

# **<u>v</u>** Kleinschmalkalden Volcano Trail

Guide for GeoRoute (14)



### Explore the region around the **GROSSER INSELSBERG** & visit our **GEOINFOCENTRES** !



#### www.thueringer-geopark.de

www.floh-seligenthal.de



Note: The overview map of the GeoRoute is not suitable for hiking. Trail maps can be purchased in the tourist information offices.

#### At the Foot of the Inselsberg Volcano

On this GeoRoute you will discover the picturesque valley of the Ebersbach. Pele, the goddess of volcanoes will accompany you from the famous cow bell - the largest of its type in the world and made by the local bellfounders Venter Glocken GmbH - on to the Goldborn and up to the Kuhplatz and down again towards Kleinschmalkalden.

Without doubt, the best view can be had from the "Grauer Stuhl", which, at 763 m above sea-level, marks the highest point along the Kleinschmalkalden Volcano Trail. You may also discover some native orchids and herbs growing on the mountain meadows.

#### The Kleinschmalkalden Volcano Trail



Distance: approx. 8 km (main route only) Duration: approx. 3-4 hrs.

Difficulty : moderate (see elevation profile) 12 explanatory panels - especially suited for upper school pupils!

Start/end: GeoInfopoint Kleinschmalkalden (Interactive rock park at the world's largest cow bell opposite the bridge Hirschbrücke)

This circular route can be walked in both directions. However, it is recommended that you begin your walk in the Ebersbach Valley, since the contents of the information panels build on one another

There is one place to eat along the GeoRoute (see map and reverse side).

#### Arriving by bus:

There is a bus stop at the start of the GeoRoute. Line 445 stops in Seligenthal, Kleinschmalkalden, Hohleborn (Info: www.mbb-mgn.de)

#### Arriving by train:

via Schmalkalden (Timetable: www.bahn.de)

Note: Our expert Geopark Guides are available to enhance your experience on this trail. Information and booking: Tourist Information Floh-Seligenthal

download the gpx-data for this GeoRoute at www.thueringer-geopark.de

#### We look forward to seeing you!

#### Contact:

#### **Tourist Information Floh-Seligenthal**

Bahnhofstraße 4, 98593 Floh-Seligenthal Tel.: +49 3683/408848. Fax: +49 3683/408850 Email: info@floh-seligenthal.de, www.floh-seligenthal.de

#### **Opening hours:**

Monday and Friday: 9 am - 12.30 pm Tuesday: 9 am - 12.30 pm and 1 pm - 4.30 pm Thursday: 9 am - 12.30 pm und 1 pm - 5.30 pm

#### Geopark-Geologist:

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#### Imprint:



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Come and also enjoy our other GeoRoutes in the GeoPark!

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#### The Kleinschmalkalden Volcano Trail: Taking a deep dive into the volcanic landscape of the Lower Permian (Rotliegend)

Now, what was the difference again between magma and lava? There is magma and magma? What is the meaning of the saying "Now I understand it, feldspar, quartz and mica that is granite"?

Does the Oberhof-Formation have anything to do with biathlon? Is it true that rocks can change? Are there different types of volcances? Are all eruptions the same?



Structure of a volcano (Graphic: Y. Kasch)

Admittedly, some of these questions sound a bit crazy, but really, the things rocks can "do" is even more incredible.



Come and join Pele, the Polynesian goddess of volcances of Hawaii. She will show the different magmatic rocks and explain volcanism to you.



Some of these magmatic rock types can be discovered along the GeoRoute.

Take a journey back in time to the Lower Permian (Rotliegend) around 280 million years ago - the highpoint of volcanic activities in this region. This is the time when the foundation of today's landscape of the Thuringian Forest was laid.



## Stations along the Kleinschmalkalden Volcano Trail

This GeoRoute starts in the Interactive rock park directly at the world's largest cow bell. The information provided on GeoRoute 14 is specially created for upper school pupils.



1 The Creation and Transformation of Rocks the Rock Cycle What are the main types of rock?

2 What is Volcanism? And why do volcanoes exist?

3 An Excursion into Earth History – The Lower Permian (Rotliegend) around 280 Million Years Ago What do geologists mean by a basement?

Magma und Lava
At what temperatures do rocks melt to magma?

- 5 Life and Death near the Volcano Life in an Active Volcanic Landscape? Was life possible near the active volcanoes back then?
- 6 Types of Volcanoes Have you ever seen the Haderholz porphyry?
- Ebertshaide-Melaphyre Dark Rock with colourful "Almonds"

What is the story behind this dark rock with colourful "almonds"?



8 Viewpoint "Grauer Stuhl" What type of eruption formed this peak?

Life after the Volcanic Eruption What opportunities are there for life after a volcanic eruption?

**Saurian Tracks in Kleinschmalkalden** Which tetrapods lived in Kleinschmalkalden during the Lower Permian?

Granite with a difference – The Granite Grus Mine Is granite really as hard as you think?

12 Is it Time for the Next Eruption? Where and when was the most recent volcanic eruption in Germany?

Guided tours on the Kleinschmalkalden Volcano Trail with a certified GeoPark Guide are available regularly between April and October.

The exact dates for the guided tours are available from the Tourist Information, in a separate prospectus or in the monthly event schedule of Floh-Seligenthal.

- Start: 9 am, cow bell in the Rock park (Kleinschmalkalden, opposite bridge Hirschbrücke), duration: approx. 3-4 hrs
- equipment needed: sturdy shoes, appropriate clothing, something to eat and drink
- Please book one day ahead in the Tourist Information (see contacts)
- Costs: 5 € p.pers., 2 € reduced

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#### Additional Attractions nearby

- **Gothaische Church** (neoclassical church, completed 1854, built with typical regional rocks)
- **Krötensteine** (tor formed by volcanic rock: Rhyolite, approx. 300 million years old)
- **GeoRoute 1: Long Haderholz Route** (in the neighbouring district Seligenthal with Interactive rock park)
- Mountain Lake at the Ebertswiese directly on the Rennsteig
- **Spitterfall** near the Rennsteig (largest natural waterfall of the Thuringian Forest)
- Six churches and six architectural styles in the districts Kleinschmalkalden (Gothaische and Hessische Church), Seligenthal, Hohleborn, Struth-Helmershof, Floh and Schnellbach
- Stud farm Hof Boxberg in the district Seligenthal
- Tourist mine "Finstertal" in Asbach
- Industrial monument "Neue Hütte" (neoclassic blast furnace from 1835)
- Museum Castle Wilhelmsburg in Schmalkalden
- **Mommelstein Bicycle Route** (with the viaduct before Kleinschmalkalden and an important geotope: a "Zechstein unconformity" in the approx. 200 m long old railway cutting)

### Eating and Drinking along GeoRoute 14

- Restaurant "Schöne Aussicht" directly on the GeoRoute: Tel. +4936849/ 21239, Schulzenwiese 1, district Kleinschmalkalden, Opening hours: Wed-Sat 11:30 am - 8 pm,
- Sun 10:30 am 8 pm
- Bakery Ritzmann with Café (near GeoRoute 14):
- Tel. +4936849/21368, Friedrichrodaer Str. 39,
- district Kleinschmalkalden,
- Opening hours: Tue-Fri 6 am-5 pm, Sat: 6 am-11 am



### Timetable of the geological development of the Geopark



#### ☆ Visit the nearby "Discovery Tower" on the Grosser Inselsberg with a Nature and GeoInfocentre

Here you can enjoy a magnificent view of the entire geopark area and the Thuringian Forest and on clear days even to the Rhön and Harz Mountains. But there is more: you can also explore the exhibition ""Summit Meeting of Flora, Fauna and Fossils – The Inselsberg Show with a View".



#### Opening hours of the tower (with Tourist Information): open daily from 10 am to 4 pm (longer hours on request) November-March: closed Tuesdays

