

Outline of Proposed Guided Tour of Erfurt, Tailored for Luther College students

by Michael Luick-Thrams, Ph.D. in Modern European History, Humboldt Universität (1997)

www.TRACES.org

We have requested and reserved the following services for your students. Please let us know which tours you would like to take and we can confirm you booking; any reservations, however, are binding.

09:45 -10:15 o'clock: 360 Degrees – Discover Thüringen/Thuringia Digitally

“360 Discover Thüringen/Thuringia Digitally” is the first digital exhibit space for a German state

Experience all of Thuringia digitally – as visitors can now do so in Erfurt. The format of the classic tourist information is defined here completely anew with digital finesse. This 360-degree adventure world presents Thuringia as a fascinating, modern and attractive federal state for living, working and traveling.

Inspirational places and personalities, breathtaking and unusual insights, the latest technologies but also personal advice offer a modern all-round experience about. “The virtual world of experience should become a highlight with national appeal,” says the director of Thüringer Tourismus, Bärbel Grönegres. “An interactive Thuringia model with a robot guide, themed tours and a VR cinema present nature, culture, business, science and life in an impressive composition. This creates a Thuringian experience of sound, space and image for the visitor.”

Three thematic spaces form the digital world of experience:

The centerpiece is the room designed like a forest “clearing.” Different-colored light creates different moods of the day. In the center, a robot guides you through the state live on a 3D relief with the themed tours “Places with Aura,” “Thuringian blue,” “With all senses” and “Living and working in Thuringia.” Silhouettes of Martin Luther, Johann Sebastian Bach, Walter Gropius, Maria Groß, Bernd inform you.

“The farsightedness” forms the bridge between reality and virtual reality. The room captivates with an all-round panorama of various locations and matching exhibits. Visitors can take a seat in comfortable armchairs and discover Thuringia with a VR film. For example, a virtual flight takes you through the Wartburg and the Dragon Gorge or on a discovery tour through cities such as Erfurt, Weimar and Jena.

The open space “The Good Advice” offers tried and tested advice and information through brochures and maps, as well as a multi-touch table with information about Thuringia: destinations, restaurants and hotels. The creative agency TRIAD Berlin was commissioned with the realization of the project. Since 1994, it has been implementing exhibitions, theme parks and brand worlds worldwide. For Ulf Eberspächer, creative director at TRIAD Berlin, the special attraction is how the range of topics in Thuringia is presented vividly: “Thuringia not only stands for tradition, landscape, culture and history, but also for quality of life, networking and digitality. We have put this diversity and the apparent contradictions into narrative spaces that are intended to arouse enthusiasm among young and old.”

time: 09:45 – 10:15
participants: 22
language: English

cost: gratis short tour and film screening with VR glasses (approx. 5 minutes or 30 minutes alternately)

10:30 – 11:30 Evangelical (Lutheran) Augustiner Cloister in Erfurt

The church and the monastery complex of the Augustinian monk was built around 1300. Martin Luther, the famous Augustinian monk, entered the monastery on 17 July 1505. Martin Luther commemorates the Augustinian monastery with a permanent exhibition “Bible Monastery Luther.” The “Luther cell” can be visited as part of the exhibition. Since 1988, the monastery has served as an ecumenical event and conference center, as well as a Luther memorial and as a hostel for the ecumenical pilgrimage route. The Augustinian monastery belongs to “Ways to Luther,” a cultural-tour initiative in Central Germany.

time: 10:30 – 11:00
participants: 22
language: English
price: 6,50 € per person entry fee + 35,00 € guided-tour fee (in English)

12:15 – 13:15 visit to the Kleinen (“Little”) Synagoge and Mikwe

The Little Synagogue dates from the early 1800s, from the so-called “Biedermeier” era. In the cellar one can visit the original mikveh. It forms an important part of Jewish life and history in Erfurt

Visit to the Kleine Synagoge followed by a brief look into the mikveh, then the Krämer Brücke.

time: 12:15 – 13:15
participants: 22
language: English
cost: gratis
alternative: students may visit the Alte Synagoge instead:
students: 5,00 € pro Person

14:30 – 15:30 Topf und Söhne

The former headquarters of J.A. Topf & Sons is an authentic place of complicity in the Holocaust. The company provided the SS with powerful furnaces for the removal of the bodies in the concentration camps and did not hesitate to provide technical solutions to “optimize” the murder in the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp. With a permanent exhibition on the company’s history and temporary exhibitions, the place of remembrance offers a variety of opportunities for historically informed reflection on ethical questions in today’s economy and working world.

Depending on availability, a tour in English or an independent tour of the exhibit will be offered.

time: 14:30- 15:30
participants: 22
language: English
cost: **free, but a donation is requested**

In the end there is the opportunity to sit together in the film room and evaluate what has been experienced. A special PP presentation will feature **Luther College students** who served in WWII.

16:00 – 16:45 self-directed discovery around the Dom/-platz, Petersburg, etc.

Michael Luick-Thrams will offer the students an overview of nearby attractions, then explain where to meet in time for the next activity:

16:45 - 17:45 tour of the Gedenk- and Bildungsstätte Andreasstraße

The Gedenk- and Bildungsstätte Andreasstrasse commemorates oppression and resistance during the SED dictatorship in Thuringia, 1949-89. In the building of today's memorial, the GDR Ministry of State Security operated a pre-trial detention center. More than 5,000 people were detained here for resisting the communist regime. But, on December 4, 1989, freedom triumphed: Courageous people occupied the Erfurt district administration of state security in Andreasstrasse - the first occupation of a bastion of the feared "Stasi" during the Peaceful Revolution.

cost:

adults: 2,00 € pro Person

students: 1,00 € pro Person

Media Guide (English): 3,00 € pro person

18:15 - 21:15 Wirtshaus Christoffel

"Modern Medieval dining at its finest!"

Menus are varied and flexible, with a la carte as well as set-price offerings. This establishment's specialty is meat—and a LOT of it—but there are also dishes suitable for vegetarians. English menus are available.

For any questions or comments, contact:

MichaelLuickThrams@gmail.com

0049.(0)176.34 38 70 65 and see

www.TRACES.org