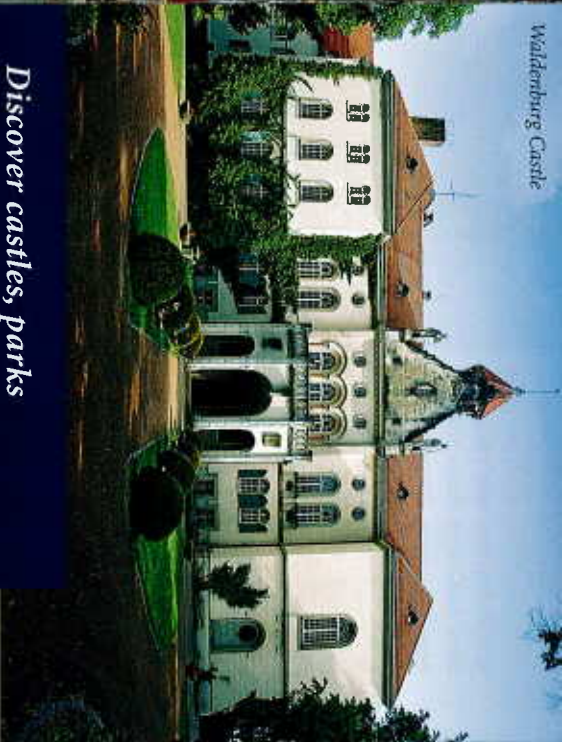




Dive into the Cultural Heart of Germany!

www.altenburg-tourismus.de

Waldenburg Castle



Discover castles, parks and historical cities

During the time of Napoleon there were no less than 16 formal states on the territory of today's Thuringia. None of the them was as important as the neighbouring kingdom of Saxony, but all Dukes and Princes prided themselves with opulent castles, palaces and parks. The many little towns of the region are jewels of German architecture with half-timbered houses, cobble-stone streets and an inviting atmosphere.

Wartburg Eisenach

UNESCO World Heritage Wartburg Castle is one of Germany's most famous and oldest castles. Important historic events at Wartburg Castle include the legendary medieval "Battle of the Bards" and the translation of the Bible by Martin Luther. You will be fascinated with magnificent rooms and the majestic setting. Today there are annual highlights such as concerts, exhibitions and a historic Christmas market.



Eisenach – Wartburg Castle

Gotha

In Gotha visitors walk close to the history of the English Royal family. Friedenstein Castle is one of the largest Baroque complexes in Germany with the oldest standing Baroque theatre in the world.

Goethe-Schiller Monument in Weimar



Meet cultural celebrities

The region is the cradle of Germany's cultural identity in many ways. The great Gothic cathedrals of the Ottonian and Stauffer Emperors, the Reformation of Martin Luther, Johann Sebastian Bach and most other important German musicians, the creation of a classical German literature, the movement of the Romantics and the nationalist student fraternities, the invention of Modernity with the Bauhaus – all this happened in Thuringia, Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt – the cultural heart of Germany which invites you to meet cultural giants "at home".

Goethe, Leipzig and Weimar

As you approach Leipzig you can see the gigantic Monument to the Battle of the Nations from a distance. It commemorates the victory over Napoleon in 1813. Admire one of the most beautiful Renaissance city halls in Germany and stroll through the merchants passages in the city center before you try local specialties in "Auerbach's Keller". Goethe was fascinated by the magic of this place and included it with a scene in his famous "Faust" drama.

Goethe spent most of his life in Weimar, which in many ways represents German history. With 16 UNESCO sites it belongs on the top of your visitation list. Enter the houses of the great poets Goethe and Schiller, take a horse-drawn carriage through the lovely old town, take a walk in the parks and visit one of the many exhibitions, the beautifully restored Duchess Anna Amalia Library or the Bauhaus sites. The former concentration camp Buchenwald is now an important memorial.



Leipzig – Monument to the Battle of the Nations

entdecken in Upgrades Map



Get Active

In less than an hour's drive you will find some of the most beautiful German forests to hike or ski. The Rennsteig is Germany's oldest hiking trail on the crest of the Thuringian Forest. The Ore Mountains, the "Erzgebirge" and the Vogtland to the borders of Poland and the Czech Republic are favourites of the locals with scenic views and well marked trails. Backcountry camping is permitted.

Biking along the large rivers of Saale and Elbe is much fun. More adventure awaits those travelling on a canoe along Mulde or Elster rivers. Gold can be found in the Werra and sailing is great on large quarry ponds.

A wide landscape dotted with neat villages, imposing castles and large farmsteads offers a relaxed background with a small surprise waiting around every corner.

Family fun

Parents and kids alike will love the Leipzig Zoo with its many natural habitats. In the Planetarium in the "City of Science" Jena the newest technology provides an astounding insight into space and spectacular shows. A ride with the coal miners train in Meuselwitz near Altenburg brings back past times as does the "Weltentor", a medieval game town. BELANTIS south of Leipzig is a fascinating theme park which illustrates entire continents, long past cultures and epochs just like an over



Leipzig – BELANTIS theme park

dimensional map with rapid rides, fascinating shows and beautiful scenery. Discover the world and its most important buildings in one day in the astounding Miniwelt miniature park in Lichtenstein.

All about cars: Zwickau

August Horch (lat.: Audi) was one of the founding fathers of Germany's car industry. The old Audi factory now houses the August Horch Automobile Museum of Zwickau. In a very entertaining way it documents cars of more than 100 years of automotive history. To get the "East experience" join a "Trabant" tour through Zwickau. Motorcycle Grand Prix races take place on the "Sachsenring" near Zwickau.



Zwickau – August Horch Museum

Coal miners' train



Posterstein Castle

The 800-year-old fortress Posterstein high up on a protruding rock is situated in the Thuringian valley of the river Sprotte, surrounded by a green landscape. In clear weather you have a beautiful view from the 25 metres high many old half-timbered houses up to the adjacent chapel you can admire exceptional baroque wood carvings from the 17th century. The permanent exhibitions of the museum mainly offer inside in the cultural history of the region and the castle. Another big part of the exhibition is about the history of the salon of the duchess of Kurland. In the beginning of the 19th century duchess Anna Dorothea of Kurland (1761–1821) owned two castles near Posterstein (Löbichau and Tannenfeld). The sophisticated duchess had excellent contacts to the highest social circles in Europe and knew Metetrnich, Alexander I, Friedrich Wilhelm III, Napoleon and Talleyrand personally.

Tue – Sat: 10 am – 5 pm, Sun: 10 am – 6 pm (Nov – Feb one hour shorter)



Mittelalterspektakel auf Burg Posterstein

Unbedingt erleben Discover!

Jedes Jahr zu Pfingsten: 3-tägiges Mittelalterspektakel auf Burg Posterstein mit Ritterturnier, Mittelaltermarkt, Musik und Gauklern

Every year at Whitsun: 3 days Middle Ages festival on Posterstein castle with knight's tournaments, medieval market, music and tumblers

Tip: Leipziger Neuseenland

South of Leipzig a whole former coal mining area is being transformed into a breathtaking lake country. The newest attraction in the Leipziger Neuseenland is the white water slide in the Canoe park at the lake Markkleeberg. For beginners there are special rafting tours with a guide. Have a sunbather on the pier after a day of surfing at Cospudener See and bike back to Leipzig for a night of clubbing.



Leipziger Neuseenland – Canoe Park Markkleeberg