



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF
CRANACH

A journey of discovery



*Kronach ♡ Coburg ♡ Nuremberg
Wittenberg ♡ Dessau-Rosslau
Torgau ♡ Meissen ♡ Neustadt an der Orla
Gotha ♡ Erfurt ♡ Schneeberg
Eisenach ♡ Weimar*

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IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF
CRANACH

A journey of discovery

Tracing the history of the famous family of painters

🎨 Alongside Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528), Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472–1553) is regarded as the most influential artist of the German Renaissance. His paintings can be admired in countless museums; they enjoy critical acclaim in major exhibitions and are subject to reinterpretation by art historians time and time again.

🎨 But where did this prolific painter come from, a man who – unlike almost any of his contemporaries – conducted business like an artist of the modern age? Where are the places most closely associated with his life, and what can we learn there about him, his family, his work, his patrons and his legacy?

🎨 Embark on a journey of discovery *in the footsteps of Cranach*. Retrace the path of a painter, who not only captured the major themes of his day in important works of art, but was also a friend of Martin Luther and supporter of the Reformation, and part of an era of radical change on the way to the modern world. Discover Kronach, his place of birth, and visit Wittenberg, where he lived and worked as a court painter to the Electors of Saxony from 1505, and where his son Lucas Cranach the Younger (1515–1586) continued to run his workshop from 1550. The only known mural by Cranach can be seen in Hartenfels Palace in Torgau. He spent his final years living in Weimar, where he is also buried. You will also discover other sites and treasures associated with the great painter in Nuremberg, Coburg, Dessau, Erfurt, Gotha, Neustadt an der Orla, Schneeberg and Meissen, and at Wartburg Castle in Eisenach. Admire the Cranach altar at St John's Church in Neustadt an der Orla, a religious work of art that still stands in its original location, and compare it with the



✠ John the Baptist, Lucas Cranach the Elder and Martin Luther, section of the Cranach altar by Lucas Cranach the Younger in the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Weimar, completed 1555

first Reformation altar that Lucas Cranach the Elder and his workshop created for St Wolfgang's Church in Schneeberg, Saxony. At Coburg Fortress, the Herzogliches Museum (ducal museum) in Gotha and the Germanic National Museum in Nuremberg, you can marvel at a great number of Cranach's paintings. Nuremberg is also the city where, in 1508, Elector Frederick the Wise granted Lucas Cranach the Elder a coat of arms depicting a crowned serpent with bat wings and a ruby ring – the distinctive signet with which Cranach signed his paintings from then on.

✠ We look forward to welcoming you to all of these towns associated with Lucas Cranach and hope you enjoy a fascinating journey through Bavaria, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia.

Kronach

🦋 To discover more about Cranach, our journey begins in Kronach, Upper Franconia.

🦋 Lucas Cranach was born here in 1472, the son of Hans Maler. He later called himself after his home town. Cranach's relative Matthias Gunderam wrote in his biography in 1556 that Lucas was trained in the graphic arts by his father.



🦋 Rosenberg Fortress



🦋 Venus and Cupid the Honey Thief, 1534

🦋 In 1495, Hans Maler's family became entangled in a neighbourhood dispute which was brought before the municipal court. The trial was recorded in an official court book which has been kept in Kronach to this day. The witness accounts reveal that Lucas was able to articulate his views quite vehemently. It is an indication of his temperament, which is also evident in his expressive early works, most notably in *Crucifixion* from 1503, which is part of the Bavarian State Painting Collections.



✦ *Christ and the Adulteress, around 1520*

✦ Majestically towering above the town of Kronach is Rosenberg Fortress, which today exhibits Cranach's later works such as *Christ and the Adulteress*, around 1520, *Lot and his Daughters*, 1533, *Man of Sorrows*, after 1537, and *Venus and Cupid the Honey Thief*, 1534. As well as Cranach's paintings, the Franconian Gallery at the fortress houses a prestigious permanent exhibition of late-Gothic Franconian art from the holdings of the Bavarian National Museum in Munich. Particularly noteworthy are the outstanding sculptures by Tilman Riemenschneider and his peers, and portraits by Dürer's contemporaries.

✦ Rosenberg Fortress is the most famous landmark in Kronach, which looks back on over 1,000 years of history. Its entire town centre is heritage-listed and contains many buildings from the time when Cranach lived.

RECOMMENDATIONS

✦ *Rosenberg Fortress with the Franconian Gallery, a branch of the Bavarian National Museum in Munich with its Cranach room and collection of late-Gothic Franconian art including works by Tilman Riemenschneider, Hans von Kulmbach and other contemporaries of Dürer* → Visitor information section

✦ *Cranach Trail – In the footsteps of Lucas Cranach the Elder*
A mobile phone audio guide tour through the upper part of the old quarter of Kronach with commentary on Cranach, his family and the history of this part of town

Coburg

🦋 In August 1506 Lucas Cranach the Elder, who had been based in Wittenberg as court painter to the Saxony Electorate since 1505, went to Coburg for a biannual hunting party in the company of Elector Frederick the Wise and his brother John the Steadfast. He resided at the fortress and accompanied the Saxon rulers so that he could perfect his portrayal of the hunt. In that year, he created a series of accomplished wood carvings with hunting themes and other motifs. Some of them show the fortress, where Cranach had decorated the banqueting hall with hunting scenes. From an artistic perspective, this exceptionally creative stay at Coburg Fortress proved to be an important milestone at the beginning of Cranach's career as a court painter. Although the wall paintings have been lost, the portraits of the Elector and his brother from around 1515, which were probably part of an altar created for the castle church, have survived.



🦋 *Elector Frederick the Wise, around 1513*



🦋 *Madonna with Child and Young John the Baptist, around 1512/14*



✦ *The Martyrdom of St Erasmus, 1506, with a depiction of Coburg Fortress*

✦ Coburg Fortress houses around 30 paintings by Cranach and his workshop. These mainly feature in the permanent exhibition on Early German paintings in the stone building, while further works can be seen in the *Luther Rooms* and in the sitting room of the last ruling Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, formerly known as the *Cranach Room* due to its decoration. In the Great Court Chamber, you can browse a digital version of the richly detailed *tournament book* belonging to Elector Johann Friedrich I of Saxony featuring 146 images from the Cranach workshop from 1534/35.

✦ A walk from the fortress through Hofgarten Park leads to Schlossplatz square with its splendid neo-classical and neo-Gothic architecture. Bordering this is

the medieval town centre with its magnificent Renaissance buildings and Gothic townhouses.

RECOMMENDATIONS

✦ *Coburg Fortress Art Collections* 'Luther Room', 'Art – Religion – Politics' permanent exhibition featuring works by Cranach and other Early German Masters, 'Cranach Room' → *Visitor information section*

✦ *Coburg Fortress Art Collections, Department of Prints and Drawings* The Coburg Department of Prints and Drawings, one of the largest collections of its kind in Germany, contains almost all of Cranach's prints. Particularly striking is the portrait of Martin Luther with the doctor's cap from 1521 in the first, very rare print version set against a light background, which comes from the collection of the humanist Dr Pfeil. Touring exhibitions → *Visitor information section*

✦ *The Coburg State Library* owns early Lutheran Bibles and Georg Spalatin's 'Chronicle of Saxony and Thuringia' with hand-painted illustrations by Cranach's workshop. → *Visitor information section*

Nuremberg

🔗 The Imperial Diet of 1524 brought Lucas Cranach the Elder to Nuremberg at the behest of his patron Elector Frederick the Wise, and it was here that he met Albrecht Dürer. This meeting also yielded the famous silverpoint portrait of Cranach (Bayonne). However, because of the similarity of Cranach's early artistic style to that of Dürer, historians suspect he had been to Nuremberg and worked at Dürer's workshop prior to his appointment to the royal court of Saxony.

🔗 In Nuremberg in 1508, Elector Frederick the Wise granted Cranach a coat of arms depicting a serpent, which the painter used as his signature from then on.

🔗 Today, the Germanic National Museum houses an extensive collection of important works by Cranach. Lucas Cranach the Elder played a defining role in German art from 1500 to 1550 and his works are among the highlights of the museum's *Renaissance, Baroque, Enlightenment* exhibition. A particular focus of the exhibition is the sea change in theological thinking and the radical transformation in the way images were used and understood. Paintings depicting the plague and the sale of indulgences illustrate a religious practice that had become established over centuries. In contrast, Protestant allegories such as Cranach's panel *Law and Gospel* attest to a new understanding of religion. Objects such as Luther's cup or the venerated "piece of fabric from Dr. Martin Luther's robe" show how Luther became part of the cult of saints and relics after his death, something that he had fought against all his life.

🔗 Cranach the Elder is represented in the sections of the exhibition on *Imagery and the Reformation*, *Luther, Old and New Teachings* and *The Power of Beauty*. On display are

portraits of Luther, Reformation-themed paintings, the famous depictions of Venus and secular images such as the Weibermacht (power of women).

📍 A tour of the Germanic National Museum takes us from father to son. The *heart-shaped winged altarpiece* by Lucas Cranach the Younger (1584) is displayed in the section on *Art in around 1600*, showing how contrasting styles existed alongside one another during this period.



📍 *Lucas Cranach the Younger, heart-shaped winged altarpiece (Colditz altarpiece), 1584*

RECOMMENDATIONS

📍 *Germanic National Museum* Cranach's works belong to one of the world's leading collections of German Renaissance art, which includes key works by Albrecht Dürer, Albrecht Altdorfer, Hans Baldung Grien, the master sculptor HL and Hans Leinberger, as well as outstanding arts and crafts pieces such as the famous Erdapfel globe by Martin Behaim. → Visitor information section

📍 *Albrecht Dürer House* High-quality, historical copies of Albrecht Dürer's major works from the city's holdings are on display at the Renaissance painter's former home. → Visitor information section

Wittenberg

🎨 Lucas Cranach the Elder was appointed to the Saxon court in Wittenberg by the Elector Frederick the Wise in 1505. He lived there for almost half a century and created paintings that are now on view in major museums around the world. He painted portraits of the electors and reformers, created altarpieces and small sketches of Venus, Eve and other archetypal heroines. Cranach lived and worked at the Renaissance courtyards at Schloßstrasse 1 and Markt 4.

🎨 However, he not only managed a successful art workshop, he also ran a print shop, took over the only pharmacy in Wittenberg and was granted the right to sell wine and beer. In 1516 he painted the *Ten Commandments* panel for Wittenberg council, which can now be seen in *Luther's House*. Cranach himself became a member of the council a few years later, and from 1537/38 onwards was elected mayor several times.

🎨 His son Lucas Cranach the Younger assumed control of his workshop later on. In the late 1540s, father and son worked together on the *Reformation altar* in *St Mary's Church*, which has been on the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites since 1996.

🎨 The *Cranach courtyards* had survived through the ages as a remarkable testimony to these times but presented a bleak picture in the latter years of the GDR. Thanks to the work of the Cranach Foundation and restoration by the town, the state of Saxony-Anhalt and the German government, the courtyards are now a cultural focal point. In 2007, they were recognised as a *cultural monument of national importance*. The courtyard at Markt 4 houses the *Cranach's World* exhibition, which provides an overview of the family's varied body of work, explores the processes in the workshop and displays treasures such as Cranach's murals. It also hosts touring exhibitions.



📌 *Cranach altar in St Mary's Church, 1547*

RECOMMENDATIONS

📌 *Cranach Foundation and the Cranach courtyards*

Places associated with the family of painters with permanent and special exhibitions, an art school and workshops, a historical print shop, the Hofwirtschaft restaurant, a café and the Cranach pharmacy. → Visitor information section

📌 *Cranach hostel – overnight accommodation in the Cranach houses* 26 rooms (58 beds) and self-catering accommodation in the former family home · www.cranach-herberge.de

📌 *Luther's House* The exhibition includes numerous original portraits of Martin Luther by Lucas Cranach, the exceptional 'Ten Commandments', a 'Law and Gospel' panel – the symbol of Luther's theology – and exquisite prints by Lucas Cranach the Elder. → Visitor information section

📌 *St Mary's Church* The Cranach altar in the church where Luther held his sermons is surrounded by numerous epitaphs to Lucas Cranach the Younger, who is buried here. → Visitor information section

Dessau-Rosslau

✚ Once the royal seat of Anhalt, the town of Dessau holds the most remarkable and most extensive collection of works by Lucas Cranach the Elder in Saxony-Anhalt, including altarpieces and panel paintings at the *Anhalt Art Gallery* in Georgium Palace and in *St John's Church*. Especially the *Prince's Altar*, *Catherine's Altar* and the panel painting of the *Last Supper* are among the most important works of Cranach and his son, Lucas Cranach the Younger. A richly illustrated, three-volume *Cranach Bible* is also kept at the Anhalt State Library. Only 40 kilometres from Wittenberg (the centre of Cranach's work), Dessau was an important town in the spread of Protestantism and the reformed faith under the rule of Prince Georg III of Anhalt. The *Last Supper* is a bold and equally ambitious reference to it, and shows Luther, Melancthon and Georg III of Anhalt celebrating the Last Supper with Christ, together with other leading figures of the Reformation as the disciples.



✚ *Prince's Altar, 1507–1509*



♥ Lucas Cranach the Younger, *Last Supper*, 1565



♥ Catherine's Altar, 1516

✎ The Marian themes evident in the Dessau collection are characteristic of the early works of the Catholic painter. However even in these works it is possible to recognise the more secular treatment of holy figures that was characteristic of Cranach, and his intensive portrayal and characterisation of man and nature. In the works of Cranach the Younger, there is a tendency – in the spirit of the Reformation – to consciously reduce the use of rich, emotional depictions in favour of the matter-of-fact Biblical word of God. Two mythological paintings and some outstanding portraits round off the collection in Dessau. The Cranach paintings are part of a valuable collection of works by Renaissance painters such as Hans Baldung Grien, Bartel Bruyn, Hans Mielich, Hans Maler and others.

RECOMMENDATIONS

♥ *The Anhalt Art Gallery in Dessau* also displays a distinguished collection of Dutch paintings and an impressive exhibition of German paintings from the 17th to the 21st centuries. Georgium Palace and its gardens are part of a UNESCO World heritage site, as are the nearby Bauhaus buildings. → Visitor information section

♥ *St John's Church* → Visitor information section

Torgau

🦁 Torgau, a former seat of power in Saxony and more than a thousand years old, was one of the leading political centres of the Reformation. The charming old quarter, home to *Hartenfels Palace*, is the largest intact heritage site from the Renaissance period.

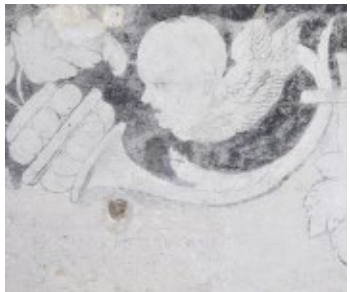
🦁 Hartenfels Palace, with its remarkable *stone spiral staircase*, was an important source of work for the Cranach workshop, particularly during the period of extensive rebuilding under John Frederick the Magnanimous. Visible examples are the architectural sculptures and medallions that are likely to have been based on Cranach's ideas.

🦁 The *Grotesque frieze* in the mirrored room above the Grand Staircase is the only intact mural that can be attributed to Cranach's workshop with certainty. The frieze is currently being restored and can be viewed by arrangement.

🦁 Cranach's *The Fourteen Holy Helpers* can be seen in St Mary's Church in Torgau near the memorial stone of Sophie von Mecklenburg, Electress of Saxony. The panel,



🦁 *Hartenfels Palace and the Grand Staircase*



🦁 *Section of the Grotesque frieze in Hartenfels Palace*



✦ The Fourteen Holy Helpers altarpiece in St Mary's Church



✦ St Nicholas altarpiece at the municipal museum



✦ The Crucifixion panel painting at the municipal museum

created by Lucas Cranach the Elder in around 1507 and painted on both sides, was part of an altar dedicated to Sophie.

✦ Another must-see is the altarpiece of *St Nicholas*, created in around 1515 by the Cranach workshop. It was originally housed in Torgau's abbey church, but went missing during the Second World War. In 2009, it was returned to Torgau and can now be seen in the municipal museum in the former prince-electors' chancellery.

✦ A further piece from the Cranach school on show here is *The Crucifixion*. This small panel painting was created between around 1520 and 1535. It was later moved to the village church in Collm, and has been on display in Torgau's municipal museum since 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS

✦ *Hartenfels Palace* including an exhibition of the Dresden State Art Collections and a multimedia exhibition in the prince-electors' chambers focusing on the fascinating lives of the palace's residents.
→ Visitor information section

✦ *The Museum of Municipal and Cultural History and the Torgau Museum Trail* including the Mayor Ringenhain House, the Priest's House and the Katharina Luther Room
→ Visitor information section

Meissen

🦉 In Cranach's day, the town of Meissen on the river Elbe had become less influential than Dresden, the royal seat of the House of Wettin, but it nonetheless remained the seat of a Protestant cathedral chapter. The Wettins, who had been invested with the Margraviate of Meissen in 1089, not only initiated the construction of the Gothic cathedral but also had a magnificent mausoleum built in front of its west portal from 1415. The *memorial stone of Frederick the Belligerent*, Elector of Saxony, in the royal chapel was cast in the workshop of Peter Vischer the Elder in Nuremberg. It depicts the duke, who died in 1510, as the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order. It is thought to be based on a drawing by Lucas Cranach, which would make it the oldest reference to the artist in Meissen.



🦉 View across the Elbe to castle hill in Meissen with the Bishop's Palace, Cathedral and Albrechtsburg Castle

🦉 The earliest work proven to originate from the Cranach workshop is the cathedral's *retable of the Crucifixion altar*, which has decorated the altar in front of the choir screen since its installation in 1526. Duke George, who remained true to the Catholic faith, had a small side chapel built at the cathedral for himself and his wife Barbara, who died in 1534, and had it

decorated with a *trptych* painted by Lucas Cranach the Elder. It was later a cause of some surprise that the so-called creator of Lutheran imagery and court painter of the Protestant Elector had accepted a commission from this “bastion of orthodoxy” and “adversary of the Reformation”. But as we know today, this fully reflected Cranach’s prominent position as an artist and the pragmatic function of art in his day.



✦ Workshop of Lucas Cranach the Elder, *retable of the Crucifixion altar*, 1526

✦ Further works from the Cranach workshop were brought to Meissen in the year 2000 to be incorporated into a small cathedral museum, most notably the large-format portrait of *Hans von Lindenau*, portraits of the reformers *Martin Luther* and *Philipp Melancthon*, and a small portrait of *Electo Frederick the Wise*, all by Lucas Cranach the Younger.

RECOMMENDATION

✦ *Meissen Cathedral* is a Gothic building dating from 1250 to 1400 and has always served as the church for the Bishopric of Meissen. Its interior includes several Cranach panels.

→ Visitor information section

Neustadt an der Orla



🏰 *Late-Gothic Town Hall*

🏰 Neustadt an der Orla lies amid arable countryside far removed from the tourist trail. The town has many fascinating sights, particularly in its heritage-listed medieval centre.

🏰 The best place to start exploring is the large market square, which is flanked by a striking ensemble of buildings. The late-Gothic town hall is especially beautiful because of its magnificent stonework. Martin Luther stayed in Neustadt an der Orla on several occasions. He presided over the Augustinian Friars' monastery and preached in the town. The *Luther House*, where he is thought to have stayed, is one of the most beautiful late-medieval townhouses in Thuringia. Across the market square past the historical *fleischbänke* (a medieval street of butchers' shops) is *St John's Church*, which contains an exquisite masterpiece – a large panelled altar by Lucas Cranach the Elder. It was one of the first commissions that the Wittenberg court painter received from the citizens of a town.

🏠 This precious altar from Wittenberg arrived in 1513, carefully transported on three wagons. Because Martin Luther wanted to protect the artwork of his friend Cranach in 1524, it has remained unchanged in this location to this day – quite unique for an altarpiece by Cranach the Elder. Today you can appreciate this magnificent altar in its original setting, closely examine the depiction of the Last Judge-



🏠 *Luther's House*



🏠 *Cranach altar in St John's Church, 1513*

ment on the predella, and appreciate the rich sculptures and reliefs illustrating the lives of the saints and Biblical stories in Cranach's early artistic style.

RECOMMENDATIONS

🏠 *St John's Church with Cranach altar* The church, built between 1471 and 1540, contains artworks of exceptional quality. → *Visitor information section*

🏠 *Local History Museum* A collection of historical maps, the history of carousels, the Cranach room, and other themed areas. → *Visitor information section*

🏠 *Luther House, Rodaer Strasse 12* This historical monument, which is open to visitors, is one of the most beautiful townhouses from the Renaissance. → *Visitor information section*

Gotha

✚ Lucas Cranach the Elder fell in love in Gotha. It was here he met Barbara Brengelier, the daughter of a town councillor. Their marriage is thought to have taken place in Gotha in around 1512. The building on the main square that belonged to the Brengelier family, and in which Cranach's daughter Ursula later lived with her husband, is still called the *Cranach House* today. Her sister Barbara also lived in Gotha from 1555 and was married to Christian Brück, the chancellor to Elector Johann Friedrich I of Saxony. In the course of the *Grumbach feuds* he was quartered on 18 April 1567 in the main square, where a plaque commemorating the date is set in the cobblestones.

✚ The museums at *Friedenstein Palace* contain numerous important paintings and an extensive collection of prints by the Cranach family, which were from old Ernestine collections and brought to the town by the Dukes of Saxe-Gotha.





✦ *Worship of the kings, around 1513/15*



✦ *Madonna with Child and Young John the Baptist, by Lucas Cranach the Younger, 1534*

RECOMMENDATIONS

✦ **Friedenstein Palace** Baroque Friedenstein Palace (1643–1654) boasts magnificent apartments, a research library with extensive holdings on Luther's lifetime, and outstanding collections on art, history and nature in several museums. The Cranach paintings belonging to the Friedenstein Palace Foundation in Gotha are on display in the art collections of the Herzogliches Museum (1864–1879).
→ *Visitor information section*

✦ **Augustinian monastery** Martin Luther, at whose wedding Cranach was a witness, regularly visited Gotha; In 1537 when Luther was seriously ill, he wrote his second will there, in which he stated that he wanted to be buried in Gotha. Church reformer Friedrich Myconius worked at the monastery (his house is next door) and was a good friend of Cranach the Elder.
→ *Visitor information section*

✦ **Cranach House, Hauptmarkt 17** The original building burned down in the 17th century and was rebuilt incorporating some of the original parts such as the Cranach coat of arms.

Erfurt

✚ “Erfurt is in the ideal location. A city must be built here.”

This was the opinion of the great reformer Martin Luther, who studied theology in Erfurt and later made the acquaintance of Cranach in Wittenberg. As well as painting numerous portraits of Luther, Cranach became one of the most influential painters of the German Reformation. He also illustrated several reformatory texts with his prints.

✚ Today Erfurt has an impressive collection of exceptional paintings by Cranach. Among them is *The Mystic Marriage of St Catherine* with St Catherine and Barbara, a panel painting by Lucas Cranach the Elder thought to date from around 1520. It can be found in the northern aisle of St Mary’s Cathedral in Erfurt and was only incorporated into the baroque altar in 1948.



✚ *St Mary's Cathedral and the Church of St Severus*



👉 *Let the children come to me, around 1537*

👉 At the Anger Museum of Art there are twelve works, primarily from the workshop of Cranach the Elder, Cranach the Younger and their contemporaries. Among the most significant is *Let the Children Come to Me*. The painting was created in around 1537 and features Cranach's characteristic winged serpent insignia.

👉 It is not only the precious artworks by Cranach that make Erfurt worth visiting however. The Thuringian state capital has one of the best preserved medieval city centres in Germany. The most famous landmarks in the city are the Merchants' Bridge – the longest bridge in Europe to have houses lining both sides – and the impressive ensemble of St Mary's Cathedral and the Church of St Severus. The Protestant Augustinian monastery, in which Martin Luther lived as a monk for five years, is one of the leading Luther sites in Germany today.

RECOMMENDATIONS

👉 *St Mary's Cathedral and the Church of St Severus – an impressive ensemble of two Catholic churches and a signature attraction in Thuringia's state capital.* → Visitor information section

👉 *Today, the Anger Museum of Art in the baroque palace (Stadt-palast) contains, among other things, the Erfurt art museum with a paintings and porcelain gallery.* → Visitor information section

Schneeberg

✚ The Church of St Wolfgang is one of the large, light late-Gothic churches of Saxony and owes its existence to the rich reserves of silver in the Erzgebirge mountains during the 15th and 16th centuries. The church was almost completely destroyed during a bombing raid on 19 April 1945. The only artworks that could be saved were eleven of the twelve panels of the Cranach altar, and these can be seen together on the winged altar today. Work was carried out on the church until 1996 to restore it to its former glory.

✚ The Reformation altar in Schneeberg is one of the most extensive works of the Cranach family. It was commissioned in 1532 and crafted by Lucas Cranach the Elder and his workshop until 1539. The altar has a series of images that places the most important stories of the Bible in a theological context.

✚ The side of the altar on display on ‘work days’ shows the well-known *Law and Gospel*, which Cranach painted in different variations. Our gaze is drawn to Christ, through whom man is granted salvation – this was the central belief of the reformers’ theology. Man is “justified” (“just”) by God through Christ’s redemption and enters into a new, liberated relationship with God, one’s fellow men and oneself. In terms of iconography, this notion is visualised by the figure of Adam standing upright under the cross.

✚ The ‘feast day’ side of the altar is characterised by the powerful image of Christ’s crucifixion in the centre. It is flanked with panels showing Elector Johann Friedrich of Saxony and Duke Johann Ernst of Coburg. The altar predella, which is always visible, shows a depiction of the Last Supper.



✚ Reformation altar in St Wolfgang, 1539, work day side

🔥 On the back of the Reformation altar there are two pictures at the side showing the Old Testament stories of *The Flood* and *Sodom and Gomorrah*. The message of the resurrection, *salvation after death*, is on the central panel. When members of the congregation take Holy Communion during Mass, they pass around the altar and also see the reverse side.

RECOMMENDATION

✚ *St Wolfgang with the Cranach altar* Guided tours of the church with commentary on the altar are organised by the rectory on request. → Visitor information section

Eisenach

🦉 Eisenach and Wartburg Castle would certainly have figured in Luther's discussions with Cranach the Elder. The mother of the great reformer was born in the town, and his father came from nearby Möhra. Luther's associations with Eisenach, which he referred to as *his beloved town* go back to his childhood: it was here that he went to school and gave sermons.

🦉 At that time, the castle had entered a quieter period and the extravagant celebrations of the Middle Ages were long past. Wartburg Castle guaranteed the necessary safety and seclusion for the excommunicated – and during the Diet of Worms ostracised – monk, who shook the Roman Catholic Church. From 4 May 1521 until 1 March the following year, Luther remained in hiding at his 'Patmos' and it was one of the most productive periods of his life. His translation of the New Testament is regarded as a defining moment in the development of a standardised German language.



🦉 Wartburg Castle near Eisenach, UNESCO World Heritage site



📌 Hans Luther, 1527



📌 Margarete Luther, 1527

📌 The fact that Wartburg Castle holds a number of other works by Cranach the Elder and his son, as well as several Luther portraits, is thanks to a direct descendant of the painter. Hans Lucas von Cranach was commander of the castle from 1895 and died there in 1929.

📌 Among Cranach's masterpieces of portraiture are the paintings of Martin Luther's parents, which are on display in the art exhibition at Wartburg Castle. In 1527, Luther's daughter Elisabeth was born, and his parents are likely to have travelled to Wittenberg for the christening and sat for Cranach while they were there. Their expressive faces – Luther's father proudly wearing his fur collar, and his mother wearing a white head scarf draped over her shoulders in a dignified fashion – show contented people, reconciled with their son and eminently proud of him.

RECOMMENDATION

📌 *Art collections at Wartburg Castle* with artworks spanning eight centuries including some outstanding paintings by Cranach
→ Visitor information section

Weimar

👉 Weimar was Lucas Cranach's final home. He lived there in a house on the market square until his death in 1553. His grave is in the Jakobsfriedhof cemetery.

👉 After Duke Johann Friedrich I the Magnanimous had lost the electoral dignity, Cranach followed him to the new ducal seat of Weimar. Today, the collection of the Foundation of Weimar Classics contains several of the artist's



👉 *Section of the Cranach altar in the Church of St Peter and St Paul, completed in 1555 by Lucas Cranach the Younger, with portraits of Lucas Cranach the Elder and Martin Luther*

paintings, drawings and prints. Many of these originate from the former ducal collection and attest to Cranach's role as court painter. The Cranach altar in the Church of St Peter and St Paul represents an important visual testimony to Reformation history in Thuringia. Alongside Martin Luther, Cranach himself is immortalised on the three-panelled altar.



✦ Elector Johann Friedrich of Saxony, 1526



✦ Sibylle of Cleves, 1526



✦ The gravestone of Lucas Cranach the Elder

RECOMMENDATIONS

✦ *Church of St Peter and St Paul (Herderkirche) with Cranach altar* The paintings on the altar were probably started by Lucas Cranach the Elder and completed by his son in 1555. The triptych was installed in the chancel in the same year. The crucifixion of Christ is depicted in the centre. → Visitor information section

✦ *Cranach House on Markt 11/12* In 1552, Lucas Cranach the Elder took up residence in the house on the market square belonging to his son-in-law, Chancellor Christian Brück. The coats of arms of Brück and Cranach can still be seen above the entrance today.

✦ *Jakobsfriedhof with Cranach's grave* Jakobsfriedhof has served as a cemetery since the 12th century. It is here where Lucas Cranach the Elder is buried. The gravestone is a replica dating from the mid-19th century. The original – designed by Nicol Gromann, who also created the Cranach House – is at the Church of St Peter and St Paul.



VISITOR INFORMATION

1 Kronach

Tourist Information

Marktplatz 5 | 96317 Kronach
TEL +49 92 61 | 97-236
FAX +49 92 61 | 97-310
touristinfo@stadt-kronach.de
www.kronach.de

Rosenberg Fortress with the Franconian Gallery

Festung 1 | 96317 Kronach
TEL +49 92 61 | 6041-0
FAX +49 92 61 | 6041-18
festung@stadt-kronach.de
www.kronach.de

MAR – OCT

Tue–Sun 9.30 am–5.30pm

Guided tour

Lucas Cranach – master artist from Kronach

Option 1: guided tour on Cranach and his works in the Franconian Gallery

Available MAR – OCT, duration: 1 hour

Option 2: guided tour of Kronach and Cranach's works in the Franconian Gallery

Available MAR – OCT, duration: 2 hours

2 Coburg

Tourist Information

Herrngasse 4 | 96450 Coburg
TEL +49 95 61 | 89-80 00
FAX +49 95 61 | 89-80 29
info@tourist.coburg.de
www.coburg-tourist.de

Coburg Fortress Art Collections

Veste Coburg | 96450 Coburg
TEL +49 95 61 | 879-0
FAX +49 95 61 | 879-66
sekretariat@kunstsammlungen-coburg.de
www.kunstsammlungen-coburg.de
APR – OCT Mon–Sun 9.30am–5pm
NOV – MAR Tue–Sun 1pm–4pm

Coburg State Library| Ehrenburg Palace

Schlossplatz 1 | 96450 Coburg
TEL +49 95 61 | 853 80
geschaeftsstelle@landesbibliothek-coburg.de
Mon–Thu 10am–5pm, Fri+Sat 10am–1pm
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS (BAVARIA)
Mon–Fri 10am–1pm

3 Nuremberg

Tourist Information on Hauptmarkt square

Hauptmarkt 18 | 90403 Nuremberg

Tourist Information at nürnberg info (opposite the main train station)

Königstrasse 93 | 90402 Nuremberg
TEL +49 911 | 23 36-0
tourismus@nuernberg.de
www.tourismus.nuernberg.de

Germanic National Museum

Kartäusergasse 1 | 90402 Nuremberg
TEL +49 911 | 133 10
info@gnm.de | www.gnm.de

Guided tour

Cranach tour

Explore Cranach's history and legacy at the

Germanic National Museum

Albrecht Dürer House

Albrecht-Dürer-Strasse 39
90403 Nuremberg
TEL +49 911 | 231 25 68
reiner.maisch@stadt.nuernberg.de
www.museen.nuernberg.de/duererhaus

VISITOR INFORMATION

4 Wittenberg

Tourist Information

Schlossplatz 2 | 06886 Wittenberg

TEL +49 34 91 | 49 86 10

FAX +49 34 91 | 49 86 11

info@lutherstadt-wittenberg.de

www.lutherstadt-wittenberg.de

Luther's House

Collegienstrasse 54 | 06886 Wittenberg

info@martinluther.de

www.martinluther.de

APR – OCT Mon – Sun 10am – 6pm

NOV – MAR Tue – Sun 10am – 5pm

Cranach Foundation and Cranach courtyards

Markt 4 (for the Cranach's World exhibition)

& Schlossstrasse 1 | 06886 Wittenberg

TEL +49 34 91 | 420 19 11

FAX +49 34 91 | 420 19 19

info@cranach-stiftung.de

www.cranach-stiftung.de

APR – OCT

Mon – Sat 10am – 5pm,

Sundays and public holidays 1pm – 5pm

NOV – MAR

Tue – Sat 10am – 5pm,

Sundays and public holidays 1pm – 5pm

Guided tour

Cranach's World – a tour

of the exhibition on the life and legacy of this family of artists and of the historical Cranach courtyards.

Available all year round, duration: 1 hour

Town Church of St Mary

Kirchplatz | 06886 Wittenberg

stadtkirche@kirche-wittenberg.de

www.stadtkirchengemeinde-wittenberg.de

EASTER – OCT

Mon – Sat 10am – 6pm, Sun 11.30am – 6pm

NOV – EASTER

Mon – Sat 10am – 4pm, Sun 11.30am – 4pm

5 Dessau-Rosslau

Tourist Information

Zerbster Strasse 2c

06844 Dessau-Rosslau

TEL +49 340 | 204 14 42

FAX +49 340 | 204 11 42

touristinfo@dessau-rosslau.de

www.dessau-rosslau-tourismus.de

Georgium Palace with Anhalt Art Gallery of Dessau

Puschkinallee 100 | 06846 Dessau-Rosslau

TEL +49 340 | 66 12 60-00

FAX +49 340 | 66 12 60-17

gemaeldegalerie@georgium.dessau.de

www.georgium.de

Wed – Sun 10am – 5pm | Because of renovations at Georgium Palace, most of the Cranach collection will be on show at the Dessau Local History Museum (Johannbau) until the end of 2019. Please note that the museum will be closed in December 2018 and January 2019.

St John's Church

Johannisstrasse 11

06844 Dessau-Rosslau

TEL +49 340 | 21 49 75

www.johanniskirche-dessau.de

6 Torgau

Torgau Information Centre (TIC)

Markt 1 | 04860 Torgau

TEL +49 34 21 | 701 40

info@tic-torgau.de

www.tic-torgau.de

Guided tour

Cranach and the Renaissance town of Torgau

Available all year round, duration: 2 hours

Hartenfels Palace

Schlossstrasse 27 | 04860 Torgau

www.schloss-hartenfels.de

Exhibition open:

Tue–Sun, 10am–6pm

Details from Torgau Information Centre

(see above)

Museum of Municipal and Cultural History

Torgau and the Torgau Museum Trail

Wintergrüne 5 | 04860 Torgau

TEL +49 34 21 | 703 36

www.museum-torgau.de

7 Meissen

Tourist Information

Markt 3 | 01662 Meissen

TEL +49 35 21 | 41 94-0

FAX +49 35 21 | 41 94-19

service@touristinfo-meissen.de

www.touristinfo-meissen.de

Meissen Cathedral | Meissen Bishopric

Domplatz 7 | 01662 Meissen

TEL +49 35 21 | 45 24 90

FAX +49 35 21 | 45 38 33

info@dom-zu-meissen.de

www.dom-zu-meissen.de

APR – OCT Mon–Sun 9am–6pm

NOV – MAR Mon–Sun 10am–4pm

8 Neustadt an der Orla

Tourist Information in Luther's House

Rodaer Strasse 12

07806 Neustadt an der Orla

TEL +49 36 481 | 851 21

FAX +49 36 481 | 851 04

touristinfo@neustadtanderorla.de

www.neustadtanderorla.de

Guided tour

On the trail of Luther and Cranach around Neustadt (Orla)

Visiting sites associated with Martin

Luther and Lucas Cranach on Neustadt's

'Luther Mile'

Available all year round, duration: 1.5 hours

St John's Church

Kirchplatz 2 | 07806 Neustadt an der Orla

Bookings via tourist information.

Tours via the Museum of Local History.

Tour

Cranach special

A special tour of the Cranach altar

Available all year round, duration: 1 hour

Local History Museum

Kirchplatz 7 | 07806 Neustadt an der Orla

Wed–Fri noon–5pm

Sat 10am–5pm | Sun 2pm–5pm

lutherhaus.neustadtanderorla.de

Luther's House

Rodaer Strasse 12

07806 Neustadt an der Orla

TEL +49 36 481 | 851 21

Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat 10am–5pm

Sun 2pm–5pm

lutherhaus.neustadtanderorla.de

Guided tour

Where Luther probably never lived!

Available all year round, duration: 1 hour

9 Gotha/Gothaer Land*Tourist Information*

Hauptmarkt 33 | 99867 Gotha

TEL +49 36 21 | 51 04 50

FAX +49 36 21 | 51 04 59

tourist-info@gotha-adelt.de

www.gotha-adelt.de

Guided tour*Barbara Brück, née Cranach, knew them all...*

Available all year round, duration: 1.5 hours

Friedenstein Palace Foundation, Gotha

Schloss Friedenstein | 99867 Gotha

TEL +49 36 21 | 82 34-0

FAX +49 36 21 | 82 34-57

service@stiftung-friedenstein.de

www.stiftung-friedenstein.de

Palace:

APR – OCT Tue–Sun 10am–5pm

NOV – MAR Tue–Sun 10am–4pm

Herzogliches Museum (ducal museum):

APR – OCT Mon–Sun 10am–5pm

NOV – MAR Mon–Sun 10am–4pm

Augustinian monastery

Jüdenstrasse 27 | 99867 Gotha

TEL +49 36 21 | 30 29 10

FAX +49 36 21 | 30 29 09

herberge@augustinerkloster-gotha.de

www.augustinerkloster-gotha.de

10 Erfurt*Tourist Information*

Benediktspatz 1 | 99084 Erfurt

TEL +49 361 | 66 40-0

FAX +49 361 | 66 40-290

info@erfurt-tourismus.de

www.erfurt-tourismus.de

Guided tour*Cranach and Luther –**Companions during the Reformation*

Available all year round, duration: 2 hours

Erfurt Cathedral

Domstufen 1 | 99084 Erfurt

TEL +49 361 | 646 12 65

dominformation@domberg-erfurt.de

www.dom-erfurt.de

MAY – OCT Mon–Sat 9.30am–6pm,

Sundays and public holidays 1pm–6pm

NOV – APR Mon–Sat 9.30am–5pm,

Sundays and public holidays 1pm–5pm

The Cathedral is not open for tours during services.

Anger Museum of Art

Anger 18 | 99084 Erfurt

TEL +49 361 | 655-1651

FAX +49 361 | 655-1659

angermuseum@erfurt.de

www.angermuseum.de

Tue–Sun 10am–6pm

Guided tour*The Anger Museum of Art and**Cranach's paintings*

Available all year round, duration: 1 hour

11 Schneeberg

Tourist Information

Markt 6 | 08289 Schneeberg
TEL +49 37 72 | 203 14
FAX +49 37 72 | 223 47
schneeberg.touristinfo@t-online.de
www.schneeberg.de

St Wolfgang

Kirchgasse 7 | 08289 Schneeberg
TEL +49 37 72 | 39 12-0
FAX +49 37 72 | 39 12-11
pfarramt@st-wolfgang-schneeberg.de
www.st-wolfgang-schneeberg.de
NOV – MAR Mon–Fri 10am–noon &
2pm–4pm, Sat 10am–noon & 1pm–4pm,
Sundays and public holidays 2pm–4pm
DURING ADVENT until 5pm
APR – OCT until 5pm

12 Eisenach

Tourist Information

Markt 24 | 99817 Eisenach
TEL +49 36 91 | 79 23-0
FAX +49 36 91 | 79 23-20
info@eisenach.info
www.eisenach.info

Guided tour

*Exploring Luther's time in Eisenach through
Lucas Cranach's paintings*
Available all year round, duration: 1.5 hours

The art collections in Wartburg Castle

Wartburg Castle Foundation
Auf der Wartburg 1 | 99817 Eisenach
TEL +49 36 91 | 250-0
FAX +49 36 91 | 20 33 42
info@wartburg.de
www.wartburg.de
APR – OCT Mon–Sun 8.30am–5pm
NOV – MAR Mon–Sun 9am–3.30pm

13 Weimar

Tourist Information

Markt 10 | 99423 Weimar
TEL +49 36 43 | 745-0
FAX +49 36 43 | 745-420
tourist-info@weimar.de
www.weimar.de

Guided tours

*Cranach in Weimar – the painters
of the Reformation*
Available all year round, duration: 2 hours

Historical sites of the Reformation in Weimar
Available all year round, duration: 2 hours

City Palace with Palace Museum Weimar

Klassik Stiftung Weimar
(Foundation of Weimar Classics)
Burgplatz 4 | 99423 Weimar
TEL +49 36 43 | 545-400
FAX +49 36 43 | 41 98 16
info@klassik-stiftung.de
www.klassik-stiftung.de

The museum is closed until further notice during the renovations of the palace. Please call the number below or visit the Foundation of Weimar Classics website for up-to-date information.

Church of St Peter and St Paul (Herderkirche)

Herderplatz | 99423 Weimar
TEL +49 36 43 | 851-518
FAX +49 36 43 | 851-519
office@ek-weimar.de
www.ek-weimar.de
APR – OCT Mon–Fri 10am–6pm,
Sat 10am–noon & 2pm–4pm,
Sundays and public holidays
11am–noon & 2pm–4pm
NOV–MAR
Mon–Fri 10am–noon & 2pm–4pm
Sat 10am–noon & 2pm–5pm
Sundays and public holidays
11am–noon & 2pm–4pm

Guided tour of the church

NOV – MAR Mon & Fri 2pm
APR – OCT Mon & Fri 5pm

Tour of the altar

NOV – MAR Sat 3pm | APR – OCT Sat 4pm

Tour of the tower and bells

APR – OCT Tue 5pm

PICTURE CREDITS

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München

Christ and the Adulteress

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Panel painting

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und St. Marien Dessau

Torgau

Palace

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Christian Krass

Grotesque frieze

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The Fourteen Holy Helpers

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Meissen

Cathedral view

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Neustadt an der Orla

Town views

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Gotha

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Erfurt

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Cranach paintings

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Weimar

Cranach paintings

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Cranach altar

© Superintendentur Weimar,
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Cranach's grave

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www.wege-zu-cranach.de