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himmelblau

Goethe and University Town



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Ilmenau ... simply amiable



Once you have been to Ilmenau, you'll definitely come back. You don't think so? Go and ask Mr. Goethe – he has visited Ilmenau 26 times. Unbelievable! It is the splendid location on the foot of the Thüringer Wald mountains and the romantic river Ilm with its clear waters that he enjoyed so much. Whether by Goethe or hiking friends these days: The town's landmark, the Kickelhahn mountain with its 861 m height, has been treasured as a lookout ever since.

In Ilmenau, there are glass and porcelain industries, we find the remains of mining and people share their enthusiasm for luge sports. We are also well-known as an established international research location. Music festivals, concerts and seasonal markets cater for the cultural life of Ilmenau.



For evermore: Goethe and Ilmenau



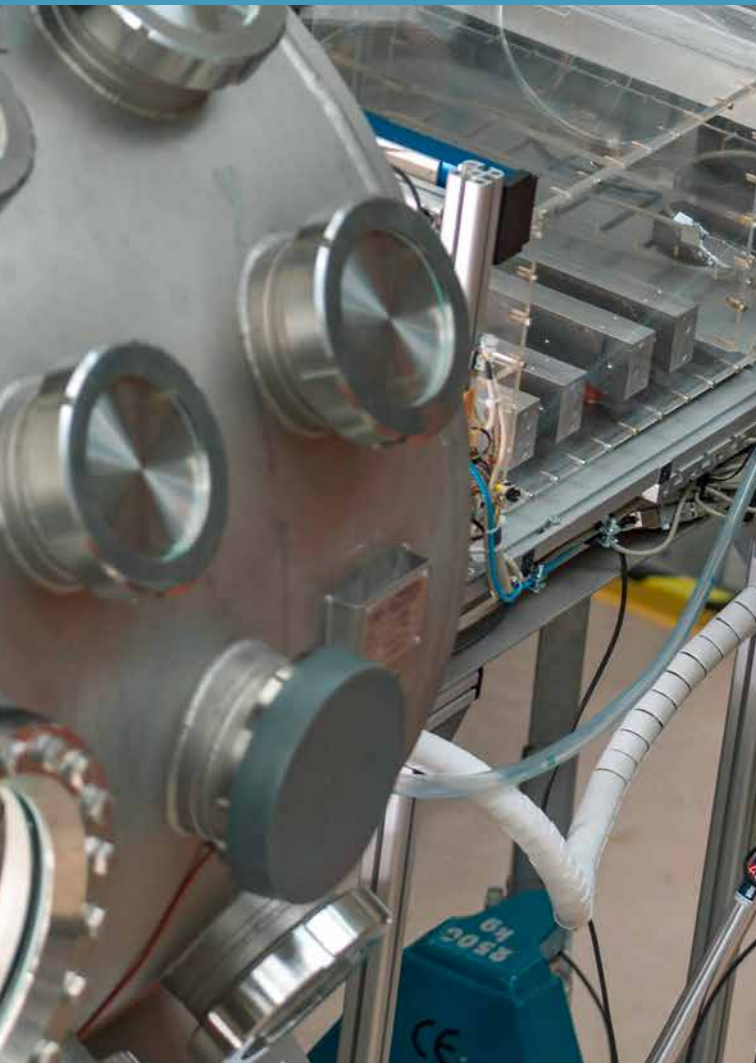
True love grew from what started as a professional relationship: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, poet and civil servant, came to Ilmenau in the first place to research the intricate tax and financial system. But then, he increasingly fell for Ilmenau's charm and its wonderful surroundings. He simply couldn't get enough of the green valleys and the wooded mountains. In a letter to Schiller, he wrote: "I have always loved being here ..., I believe it comes from the harmony of everything around here ..."

If you would like to enjoy the harmony described, the Amtshaus on the market square is a good starting point. It hosts the GoetheStadtMuseum with a highly interesting permanent exhibition of about 180 sqm, just where Goethe's official residence used to be. We would also like to recommend the hiking path Goethewanderweg, following Goethe's favorite spots in the region.



TU Ilmenau:

Spirit of Research and Teaching



Would you have guessed it? The most exact scales worldwide, an ultra broad band technology to locate individuals buried alive or search for land mines and a powder protecting from electromagnetic radiation – all these inventions come from Ilmenau’s Technical University.

Students from more than 90 countries live in Ilmenau, where outstanding scientists teach and research. Another advantage of this scientific location: the short distances between university buildings and external research facilities and high tech enterprises. By the way, the TU Ilmenau is looking back on a long tradition in education in engineering: Already in 1894, it started as a private school of engineering, “Thüringisches Technikum”. Still today, the historic buildings are used by the TU Ilmenau for modern research.



Tradition and Local Custom



Ilmenau's Pottery Market is a constant in the market landscape of Thüringen. At the beginning of May, about 40 potters, ceramists and artists present and sell their hand-made goods on the Ilmenau Pottery Market. In June, we celebrate the Altstadtfest, a festival with excellent food and live music on several stages in town. A multifaceted program in close cooperation with local societies is adding to the exciting weekend.

The oldest mountain motor race of the world – Gabelbach-Bergrennen – attracts fans of vintage cars from all over Germany. Also in June, the “Film Leben Festival” takes place – one long weekend, Ilmenau is indulging in film, manifesting its character as a special media location in Germany.

In August, especially families meet up on Kickelhahn for the Kickelhahn festival, which has become a tradition of 40 years! Our Christmas market opens always on the 3rd advent weekend and invites its guests to stroll between premium, often hand-made gifts and culinary delights.



Outdoor Activities



Whether hiking, walking with a backpack, biking or on the luge track – if you are looking for outdoor activities, Ilmenau is the place to go to! Passionate hikers have the choice of two certified quality paths: the 20 km of the “Gothewanderweg”, Goethe trail, and the trail “Von Bach zu Goethe” (From Bach to Goethe), connecting Arnstadt and Ilmenau on a distance of 25 km. In addition, there are numerous paths and trails around Ilmenau dedicated to special themes: While the “Geologischer Wanderweg” (Geological Path) is passing interesting sites of historic geological outcrops, “Oberer Berggrabenweg” leads us along a network of historic ponds and trenches, which used to be vital for dewatering the mines around Ilmenau. On the “Kickelhahn” trail, you walk around Ilmenau’s landmark, and on the “Bob- und Rodelweg”, you make your way uphill on the historic natural bob and luge track.



Bikers, watch out!

In Ilmenau, you meet a 4 Star Quality Biking Route, the Ilmtal-Radweg. On its 123 km from the spring to the mouth of the Ilm river, there are not only picturesque landscapes, but also ideal conditions regarding trafficability, accessibility, sign-posting, routing and service. Other long-distance biking routes connecting Ilmenau with other regions are the “Rennsteig-Radweg” and the “Ilm-Rennsteig-Radweg”.

The mountainbike downhill race in Ilmenau is a classic among the event locations of the iXS German Downhill Cups, as many call it their favorite track. At the spectacular finish on the foot of a ski jump, thousands of visitors are watching the race every year.





Luge

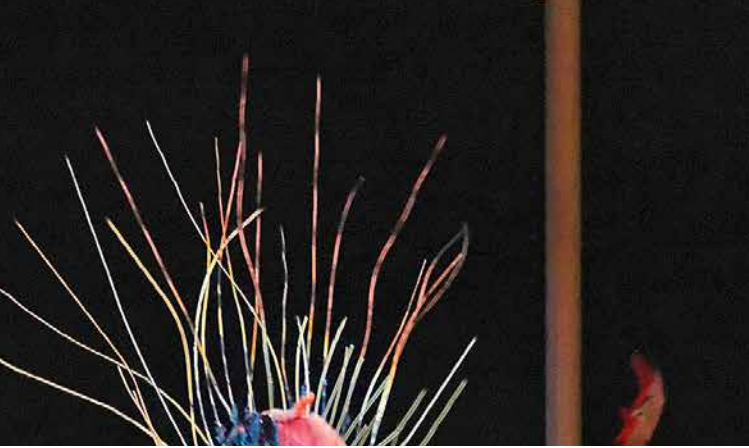
Ilmenau has long been famous for its bob sleigh and luge sports – and still is today. International competitions are scheduled both in summer and winter. We are especially proud of Dajana Eitberger from Ilmenau, winner of the silver medal at the Olympic Winter Games in Pyeong Chang in 2018.

By the way, where champions are practising, Ilmenau’s visitors can have fun and try luge, too. The luge track is open all year long.

In winter, ski slopes, luge hills and our ice rink are good offers for those keen on winter activities.

If you rather watch than speed downhill yourself: The luge museum “Schlittenscheune” is a good place to dive into the history of the luge tradition of the area, with an exhibition of historic sleighs and of course an introduction of the champions of our region.





Party Hard: Art and Culture



Concerts, lectures, cabaret & variété and theatre performances – Ilmenau is anything but boring! Nearly every month, we are hosting events with nationally acclaimed artists. The Jazz-Tage, for example, an established jazz festival featuring top-class artists takes place in April. In addition, Ilmenau’s students organize a great variety of events – with parties on campus or in “academic sports” like the soap box derby. Every three years, the TU Ilmenau invites to “Lange Nacht der Technik” (long technology night) – which is a real highlight for everyone! About 15,000 visitors are delighted by the spectacular presentations from science and technology, combined with an impressive mix of live music and theatre.



Ilmenau Tourist Information

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Opening Times
Tue – Fri: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sat/Sun/Holiday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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