

The Lutherhaus Eisenach

Facts, Figures and Dates at a Glance

1. *What is the Lutherhaus Eisenach?*

The Lutherhaus Eisenach is a cultural history museum, one of the most important sites of Reformation memory and an official European cultural heritage site. It memorializes Martin Luther's sojourn in Eisenach during his schooldays (1498–1501) and his historic translation of the Bible begun at Wartburg Castle near Eisenach in 1521. The Lutherhaus's exhibitions explore Martin Luther's life and career and his impact down to the present. Another of the museum's main foci is its historical treatment of the infamous "Dejudaization Institute", established in Eisenach by eleven Protestant regional churches in 1939.

- *Year of construction:* 1356, on the foundation of a predecessor building from 1269
- *Historical significance:* home of the Cotta family that took young Martin Luther in during his schooldays
- *Site of Reformation memory since:* ca. 1817
- *Year of the museum's founding:* 1956
- *Complete renovation of and addition to the museum and redesign of its exhibits:* 2013–2015
- *Reopening:* September 26, 2015
- *Museum operator:* Evangelical Church in Central Germany (EKM)
- *Museum director:* Dr. Jochen Birkenmeier
- *Museum employees:* 9
- *Exhibition space:* approximately 675 m² (permanent exhibition), 117 m² (temporary exhibition), 25 m² (capsule exhibition)
- *Exhibitions and installations:* see point 3 below

2. *Where is the Lutherhaus Eisenach?*

The Lutherhaus Eisenach is located in the heart of Eisenach (Free State of Thuringia), not far from the Marktplatz.

- *Address:* Lutherhaus Eisenach, Lutherplatz 8, 99817 Eisenach, Germany
- *GPS:* 50.97345708130382, 10.320116084673579
- *Getting here:* Eisenach Hbf (ICE-Halt), Autobahn A4, Bundesstraßen B19 and B84

3. *What does the Lutherhaus Eisenach offer?*

Along with the historic building itself, the oldest surviving secular half-timbered building in Thuringia, visitors to the Lutherhaus Eisenach can see the permanent exhibition, temporary exhibitions, changing capsule exhibitions as well as Ai Weiwei's permanently installed sculpture *man in a cube*. An extensive museum education program, events and scholarly publications additionally bring the subjects treated at the museum to the public. The museum's collections also include the unique *Protestant Parsonage Archives*.

- *Permanent exhibition: **Luther and the Bible*** (2015, partially redesigned and expanded in 2022) on the history of Martin Luther’s translation of the Bible and its effective history through the twenty-first century
- *Temporary exhibition (current): **Study and Eradication: The Church’s “Dejudaization Institute”***, 1939–1945 (2019, expanded in 2022) on the backstory, work and aftermath of the “Institute for the Study and Eradication of Jewish Influence on German Church Life” established in Eisenach in 1939
- *Capsule exhibition **Young People, God and FDJ: The Campaign Against the Churches in the Early GDR***: Learn in the exhibition how the socialist state attempted to alienate young people from the church in the 1950s.
- *Visual art: the sculpture **man in a cube*** by Ai Weiwei (*1957), created as a rumination on Luther’s treatise *On the Freedom of a Christian* for the 2017 quincentenary of the Reformation, on permanent display in the courtyard of the Lutherhaus Eisenach since 2020
- *Museum education and cultural education*: extensive programs for all ages, bookable on www.lutherhaus-eisenach.com/museumspaedagogik
- *Museum shop*: a rich selection of catalogues from exhibitions at the Lutherhaus, additional scholarly literature on the subjects of exhibitions and exclusive Lutherhaus products, Bibles and souvenirs
- *Collections: **Protestant Parsonage Archives***, an extensive cultural history collection about the history of the Protestant parsonage and its residents from the 16th to the 20th century (active collection period: 1925–2015), research library, holdings on the history of the Reformation and the Lutherhaus and a collection of historic Bibles and hymnals
- *Memorial*: The Lutherhaus proposed and coordinated the erection a monument that remembers the work of the infamous “Dejudaization Institute”. The **monument**, unveiled on May 6, 2019 is located at the intersection of Bornstrasse and Johann-Sebastian-Bach-Strasse in Eisenach.

4. *Where can I find more information about the Lutherhaus Eisenach?*

All important information about the Lutherhaus Eisenach is available on the museum’s website. Features, news and events are released on the Lutherhaus’s social media accounts (Facebook and Instagram). Films about the Lutherhaus and its museum education program are published on YouTube.

- *Website*: www.lutherhaus-eisenach.com
- *Admission, directions and visitor information*: www.lutherhaus-eisenach.com/hours-and-prices
- *Press information and images*: www.lutherhaus-eisenach.com/press
- *Facebook*: www.facebook.com/lutherhaus.eisenach
- *Instagram*: www.instagram.com/lutherhauseisenach
- *YouTube*: www.youtube.com/channel/UCmdCXeaOTmCH1NeKZ-d4kqg

5. *How do I find contacts at the Lutherhaus Eisenach?*

If you have questions, contact Lutherhaus’s public relations manager Katrin Hausmann by sending an email to pr@lutherhaus-eisenach.de or calling +49 3691 29 83-26. We’re glad to help!