

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 27 (2000)
Heft: 6

Artikel: Thurgau : a cultural canton with a difference
Autor: Fatzer, Barbara
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-907666>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 22.08.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

A cultural canton with a difference

BY BARBARA FATZER

The cliché of a cultural desert is in need of revision. Since 1994 Thurgau has boasted a constitutional article which the Federation does not enjoy: a statute on cultural promotion.

NOT ONE SINGLE subsidised theatre exists in Thurgau. Yet the canton's cultural life is flourishing, primarily thanks to personal initiative and voluntary zeal. Theatre is alive and well from Kreuzlingen to Aadorf, Frauenfeld to Bürglen; and the genres range from social satire to the absurd.

Most theatres in the region have one thing in common: professionals share the stage with amateurs. Another key factor is the Thurgau Theatre Festival, held every two years since 1989. The next festival is scheduled for 8 to 11 November 2001 in Sirmach, where a dozen stage and drama companies will give performances ranging from children's theatre to readings and classical drama, culminating in the appearance of the

Barbara Fatzner is a free-lance journalist resident in Thundorf (TG).

Sirmach Operette, famous beyond Thurgau's borders.

Ittingen: cultural magnet

In Thurgau one looks in vain for philanthropists to donate art collections. Here everything has to be built from scratch by dint of hard work and dedication. The Kartause Ittingen Foundation is a good example.

Since 1983 this former monastery has not only housed the Cantonal Art and Ittingen Museum, but also provided an infrastructure for training seminars and cultural events. On 5 May 2001 it will be the venue for a concert to launch the International Lake Constance Festival, in which Thurgau participates as a bordering canton. Following this, the Whitsun Concerts featuring renowned soloists and orchestras will be

held at the beginning of June. These concerts are broadcast by Radio DRS.

The canton operates four other museums including the Napoleon Museum on the Arenenberg. The Museum of Archaeology in Frauenfeld opened only five years ago and houses a rich collection of exhibits from the Stone Age to the Middle Ages. It collaborates closely with the Museum of Nature and organises events throughout the year to provide adults as well as children with a hands-on experience of history. In addition the canton boasts some 30 local museums and collections, run and financed by associations and private individuals.

One characteristic shared by Thurgau residents is their love of festivals. In villages throughout the canton one finds entertainment evenings and festivities organised by associations and clubs. What is special about the Thurgau cultural scene is that there is no clear distinction between spectators and actors. The feeling of being part of the performance is what makes Thurgau's cultural life unique in comparison with urban regions.

Thurgau promotes an individual style of tourism coupled with environmental awareness. Visitors can choose between overnight accommodation in anything from a hayloft or farmhouse right up to first-class hotels which offer cultural and culinary programmes. Informative brochures provide hikers and cyclists with useful tips and maps.



The Kartause Ittingen Foundation has transformed the former monastery into an important cultural centre for Thurgau.

Photo: Bildagentur Baumann

"Swiss Ping Pong"

The "Swiss Ping Pong" encounter programme offers Swiss Abroad the chance of getting to know Switzerland on a very personal level. It offers one to two weeks staying with one or two host families; accommodation and meals are free of charge. Guests pay only a modest registration fee. The cantons of Berne, Fribourg, Jura, Neuchâtel and Vaud have taken over patronage of the programme for 2001. This will allow Swiss nationals resident abroad to experience the Expo.02 region around the Lakes of Bienne, Morat and Neuchâtel. For further information and registrations for 2001, contact:

Stapferhaus Lenzburg, "Swiss Ping Pong", Schloss, CH-5600 Lenzburg 2
Tel +41 62 888 48 14, Fax +41 62 888 48 01
E-mail: swisspingpong@stapferhaus.ch, Internet: www.stapferhaus.ch