



5 countries

7 Be(h)ringe(n) and  
their attractive regions

1 idea



# 5 countries, 7 municipalities

## 1 union



## 5x Be(h)ringe(n) International



### What connects the seven Be(h)ringe(n) so that they decided to create a touristic brochure together?

All of these localities are situated in attractive touristic areas. The Lüneburg Heath, the Wartburg in Eisenach or the Rhine Falls are only a few of the highlights of these interesting regions.

Feel free to visit us here and be surprised by the magnificent destinations you can explore.

The seven municipalities, Beringen in Belgium, Beringen in Switzerland, Behringen in the Lüneburg Heath (today Bisingen), Behringen in Hainich (today Hörsselberg-Hainich), Behringen an der Wipfra (today Ilmtal), Beringen in Luxembourg (today Mersch) as well as Beringe in the Netherlands (today Peel en Maas), found together simply by their homonymity.

The idea to forge relationships between the municipalities goes back to 1956. During the first years many mutual visits were organized. The association «5x Be(h)ringe(n) International» was founded 13 years later. At the beginning of 1990 the number of Be(h)ringe(n) in the association rose from 5 to 7 with the two Behringen from Thuringia. The main goal of «5x Be(h)ringe(n) International» consists in the maintenance of friendship and partnership between the municipalities with the local names Behringen, Beringe and Beringen.

«Five countries – Seven localities – One union».

Until 2010, this partnership was mainly maintained on personal levels and between local societies. The political communities were barely involved at that time. After the realization of a common project by the political communities it was only a small step that was necessary that the communities decided on the 3<sup>rd</sup> may of 2014 to sign a partnership agreement.

«Randen – Vine – Rhine»

Exploring and experiencing sensuously

## Beringen, Switzerland



© Sonja Bühner

→ [www.beringen.ch](http://www.beringen.ch)

→ [www.schaffhauserland.ch](http://www.schaffhauserland.ch)



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Beringen is an erstwhile farming village that evolved into an agglomeration with around 4,800 inhabitants and 2,000 working places during the last decades.

Beringen is situated in the northernmost part of Switzerland in the regional nature park of Schaffhausen, about 4 km west of Schaffhausen. With the Randen, Klettgau and the Rhine the locality is situated in a fetching and high standard local recreational area.

Nature, touristic attractions, themed trails, accommodations, spare time activities, wine localities, gastronomy and festivities – Our region has much to offer.

Come to visit us!



© Sonja Bühner



© Hansjörg Vögele



The wheelchair-accessible swimming bath (1) is the first in the Schaffhausen canton having a natural water-processing unit. A fun paddling pool with a multitude of water features, diving spots and much more will make it an unforgettable stay for the whole family.

The Randentower (2) with its shade spending rest area is a marvelous place to take a break and gives an impressive 360° panorama view over the Klettgau, the Alps, the Swiss Jura as well as abroad into the Black Forest.

If you visit our local museum (3), you will find yourself amid of the old handcraft, agriculture, householding and more historical utilities. The museum itself is situated in the town centre integrated in historical buildings, a residential tower from the 13<sup>th</sup> century and a 17<sup>th</sup> century «Zehntenscheune».

## Places of interest in the region



The boat Arenenberg with the Munot fortress in the background

© Schaffhauserland Tourismus

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©Christian Perret

The Randen, the small hill range in Beringen, is rich in floral, faunal, geological, agricultural and cultural diversity. You can explore those riches on your own. Two Natura Trail routes for pedestrians lead through the Randen territory. If you want to travel faster, you can prove yourself on the «Schaffhauserland

Bike» cross-border mountain bike trail.

You can also profit from scenic wandering and bike tours through vine-growing slopes. Schaffhausen is home to the Pinot noir. The region has a century-old tradition in viticulture. The main production area lies in the lower Klettgau that homes the largest connected surface of vineyards of the German-speaking Switzerland. After the tour you can take a break in the «Bergtrotte» in Osterfingen (4). A centre of the Pinot noir was created here in the middle of a vineyard.

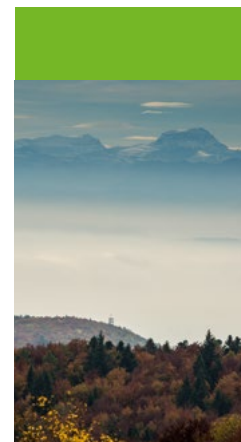
The town Schaffhausen itself (5) is inviting to go for a stroll. Discover the 171 bay windows or tootle through the winding backstreets. High above the old town reigns the «Munot». The impressive fortress is the symbol of Schaffhausen. From Schaffhausen you can drive upstream the Rhine by boat to explore the unique medieval bijou «Stein am Rhein».

### Autumn festivities & Rähülifäsch

In the autumn months of September and October you are welcome at our wine festivals. Atmospheric feasts start in the chilly cellars, the towns are flowerfully decorated and you can hear the clapping of the horse carts that pass the streets.



© Schaffhauserland Tourismus



View off the Randen tower into afar

© Schweiz Tourismus



© Adrian Stadelmann

From Schaffhausen downstream the Rhine you can gaze the «Rheinfall»— the biggest waterfall in Europe. You can climb the rock midst the gigantic masses of water for the ultimate experience.

© Schaffhauserland Tourismus

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Ideal starting point for trips

→ [www.mersch.lu](http://www.mersch.lu)

## Mersch, Luxembourg



### Beringen and Mersch

Beringen (2) which belongs to the municipality of Mersch that lies in the centre of Luxembourg, is with its nearly 950 inhabitants the third largest locality of Mersch (3). Despite the proximity to the busy and urban characteristic of Mersch, Beringen was able to maintain its rural and cosy atmosphere. Walks in the near forest or the path that starts directly in Beringen along the «Bieréngerbaach» are perfectly suited to relax. A nice alternative to the daily routine is the monthly farmers market in Beringen where you can discover and buy local and regional products. The accommodations in Beringen are nothing to sneeze at. The Beringer people are particularly proud on their modern Hotel-Restaurant «A Guddesch». Everyone that takes the decision to scout the region can benefit from the excellent connection to the public transportation that Beringen has to offer.



### Valley of castles

The Valley of the seven castles offers the highest density of feudal domains of Luxembourg. Feel free to visit the scenic castle complexes of Hollenfels (4), the romantic gardens of the Ansembourg castle (5) and learn more about the life in and around the castles.

The Valley of the seven castles trail that stretches for 37 km along the valley of the Eisch impresses with its natural and cultural richness. Pedestrians and bicycle fans will get their money's worth.



*The Ansembourg Castle*

### Landscapes of contrasts

The valleys of the Mamer and the Eisch are part of the European Natura 2000 network. Small virgin forests outlasted several centuries in the shadows of the castles. In ancient quarries, seldom species of orchids are flourishing. Here you can find some of the last intact habitats for multiple species of animals and plants. The rural peacefulness is fully enjoyable, whether the typical orchards or the green pastures.

## Places of interest in the region



### The city of Luxembourg

The fascinating capital of Luxembourg is less than 20 km away.

The city of Luxembourg offers an unexpected variety of impressive attractions. It is a cosmopolitan, busy, living but still a manageable city that sparkles of historical, artistic and cultural treasures that are waiting to get visited, interesting locations and picturesque corners that want to be explored and national anecdotes and legends that want to be told.

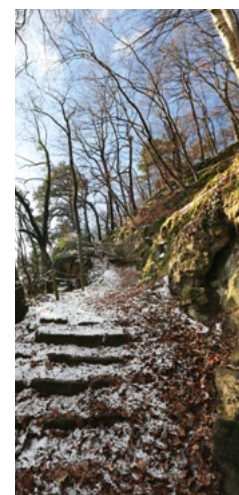
Luxembourg is a former fortified city, a prime example for European military architecture: Italian, Spanish, Belgian, French, Austrian, Dutch and Prussian master builders were involved in the progressive expansion and evolution of the city. In 1994 the fortification walls and the old town were declared World Culture Heritage by the UNESCO. Not to miss are the Bock Casemates, the «Chemin de la Corniche» as well as the grandducal palace.



Bock Casemates

### Time for some adventures

There are plenty of possibilities to explore the region West with all senses. If you want to descend the «Mamerlayen» as a speleologist, to master the rope course in the Marienthal as a cragman, to relax in the indoor swimming bath Krouneberg in Mersch or just to enjoy a fantastic tour in the surroundings: we can tell you for sure that you won't feel bored.



### Live the history

«Geschicht erliewen» – Medieval, Industrial or Celtic & Roman epochs – witnesses take you on a journey through time. The spectacle can take place at respective locations depending on your interest, e.g. the castles in Mersch, Hollenfels, Koerich and Ansembourg for the Medieval Age; the SES Koerich, the «Al Schmelz» in Steinfort for the Industrial Age; the roman villa in Mersch, the castle in Koerich, the roman thermae in Mamer and «Helperknapp».



## Attractions over and under the ground

→ [www.beringen.be](http://www.beringen.be)→ [www.toerismeberingen.be](http://www.toerismeberingen.be)

## Beringen, Belgium



© Kristof Vanclefen



© OpenStreetMap contributors

## Beringen, more than just coal

Beringen is inseparably related to its mining history. This past got a new complexion through the development of be-MINE and it illuminates the ancient mining tradition. The former mining site is the touristic hotspot and the ideal basic point for excursions through the area. Nowhere else has the cultural heritage been so preserved and the mix of culture, nature and recovery such a success. If you decide to visit the mining museum, the attle heaps, the indoor swimming bath, the centre for diving and climbing, the shopping boulevard and the tourist office, your schedule will be rapidly filled. With the slogan «Beringen, more than just coal», the town wants to hold more aces such as the universal openness and the multiple green spaces. Biking and wandering tours lead you to all attractions. The river plain «Vallei van de Zwarte Beek» (1), the amusement park «'t Fonteintje» (2) and the lake «Paalse Plas» (3) are popular with nature lovers. Also engineering – with the bicycle innovation centre «Flanders' Bike Valley» (4) – and craftsmanship – with the brewery «Remise 56» (5), the blueberry farm «Blueberry Fields» (6) and the sheep farm «De Stalse Schans» (7) – find a place here.



© Toerisme Limburg

So, there is plenty to do!

## Surroundings

Beringen is a city lying on the Albert Canal in the West of the Limbourg province, near the towns of Hasselt and Genk. Greater cities such as Antwerp, Brussels, Gent, Bruges, etc. are rapidly reachable. Thanks to the well known cycle path network – with the aid of a convenient junction point system – you can visit all tourist attractions in Limbourg.

Limbourg has much to offer. Come and visit the fruit-growing region around Sint-Trinden, the Gallo-Roman museum in Tongeren or C-Mine in Genk. Come and take a sip of gin in the gin-museum in Hasselt or visit the sound and light course «Bilzen Mysteries» in Alden-Biesen.

Quickly outside? You are always welcome in Limbourg. You can get all information at the tourist office in Beringen (8).

© Toerisme Beringen



## Places of interest in the region



The imposing pit frame is the symbol of be-MINE. Impressive, no doubt about that!

### be-MINE

The mining site of Beringen is with its 100,000 m<sup>2</sup> building stocks the biggest industrial heritage site in Flanders and unique in Europe. In the shadows of the pit frames you have the possibility to go shopping at the be-MINE boulevard, go for a swim at the be-MINE oasis and go for a dive at TODI. You can profit from a spectacular view atop of the mining heaps over Limbourg. You can reach the peaks by foot, with the mountain bike or over an adventurous playing landscape (12).

Experience yourself how life was in depths of 800 meters in our mining museum. © Toerisme Beringen

### 10 The mining museum

Hard work in 800 meters of depth under imposing buildings, such was the life of miners. You can experience it yourself in the mining museum. Testimonies, videos, audio fragments, an interactive model... many things will stick in your head. Under defined times you can visit the reconstructed subterranean mining passageways. With the museum app you can walk through the museum while being accompanied by the former miner Roberto Pasquali who will tell you his worth knowing life story.



Scrambling and climbing on the adventure mountain



### Regional products

In the tourist office shop you can find all different kinds of regional products such as blueberry marmalade, gin, chocolate and traditional ales. Beer lovers absolutely have to visit the brewery «Remise 56» to enjoy the local beers.

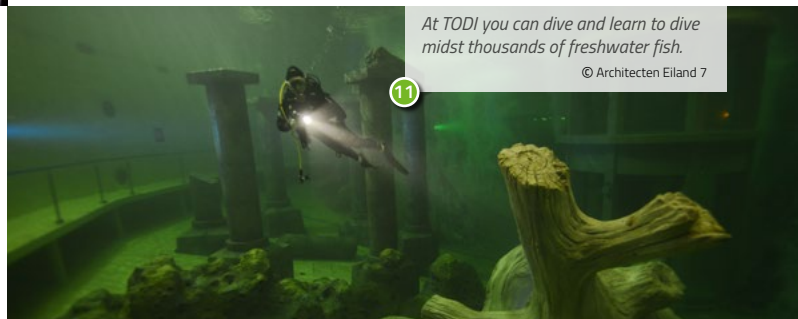
Come and taste the local «Bergmannsbier» (miners ale) and other regional products.

### TODI

One of the most astonishing attractions of be-MINE is without a doubt the indoor scuba and diving centre TODI. Midst tropical freshwater fish you can discover diverse subaqueous elements. Also no-divers have the opportunity to discover the underwater world by entering the «Aquarium View».

At TODI you can dive and learn to dive midst thousands of freshwater fish.

© Architecten Eiland 7





Flat Land with much room for recovery and conviviality

→ [www.peelenmaas.nl](http://www.peelenmaas.nl)

→ [www.beleefpeelenmaas.nl](http://www.beleefpeelenmaas.nl)

## Peel en Maas, Netherlands



4 This is the end station for the «Canal du Nord» that was commissioned by Napoleon.



### Between turf, forests, pastures and waters

The village Beringe (2,200 inhabitants) is a locality in the Peel en Maas municipality situated in the South of the Netherlands. The region offers a high diversity in landscapes. In the West expands the moor territory «De Grootte Peel» (1) where several years ago turf was cut for the heating of local habitations. This area belongs to the national parks of the Netherlands. Here is also situated the locality Meijel, an ancient city of refuge for young men that didn't want to be adhered to the army under Napoleon. In the East flows the Maas, a river with many options for aquatic sports. She flows past historical villages such as Baarlo (2) and Kessel (3) and offers a nice scenery due to the ships travelling along. Between the characteristic peat land areas and the vibrant Maas valley lie forested sandy soils, rustic villages and broad surfaces of farmland.



Enjoy the cosy terrasses in Beringe

You can relax in historic villages like Maasbree and Helden with their old rural atmosphere. The city centre of Panningen offers itself for an ideal and relaxing shopping stroll. Many homely restaurants and street cafés rise along the lively streets.

### A central basis for expeditions

The position of Peel en Maas is outstanding. It lays right between the big cities of Eindhoven, Venlo and Roermond. By car you can reach cities like Dusseldorf and Cologne in less than an hour. The airports of Eindhoven, Maastricht/Aachen, Dusseldorf and Cologne are also proximal.

The villages of Peel en Maas are a good starting point for day trips into the region. In Kessel you can visit the old castle «De Keeverberg» which was reconstructed in a modern way taking more than 25,000 hours of voluntary work. Four little castles can be discovered in Baarlo. From here you can cross the Maas by ferry. On the opposite riverside lies the monastery village Steyl with its churches, monastery, gardens and places of prayer. A missionary museum, the World pavilion, the botanical garden «Jochemhof» and a playing ground/climbing park «Klein Zwitserland» are also located here.

Also recommendable are the palace gardens and the thermal baths in Arcen. One of the most popular amusement parks in the Netherlands, the Toverland in Sevenum, awaits you to live thrilling and exhausting adventures.

Last but not least the homely Beringe. Here you can visit the 5x Beringe monument, the 5x Beringe forest and the forestry «De Kievit» including the «Prikkelpad» on which everyone, especially people with handicaps, can experience nature in all its forms.

## Beringe means enjoyment for young and old



*The raised bog «De Grootte Peel»*

Life is wonderful in Beringe. Regale yourself with beautiful nature and feel free to relax. One of the most fascinating parts of the national park «De Grootte Peel» is proximal to Beringe and easily accessible by bike. Numerous wander and bike trails with touristic nodal points lead you through marvellous nature.



*Here is the starting point for the «Prikkelpad» where everyone can experience nature in its purest.*

In Beringen you can discover some traces by Napoleon Bonaparte. In 1808 he planned to link the rivers Schelde, Maas and Rhine by a canal. If you want to follow his traces just take the «Noordervaartroute». Also the «Liberty Route Europe» passes through Beringe.



*The center of Beringe with the 5x Beringe monument.*



Information on copyrights:  
Municipality of Peel en Maas

*The 5x Beringe forest*

### Places of interest in the region

The Peel en Maas municipality lies in the South of the Netherlands. You can find several camping places, restaurants, B&B's and hotels. There are plenty of touristic and other attractions to discover. Here are some examples...

#### **The forestry «de Kievit»** [www.boswachterijdekievit.jouwweb.nl](http://www.boswachterijdekievit.jouwweb.nl)

The forestry «de Kievit» is a tourist attraction in Beringe where you can discover the boundless wealth of nature. Similar to Beringen in Belgium, Beringe created a «Prikkelpad», a stimulating trail with 14 elements to discover nature for young and old. It is an impressive experience especially for handicapped people.

#### **Play and swimming paradise «Kinjerkriebel»**

[www.beringerzand.nl/NL/kinjerkriebel-kinderkriebel-binnenspeeluin](http://www.beringerzand.nl/NL/kinjerkriebel-kinderkriebel-binnenspeeluin)

At the camping site «Beringerzand» you can find an indoor playing ground and a hall bath.

#### **The castle gardens in Arcen** [www.kasteeltuinen.nl](http://www.kasteeltuinen.nl)

Arcen awaits you with a wonderful mix of gardens and sculptures, ponds and waterfalls. There is a carriage house, a gatehouse and the castle courtyard near the castle that are worth exploring.

#### **Thermal bath Arcen** [www.thermaalbad.nl](http://www.thermaalbad.nl)

Enjoy the mineral water on the water banks. Waterfalls, subaquatic massages and whirlpools are splendid to indulge your strained muscles.

#### **Playing ground/climbing park «Klein Zwitserland» Tegelen** [www.skz.nl](http://www.skz.nl)

The adventure playing ground «Klein Zwitserland» is the first playing forest in the Netherlands. Children can totally live it up here and freely discover nature. Enjoy a hip day full of fun.

#### **Amusement park for children «Toverland» in Sevenum** [www.toverland.nl](http://www.toverland.nl)

Toverland, one of the most wonderful amusement parks in the Netherlands, was awarded the Zoover Award as best amusement park in the Netherlands in 2014.

Experience the heath

→ [www.bispingen.de](http://www.bispingen.de)

→ [www.bispingen-touristik.de](http://www.bispingen-touristik.de)

## Bispingen, Germany



### Heart of the Lüneburg Heath

Behringen in the Lüneburg Heath warmly welcomes you, or as we would say it in our dialect: *Vun Harten willkamen in Berdn*. If you come to visit us in our heath you will encounter this Low German language more than once.

Behringen has ca. 1,000 inhabitants and is thus the second biggest locality of the Bispingen municipality. It is a perfect starting point for holidays in the Heath due to its direct motorway access to the tri-city area between Hamburg, Bremen and Hannover and of course with the Lüneburg Heath natural reserve in close proximity. As the municipality of Bispingen receives more than 2.4 million tourists every year it is clear that we highly value hospitality. Nearly 5,500 beds are available for the vacationers. You can choose between a high class hotel, a rustic-style country inn, a cosy pension or holidays at the farm. There are also two camping sites and a multitude of holiday flats available for your individual desires.

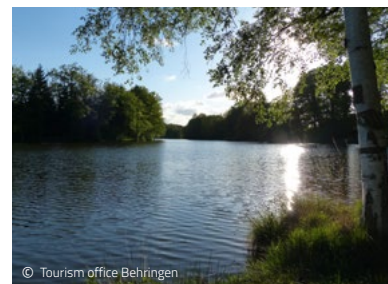


A popular destination in Behringen is the Brunau lake with a surface of 70,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The Brunau Lake is a recreational oasis for young and old due to its multiple offers such as simple bathing, boating, fishing, quad riding, a simple walk around the lake or just relax enjoying coffee or icecream.

### Surroundings

The agriculture on poor, difficult to farm heath soils and stock farming influenced and shaped the history of the region. Today a major part of the preserved communal area serves the recreation for wanderers and nature-related tourists. The attractive moorland related to a healthy climate, pure air and good infrastructure make the surroundings of Behringen to one of the leading destinations in the Lüneburg Heath.

The Wilseder Mountain (6), with 169,2 meters the highest elevation of the northern German lowlands, the most well-known destination in the Lüneburg Heath, lies in the direct area of Bispingen. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century one could profit from a view during good weather conditions that is comparable to the clear views you get in the African savannas.



## Places of interest in the region



**6** *The Wilseder Mountain is the most popular destination in the Lüneburg Heath*  
© Municipality of Bispingen



**3** *Ralf Schumacher kart centre*  
© Municipality of Bispingen

Here, Carl Friedrich Gauss measured trigonometric points in the system. That is why the Wilseder Mountain was printed on the ancient 10 Mark note.

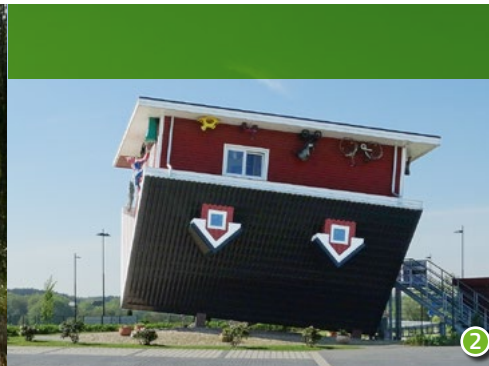
A thought-out route network for wandering, cycling, horse and carriage riding offers itself for the more proximal explorations. Since

the opening of the «Heidschnuckenweg» in 2012, a trail over 223 km of length, it evolved into one of the best loved trails in Germany. From July to October the «Heideshuttle», a free to use bus, including bike carrier, drives the tourists around the whole area on a daily basis.

Many attractions such as the Center Parc Bispingen Heide **(5)** with the water paradise Aqua Mundo or the world of experiences SNOW DOME **(1)** and an indoor ski hall open all year round offer fun and recreation for the whole family.



*The Lüneburg Heath is worth a trip all over the year*  
© Tourism office Behringen



**2** *The CRAZY House*  
© Municipality of Bispingen

Other destinations are «das VERRÜCKTE Haus» (the Crazy House) **(2)**, the landscapes park Iserhatsche **(4)** and the Ralf Schumacher kart&bowl centre **(3)**.

Many more trans-regional attractions are quickly reachable like the Heidepark Soltau **(7)**, the world bird park Walsrode **(8)** or the Serengeti park Hodenhagen **(9)**. The proximate hanseatic towns Hamburg and Lüneburg are fantastic opportunities for day trips.



**4** *Landscapes park Iserhatsche*  
© Municipality of Bispingen



**1** *Experience the world of the SNOW DOME*  
© Municipality of Bispingen

Culture loves nature – The active Behringen in the Wartburg-Hainich world heritage region

## Behringen am Hainich, Germany



© Timo Sieland



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→ [www.hoerselberg-hainich.de](http://www.hoerselberg-hainich.de) → [www.kultur-liebt-natur.de](http://www.kultur-liebt-natur.de)

### The municipality

In the west of Thuringia lays the municipality of Behringen am Hainich. Behringen (1) is centrally located and forms with 16 other localities the commune of Hørselberg-Hainich. Those who settle her have the perfect starting point for trips and attractions in our unique world heritage region, Wartburg-Hainich. In between the world natural heritage Hainich and the world culture heritage Wartburg lays an Eldorado for wanderers. Trails through the Hainich tempt as much as the paths through the fabulous Hørsel Mountains. There lies the «Venusgrotte» (Venus cave) that gave Richard Wagner the inspiration to create his opera «Tannhäuser». The sculpture park in the centre of the locality connects Behringen across the deserted village of Heßwinkel to the wildcat village Hütscheroda by a six kilometers long footpath. The 250 year old Weymouth pine towers in the centre of the park and has established itself as the symbol tree of Behringen. Visitors can admire the Renaissance-style information office of the national park, the Großbehriinger Schloss, which was built in 1547 by J. F. von Wangenheim. Today this castle hosts its guests under the name «Schloßhotel am Hainich». Here you can enjoy yourself and relax in an historical and lovely atmosphere. The slogan «holidays for everyone» fits perfectly.



© Timo Sieland

### Surroundings and destinations in the region

Behringen and the overall 17 localities are part of the Wartburg Hainich world heritage region. You can't go elsewhere in Germany for holidays as central as here. In the small commune of Vogtei lays the geographical centre of Germany. There is no other place where two world heritage sites are this closely situated one to another. Above all, there is no other place where the road connecting two world heritage sites is as captivating as here. Tree history-packed towns with a broad spectrum in cultural choice frame the world heritage region: Bad Langensalza (2) in the East, Eisenach (3) in the South-West and Mühlhausen (4) in the North. A stroll through the affectionately renovated old towns with their picturesque timbered houses, the prominent churches and over cobbled streets and places shouldn't be missed.



© Timo Sieland

## Places of interest in the region



© Anna-Lena Thamm **3**



*The viewing platform  
Hainich-Blick*  
© Tino Sieland



© Thomas Stephan **6**

To pass the gates of the Wartburg **(3)** is like opening an immense history book. Here, 900 years of vibrant past are revived. The legends regarding the Sängerkrieg and the Roses of the Saint Elisabeth, the testimonies of the bible translation and the «Burschenschaften» make the Wartburg the perfect starting point for a foray through the region –

reaching to the greatest interconnected area of beech forests, the Hainich, who is not called «Urwald» (Virgin forest) without a reason. 21 thematic paths and educational trails pass the national park. In this area nature can develop without any human intervention. In the south of the Eichsfeld-Hainich-Werratal nature park flows the Werra passing sparse shell limestone plateaus and rocky cliffs. This river is one of the most fascinating in Germany and one of the most attractive bike trails, the Werratal-Radweg, goes along the river. With the 500 meters long Treetop path **(5)**, the wildcat village Hütscheroda **(6)**, challenging climbing parcours, enjoyable lama tours, rollicking in the childrens forest, the discovery of the adventure world for children Rumpelburg or riding on the back of a Wartburg-donkey – the world heritage region of Wartburg Hainich is also surely a dream destination for young families.



*Ropes-course*  
© Tino Sieland



*Treetop path*  
© ReKo GmbH

Livable and lovable Ilmtal – in the middle of the Green Heart of Germany

→ [www.ilmтал.eu](http://www.ilmтал.eu)

## Ilmtal, Germany



### Behringen, Niederwillingen, Oberwillingen

Behringen (1) is a small quaint village in the Wipfra valley, about 10 km south of Arnstadt, at the foot of the Willinger hill. The locality was defined for a long time by the local manor which was situated at the still existing pond. Worth visiting is the church that was inaugurated in 1717.

In 1950 Behringen got incorporated to Niederwillingen and both were connected to the communality of Ilmtal in 1996.

Niederwillingen, being the most populous locality, was awarded first place in a regional competition as «most beautiful village» of Thuringia in 1995. The life of two centuries is simulated in the small local museum. Especially worth seeing is the tunnel museum which was established in May 2000. A walk-through model at a scale of 1:4 of the motorway tunnel near Behringen is portrayed here. Original materials corresponding to the present state of construction engineering were used to build this model.



Between Niederwillingen and Behringen lays Oberwillingen. Here you can visit a hydrogeological nature monument, the «Spring» which is fed by percolation waters of the Ilm. Worth the visit are the old Evangelic Church as well as the newly built New Apostolic Church.

© Municipality of Ilmtal

### Stadtilm and its surroundings

Stadtilm (2) – town of the «seven wonders». These include the town hall, the 500 year old lime tree in a monastery, the largest «Zinsboden» in Thuringia, the town church «St. Marien», the market square of Ilm, the «höchstschwimmende Ente» and the old city wall.

However the area around Stadtilm has also an immense offer in attractions. For example the art and mustard mill (Kunst- und Senfmühle) (3) in Kleinhettstedt where regular events attract large numbers of visitors. If you follow the Ilm you will reach the karst cave Dienststedt (4) where you can observe a model of a placodont (extinct dinosaur). The castle ruin of Ehrenstein (5) is a perfect destination for lovers of medieval castle romanticisms.

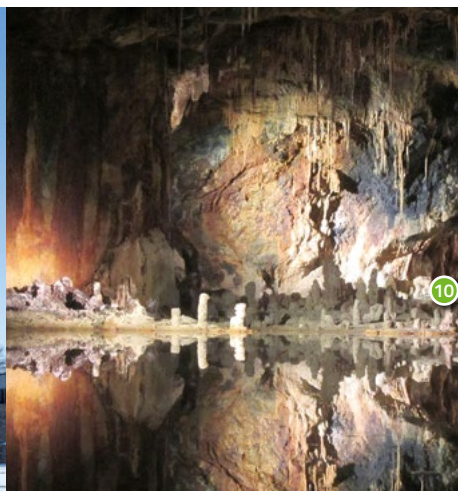
In the middle of the valley of the Deube lays Großliebringen (6) with the oldest conserved moated castle in Thuringia that was transformed into the Hotel «Edelhof». A few steps from here is a historical blacksmith. Not far from here lays Singen (7) with its traditional brewery.



## Places of interest in the region



© Municipality of Erfurt



© thuringen.de

© Municipality of Ilmtal



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### Arnstadt and Erfurt

The first authentic mention of Arnstadt (8) in 704 makes it the oldest town in Thuringia. The river town lays on the northern promontories of the Thuringian Forest. In close vicinity are the «Drei Gleichen». A stroll through the city lets you discover little alleys, splendid Renaissance and many more valuable buildings. Particularly attractive is the miniature world «Mon Plaisir», a reflection of the baroque court, which is integrated in the castle museum.

From the district town to the state capital – Erfurt (9). The biggest town of Thuringia offers multiple destinations regarding the most diverse levels of interest. You need to climb seventy steps to reach the Severi Church and the dome of Erfurt. The dome was the main church of the diocese Erfurt that was founded in 742. Especially appealing is the well conserved historic section of the town such as the «Krämerbrücke» and the Augustinian monastery. The Egapark Erfurt, the most important garden monument of the 60ies invites to enjoy, discover and recover with its regular festivities throughout the year.

### Saalfeld

The «Feengrotten Saalfeld» (engl.: Fairy caves) that are in the Guinness Book of Records as the most colourful show caves in the world are definitely worth the visit.

### 11 Thuringian Forest

The «Rennsteig». The ridgeway of the Thuringian Forest is one of the most popular hiking trails in Germany. To walk along this trail is an unique and rewarding experience.

### 12 Weimar

The city of the German classical period and of the Bauhaus is Germany's most significant city destination in Thuringia. Weimar earned this reputation due to its numerous sights like Goethe's residence at the «Frauenplan», the residence of Schiller, the Bauhaus sites, the castle Belvedere, Goethe's garden mansion on the Ilmtal biking path and many many more.



Goethe's residence.  
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**Have you already visited all the Be(h)ringe(n) and collected every stamp?**

To thank you for your interest in our regions we would like to present you a regional specialty. Please get in touch with the tourism office or with the administration of the municipality.

