

Markets and Festivals

Weimar's Onion Market is legendary. But Weimar shows how to celebrate throughout the year: the Pottery Market on the first weekend in September, the Wine Festival for Goethe's birthday surrounding August 28th, the Flower Market in May and the Easter Market in the spring. And: Nothing goes without onions! That is the motto on the second weekend in October for three whole days: On the tarts, in the frying pan, decoratively braided and in arrangements – the onion is celebrated in many ways at Thuringia's largest folk festival. During Advent, the historic centre is transformed into an illuminated Christmas Market that extends from the stands and mulled wine huts surrounding the famous monument of Goethe and Schiller on Theatre Square all the way to the historic Market Square. The renowned German Christmas carol "O du fröhliche ..." can be heard especially often in Weimar during Advent, because the text was written here.



PARK ON THE RIVER ILM



SELECTION OF CAKES AT CAFÉ FRAUENTOR

Shopping and Dining

A city trip is not complete without it: shopping downtown, perhaps finding a nice, unusual souvenir. Small, unique shops and galleries in the little alleys connecting Market Square, Herder Square and Goethe Square add a special flair in addition to the larger chains and boutiques on Schillerstrasse. To top it off, there are many local designers – natives, or artists who have chosen to make Weimar their home – who offer their products in their own shops. They are an impressive reflection of the creativity in this city.

In Weimar, Thuringian cuisine is an integral part of the menu. Whether the sizzling Thuringian sausages right off the grill, Thuringian potato dumplings or regional beers or wines – Weimar's restaurants offer traditional dishes according to the original recipes or in delicious variations. Weimar's cafés are a must, with their tempting sheet cakes and fine gateaus. But the culinary repertoire in Weimar has even more to offer, ranging from the Bio-Suppenbar to the French Bistro and the Italian Trattoria.



Welcome to Weimar



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Opening hours

January to March:
Monday to Friday 9:30am to 5pm
Saturday, Sunday and public holidays 9:30am to 2pm
April to December:
Monday to Saturday 9:30am to 6pm
Sunday and public holidays 9:30am to 2pm

Start your Weimar journey with a guided tour

At any day of the week our licensed guides will show you around. You will get a first informative and amusing impression of Weimar. Guided tours can be arranged for tour companies, families or groups up to 20 people. They are available in German, English, French, Dutch, Spanish and Italian. For more languages and information, please contact our Tourist Information or visit www.weimar.de/en/tourism/guided-tours

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Welcome to Weimar,

the residence city in the middle of Europe. This is where ideas and art works originated that later spread around the world. Today, great names from the past are always close by: Goethe and Schiller. Bach and Liszt. Modernity and Bauhaus. Sweeping park landscapes, open squares and narrow alleyways, poets' homes, museums, and palaces – European cultural history is concentrated into the smallest space and named World Heritage by the UNESCO.

But Weimar remains just authentic now as it was then. Moving, pulsating, cosmopolitan – visitors are enthralled by the art and culture, music and history, the lighter muse and fresh creativity. Along with all the splendour of the cultural city, the darker side of Weimar's history is also palpable. The Buchenwald Memorial on Ettersberg hill dedicates its exhibition to the remembrance of the horrors of the Buchenwald concentration camp and the abysses of exclusion and violence.

Discover Weimar – a multi-faceted city.



Classical Weimar

Altogether, eleven sites belong to the UNESCO World Heritage ensemble "Classical Weimar". Above all, Goethe's residence, with its original furnishings that are augmented by the permanent exhibition "Floods of Life – Storms of Action" (Lebensfluten – Tatensturm) is worth a visit. Only a few hundred metres away, Schiller's home awaits its visitors; it is less luxurious but just as authentic in its portrayal of the poet's life and work. Goethe's garden house in the Park on the Ilm River has become a place of pilgrimage for Goethe admirers and can be visited today in its original colour scheme with many of the original furnishings.

The historical Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek, where Goethe was once the director, is no less impressive with its stately Rococo Hall, as well as the Goethe and Schiller Archives, in which the written heritage of many great writers, composers and philosophers is preserved. The splendid palaces of the Weimar dynasty, including the City Palace with its Cranach Gallery and the summer residences Belvedere Palace, Tiefurt Estate and Ettersburg Palace with their sweeping parks invite visitors to depart on a journey through time with Weimar classics. All of these places and venues still have a strong influence on Weimar as a cultural city today.

Our Tip for You

During the public walking tour, take a look at many of these classical sites from the outside. With the weimar card, you have free entrance to visit them afterwards (except for the historical Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek).

Experience Weimar and the region with weimar card plus



Become acquainted with Weimar on a free public walking tour, beginning at the Tourist Information Office (or borrow an iGuide for free)

Free travel on city busses

Free entrance to 20 museums and other attractions

The weimar card is valid for 48 hours from the first use



BELVEDERE CASTLE



HISTORICAL HERZOGIN ANNA AMALIA BIBLIOTHEK, ROCOCO HALL



GOETHE'S RESIDENCE

Experience Culture

From lighter entertainment to the greatest works of art – everyone finds what they are looking for in Weimar. The German National Theatre Weimar is among the most important and internationally renowned theatres in Germany. The Staatskapelle Weimar is a top-notch orchestra that is also much appreciated beyond Thuringia's borders. During the Thuringian Bach Weeks, the largest festival for baroque music in the world takes to the stage in Weimar. The Weimar Summer is full of highlights: Theatre in small and large venues, concerts in festive halls and outdoors, the lighter muse and the creative scene. Both famous names and young talents perform for Weimar audiences.



GERMAN NATIONAL THEATRE WEIMAR



BAUHAUS MUSEUM WEIMAR



GOETHE'S RESIDENCE



Weimar Modernism & the Bauhaus

Along with the new political beginning of the Weimar Republic, a new understanding of art and design evolved. The democratic atmosphere of those years led to diversification and a cosmopolitan spirit within society that provided fertile ground for the Bauhaus, the most significant design school of the 20th century, to grow and flourish. Even today, the Bauhaus ideas still resound in the fields of design and architecture.

Above all, the beginning of Weimar Modernism is connected to one person: Count Harry Kessler. As an art patron, he stepped in for the avant-garde, drawing attention to it with his exhibitions of contemporary art. Thus, he supported the appointment of Henry van de Velde as the new director of the Weimar School of Arts & Crafts. A liberal, creative climate established itself in the small city on the Ilm river, where the avant-garde figures of the day brushed shoulders. Consequently, trail-blazing impulses for the breakthrough of western Modernism in Germany originated in Weimar.

Sites such as the Haus am Horn, the Museum Neues Weimar, the Nietzsche Archive, the former Gauforum, the Memorial of Buchenwald concentration camp and the House of the Weimar Republic combine to recount the fascinating story of the 20th century. Revolutionary ideas and masterworks of art and theatre are just as much part of this narrative as the crimes committed on humankind by the National Socialists only a few years later.

The End of the Democracy

The liberal, democratic ideas of the Weimar Republic were confronted by nationalist-totalitarian convictions, which ultimately established themselves with dramatic consequences. The Buchenwald Memorial on Ettersberg hill evidences this violence and barbarism. Every year, some 500,000 visitors come from all over the world to commemorate those who died here. The permanent exhibition in the depot building of the former concentration camp tells its story by portraying numerous individual destinies.



BUCHENWALD MEMORIAL



HOUSE OF THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC



MUSEUM NEUES WEIMAR



BAUHAUS-UNIVERSITÄT WEIMAR, MAIN BUILDING BY HENRY VAN DE VELDE



HAUS HOHE PAPPeln