discovery Trail.

And which plants grew here? The vegetation growing in this landscape with rivers, lakes and volcanoes consisted of tree ferns, giant horse-tails with thick stems, plants with oblong leaves upto 50 cm long, seed plants with fern-like leaves (seed ferns) as well as diverse conifers. The latter are believed to be the predecessors of our conifers today. The large number of specimens found in the quarry present quite an exact picture of the flora and fauna in this volcanic period.

### GeoRoute 8

**Distance/Category:** approx. 11 km, Circular trail (also suitable for mountain bikers)

**Elevation:** approx. 400 – 710 m above sea-level

**Difficulty:** moderate

**Trail characteristics:** orest roads, sandy gravel roads, paved footpaths in the towns, some asphalted sections

**Geological stations:** large Rock Park (Steinpark) in the Kneipp-Spa Park Arenarisquelle presenting rock types from 300 million years of Earth history • Backofenlöcher (Oven Holes) in the Lauchgrund • Haderholz-Porphry rock formations • Lookout Aschenbergstein

**Touristic stations:** Märchenwiese (Fairytale meadows), Spa and Family Baths “tabbs”, high-wire course, Grosser Inselsberg, Art Galleries

**Information:** Tourist Information Bad Tabarz, Naturepark and GeolInfocentre in the lookout on the Grosser Inselsberg, see p. 29



Saurian from Bad Tabarz



In the Lauchgrund



Fossil seed fern from Bad Tabarz



Excavations in the quarry Bad Tabarz



- GeoRoute 8: Main route
- GeoRoute 8: Feeder Tanzbuche
- Rennsteig
- Rennsteig ladder
- Geoinfocentre/Geoinfopoint
- Explanatory panel
- Overview panel
- Information column
- Outstanding rock formation
- Quarry
- Cave
- Rock park
- Tourist information
- Park
- Adventure pool
- Kneipp walking
- Parking lot
- Busstop
- Hotel
- Restaurant
- Café
- Church, chapel
- Museum
- Open-air stage
- Shelter
- Viewpoint



# WHEN THE THURINGIAN FOREST WAS STILL A SEA

## Hike across the tropical Ruhla Island

This GeoRoute crosses the Rennsteig and together with its side trails is one of the longest in the Geopark. The trail starts at the Limestone cave Kittelsthal near Ruhla, crosses the Rennsteig and ends at Cave “Altensteiner Höhle” near Bad Liebenstein. However, 250 million years ago this walk through the forest would have been a diving expedition.

Back then during the Upper Permian (Zechstein unit), Central Europe was located in the tropics. Tectonic processes had created a huge basin, which connected to the superocean and became flooded around 257 million years ago. The result was a shallow tropical inland sea, the so-called Zechstein Sea. There were several islands in this sea including the

island around the Town Ruhla. Over thousands of years reef-building organisms (esp. bryozoa and unicellular organisms) built gigantic reefs. One of these is the Altenstein Reef near Bad Liebenstein. This is not only the largest (approx. 1,6 km<sup>2</sup>) reef of the Ruhla Island, but also a rich animal fossil site from the Zechstein period. This is especially true for Cave “Altensteiner Höhle” that was discovered in 1799. The cave is part of the landscape park at Altenstein Castle and provides a fascinating view of the inner structure of the Altenstein Reef. Just after it was discovered the geologist and palaeontologist E. F. von Schlotheim from Gotha identified the fossils as reef organisms and describes the mountains as “prehistoric fossil reefs”.

Many more ice-age fossils were discovered during the further exploration of Cave “Altensteiner Höhle”. This included bones from the cave bear *Ursus spelaeus*, which are thought to be 40,000 to 100,000 years old.

### GeoRoute 9

#### Distance / Category:

**Main Route** (Limestone cave Kittelsthal – Cave “Altensteiner Höhle”): **approx. 30 km**, linear walk

**Side route** (Circular trail Bad Liebenstein): approx. 20 km, Circular trail

**Side route** Circular trail Ruhla): approx. 21 km, Circular trail

**Elevation:** approx. 200 – 690 m above sea-level

**Difficulty:** moderate – difficult

**Trail characteristics:** forest roads, sandy gravel roads, paved footpaths in the towns, some asphalted sections

**Geological stations:** Cave “Altensteiner Höhle” (oldest and longest tourist cave in Thuringia) • Limestone cave Kittelsthal • Wartberge hills near Seebach with cutoff cones typical • Blaufarbenwerk Glücksbrunn (blue mineral pigment factory; cobalt mine) in Schweina

#### Touristic stations:

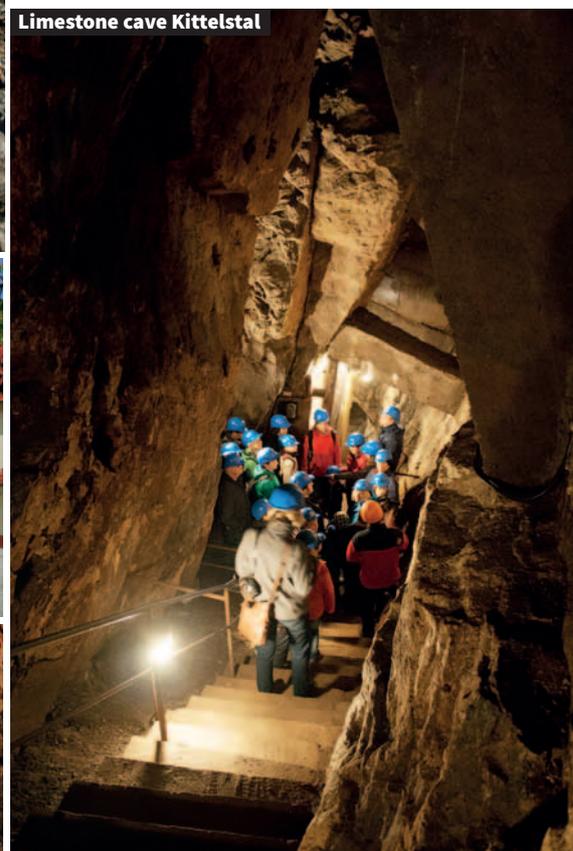
**Ruhla:** Clock Museum, Miniature Park mini-a-thür and Adventure Toboggan Run

**Thal:** Scharfenburg Ruins

**Schweina:** Castle and Park Glücksbrunn

**Bad Liebenstein:** Castle and Landscape Park Altenstein, animal park and castle ruins

**Information:** Tourist and Naturepark Information and Geoinfocentre Ruhla, Naturepark Information Centre & Geoinfopoint at Altenstein Castle, see p. 29





- GeoRoute 9: Main route
- GeoRoute 9: Circular route
- Rennsteig
- Messer Walk
- Tobacco Pipe Walk
- Geoinfocentre/Geoinfopoint
- Explanatory panel
- Overview panel
- Information column
- Tourist cave, tourist mine
- Cave
- Quarry
- Outstanding rock formation
- Abandoned mine
- Spring
- Hiker parking lot
- Parking lot
- Busstop
- Tourist information
- Restaurant
- Snackbar
- Zoo, game reserve
- Lookout
- Castle, fort
- Castle ruins
- Church
- Museum
- Other destination
- Monument, memorial

1 : 65 000  
 0 1 2 km  
 © mr-kartographie, Gotha 2019

Cave bear bones



Cave "Altensteiner Höhle"



# INSIDE THE MOUNTAINS

## The Friedrichroda Mining Trail

The “conquest” of the mountains around Friedrichroda began about 500 years ago with ducal permission and the hope of finding silver. However, instead of silver, miners found iron and manganese ores. These were extracted in several mines in the subsequent centuries. The Gottlob (572 m above sea-level) is essentially perforated with mines. Some of the remains of the historic mining activities can still be seen for example at the entrance of the Glückstern Mine. This gives an authentic impression of the miner’s work. However, the Gottlob is also a very special geological site, where unique minerals have been found. It is the only place in the world where Gottlobit has been found.

The citizens of Friedrichroda like to call the Gottlob their very own. However, around 290 million years ago the mountain

was actually a sea richly populated with plants and animals. Over 10,000 amphibians and fish have left their marks in the rocks of the Gottlob. A diorama in the GeolInfocentre Marienglashöhle shows the plant and animal life in the former Gottlob Sea. The first saurian tracks on the Gottlob were found in 1847. The originators of these “footprints” were about 1 meter long and a type of intermediary between amphibians and reptiles. It is difficult to imagine today, but the fossil record also shows that Ginkgo plants were common during the times of the Gottlob Sea. However, the biggest tourist attraction in Friedrichroda is the tourist cave/ mine “Marienglashöhle”, which attracts over 60,000 visitors each year. This former gypsum mine is a geological natural monument with one of the most beautiful and largest gypsum crystal grottos in Europe. The mine was developed in 1778 and the grotto with its lake and up to 90 cm long gypsum crystals was discovered six years later.

### GeoRoute 7

**Distance / Category:** approx 7 km,  
Circular trail

**Elevation:** approx. 420 – 570 m above  
sea-level

**Difficulty:** moderate

**Trail characteristics:** forest roads, sandy  
gravel roads, tarmac on some sections

**Geological stations:** natural monument  
slab quarry Gottlob • Entrance to the  
Glücksstern Mine (mineral site) • tourist  
cave/mine “Marienglashöhle”

**Touristic stations:** Swimming pool Fried-  
richroda, spa park, Bergtheater, St Blaise  
Church, Local History Museum, Information  
and Exhibition Centre Spiritual Tourism,  
castle park Reinhardsbrunn

**Service:** Audioguide with 14 listening  
stations

**Information:** GeolInfocentre Marienglas-  
höhle (on B 88) and Kuramt Friedrichroda,  
see p. 29

Exhibition “Life 230 million years ago and today”



Reconstruction of the Gottlob Sea  
on Pangaea



GeolInfocentre Marienglashöhle





**Friedrichroda Mining Trail**

- GeoRoute 7: Main route
- GeoRoute 7: Feeder
- Geoinfocentre/Geoinfopoint
- Explanatory panel
- Overview panel
- Information column
- Audioguide
- Tourist cave, tourist mine
- Quarry
- Outstanding rock formation
- Abandoned mine
- Abandoned shaft
- Waterfall
- Spring
- Drinking fountain, spa water
- Fountain
- Kneipp walking
- Swimming pool
- Indoor swimming pool
- Parking lot
- Busstop
- Railway station
- Tourist information
- Hotel
- Restaurant
- Field monument
- Church
- Museum
- Open-air stage
- Shelter
- Viewpoint

View of Friedrichroda with the landmark hill Gottlob



Looking into the former Glückstern mine





# THE ENVY OF THE SAURIANS



Giant Bratwurst in Holzhausen

## Geo- and Pleasure Trail “From Beer to Bratwurst“

They would have been quite envious: the Tambach lovers, the Ruhla bryozoa and the Giant Mayfly of Bad Tabarz. Little is known of the dining culture of these ancient creatures. It is however, common knowledge today that beer and bratwurst are an essential part of Thuringian dining culture.

The Geo-and Pleasure Trail “From Beer to Bratwurst” is quite different from the other 16 GeoRoutes. Here the emphasis lies not so much in the geological development of our Earth, but rather focuses on what the soil produces. For example hops and barley. This is where geology meets pleasure albeit with a little tongue in cheek. The soil is the link between geology and the enjoyable products. As such it plays the main part on the Geo-and Pleasure Trail. Several large sculptures by the artist Christoph Hodgson from Arnstadt have been installed along the trail to give beer and bratwurst the spatial dimension they deserve.

The enjoyable trail starts at the Town brewery (Stadtbrauerei) in Arnstadt. It was here in 1617 that the first wheat beer was brewed outside of Bavaria. However, the first official records of brewing in Arnstadt date from 1407. Bratwurst was mentioned for the first time anywhere here in Arnstadt in 1404. This can be seen on a wood relief in Arnstadt Abbey. As if there were not enough “firsts” here, the musical genius Johann Sebastian Bach married for the first time in the small village church in Dornheim (near Arnstadt). In 1707 he exchanged wedding vows with Maria Barbara, a second grade cousin. When she died in 1720, Bach married the soprano Anna Magdalena in Köthen.

PS: There is even a saurian which has been named after the tasty Thuringian bratwurst: *Tambachia trogallas* (literally: “the sausage eating saurian”). A reconstruction of this little animal can be seen along the Saurian Discovery Trail (Geo-Route 6).

### GeoRoute 17

**Distance/Category:** approx. 16 km,  
Circular trail

**Elevation:** approx. 270 – 430 m above  
sea-level

**Difficulty:** easy – moderate

**Trail characteristics:** field roads, sandy  
gravel roads, paved footpaths in the towns,  
some asphalted sections

**Geological stations:** 11 discovery stations  
with giant sculptures • 4 different 3-D soil  
profiles • Gravel Pit Haarhausen • Wach-  
senburg Graben • gypsum quarries at the  
Kalkberg • vineyard with old grape vines and  
a small new wine-growing area

**Touristic stations:**

**Arnstadt:** Bach Church, Castle Museum,  
Zoo Fasanerie and water castle ruin Neideck

**Holzhausen:** Wachsenburg Castle,  
Otto-Knöpfer-Haus

**Service:** Audioguide with 15 listening  
stations

**Information:** Tourist Information and  
Geoinfocentre „Kulturscheune“ and Tourist  
Information Arnstadt, see p. 29

Discovery Station Wine



Discovery Station Beet



Discovery Station Fruit Basket



-  GeoRoute 17
-  **Audioguide station**
-  Sculpture with explanatory panel
-  Overview panel
-  Soil profile
-  Quarry, exposure
-  Outstanding rock formation
-  Cave
-  Castle; castle ruins
-  Church; religious monument
-  Lookout; view
-  Busstop
-  Railway station, stop
-  Tourist information
-  Hotel
-  Restaurant
-  Café
-  Indoor swimming pool
-  Parking lot
-  Sports field
-  Hospital
-  Military zone



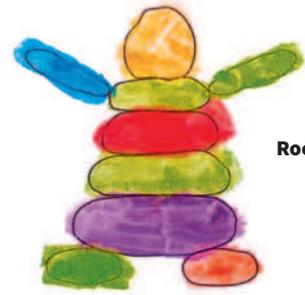
**Gypsum quarries at the Kalkberg**



**Sheep on the Badlands**



# EARTH SECRETS - GEOROUTES FOR SCHOOLS



Rockman

## The Brotterode Children's Tour

When was the supercontinent Pangaea formed? What can you do with ores? What are sedimentary rocks? And how do I recognize them? Rockman explains these exciting questions on the large information panels specially created for children.

This tour around and through the mountain village Brotterode is especially suited for lower grade school classes. The discovery tour also includes a quiz.



Funpark Grosser Inselfberg-Brotterode



Amethyst  $\text{SiO}_2$   
Brotterode

### GeoRoute 12

**Distance / Category:** approx. 8 km,  
Circular trail

**Elevation:** approx. 550 – 700 m above sea-level

**Difficulty:** easy – moderate

**Trail characteristics:** forest roads, sandy gravel road, paved footpaths in the towns, some asphalted sections

**Geological stations:** This tour teaches the basic knowledge of rocks and minerals using 8 information panels

**Touristic stations:** Elementary school forest, nature trail, Inselberg swimming pool, Inselberg Ski Jump, local history museum

**Information:** Tourist Information Brotterode, see p. 29

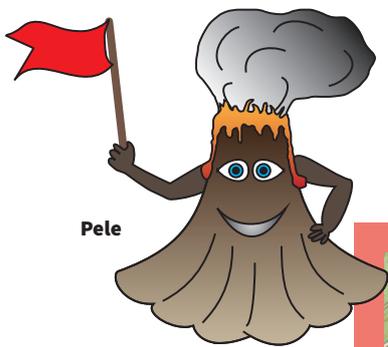


### Brotterode Children's Tour

GeoRoute 12	Parking lot	Museum	Adventure pool
Nature trail	Busstop	Shelter	Outdoor swimming pool
Explanatory panel	Hotel	Bench, seats	Ski jump
Overview panel	Hostel	Viewpoint	Ski lift
Information column	Restaurant	Abandoned mine	Sledge slope
Tourist information	Church	Sports field, stadium	Outstanding attraction

# The Kleinschmalkalden Volcano Trail

The name volcano makes one immediately think of impressive and while at the same time frightening pictures of lava-spewing mountains. The Age of Volcanoes was around 290 million years ago, when they profoundly altered the shape of our continents. The guide for this tour is Pele, the Hawaiian goddess of volcanoes and fire. She explains the most important basics of volcanism using different magmatic rocks and 12 information panels. And she will also answer the exciting question: will a volcano ever erupt again in Germany? The starting point of the Volcano Trail is at the same time the most important attraction of the village: the world's largest cowbell. The trail is specially suitable for upper grade school classes.



Pele



Goldborn Spring



View of Kleinschmalkalden with the Krötensteine

## GeoRoute 14

**Distance/Category:** approx. 12 km,  
Circular trail

**Elevation:** approx. 450 – 770 m above  
sea-level

**Difficulty:** moderate

**Trail characteristics:** forest roads, sandy  
gravel roads

**Geological stations:** various volcanic  
rocks, interactive rock park illustrating the  
rock cycle, Goldborn Spring

**Touristic stations:** world's largest cow-  
bell, forest swimming pool, lookout Grauer  
Stuhl (760 m above sea-level)

**Information:** Tourist Information  
Floh-Seligenthal, Geoinfopoint Interactive  
rock park, see p. 29



**GeoRoute 14 Kleinschmalkalden Volcano Trail**

	GeoRoute 14		Information point
	Diversion Finsterliete		Restaurant
	Explanatory panel		Seats
	Overview panel		Church
	Information column		Shelter
	Quarry		Bench
	Outstanding rock formation		View
	Interactive rock park		Interesting tree
	Spring		Outstanding attraction
	Swimming pool		Mobile home stop
	Parking lot		Busstop

# THE THURINGIAN CASTLE COUNTRY DREI GLEICHEN



View of Mühlburg Castle

## The Panorama Route

This tour around and through the oldest village in Thuringia (first recorded in 704 AD), passes over the small hill Schlossleite, which is crowned by the venerable Mühlburg Castle. From the castle tower or from the nearby lookout Triniusblick (400 m above sea-level) one has an idyllic view of the Drei Gleichen-Region. This route with its 19 signposted exhibits passes through the tranquil Gleichen valley. From here it crosses the Gosseler Plateau parallel to the old trade route Kupferstrasse past deserted settlements and the golf course Drei Gleichen back to the starting point at the Geoinfocentre Kulturscheune in the centre of the village.

The Panorama Route shares some sections with the Luther and the Gustav-Freytag-Walk.

### GeoRoute 2

**Distance / Category:** approx. 19 km,  
Circular trail

**Elevation:** approx. 260–400 m above  
sea-level

**Difficulty:** easy – moderate

**Trail characteristics:** sandy gravel roads,  
some sections on tarmac

**Villages along the Route:** Mühlberg,  
Röhrensee

**Geological stations:** Mühlberg: “Mühl-  
berger Spring”, a crystal clear karst spring  
formed approx. 7000 years ago in a sinkhole  
(the spring once powered seven mills) •  
Travertine in the Weidbach • Schlossleite:  
geotope Eckhardtshög (Upper Triassic  
gypsum approx. 225 million years ago) •  
Geotope Eymersborn (spring)

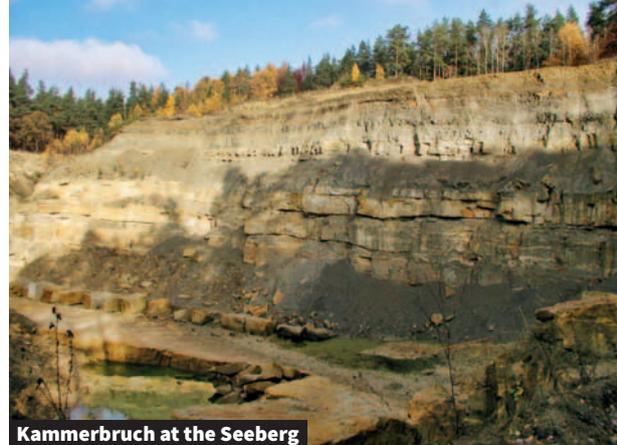
**Touristic stations:** Mühlberg: oil and  
pearl barley mill (first recorded 1528, today  
a museum) • Mühlburg Castle • small fire  
brigade museum • Ringhofen Estate, once a  
knight’s estate (first recorded 1249) with golf  
course, riding centre, restaurant and small  
hotel and small campsite nearby.

**Information:** Tourist Information and Geo-  
Infocentre “Kulturscheune”, see p. 29



# The Seeberg Route

This GeoRoute begins at the Old Observatory (Alte Sternwarte) on the Kleiner Seeberg near the south-eastern town boundary of Gotha. The route passes over the Grosser Seeberg hill (nature reserve), which is famous for the very special sandstone that is found here and around 220 million years old. The Seeberg Sandstein has been used in many important buildings such as Erfurt Cathedral. At the Düppel (lookout and traditional country inn on the Seeberg) one can see the reddish-grey, sparsely vegetated Badlands, which are also found on the south slope of all three castle hills. The Seeberg Route not only takes you past geological and archaeological sites but also historically important places such as the Bach family residence in Wechmar. As the trail continues it passes a former water castle (today an museum for Regional History and GeoInfopoint) in Günthersleben, old mills and historic water channels. The Seeberg Route shares some sections with the Luther Route, the Graf-Gleichen-Trail and the Nature Trail Apfelstädt-Mühlen.



Kammerbruch at the Seeberg



Long house in Schwabhausen (GeoInfopoint)

## GeoRoute 5

**Distance / Category:** approx. 32 km, Circular trail (north circuit approx. 20 km, south circuit approx. 12 km)

**Elevation:** approx. 280 – 370 m above sea-level

**Difficulty:** easy – moderate

**Trail characteristics:** sandy gravel road, some sections on tarmac

**Villages along the route:** Gotha/Töpflleben, Seebergen, Günthersleben, Wechmar, Schwabhausen

**Geological stations:** Gypsum quarries (Kleiner Seeberg) • sandstone quarries at the Maikopf and the Kammerbruch (geotope), where Seeberg sandstone is still extracted today • Badlands at the country inn Düppel (lookout) and the Bergbeule

**Touristic stations:** Gotha: Old Observatory on the Kleiner Seeberg (end of 18<sup>th</sup> century), was once the most modern and important in Europe, today a restaurant • Günthersleben: GeoInfopoint in the former water castle (built mid 12<sup>th</sup> century) with a permanent exhibition about regional history and geology • Wechmar: Bach family residence • Veit-Bach-Obermühle (mill) • Sankt Viti church (one of the largest village church in Thuringia) • manor house Studnitz (built around 1700) with a Rococo hall and several exhibitions • Schwabhausen: GeoInfopoint at the reconstructed longhouse from the Linear Pottery Period with rock park

**Information:** Tourist Information and GeoInfocentre "Kulturscheune", see p. 29



# DISCOVER THE GEOPARK ON BIKE



## The Apfelstädt Jacobsweg Tour

The Apfelstädt Jacobsweg Tour is actually a GeoCycleRoute that takes you through the Thuringian Castle Country Drei Gleichen on two loops. This cycle route is perfect for a day tour especially since it shares some sections with the long distance cycle route Thüringer Städteketten and the Bach-Discovery Cycle Route. The cycle path connects the old “via regia” (“Kings Road”, today St. James Way) with the Drei Gleichen Region. There are many things to see along the route such as sinkholes, springs and a diverse flora and fauna along the banks of the Apfelstädt river. At the entrance to the village Apfelstädt, the route crosses the Nature Trail Apfelstädt-Mühlen. There are over 20 attractions and infopoints to discover along this GeoCycleRoute.

### GeoRoute 4

**Distance / Category:** approx. 35 km, Bicycle circuit (north loop approx. 17 km, south loop approx. 18 km)

**Elevation:** approx. 200 – 300 m above sea-level

**Difficulty:** moderate

**Trail characteristics:** Asphalt, water-bound roads, field roads

**Geological stations:** Boundary dolomite, a 2 to 4 m thick and about 230 million year old dolomite bed in the river bed of the, Apfelstädt (near Wandersleben) • “Gräfenbrunnen” (Mühlberg) • brine spring (near Sülzenbrücken) • Experimental Archaeology site Haarhausen (reconstruction of a Roman pottery from the 3rd century) • Geotope Kleiner See (Grossrettbach)

**Touristic stations:**

- Wandersleben:** Castle Gleichen, Menantes-Literature Monument
- Mühlberg:** Mühlburg Castle, Sankt-Lukas-Church
- Ingersleben:** local history museum, natural stone arched bridge over the Apfelstädt (built 1751/52)
- Neudietendorf:** Krügervilla & Krügerpark
- Cobstädt:** Visitor’s Garden of the Lebensgut Cobstädt e.V.

**Information:** Tourist Information and GeoInfocentre “Kulturscheune“, see p. 29



# FOLLOWING THE RIVERS ON BIKE AND FOOT

## Leina River Tour

### GeoRoute 13

**Distance / Category:** approx. 25 km,  
linear walk

**Elevation:** approx. 300 – 700 m above  
sea-level

**Difficulty:** moderate

**Trail characteristics:** forest roads, some  
sections on sandy gravel roads

**Villages along the route:** Finsterbergen,  
Engelsbach, Schönau vor dem Walde,  
Wipperoda, Leina

**Information:** Tourist Information Finster-  
bergen, see p. 29

This GeoRoute follows the Leina river from the source Leinaborn near the Rennsteig to the village Leina, where it joins the river Hörsel. A large part of the river water is diverted to the Leina Canal, which already supplied the town Gotha with water in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Today the canal is an industrial monument. This thematic route explains river dynamics, the water cycle and the development of floods. Scientific excavations on the outskirts of Finsterbergen unearthed numerous fossils, which document how climate changes during the Rotliegend period (280 million years ago) affected flora and fauna. Amongst these is also the smallest saurian found in Thuringia: 15 mm long larvae of the newt-like and just finger-long Branchiosaurus.

The river tour starts on the crest of the Thuringian Forest and ends just before the residential Town Gotha. Along the way it passes abandoned quarries, geological exposures and small lakes until one reaches the Boxberg (historic horse race track) with a wonderful view of the Grosser Inselsberg and Gotha.

16 different infopoints have been installed along the route, which crosses the Thuringian Raw Materials Trail (GeoRoute 11).

### GeoRoute 15

**Distance / Category:** approx. 15 km,  
linear route

**Elevation:** approx. 300 – 400 m above  
sea-level

**Difficulty:** easy – moderate

**Trail characteristics:** mostly tarmac  
roads, sandy gravel road in places

**Villages along the route:** Georgenthal,  
Herrenhof, Hohenkirchen, Schwabhausen,  
Günthersleben

**Information:** Tourist Information and  
GeoInfopoint Georgenthal, GeoInfopoint  
“Wasserburg“ Günthersleben, Tourist Infor-  
mation and GeoInfocentre “Kulturscheune“,  
see p. 29

## Apfelstädt River Tour (GeoCycleRoute)

This GeoRoute starts in the town centre of Georgenthal (former Cistercian Abbey grounds with spa park) to the “Wasserburg“ (GeoInfopoint) in Günthersleben. This means from the Thuringian Forest to the Thuringian Castle Country Drei Gleichen. At the same time, the route connects both regions of the Geopark. The route follows the Apfelstädt Cycle Path, which joins the Bach Bicycle Discovery Route just after Hohenkirchen and crosses the long-distance cycle route Thüringer Städtekette at the endpoint in Günthersleben.

The topic highlighted along this route is the diverse ways Humans have used rivers in the past and today. These include raw material and energy production among many others. The pupils from the Gustav-Freytag-Gymnasium (grammar school) in Gotha took on the subject and created the information panels for the route as part of a seminar paper.

Although the motto of the Apfelstädt River Route is “For pupils by pupils”, the tour is equally interesting and enjoyable for more mature students.

On the Apfelstädt Cycle Path



Leina canal



# THE STORIES ROCKS CAN TELL

## GeoRoute 1

**Distance / Category:** approx. 10 km,  
Circular route

**Elevation:** 370 – 700 m above sea-level

**Difficulty:** moderate – difficult

**Trail characteristics:** forest roads, some sandy gravel roads

**Villages along the route:** Kleinschmalkalden, Floh-Seligenthal

**Information:** Tourist Information Floh-Seligenthal, Geoinfopoint, Interactive rock park, see p. 29

## Long Haderholz Route

This circular GeoRoute is located below the Rennsteig on the south side of the Thuringian Forest, where one can appreciate the geological diversity of the Geopark in one small area. Another opportunity to do this is in the interactive Rock Park. The Haderholz is a small rocky forest area between Floh-Seligenthal and Kleinschmalkalden.

Rocks such as granite, porphyry or sandstone bear witness to the turbulent volcanic past of the whole region millions of years ago. There were even some coal mines here in the 16th century (historical mining in Altal). There are 14 exhibits and four lookouts such as the Haderholzstein (713 m above sea-level) along this circular trail. The route runs parallel to the Mommelstein Cycle Path on one section.

## GeoRoute 11

**Distance / Category:** approx. 50 km,  
linear walk

**Elevation:** approx. 300 – 580 m above sea-level

**Difficulty:** moderate

**Trail characteristics:** sandy gravel road, some forest roads

**Villages along the Route:** Ruhla, Schmerbach, Winterstein, Fischbach, Bad Tabarz, Friedrichroda, Engelsbach, Catterfeld, Georgenthal

**Information:** Tourist Information & Geoinfocentres in Ruhla, Bad Tabarz, Friedrichroda and Geoinfopoint Georgenthal, see p. 29

## Thuringian Raw Materials Trail

This GeoRoute introduces the visitor to more than 1000 years of mining history as well as the raw materials that have played such an important role in Thuringia and especially the Thuringian Forest (incl. iron ore). Some, such as sandstone, are still important today. Overview and information panels along the trail explain the formation, deposits, mining and uses of the different raw materials (for example gypsum, coal, salt or cobalt).

By the way: there is very little difference between the diversity of raw materials once mined in the Thuringian Forest and the famous Erzgebirge. However the Saxonian deposits were much richer than the Thuringian.

Globe flower on a mountain meadow in Floh-Seligenthal



Winterstein Castle ruins with dog grave



Interactive rock park along GeoRoute 1



Castle Altenstein



Trusetal waterfall



Tourist mine "Grube Hühn"



## GeoRoute 16

**Distance / Category:** approx. 22 km, linear walk

**Elevation:** approx. 360 – 580 m above sea-level

**Difficulty:** moderate – difficult

**Trail characteristics:** forest roads, some sandy gravel roads

**Villages along the route:** Steinbach, Bad Liebenstein, Bairoda, Laudenbach, Elmenthal, Auwallenburg, Trusetal, Hohleborn, Seligenthal, Floh, Reichenbach, Weidebrunn, Finstertal

**Information:** GeoInfocentre Tourist Mine "Grube Hühn", see p. 29

## Trusetal Mining Trail

The Geology and Mining Trail opens up a fascinating insight into the mining history of the region. The tourist mine "Grube Hühn" is 500 m deep. Visitors are taken into the adit with the narrow gauge railway "Hühn-Express" to see where miners extracted fluorite and baryte until 1990.

Along the trail, walkers can visit the impressive Trusetal Waterfall (natural monument). This wildly romantic waterfall was created in 1865. Between Easter and October the water from the river Truse is diverted over a porphyry and granite cliff, from where it falls 58 m in three cascades into a basin. From here the water returns to its natural riverbed.

## GeoRoute 10

**Distance / Category:** approx. 14 km, linear walk

**Elevation:** approx. 320 – 580 m above sea-level

**Difficulty:** moderate – difficult

**Trail characteristics:** forest roads, some sandy gravel roads

**Villages along the route:** Bad Liebenstein, Atterode, Bairoda,

**Information:** Naturepark Information Centre & GeoInfopoint at Castle Altenstein, see p. 29

## Nature Discovery Trail Bad Liebenstein

This GeoRoute begins in the spa town Bad Liebenstein and then climbs up to the ruins of Castle Liebenstein (with lookout) continuing to the former mining town Atterode and up to the Klinge. There are 22 stations along the trail explaining the natural landscape, the geology and historic mining. One particularly interesting geological site is the Getränke Loch ("drinks hole"). Despite the name this is not a store for refreshing drinks, it is part of a subterranean karst system.

# ATTRACTIONS IN THE GEOPARK

## BAD LIEBENSTEIN

### Castle & Park Altenstein

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, “Theatre Duke” Georg II of Sachsen-Meiningen converted the ducal summer residence into a stately home resembling 16<sup>th</sup> century English Manors. The two-storey neo-Renaissance castle is surrounded by a 160 hectare English landscape park.

The continuing development of Altenstein Park was heavily influenced by “Garden artists” such as Prince Hermann from Pückler-Muskau or Peter Joseph Lenné. Despite the losses caused by a fire in the castle building in 1982, the castle and park belong to the highlights of the Thuringian castle and park landscape.

**Opening hours:** Park: April to October: daily 11 am – 5 pm, November to March: daily 11 am – 4 pm

**Contact:** Naturepark Information Centre & Geoinfopoint at Castle and Landscape Park Altenstein, see page 29

**TIP** **Cave “Altensteiner Höhle”:** located underneath Altenstein Park, discovered in 1799 and converted to a tourist cave (with cave lake) in 1802.

## BAD TABARZ

### Lookout on the Grosser Inselsberg

The lookout on the Inselsberg plateau (916.5 m above sea-level) was opened in 2015. From the top floor of the tower you can enjoy a 360° panoramic view of the western Thuringian Forest. On days with inversions it is even possible to see the Brocken in the Harz Mountains.

Above the reception of the Tourist Information (ground-floor) are five storeys of which three are used for exhibitions. In addition to the Thuringian Wintersports exhibition there is also a large presentation “Flora Fauna and Fossils – The Inselsberg Exhibition with a View”. This is a joint project between the National GeoPark Thuringia Inselsberg Drei Gleichen and the Nature Park Thuringian Forest. The fourth floor houses the highest registry

office in Thuringia (930 m above sea-level). The top floor is the actual lookout.

Two climbing walls have been installed on the side of the former radio tower (17 and 3 m).

**Opening hours/Contact:** Geoinfocentre in the lookout, see page 29

**TIPS** **tabbs – Health-Sports-Family Pool:** with sports pool, adventure pool with jet-stream channel, outdoor pool, whirlpools, kid’s pool, Sauna landscape, ice spring, rest house and bistro, outdoor pool with wave slide

**Tree-top adventure course Tabarz:** with 6 routes (80 individual elements) and different difficulty levels as well as **six galleries or exhibitions and five parks**

## BROTTERODE-TRUSETAL

### Funpark Inselsberg

This recreational and adventure park is located between Bad Tabarz and Brotterode, at the foot of the Grosser Inselsberg. This is the address for all those who enjoy facing several challenges at any one time. The summer toboggan run is a 1 km long stainless steel track with 12 steep turns allowing toboggans to reach speeds up to 40 km/h. A lift system brings the participants back to the 65 m high top station. The Wie-Flyer is something completely different. Here gondolas are fixed to a 500 m long rail system (incl. an automatic distance controller). Travelling at speeds up to 40 km/h the passengers get to experience an extraordinary flight feeling, especially when banking in the turns. The attractions in the park include a Flying-Fox-Parcour (total length 243 m), an adventure playground with a wide range of exercise and fun equipment as well as a number of restaurants.

**Opening hours:** April to end of October: daily from 10 am – 5 pm

**Contact:** Inselsberg Fun GmbH, Kleiner Inselsberg 3, 98599 Brotterode-Trusetal, Tel.: +4936840 32370, [www.sommerodelbahn-inselsberg.de](http://www.sommerodelbahn-inselsberg.de)

**TIPS** **Inselsbergbad Brotterode:** family swimming pool with sports pool, warm pool and kid’s pool, shower pipe (80 m), outdoor pool with white water channel and bistro

**Tourist mine “Grube Hühn” (Trusetal):** with narrow gauge railway and mining and mineral presentation

**Trusetal Waterfall:** artificial waterfall, 228 step climb to the top

**Wallenburger Turm (Trusetal):** 27 m high tower, open to the public, part of a castle destroyed in the 30-Year War

Lookout on the Grosser Inselsberg



## CATTERFELD – ALTENBERGEN

### Candelabra Monument

The 10 m high sandstone candelabra on the Johannsberg hill was raised in 1811 in memorial to the missionary Winfried Bonifatius. In 724/725 AD he donated the first baptistery in Thuringia, the Johanniskirche, which stood here. The church was extended in the 11<sup>th</sup> century by the ancestor of the Ludowinger landgrave dynasty, Ludwig der Bärtige. His first born son Ludwig der Springer (who built Wartburg) was baptized here. Today the candelabra is a popular destination for Whit Sunday pilgrimages for locals and tourists.

**Contact:** Community Leinatal, Ortstrasse 10, 99894 Leinatal/OT Schönau vor dem Walde, Tel.: 036253 3260, [www.gemeinde-leinatal.de](http://www.gemeinde-leinatal.de)



Wachsenburg Castle

## DREI GLEICHEN

### HOLZHAUSEN

#### Wachsenburg Castle

The castle was built in the mid 10<sup>th</sup> century as a fort with a four-sided keep and a Romanesque palace on top of the 422 m high Wassenberg. The castle changed hands often in the following centuries. Among the landlords was the famous and notorious knight Apel von Vitzthum, also known as the “Master of fires in Thuringia”. Based in Wachsenburg Castle he embarked on his raids in and around Erfurt, pillaging and threatening to burn. The castle fell into ruins at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. From 1651 onwards Duke Ernst der Fromme from Gotha rebuilt the castle and dug a 93 m deep well with a treadmill to ensure the water supply. The castle was demilitarised in 1859 and opened for the general public. The most prominent building within the castle is the widely visible Hohenlohe Tower, which was built by the Wachsenburg Society in 1905. Between 1964 to 1969 the castle was restored and a hotel built. Since 2001 Castle Wachsenburg is privately owned. A small castle museum has been installed in the northern section and the Hohenlohe Tower.

**Opening hours:** Museum: Wed – Sat between 11 am – 8 pm, Sun from 11 am – 4 pm  
**Contact:** Hotel & Restaurant Wachsenburg, 99334 Amt Wachsenburg/ OT Holzhausen, Tel.: +493628 74240, [www.wachsenburg.com](http://www.wachsenburg.com), [www.drei-gleichen.de](http://www.drei-gleichen.de)

### MÜHLBERG

#### Mühlburg Castle

This is the oldest of the three impressive castles. First officially recorded in 704 AD, the history of the castle probably dates back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century and closely linked to St. Radegunde (518 – 587). She was the last Thuringian royal princess who was kidnapped during a battle and taken to the Frankish King Chlothar who later forced her to marry him. She soon fled the royal court and founded the first European monastery for women in Poitiers. She was sanctified in the 9<sup>th</sup> century. During the heyday of the castle, it served to protect the old trade road between Erfurt und Nürnberg (Kupferstrasse). Mühlburg Castle fell into ruins following the 30-Year-War. Today however, the 22 m tall castle tower and the 56 m deep well are a reminder of the former glory of the castle. The tower is open to the public and houses a museum with changing exhibitions.

**Opening hours:** April to October: Mo – Fr from 10 am – 4 pm, Sat/Sun from 10 – 18, access to castle grounds only between November and February  
**Informationen:** Tourist Information and Geoinfocentre Kulturscheune Mühlberg, see page 29

**TIPS** **St. Luke’s Church:** with preserved original wall paintings (from around 1450), three-sided double gallery, Volkland-Organ (1729) and small memorial chapel dedicated to St. Radegunde in the tower room  
**Kulturscheune:** former shed beneath Mühlburg Castle housing the tourist information and Geoinfocentre as well as the permanent exhibition “Life in the Triassic Ocean” as well as temporary art and photography exhibitions



Mühlburg Castle



Castle Gleichen

### WANDERSLEBEN

#### Castle Gleichen

The largest of the three castles (first recorded in 1034) was the seat of the Dukes from Gleichen until 1455. When they moved to the nearby village Ohrdruf, the castle shared the fate of the sister castle in Mühlberg: it fell to ruins. The castle complex is 60 metres wide and is surrounded by a 105 metre long fortified wall. The grounds are dominated by the 19 metre high castle tower. All that is left today is the tower gate and the ring wall. A lookout platform and a small museum was built at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Today the museum presents an exhibition of the natural world of the Drei Gleichen area.

The castle is famously associated with the “Legend of the Double-Wedded Count” Ernst von Gleichen. According to this, the happily married Count Ernst von Gleichen left his wife to join the crusade in 1227. He was captured in the Orient and became acquainted with the beautiful daughter of the Sultan, Melech-sala. Both fell in love and escaped to Rome, where the Pope is said to have blessed the double-wedding. Ernst travelled back to Thuringia with his second wife who had changed her name to a Christian one, Angelika. Arriving at the castle, Countess Ottilia welcomed both with open arms and the three lovers lived there from then on. The historic evidence of the truth of the legend lies in the Cathedral of Erfurt: a tomb slab showing a man in bed with two women.

**Opening hours:** April to October: daily from 10 am to 6 pm, November to March: closed  
**Information:** Natural History Museum Erfurt, Große Arche 14, 99084 Erfurt, Tel.: +49361 6555695, [www.thueringerschloesser.de](http://www.thueringerschloesser.de), [www.drei-gleichen.de](http://www.drei-gleichen.de)

**TIP** **Menantes – Literature Memorial: with a permanent exhibition presenting the life and work of** Menantes, born in 1680 as Christian Friedrich Hunold in Wandersleben and who became an important writer of the Baroque to Enlightenment transition



**Bach-Residence in Wechmar**



**Guided tour of the Marienglashöhle in Friedrichroda**

## WECHMAR

### Bach-Residence

“... and when he found a safe refuge from the Lutheran religion in Thuringia, he settled in Wechmar near Gotha ...”, wrote Johann Sebastian Bach about his great-great grandfather Veit Bach. It was he who founded the Thuringian branch of this world-famous family of musicians in Wechmar at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Bach-Residence houses the Museum of Thuringian Musicians and Instrument makers, a historic organ and a violin maker’s workshop as well as exhibits and documents of nearly 200 years of Bach family history in Wechmar.

**Opening hours:** Tue/Thu from 10 am to 4 pm, Sat/Sun from 1 pm to 4 pm  
**Contact:** Bachstrasse 4, 99869 Drei Gleichen/OT Wechmar, Tel.: +4936256 22680, www.bach-stammhaus-wechmar.de

**TIP Veit-Bach-Obermühle:** This mill was built in 1685 and it was here that the baker Veit Bach and some of his descendants earned their living; among the attractions are the wood panel room (1585) as well as the working mill machinery

## FISCHBACH

### Open-air stage Fischbach

The open-air stage (built in 1952) is located in the middle of a park and is one of the most beautiful and biggest in the Thuringian Forest. (17 m wide / 13 m deep, 2000 seats). The stage was renovated and modernised in 2014. Concerts and theatre performances for children are staged here in summer.

**Information:** Tourist Information Waltershausen, see page 29

## FLOH-SELIGENTHAL

### Tourist Mine “Finstertal”

This tourist mine lies between the districts Floh and Schmalkalden. It is the only completely preserved iron and manganese ore mine in south Thuringia and was in operation from 1858 to 1934. Since 1959 the mine is a “Learning and visitor’s mine” with a 350 m long accessible section, a repository for miners tools including a compressor and the original miner’s lamps. The geological exposures along the adits present an impressive display of fluorescent minerals.

**Opening hours:** April to October: Wed – Sun from 10 am – 5 pm, July / August: Tue from 3 – 5 pm as well as on official holidays  
**Contact:** Talstrasse 145, 8574 Schmalkalden/OT Asbach, Tel.: +493683 488037, www.museumwilhelmsburg.de

**TIPS Largest cowbell in the world:** 3.28 m high and weighing 920 kg, this steel bell is found in Kleinschmalkalden, a district of Floh-Seligenthal. It was produced by a local company, which entered the Guinness Book of Records

**Bergschwimmbad:** modernised, solar heated outdoor swimming pool in the district Struth-Helmershof, includes a recreational area

## FRANKENHAIN

### Lütsche dam

The dam was mainly built for the German Railway between 1935 and 1938 to supply the stations Arnstadt, Neudietendorf and Erfurt. The soft water prevented scale development in the steam locomotives. Today the Lütsche dam (named after the river Lütsche) is mostly used for recreation and for a small part to produce energy. Behind the 22 metre high dam lies an approx. 1000 metre long and 300 metre wide reservoir. Today the lake is a popular destination for water sports and also boasts several beaches with sunbathing areas and sports facilities.

**Information:** Tourist Information Frankenhain, see page 29

## FRIEDRICHRODA

### Tourist cave/mine “Marienglashöhle”

This former gypsum mine was developed in 1778 and remained in operation until 1903. In 1784, miners discovered a cave that was almost completely filled with gypsum crystals up to 90 cm long. The colourless and clear crystals were mainly used for decorating chandeliers, altars and paintings, especially of the Virgin Mary, hence the name Marienglas (Mary’s glass). Gypsum production ceased in 1903 and the mine was reopened as a tourist attraction. Today the Marienglashöhle with its 110 m long entrance tunnel and an all-year average temperature of 8–10 °C is a popular tourist attraction in the Thuringian Forest. Some of the more outstanding events in the mine are cave concerts from Rock to Folk and “Underground Weddings”. The GeoInfocentre and two restaurants are located next to the cave entrance.

**Opening hours:** April to October: daily from 10 am – 5 pm, November to March: daily from 10 am – 4 pm

**Contact:** GeoInfocentre at the Marienglashöhle, see page 29

**TIPS Spa park:** with a concert pavilion and a drinking pavilion with spa water from the spring Ludowingerquelle

**Sankt Blasius Church:** attractions include a panel painting (around 1618) created by the Royal painter and student of Cranach, Michael Käseweis from Gotha, a balcony (1719) and organ (1797); the church is one of the oldest buildings of the spa town

**Sports pool Friedrichroda:** listed sports pool (opened 1935) with a 10 m high diving platform (technical monument) and six 50 m lanes; water is obtained from a mineral spring (constant 13.8 °C)

**Recreational pool Finsterbergen:** solar-heated pool directly in the recreational park

**Information and Exhibition Centre Spiritual Tourism:** with exhibition centre and Luther Trail information centre as well as a café in the abbey park Reinhardsbrunn

**Local history museums** in Friedrichroda and Finsterbergen with exhibits related to town and regional history



Museum complex Lohmühle in Georgenthal



Castle Ehrenstein and Park with Baroque garden in Ohrdruf

## GEORGENTHAL

### Lohmühle museum

The Lohmühle lies directly beside the Apfelstädt river. It is a generous complex with museum, guest house and adventure park. The museum houses an original and functional mill mechanism, historic workshops and the original millers apartment and presents special exhibitions covering a variety of topics. The adventure park in the outdoor area is barrier-free and has a childrens water and fossil playground, models of saurians and a 500 m long barefoot walk.

**Opening hours:** Tue / Wed and Fri – Sun from 10 am – 6 pm

**Kontakt:** Lohmühle 1 – 5, 99887 Georgenthal, Tel.: +4936252 46000, [www.lohmuehle.info](http://www.lohmuehle.info)

**TIPS Abbey complex Georgenthal:** former Cistercian Abbey (around 1140 – approx. 1525) with Corn Barn and Lapidarium (collection of artefacts from the abbey ruins), “Witches House”, abbey ponds in the park as well as St Elisabeth Church (early 13th century), one of the oldest Elizabeth churches in Thuringia

**Swimming pool:** with competition, fun and games pool, 70 m–slide and jetstream channel, kids pool, playground, takeaway

**Hammerteich:** boating lake with romantic promenade, rowing and pedal boat rental

## LEINA

### Leina Canal (Industrial monument)

In order to ensure an adequate water supply for the town of Gotha, Landgrave Balthasar von Thüringen constructed this complex canal system between 1366 and 1369. The canal diverts water from the river Leina over 28.6 km from the northern slope of the Thuringian Forest to the higher and water-hungry town. The Leina water was needed for potable water as well as service water and fire water. At the same time the water powered numerous mills. Today the water flows into the ponds of the Gotha Castle Park and the water feature built in 1895 in front of Castle Friedenstein.

The course of the Leina canal has remained nearly unchanged over the centuries. It is a technological masterpiece of medieval engineering. It is represented as a silver wavy line in the coat-of-arms of the town and county of Gotha. The canal is also the theme for GeoRoute 13.

**Contact:** Freundeskreis Leinatal e.V., Helenenstrasse 17, 99867 Gotha, Tel.: +493621 24554, [www.leinkanal.de](http://www.leinkanal.de)

## LUISENTHAL

### Ohra Dam

The dam (holding back 18 million m<sup>3</sup> water) is located on the northern slopes of the Thuringian Forest and is integrated into an excellent network of hiking trails and cycling routes. In operation since 1967, the dam supplies water to central

Thuringia. The dam is 56 m high and offers an excellent view of the dam itself as well as the whole of the Ohra Valley.

**Contact:** Thüringer Fernwasserversorgung, Hammerweg 18, 99885 Luisenthal, Tel.: +4936257 4420, [www.thueringer-fernwasser.de](http://www.thueringer-fernwasser.de)

## OHRDRUF

### Castle Ehrenstein

This two-storey four winged building was built between 1550 and 1590 and is one of the most beautiful Renaissance palaces of central Germany. The Dukes of Gleichen resided here until 1631. Particularly interesting are the decorative gables, bays and entrance gates designed in the style of the Italian masters. A devastating fire on November 26, 2013, destroyed a large part of the palace together with various collections including the famous doll collection. Large-scale renovation began in 2015 and some sections of the palace together with some elaborate exhibitions and a very special multimedia project will probably be re-opened at the end of 2020. The palace will also house another GeoInfocentre with a large geological exhibition featuring the Böttcher Collection. Surrounding the palace is an extensive park with a Baroque garden.

**Contact:** Schlossplatz 1, 99885 Ohrdruf, Tel.: +493624 311438, [www.ohrdruf.de](http://www.ohrdruf.de)

**TIP Museum complex “Industrial monument Tobias hammer“:** built around 1480 this water-powered hammer mill with a functional historic foundry also possesses one of the largest steam engines in Europe (1920); the museum is surrounded by a park and sculpture garden (18,000 m<sup>2</sup>)

## RUHLA

### Miniature Park mini-a-thür

This large park with tiny buildings was opened in 1999 and is the only miniature park in Thuringia. The recreational park (18000 m<sup>2</sup>) with its cascading pond landscape is surrounded by forested and rocky slopes. Here one can see around 120 of the most famous and beautiful buildings in Thuringia (scale 1 : 25). Additional attractions for families include a children’s railway, Mini-Skooter, open-air enclosure and a park restaurant. The adventure toboggan run is just next to the park. The winter exhibition opens every First Advent weekend in the Karolinenstrasse (town centre) focussing on model making.

**Opening hours:** Easter to October 31: daily from 10 am – 6 pm

**Contact:** Karolinenstrasse 46, 99848 Ruhla, Tel.: +4936929 80008, [www.mini-a-thuer.de](http://www.mini-a-thuer.de)

**Note:** the miniature park is in the Geschwister-Scholl-Strasse 32, Tel. +4936929 60904 (during opening hours)

**TIPS Clock museum (cultural monument):** with approx. 1.300 clocks as well as machines and vending machines developed and built in the traditional Ruhla Clock Manufacturers since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Local History and Tobacco Pipe museum:** in addition to the exhibition of local history, the museum has a large collection tobacco pipes made of different materials (incl. Some from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century) that is well worth seeing

**Adventure toboggan run:** single track run, 900 m long, 111 m high, gradient 35 %, maximum speed 40 km/h

**Limestone Cave Kittelstal (OT Thal):** with flowstone structures thousands of years old, including the so-called Pyramid in the large grotto

**Carl-Alexander-Tower:** lookout built in 1897 on the Ringberg (639 m above sea-level), 21 m tall, 111 steps with a perfect view of the Thuringian Forest and the Rhön Mountains

## TAMBACH-DIETHARZ

### Dams

Water and forest, mountains and valleys, rocks and streams – more than anywhere else, this small town on the northern slopes of the Thuringian Forest epitomizes the natural diversity of this region. The town owes its watery wealth mainly to two dams. The **Old Tambach Dam** at the southern outskirts of the town was built in 1905 to supply Gotha with water. This is the oldest dam in Thuringia and is now a listed building. The circular trail around the reservoir is 6 km long. The annual dam concerts in July or August are a famous attraction.

The much larger **Schmalwasser Dam** was built between 1988 and 1993 as a water reservoir for central and north Thuringia and contains 21.4 million m<sup>3</sup> water. This nearly 80 m high and 325 m long rock-fill dam is the highest in Germany and one of the top ten largest constructions of its type in the world.

**Information:** Tourist Information Tambach-Dietharz, see page 29

**TIPS Spitterfall:** highest natural waterfall in Thuringia (approx. 20 m high); **Falkenstein:** climbing rock (96 m high), highest free-standing rock (porphyry) in the Thuringian Forest; **Röllchen:** the only alpine ravine in the Thuringian Forest with a small waterfall, about 800 m from the Falkenstein

**Forest swimming pool:** fed by the clear waters of the mountain stream Spitter, the water quality of this pool is excellent

## WALTERSHAUSEN

### Castle Tenneberg

Castle Tenneberg majestically overlooks the “Doll Town” Waltershausen. Built as a fort at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century by Thuringian landgraves, it has changed hands frequently over the centuries and undergone many radical modifications. It has been a seat of a court, hunting lodge and summer residence for the Dukes of Gotha. The architecture of the castle reflects the styles typical for the Renaissance and Baroque periods. Three Baroque rooms have been preserved, of which the ballroom with paintings by the royal painter Johann Heinrich Ritter of Gotha is the most splendid. Tenneberg also has a particularly



Castle Tenneberg

attractive small castle chapel and a lovely romantic courtyard with a cafe that is surrounded by arcades.

**Opening hours:** April to October: Wed – Sun from 10 am – 5 pm, November / December and February / March: Wed – Sun from 10 am – 4 pm, closed January

**Contact:** Schloss Tenneberg, 99880 Waltershausen, Tel.: +493622 69170, www.waltershausen.de

**TIPS Town Church “Zur Gotteshilfe”:** first and largest baroque centralized church in Thuringia (built 1719–1723), is said to be the architectural precursor for the Frauenkirche in Dresden; the church has room for approx. 1200 people with three balconies and the largest baroque organ in Thuringia (Troost organ, 8 m wide, 9 m high, 2806 pipes); this is one of the most melodious organs of the Bach period; **Recreational centre Gleis3Eck:** modern recreational area with solar-heated outdoor swimming pool, sauna landscape, bowling alley and covered event area (30 × 60 m) that is used as an ice rink in winter

## WINTERSTEIN

### Greifenwarte

#### “Falconry at the Rennsteig”

The falconry is situated between Winterstein and Ruhla and lies directly on the Rennsteig. This is a starting and resting place for falcons, hawks, buzzards, owls, eagles, eagle owls and vultures. The Greifenwarte is an officially recognized species conservation object, intent on breeding, taking care of and reintroducing injured birds of prey. Daily flying demonstrations take place at 3 pm.

**Opening hours:** Tue – Sun from 10.30 am – 12 pm and 1 – 5 pm as well as on all official holidays

**Contact:** Station: Liebensteiner Strasse 108, 99880 Waltershausen / OT Winterstein; Address: Bahnhofstrasse 8, 99842 Ruhla, Tel.: +4936929 80264, +49151 55560376, info@rennsteigfalknerei.de, www.rennsteigfalknerei.de

**TIP Castle ruins Winterstein & Dog’s Grave:** this small knight’s castle (13<sup>th</sup> century) lies in the centre of the village. The visible structures of the medieval castle complex include the ruins of a tower parts of the wall and the famous grave of the dog Stuczel; he, so the story goes, transported the love letters from a knight’s wife to her lover in Gotha. When Stuczel died on March 19, 1630 his owner had a gravestone made, on which it is still possible to read her expression of gratitude and the day of his death.

## GeoInfocentres

### BAD TABARZ

Lookout on the Grosser Inselsberg  
> Exhibition “Summit meeting of  
Flora, Fauna and Fossils – the  
Inselsberg exhibition with a  
view“

99891 Bad Tabarz

Telephone: +4936259 56470  
info@tabarz.de, www.tabarz.de

**Opening hours:**

Apr. to Oct.: daily from 10 am – 4 pm,  
Nov. to March: Wed – Mon from  
10 am – 4 pm

### BROTTERODE-TRUSETAL

GeoInfocentre at the  
Tourist Mine “Grube Hühn“

Eisensteinstrasse 91  
98596 Brotterode-Trusetal  
Telephone: +4936840 81578  
gaesteinformation@  
brotterode-trusetal.de,  
www.tourismus.brotterode-trusetal.de

**Opening hours:** Easter to end of  
Oct. from 10 am – 4.15 pm

### DREI GLEICHEN

Tourist Information und  
GeoInfocentre “Kulturscheune“  
> Exhibition

“Life in the Triassic Sea“

Thomas-Müntzer-Str. 4  
99869 Drei Gleichen/OT Mühlberg  
Telephone: +4936256 22846  
touristinfo-kulturscheune@drei-  
gleichen.de, www.drei-gleichen.de  
**Opening hours:** Apr. to Oct.:  
Wed – Sun from 10 am – 5 pm, Nov. to  
March: Wed – Sun from 10 am – 4 pm,  
open on holidays,  
Closed Dec 24 to Jan. 1

### FRIEDRICHRODA

GeoInfocentre Marienglashöhle  
(along the B 88)

> Exhibition “Life 230 million years  
ago and today“

99894 Friedrichroda  
Telephone: +493623 311667  
info@marienglashoehle.de,  
www.marienglashoehle.de

**Opening hours:**

Apr. to Oct.: daily from 10 am – 5 pm,  
Oct. to March: daily from  
10 am – 4 pm

### OHRDRUF

GeoInfocentre castle Ehrenstein  
(planned Summer 2020)

Schlossplatz 1 · 99885 Ohrdruf  
www.ohrdruf.de

### RUHLA

Naturepark and Tourist Informati-  
on and GeoInfocentre

Neuer Markt 1 · 99842 Ruhla  
Telephone: +4936929 89013  
tourist@ruhla.de, www.ruhla.de

**Opening hours:** Mon, Fri  
10 am – 4 pm, Tue, Wed, Thur  
10 am – 12 pm and 1 am – 4 pm

## Tourist Informations

### ARNSTADT

Tourist Information

Markt 1  
99310 Arnstadt  
Telephone: +493628 602049  
information@arnstadt.de,  
www.arnstadt.de

**Opening hours:** Mon – Fri  
10 am – 6 pm, Sat 10 am – 3 pm,  
holidays 10 am – 5 pm

### BAD LIEBENSTEIN

Naturepark Information Centre  
& GeoInfopoint Castle and Land-  
scape Park Altenstein

Altenstein 4  
36448 Bad Liebenstein/OT Altenstein  
Telephone: +4936961 33401 (AB)  
or +4936961 734118,  
info@schloss-altenstein.de,  
www.schloss-altenstein.de

**Opening hours:** March to Oct.:  
daily from 11 am – 4 pm

### BAD TABARZ

Tourist Information

Lauchgrundstrasse 12 a  
99891 Bad Tabarz  
Telephone: +4936259 5600  
info@tabarz.de, www.tabarz.de

**Opening hours:** daily from  
10 am – 12.30 pm and 1 pm – 5 pm

### BROTTERODE-TRUSETAL

Tourist Information Brotterode

Bad Vilbeler Platz 4  
98596 Brotterode-Trusetal  
Telephone: +4936840-3333  
tourismus@brotterode-trusetal.de,  
www.tourismus.brotterode-trusetal.de

**Opening hours:**  
Mon – Thu 9 am – 12 pm and  
1 am – 5 pm, Fri 9 am – 12 pm and  
1 pm – 4 pm

### FLOH-SELIGENTHAL

Tourist Information

Bahnhofstrasse 4  
98593 Floh-Seligenthal  
Telephone: +493683 408848,  
info@floh-seligenthal.de,  
www.floh-seligenthal.de

**Opening hours:** Mon 9 am – 12 pm,  
Tue 9 am – 12 pm and 1 pm – 4 pm,  
Wed 1 pm – 4 pm, Thu 9 am – 12 pm  
and 1 pm – 5.30 pm, Fri 9 am – 12 pm

### FRANKENHAIN

Tourist Information &  
GeoInfopoint (Heimatstube)

Hauptstrasse 7  
99330 Frankenhain  
Telephone: +4936205 71646  
gemeinde@frankenhain.de,  
www.frankenhain.de

**Opening hours:**  
Mo – Mi 9 am – 12 pm, Thu  
2 pm – 5 pm

### FRIEDRICHRODA

Tourist Information

Hauptstrasse 55  
99894 Friedrichroda  
Telephone: +493623 33200  
info@friedrichroda.de,  
www.friedrichroda.de

**Opening hours:** Mon – Thu  
9 am – 5 pm, Fri 9 am – 6 pm, Sat  
9 am – 12 pm

### FINSTERBERGEN

Tourist Information

Rennsteigstrasse 17  
99894 Friedrichroda/  
OT Finsterbergen  
Telephone: +493623 36420  
info@finsterbergen.de,  
www.finsterbergen.de

**Opening hours:**  
Mon – Fri 9 am – 12.30 pm and  
1 pm – 5 pm

### GEORGENTHAL

Tourist Information &  
GeoInfopoint at municipality  
house Thuringian Forest

Bahnhofstr. 8  
99887 Georgenthal  
Telephone: +4936253 469755  
info@georgenthal.de,  
www.georgenthal.de

**Opening hours:**  
Apr. to Oct.: Mon, Fri 9.30 am – 2 pm,  
Tue 9.30 am – 12.30 pm and  
1 am – 6 am, Closed Wed, Thu  
9.30 am – 12.30 pm and 1 pm – 5 pm,  
Sat 10 am – 12 pm (Apr. to Oct.)

### OHRDRUF

Naturepark and Tourist  
Information at pavilion Ohrdruf

Suhler Strasse 5c  
99885 Ohrdruf  
Telephone: +493624 317949  
info-pavillon@ohrdruf.de,  
www.ohrdruf.de

**Opening hours:** Mon, Tue  
9 am – 3 pm, Fri 9 am – 6 pm

### TAMBACH-DIETHARZ

Tourist Information

Burgstallstr. 31a  
99897 Tambach-Dietharz  
Telephone: +4936252 34428  
tourismus@tambach-dietharz.de,  
www.tambach-dietharz.de

**Opening hours:** Mon – Fri  
10 am – 12 pm and 1 pm – 5 pm

### WALTERSHAUSEN

Tourist Information

Brauhausgasse 2  
99889 Waltershausen  
Telephone: +493622 630113  
stadtinfo@stadt-waltershausen.de,  
www.waltershausen.de

**Opening hours:** Mon – Thu  
9 am – 12 pm, Fri 9 am – 1 pm, Mon/  
Wed 1 pm – 3 pm, Tue 1 pm – 6 pm,  
Thu 1 pm – 5 pm

## Further GeoInfopoints

### BAD TABARZ:

Rock park (GeoRoute 8)

### FLOH-SELIGENTHAL:

Interactive rock park (GeoRoute 1)

### GEORGENTHAL:

Lohmühle Museum (GeoRoute 6)

### GÜNTHERSLEBEN:

Museum for Regional History and  
Geology (GeoRoutes 5 and 15)

### KLEINSCHMALKALDEN:

Interactive rock park (GeoRoute 14)

### LEINATAL/ALTENBERGEN:

Campsite Paulfeld/under construc-  
tion (GeoRoute 11)

### SCHWABHAUSEN:

Rock park near the Longhouse  
(GeoRoutes 5 and 15)

## Regional Information

**Tourismusverband Thüringer  
Wald Gothaer Land e.V.**

Reuterstrasse 2  
99867 Gotha  
Telephone: +493621 363111  
info@tourismus-thueringer-wald.de,  
www.tourismus-thueringer-wald.de  
**Opening hours:**  
Mon – Fri 10 am – 4 pm

**National GeoPark  
Thuringia Inselsberg –  
Drei Gleichen**

**GeoPark Management Office  
e.t.a. Sachverständigenbüro Reyer**  
Haarbergstrasse 37  
99097 Erfurt  
Telephone: +49361 4229000  
info@thueringer-geopark.de,  
www.thueringer-geopark.de

### GeoPark-Geologist

Hauptstrasse 55  
99894 Friedrichroda  
Telephone: +493623 332014  
geologe@thueringer-geopark.de,  
www.thueringer-geopark.de

## Partners:





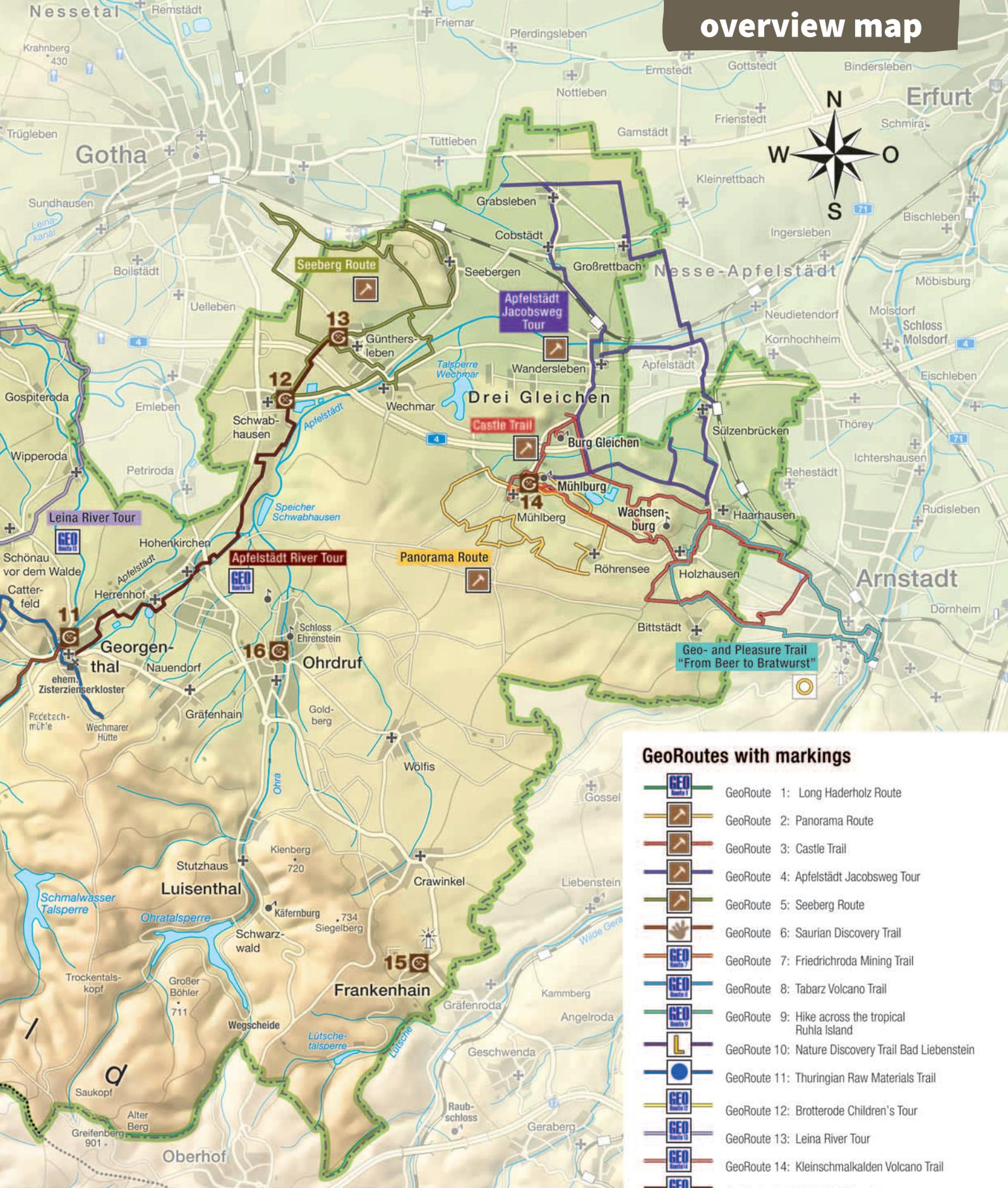
# GeoRoutes in the National GeoPark Thüringia Inselberg – Drei Gleichen



**Enhance your GeoPark experience and book a certified GeoPark Guide.**

## Geofocentres/Geofocpoints

- |          |   |           |   |
|----------|---|-----------|---|
| <b>1</b> | Ruhla: Naturepark and Tourist information   | <b>7</b>  | Kleinschmalkalden: Interactive rock park GeoRoute 14                    |
| <b>2</b> | Bad Liebenstein: Naturepark information centre castle and landscape park Altenstein | <b>8</b>  | Floh-Seligenthal: Interactive rock park GeoRoute 1                      |
| <b>3</b> | Trusetal: Tourist mine "Grube Hühn"   | <b>9</b>  | Leinatal: Campsite Paulfeld (in progress)                               |
| <b>4</b> | Bad Tabarz: Rock park in the spa park Arenarisque                                   | <b>10</b> | International tetrapod fossil site Bromacker and Lohmühle museum        |
| <b>5</b> | Friedrichroda: Tourist cave/mine "Marienglashöhle"                                  | <b>11</b> | Georgenthal: municipality house "Thuringian Forest"/Tourist information |
| <b>6</b> | Lookout with exhibition on the Grosser Inselberg                                    | <b>12</b> | Schwabhausen: Rock park at the Longhouse                                |



## GeoRoutes with markings

-  GeoRoute 1: Long Haderholz Route
-  GeoRoute 2: Panorama Route
-  GeoRoute 3: Castle Trail
-  GeoRoute 4: Apfelstädt Jacobsweg Tour
-  GeoRoute 5: Seeberg Route
-  GeoRoute 6: Saurian Discovery Trail
-  GeoRoute 7: Friedrichroda Mining Trail
-  GeoRoute 8: Tabarz Volcano Trail
-  GeoRoute 9: Hike across the tropical Ruhla Island
-  GeoRoute 10: Nature Discovery Trail Bad Liebenstein
-  GeoRoute 11: Thuringian Raw Materials Trail
-  GeoRoute 12: Brotterode Children's Tour
-  GeoRoute 13: Leina River Tour
-  GeoRoute 14: Kleinschalkalden Volcano Trail
-  GeoRoute 15: Apfelstädt River Tour
-  GeoRoute 16: Trusetal Mining Trail
-  GeoRoute 17: Geo- and Pleasure Trail "From Beer to Bratwurst"
-  Boundary National GeoPark Thuringia Inselsberg - Drei Gleichen

- 13**  Günthersleben: Infocentre for regional history and geology
- 14**  Community of Drei Gleichen: Kulturscheune Mühlberg
- 15**  Frankenhain: Heimatstube
- 16**  Castle Ehrenstein Ohrdruf (in progress)

-  Church
-  Abbey ruins
-  Castle, Fort
-  Castle ruins
-  Lookouts
-  Special landscape

 Tourist cave, Tourist mine

0 5 km



[www.thueringer-geopark.de](http://www.thueringer-geopark.de)  
[www.tourismus-thueringer-wald.de](http://www.tourismus-thueringer-wald.de)

