

Young
Genius

DISCOVER
Bach in Thuringia

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Authentic
Places

Charming
Festivals

Information

ARNSTADT

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☎ +49 (0) 3628 602049
✉ information@arnstadt.de
🌐 www.arnstadt.de
Closed on Sundays

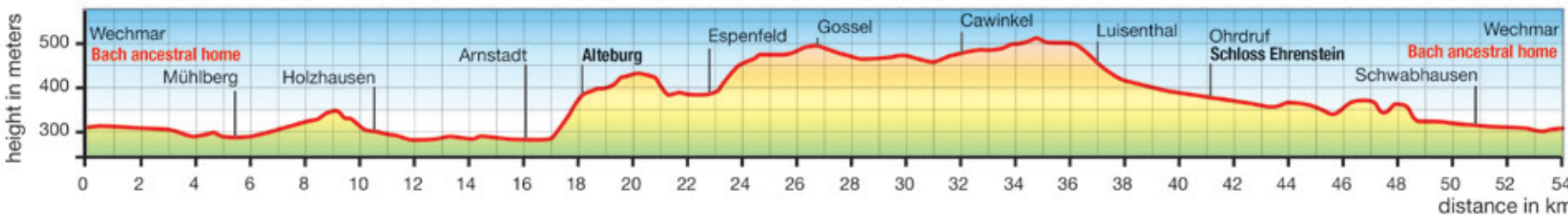
DREI GLEICHEN

Tourist Information Office
"Thuringian Burgenland Drei Gleichen"
Thomas-Müntzer-Straße 4
99869 Drei Gleichen/OT Mühlberg
☎ +49 (0) 36256 22846
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🌐 www.drei-gleichen.de
Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays

OHRDRUF

Town and Tourist Information Office
Marktplatz 1, 99885 Ohrdruf
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🌐 www.ohrdruf.de
Closed on Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays

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MAP LEGEND

- Bach Cycling Route
- other cycling routes
- Museum
- Castle
- Castle ruin
- Church
- Campsite
- Picnic area
- Stone cross
- Observation tower

BICYCLE TRAILS

- Bach Cycle Experience Trail¹
- Bach Cycle Experience Trail²
- River Apfelstädt Cycle Trail
- Nesse Valley Cycle Trail
- Flößgraben Circular Trail
- Thuringian Town Chain
- D-Route 4
- Gera Cycle Trail

Bach Cycling
Route



¹ Signposts beginning in 2020
² Signposts finished by 2020



Bach CYCLING EXPERIENCE Route



Thüringen
-entdecken.de

Bach Cycling Experience Route

CIRCULAR ROUTE 54 km, turn-off to Arnstadt-Dornheim 6 km

TRAIL CONDITIONS mainly asphalt, in part water-bound gravel or forest track

ALTITUDE DIFFERENCE approx. 250-500 metres above sea level

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY easy to moderate

CONNECTION TO OTHER CYCLE TRAILS

Thuringian Town Chain Cycle Trail (225 km) – Start: Mühlberg (Marktplatz), Wechmar (Bach ancestral home) | **Apfelstädt Cycle Trail** (27 km) – Start: Schwabhausen (“Am Steinig”/gravel mine) | **Gera Cycle Trail** (75 km) – Start: Arnstadt (Wollmarkt)

RECOMMENDED CARPARKS TO START TO THE ROUTE FROM Wechmar: opposite the Bach ancestral home | **Mühlberg:** Marktplatz, Kulturscheune, sports ground, petrol station | **Holzhausen:** below Veste Wachsenburg, at Gustav-Freytag-Weg | **Arnstadt:** Wollmarkt | **Dornheim:** the church where Bach was married | **Crawinkel:** walkers’ car park “Alte Gosseler Straße”, “Alte Mühle” community centre | **Ohrdruf:** Ehrenstein Castle, Technical Monument “Tobiashammer”

VIEWPOINTS Mühlberg: Mühlburg | **Holzhausen:** Veste Wachsenburg | **Arnstadt:** Alteburg castle tower (in Alteburg castle), Neideck tower (castle garden) | **Ohrdruf:** water tower (on Goldberg)

ARRIVING BY TRAIN

Arnstadt, Gotha (approx. 5 km to start in Wechmar), Haarhausen (approx. 2 km to start in Holzhausen)

Cycling Route Planner



📍 BACH SITE

Wechmar

Johann Sebastian Bach himself researched the history of his ancestors who had settled in Wechmar from Bohemia.

Veit Bach, father of five sons, is considered as the founder of the Bach dynasty of musicians. He came to the small place in the 16th century and worked as a baker in the *Oberbackhaus* [upper bakery]. A small Bach memorial with museum has now been set up there. The largest surviving family tree of the widespread family in the yard is impressive. It is known that Veit Bach was very musical. Allegedly, he would play the cittern in time with the mill wheel when he was milling grain. An appointment to visit it can be made in the Bach ancestral home. The original Thuringian fully timbered and panelled room is especially worth seeing.

It is also worth visiting the village church, which was built between 1841 and 1843 in the so-called *Rundbogenstil* [round-arch style]. The Alte Schule where Ernst Christian Bach worked as a cantor and boys’ school teacher has been restored and is located beside the church.



📍 BACH SITE

Ohrdruf

After Johann Sebastian Bach lost his parents in 1695, he was taken in by his brother Johann Christoph who was 14 years older than him. He was to become Bach’s first instrumental teacher.

In tranquil Ohrdruf, Johann Sebastian Bach contributed to the living costs by singing in the *Kurrende* [boys’ choir] and the choir and composing his first organ chorales. Johann Christoph worked as an organist in the main church, St. Michaelis, whose church tower is still standing, and which can be visited upon appointment. An ecclesiastic library with hymn- and sermon-books from Bach’s school years are tucked away inside it. His residence and the Latin School he attended fell victim to town fires. A plaque at Vollrathgasse 5 with the “moonlight anecdote” commemorates the composer.

Ehrenstein Castle is not far from here. The castle was closed for restoration after a major fire and is due to re-open in 2020. An exhibition on both musical brothers is planned. St. Trinitatis church is also worth a visit; Johann Christoph Bach played the organ at its consecration in 1714.



📍 BACH SITE

Arnstadt

Arnstadt offers the most original sites from the lives of Johann Sebastian Bach and his ancestors.

A long time before him, the many so-called “Bache” worked as *Stadt Pfeifer* [musicians], organists or court musicians. In the new church which was later renamed Bach Church, Johann Sebastian tested the newly installed Wender organ. As the 18-year-old Bach’s playing was so impressive, he was appointed to his first position as an organist. The baroque organ can be admired in its original appearance and sound. Bach’s organ console can be viewed at the exhibition in the castle museum. It is known that Bach had a few disputes as a young man; there was a fight between him and one of his choristers on the market square. The Bach monument by Bernd Göbel which depicts young Bach casually leaning on a milestone now stands not far from this quarrel. You can climb the tower of the Neideck ruin behind the town castle; from a height of 65 metres you have a wonderful panoramic view just as the watchman Caspar Bach the Elder once had.



📍 BACH SITE

Dornheim

The secluded churchyard which still exudes rural remoteness and tranquillity can be reached by stepping through a mighty gatehouse.

This was perhaps the reason why Johann Sebastian Bach led his wedding party here on foot from Arnstadt. On 17 October 1707, he married his second cousin, Maria Barbara Bach, in the small village church. At that time, he had already terminated his service in Arnstadt and taken up a position as an organist in Mühlhausen.

Bach fans get married every year at this magical place. The church where Bach was married can also be visited by appointment. Most notably, the epitaph of the Schwarzburgian chief captain Christoph von Entzenbergk from 1585 and a gothic winged altarpiece from 1430 are worth a visit.

Discover Bach by bicycle!

Gentle hills, colourful meadows, small rivers and castles shrouded in legend—the landscape at the heart of Thuringia is picturesque. Johann Sebastian Bach spent his early years and youth here in this idyllic region. Enjoy a varied circular bicycle tour through charming places with half-timbered houses and the impressive panoramic views from the mountain ranges of the Thuringian Forest!

You can start the cycle route at any of the small Bach sites. Be enchanted by the young, temperamental Bach in Arnstadt. In the area around Crawinkel, Konik horses and llamas graze on large meadows. Walk in Bach’s tracks as a Latin pupil and choir boy in Ohrdruf. Cycle on to Wechmar; Johann Sebastian Bach’s ancestors worked here as bakers in the originally preserved *Oberbackhaus* and in the Veit-Bach-Mill. From there you can return to Arnstadt. Cycling along the proud castles Drei Gleichen, you can literally hear the sound of the wooden cartwheels of days gone by. And if you are not out of breath yet, you can cycle from Arnstadt to the church where Bach was married in Dornheim along the paths taken by the wedding party.

Enjoy the Bach Cycling Experience Route!

