



QUALITY HIKING TRAIL

Kyffhäuser Trail

Quality under your feet!

Naturpark
Kyffhäuser



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Kyffhäuser Trail Map

HörErlebnis KYFFHÄUSER



Kyffhäuser Trail in Kyffhäuser Nature Park

– Quality under your feet!

The Kyffhäuser Trail runs for 37 kilometers in three legs through the Kyffhäuser Hills. It has been tested by the deutschen Wanderverband (German hiking association) and awarded the quality seal “Qualitätsweg Wanderbares Deutschland.” The Kyffhäuser Trail is distinguished by the following qualities:

- semi-natural trails and landscape diversity,
- trail markers along the entire trail,
- views of the floodplains,
- cultural and geological attractions,
- “Kyffhäuser HörErlebnis”, an audio experience in short pieces brought to you by your smartphone.



View from the Kyffhäuser Trail over the Golden Aue

Dear Hiker,

Welcome to the *Kyffhäuser Trail in the Kyffhäuser Nature Park*. Natural riches, topographical variety, historic and geological treasures surround you on this trail. In this brochure we introduce you to the *three legs* of the quality Kyffhäuser Trail and give you some *tips* on where to leave the main trail to explore nearby sites and how to loop back. A *fold-out map* at the end of the brochure will help you to find your way.

We wish you adventure-packed hiking!

Your Nature Park Team

Naturparkverwaltung Kyffhäuser

Barbarossastraße 39 a

99707 Kyffhäuserland OT Rottleben

Tel: 03 61- 57 39 164-0

naturpark-kyffhaeuser.de



Resting spot and viewpoint: Falkenburg ruins



Springtime
pheasant's eye

Through the bizarre Südkyffhäuser



First leg

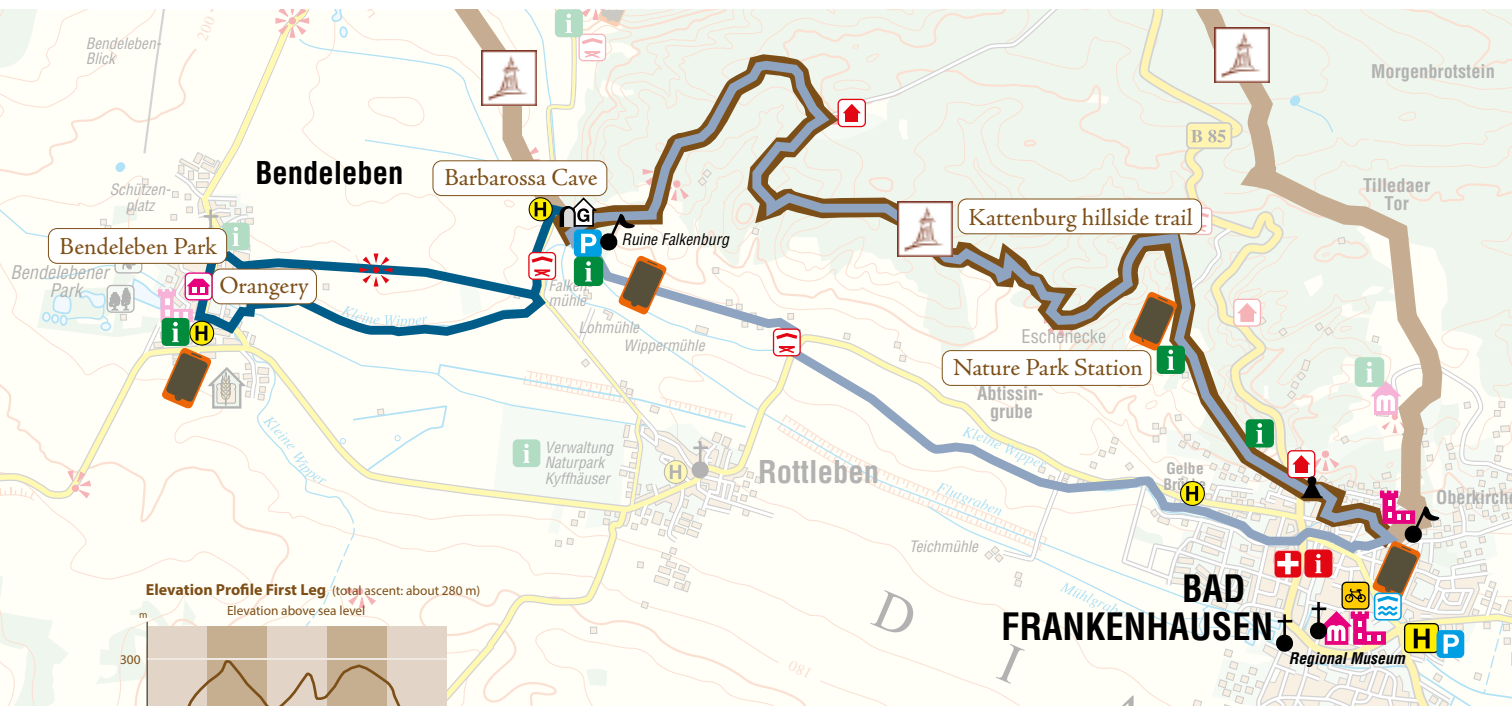
First leg of the Kyffhäuser Trail (8.8 km)

The first leg of the Kyffhäuser Trail leads through a bizarre karst limestone terrane from the spa town of **Bad Frankenhausen** to the legendary **Barbarossa Höhle (Barbarossa Cave)**. Forests and meadows alternate along the limestone trail. In the spring yellow pheasant's eye and purple pasque flowers brighten the sparsely vegetated rocks. With plants from the steppes and other rare species, Nature shows off a diversity here that is unique to Central Europe.

Wellspring

At the trail's edge you can see the world of botanical and geological wonders whose stories are told on the accompanying info boards. Or head to the **Nature Park Station** for an interactive experience with Nature. You might also enjoy a meditative moment at the **Falkenburg ruins**, which offer a panoramic view of the area.





Leg Kyffhäuser Trail (8.8 km)

Loop: Südkyffhäuser GeoPfad (Geotrail 13 km):

This loop follows the first leg of the Kyffhäuser Trail to Barbarossa Cave and through the valley back to Bad Frankenhausen.

Loop: Barbarossa Cave – Bendeleben (5.5 km):

This loop is a side trip from Barbarossa Cave to the rococo Orangerie and the English garden.

Info on First Leg 1

Starting points:

Bad Frankenhausen, Barbarossa Cave, Bendeleben

Nearby overnight accommodations:

Bad Frankenhausen, Rottleben, Bendeleben

Food and drink: Barbarossa Cave, Bad Frankenhausen

Transport connection:

Bus: Bendeleben – Rottleben – Bad Frankenhausen (hourly until about 4 p.m. on weekdays).

Additional info:

Tourist-Information Bad Frankenhausen
(Tel: 03 46 71-7 17 17, bad-frankenhausen.de, kyffhaeuser-tourismus.de)

Loop: Südkyffhäuser Geotrail (13 km)

[Stations: Bad Frankenhausen • Nature Park Station • Falkenburg • Barbarossa Cave • Bad Frankenhausen]

Steppe-like limestone terrane with rare rocks and plants



Wonders along the trail

The well-marked Südkyffhäuser geological trail leads through a steppe-like limestone karst. This loop runs directly over the first leg of the Kyffhäuser Trail from Bad Frankenhausen to Barbarossa Cave. In the valley the loop leads back to the spa town. Rarities from the rock and plant worlds are all along the trail. Look for the info boards at the edge of the trail to learn more about these natural wonders.

Trail Description

A trail leads up the hill the northern edge of Bad Frankenhausen to the west of the municipal park a trail leads up the hill. An info board marks the beginning of the Südkyffhäuser geotrail. "Come in, come in," you'll hear at the Nature Park Station. There the public is invited to learn more about the plants and animals of the Kyffhäuser Nature Park in interactive exhibits. Try out the animal jumping pit or the giant stone pendulum!

The trail snakes through the beech and oak forest, over dry grasslands to bare limestone cliffs. A fork in the trail at "Eschenecke" will take you back to Bad Frankenhausen. When you continue along the Kyffhäuser Trail, you'll have an especially pretty view of the Falkenburg ruins just before the Barbarossa Cave. While you gaze into the valley, listen to the creepy story about Raubritter, the marauding knights who long ago robbed travelers in these parts.

After a few more meters you'll come to Barbarossa Cave, where you can take a guided tour of the Südkyffhäuser underworld. In Europe's only publicly accessible cave of anhydrite stone, you'll see 25-meter-high caverns, bizarre rock formations on the ceiling and crystal-clear lakes. Once you emerge into daylight, follow the sign "GeoPfad Südkyffhäuser" to the Kleinen Wipper. This stream, dug by monks in the Middle Ages, leads back to Bad Frankenhausen. You can read the entire Kleinen Wipper story at the info pavilion at Barbarossa Cave and at the entrance to the town.



Barbarossa Cave Opening Hours

1 April to 31 October;

open daily

10 a.m. (first guided tour)

to 5 p.m. (last guided tour)

1 Nov. to 31 March

Tuesdays to Sundays

(closed Mondays)

10 a.m. (first guided tour)

to 4 p.m. (last guided tour)

More Info:

barbarossahoehle.de

Tel: 03 46 71 - 5 45 13



Views from the park to the village of Bendeleben



Orangery

Loop: Barbarossa Cave – Bendeleben (5.5 km)

[Stations: Barbarossa Cave • Rococo Orangery • English Garden • Barbarossa Cave]

From the cave to the pleasure garden

From 'Barbarossa Cave' you can make a side trip to the 'baroque' village of Bendeleben to visit a pleasure garden with a rococo orangery and a park with baroque elements laid out in English style. A hiking trail along the babbling Kleinen Wipper leads from Bendeleben back to 'Barbarossa Cave'.

Trail Description

A hiking trail marked with a blue X leads southwards from **Barbarossa Cave** to Bendeleben. You reach the village at the **St. Pankratii church** with its leaning tower and follow the main street down the hill. To your left you soon see the walled, recently restored **rococo Orangery**, the only one of its kind in Germany.

The adjacent, reconstructed pleasure garden is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Reservations must be made in advance for visits to the Orangery.

Follow the **Barockdorf Bendeleben** geotrail from the main street through the village. First you come to an info board at the bus stop where you can obtain information about the entire geotrail.

You go around the 1760s-era "**Uckermann'sche Gut**", whose buildings have typical mansard-hip roofs.

At the southeast edge of the village you'll meet up with the **Kleine Wipper** (to which you'll later return to hike back to Barbarossa Cave). Head along Parkweg to reach the English-style 21-hectare palace park outfitted with a fountain, small ponds, and secluded sitting areas that invite you to linger.

Refreshed, you can return to the Kleine Wipper and follow it downstream. The stream, created by monks long ago, leads you back to **Barbarossa Cave**.

Rococo Orangery in Bendeleben

Guided tours upon request.

More info:

Tel.: 03 46 71 . 7 70 41

Mobil: 0151 . 55 53 79 61





Through the Kyffhäuser forest dotted with hidden fortresses

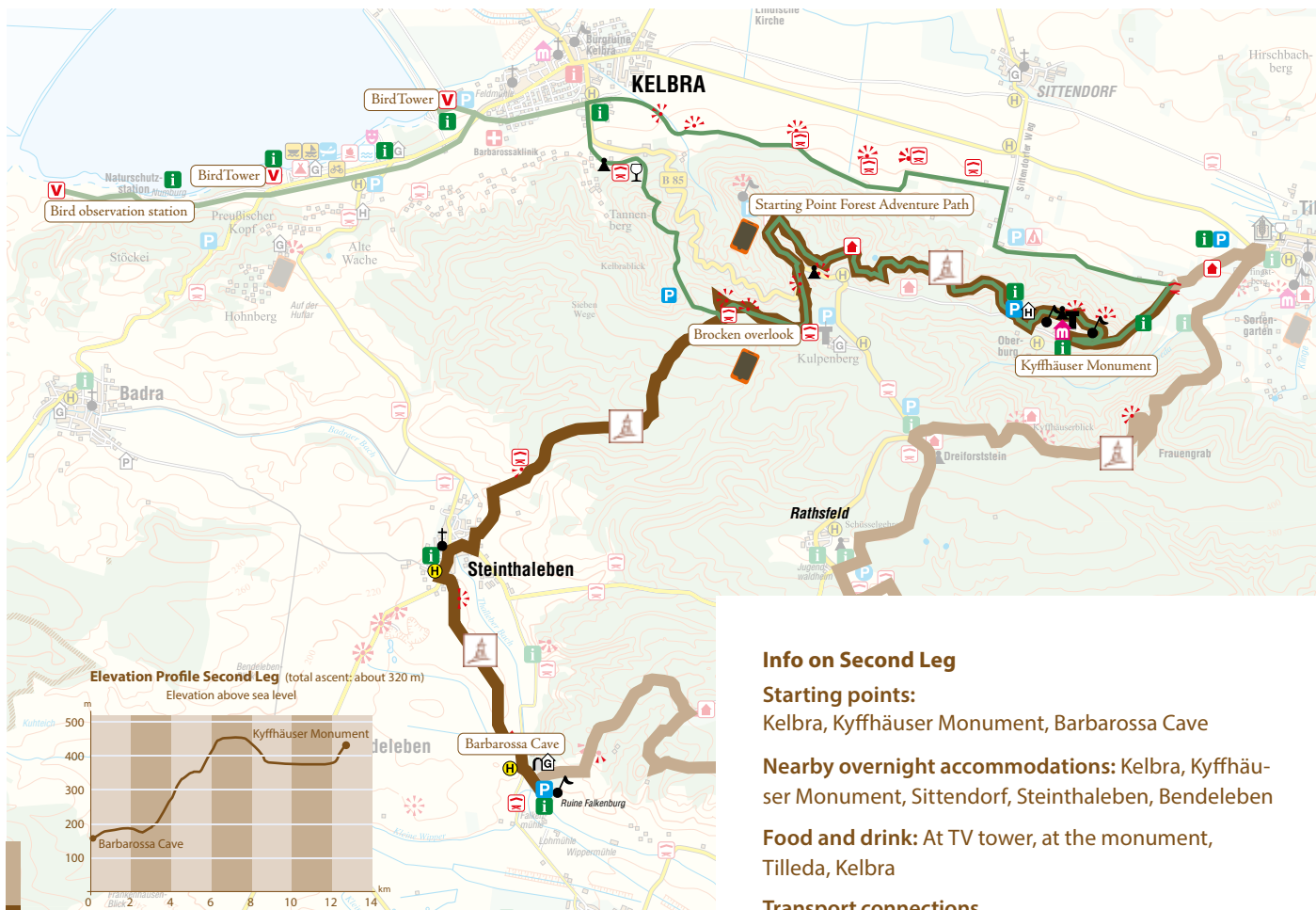
Second leg of Kyffhäuser Trail (12.5 km)



The second leg leads from **Barbarossa Cave** to the **Kyffhäuser Denkmal (Kyffhäuser Monument)**. On this leg, give into the charms of the Kyffhäuser Forest. Hike over the village of Steinhäfen to the Kyffhäuser Hills and enjoy the panoramic view from the **Brocken overlook**. Go past the Rothenburg ruins, which are not accessible, to get to the **Wald-Erlebnispfad (Forest Adventure Path)**, which leads along the steep edge of the hills and offers objects from the forest such as animal tracks and tone wood. From the **Kyffhäuser Monument** enjoy the wonderful 360-degree view over the Golden Aue or linger among the ruins at the monument's lower level.



The Ochsenburg, a mecca for many botanists



Leg Kyffhäuser Trail (12.5 km)

Loop: Kelbra – Kyffhäuser Monument (15 km)

This trail leads from Kelbra over the Forest Adventure Path to the Kyffhäuser Monument and back along the edge of the forest to Kelbra.

Side trip to watch birds:

A reservoir is located about two kilometers from Kelbra, where thousands of cranes rest in autumn before continuing their migration. Bird observation towers invite you to observe the world of birds.

Info on Second Leg

Starting points:

Kelbra, Kyffhäuser Monument, Barbarossa Cave

Nearby overnight accommodations: Kelbra, Kyffhäuser Monument, Sittendorf, Steinhaleben, Bendeleben

Food and drink: At TV tower, at the monument, Tilleda, Kelbra

Transport connections

Bus (VGS 453) Tilleda – Kelbra
(weekdays until about 4 p.m.);
Taxi Bott, Sittendorf (03 46 71 - 25 56)
Taxi Fienhold, Kelbra (03 46 71-61 23)
Taxi Henning, Bad Frankenhausen
(Tel: 03 46 71 - 63 51 0)

More info:

Bürger- und Gästeservice Kelbra
(Tel: 03 46 51-45 99 95, kelbra.de)
Tourist-Info Bad Frankenhausen
(Tel: 03 46 71- 7 17 17, Bad-Frankenhausen.de,
kyffhaeuser-tourismus.de)

Loop: Kelbra – Kyffhäuser Monument (16 km)

[Kelbra • Brocken Overlook • Forest Path • Kyffhäuser Monument • Kelbra]

Up to Kyffhäuser Monument with views over the Golden Aue

This loop leads from Kelbra directly to the Kyffhäuser Trail. You have a wonderful view of the Golden Aue from the Kyffhäuser Monument and from the return trail along the forest's edge.

Trail Description

From the bus stop in **Kelbra** the road leads up to the enchanting Kyffhäuser Forest. Simply follow the blue X! At the end of the climb, you'll see the Kyffhäuser Trail, which is labeled with the stylized Kyffhäuser Monument. From the Brocken overlook take in the panoramic view over the Golden Aue – and on clear days, all the way to the Brocken! After crossing B 85, you'll see the hikers' hut on the **Forest Adventure Path**. This trail leads you four kilometers through idyllic forests along the steep mountain slopes. Watch for deer tracks or rest on a wooden bench and look at the world from a beetle's perspective.

Fabulous beech forest on the north side of the Kyffhäuser Hills



Hikers interested in geology can make a side trip into Earth's history in the former quarries designated as a “Geo-Topo” (natural geoscientific monuments).

Here the forest path runs into the Nordweg (north trail), which leads directly up to the **Kyffhäuser Monument**. Take in the view over the Kyffhäuser Hills' forest canopy in the Golden Aue all the way to the Harz.

At the exit to the Kyffhäuser Monument, take an immediate right to get to the **romantic ruins below the monument**. A trail into the valley leads from the parking lot.

The turn-in is easy to find as it is marked with a “GeoPfad” sign to the Tilleda geotrail (see Third Leg, page 16). Follow the path toward Tilleda to where the forest thins and then turn left onto the trail marked with a green X. It leads along the edge of the forest back to **Kelbra**.

Kyffhäuser Monument

Opening hours:

Nov. to March 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

April to October 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

More info:

kyffhaeuser-denkmal.de

Tel.: 03 46 51 – 27 80

Side trip to observe birds

[Possible Stations: Bird tower near town • Bird tower at campground • Mobile observation station at Numburg]



Cranes

Birds of joy in view

Especially in autumn when birds are migrating, you'll want to make a side trip from Kelbra to the reservoir, which was built in the 1960s for flood protection.

Who could have imagined back then that builders were creating the perfect stop-over for cranes? Today the annual calls of the good-luck harbingers signal the start of autumn. The bird towers and observation station let visitors get a good look at the birds without disturbing them at all!

Trail Description

The nearest place from which to observe birds is the **BirdTower with viewing platform (1.5 kilometers from Kelbra)**, located right between the town and the reservoir. At the western end of Kelbra, turn right onto the dirt path and you'll see the tower, which is equipped with an open platform.

Follow the Harzvorland Radwanderweg (bicycle path) westwards to the **wooden bird tower (three kilometers from Kelbra)** at the campground. Not far from Reception you'll see the tower, which is built on stilts. Inside the tower you can learn more about the different bird species from info boards. You also can observe birds at the "Numburg" on the western edge of the reservoir. To get there, continue along



Bird tower with viewing platform

the Harzvorland bicycle path toward Auleben. The paved bike path soon turns into a dirt path and opens up on a view of the open countryside. Remain on the path until you come to the rebuilt construction trailer which is now the **mobile bird observation station (five kilometers from Kelbra)**. Inside you'll find information about bird life and tips on how to identify the birds. Regardless of the station you choose, you should take along a **pair of binoculars** to get a close-up look.

The brochures "Birds in View" (English) and "Kraniche im Blick" (German), which contain more information about bird observation, can be obtained from Tourist Information offices in the region.

The administration of the Kyffhäuser Nature Park regularly offers crane observation excursions





View from the north to the Kyffhäuser Monument in the midst of many old orchards



New knowledge in the Orchard Center

Over orchards into the Middle Ages

Third leg of Kyffhäuser Trail (15.9 km)



The imperial palace is the venue for jousting tournaments

On the third leg of the Kyffhäuser Trail you'll hike from the starting point at Kyffhäuser Monument to the end in Bad Frankenhausen. The last part of the trail leads over orchards to places steeped in history. From the **Kyffhäuser Monument** you'll head towards Tilleda, where the **Streuobstzentrum (Orchard Center)** and **Königspfalz (Imperial Palace)** await.

The trail winds its way up to the **GeoTrail rock garden** in the middle of the Kyffhäuser Forest. Rock from the past five million years invites you on a journey through the ages.

You finally reach the **Panorama Museum** and from there you go through the **Obstsorngarten (Heritage Orchard)** back to **Bad Frankenhausen**.

The Heritage Orchard lines the Kyffhäuser Trail on Schlachtberg in Bad Frankenhausen just before the Panorama Museum. Some 1,700 trees of 700 fruit species are maintained for posterity.





Leg Kyffhäuser Trail (15.9 km)

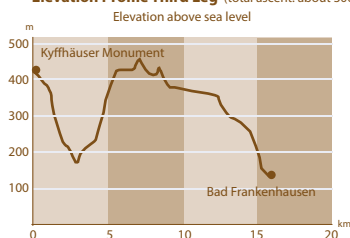
Loop: Tilleda Geotrail (about 6 to 8 km)

This loop links Kyffhäuser Monument with Tilleda.

Loop: Orchard Trail (6.5 km)

From Bad Frankenhausen to the Panorama Museum and through the Heritage Orchard back to Bad Frankenhausen

Elevation Profile Third Leg (total ascent: about 300 m)



Info on Third Leg

Starting points:

Bad Frankenhausen, Tilleda

Nearby overnight accommodations:

Bad Frankenhausen, Tilleda, Kyffhäuser Monument, Sittendorf

Food and drink:

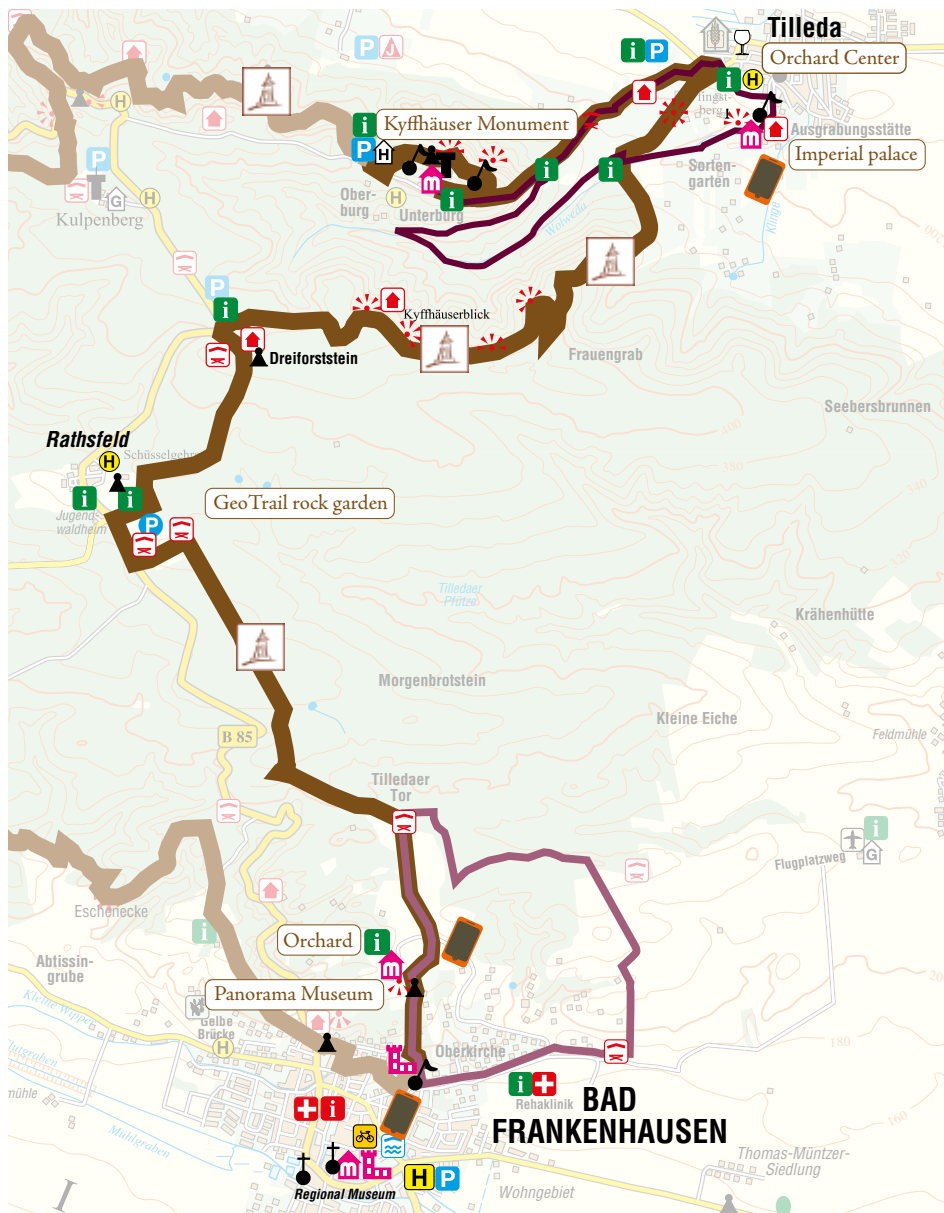
Tilleda, Orchard Center, Panorama Museum, Bad Frankenhausen

Transport connections:

Bus (VGS 453) Tilleda – Sittendorf (weekdays until about 4 p.m.);
 Taxi Bott, Sittendorf (03 46 71 - 25 56)
 Taxi Fienhold, Kelbra (03 46 71 - 61 23)
 Taxi H.-J. Henning, Bad Frankenhausen (03 46 71 - 6 35 10)

More info:

Bürger- und Gästeservice Kelbra
 (Tel: 03 46 51 - 45 99 95, kelbra.de)



Tourist-Information Bad Frankenhausen
 (Tel: 03 46 71 - 7 17 17, bad-frankenhausen.de,
 kyffhaeuser-tourismus.de),
 Orchard Center Tilleda (Tel: 03 46 51 - 902 83)

Loop: Tilleda Geotrail (6 to 8 km)

[Stations: Kyffhäuser Monument • Millstone quarry • Mill ruins • Imperial Palace • Orchard Center • Fruit trail • Kyffhäuser Monument]

Following millstone tracks to village of cherries and emperors



Diemitzer
Amarelle cherry

Between the forest and cherry orchard on the Tilleda geotrail you'll discover a millstone quarry, the ruins of a mill and an excavated imperial palace. You can hike the loop starting from the Orchard Center Tilleda (6.2 kilometers) or from Kyffhäuser Monument (7.8 kilometers).

Trail Description

An info board at the **Kyffhäuser Monument** parking lot shows where the Tilleda geotrail begins. From here a pass leads you through the forest. At the end of the pass, follow the signs "GeoPfad Tilleda" to the right. The trail takes you over an orchard to the **quarry**. The bare cliff reminds us that about 100 years ago sandstone was quarried here to make millstones.



The sign "GeoPfad Tilleda" shows the way to the **ruins of the Straub Mill**. Go through a little opening to the idyllic **orchard** filled with old varieties of fruit like the "Tilledaer Prinzess".

Mill ruins



Tilleda Imperial Palace

Opening hours:

March and Nov.: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

April - October: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

More info:

pfalz-tilleda.de

Tel.: 03 46 51 - 29 23

The geotrail leads further to the excavation of **Tilleda Imperial Palace**. When traveling on official business, the emperor Barbarossa stayed here.

At the next station, the **Orchard Center**, you can stock up on fruit. The orchard association headquartered here turns the fruit into sweet specialties. You'll learn how orcharding came to the region and why so many cherry trees grow here along the Obstweg (fruit trail), the trail which takes you back to the narrow pass that leads to the **Kyffhäuser Monument**. When your hike begins in Tilleda, you can first visit the Orchard Center, where you'll find an info board and a brochure about the Tilleda geotrail.

Orchard Center Tilleda

Opening hours:

Tuesdays to Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

December – February, please call to ask about opening hours.

More info:

Tel.: 03 46 51 – 90 28 3



Loop: Orchard Trail (6.5 km)

[Stations: Bad Frankenhausen • Panorama Museum • Heritage Orchard • Bad Frankenhausen]

This loop traverses historic grounds. Where one of the most important battles of the Peasants' War was waged in 1525 is now the site of an orchard filled with old varieties. Experience the revolt on the screen in the Panorama Museum and enjoy apples, cherries and plums on a hike through the idyllic orchard.



Trail Description

From the Tourist Information office in **Bad Frankenhausen**, follow the Kyffhäuser Trail signs up to the 1000-year-old Hausmannsturm (Hausmann Tower).

From here the trail leads uphill to Schlachtberg, where peasants fought nearly 500 years ago for a better life. A monument to the peasants' leader Thomas Müntzer is a reminder of the battle in which thousands of peasants died. The people of that time come

to life on Germany's largest circular canvas, which is illuminated on the hour, in the Panorama Museum.



From the **Panorama Museum**, hike through the **Heritage Orchard**. Here 700 fruit species are preserved for posterity on approximately 1,700 trees. You can read on the nameplates of these grand fruit varieties whether you should savor the "beauties from Nordhausen" fresh from the tree or baked into a cake.



This orchard, an important preservation site for fruit species in Germany, has been registered in the German gene bank for fruit (Deutsche Genbank Obst). The view over Bad Frankenhausen and the valley invites you to linger one last time before you follow the Kyffhäuser Trail back to the starting point at the **Bad Frankenhausen** village green.

Panorama Museum

Opening hours:

November to March

Tuesdays – Sundays:

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

April to October:

Tuesdays – Sundays:

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

More info:

panorama-museum.de

Tel.: 03 46 71/ 61 90

*Monumental painting by
Werner Tübke (detail)*



THE QR CODE – ADDED VALUE FOR HIKERS!



The Kyffhäuser Trail, the quality-tested hiking trail in the Kyffhäuser Nature Park, is now equipped with QR code boards.



QR (Quick Response) codes are read by a smartphone's camera. Then the related Internet site is called up and the information is displayed on the screen. You quickly obtain information about attractions, nature trails, lookout points, hiking trails, restaurants and snack bars, overnight accommodations or information about unusual flora and fauna.

HörErlebnis KYFFHÄUSER



The Kyffhäuser HörErlebnis (audio experience) turns your smartphone into a mobile tour guide. Via a telephone number or QR code, you can call up and listen to brief and fascinating audio clips or sometimes watch video clips about the popular attractions in the area close to the park. Give it a try!

KYFFHÄUSER-APP





A free download is available of all important information about the nature park region, including the park itself, local attractions, restaurants and much more.






Available for Apple and android smartphones

Legs and Loops




First leg: Through the bizarre Südkyffhäuser

-  Loop: Südkyffhäuser Geotrail (13 km) 2
-  Loop: Barbarossa Cave – Bendeleben (5.5 km) 6
-  Loop: Barbarossa Cave – Bendeleben (5.5 km) 8

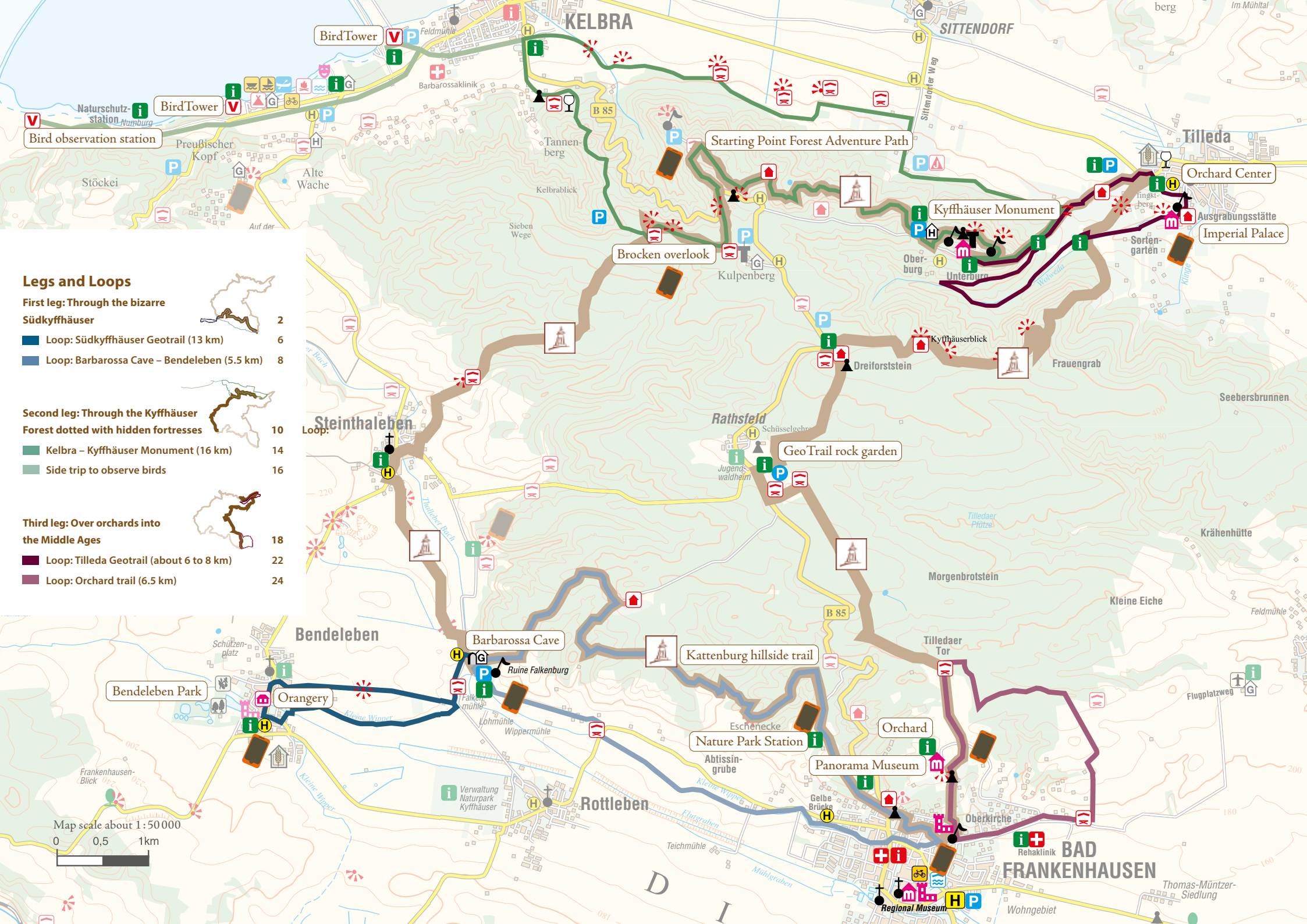
Second leg: Through the Kyffhäuser Forest dotted with hidden fortresses

-  Kelbra – Kyffhäuser Monument (16 km) 10
-  Side trip to observe birds 14
-  Side trip to observe birds 16

Third leg: Over orchards into the Middle Ages

-  Loop: Tilleda Geotrail (about 6 to 8 km) 18
-  Loop: Orchard trail (6.5 km) 22
-  Loop: Orchard trail (6.5 km) 24

Map scale about 1:50000



Location of Kyffhäuser Nature Park in Germany

Kyffhäuser Trail in Kyffhäuser Nature Park – Quality under your feet!

That's the motto of this brochure, which presents the quality-tested Kyffhäuser Trail. For each of the three legs you'll find loops and interesting side trips in the Kyffhäuser Nature Park.



Publisher

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Monumentalgemälde W. Tübke © VG Bild-Kunst Bonn;
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Realization

www.blattwerker.de

As of December 2017

Nationale
Naturlandschaften
in Thüringen

