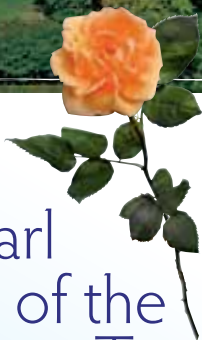




GOTHA
Residenzstadt

At a glance
with midtown map



The Pearl
of the
Thuringian Town Chain



Gotha

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Welcome!

Discover the historic beauties of Gotha!



Rose "Gotha"

The residential city Gotha is located in the green heart of Germany, in Thuringia – a town with the special flair of history and future. Gotha is the former capital and residential city of the Dukedom Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. Marked by a brilliant history the town has its own aura: the historic centre and the Friedenstein Castle - Germany's biggest Early-Baroque castle complex with a park - landmarks and at the same time impressive events. Wide park areas in English style, the Orangery, the Friedenstein Castle, the Ducal Museum, the today's Museum of Nature as well as bourgeois houses are fascinating the visitors.

Whether an individual visit or a guided city tour – the flair of the pompous past can be felt still today!



Gotha

History and Personalities

Villa Gotaha

The "Villa Gotaha" was first mentioned in a document issued by Charlemagne, king of the Franks, in the year 775, and is thus one of the oldest settlements in Thuringia. One of the most important East-West trade routes, the "Hohe Strasse (high street), went past the settlement on the so-called "good water". Gotha has enjoyed a town charter since the 12th century and, with its fortified castle, very early achieved its strategic importance as the seat of the Thuringian landgraves.

Middle Ages

Due to its exceptional location, medieval Gotha became one of the most important centres for trade in Thuringia. In particular the trade with woad, a colouring plant, brought the citizens a good income and modest prosperity. Even today the splendid town-houses on the central market square (Hauptmarkt) are testimony to this era. The history of the town was shaped by important personalities. Apart from the reformers Martin Luther and Frederick Myconius the educationalist Andreas Reyher, whose "Gotha School Methodology" was one of the first school regulations in Germany, worked in Gotha.



Siege of Grimmenstein 1567



Gotha about 1738, by Matthaeus Seutter

of the Residential City

18th and 19th centuries

"City of Natural Sciences and Arts" is a nickname justifiably earned by the ducal seat of Gotha. Apart from the geologist and explorer Karl Ernst Adolf von Hoff (1771-1837), the astronomer Baron Franz Xaver von Zach (1754-1832), Johann Franz Encke (1791-1865) and Peter Andreas Hansen (1795-1874) also worked in Gotha.



Bourgeois houses on Schlossberg

Until 1943 the geographic publishing house founded by Justus Perthes in 1785 released the Gotha dictionary of the German nobility, world-famous as the "Gotha". With maps and atlases from Gotha the world view got a new colour.

In 1820 and 1827, respectively, the merchant Ernst Wilhelm Arnoldi (1778-1841) founded the first nationwide fire insurance bank and the first cooperative life insurance bank of Germany. In 1826 Josef Meyer (1796-1856) founded the Bibliographic Institute, one of the largest publishers of dictionaries in Germany and publisher of the encyclopaedia "Meyer's Universal-Lexikon", which is still in existence.

The composers Gottfried Heinrich Stölzel (1690-1749) and Louis Spohr, the philologist Frederick Jacobs (1764-1847), the sculptor Frederick William Doell (1750-1816), the poet Frederick William Gotter (1746-1817), the historian and "Father of the Howler" Johann Georg August Galletti (1750-1828), the geologist Ernst Frederick von Schlotheim (1764-1832) and the founder of modern palaeontology Johann Gottfried Geissler (1726-1800) are inextricably linked with the international aura of the town.

Gotha

History of the Residential City

▶ Important conferences took place in Gotha. The "Deutsche Schützenbund", the confederation of German shooting clubs, was founded in the "Stadthalle" ballroom in 1861 and the workers' parties of Ferdinand Lassalle and August Bebel united to form the "Sozialistische Arbeiterpartei Deutschlands" (Socialist Workers' Party of Germany) in 1875.

The industrialisation recognised Gotha as an important location of engineering, food industry as well as automobile- and waggon industry. In Gotha even aeroplanes have been built.

Interesting architectonic solutions from that time can be found on the outskirts of the old town.

After the tragedies and heavy destructions of the Second World War, the difficult years of reconstruction began. From 1950 to 1990 the townscape changed noticeably and new residential areas sprang up on the outskirts of the town.



The Gotha Aristocracy History

More sustainably than all other wars the house Saxe-Coburg and Gotha "conquered" the European monarchical houses. From this house emerged the royal dynasties in Belgium, Portugal, Bulgaria and Great Britain in direct male succession. Descendants of Coburg-Gotha princes and princesses married into the imperial houses of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia, the royal houses in Sweden, Greece, Spain and Norway, Italy, France and Denmark.

From 1837 to 1901 Queen Victoria had the regency over the British Empire for more than 63 years. Prince Consort Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha was her great love for the whole life. The house Saxe-Coburg and Gotha reigned now over the British Empire.

In 1837 Queen Victoria came to government and died in 1901 as Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and as Empress of India.

The successful wedding policy of her uncle was continued under her regency. Children and grandchildren of the "Grandmother of Europe" reigned almost throughout Europe. A guarantor for European peace as she and her Consort believed.

Gotha

Aristocracy History



Albert, Prince consort of Great Britain Prince of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha (1819-1861)



Queen Victoria of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India (1819- 1901)

After the death of Victoria reigned her oldest son as Edward VII. and after 1910 his son as George V. George's cousin, Emperor Wilhelm II., was also a grandchild of the Queen Victoria and one of Wilhelm's nephews was Duke Carl Eduard of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. The second son of the English Queen, Alfred, became in 1893 the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha and reigned over the Dukedom for seven years. In 1914 the First World War began – as a consequence and from public pressure the British Royal House gave up its German name and renamed into "House Windsor".

However, it is not only this root which connects this monarchical house of the island with Gotha. Already much more earlier Frederick, the Prince of Wales, came for his bride to Gotha. The English heir to the throne felt in love with the Gotha Princess Augusta of Saxe-Gotha and married her on 27th April 1736 in London.

Augusta is the mother of the first English King who was also born in England. George III. was born on 4th June 1737.

Due to his early death Prince Frederick could not ascend the throne himself. His bereaved wife completely dedicated herself to her children, the care of family relations to Gotha and the English garden art. She inspired her nephew – the Duke of Gotha Ernst II. – so that in Gotha the first English Landscape Park on the continent was created. The park can be experienced still today with newly-grown beauty.



Gotha

Friedenstein Castle

Thuringia's stone crown – Friedenstein Castle

Located in the middle of a spacious park and like a stone crown high above Gotha the Friedenstein Castle belongs to the most impressive German castle areas. Its unique collections make the museums of the foundation "Schloss Friedenstein" to an attraction with international importance.

1643, at the end of the Thirty Years' War, Duke Ernst I. ("the Pious") of Saxe-Gotha laid the foundation for a building – its name was a programme at this inhospitable time: Friedenstein. Already after 13 years the Castle was completed – it is said that it has so many rooms as the year counts days. At first the monument was surrounded by protective walls. At the end of the 18th century the fortifications were grinded (only the casemates are kept and can be partially visited). A park area was created which is the oldest English Garden on the continent and enjoys the attention not only from garden friends. The Orangery Garden is the oldest and loveliest part. Coming down from the Castle the visitor can experience the park like a blooming amphitheatre in summer.

To the south of the Castle the Ducal Museum is located, which was built at the end of the 19th century. Today the Museum of Nature is accommodated here. Based on the Ducal Natural Produce Cabinet it shows today for example exhibitions about the Thuringian Forest, protection of species and the famous Tambach Native Saurians.

The magnificent museum building stands for appreciation of art, interest in research and the joy to collect of the Gotha Dukes who made their residence to an island of muse. Its universal demand can be felt still today: beside the research library, which also accommodates the Ducal book stock in the Castle, the Thuringian State Archive is also located – since many centuries a place for state files. The Castle Church and the baroque Ekhof Theatre are also kept. The original stage technology of the theatre functions still today and can be experienced during the Summer Ekhof Festival.





www.stiftungfriedenstein.de

The magnificent representation rooms of Friedenstein Castle are an attraction for all visitors – from the baroque ballroom and the classical chambers to the rooms with a balcony built in 1820 – all rooms of the Castle reflect the art epochs. The art collections of the Castle Museum, which are part of the Ducal art chamber, offer different works of art: Egyptian mummies, antique vases, traditional German paintings by Cranach, the famous "Gotha lovers", a big collection of Dutch paintings, the biggest Houdon collection outside France, a big collection of porcelain from Thuringia, Meissen and Asia, a huge coin collection, art of the 20th century – these are only some objects with a wonderful art variety.

The Museum for Regional History and Folklore illustrates the history of Gotha and Gotha County. First of all it shows the everyday life of the citizens – thus it meaningfully completes the pomp of the historic Castle rooms.

The importance of the areas of the Friedenstein Castle as a cultural heritage of an international level is caused by the continuity of the ensemble of Castle, Castle church, theatre, library, archive, scientific collections, art collections and park since the early-baroque period which hardly cannot be experienced in that way anywhere else.

Gotha

Sights/Midtown map



1

Tourist Information Gotha/Gotha County

Opening hours

Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (May to September)



Historic Townhall

2

The townhall was built in 1574 according to the Grumbachschen Händeln (1567) as a massive building with Renaissance façade. Today it is the seat of the Lord Mayor.

Townhall Tower

Opening hours: every day 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Entrance fee: 0,50 € p.p.



Lower Main Market, Guild Hall

3

In 1820 E. W. Arnoldi has acquired the house for the grocers' guild. Already in 1818 he founded the first German commercial school in this building.



New Market, Margarethen Church

4

Since 1675 the Protestant City Church has been the grave of family Duke Ernst I. of Saxe-Gotha-Altenburg and is often used as a concert church with a Schuke organ.

Tower of Margarethen Church

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

with prior appointment



Butter Market

5

The name comes from the history when regional farmers sold their meat- and dairy products. All three market places show historic own labels as a symbol of families or the handcraft and house portals from Baroque and Renaissance.



Augustinian Church, Augustinian Street 7

Built as a Monastery Church the Augustinian Church was a part of the Monastery area of the monks of the Augustinian Eremite Order. Still today the beautiful Gothic Cloister from 1366 reminds of this time. It is the only one kept monastery area in the county.



From 1675 to 1680 the inside of the church was rebuilt and baroqueized under Duke Ernst I.. A commemorative plaque reminds of several sermons of the Augustinian monk Martin Luther. The reformer Frederick Myconius, who was a friend of Martin Luther and died in Gotha in 1546, is buried here.



Cranach – House and pump station, 8

Main Market 17

In the two-storey baroque building Cranach's wife was born. The family double coat of arms is on the right side of the portal. (Cranach's winged snake, Cranach's son-in-law Dasch, a bag). In the cellar of the house is located the pump station for the water art from 1895 is located.

A visit is possible on request
+49 (0) 3621 5078570.



Water Art 11

The Leina Canal built in the 14th century for water supply was used at the end of the 19th century for water arts.



Friedenstein Castle 10

It is Germany's biggest Early-Baroque castle complex. The historic continuity of the ensemble of Castle, park, church, theatre, library, archive and royal collections, which can be felt still today, is noticeable. Behind the simple exterior facade pompous royal chambers are hidden.



The origin of the much-vaunted art collections is in the Ducal Art Chamber which combined natural-history objects, works of art and curious things. Today there are Egyptian finds such as antique things, paintings by Cranach, sculptures of classicism, a huge coin collection, porcelain from Asia and Thuringia as well as modern art in the Castle museum.



„Thüringer Städtekette“
Bahnlinie — Buslinie

BAB 4

The most famous painting is "Gotha Lovers" which was created by the "Master of the Amsterdam Cabinet" around 1480 (the name is not known).



Opening hours of the castle and museums:

Tuesday to Sunday

May to October 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

November to April 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Castle guided tours:

Tuesday to Sunday 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.



In the western tower of the Castle the Museum for regional history and folklore tells the history of Gotha and its inhabitants. Special exhibitions show different facets of moving centuries from the first beginnings up to the recent time.



In the western tower the famous baroque Ekhof Theatre is also accommodated, which has an original and fully functional stage machinery. Thus the scenery can be changed within a few seconds. During the Summer Ekhof Festival the theatre can be visited in full action.



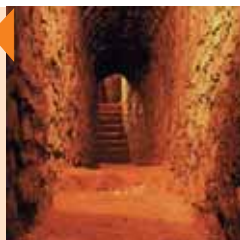
Museum of Nature 14

To the south of the Castle the Ducal Museum, which was built at the end of the 19th century, is located. Today the Museum of Nature is accommodated here. Based on the Ducal Natural Produce Cabinet it shows today for example exhibitions about the Thuringian Forest, protection of species and the famous Tambach Native Saurians.



Casemates 12

The strongest baroque fortification in Middle Germany was built from 1655 to 1672. The constructions which lie today below the park show underground embrasure chambers, rifle galleries, back defences, conterminal shafts, elevator shafts and much more. Thus the 300 m long tour becomes an archaeological discovery journey.



Castle Park with Orangery 16

The Orangery Garden is the oldest and loveliest part of the park area which is the oldest English Garden on the continent and enjoys the attention not only from garden friends. Coming down from the Castle the visitor can experience the park like a blooming amphitheatre in summer.



Hospital Mariae-Magdalенаe, Brühl 18

In 1221/23 Holy Elisabeth of Thuringia has built a hospital here. The current building with the baroque portal originates from the 18th century.



Birthplace of Ernst Wilhelm Arnoldi 19 Main Market 37

The founder of Gotha life- and fire insurance was born here in 1778.



Tivoli, Am Tivoli 3 24

Memorial place "Gotha Party Congress 1875" with historic hall. Since then the Tivoli has been the birthplace of the German Social Democracy.



Rohrbach Observatory, Galbergweg 12 23

Zoo 34 Töpfler Weg 2

Open: every day
Summer 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Winter 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Interim time 9. a.m. to 5 p.m.



Gotha

Guest guided tours

Guided tours for individual tourists

Public guided tours for individual tourists through the historic old town

All year round: Saturday 2 p.m.

April to October

Wednesday 11 a.m. Friday 2 p.m.

Saturday 2 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m.

Start: Townhall at Main Market

Time: 2 hours

Price: Adults 3,00 € p.p..

Public guided tours through the historic pomp rooms of Friedenstein Castle

All year round Tuesday to Sunday
11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Time: 1 hour

Price: 1,-€ p.p. plus entrance fee

Guided tours through the casemates of Friedenstein Castle (max. 10 persons)

All year round Tuesday to Sunday
1 p.m.

Tickets at castle ticket office,
+49 (0) 3621 82 34 51

Time: about 45 min

Price: 3,50 € p.p.

Groups: 35,00 € possible at any time

Registration: +49 (0) 3621 5078570





Upper Main Market



Ballroom, Friedenstein Castle

City- and park guided tours for groups

City guided tours for groups

Appointments and meeting points for the city guided tour can be individually agreed. For guests arriving by bus we recommend as meeting point the old town because it offers a near, easily reachable and free bus parking lot in the Park Avenue.

For groups with wheelchair users we offer a special tour through the historic old town.

Park guided tours for groups

The English Garden in Gotha in its basic elements, with Park Pond, Merkur Temple and the "Holy Island", was kept until today and is an unique jewel among Europe's park areas.

Price:	up to 20 persons	40,00 €
	from 21 persons	2,00 € p.p.
Time:	2 hours,	
	each further hour	20,00 €



Merkur Temple in the first English Garden on the continent

City- and Castle Guided Tours for Groups

Castle Guided Tours for groups (max. 30 persons)

Visit to the Castle Museum with the historic pomp rooms and the Ekhof Theatre (except Monday)

Price: up to 20 persons 30,- € plus entrance fee
from 21 persons 1,50 € p.p. plus entrance fee

Entrance: up to 20 persons / Adults: 5,00 € p.p.
Pensioners: 4,00 € p.p.
from 21 persons / Adults: 4,00 € p.p.
Pensioners: 3,50 € p.p.

Time: 1,5 hours reduced: 2,00 € p.p.

Combined city- and castle guided tours for groups

Prices: please see below "City- and Castle guided tours"

Time: about 3,5 hours (on request with break)



Schellen Well



City guided tours for children

As a special service we offer an age-related discovery journey for children groups (up to 7th class) through the historic old town.

Price: 15,00 € (max. 20 participants)

Time: 1 hour

Thematic guided tours

- Legendary Gotha at night
- Guided tours through the trap room of the Ekhof Theatre
- Own labels are telling stories
- On the traces of Gotha's personalities

Foreign languages

English, French, Russian, Polish

The flat rate surcharge for foreign-language and thematic guided tours is 10,50 €.

Travel Companionship for Groups

Companionship of your trip with the Thuringian Forest Line to Waltershausen, Friedrichroda, Tabarz and to the Marienglas cave
For registration and prices please call +49 (0) 3621 43 10

All-day travel companionship in the own bus

- Thuringian Forest round trips such as Oberhof, Rennsteig, Mountain "Großer Inselsberg", Meiningen, Lauscha
 - To the destinations of your choice in Thuringia such as Eisenach with visit to Wartburg or to Erfurt and Weimar
 - Into the National Park "Hainich" to the treetop path
 - Bad Langensalza with Japanese Garden, Rose Garden and Botanic Garden
 - To the world-famous sports complexes in the nearby located Winter Sports Centre Oberhof – biathlon stadium, toboggan run, ski jump
 - Bach Place Wechmar with Bach Main House and Burgenland "Drei Gleichen"
- Price: 20,00 € per hour plus entrance fee

The placing of guided tours is free of charge for the client. There are no legal claims towards the placement officer. Please send your orders to the Tourist-Information Gotha/Gotha County on time. The waiting time of the guide is up to one hour after appointment. The cancellation period is two working days before the agreed appointment – otherwise an expense flat rate to the amount of 16,- EUR can be demanded. All prices are subject to change.

Gotha Enjoying & shopping

In Gotha the historic buildings are connected with modern trade and a varied gastronomy. A lot of small shops and boutiques beside two big department stores invite you to go strolling and shopping. Restaurants, cafes, bars and pubs spoil you with a varied offer of Thuringian specialities or upper gastronomy.

Who wants to have an accommodation in Gotha can find a varied offer for every demand – whether in a four-star-hotel or in a comfortable guest house. Everywhere you will find the famous Thuringian hospitality.

Bookings: www.gotha.de



Gotha Events



The Gothardus Festival

First Weekend in May, in the city of Gotha

Gotha Whitsun Concerts

Whitsun weekend

”Culture Night“

June, in all museums of the city

EKHOF - FESTIVAL

June - August, Ekhof-Theater, Friedenstein Castle

The Baroque Festival

last weekend in August, Friedenstein Castle

International metal designer meeting

Autumn market, in October, in the city of Gotha

Christmas Market

December, in the city of Gotha



Baroque Festival, audience in the ballroom



Culture night

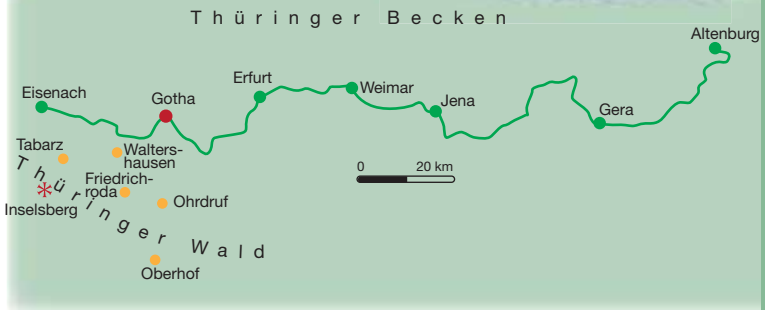
Gotha Cycle Tours

Cycle Trail "Thuringian Town Chain"

The cycle trail "Thuringian Town Chain" connects seven of the most beautiful towns in Thuringia and presents attractive regions and historic midtowns.

The partial route around Gotha takes you through attractive landscapes.

Cultural highlights make the tour to an unforgettable event. Advanced sportsmen can make a side-trip to the Rennsteig Cycle Trail through the Thuringian Forest.



The Route:

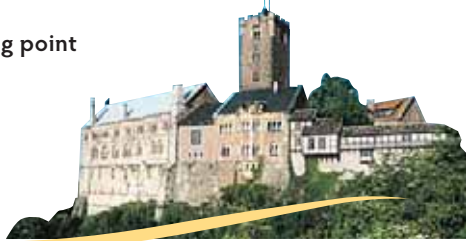
The cycle trail "Thuringian Town Chain" is suitable for beginners, leisure cyclists and families with children. It is mainly asphalted and partially leads via nature paths and through the lightly hilly countryside of Thuringia.

Distance: 225 km

Gotha

Excursion Destinations

Gotha is the ideal starting point for many excursions.



Wartburg, Eisenach

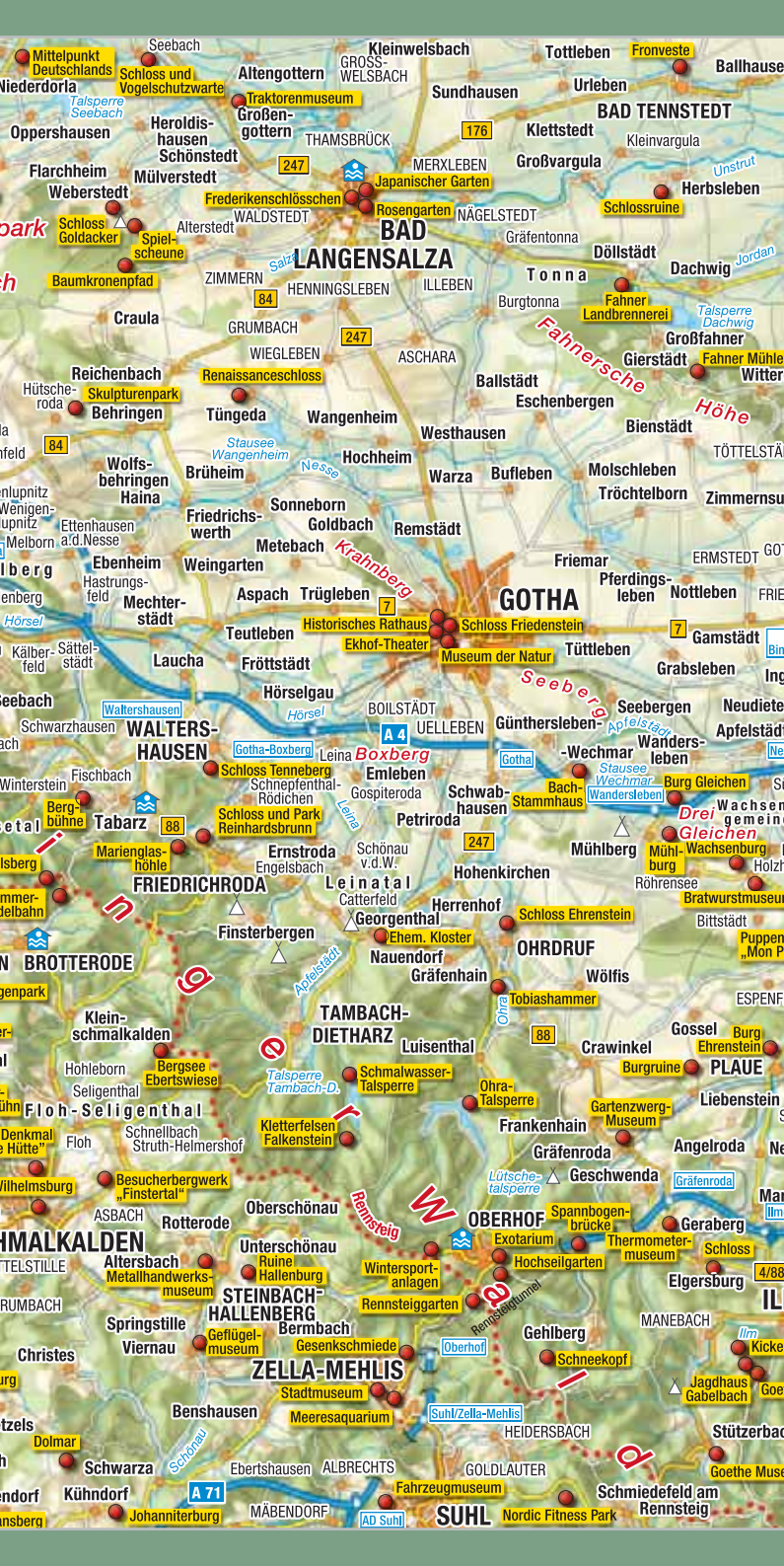
- Schnepfenthal – Educational establishment of the pedagogue Salzmann (founded in 1784) - **11 km**
- Reinhardsbrunn Castle(1828) – former Hunting Castle of Duke Ernst I. of Saxe - Coburg and Gotha - **15 km**
- Marienglas Cave – Europe’s biggest crystal cave - **18 km**
- Tobiashammer Ohrdruf – Technical monument with one of Europe’s biggest steam engines - **16 km**
- Winter Sports Centre Oberhof - **25 km**
- Burgenland Drei Gleichen - Wachsenburg with hotel and castle ruins, Wandersleber Gleiche and Mühlburg - **15 km**
- Nature Park Hainich – Treetop Path - **16 km**
- Wechmar - Günthersleben – Bach Main House - **12 km**
- State Capital Erfurt – Kraemer Bridge, Cathedral and Severi Church, Augustinian Monastery, ega - **25 km**
- Weimar – Goethe House, Schiller’s Residential House, Goethe’s Garden House
Art Collections, Palace Belvedere, Palace Tiefurt - **50 km**
- Eisenach - Wartburg, Bach House, Luther House - **25 km**



Erfurt, Cathedral and Severi Church



Mountain "Großer Inselsberg" 916 m



See a lot – experience more with the Thuringian Forest Line!



Enjoy a special event with a trip by Thuringian Forest Line from Gotha–via Waltershausen-Friedrichroda–to Tabarz! The comfortable journey (25 km) leads you via Boxberg along many sights through the fairytale Thuringian Forest. The last stop is the idyllic resort Tabarz at the foot of the 916 m high Inselsberg. The journey takes about one hour.

With the tourist ticket you go one day on the whole rail network of Thuringian Forest Line and you get within one month one reduced admission to regional distinctions on the route. Furthermore you get with your tourist ticket a reduced admission to different museums, cultural institutions, baths etc.

You get the tourist ticket at every tram driver of the Thuringian Forest Line and in the Tourist-Information Gotha / Gotha County as well as in many advance booking points.

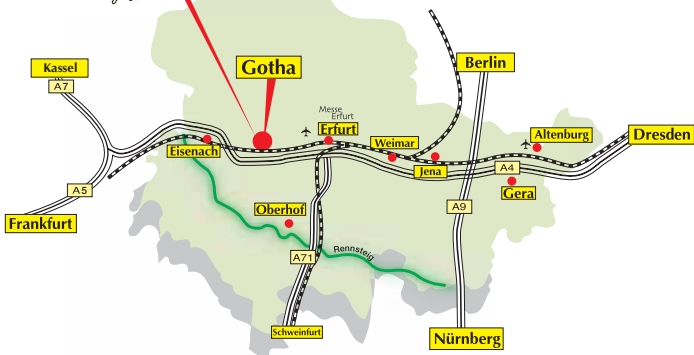
www.bahn.de
www.rvg.de

10 worth seeing attractions are expecting you

Race dates
Gallop course Boxberg
During the summer months

www.rennverein-boxberg.de





www.gotha.de

You reach Gotha via

Motorway: A4 Frankfurt / Main - Dresden, exit Gotha or Boxberg

Federal highway: B7 Kassel - Gera
B247 Mühlhausen - Gotha - Oberhof

Railway / ICE: Frankfurt / Main - Leipzig
Thüringerwaldbahn - Gotha - Tabarz

Airport: Erfurt

Bus parking lots: 7 parking lots in Park Avenue (for free)
Access facilities for tourist buses in the centre
at the bus stop Bertha-von-Suttner-Square

GOTHA
Residenzstadt

wibegoservicegmbh
Friemarstraße 38 • 99867 Gotha

Tourist Information Gotha / Gotha County • Hauptmarkt 33 • 99867 Gotha
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