

The Geo- and Pleasure Trail "From Beer to Bratwurst" links Arnstadt with Holzhausen. Large sculptures created by artist Christoph Hodgson from Arnstadt have been installed along the circular route. These illustrate the close connection between the ecological conditions of the landscape and the regional culinary specialities and demonstrate the interrelationship between history and landscape.

The route does not just highlight culinary treats but also a incomparable landscape: unique geotopes bear witness to the changeful development of the present landscape and how man has used the raw materials found here. Numerous threatened animals and plants still thrive in this area. More than this,



it is here that the last remains of a steppe ecosystem are found. These locations barren

are a good example of how the animate and inanimate world are mutually dependant on and affect each other.



my night in May during the 13th century lightning struck all three castles at the same time and set them on fire, lighting up the surrounding region like three torches - as the legend goes. Mühlburg **Castle**, first recorded in 704 is the oldest of the three castles. The foundation stone for **Wachsenburg** Castle was laid down in 936 and today it is the only completely preserved castle. **Castle Gleichen,** is first mentioned in 1089 and is famous for the legend about the twice wedded Count Gleichen. Here vou can visit a permanent exhibition about the steppe landscapes of Thuringia.



Flora along the Geo- and Pleasure Trail

One of the attractions of the Drei Gleichen region is the existence of so-called **field edge flora** which includes species such as corn flowers (Centaurea cyanus) and poppies (*Papaver rhoeas*).



he pale flowered orchid (Orchis *allens)* already flowers in early May producing yel-

low blossums that smell of elderberry. Thus this is the earliest flowering orchid species.



The garden burnet Sanguisorba minor) prefers dry and caronaceous habitats. he famous "Frank

furt Green Sauce" would not be possible without this herb.



Southern Europe. Historically the plant was used as a cough medicine. Wild thyme is just one of many medicinal herbs that grow wild in this region.



system is **phea**sant's eye (Adois vernalis). This plant is a specialist for dry and barren sites.



The Geotopes along the Geo- and Pleasure Trail (1)

The Wachsenburg graben and the fault system at the Seeberg are part of the so-called Eichenberg-Gotha-Arnstadt-Saalfeld Fault Zone. This zone reaches from Eichenberg, south of Göttingen to Saalfeld in Southeast Thuringia and is 140 km long. This makes it one of the longest and most important fault systems in the Central European Fault Block Region.



In the Gravel pit Haarhausen you can have a look nside the Fault Zone mentioned

above. It exposes rocks from the Middle Triassic (Middle and Upper Muschelkalk and Lower Keuper), approx. 235–230 million years ago. These were folded and tipped as a result of tectonic movements in the Eichenberg-Saalfeld Fault Zone. In the strict geological sense it is not gravel that is extracted here since this implies transport and

deposition in a river. In fact this is limestone that has been fragmented and loosened by tectonic forces.



The sedimentary rocks found in the Alabaster Quarry beneath Wachsenburg Castle are

about 225 million years old (Middle Keuper, Upper Triassic). These gypsum deposits are about 6 to 8 m thick and embedded in grey mudstone. The gypsum has been partially converted to alabaster, which is used to produce decorative articles.



städt once produced clay for the local brickworks. Today it has developed into the highly diverse biotope. You can find out more about this topic at a panel in Seebergen.

Fauna along the Geo- and Pleasure Trail

The imposing stag beetle (Lucanus cervus) is a threatened species in Germany. One reason for this is that the larvae require dead wood for their development, especially oak. The upper jaw is enlarged and resembles the horns of a stag.



land ecosystem is ጆ Dorcadion fuliginator a member of the Longhorn beetles. This species is already ac-

tative of the step-

tive in April and is well-adapted to the barren environment.

> The **blue-winged locust** (Oedipoda

The species prefers sunny, dry and vegetation-free areas, typical conditions provided in the Badlands.



scus) is difficult to observe because it buries itself into soft soils during the day. The "cats eyes" are very





sunbathe to raise its body temperature. This is why the lizard is found in south-exposed forest edges and semiarid grassland with stony vegetation-free areas.



sage.



www.vom-bier-zur-bratwurst.de

pe and dry grasspupils.

distinctive with their vertical slit





Arnstädter

PLEASURE TRAIL FROM BEER TO BRATWURST

GEO-AND



99894 Friedrichroda, Kur- und Tourismusamt GeoPark-Office:

 Image: State of the s

E-Mail: info@amt-wachsenburg.de

E-Mail: information@arnstadt.de

Fax:+49 36 28 - 9 11- 211 Tel.: +49 36 28 – 9 11 - 0,

99334 Amt Wachsenburg

Fax:+49 36 28 - 66 18 47

, e40 20 - 82 36 20 49, Tel.: +49 36 28 - 60 20 49,

Markt 1, 99310 Arnstadt,

www.drei-gleichen.de

, n9869 Drei Gleichen,

contact partner:

Contact and imprint

҉ӡҡӭҁӀ҄҅ҺӀЪеҡӡ,

Tourist information Arnstadt

E-Mail: touristinfo@drei-gleichen.de

Tel. & Fax: +49 36 256 – 22 84 6

,4 szsarzer-Strasse 4,

GeoInfocentre Kulturscheune

district Ichtershausen,

Erfurter Strasse 42,

grudnsenseW tmA

:3uirqmi

Friedrichroda, Hauptstrasse 55,

E-Mail: info@thueringer-geopark.de

Tel. & Fax: +49 36 23 - 33 20 0/29

www.thueringer-geopark.de

oqyi bns gnifteset to typesetting and typo

Hotelpark Stadtbrauerei Arnstadt, e.t.a. Sachver ständigenbüro Reyer, Nationaler Geopark Thürin gen Inselaberg-Drei Gleichen, H.-P. Stadermann, I

Klug, Dipl. Ing.(FH) Ilka Hofmann,

Haarbergstrasse 37, 99097 Erfurt

e.t.a. Sachverständigenbüro Reyer,

Ronald Bellstedt, Dr.Wolfgang

Dipl.-Geol. Kerstin Fohlert,

Dipl.-Geogr. Nancy Schröter,

Dipl.-Geol. Sylvia Reyer-Rohde

oedia, I. Hofmann, ExQuisine – Fotolia Rohde, R.Bellstedt, K. Bogon, P. Igor & Orchi-wiki

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Uwe Keith

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сеорагк-Мапаgement:

best observed in the east of the Kalkberg. The extracted gypsum was mainly used for plaster, for example for the construction of the Drei Gleichen castles.

berg are located on

burg graben. The extensive folding

of the limestone and dolomite is

The Gypsum Quar-

ries at the Kalk-

the northern edge

of the Wachsen-

The Kesselbrunn is also located on

the northern edge of the Wachsenburg graben. Tec-

tonic forces caused the meeting of ground-water bearing rocks of the Muschelkalk and the impermeable layers of the Keuper. Groundwater accumulates at the boundary to the impermeable layer and flows through fissures and cracks to the Earth's surface, where it discharges in a large spring.

Thuringian culinary treats along the Geo- and Pleasure Trail

The taste of the Thuringian Sau**sage** is incomparable. The added herb mixture is quite distinctive and has been a traditional ingredient for several centuries. There are many different types of Thuringian sausage in addition to the better known Bratwurst, Rotwurst, Leberwurst and Knackwurst. They are famous and popular far beyond the state boundary.



It is also common nowledge that the Thuringian culinary heritage includes more than

just the Thuringian Bratwurst. Altenburg goat's cheese, Thuringian asparagus, herb liquor from Neudietendorf, Christmas stollen from Erfurt and many other products are in no way inferior in quality and fame to the sauSeveral small and medium sized breweries use spring water from the Thuringian Hills and Thuringian barley to produce **Thuringian** beer according to old traditional recipes.

Thuringian Klösse are handmade dumplings made from 2/3 raw grated and 1/3 boiled potatoes. Traditionally they are served with the Sunday roast together with various types of cabbage, especially sauerkraut or red cabbage.



Badlands are vegetation-free areas

that are often found on exposed

southeast, south and southwest

facing slopes of the Drei Gleichen-

Region. For example, you can find

badlands beneath Wachsenburg

Castle. The exposure of this site

and historic over-grazing preven-

ted the formation of soil. Any soil

The rocks of the Badlands belong

to the so-called Steinmergelkeuper

deposited during the Upper Trias-

sic (approx. 220 million years ago).

These are mostly mudstones that

have been severely affected by rill

erosion. They were named after the

In Autumn especially when the sun

is at the right altitude, these areas

area in South Dakota (USA).

whole geopark.

is eroded by wind and water.











<u></u>	Boundary Nature reserve
	Contour line 5 m equidista
	Major road
	Minor road
	Lane
	Path, trail
	Railway with station or stop
θ	Bus stop (selection)
P	Parking
	Hospital
<u> </u>	Indoor swimming pool



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