

Treat yourself

Bad Wildungen
NATÜRLICH GUT



Bergfreiheit

THE SNOW WHITE VILLAGE IN KELLERWALD FOREST



Photos: Katharina Jaeger

www.bergfreiheit.de



Photo: NH

Fairytale landscape

Bergfreiheit, the miners' village idyllically situated in the forests of northern Hessian Kellerwald, is most probably the origin of the fairy tale "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" by the Brothers Grimm. This is explained by the local historian Eckhard Sander in his book "Snow White – a fairy tale or the truth – a local reference to the Kellerwald". The picturesque miners' village with approx. 350 inhabitants lies in the middle of one of the largest deciduous beech forest areas in Europe, the Kellerwald-Edersee Nature Park, which surrounds the national park of the same name. A well-marked network of hiking trails that reveal the natural beauty of the densely wooded mountain ridges at an altitude of 300 to 675 metres above sea level invites you to hike on the 176 km long "Kellerwaldsteig", the cultural-historical-ecological nature trail, or up to the Kellerwald tower on the nearby "Wüstegarten" (675 metres above sea level).

There is much worth seeing and experiencing in the largely half-timbered village, including Hessen's oldest mining office with a small municipal museum on the history of mining. Guided tours by the Mining Office and guided hikes on culture and history of the "Old Miner Village Office" are offered by the Mining Association from April to October every Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm. The meeting point is the exhibition mine.

Information and arrangement of special guided tours by tel./fax: +49 (0)5626 685.



Fairytale history

Mountain Freedom (the literal translation of "Bergfreiheit") – the name says it all! On 14 Sept. 1561 Count Samuel von Waldeck issued an edict on the "Miner freedoms in the valleys of Urf", which was to give the miners' settlement its name. Iron ore was initially mined here,

later also copper ore. As an incentive for the heavy and dangerous work underground or in huts and hammer mills, the sovereign granted the miners these extraordinary "freedoms", including the felling of timber, firewood and coal "free of any tax" for three years, and the Count allowed permanent "shaft and gallery rights" as well as freedom of trade and free lower jurisdiction in courts.

In contrast to the state constitution, the "Free Men" were allowed to elect their own Mayor and Town Council. Pub rights, an open weekly market, bathrooms, mills, breweries, salt crates, and meat factories were among the rights and freedoms "most graciously granted" to the miners.

The first documented iron church bell was cast here by Johann Sonneborn and accompanied the miners through



Photo: Katharina Jaeger

the centuries. Ore mining ceased as early as 1590. Between 1732 and 1744 as well as at the end of the 19th century, some excavations were carried out again, but with little success. The former copper mine can now be visited as an exhibition mine. The local gemstone cutting company still has mining rights. There you will find treasures from all over the world as well as the semi-precious stone Kellerwald agate, the "gemstone of the Kellerwald".

The Bergfreiheit exhibition mine is the southernmost gateway to the "GrenzWelten" geopark and the starting point for geological explorations in the surrounding area. Opening hours of the Bertsch Exhibition mine:
See www.schneewittchendorf.com/bergwerk

Fairytale theatre

The miners' village Bergfreiheit in Kellerwald is considered today as the place of origin and possible setting of the Grimm fairytale "Snow White and the Seven



Dwarfs". In his book, the local historian Eckhard Sander has shown a multitude of parallels between historical facts and the famous fairy tale.

As the home of Snow White (Margaretha von Waldeck, from Bad Wildung Castle Friedrichstein, sister of Count Samuel, the founder of the mine), the town's citizens have not only lovingly furnished a Snow White House, but also perform the famous fairy tale of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs once a year on the natural stage above the village. This and another Grimm fairy tale performance is framed by a varied programme. The audience is also provided with plentiful food and drink for the festive occasion.

A transport service to the natural stage is offered for visitors with reduced mobility. After the performance, the actors will be happy to stand for photographs.

Fairytales events

Easter Saturday: 8 pm: Easter fire in the village park with the children's torchlight procession (meeting at 7:30 pm at the water tank, Kellerwaldstr.). followed by entertainment in the festival tent.

Easter Sunday: Service in the Miner's Church with Easter breakfast. The events in the village park start at 1 pm. At 2 pm: traditional egg race; spectators can also win. Valuable prizes are provided.

Corpus Christi: Various Grimm fairy tale performances on the natural stage with supporting programme.

On the third Sunday in August: "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" on the natural stage with supporting programme.

On the second Sunday in October: From 10 am, apple wine pressing festival with handicraft market in and around the village community centre with Snow White and the Dwarfs.

Restaurants and accommodation establishments wish you a pleasant stay.

Truly fabulous Snow White House

A small world of vivid experience around the Grimm fairy tale "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" opens truly magical perspectives to visitors of all ages in the Snow White House. Together with the Bad Wildung Town Marketing Association, the citizens have developed and interestingly designed a special spatial concept.

The two habitats

In the first part of the room concept you can see and feel where and how the dwarfs must have lived in the small typical one-room house.

In the larger of the two rooms, visitors can see and learn where the seven dwarfs slept and ate in just one



room when they came home from the mine. The table is set, as described in the fairy tale, and the seven cute little beds, three of which are bunk beds, stand against the wall.

In the other room you should be able to imagine how the dwarfs and Snow White prepared food. A small kitchen with an old stove and a table for preparing the food and all kinds of accessories and utensils can be found there.

If you go upstairs, you will find the second part of the habitat concept.

The History Room

In this room, which you enter on the upper floor just after the staircase, visitors can see, explore and experience the history of the small mining village. The room equipment consists of literature, large-screen TV with DVD and hands-on materials on the history of the place. Here visitors can converse with each other, view pictures and objects, browse amongst beautiful old books, take notes, and listen to scheduled lectures.



Photo: Katharina Jaeger

The Storytelling Space

In this fairytale-like room, the guests, and especially younger visitors, experience the traditional and popular way of fairytale telling and immerse themselves in a room of curious listening. Listening takes place in different ways: a storyteller reads fairy tales aloud, tells them vividly, or performs fairy tales with the puppet theatre. Visitors can hear fairy tales or actively tell stories themselves with hand puppets. The room invites you to relax in a cosy atmosphere.



Photo: Katharina Jaeger

The Game Room

Here fairytale figures and materials come to life. The room is mainly intended for young visitors and children's birthday parties. The desire for dress-up, make-up, handicrafts and painting is awakened here. The little guests should become curious and active themselves. An old clothes chest with costume parts and accessories, precious stones, painting materials and all kinds of handicrafts invite young people to invent and devise on their own. The room is deliberately at the end of the fairytale journey of discovery through the Snow White House and thus offers a very special highlight to "process" the famous fairy tale of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

At the end of the discovery tour through the Snow White House, you can visit the souvenir room, which



Photo: Katharina Jaeger

contains a small selection of souvenirs from Bergfreiheit and from the Bad Wildungen fairy tale shop. Here you can browse and shop for souvenirs. In addition to pretty decorative items and gifts, this small shop also carries a selected range of regional apple products.

We leave the Snow White House and ask you to take a look at the garden. You enter and leave the Snow White House through an archway. In the front garden there is a small apple tree that will soon bear beautiful red apples. Lovingly decorated with small green plants and colourful flowers, a bench and a small table, framed by a small garden fence, the front garden invites you to linger before you start on your next discovery tour.

By the way: Every second Sunday afternoon of the month, Snow White and her Seven Dwarfs are personally present in the Snow White House and look forward to meeting you.

Opening times:



21 March to 31 October: Wed - Sun, 3 to 5 pm

1 November to 20 March: Sat + Sun, 3 to 5 pm

Also open on holidays, except Christmas Eve, 1st and 2nd Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and January 1st.

Special dates for groups or children's birthday parties:
Please contact Ms Körtel, phone +49 (0)5626 1736.



Bergfreiheit

THE SNOW WHITE VILLAGE IN THE KELLERWALD

looks forward to your visit

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Heimat- & Verkehrsverein e. V.

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