

## EISENACH

### Eisenach – the home of Wartburg Castle



Panorama view

"The area is simply magnificent" said Goethe, describing the countryside around Eisenach. The town of Eisenach and Wartburg Castle both owe their fame to individuals of world renown. Wartburg Castle – a UNESCO world cultural heritage site since 1999 – was the home of St. Elisabeth's and the inspiration for Richard Wagner's opera, Tannhäuser. It is also where Martin Luther translated the New Testament into German. Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach, Martin Luther was at school here for three years, and writer Fritz Reuter spent the autumn of his life in the town. Eisenach also has a strong tradition of car manufacturing and development which goes back over a hundred years.

### Wartburg Castle



Wartburg Castle

The castle – designated a UNESCO world heritage site in 1999 – has been a mighty fortification and magnificent residence for almost a thousand years. Courtly art from the Middle Ages, St. Elisabeth's life and work, Martin Luther's translation of the New Testament, the German student fraternities' festival and Wagner's romantic opera, Tannhäuser, all combine to make Wartburg Castle an outstanding monument of German history and culture.

### Bach's House



Bach's House

Bach's House in Eisenach – the 'musical museum' in the town where he was born – contains the world's largest exhibition on the life and work of Johann Sebastian Bach. Visitors can enjoy a live musical performance played on historical instruments in this authentic setting. The modern extension to the building features a 'walk-through musical work'.

### Luther's House



View in Luther's apartment room

Luther's House is approximately 500 years old and almost certainly the oldest and most beautiful timber-framed building in Eisenach. It contains an exhibition, the Protestant Parsonage Archive and the Bible Café. The Cotta family took such good care of Martin Luther during his schooldays here (1498 to 1501) that he later referred to Eisenach as "*meine liebe Stadt*" (my dear town).

### St. George's Church



Market place with St. George's Church

St. George's Church was built around 1182 and it was here that St. Elisabeth of Thuringia was married. Martin Luther once stood in the gallery as a choirboy and later preached here. On 23 March 1685, Johann Sebastian Bach was baptised here. For more than 130 years the organist of St. George's Church was a member of the Bach family, drawn from four generations of the musical dynasty.

### Automobile World Eisenach



Automobile World Eisenach

This museum housed in the authentic 1935 'building O2' of the former AWE car plant documents more than 110 years of motor manufacturing heritage in Eisenach; beginning in 1898 with the Fahrzeugfabrik Eisenach AG factory and covering the eras of the Dixi, BMW and Wartburg, through to the present day with the new Opel plant built in 1991.



Reuter Wagner Museum

### **Reuter Wagner Museum**

This neo-Renaissance villa built in 1868 by Ludwig Bohnstedt was the home of Fritz Reuter, the Mecklenburg writer, and his wife, Luise. After the Reuters' death, the town council acquired the property. Today it houses the Fritz Reuter Museum as well as the world's second-largest Richard Wagner collection after Bayreuth.



Town palace

### **Town palace**

Gottfried Heinrich Krohne built the town palace during the mid-18th century as a commission for Duke Ernst August. Today it is used by the Thuringian Museum to present the porcelain collection and temporary exhibitions.



Prediger Monastery

### **Prediger Monastery**

The monastery, dedicated to St. Elisabeth in 1240, is one of the oldest surviving Dominican monasteries in Thuringia. The monastery church contains a collection entitled 'Medieval carved sculptures in Thuringia', which is part of the Thuringian Museum.

### **Late 19th century villas**

Between 1862 and the First World War, Eisenach developed one of the largest villa districts in Europe, built in a variety of styles from historicism to art nouveau.

### **Old Malthouse**

The Old Malthouse dates from 1873. It is a unique memorial to a golden industrial age and serves today as an industrial museum. It also contains the international jazz archive. The jazz cellar hosts musicians from Germany and around the world.



Golden Lion memorial site

### **Golden Lion memorial site**

The founding congress of the Social Democratic Workers' Party was held here on 7 August 1869. Today the building houses the permanent exhibitions, 'August Bebel. A major figure in the German workers' movement' and 'Eisenach at the time of the 1869 congress'.



Student fraternity monument

### **Student fraternity monument**

This monument was dedicated in 1902. It is a circular temple erected in honour of members of the student fraternities who were killed during the struggle for a united Germany. It features a monumental ceiling fresco and panoramic views from the top.