



ilmenu

himmelblau

WALK!

On Goethe's Tracks and on ...



Thüringen
-entdecken.de



THE GOETHE TRAIL



“You have only been really there if going there by foot.”

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Hiking and walking enthusiasts as well as Goethe lovers have taken it on by foot: The Goethe Trail from Ilmenau to Stützerbach. This 20 km trail has to offer not only impressive valleys, gorges and mountain meadows. Above all, you can visit several places closely related to Goethe’s work and life. So let’s see.

Goethe’s Favorite Places

Goethe felt a loving affection towards Ilmenau and its surroundings. Whether the Kickelhahn mountain, the scenic gorge “Finsteres Loch” or the impressive rock “Schwalbenstein” – Goethe drew inspiration from them time and again for his poetic works – among them masterpieces of world literature!

He was also enthusiastic as a natural scientist for prehistoric findings near Manebach, which became part of his extensive collection. He attended to the “intricate” financial system of Ilmenau and the revival of copper and silver mining.

The Trail

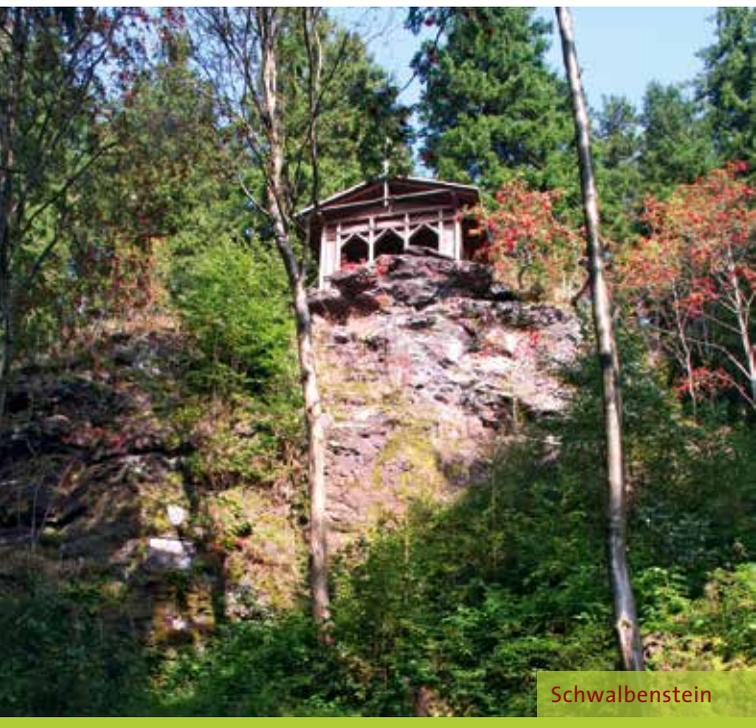
Although the trail is quite demanding and has steep ascents and descents in places, you are rewarded with a grand countryside and stunning views. Also, the trail was awarded the Qualitätsweg Wanderbares Deutschland seal of quality.

Before starting your walk, it’s best to treat yourself to an exciting introduction: Apart from the Ilmenau tourist information center, the Amtshaus is also home of the Goethe-StadtMuseum. It’s about Goethe as an all-rounder: poet, civil servant, natural scientist. Originally, Goethe was appointed Minister for Mining in Ilmenau – in 1784, he did the first groundbreaking for a new shaft. During his stays, he used to live on the first floor, where you can stand on the same knarling deals as Goethe did.



GoetheStadtMuseum at Amtshaus

Am Markt 1 | (+49) 3677 600 300 | ☎ Tue–Sun, Publ. Hol. 10 am–5 pm



Schwalbenstein

Through the Town to Berggrabenweg

After just a couple of steps through town, at the entrance to the Ilmenau cemetery, there is the grave of Corona Schröter. She was the first actress of Goethe's "Iphigenia" and a celebrated singer at the Weimar Court. Zechenhaus, Mittlerer and Oberer Berggrabenweg are all relics of the mining era. In Goethe's time, they were water channels, transferring water to the shafts over a distance of more than 14 km.

Schwalbenstein and Manebach

What an incredible moment this must have been! At Schwalbenstein, Goethe wrote the 4th act of his "Iphigenia" in only one day. The impressive rock is preserved as a natural monument. On your way to Emmastein, the hut at Marienquelle (Mary's spring) is a good place to rest. In Manebach, the garden of the Kantorhaus (Choirmaster's house) is of interest: Here, Goethe loved to do scientific sketches.

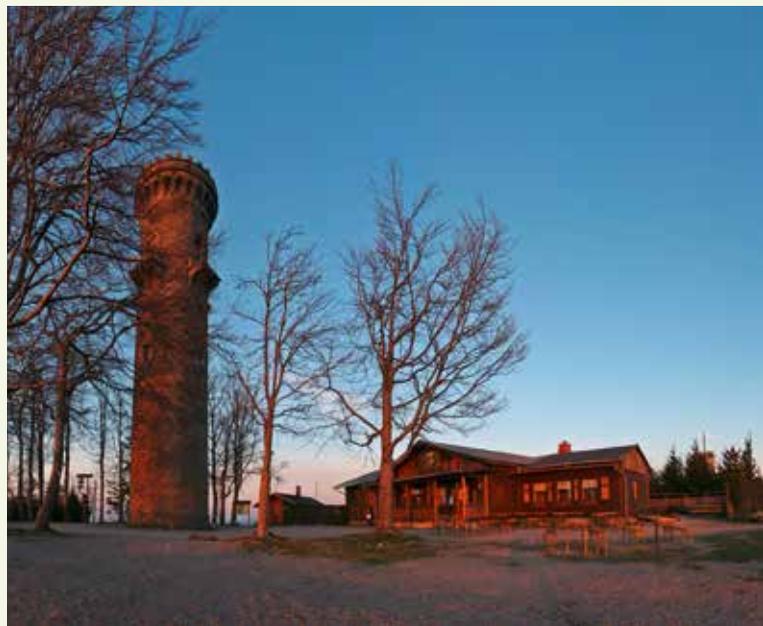
Großer Hermannstein

Passing Sophienquelle (Sophia's spring), you reach Großer Hermannstein. Up here, there is good news for you: First, you have managed the steepest climb of the trail. Second, you are rewarded with a real Goethe panoramic view! It is nearly identical with his drawing "Dampfende Täler" (Steaming Valleys).

Kickelhahn

You have reached the highest point of the trail – on the Kickelhahn with 861 m! Ilmenau's closest mountain has three attractions to offer: Goethehäuschen (Goethe hut), Kickelhahn Tower and historic hunting facilities.

To honor the incomparable atmosphere of the evening, on September 6th, 1780, Goethe wrote one of his finest and most famous poems! But not on a sheet of paper, but on the inside of the then hunting cabin. The original script is preserved as a historic photography – a facsimile is on display in Ilmenau's GoetheStadtMuseum.



*Over all of the hills
Peace comes anew,
The woodland stills
All through;
The birds make no sound on the
bough.
Wait a while, Soon now
Peace comes to you.*

Wanderer's Nightsong (Ein Gleiches, first published by Cotta, 1815)

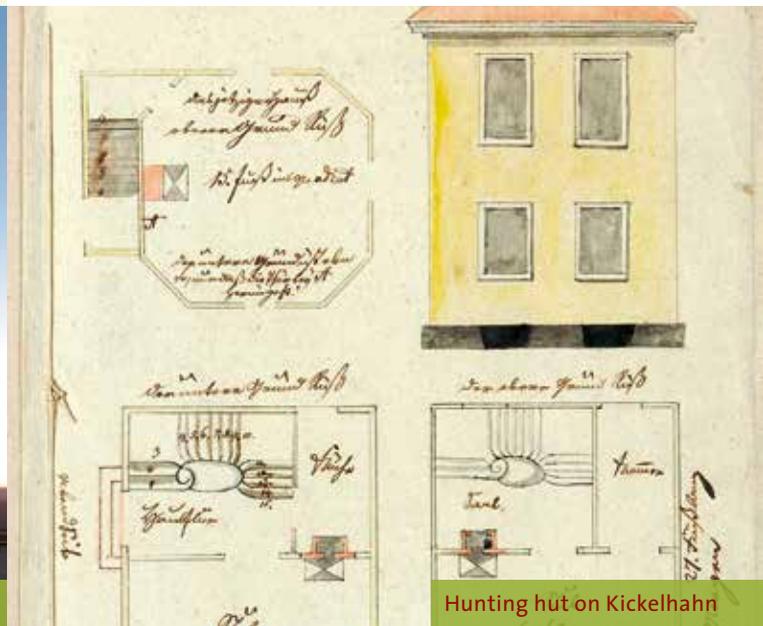
Also on Kickelhahn, you find the remains of a former hunting facility of the earlier Dukes of Saxe-Weimar, including a wooden reconstruction of a roofed stand for the stately hunters. Plus: The view is just legendary! The Thuringian Forest, its outland, even the Harz mountains are in good weather visible from up here.



Goethehäuschen



Kickelhahn Tower



Hunting hut on Kickelhahn



Museum Jagdhaus Gabelbach Waldstr. 24 |
 (+49) 3677 600 300 | ☺ April–Oct: Tue–Sun, Publ. Hol. 10 am–5 pm;
 Nov–Mar: Tue–Sun, Pub. Hol. 10 am–6 pm

Museum Jagdhaus Gabelbach (Gabelbach Hunting Lodge)

The Museum Jagdhaus Gabelbach invites the guest on an interesting stay: Formerly used as a guest house for the hunting parties of Duke Carl August of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach, it today displays details about the hunting habits and the social life at the Weimar Court as well as about Goethe's natural-scientist studies.

Schorte Valley and Finsteres Loch Gorge

This part of the trail takes you to admire numerous natural beauties! The river Schorte purls through the picturesque valley leading to Knöpfelstaler Teich, a beautiful pond in the forest. Here, you are in the middle of the UNESCO Biosphere Reservation Thüringer Wald! The path leads us on to Finsteres Loch, a shady gorge with a waterfall.

Stützerbach

Before reaching Stützerbach, the historic Auerhahn inn invites to take a break. The name reminds of the capercaillie, which used to be native to the forests around here. From this guesthouse, you walk downhill with a good view on Stützerbach and its Schlossberg. From 1776, Johann Wolfgang Goethe has come to Stützerbach 13 times, then living in today's museum: Its main attraction is Goethe's original study and living room.

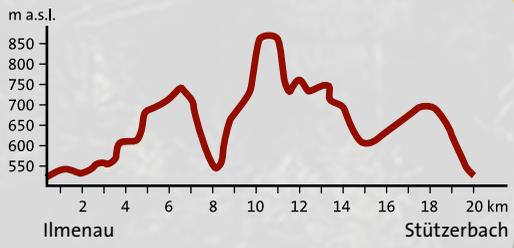
Course: Amtshaus at Market square ■ Historic Cemetery ■ Pit House ■ Mittlerer Berggrabenweg ■ Oberer Berggrabenweg ■ Bertha's Spring ■ Choirmaster's House ■ Helen's Rest ■ Großer Hermannstein ■ Goethehäuschen ■ Kickelhahn ■ Jagdhaus Gabelbach ■ Hirtenwiese ■ Knöpfelstaler Teich ■ Finsteres Loch ■ Auerhahn ■ Schlossberg ■ Goethe Museum Stützerbach



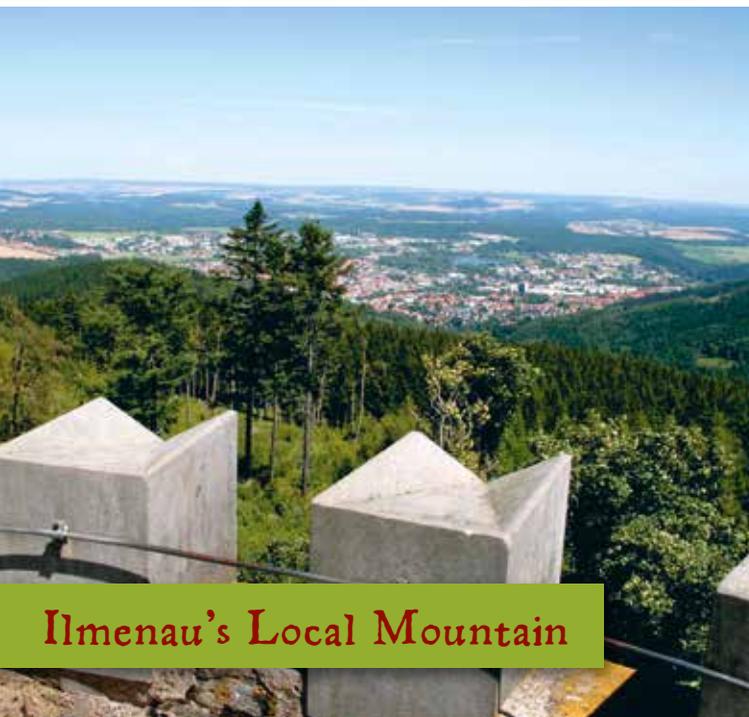
Goethemuseum in Stützerbach Sebastian-Kneipp-Straße 1 |
 (+49) 36784 50277 | ☺ Wed–Sun, Pub. Hol. 10.30 am–3.30 pm

THE GOETHE TRAIL

-  The Goethe Trail
-  Public Road
-  Railway Connection
(RennsteigShuttle Sat, Sun, Public Holidays)
-  Tourist Information Center



KICKELHAHN ROUND TRAIL



Ilmenau's Local Mountain

On the mountaintop, you can listen to the wind in the trees and oversee dreamlike landscapes! In high visibility, you can see just as far as the Brocken mountain in the Harz. The about 11 km trail around the Kickelhahn mountain is a pure joy for any rambler.

How the Mountain Got its Name

Presumably, the name of the mountain goes back to the rare capercaillie, which used to proudly strut the woods around here. To the Weimar Court hunting on these premises, it was a popular trophy.

The Trail

Starting at the car park at the Ilmenau Festival Hall, there is only a slight ascent until Steinbach valley, becoming steeper to Kleiner Hermannstein, a rock towering amidst the forest. So a short break at Sophia's Spring is very welcome. This stone-enclosed spring is named honoring the Grand Duchess of Weimar.

After reaching Großer Hermannstein with its viewing platform, a phantastic view opens into the Manebach valley. For the Kickelhahn summit (861 m a.s.l.), you'll allow yourself some time to discover Goethehäuschen, the historic hunting facility and the Kickelhahn Tower.

Did you know?

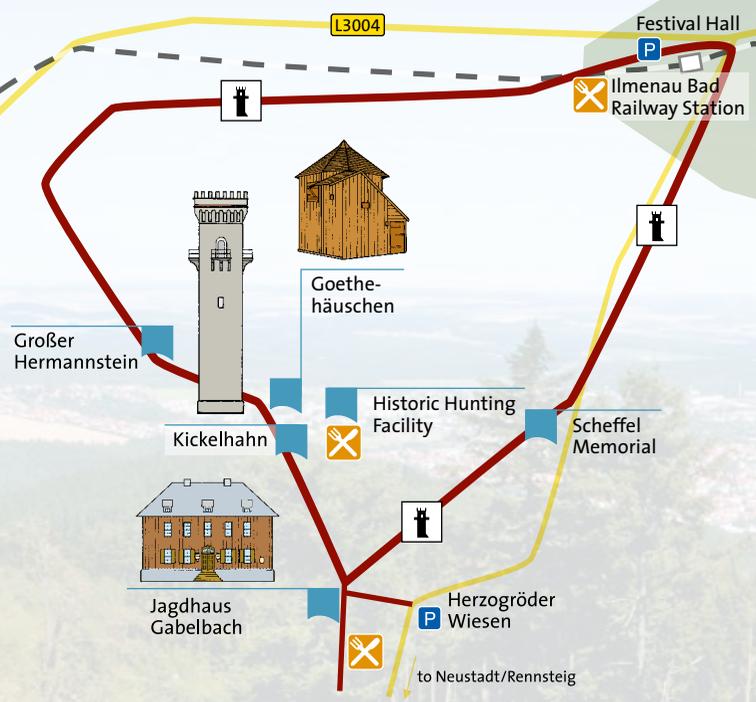
With the first stone laying in 1854, the Kickelhahn Tower is among the oldest look-outs in Germany!

Upon descent, a visit to the Jagdhaus Gabelbach museum as well as the memorial to the author Joseph Victor von Scheffel is recommended.

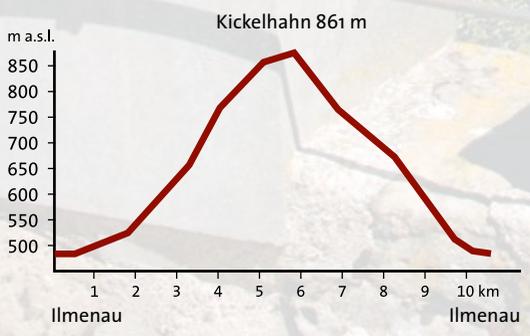
Course: Car Park Ilmenau Festival Hall ■ City Park ■ Goetheallee ■ Steinbach valley ■ Höllkopf ■ Kleiner Hermannstein ■ Sophia's Spring ■ Großer Hermannstein ■ Goethehäuschen ■ Kickelhahn ■ Jagdhaus Gabelbach ■ Buchenallee ■ Scheffel Memorial ■ Old Luge Track ■ Ritzebühler Teich ■ Car Park Ilmenau Festival Hall



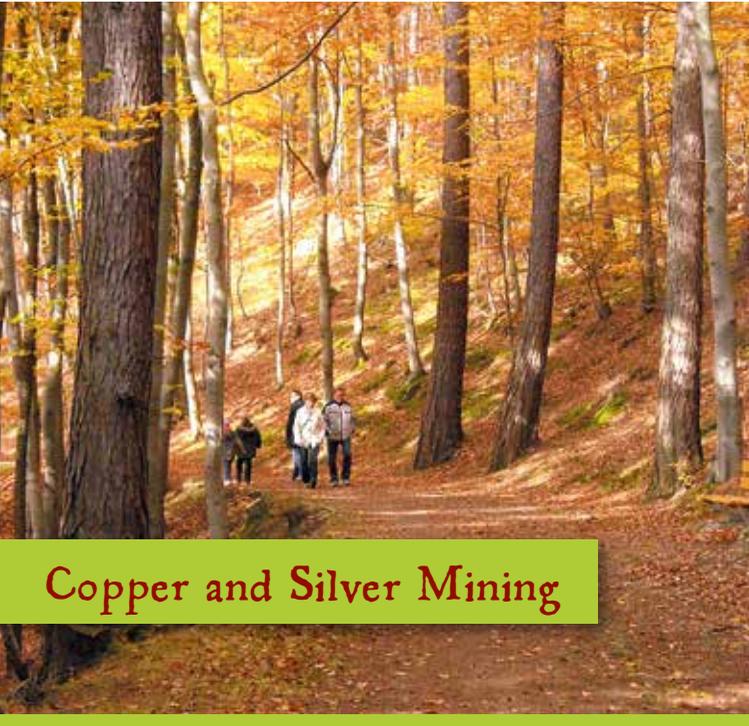
Ilmenau



-  Kickelhahn Round Trail
-  Public Road
-  Railway Connection
(RennsteigShuttle
Sat, Sun, Public Holidays)



OBERER BERGGGRABENWEG



Copper and Silver Mining

Oberer Berggrabenweg is a technical masterpiece! It is part of a network of ditches and ponds to ensure the water supply in the mines. From the 15th to the 18th century, silver and copper have been mined here.

No Mining without Water Power

Building of Oberer Berggrabenweg has started in 1688. The waterfeed was used to supply water to the shafts at the Roda copper mine and as a supply for the smeltery. At the same time, it was used as a floating ditch.

The Trail

Just follow the mining signs! On this 18 km trail, you are guided by three symbols: hammer, pick and water wheel. On your way, you'll see meadows with colorful wild herbs, and an old quarry, grown over with lichens, mosses and ferns.

After crossing through Ilmenau's historic town center, you get into the old mining field: mine dumps, the Miners' Chapel and the Pit House are relics of a once flourishing mining industry. Via Mittlerer Berggrabenweg, you get to the Ravené hut, a shelter in 588 m a.s.l. This is the summit of Sturmheide.

Sturmheide is an elevation of about 620 m, mostly overgrown with beeches.

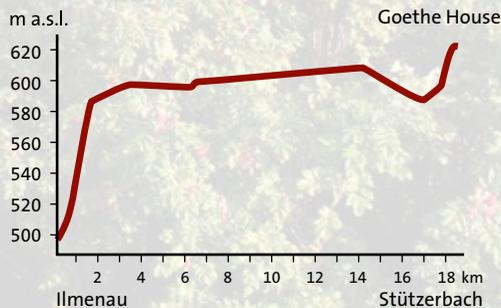
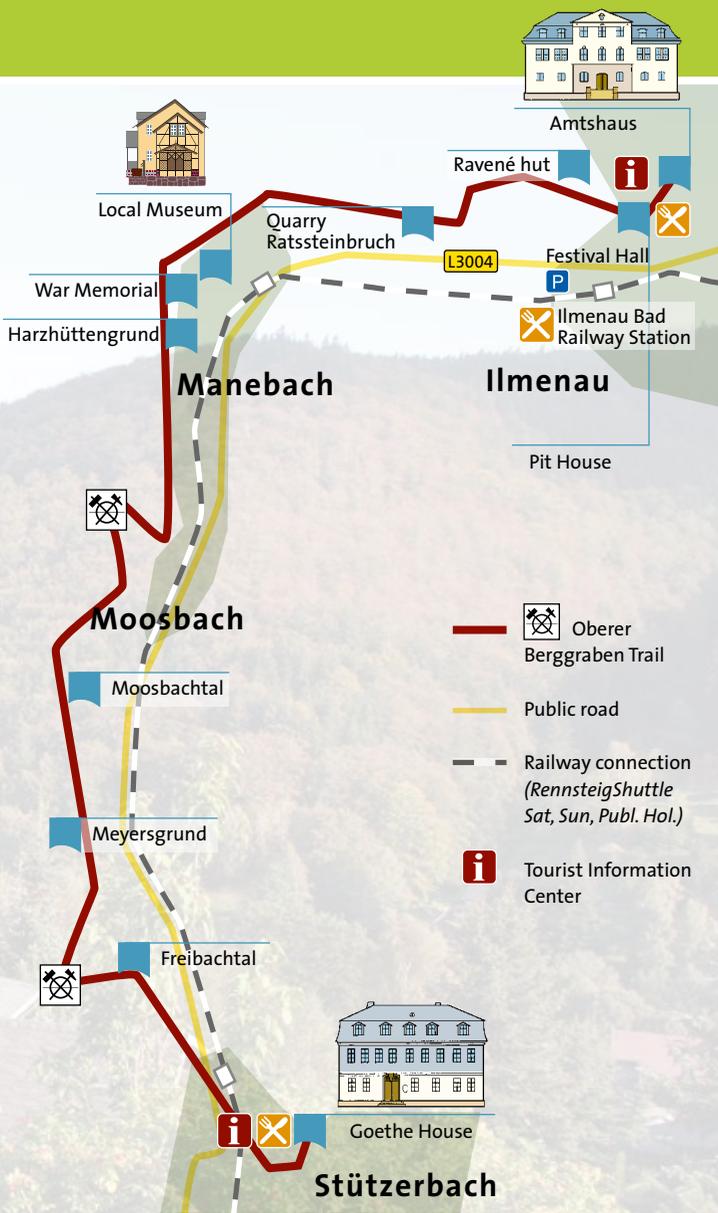
The original ditch Oberer Berggraben starts just above the shelter. Over about 12 km to Freibachtal, you can indulge in an impressive landscape. Keep your cameras ready at the Ratssteinbruch quarry: The panorama of the opposite ridge is just stunning!

The Manebach Guest House with the local museum is also worth visiting, offering insights into the village's history and mask production. At the end of your walk, you can seek refreshment in the Stützerbach open air pool. But it is also worth going a few more steps to the Goethe Museum: Here, Goethe stayed more than a dozen times – the study and living room is kept in its original state until today.

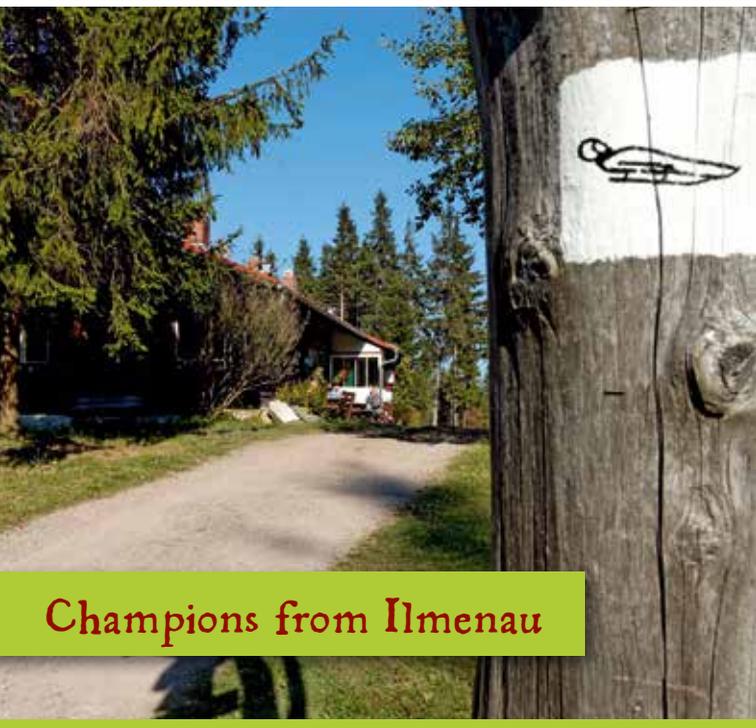
Course: Amtshaus at Market Square ■ Historic town center with Miner's Chapel ■ Pit House ■ Mittlerer Berggrabenweg ■ Ravené hut ■ Oberer Berggrabenweg ■ Quarry Ratssteinbruch ■ Harzhüttengrund ■ Moosbach ■ Meyersgrund ■ Freibachtal ■ Stützerbach

Please note: This Trail can be walked in stages. Length and profile make it an easy walk.

Tip: Information boards inform about geology, nature and history along the trail.



BOB AND LUGE TRAIL



Champions from Ilmenau

Skiing and ski jumping, ice hockey and bob sleigh – Ilmenau has about 100 years of tradition in winter sports. Whatever the secret of success – whether it's the good air of the Thüringer Wald, the commitment of the clubs or the hard work of the athletes – athletes from Ilmenau have always been doing great!

Luge tradition at Lindenberg Mountain

Especially in Luge, we are top: International champions such as Hans Rinn, Ute Oberhoffner, Jens Müller, Stefan Krause and Jan Behrendt come from Ilmenau. In 1909, Ilmenau got its own natural luge track at Gabelbach. Only a few years later, the German Luge Championships took place in Ilmenau. The new bob track built in 1927 at the Lindenberg mountain was one of the steepest in Europe – with the 4th European Championships in 1934 as a highlight.

Luge Track “Wolfram Fiedler”

In 1989, this luge track was built, 460 m long and with 8 bends. It carries the name of Wolfram Fiedler, several times European Champion, bronze medalist of the 1972 Winter Olympics and World Champion of 1975. Still today, this track is venue of numerous national and international competitions.

The Trail

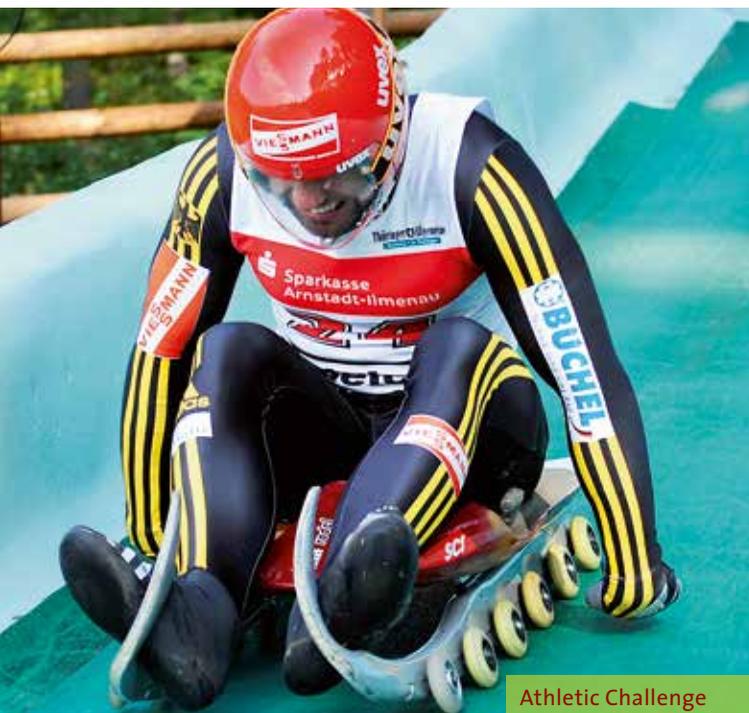
Passing impressive Wilhelmian manors reminding of Ilmenau as a flourishing cure and spa town, you get into the idyllic Gabelbach valley. From here, the spectacular winter sports venues are within reach. You are walking steadily uphill – a certain fitness is helpful. The Brothers Harz hut is a good place to rest on the way. Up you go to the Lindenberg summit with a height of 749 m. This used to be the starting point of the bob track – the Bobhütte is today an excellent mountain inn offering hearty meals.

Making the best of it:

Where the Kyrill hurricane rooted trees and blew them away, today, we have our Ilmenau Balcony – this information platform is always worth a while!



Historic Postcard

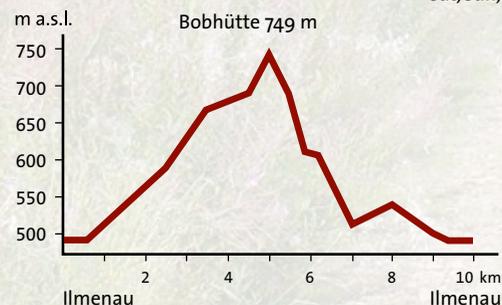


Athletic Challenge

Down into the valley, the bends of the Lindenberg track come in sight: The Kickelhahn bend is followed by the Dinckler and Sport Sonntag bends – the steepest part of the track with a descent of 21%. After two further bends, you are at the finish of the historic track. The trail takes you on to the luge track “Wolfram Fiedler” at Floßberg mountain. Outside of competitions, you can try this luge track yourself and have fun!

Course: Car Park Festival Hall ■ Waldstraße ■ Ritzebühler Teich ■ Old Luge Track ■ Stern ■ Brothers Harz hut ■ Bobhütte Historic Bob Track ■ Hertzterpromenade ■ Luge Track ■ Steinstraße ■ Car Park Festival Hall

Please note: Due to its profile, this trail is quite demanding.



GEO TRAIL MANEBACH

The Manebach Formation

Hobby scientists – this is for you! This is about prehistoric findings, highly interesting geological ground openings and coal mining sites. This 6,5 km trail around Manebach offers spectacular insights into the history of earth and life.

Early Dinosaurs and Horsetail

Fossils can open unique windows into the earth's history. Manebach seems to be a special place: Scientists have dug out 300 mill. years old roots of a giant horsetail. Among the findings, there is also a skeleton of an early dinosaur – about 1,5 m in size.

The Trail

Along your way, you encounter witnesses of historic coal mining: Karl August Shaft, Sophia's Shaft, Goldhelmer Shaft, Kammerberger Shaft and Andreas Shaft with tip.

The Kammerberger Shaft, which Goethe drove into when being Minister for Mining in 1776, was especially valuable for his scientific studies: Until his death, he received plant fossils from this shaft to add to his collection.

The variety of prehistoric findings is unique, too: Whether deposits of fish scales or fossilised horsetail – paleontologists still dig out the most astonishing things. On your walk, you'll be informed about all this on 25 information displays along the nature trail.

Course: Glück Auf ! (Pit House) ■ Sophia's Shaft ■ Fish Pit ■ Goldhelm Shaft ■ Mill Stone ■ Pinge ■ Hartental Shaft ■ Kammerberger Shaft ■ Deep Andreas Shaft ■ Red Pit ■ Upper Philippus Shaft ■ Artificial Shaft ■ Steam Engine Shaft ■ Coal Mine Christiane ■ Guest House



How to get to Ilmenau/Thüringen:



Ilmenau Tourist Information Center

98693 Ilmenau | Am Markt 1

phone ++49 (0) 3677 600 300 | 19433

www.ilmenau.de

fax ++49 (0) 3677 600 330

stadtinfo@ilmenau.de

Opening Times: Tue – Fri

10 am – 6 pm

Sat/Sun/Publ. Hol.

10 am – 5 pm

Our Service: **NEW** – free Internet Hotspot inside Amtshaus

- Accommodation office for Ilmenau and its surroundings
- Information on the city, as well as on trails for walking and biking
- Arrangement and booking of day travel programs, guided city and organ tours and walks
- Map of Trails “Thüringen zu Fuß erleben – Ilmenau 1 : 30 000”

RennsteigBus (www.bus-thueringen.de)

and *RennsteigShuttle* (www.erfurter-bahn.de)

are at your service for one-way walks.

GPS-data:

