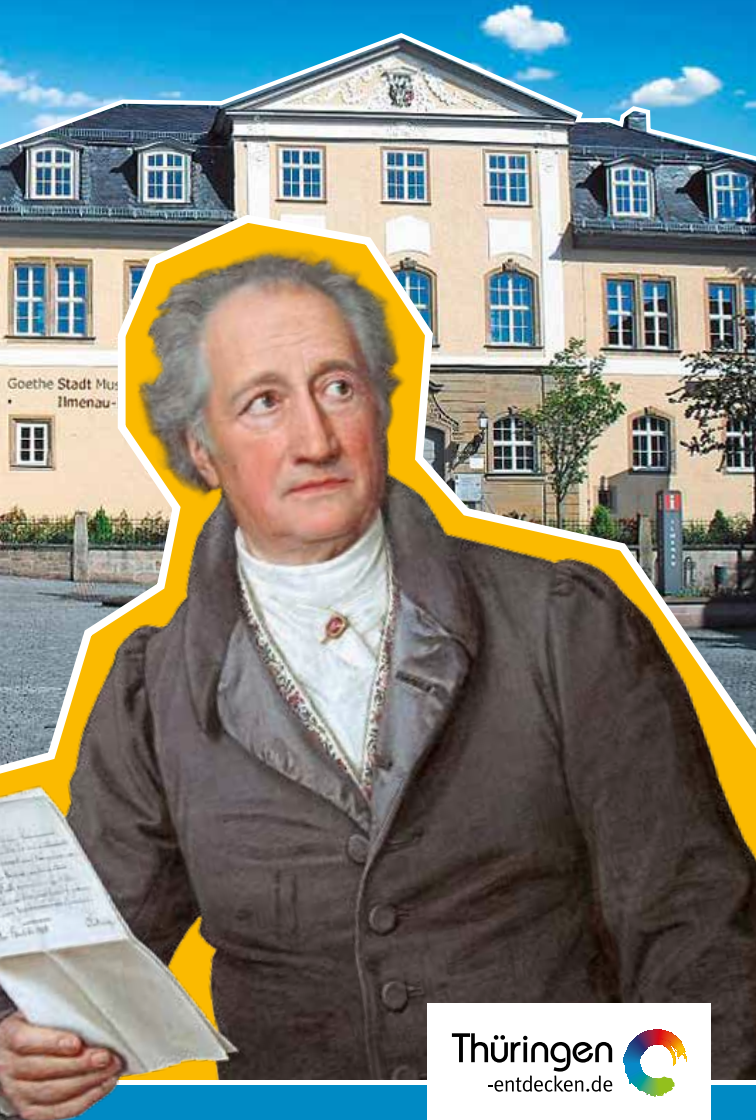




ilmenau
himmelblau

WELCOME!



Thüringen
-entdecken.de



Excerpts from Ilmenau's History



The “Ilm” in the name of Ilmenau is the river Ilm, in whose vale the town has grown up. The valley cuts through the northern slopes of the Thüringer Wald, creating a lovely setting.

Little is known of Ilmenau's earliest days. By the 13th century, it was deemed worthy of mention in the annals. Ilmenau's development benefited from its situation on the trading route that passed from Erfurt to Nuremberg. There are many mentions of Ilmenau in the 14th century; the first of the town itself was in 1341.

The first landgraves ruling over Ilmenau were those of Käfernburg, who sold the town to the Henneberg family in 1343. There was many a change of overlord up to the 15th century as the town was traded or mortgaged. However, Ilmenau was finally owned by the Counts of Henneberg. When their family died out, Ilmenau fell to the House of Sachsen (Saxony), and was granted to the Dukes of Sachsen-Weimar when the Henneberg estates were divided in 1660 to 1661. This overlordship was maintained until 1918.

It is thought that mining was already taking place in Ilmenau in the 13th century; the main minerals extracted were silver and copper.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe first visited Ilmenau in 1776, commissioned by the Duke of Weimar to inspect the neglected, somewhat chaotic finances and taxation system of the Ilmenau offices. Goethe in fact applied much more of his energy and ingenuity to reviving the mines in the area, which had been unproductive since 1739. The visits paid by Goethe to Ilmenau numbered 26 in all. Having been brought here by his appointment to the mines, he conceived a love for the countryside of this part of Thüringen. He was happy to sojourn in the town and many of the smaller places in the vicinity. It was on the Kickelhahn itself, at 861 m the highest of the hills surrounding Ilmenau, that the poet, inspired by their evening peace, composed *Wandrer's Nachtlied* (Wanderer's Evening Song).

Ilmenau's earliest glassworks was founded in 1675. Porcelain manufacture began in the 18th century.

Ilmenau had a period as a spa after cold water treatment centres were set up in 1838, but growing industrialisation meant that this phase did not last long into the 20th century; the hydrotherapy buildings burnt down in 1920.

1894 saw the founding of the “Thüringisches Technikum”, a private training college for mechanical and electrical engineers. It was renamed as the Ilmenau School of Engineering in 1926 and enjoyed a high reputation much further afield than Germany, because the training offered was so sound and of such practical usefulness. Indeed, it gave the impact to establish the “Technische Hochschule” (TH, Technical College). The fact that Ilmenau TH's academic prospectus and standards were at university level brought recognition as a university of technology, the Technische Universität Ilmenau, in 1992.

Today, the population of Ilmenau numbers about 30,000. The town is much visited by tourists, who appreciate its position as a starting point for many walking routes or motorised tours of the Rennsteig area. Erfurt and Weimar, with their cultural associations, are also easy to reach from here.

Today's visitors can still trace Goethe's footsteps, almost literally, as they follow the Goethe trail (known as the Goethewanderweg), appreciating the natural beauty he also loved.

Useful Telephone Numbers (International Code +49)

Banks

Commerzbank, Schwanitzstraße 2B	03677	4 66 10
Deutsche Bank, Marktstraße 1–3	03677	6 48 30
Sparkasse, An der Sparkasse 1–3	03677	66 00
VR Bank, Poststraße 2	03677	7 96 50

Bus information	03677	8 88 90
Festival Hall, Naumannstraße 22	03677	84 00 01
City library, Bahnhofstraße 7	03677	20 22 12
Cinema Linden Lichtspiele, Lindenstraße 20–22	3677	89 91 77
Dental emergency service	01805	90 80 77
Emergency medical service		11 61 17
Glassblower (Herr Kirchgeorg), Sturmheide 9	03677	6 27 43
Hospital, Oehrenstöcker Straße 32	03677	60 60
Indoor swimming pool, Am Stollen 48	03677	88 20 30
Ilmenau Town Hall, Registry Office, Am Markt 7	03677	60 01 06
Ilmkreis Rural District Office, Krankenhausstraße 12	03677	65 70
Youth Hostel, Am Stollen 49	03677	88 46 81
Lost and Found, Am Markt 7	03677	60 02 15
Open air swimming pool, Schleusinger Straße	03677	89 42 27
Police Station, Amtsstraße 1	03677	60 10
Post Office, Lindenstraße 1	0180	02 33 33
Summer and winter luge track, Steinstraße 61	03677	20 27 26
Taxis	03677 66 66 66 20 40 60 66 77 88	
Train information (Deutsche Bahn)	0800	1 50 70 90

Internet Access

City Library, Bahnhofstraße 7 (Mon/Tue/Fri 1 to 8 pm, Thu 10 am to 3 pm, Wed closed)	03677	20 22 12
University Library, Langewiesener Straße 37 (Mon to Fri 8 am to 8 pm, Sat 9 am to 5 pm)	03677	69 45 31

Christian Communities

Lutheran: St. Jakobus' Parish Church, Marktstraße, Service: Sunday 10 am	
Roman Catholic: St. Josef's Church, Unterpörlitzer Straße 15, Service: Sunday 9 am and 10:30 am	
Baptist Free Church, Karl-Zink-Straße 25, Service: Sunday 9:45 am	
Evangelic Free Church, Güldene Pforte 1, Service: Sunday 10 am	
New Apostolic Church, Friedrich-Ebert-Straße 16 Service: Sunday 9:30 am, Wednesday 7:30 pm	

Museums



GoetheStadtMuseum at the Amtshaus –
Am Markt 1 |
+49 3677 600 300 |
Ⓢ Tue to Sun and public holidays 10 am to 5 pm



Museum Jagdhaus Gabelbach – Waldstr. 24 |
+49 3677 600 300 |
Ⓢ Apr to Oct: Tue to Sun and public holidays 10 am to 5 pm |
Nov to March: Tue to Sun and public holidays 10 am to 4 pm



Schlittenscheune Luge exhibition –
Langewiesener Str. 2a |
+49 3677 68 95 77 |
+49 162 2 82 65 45
Ⓢ Sat 10 am to 4 pm and on request



Mining Museum "Volle Rose" – former working mine | Schortestraße 7 |
+49 3677 89 90 65 |
Ⓢ from Apr 1st to first weekend in Nov, Tue to Fri 9 am to 4 pm, Sat, Sun and public holidays 10 am to 6 pm



Haus des Gastes Manebach – Tourist Information and local history museum | Kalter Markt 5a, 98693 Manebach |
+49 3677 84 27 68 |
Ⓢ Mon and Fri 9.30 to 11.30 am, Tue and Thu 2.30 to 5.30 pm

Guided Tours in English (A maximum of 25 people per tour)

Guided Tour of Ilmenau, on foot

Visits to sites of interest with detailed descriptions.

Time taken: 2 hours, Price on request

City Rally for Adults

The city rally is a fun way to bring the beauty of Ilmenau closer.

Time taken: 2 hours, Price on request

GoetheStadtMuseum Amtshaus

The museum at the Amtshaus is a celebration of Goethe. Meet Goethe the poet, the public servant and the natural scientist.

Museum Jagdhaus Gabelbach On the first floor of the former hunting lodge, an exhibition on “The Kickelhahn Area – Goethe’s Forest Through the Ages” is on display, while the second floor features “Goethe, Nature and his Ilmenau Companions”.

Guided Tours are offered in English in both museums.



For the Gourmet

Sunday favourite – Thüringen potato dumplings

Handmade with two thirds raw and one third cooked potato and croutons in the centre: dumplings as grandma used to make them. The accompaniment is the typical Sunday roast – but here in Thüringen the really important thing is the gravy.

Thüringer Bratwurst

A raw or scalded sausage to be grilled over charcoal and, under EU regulations, consists of mainly local ingredients: finely minced meat, spiced with salt, pepper, caraway, marjoram and garlic in a natural sausage skin. 1404 saw the oldest written evidence of its existence, which can be admired in Germany’s first Bratwurst Museum in Holzhausen.

Ilmenauer Topfbraten...

A delicious sweet-and-sour stew using pork kidneys, served in a crusty cob loaf together with Thüringen potato dumplings.

Ilmenauer Schittchen (Stollen)...

A loaf-shaped cake made of yeast dough into which many delicacies such as almonds, raisins, candied orange and lemon peel, currants and sultanas are worked. It has been the local Christmas cake for more than 500 years.

Interesting Facts

Ilmenau’s Landmark – the Kickelhahn Tower

A look-out on its eponymous hill some 3 km outside the town, at a height of 862 m, the Kickelhahnturm is Ilmenau’s landmark. Many years ago, capercaillies lived on the Kickelhahn and their guttural calls are echoed in the name, for these game birds make a strange, whinnying sound during their display and mating period and so were known in German not only as the Auerhahn, but also as the Kickelhahn or “giggle” bird; even their Gaelic name means “horse of the woods”. There is a preserved specimen to be seen in the Jagdhaus Gabelbach Museum, which used to be a hunting lodge.

Ilmenau himmelblau

“In Ilmenau, da ist der Himmel blau, da tanzt der Ziegenbock mit seiner Frau” (from a German nursery rhyme: “In Ilmenau, where the sky’s so blue, the goats are dancing and so can you.”)

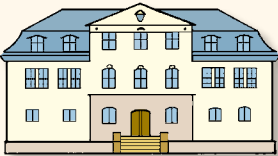
It has always been a mystery where this rhyme came from. The only answer of any kind to the riddle relates to the blue sky. Ilmenau’s skies are, indeed, more often blue than those in other areas, which do not share its situation below a range of hills. As clouds from the south cross the valley of the Ilm where the land falls away by a good 300 m, they tend to respond to the pressure change by reducing in volume.

Ilmenau – Place of Science

As the only technical university of the state of Thuringia, the Technische Universität Ilmenau enjoys an excellent reputation both in Germany and abroad. The training of engineers looks back on a long tradition. Already in 1894, electrical engineering students were trained at the Thüringisches Technikum. Today, the profile of our modern university includes engineering, natural sciences, business studies and media.

The TU Ilmenau offers future-oriented Bachelor and Master programs in engineering sciences, mathematics and natural sciences as well as business and social studies to its 7,000 students. Thanks to excellent teaching, the university can guarantee that they will be able to meet highest quality standards as future graduates. Throughout their study, the students are ideally supported: by fellow students from higher semesters (tutors) during the first two semesters, and by university teachers (mentors) from the third semester on. They carry out industrial internships and are integrated into the scientists’ research work on the basis of independent projects at an early stage.

Places to See in Ilmenau



1 Amtshaus (Tourist Office and GoetheStadtMuseum)

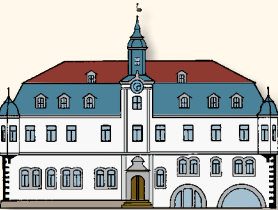
The building known as the Amtshaus (Courthouse) was built by the Dowager Countess Sophie von Henneberg as her home on widowhood. It was burnt in 1752 but soon reconstructed according to the plans of Gottfried Heinrich Krohne, so that from 1756 there were courtrooms for the local justice on the ground floor and accommodation for members of the ducal family above. When Goethe came to Ilmenau, on their behalf he used to stay in the room at the south-east corner.

2 Remains of a Moated Castle

It is assumed that the moated castle has been built on the foundations of an older one. It has been owned among others by the Earls of Käfernburg (Arnstadt), Schwarzburg and Henneberg. In 1289, the site is said to be destroyed by Rudolph of Habsburg and the Erfurters, since they had accused the Ilmenau Burgmannen of highway robbery. 29 robber-knights have then been beheaded in Erfurt. After the great 1752 fire, the site was razed to the ground for the stones to be used as building material.

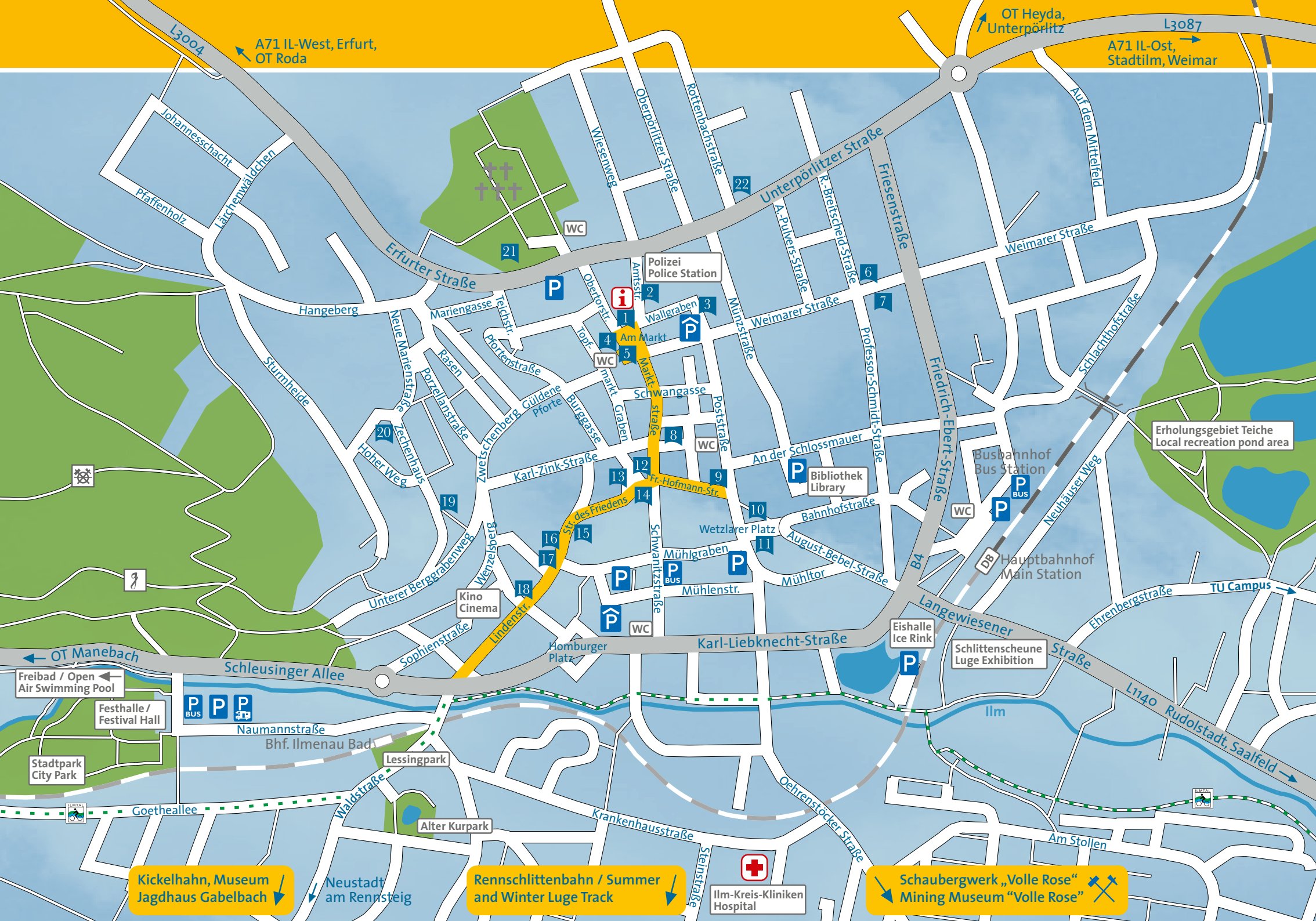
3 Alte Münze (Old Mint)

In 16th century, freehold of mine owners. 1691 construction of a minting site. One of the few buildings that remained intact after the great 1752 fire.



4 Rathaus (Town Hall)

The Renaissance portico and carved dates are a record of the vicissitudes of fortune seen by this building, so often reconstructed after fire. Besides the main doorway, the struts below the oriel window, bearing the date 1625, have been preserved since before the great fire of 1752. Above the lintel of the doorway, there are dates to remind the townspeople of the devastating fires of 1603, 1624 and 1752.

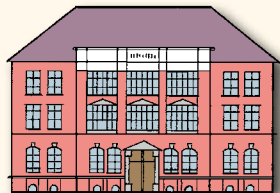




5

Hennebrunnen (The Hen Fountain)

This charming fountain has graced the market square since about 1752. The hen which represents the counts of Henneberg (the name could mean “Hen-Mountain”) raises its beak. The hen’s claws grasp a shield with the arms of Saxony.



6

Altes Technikum (Part of the University)

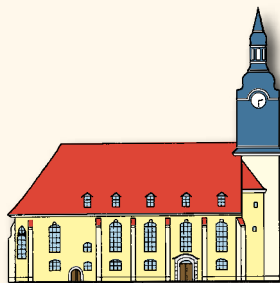
The Thüringisches Technikum was formally opened in 1894.



7

Neues Technikum (Part of the University)

Both the “old” and the “new” buildings are today part of Technische Universität Ilmenau.



8

Ev. Stadtkirche St. Jakobus (Lutheran Parish Church)

The only relics of the original 12th and 13th century Romanesque buildings are the foundations visible in the nave. The long structure in the late Gothic style with its supporting pillars and polygonal choir is believed to date from the end of the 15th century. The church, especially any woodwork, was not spared a series of fires that swept through the town. After the greatest, in 1752, only the exterior walls remained. The Jakobuskirche was rebuilt in 1760/61 in the late Baroque style with August Friedrich Straßburger as chief architect.

The organ was built by Walcker Orgelbau of Ludwigsburg in 1911. It is the largest of its kind in Thuringia and has been fully retuned and restored.

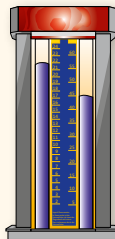
The candelabra mounted on a pillar in the church square is a memorial to the celebration in 1894 of the 350th anniversary of the Hennebergs’ acceptance of the Reformation in the land they ruled.



9

Weather Column

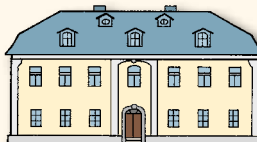
The weather column was funded by Alt, Eberhardt and Jäger, who were manufacturers of glass instruments in the “Thüringische Glasinstrumentenfabrik”. The animals depicted round the top of the column symbolise the times of the day, thus also the compass direction – the cockerel for the morning, the swarm of bees for noon, the bat for the evening and the owl for the night.



10

Liquid Chronometer

This interesting timepiece has been created as a symbol for the long Ilmenau tradition of glass industry. Based on time, three glass pipes with different diameters are filled with a frost-proof liquid from bottom to top. At a scale indicating hours and minutes between the pipes, time can be read according to the height of the liquid. The Liquid Chronometer is controlled by a radio clock, so it shows the exact time also including the adjustment of UTC and summer time.



11

Alte Försterei (Old Forester’s House)

The Alte Försterei is a remnant of the rococo castle erected in the mid-18th century by the Ernst August Duke of Saxe-Weimar on the site of today’s VR Bank. Not many years after it was built, the fire of 1752 destroyed this summer residence of the Duke. All that remained was the wing known today as the Alte Försterei and housing the civic art gallery.

12

Stadtapotheke (Town Apothecary)

The old Stadtapotheke, now as then a chemist, was rebuilt after the town had burned down in 1752 and has hardly changed since that time.

13

Allegorical Figurines

Above the entry to the bookshop, Mercuria reaches out her hand to bless all trading and to bring hope of prosperity.



14

Sächsischer Hof (Saxonian Court)

The building opposite the Stadtapotheke (no. 9) has at various times been called the “Stage Coach Inn” (Posthof) or Sächsischer Hof, and here Goethe made a speech in 1784 to announce

the recommencement of copper and silver mining in Ilmenau. In 1776, Charlotte von Stein took up residence in the Posthof, complying with Goethe's wish that she should visit him in Ilmenau. The lovely Corona Schröter, renowned at the Weimar court as singer and actress, also lived in the Sächsischer Hof, staying until her death in 1802. She was the first actress of Iphigenia and was very close to Goethe. Her grave is to be found upon the entry of the Ilmenau cemetery.



15 Site of Hotel "Löwe"

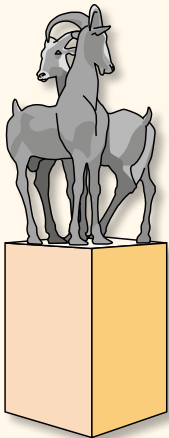
The new building with shops and flats which has stood here since 1998 reflects the old hotel in its style. There Goethe had celebrated his 82nd birthday – his last – in 1831. Goethe had come to Ilmenau from Weimar to spend 6 days here. These he described as "the merriest of the whole summer".

The town gate known as the Endleichtor used to be adjacent to this hotel. When it was pulled down in 1788, the stones showing the town and regional arms were set in the house opposite.



16 Heraldic Stones (Haus der Geschenke, Lindenstr. 4)

The right hand stone shows the arms of the Hennebergs of Schleusingen with the arms of Saxony in the centre. On the left, the town arms of Ilmenau are to be seen. The fronds surrounding the shield are said to be those of an elm, the tree thought to have given its name to the little Ilm river and the town set upon it.



17 Ziegenbrunnen (The Goat Fountain)

In front of the new building replacing the ancient Hotel "Löwe", the fountain and sculpture made by Volkmar Kühn has stood since 1998.

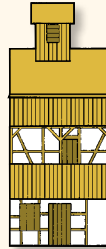
Two goats dance on a pedestal of sandstone with the nursery rhyme inscribed on it: "In Ilmenau da ist der Himmel blau, da tanzt der Ziegenbock mit seiner Frau"

(In Ilmenau, where the sky's so blue, the goats are dancing and so can you.)



18 Wenzelsches Haus (The Wenzel House)

This building is named after the family that originally lived here, the Wenzels. The first of them came to Ilmenau in the 18th century to make glass, and among their later generations there were postmasters and mayors of the town. The house was a major station for stage coaches in Goethe's time and later. Karl Ludwig von Knebel lived here from 1800 to 1804. Goethe always referred to him as his Urfreund, or "friend from the first".



19 Bergmannskapelle (The Miners' Chapel)

Few records remain to tell of this little chapel. It was probably attached to the wheelhouse below the head of the Gottes Gabe (Gift of God) shaft. The wheelhouse was home to the waterwheels driving the pumps in the shaft.



20 Altes Zechenhaus (The Old Pithouse)

The Altes Zechenhaus, built in the Baroque style, is depicted on a mining map of 1730. It is thought to have been used for storing the miner's tools and stocks of ore, perhaps also serving as a smithy for the mine. In his capacity of Head of the Commission for Mining Works, Goethe visited it often.



21 Cemetery and Corona Schröter's grave

The last resting place of Corona Schröter is near the very entrance to the cemetery. Others of Goethe's contemporaries lie but a few steps away.

22 Katholische Kirche St. Josef (Catholic Church St. Josef)

With the aid of the Bonifatiuswerk of German Catholics (catholic relief organisation), St. Josef Church has been built between 1979 and 1983. According to the design of Wolfgang Lukassek, the building resembled the shape of a tent, a symbol for the travelling people, offering refuge for the Christians in the GDR. Today, Church St. Josef belongs to the Weimar Deanery in the Roman-Catholic Diocese Erfurt.



Ilmenau-Information-Tourist Office

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Fax: +49 36 77 600 330

www.ilmenau.de | stadtinfo@ilmenau.de



Opening hours

Tue to Fri

10 am to 6 pm

Sat, Sun, public holidays

10 am to 5 pm

Service with a smile

- Reservation of accommodation: hotel, guesthouse, bed & breakfast; also selfcatering flats and cottages
- Arrangement of tourist programmes for groups
- Packages and hiking tours for individual travellers
- Arrangement of themed guided tours in English
- Free audio guide to the GoetheStadtMuseum
- Ticket service for local, regional and national events
- Brochures, souvenirs and literature

Ilmenau-Information – the Ilmenau tourism specialists.

We look forward to seeing you!