



World culture and world history in Eisenach at the foot of the Wartburg

At the Wartburg and in the lovely historic city of Eisenach, visitors meet world-renowned personalities at every turn.

Since 1999, Wartburg has been the only German castle so far belonging to the UNESCO World Heritage. It is connected with the courtly art of the Middle Ages and with the life and works of Saint Elisabeth. At this place, Martin Luther – hidden as Junker Jörg – has translated the New Testament. The fraternities celebrated the Wartburg festival here in 1817 and Richard Wagner was inspired to create his opera “Tannhäuser“. The performance thereof in the atmospheric ballroom has been a unique experience for music enthusiasts from all over the world for the past 15 years just like the concerts of Deutschlandfunk Kultur (German radio station “Culture”) and of the mdr-Musiksommer (mdr music summer). Anybody who loves romantic Christmas markets gets his money’s worth on the Advent weekends.

Even a long time before the famous protective custody at the Wartburg, Martin Luther had stayed as Latin-learning pupil in “his beloved city” of Eisenach for three years. His parents had sent him to this place in preparation for his studies, hoping that their relatives would accommodate him. This hope turned out to be delusory – as choirboy, the boy had to “sing in front of the doors in order to beg for alms”, before he found a loving home with the Cotta family in today’s Luther House. The permanent exhibition in one of the oldest and most beautiful half-timbered buildings in Thuringia is focussing on Bible translations and the effects thereof on literature, music and language.

Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach on 21 March 1685. The worldwide largest Bach museum every hour offers live concerts with historical instruments. The baptismal font in St. Georgen is one of the most important original testimonies of his life. In this church, four Bachs sat on the organ bench over a period of 132 years. And Pachelbel, Telemann, Wagner and Liszt established Eisenach’s reputation as one of the centres of music in Europe, as well.

In the Reuter Villa, you feel transferred into the time when the Netherland poet Fritz Reuter spent the last years of his life. Furthermore, the Villa accommodates the second largest Wagner collection of the world. The Thuringian Museum also includes the “Predigerkirche” (Evangelist Church) with a collection of mediaeval sacred art as well as the City Palace which among other things presents Thuringian Porcelain.

The Eisenach state theatre shows modern dance theatre with its ballet ensemble, and the “Junge Schauspiel” (Young Spectacle) has its focus on theatre for children and young people. In cooperation with the Meiningen State Theatre, the Rudolstadt

EISENACH

DIE WARTBURGSTADT

Eisenach-Wartburgregion Touristik GmbH - Markt 24 - 99817 Eisenach



Theatre and the Thuringian Philharmonic Orchestra Gotha-Eisenach, a versatile repertoire is offered to the public.

Technically interested people should not miss the Museum "automobile welt eisenach". Since 120 years, automobiles have been built in Eisenach. Where once the Wartburg rolled off the production line, vehicles such as the Wartburg motor vehicle and Dixi, BMW and EMW as well as the Wartburg and models of today's Opel production are now shown.

An insider tip: embedded in an enchanting landscape, in the 19th century, one of the largest and most beautiful exclusive residential areas in Europe was developed with magnificent villas in all varieties of historicism in the south of Eisenach. This in particular emphasizes the symbiosis of the city with the graceful landscape.



Foto: Tobias Kromke