

*More beautiful than ever!*



LUTHERSTADT  
**WITTENBERG**



An aerial photograph of Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany. The image shows a dense urban area with numerous buildings, many with red-tiled roofs. A prominent church with a tall, dark spire is visible in the lower center. The city is surrounded by green spaces and trees. In the bottom right, a multi-lane highway and railway tracks run parallel to the city edge.

# Lutherstadt Wittenberg: historic, contemporary, green.

## IMPRINT

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2nd revision 2019

## PHOTO CREDITS

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## Did you know?

Lutherstadt Wittenberg – Luther's Town of Wittenberg – epitomizes Luther's radical act of nailing his provocative theses to a church door in 1517. But there are also lots of other astonishing and intriguing facts about the city.

## The Luther Oak

The Luther Oak grows at the southern end of Collegienstrasse where Martin Luther burned the papal bull of excommunication handed down by the Pope in 1520.

## 1610

### Medical feat

On 21 April 1610, barber-surgeon Jeremias Trautmann carried out the first documented caesarean section in history here.

## Beer boots

Michael Stifel, a priest and friend of Luther's, prophesied that the world would come to an end on 19 October 1533. As we now know, the end was somewhat delayed. Indeed, a satirical drinking song was created since his surname meant 'boot': 'Stifel must die, but he's so young' ('Stifel muss sterben, ist noch so jung') – and the custom of drinking from a glass boot developed to provide a merry accompaniment.

## Great-grandfather of the mobile phone

In 1833, Wilhelm Weber worked together with Carl Friedrich Gauss to design the first electromagnetic telegraph. The house where the city's famous son was born – Wilhelm Weber House – is located at Schlossstrasse 10.

## 220 hectares

is the area covered by the facilities of the Agro-Chemical Park.

## 973

is the year when the site of today's Lutherstadt Wittenberg was recorded for the first time.

## The hand of the poisoner

The poisoner Susanne Zimmermann sent two husbands and three children to their deaths, along with a sister-in-law and a nursemaid. Her mummified hand is part of the Municipal Collections and still sends shivers of fright through old and young alike.

## Four in one

Four UNESCO World Heritage Sites in one street – that's a unique feature of Lutherstadt Wittenberg.

## 30

minutes

Berlin or Leipzig? Thanks to the ICE Intercity Express rail link, travellers can enjoy a relaxed breakfast in the capital, eat lunch in Lutherstadt Wittenberg and dance the night away in Leipzig.

## 1938

Since 1938, Wittenberg has officially incorporated Lutherstadt – Luther's Town – in its name.

## Do you speak Luther?

Luther's sayings and quotations have driven deep roots into the German language. Many of them are commonplace in modern parlance, and Germans are not aware that Luther originally coined them: 'in den sauren Apfel beißen' ('bite into the sour apple', i.e. 'grasp the nettle'), 'auf eigene Faust' ('on your own fist', i.e. 'off your own bat'), 'Berge versetzen' ('move mountains'), 'Hochmut kommt vor dem Fall' ('pride comes before a fall'), 'Hummeln im Arsch' ('bumblebees in your backside', i.e. 'ants in your pants'), etc. Martin Luther is unsurpassed when it comes to finding vivid expressions for human characteristics and observations about living with other people.

## 1915

in April saw the foundation stone for the Piesteritz chemical complex being laid. Today, it is the site of Germany's biggest ammonia and urea producer.

## Glutton

Jakob Kahle – Wittenberg's celebrity glutton – became known as Kahle the Guzzler or 'Fresskahle' because he devoured everything that came his way including glass, nails, firewood and other items. When he died in 1753, his body was dissected in the university's anatomical theatre. The case gave rise to a dissertation entitled 'About the Glutton and Omnivore from Wittenberg'.

## 1502

### Education for all

In 1502, the first university established by a ruler rather than the church was founded in Wittenberg. The reputation of Leucorea surpassed that of all other universities in Germany at the time.

# More beautiful than ever!

## The town of the **Reformation**














In 1996, UNESCO selected four buildings in Lutherstadt Wittenberg and conferred the title of ‘World Heritage Site’ on them at the same time. The world’s cultural history lives on in the Renaissance home town of Luther, Melanchthon and Cranach, which escaped the Second World War virtually unscathed.

Anybody looking at the silhouette of the town today from the direction of the idyllic water meadows lining the banks of the River Elbe can still see the towers of the Castle Church (Schlosskirche) and the Town Church (Stadtkirche) completely unchanged. These two landmarks have defined the townscape since Luther’s time. Today, Lutherstadt Wittenberg is nevertheless more beautiful than ever! A wealth of development projects in the town made this possible. Wittenberg attained an iconic status in world history and the effect is continuing to exert an impact to this day.

Conference and convention venues, event and exhibition spaces have been created within historic walls to provide spaces for culture. Wittenberg preserves the character typical for a town of

culture with historic roots stretching back to the period of the Reformation in the 16th century.

An atmosphere of tolerance and debate has defined the ambience since that time. The town occupies a central position in the heart of Germany with excellent transport links to metropolitan centres like Berlin, Leipzig and Halle. Surrounded by a unique natural landscape and cultural setting, Lutherstadt Wittenberg offers the people living here a highly distinctive environment for living. A stable economy provides a growing number of people with education and training, job opportunities and prospects for the future. Once described as the ‘Rome of the North’, the cultural jewel now holds huge economic potential. This brochure will guide you through our town – and perhaps entice you to come here.

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# The town of short walks

At the crossroads of history – shop – discover – enjoy



**Lutherstadt Wittenberg is a modern town and great to live in. Luckily the town emerged virtually unscathed from the Second World War and socialist urban redevelopment. This meant that its unique charm was preserved and the townscape remained fundamentally unchanged. It is a place where life, work and leisure can be enjoyed in a harmonious synergy.**

Open streams flow through the town centre, while shady courtyards in Wittenberg's old town offer a perfect sanctuary for intimate conversations or quiet reading on hot days. Tourists stroll down the streets alongside alumni and guests of the Protestant Seminary, Colleg Wittenberg, Leucorea Old University, the Wittenberg Centre for Global Ethics and other educational institutions. In short, Wittenberg has remained a place of town and gown in the best tradition.

## **Great culture situated in a great environment**

A very short walk takes visitors to the water meadows along the banks of the River Elbe. This is a wonderful natural landscape recognized as the 'UNESCO World Natural Heritage Middle Elbe Biosphere Reserve' and it presents a beautifully idyllic landscape with ancient trees and the river's branching tributaries. Back in the town, visitors can choose from a huge number of events: concerts, conferences, historical festivals, as well as opportunities for luxury shopping and a choice of cuisines to satisfy all epicurean tastes. Here culture and

nature meld together to create a centre of relaxation and enriching experiences surpassed by virtually no other town or city in Germany.

## **Life enriched by flair**

It's hardly surprising that an increasing number of people are deciding to move here and settle on the banks of the River Elbe. Everyday living is affordable, excellent transport links give access to metropolitan centres like Berlin, Leipzig and Halle within just half an hour, and the town and surrounding areas offer increasingly attractive opportunities for work and career. Lutherstadt Wittenberg is continuously growing as an industrial, administrative and service centre for the entire region.

Weekends are times when local people take full advantage of the numerous leisure amenities: the Cranach Courtyards, the Stadthaus (town house) and the Exerzierhalle ('drill hall') are cultural centres with a historic foundation, the swimming pools, the zoo, the Butterfly Park, paddleboat trips on the Elbe, sports facilities... the list is never ending.



The Arsenal Shopping Centre is located in a central position, melding harmoniously into the old town. Together with the shops in the town centre, Lutherstadt Wittenberg offers more than 325 shops alongside a wide range of varied restaurants and cafés. Anyone wanting to take a leisurely stroll through the town will be amply rewarded.





# Spectacular festivals throughout the year

The streets in Lutherstadt Wittenberg are places where life celebrates itself

## Luther's Wedding

Almost half a millennium ago, former monk Martin Luther married Katharina von Bora, who had made her escape from a nunnery. Every year in June, the people of Wittenberg and visitors celebrate this occasion with a big festival. They wear period costume including doctoral caps, scholar's gowns, cloaks and doublets, demonstrate ancient crafts, play music on replica Renaissance instruments, roast a hog on a spit and enjoy a glass of beer or wine straight from the barrel. Merchants and innkeepers come from far and wide to set out their wares in historic locations from Luther's era, while performers, jugglers and musicians provide entertainment for the crowds. Lutherstadt Wittenberg on the banks of the Elbe welcomes 80,000 visitors during these three festival days in June.

[www.lutherhochzeit.de](http://www.lutherhochzeit.de)



Left: Players for the Adventure Night (Erlebnisnacht)

Right: Entertainers in the outdoor hot tub at Luther's Wedding pageant



**Shows, cultural events, conferences and concerts continue as a succession of veritable gems in Lutherstadt Wittenberg throughout the year. In the summer, visitors can experience the cultural highlights on the streets of the city.**

Every year, many of the town's citizens are involved in staging the town's unique cultural experience. And this has become a big-time success story: The 'Wittenberg Summer of Culture' attracts some 180,000 visitors to the town every year. Local citizens and visitors join together to go to events like Adventure Night (Erlebnisnacht): a night of dazzling theatrical and musical performances with familiar and unknown places illuminated in a magical lumière setting. You will encounter fantastical figures, scenic backdrops and unique sounds during an unforgettable evening.

A succession of cultural experiences continues throughout the summer: concerts given by famous musicians in the town's churches, the May Flower Festival, Courtyard Concerts, Luther's Wedding, the Wine Festival, the Pottery Market, the Summer Comedy Festival – the list goes on and on. Lutherstadt Wittenberg has in fact become a magnet for comedy and cabaret – and rightly so. Because Martin Luther was a master at capturing big issues in pithy statements and calling established certainties into question with a twinkle in his eye.

## The Reformation at the centre of the town

With the Reformation Festival on 31 October, the town essentially reaches the climax of its spiritual life. Lutherstadt Wittenberg celebrates its role as the origin of the Reformation in Germany with special church services, festival concerts and lectures. Performers, musicians and travelling folk abound at the historical spectacle in the streets of the old town and in Marktplatz ('market square') – energetic, raucous, colourful, and just as bold and eloquent as the Reformers themselves were all those years ago.

## Overview of the year



### Spring

- May Flower Festival
- Cycling Days
- Wittenberg Fair
- Farmers' Market



### Summer

- Luther's Wedding  
[www.lutherhochzeit.de](http://www.lutherhochzeit.de)
- Courtyard Concerts (Hofkonzerte)
- Wine Festival
- Summer Comedy Festival
- Adventure Night (Erlebnisnacht)  
[www.wittenberger-erlebnisnacht.de](http://www.wittenberger-erlebnisnacht.de)
- Choral Festival
- Festival of Light



### Autumn

- Pottery Market
- Renaissance Music Festival  
[www.wittenberger-renaissancemusik.de](http://www.wittenberger-renaissancemusik.de)
- Reformation Festival  
[www.wittenberger-reformationsfest.de](http://www.wittenberger-reformationsfest.de)



### Winter

- Market of Beautiful Things
- Christmas Market
- Advent in Luther's Family at Luther's Courtyard
- Courtyard Concert
- Returners' Day

You can find the latest annual calendar on the city's homepage: [www.wittenberg.de](http://www.wittenberg.de)

Mein Wittenberg







# Boredom is banned

Culture is a routine experience in Lutherstadt Wittenberg – every day – in many locations

**Lutherstadt Wittenberg is the essence of culture. The historical anniversaries follow in close succession.**

Regular annual festivals like Luther's Wedding or Reformation Day are not the only ones celebrated. The town also marks other great anniversaries. In 2015, the town transformed itself into a 'Cranach City' for twelve months to celebrate the landmark 500th birthday of Lucas Cranach the Younger. The 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 was a major event in Lutherstadt Wittenberg which resonated internationally. New formats for events in the town demonstrate the global impact of the Reformation in today's world and for the future. The evolutionary process launched 500 years ago in Wittenberg moulds our lives even today – our language, art and music, and our society. Future milestones are already on the horizon. The year 2022 will see the next festival – a celebration of Luther's translation of the Bible 500 years ago.

A host of artists from different genres also ensure that the town is always a lively place: the Phoenix Theatre World (Phönix-Theaterwelt), the cabaret and revue stage at the CLACK Theatre, the school of fine art in the Cranach Courtyard, the Student Big Band at the Luther-Melanchthon Grammar School, the band of the Lucas-Cranach Grammar School, and much, much more. The town is home to sculpture studios and graphic-design practices, courtyard concerts and the stages for the Summer Comedy Festival. As Martin Luther once said: "If God didn't have a sense of humour, I wouldn't want to go to heaven."

## Seeing pink elephants

Graffiti is almost entirely absent from the walls in Wittenberg because graffiti artists and taggers have been consistently integrated in the activities by the 'wbmotion' association. Luminaries of the graffiti world are invited to take part in the Street Art Festival and they leave their 'tags' behind at Arsenalplatz on the big partition walls. The pink elephant is one example, providing an attractive spectacle that hides a grey concrete wall in Wichernstrasse.



Street Art Festival  
at Arsenalplatz





## A new spirit found its home

Lutherstadt Wittenberg is the birthplace and cradle of a new Protestant faith – and remains so to this day

The Reformation wasn't simply responsible for creating a new religious self-confidence. Trades and professions, German literature and music, the humanities and natural sciences were all shaped by the intellectual revolution launched here on the banks of the Elbe. A new reality dawned on the basis of 95 Theses written on a single sheet of paper and ultimately this paved the way for the Enlightenment.

All of a sudden, there was a tangible sense that all roads no longer led to Rome. When Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church (Schlosskirche) in 1517, this single act transformed the world of the Middle Ages. Faith was now focused on two poles. One centre of power remained cast in stone on the banks of the River Tiber. The other pole was now situated on the banks of the River Elbe. Prior to Luther's time, Wittenberg had been an unassuming seat of royal government. It now became the catalyst for a European revolt against religious patronage and spiritual corruption.

The effects of Luther's single deed extended far beyond this religious dimension. As a reformer, he also heralded a new beginning for German literature. He was instrumental in developing German language and he possessed a unique talent for expressing religious concepts in terms of powerful imagery or 'metaphors'. He always sought to use ordinary language and asserted that he "looked at the mouth of the people". This explains the highly provocative nature of some of his utterances: "When I fart, they should smell it in Rome."

Martin Luther's exploitation of his polemic talents launched the first media revolution in our history. Huge quantities of his writings were printed and they spread like wildfire. Apart from two years spent at Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, he remained in the town of Wittenberg throughout his life.

### Reformation as an engine of economic growth

Wittenberg went on to develop into the centre of this first media revolution. Printing presses were set up in workshops, bookbinders, typesetters, proof-readers and lead casters were able to get skilled jobs in completely new areas. Lucas Cranach the Elder was not simply a great painter and engraver. He was also a visionary entrepreneur who rose to become the Mayor and 'First Man' of the town as a printer and publisher.

### Luther's key collaborator – Philipp Melanchthon

Martin Luther was an eloquent champion but he was by no means the only scholar whose teachings attracted students and other academics in their thousands to Wittenberg. Philipp Melanchthon shared equal stature as the originator of what might be called the constitution of a new Protestant faith. With his writings, the 'Teacher of Germany' played a pivotal role in creating the necessary unity within the Protestant community, which at the time was still in its infancy. Many other scholars such as Johannes Bugenhagen also played their part as proponents of the new faith in Wittenberg.



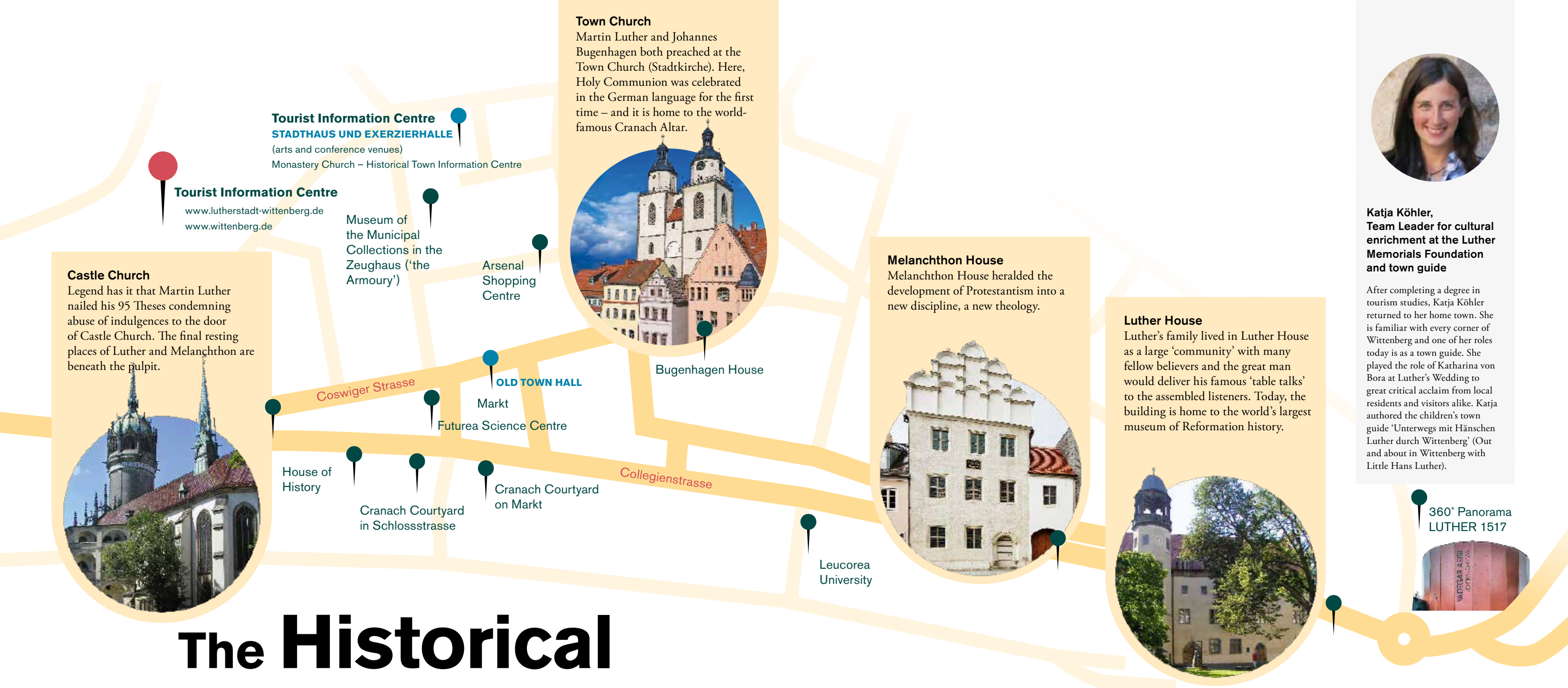
**Dr Johannes Block,**  
Pastor of the Town Church

Johannes Block was born in Hamelin in 1965. Since 2011, he has been following in the impressive footsteps of Martin Luther as the pastor of the Town Church of Wittenberg. Pastor Block lives in Wittenberg's old town and wrote his doctoral thesis in Heidelberg on the subject of Luther's interpretation of music. This was followed by a book entitled: 'Die wittenbergische Nachtigall. Luther im Gedicht' (The Wittenberg Nightingale. Luther in Poetry). Johannes plays the piano and is a keen jogger along the banks of the River Elbe. He is also an honorary lecturer in practical theology at the University of Leipzig.



Left: Luther Monument in Marktplatz  
Right: The Theses Door at Castle Church





**Katja Köhler,**  
**Team Leader for cultural enrichment at the Luther Memorials Foundation and town guide**

After completing a degree in tourism studies, Katja Köhler returned to her home town. She is familiar with every corner of Wittenberg and one of her roles today is as a town guide. She played the role of Katharina von Bora at Luther's Wedding to great critical acclaim from local residents and visitors alike. Katja authored the children's town guide 'Unterwegs mit Hänschen Luther durch Wittenberg' (Out and about in Wittenberg with Little Hans Luther).

# The Historical Mile

Four World Heritage Sites are found here



**Lutherstadt Wittenberg – a cultural landscape imbued with historical significance.**  
**A short stroll around the town becomes a supremely rewarding cultural experience because one sight follows on from another.**

Visitors first encounter the four UNESCO World Heritage Sites – Luther House, Town Church, Melanchthon House and Castle Church. Next come the castle, the Cranach Courtyards, Leucorea University, the Town Hall with its Renaissance façade, numerous town houses and all the other artistic and historic monuments.

The 360° Asisi Panorama brings the time around 1517 to life in a fascinating recreation. All these sights and far more besides can be found along the central axis running through the heart of Wittenberg, known today as the 'Historical Mile'. All along the Mile, enchanting haunts invite you to linger and browse, great restaurants

and cafés offer enticing menus to suit every taste, and a wide variety of little shops give visitors opportunities to indulge their heart's desire.

**A new vista**  
Since the end of the Seven Years War in 1760, the site of the former Franciscan

Monastery at the northern entrance to Wittenberg has been derelict. This area on Arsenalplatz has now been transformed into a stunning feature for visitors coming to the town. The Historical Town Information Office presents a monumental artistic masterpiece in the form of a recreation of the Monastery Church.





‘Tis always better to see with one’s own eyes than with those of other people.

Martin Luther

#### Cranach Courtyards

Two of the most important painters in the Renaissance had their studios in Wittenberg: Lucas Cranach the Elder and his son Lucas Cranach the Younger. Elector Frederick the Wise appointed Cranach the father to his court in Wittenberg in 1505. The artist went on to live in the town for nearly half a century. He created the paintings here that established his reputation

as the ‘Painter of the Reformation’. We owe a debt of gratitude to his realistic style of portraiture that has bequeathed to us images of many significant personalities of the time that are true to life. Alongside overseeing a successful artist’s studio, he also established the printing press where Martin Luther’s first translation of the Bible was produced.

## Six museums present the historical treasures of Wittenberg

The town cannot simply be ticked off the tourist list in a day. The rich landscape of museums is far too extensive for a whistle-stop tour. Visitors will undoubtedly benefit from taking their time, enjoying the hospitality of Lutherstadt Wittenberg and spending several days soaking up the culture.

#### Luther House

When Martin Luther came to Wittenberg for the first time in September 1508, he took up residence at the Augustinian hermits’ monastery. When he got married on 13 June 1525, this place was transformed into a ‘sanctuary of the Reformation’. Today, the monastery houses the world’s largest museum celebrating the history of the Reformation, regularly hosting major exhibitions.

#### Melanchthon House

A reputation as the ‘Teacher of Germany’ attracted thousands of scholars to the banks of the River Elbe every year at a time when the Leucorea was the best attended university in Europe. Today, Melanchthon House shares the status of a UNESCO World Heritage Site with Luther House and it salutes this great humanist and reformer in a permanent exhibition. The exhibition includes exciting exhibits developed specifically to cater for the interests of children and teenagers.

#### Cranach Haus

The historic Cranach House located at Markt 4 houses a permanent exhibition entitled ‘Cranach’s World’. A number of artist’s studios are also located here along with a café. The foundation looking after Cranach House also runs an art school in Cranach Courtyard at Schlossstraße 1.

#### Museum of the Municipal Collections in the Zeughaus (‘the Armoury’)

The Prussian armoury on Arsenalplatz now houses the revamped town museum. The ‘Crown Jewels of the Town’ are displayed on the ground floor. The next two floors present exhibits from the history of Luther’s town, which spans more than 700 years along with exhibits from Julius Riemer’s famous collection of artefacts relating to natural history and ethnography.

#### Monastery Church – Historical Town Information Office

If the House of Ascania had not existed, Wittenberg would not have been a royal residence. And then the Reformation would not have happened here at all. The spectacular discovery of the grave of Elector Rudolf II of Saxe-Wittenberg in February 2009 provided an opportunity to shed new light on a major chapter in the history of Wittenberg. The creation of the Historical Town Information Office and the ceremonial reinterment in 2015 have uncovered the footsteps of the Ascanians and allow us to retrace them anew. Visitors enter a replica church interior recreated to match the size of the original sacred building around 1300 – a truly monumental artistic masterpiece. The history and significance of the ruling dynasty are brought to life in the style of mediaeval times with biographical imagery typical of the era.

#### House of History

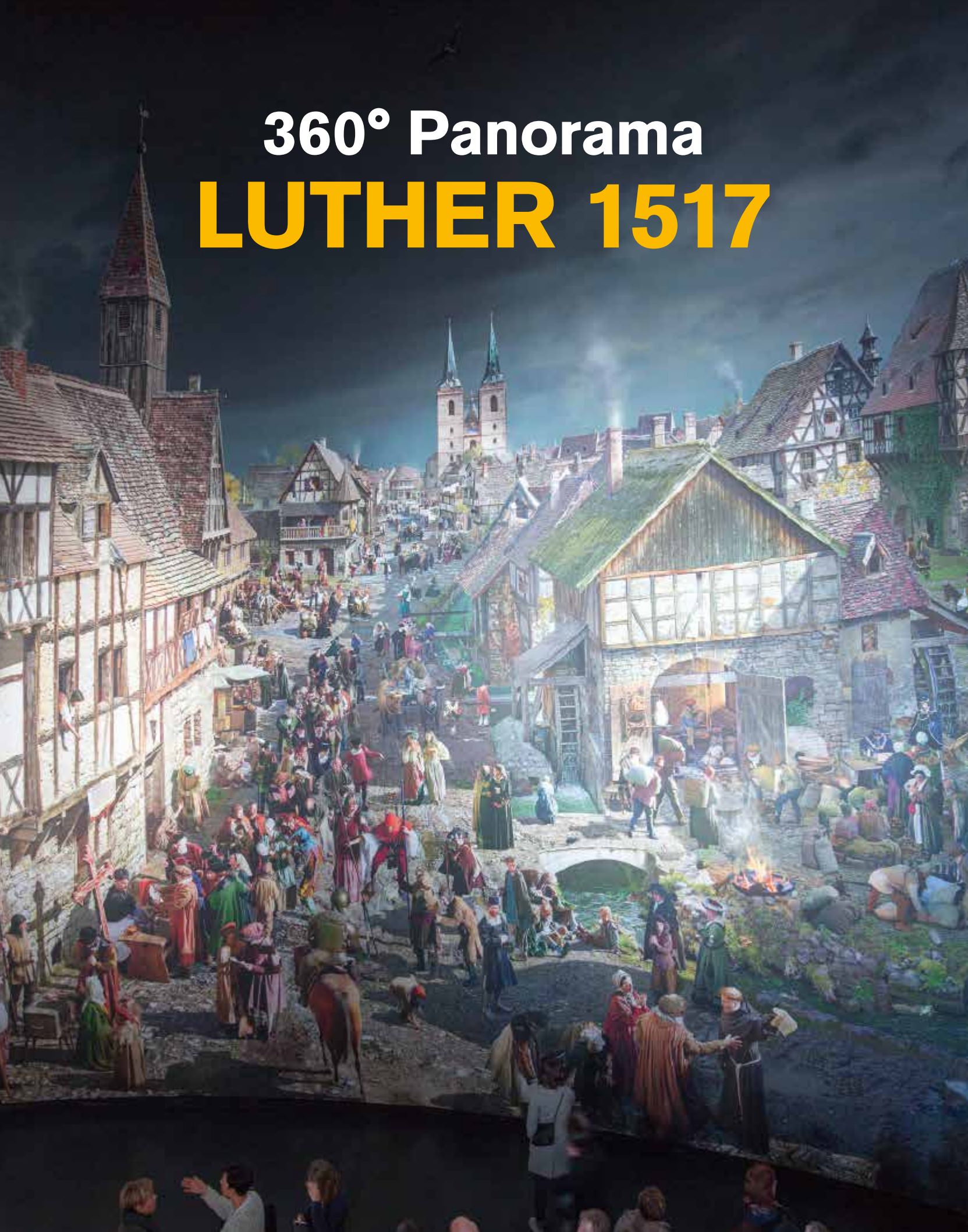
Visitors who wish to remain closer to the present day can explore everyday life in the modern era from 1920 to 1990. The House of History presents authentic living rooms, classrooms and the building’s very own Dance Bar. Temporary exhibitions on special topics are also hosted. The House of History has a unique collection of exhibits presenting day-to-day life and social history in central Germany.

Left: Exhibition in Monastery Church  
Centre: Busts of Luther and Melanchthon in Melanchthon House  
Right: Lecture theatre in Luther House





# 360° Panorama LUTHER 1517



The renowned panorama artist Yadegar Asisi has depicted the events of the Reformation in a monumental panorama painting. Onlookers see the town of Wittenberg depicted at the beginning of the 16th century on a canvas measuring 15 x 75 metres. The real-life scale for the people and buildings draws visitors into a genuinely authentic experience of everyday life back then.

Looking down from the mighty Castle Church, the vista extends along alleys to Marktplatz ('market square'). The citizens of Wittenberg, peasants, monks, students and pilgrims are all going about their daily business. The townsfolk are lining up to buy indulgences from a theologian. Others are having a good time at a bar or in the bathhouse. Prostitutes are plying their wares to visitors in the brothel. At the same time, peasants are bringing their corn to be ground in the local mill. Martin Luther launches the Reformation against this backdrop of workaday scenes.

Looking back in time, we primarily see the changes taking place from one era to the next. Works of art are one of the areas that reflect this transformation. Scientific interest now trumped standard religious teachings and the doctor Augustin Schurff carried out a public dissection of a human head at the university in 1526. Astronomer Erasmus Rheinhold witnessed a huge comet together with Luther and Melanchthon in 1538. All three joined together in a discussion about the meaning of this event. At the time, the invention of printing was only a few decades old but without this technical innovation dissemination of the ideas that were central to the Reformation would not have been possible. A new centre for printing developed in Wittenberg and this became a lucrative sphere of business for the citizens of the town.

Apart from progress in the humanities, science and technology, the new era also brought with it a new atmosphere of intolerance. At one time, Jewish scholars had been recruited to teach Hebrew at the university but now they were banished from the town. Women unjustly accused of witchcraft found themselves on trial and they were put to death in the most brutal way.

All these happenings are vividly shown in the LUTHER 1517 panorama. Sound effects and music create acoustic depth. The artwork is embedded in the rhythm of day and night. The various lighting effects focus on different scenes and highlight the dramatic developments of those times. Opening times are from 10.00 to 17.00. The panorama can also be hired for special events.

You can find out more by going to: [www.wittenberg360.de](http://www.wittenberg360.de)





# A world full of wonders

**Nobody needs to take a trip in their car to enjoy the wonders of nature around Lutherstadt Wittenberg. An impressive landscape of water meadows is on the doorstep along the banks of the River Elbe. The Middle Elbe Biosphere Reserve is one of the oldest UNESCO protected regions in Germany.**

Residents of Wittenberg and visitors to the town only have a short walk before they leave the Renaissance town behind and find themselves in the midst of the Middle Elbe Biosphere Reserve. Since 1979, the extensive water meadows along the Elbe have been a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site. The wide floodplain allows the Elbe to burst its banks and meander at will. This landscape is home to a large number of solitary gnarled oaks and it has remained in its natural state with extensive alluvial woodlands alongside the Elbe. The area has provided a sanctuary for animals and plants that have become extinct elsewhere. The region extends deep into the Dessau-Wörlitz Garden Realm and the last remaining river beavers live in an area where they can build their lodges in the water. Visitors are able to learn more about this unique protected region covering an area of 125,000 hectares at the Auenhaus Information Centre.

## **An important hub for lots of cycle tracks**

A wide expanse of nature offers virtually unlimited opportunities for sports and leisure activities. Lutherstadt Wittenberg has become an important crossroads for cyclists. A number of cycle routes pass through the old town including the European Cycle Route R1. This is a long-distance route from Boulogne-sur-Mer in France to Saint Petersburg in Russia. The Berlin-Leipzig cycle route passes through the Fläming Nature Park and Düben Heath, and cyclists making their way along the route can take advantage of hospitality in Wittenberg. Last but by no means least, the Elbe cycle route passes through the nature park. It starts in Hamburg and follows the winding river. Many awards have been conferred on it as one of Europe's most beautiful long-distance cycle routes.

There are also amenities for other types of sport. Anyone on rollerblades will have great fun on the 'black ice' of the Fläming Skating Circuit. And massive stretches of water inevitably attract sailing enthusiasts, canoeists and kayakers.

## **Fläming Nature Park**

Lutherstadt Wittenberg is a sponsor of Fläming Nature Park. This secluded and wild landscape to the north of the town was colonized by Flemish immigrants. Exploring the narrow alleyways of the villages, the whimsical brick-built churches, silent monasteries and dry ravine valleys known as 'Rummeln' seems like a trip back in time to the Middle Ages. Unsurprisingly, the park authorities are very happy to lay on 'horror tours' narrating legends of banditry and firearms. They enable visitors to transcend time and experience the lost empire of fables and mythology.



**Christian Gatniewski,  
Paramedic**

Christian Gatniewski works as a paramedic with St John's Ambulance. He has also provided medical aid abroad as an emergency responder, including after the earthquake in Pakistan and following the typhoon on the Philippines. His wife practises as a doctor at Paul Gerhardt Stift Hospital in Lutherstadt Wittenberg. He loves being out in the open air and is an enthusiastic cyclist who gets his relaxation away from a stressful job on the Elbe cycle route and in the biosphere reserve. Christian is on duty at Luther's Wedding, providing first aid with the St John's youth organization.





## Lutherstadt Wittenberg ranks among the greenest towns in Germany

### Two wildlife parks

The town's zoo is located in the casemates or gun emplacements that have been preserved from the former castle ramparts. A stroking zoo is located outside. Monkeys, meerkats, parrots and birds of prey are housed in the enclosures. The Alaris Butterfly Park presents another aspect of the animal world. More than 140 species of butterfly live in tropical conditions among palm trees, banana plants, orchids and coffee bushes. Some of the butterflies have a wingspan of almost 30 centimetres.

### Vista of Appollensberg

At the edge of the town, Apollensberg rises to a height of 127 metres. Its unique limestone sediment provides an environment for animals and plants which no longer exist anywhere else. Visitors who have climbed to the summit are able to enjoy a spectacular view over the old town of Lutherstadt Wittenberg, the Fläming Nature Park and the landscape of water meadows along the Elbe.

### Natural world in the Stadtwald

The town's woodland or 'Stadtwald' covers an area of 90 hectares. It is an ecological niche managed responsibly by NABU Wittenberg – Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union. Visitors can learn about the woods at the nature and environmental education centre, see indigenous animals in enclosures, take a tour along the experience trails and find out all about different biotopes. People come from far and wide to this recreational amenity to chill in the garden of senses, relax in the meadow orchard, have fun in the adventure playground or get to know about local trees and woodland secrets in the arboretum. NABU is always looking for volunteers and sponsors: ✉ [info@nabu-wittenberg.de](mailto:info@nabu-wittenberg.de)

### Seven paths in the Luther Garden

The Luther Garden is located on the edge of the historical town centre. This large parkland area is maintained by the Lutheran World Federation. The Luther

Rose at the heart of the garden has been planted in the shape of Luther's seal, today a symbol of the Lutheran Protestant Church. Seven pathways begin at the Luther Rose and symbolically point to the seven Protestant world areas defining the world view at the time. Churches and communities are able to sponsor trees. The donor plants a tree in the Luther Garden and a second tree is designated accordingly in their own district at the same time as being associated with the Luther Garden.

### Circular rampart tour including the University Park

The circular rampart tour offers a green tourist route taking visitors to the viewing and experience points within the town's green belt. There is also a barrier-free alternative route. The circular tour includes the University Park. This parkland area between Bunkerberg and Luther House has been redesigned and especially enhances the eastern entrance to the town. [www.wittenberg.de/kultur-und-tourismus](http://www.wittenberg.de/kultur-und-tourismus)

Even if I knew that the world was about to perish, I would still plant an apple tree today.

Martin Luther





**Jan P. Pajak,**  
media engineer

Jan Pajak was born in Leipzig in 1981. He later moved to the old town of Wittenberg where printing books had been a major industry. He married in 2012 and now has one daughter. The offset printer and media engineer works as a production manager at printer MUNDSCHEK Druck + Medien. His hobby is music and Jan has made a name for himself with a solo act as 'Jan von Suppengrün' and as part of the musical duo 'Zwei im Gartenhäuschen'.



# Renaissance of living

If you're looking for a stylish, affordable and comfortable place to live, you can find a new home in Lutherstadt Wittenberg



**The irresistible charm of living in a riverside town appears to be amazingly unchanged. Living in the Renaissance has melded into a renaissance of living – with all contemporary creature comforts. The restored burgher townhouses in the old town and the Piesteritz planned works settlement – a model workers' car-free housing estate and designed as a garden suburb – bear witness to this.**

After the fall of the Berlin Wall, Lutherstadt Wittenberg developed into a magnet of attraction for architects. This urban environment presented them with the professional challenge of creating modern accommodation within the fabric of historical buildings, while taking the requirements of heritage conservation into account. The fact is that people used to live in much smaller spaces, indoor sanitation was often absent and the taller people of today would consequently keep banging their heads on the low door lintels. Architects therefore had to adapt the dimensions suited to people living in the Renaissance to the standards of our modern-day living.



# A place of education

Lutherstadt Wittenberg is a town of academic research, the origin for beacons of enlightened thought



**“So it is here that wisdom built her house, here that she chiselled her seven pillars. From here the call went out to guests that they should come. And they came from all countries, states and nations....”** These were the words Giordano Bruno used to describe his admiration for the town of Wittenberg and its seats of learning at the end of the 16th century.

Wittenberg’s Leucorea University was the principal reason for his praise. In 1502, the university was established by Elector Frederick the Wise. One hundred years later it had earned a reputation as the most important place of scholarship in Europe for theologians, lawyers, medical doctors and government officials. Students, professors and researchers flocked in their thousands to the university perched on the banks of the Elbe. In 1817, the university was merged with the University of Halle by order of the Prussian State. The old tradition was rekindled in 1994 when the Leucorea Foundation was established with the aim of

linking up with the heyday of Wittenberg as a centre of learning and scholarship. Today, the foundation fosters this tradition with prestigious research institutions enriching the academic landscape. International conferences and symposiums held at the Wittenberg Centre for Global Ethics and the Protestant Academy Saxony-Anhalt attract leading researchers and decision-makers to the town from all over the world. The Protestant Seminary has found a new home in the former elector’s palace. A centre of academic research has been created in the Luther House World Heritage Site. Temporary exhibitions are held in the Augusteum, one of the university’s historic buildings. The Colleg Wittenberg provides accommodation for foreign students while they are studying abroad.

## **Business, education, people**

Education and research in Lutherstadt Wittenberg are founded on a robust education policy. It is aimed at maintaining a vibrant town with a strong intake of students every year and attracting a growing number of academic researchers.

Left: Leucorea University  
Right: Hundertwasser School



**Melina Ademaj,**  
Grammar-school student

Melina Ademaj attends the Luther-Melanchthon Grammar School in Wittenberg, also known as the ‘Hundertwasser School’. At Luther’s Wedding, she temporarily bade farewell to her worldly life and donned a nun’s habit. Melina is a member of the Schwager dance studio and takes singing lessons at Wittenberg’s local music school, where she also sings in the choir.



# Bridge between modern chemicals and contemporary society

What do plants need to grow? Where does our food come from? What does nitrogen have to do with life on earth? The interactive exhibition of experiences at the Futurea Science Centre creates an arc from the arduous beginnings of agriculture through early discoveries in the sphere of chemistry and modern methods of cultivation to the future challenge of feeding the world's population.

The two houses on Wittenberg's Marktplatz define the image of the Piesteritz chemicals complex. The science centre of SKW Piesteritz also provides an impressive picture of the enormous contribution made by modern chemistry to solving major problems in the world such as hunger. The initiative of locating the Futurea Science Centre not on the plant complex but in Wittenberg's market square takes science right to the centre of the community. This showcases Wittenberg as a town in which culture and industry are integrated. The imaginative forms of communication used in the Futurea Science Centre appeal to schoolchildren and grown-ups alike. A large number of activity stations are key elements of the exhibition. Technical and scientific concepts and processes are brought to

life through play-based experiments, touchscreens and interactive speaking images situated in different spatial scenarios.

Since the exhibition opened in 2017, the Futurea Science Centre has developed into a favourite destination for schoolchildren and students looking to extend their knowledge through the imaginative scientific and educational programme. Age-appropriate exhibits at the Science Centre introduce young people to the biological and chemical processes involved in the cultivation of plants along with a multiplicity of uses for urea. The intention is to generate curiosity and stimulate an interest in jobs associated with the modern chemicals industry.



Lutherstadt Wittenberg  
was and still remains a  
town of intellectual debate



# Town of conferences and conventions

**“We are born to discuss.”**

Philipp Melanchthon



Top: Official opening to celebrate completion of the Exerzierhalle ('drill hall') in 2014  
Below: Historic brick façade of the Exerzierhalle ('drill hall')  
Right: Foyer and hall of the Stadthaus – arts and conference venue



[www.wittenberg.de/feiern-und-tagen](http://www.wittenberg.de/feiern-und-tagen)  
[www.locations.lutherstadt-wittenberg.de](http://www.locations.lutherstadt-wittenberg.de)

Wittenberg now boasts three municipal cultural centres and conference venues: the new Stadthaus (town house), Exerzierhalle ('drill hall') and the Old Town Hall. All three venues are in a central location – very close to the two railway stations, between the old town with its World Heritage Sites and the extensive parklands, and surrounded by hotels with a high standard of accommodation.

Anyone planning to hold a major event in an exceptional setting has an ideal venue in Wittenberg Stadthaus, which is also home to the central Town Information Centre. This was opened in 2014 as a leading-edge conference centre with space for 600 people. Alongside conferences and panel discussions, this venue also hosts concerts and exhibitions in spectacular surroundings on the site of a former Franciscan Monastery. The Exerzierhalle ('drill hall') is located just 150 metres from the Stadthaus – both arts and conference venues. It presents similar and complementary events to the programme at the Stadthaus on Arsenalplatz. They include concerts, theatrical performances, markets, family events and club celebrations, as well as a popular summer cinema. The Exerzierhalle ('drill hall') is a multifunctional venue with floor space of 730 square metres, providing an additional facility to complement the other event venues available in Wittenberg. The Old Town Hall is the 'most prestigious venue on Marktplatz' – a setting for exclusive events in a dignified historical ambience.





# The chemistry here is right

The history of the town sometimes overshadows the fact that key industries have located here – and that they are highly successful.

Ever since the beginning of the 20th century, Wittenberg has been an important location for nitrogen chemicals in Germany. Today, the Agro-Chemical Park is located just outside the gates to the town. This is a huge complex with SKW Stickstoffwerke Piesteritz at the centre – Germany's largest manufacturer of ammonia and urea, and a producer of speciality agricultural and industrial chemicals.

The depth of research carried out at SKW Stickstoffwerke Piesteritz GmbH is unique for a mid-sized company. Research centres carry out basic research that is critical for fertilizers and crop production. Located close to the research and production facilities are a health centre with doctor's surgeries, physiotherapy facilities and fitness gym, a campus park, two company nurseries and a children's daycare centre, along with the

Futura Science Centre located inside the town. The Training and Continuing Education Centre is equipped with lecture theatres, laboratories and a library to promote opportunities for career development of some 850 employees. Other companies are enthusiastic and frequent collaborators with this core industrial cluster for the region. They set up their production facilities in the surrounding area and benefit from the excellent transport infrastructure and the funding opportunities offered by the town and the federal state of Saxony-Anhalt. The state government supports and promotes the Agro-Chemical Park as a lighthouse location and as a regional freight transport hub. Every year, 100,000 trucks come here to the southern edge of the Fläming Nature Park. Whatever their nature – from bulk materials, through manufactured goods, to food or liquid gases – any product can be processed for transportation under optimum conditions in Piesteritz. And production-related research is right on the doorstep.

**Ideal infrastructure**  
The Agro-Chemical Park is divided into north and south sites by the train line running from Magdeburg to Dresden. The site extends down to the Rive Elbe with its port facilities. The B 187 federal highway runs between the port and the production complex and links up with the motorway network within a matter of minutes. Industry has very streamlined logistic connections in Lutherstadt Wittenberg on rail, road and water. Moreover, all the fire services from the district, town and company are concentrated on a single site in a unique constellation. The combination of the Lutherstadt Wittenberg Emergency Response Centre, the district training centre for fire and disaster protection, and the company's fire service permits close cooperation between these agencies to ensure outstanding fire and disaster responses and ideal safety conditions for the Agro-Chemical Park.

The Piesteritz Agro-Chemical Park with a view of Lutherstadt Wittenberg - 46 companies have already been established on the industrial complex covering an area of 220 hectares.





#### Good taste from Lutherstadt Wittenberg

Wittenberg Gemüse GmbH has become well established in Wittenberg industrial park within just a few years as a farm covering over 30 hectares and accommodating three greenhouses where tomatoes, peppers and strawberries thrive. Direct proximity with neighbour SKW Stickstoffwerke Piesteritz has contributed a huge synergy effect. As a result, cultivation has become sustainable and zero carbon. Optimum traffic links to the A 9 motorway enable fresh fruit and vegetables to be transported quickly to customers in the region. Good taste that is delivered on time goes down well!

#### A diversified business location

The industrial tradition of Wittenberg also continues to exert an impact in many other sectors. These include the following: the construction of commercial and special-purpose vehicles, the manufacture of rubber compounds, premium corrosion and wear-protection systems, the ceramics and packaging industries, chemical construction products and the production of adhesive labels, the construction of filling machines, air conditioning, the speciality gas industry, and the food and beverages industry, with the brands Rama, Lätta and Sanella effectively being specialties of the Wittenberg region. Today, economists describe the region as ‘highly diversified’ and this makes it fit for the future.

#### Promoting growth

Wittenberg’s economy is growing because companies and investors have identified optimum conditions here. The municipal and district offices for economic development provide assistance for promoting business. They convince new investors of the many advantages offered by the location, support them in implementing their planning processes and also advise existing companies. Moreover, the agencies assist in the recruitment of new hires with the aim of solving the nationwide shortage

of skilled labour and coordinating approval procedures.

#### Cult biscuits

Since 1906, manufacturer Wikana has been all about making life that little bit sweeter, from chocolate bars in the early years to the current wide range of biscuits. Products include Lutherbrodt, Hansa biscuits, butter biscuits with the stamp of Luther’s rose and the classic Othello biscuit – these enduring favourites from Lutherstadt Wittenberg have been a popular treat with many customers since their childhood. Regional products and sustainable manufacture have always been a top priority for a traditional company that moves with the times and is continually introducing innovative products on the market. Wikana has established a leading position in the German market for bakery products and exports to 16 countries.

#### Clean energy

TESVOLT is Europe’s first gigafactory for battery storage systems and it makes affordable and clean energy available all over the world with its innovative storage batteries. The company was established in 2014 and from its location in Wittenberg supplies businesses and industrial facilities with stationary energy systems. Battery modules from TESVOLT are already being used in more than 1,100 projects all over the

world. The batteries can be combined with all forms of energy generator – sun, wind, water, biogas and cogeneration units – and they are manufactured with zero carbon emissions. Founders Daniel Hannemann and Simon Schandert are from the region and they now have a workforce of 70 employees. They have received a number of awards for their visionary concept. In 2018, TESVOLT was awarded the German Entrepreneur Award in the category ‘Rising Stars’. In 2019, it was the first business enterprise to earn the Lucas-Cranach-Award from Lutherstadt Wittenberg in the category ‘Impulses for the Town’.

#### Innovative vehicle manufacture

Feldbinder Spezialfahrzeugwerke GmbH produces silo and tanker trailers, railway freight wagons and containers, tailored to customers’ individual requirements, with some 450 employees in Lutherstadt Wittenberg. The family-run specialist vehicle manufacturer is one of the biggest employers and training companies for apprentices in the region and it is currently on a growth trajectory. Modern production methods are at the heart of the company, where aluminium and stainless steel are processed. Owing to the high level of demand in Europe and the high production depth, there is a steady demand for welders and other skilled workers.



Production at TESVOLT

#### Mathias Zdzieblowski Head of Corporate Communication

Mathias Zdzieblowski has supported award-winning start-up TESVOLT right from the company’s early days. One of the firm’s cornerstones has been his representation of the mission ‘Energy always and everywhere – we design freedom’ at conferences, events and training courses throughout Europe. He has an opportunity to create a ‘green’ future through the impact he makes with enduring commitment and passion. Mathias devotes what modest spare time he has to building up the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union – NABU Kreisverband Wittenberg e. V., in particular the NABU Centre ‘In the Stadtwald’ (In the town’s woodland). He puts structures in place, organizes events and makes a proactive commitment to environmental protection.



Silo tanker from Feldbinder on the Elbe Bridge Lutherstadt Wittenberg



### UNESCO World Heritage Garden Realm Dessau-Wörlitz

The aim of the landscape design movement in the early stages of the Enlightenment was to achieve a harmonious synthesis between nature, architecture and art. Friedrich Wilhelm von Erdmannsdorff directed the creation of the Dessau-Wörlitz Garden Realm. This consisted of six palaces and seven parks in a landscape laid out in the English style and it can be reached by car after a 20-minute drive from Lutherstadt Wittenberg. Leopold III Friedrich Franz von Anhalt-Dessau was the patron whose vision combined beauty with usefulness. Since 2000, the Garden Realm has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

# Great culture in a great natural environment

Lutherstadt Wittenberg is a perfect starting point for outings to explore the World Heritage region of Anhalt-Dessau-Wittenberg



UNESCO World Heritage Site – Masters' Houses and Bauhaus Dessau



**The surrounding region offers local people and visitors an opportunity for spectacular experiences. Nowhere else has the same wealth of nature and culture to explore in such close proximity.**

The majestic River Elbe has shaped the World Heritage Region Anhalt-Dessau-Wittenberg along with the tributaries Saale, Mulde and Elster over a length of more than 100 kilometres. For most of this distance, they all follow their natural course and this has facilitated preservation of Central Europe's largest contiguous area of alluvial woodlands. The forests of Düben Heath are in the south and the gently rolling hills of Fläming are to the north. As you enjoy the unspoilt natural environment here, you are also able to experience history coming to life.

#### Düben Heath

If you want to see cranes, sea eagles, beavers and other rare species in an original landscape of lakes, woodlands and rivers, Düben Heath Nature Park should be a must-see item on your list of places to visit. This natural paradise has been preserved over an area of 75,000 hectares to the south of Lutherstadt Wittenberg. Park rangers guide visitors on walks through the spectacular scenery, where they will also encounter the popular attractions or 'heath magnets' – the mazes, high-rope trails, a zoo and the moated castle Schloss Reinharz.



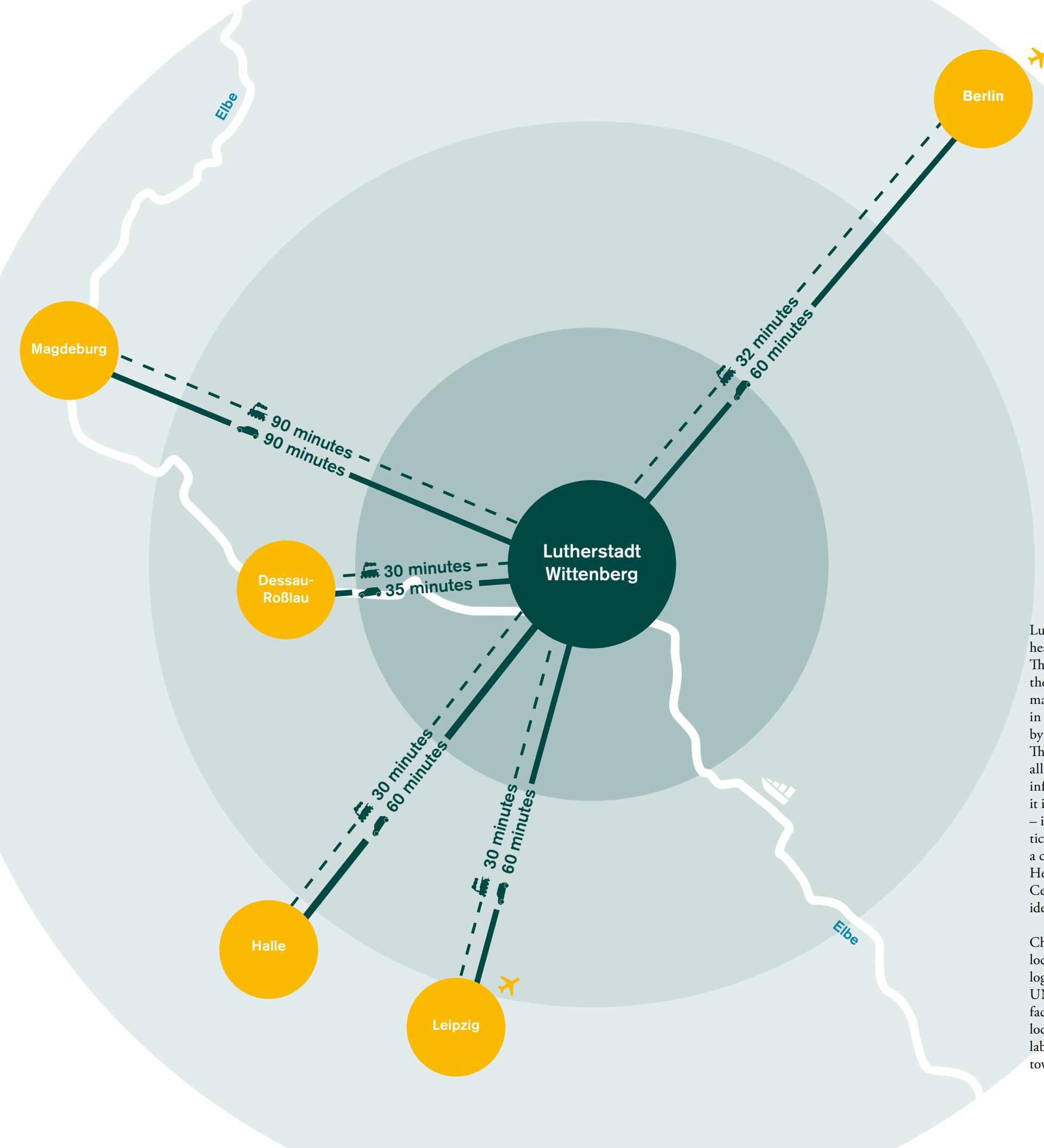
#### Fläming

Castles, palaces, churches, monasteries, historical towns and mills from bygone days shape the cultural history of the landscape in the Fläming countryside. Many of them were built when settlers came from Holland and Flanders to spread Christianity, and indeed gave their name to the region. Skilled stonemasons worked blocks of granite from the surrounding fields and created simple stone churches in the Romanesque style. Today, the national park is easily accessible even without a car thanks to international cycle routes and the 'Fläming Skate' network.

#### Bauhaus Dessau

'Battle against ornamentation' and 'functionality' were the key unifying concepts when Walter Gropius originated a new style of architecture in Weimar in 1919. The Bauhaus art school moved to Dessau in 1925 and held a positively magical attraction for artists like Kandinsky, Klee, Schwitters, Schlemmer, Moholy-Nagy and Feininger. The movement generated by this school has remained a supremely influential force in architecture, art and design, and it is regarded as the home of the avant-garde for classical modernism. The Masters' Houses designed by Walter Gropius, the multi-family houses with balcony access known as 'Laubenganghäuser' and the Bauhaus building itself form part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Since the centenary celebration in 2019, the Bauhaus Museum has thrilled visitors from all over the world.





# Hub at the centre of things

## Ideally networked in the region

Lutherstadt Wittenberg is located at the heart of Germany, and indeed at the heart of Europe, with perfect transport links to the urban centres in the region. These include the river port on the Elbe, rapid ICE Intercity Express rail links, the Leipzig/Halle and Berlin airports, and the A 9 motorway. They combine to make Lutherstadt Wittenberg a place that is close to nature while always being in touch with the rest of the world. Visitors coming to Lutherstadt Wittenberg by train will immediately be impressed by the brand new central train station. The 'Green Station' earned the 'Best Station of 2017' award from transport alliance Allianz pro Schiene. The station defined benchmarks with outstanding information systems for communication, barrier-free access and the fact that it is approaching climate neutrality. The customer-friendly station building – including WiFi hotspot and power sockets supplied with green electricity – ticks all the boxes to make travellers happy. The town is increasingly becoming a crucial hub in a network of other centres – including the famous World Heritage region of Anhalt-Dessau-Wittenberg and the industrial cluster of the Central German Chemical Triangle. Wittenberg offers the advantages of an ideally networked region.

Choosing Lutherstadt Wittenberg and its twelve districts as a business location, lifestyle choice or holiday destination is therefore more a matter of logic rather than logistics. The unique natural landscape and the stunning UNESCO World Heritage Sites make the decision irresistible. Other key factors are thriving research capability focused on industrial production, a local network of established businesses and a highly trained pool of skilled labour. Lutherstadt Wittenberg has everything you could possibly want from a town – and much more besides.



**Daniel Probst,**  
Innovation Consultant

Daniel Probst from Leipzig helps companies to gain a fresh outlook on their area of business and introduces them to awesome ideas. He also has a position as a lecturer at the University of Leipzig and he is enthusiastic about the stream-lined high-speed ICE Intercity Express rail link between Leipzig and Lutherstadt Wittenberg. It takes Daniel just 30 minutes to 'get away from it all' and recharge his creative potential with fresh ideas in the big outdoors. The cultural events in the town are a big hit with his three children, for example Luther's Wedding and the excitement of the Reformation Festival.





# LUTHERSTADT WITTENBERG

“So it is here that wisdom built her house, here that she chiselled her seven pillars, began to pour finer sacramental wine, and set the table again for Holy Communion. From here, the call went out to guests that they should come. And they came from all countries, states and nations. They came, the Italians, the French, the Spaniards, the Portuguese, the British, the Scots, the Scandinavians from the North Sea, as well as Poles, Hungarians, South Slavs, and even from the Balkans and the Caucasus they came ...”

Giordano Bruno in his farewell lecture at the University of Wittenberg in 1588

Mein Wittenberg



[www.wittenberg.de](http://www.wittenberg.de)