Welcome to the Jahn, winegrowing and sparkling wine town of Freyburg (Unstrut).

Freyburg is located in the south of Saxony-Anhalt, in the heart of the Saale-Unstrut winegrowing region.

The town was founded in the last quarter of the 12th century by the Earls of Thuringia. It has a close connection to the castle Neuenburg, which was founded around 1090.

Freyburg was conveniently built on the main trade route „Via regia“(King's road or also High road), a former national army and trade route. This road connected, among other things, the eastern and western borders of the Earldom of Thuringia, the Neuenburg Castle near Freyburg and the Wartburg Castle near Eisenach.

The town of Freyburg was built under the protection of the castle Neuenburg as a spacious Roman town with ditches and a wall. The layout is an almost square rectangle, with its centre at the market place. The streets of the old town still form a grid in which parallel streets cross each other at right angles.

Freyburg was first documented in 1203 as "Vriburc". In 1261, the town received its status as a town. From 1333 to 1815, the "civitas Friburg" with its castle Neuenburg was in the possession of Saxon dukes. From 1540 to 1815, the town was the seat of the Superintendentur Freyburg and from 1657 to 1815 the seat of the Saxon authority of Freyburg.

During the Napoleonic wars, the most memorable day for Freyburg was on 21 October 1813. After the Battle of Nations near Leipzig, Napoleon lead the passage of the defeated and fleeing French army over the river Unstrut in Freyburg and then set the wooden bridges on fire, rather than having his troops blow them up.

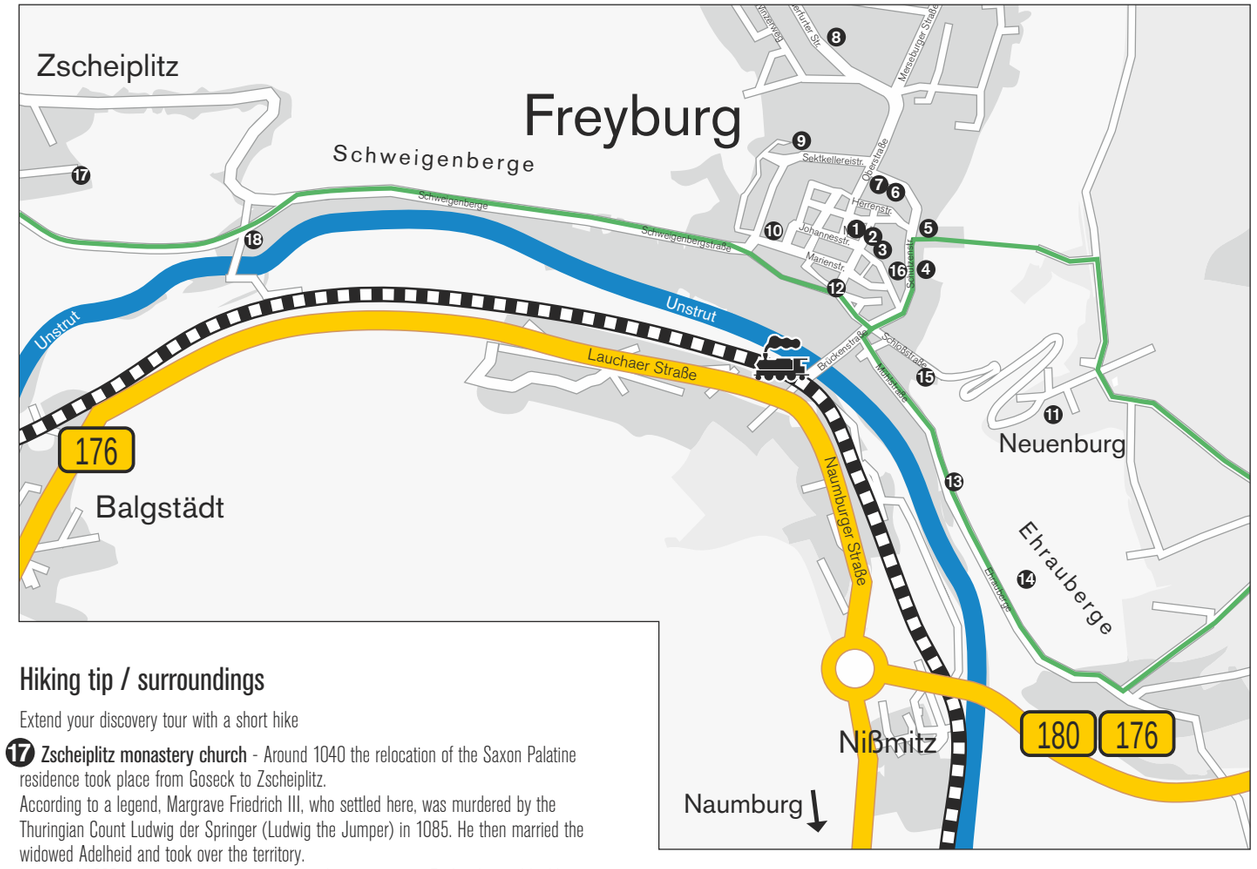
In 1856 the brothers Moritz and Julius Kloss founded a wine business together with their friend Carl Foerster in Freyburg (Marienstrasse 4). They quickly recognised the growing importance of sparkling wines and built their champagne factory. In 1894, they registered the brand "Rotkäppchen" as their trademark. In 1948 the company was nationalised. After the unification of Germany, the Rotkäppchen Sektkellerei GmbH was newly founded, and has been operating since 2002 as the Rotkäppchen-Mumm Sektkellereien GmbH.

The centuries-old winemaking tradition in Saale-Unstrut, whose origins go back to the time of the Christianization in the 8th century, seemed to be coming to its end towards the latter part of the 19th century. The phylloxera, a root pest that was brought in by American vines, also found its way into local vineyards and considerably reduced the vineyard area. The "Prussian winemaking and research institute" in Naumburg, Bad Kösen and Freyburg, which was founded in 1912, made a new beginning by developing phylloxera resistant vines. That was essential for a new start of the viniculture in the Saale and Unstrut region.

In 1934 the Freyburg/Unstrut winegrowers' association was founded.

Since 1999 Freyburg (Unstrut) has proudly been awarded the title of “state approved health resort”.

Today, the "Romanesque Road", the "Unstrut Cycle Way" and the "Wine Route Saale-Unstrut", which cross at Freyburg, lead through the city. Water tours on the lower Unstrut "Blue strip" delight our tourists.



Hiking tip / surroundings

Extend your discovery tour with a short hike

17 Zscheiplitz monastery church - Around 1040 the relocation of the Saxon Palatine residence took place from Goseck to Zscheiplitz.
According to a legend, Margrave Friedrich III, who settled here, was murdered by the Thuringian Count Ludwig der Springer (Ludwig the Jumper) in 1085. He then married the widowed Adelheid and took over the territory.
In around 1200 a monastery was first mentioned, nuns came to Zscheiplitz and building extensions testify to the expansion of the Benedictine monastery.

18 Zeddenbach Mill - The upstream water mill derives its name from the former village Zeddenbach. In 830/850 the mill was mentioned for the first time in a document as part of the monastery Zscheiplitz as "Zidamacha". The red brick mill building of today was built in 1866. It has been owned and operated for three generations by the Schäfer family.

Wine trail - From Laucha to Freyburg, 26 information boards over a distance of 11 km provide information about the Saale-Unstrut wines. Between the villages Weischütz and Zeddenbach 5 panels (5-9) are especially intended for small and large children. The walk on foot takes about 2.5 - 3 hours.
Part of the tour (boards 20-26) leads in Freyburg from the town park towards Edelacker field, across the upper Schlifter Vineyard, to the car park of the Weinberghotel Edelacker, there to the Schloss Neuenburg, to the Rebschule Hotel and back to the city under the Ehrauberge and past the “Ducal Vineyard”.

Tourist information

We are here to help you:

Freyburger Fremdenverkehrsverein e.V.
Market 2 • 06632 Freyburg (Unstrut)
Telephone: 034464/27260
Email: kontakt@freyburg.info

Public toilets

Schützenstrasse: between the Deckert Winery and Schützenhaus
Market 1: in the Town hall

www.freyburg-tourismus.de

design: devaton.de | photos: P. Gebulla, J. Limmer

Discover Freyburg

Welcome to the Jahn, winegrowing and sparkling wine town of Freyburg (Unstrut)

FREYBURG UNSTRUT

Tour of the city

An approximately 2 km long walk takes about 1.5 - 2 hours and leads through the old town of Freyburg. The starting and finishing point is the market place in front of the old town hall. We hope you enjoy the discovery tour.

1 Market - The market is next to the town hall, hotels and restaurants and the Freyburg Fremdenverkehrsverein e.V. (tourist association). The gilded equestrian monument of Duke Christian of Sachsen-Weissenfels used to be in the square. The torso of the monument that was destroyed in 1948 is now located in the courtyard of the Schloss Neuenburg. The torso was discovered in 1992 at the Eckstädter Gate. Today, the former site is identified by a metal frame with the inscription “Here stood the equestrian statue of Duke Christian of Sachsen-Weissenfels. In 1774 the statue was acquired by order of the town of Freyburg for 200 Taler and was placed in the market place". In 2003 the market place was redesigned as part of an architectural competition under the theme "Tuscany of the North".

2 Town hall - The foundation stone for the town hall, which rests on Romanesque foundations and vaulted cellars, was laid in 1425. Structural elements of that building are still preserved today. The current appearance is characterised by refurbishments after the city fires of 1551 and 1682, which also strongly affected the town hall.

3 St. Marien Church - The construction of the late Romanesque church, which is also referred to as the "sister" of the Naumburg Cathedral, is from the period between 1210-1230 and was probably commissioned by the Thuringian Earl Louis IV (who ruled from 1217-1227). The church is basically Romanesque, from the beginning of the 15th century, the Apsis was demolished and replaced by a Gothic choir. The southern side Apsis also fell victim to a built-on sacristy. At the end of the 15th century the nave was removed and replaced by a bay.

4 Schlifter Vineyard - In the middle of the winegrowing town of Freyburg lies the Schlifter Vineyard with its historic vineyard house. The vineyard is one of the steepest terrace vineyards in the region with a slope of up to 54%. It is a popular photo backdrop and offers guests a breath-taking view of its steep slopes. In addition, the Schlifter Vineyard houses a so called "celebrity vineyard" on which all German and local wine royalties and important guests of the town of Freyburg are allowed to plant a vine.

5 Schützenhaus - The first official "Order and Laws" news of 20th August 1603 contained 28 regulations for shooting. In this year, the first shooting association of Freyburg was founded here in front of the city walls. In 1659, the shooting guild acquired the large meadow "Hinterm Schlag" as a shooting range. At that time there was already a "shooting house" at this location. As part of the city redevelopment, the current Schützenhaus was completely renovated in 1996 and is now available to guests as an event venue. Today, the local shooting club (Freyburger Schützenverein 1603 e.V.) has training sessions in the cellar shooting range.

6 Jahn Hall of Honour - The building was inaugurated in 1903 and served as the first Jahn museum and as a memorial to the German gymnastic festivals. The artfully designed, lead glazed windows were donated by the cities that hosted the German gymnastic festivals. Today, the Jahn Hall of Honour serves as a popular venue for parties, meetings and clubs.

Town fortifications - The town wall, which is still largely preserved today, had three gates to the town (Kirchtor, Obertor, Eckstädter Tor), one doorway and 14 towers. The wall is about 1200 m long and covers an area of approx. 85,000 m². The three gates connected the town with its former suburbs/towns: the eastern Kirchenvorstadt, the western village of Eckstadt and the Neustadt, also called Obertorvorstadt. The building of the town fortifications was carried out step by step in the 14th and 15th century.

7 Jahn Memorial Gym - It was built during the German Empire by the German Gymnastics Federation (DT) as a memorial for Jahn. In 1894 it was inaugurated in the presence of 3,000 gymnasts from all over Germany. DT later donated it to the town of Freyburg with the requirement that it should be used exclusively for gymnastics. To this day, the gym serves as a training location for club and school sports.

8 Winegrowers' Association Freyburg-Unstrut e.G. – On 28th December 1934 a community of winegrowers from Freyburg joined together to manage the grape processing and the cellar operation on their own. The 27 founding members contributed 31 hectares to the association. Today, the winegrowers' association has 400 members who cultivate about 400 hectares of vineyards. In the "Freyburg wine gallery" guests are comprehensively informed about Saale-Unstrut wines. The wine tastings in the ANISIUM are a special kind of offer, which are crowned with a guided tour of one of the most beautiful wooden barrel cellars in Germany.

9 Rotkäppchen sparkling wine cellar – Since 1856, sparkling wine of the highest quality has been produced in the Rotkäppchen sparkling wine cellar. Today the company Rotkäppchen-Mumm Sektkellereien is the leading sparkling wine producer in Germany. Well worth to visit are the century-historic atrium, the five-storey cellar and the impressive domed cellar with the largest wooden cuvée barrel in Germany. The programme “Rotkäppchen Sektival” enjoys the guest with a great variety of concerts and cabaret events.

10 Eckstädter Gate, with tower and gate bulwark - The Eckstädter Gate is in the southwest of the town and connects this part with the Eckstadt suburb. The south side of the outer gate is inside the residential building (Eckstädter Platz 10). The Eckstädter Gate itself was built in 1385 and consisted of an outer gate, a courtyard and a main gate next to the tower. The north side of the trellis gate is still conserved (Barbican).

(View of Schloss Neuenburg)

11 Schloss Neuenburg – The castle was founded around 1090 by the Thuringian Count Ludwig der Springer (Ludwig the Jumper) and in the 12th/13th century it was magnificently expanded under the Earls of Thuringia. The architectural highlight of the "big sister" of the Wartburg Castle is the Romanesque double chapel. In the Renaissance and Baroque periods, the castle was used as a hunting lodge for Saxon princes.

12 Napoleon Gate - To the south of the town wall there was a gate in the direction of the river Unstrut. The gate tower was converted into a house. Since the passage of Napoleon in 1813 it has been called the „Napoleon Gate“ because he is said to have directed the movements of his troops over the river Unstrut from this point. In 1888 the gate was demolished.

13 Burg mill - The mill belonging to the castle Neuenburg was built at the end of the 11th century. In 1632, the Saxon Elector Johann Georg had a new mill built. The mill was used as a fulling, oil, saw and grain mill. At the end of the 19th century, turbines for electric power generation were installed. Since 2015, the building is once again being used to generate electricity by water power.

14 Ducal Vineyard - The terraced vineyard below Schloss Neuenburg, with its distinctive Rococo vineyard house, is a landmark of the region. In its present form, the vineyard represents a Baroque vineyard, as it did at the end of the 18th century.

15 Friedrich-Ludwig-Jahn-Museum – Since the Olympic Games of 1936 the museum has been in Jahn's former home. The museum documents the life of the most famous Freyburg celebrity - Jahn, the “father of gymnastics”. Friedrich Ludwig Jahn, the founder of the German gymnastic movement, lived in Freyburg from 1825, originally in political exile. Then he has been buried here in the courtyard of his house since 1936.

16 Kirchtor – The southeastern town gate of Freyburg, which connected the town with the Kirchenvorstadt suburb, was demolished in 1861 to make way for the construction of a new school building with its associated stairs. Later the court cellar and the court stairs were named after the District Court, which was established in the school after 1880.