



Thurgau



We are
Thurgau

The information brochure of Thurgau canton



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We are Thurgau – and we are proud of it. We explain why on the following pages. Concise, colourful and with affection we present our canton to you. Take your time, because Thurgau is often perceived on the second look, and then you get the drift. The gentle beauty of the softly rolling landscape with the lovely Lake Constance is an invitation to live, to work, to relax and to enjoy just being here.

Come and have a look at Thurgau. First in this brochure and then in reality. This brochure shall be your invitation and animation to come and see for yourself and to discover unknown facts and characteristics of Thurgau canton.

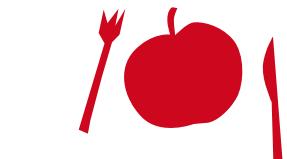
The orchard of Switzerland
Thurgau canton is the number one fruit-growing area in Switzerland. Every third apple is from here and is either for the table or for apple juice and cider. In Roggwil there is an orchard containing trees with 300 different sorts of apples. The origin of all these various brands of apples is said to be the wild crab apple which was on the menu here in Thurgau 5700 years ago.



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Photos from left to right:
At the chapel in Klingenzell
looking towards Mammern
and Untersee | Frauenfeld
in twilight | At Aspenrütli
near Neukirch an der Thur



| www.obsortensammlung.ch
| www.hr-schweizer.ch/
obsortensammlung

On the border and in the centre: Thurgau canton is situated in the north-east of Switzerland, on the borders to Germany and Austria. It is however in the centre of the thriving Lake Constance region. Many paths lead here – welcome!

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Photos from left to right:
Ermatingen at the Untersee |
Roundabout at the railway station in Kreuzlingen |
View looking towards the monastery in Fischingen

Location | Thurgau canton nestles between the Lake Constance and the foothills of the Alps on the border of Switzerland but in the centre of the Lake Constance region. From the heights of the gently rolling hills you can see the landscapes of Zurich, Schaffhausen, St. Gallen and Appenzell and to the north Germany and Austria, united and separated by the waters of Lake Constance, Untersee and the river Rhine. The author, Jochen Kelter, wrote: «Here I find strength. Because I have a clear range of vision over hills and borders without knowing exactly where they are», and thus he explains his love of Thurgau and the views over distances. The largest towns, Frauenfeld,

Kreuzlingen and Arbon, are on the outer edge of the canton, so the centre is the canton itself – the countryside, the hills and the waters.

| www.thurgau-tourismus.ch

Travel | Thurgau has very good connections to the surrounding areas by road and rail. The national highways link Thurgau to the Swiss network of motorways. The German and Austrian motorways are reached just across the border. Two express railway lines coming from Zurich traverse the canton. Between Weinfelden and Zurich there is an express train every half hour. The southern part of the canton is joined in Wil (St. Gallen canton) to the ICE town-joining fast rail network. The rail services Zurich–Stuttgart and Zurich–Munich are easily reached from Schaffhausen and





Statistics Thurgau canton

- Population: ca. 241 000
 - Capital: Frauenfeld, population 22 500
 - 80 towns and villages
 - Area: 991 square kilometres
 - Highest altitude 991 metres above sea level – Hörnli area
 - Lowest altitude 370 metres above sea level – the river Thur near Fahrhof
 - North-south distance 35 kilometres
 - East-west distance 61 kilometres
- | www.statistik.tg.ch

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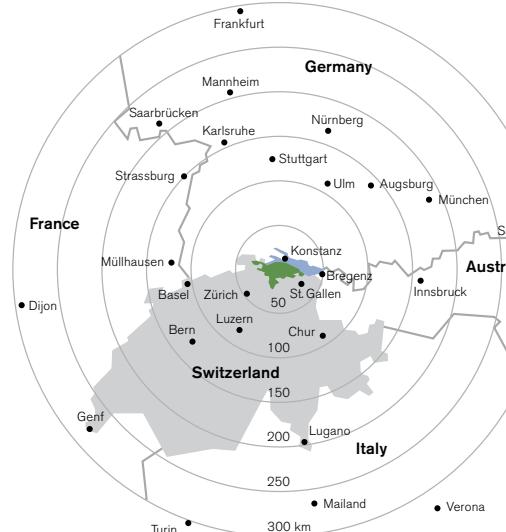
Singen (Germany) and from Winterthur and St. Gallen. From Constance (Germany) the Black Forest rail service runs to Offenburg and Karlsruhe. The car ferry across the lake leaves Romanshorn for Friedrichshafen in Germany every hour, joining the roads in the direction of Ulm. The airports Zurich-Kloten, St. Gallen-Altenrhein and Friedrichshafen (Germany) are within easy distance by road or rail. | www.thurgaumobil.tg.ch
| www.ovt.tg.ch | www.tiefbauamt.tg.ch



Key to map

- water
- national border
- main road
- motorway
- railway
- airport

Reproduziert mit Bewilligung des Amtes für Geoinformation des Kantons Thurgau vom 28. April 2009. Code 8510/V



Thurgau canton has a picture-book countryside. The towns and villages have grown naturally over the past centuries and the living is good. If there is a need for the big cities, be it for work or for pleasure, they are not far away.

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Photos from left to right:
Residential area in Bottighofen |
Rapeseed field near Pfyn |
The harbour and marinas of
Romanshorn | The old town of
Bischofszell | On the Nollen

Landscape | The people who live here and the visitors, all love the gentle beauty of the landscape. Towns, villages, farmland and countryside are attractive contrasts. A shoreline of 62 kilometres stretches along Lake Constance and the river Rhine in Thurgau. The difference in altitudes is 600 metres. In the south of the canton are the wooded foot-hills of the Alps. In the central region, where the river Thur flows, the countryside is flatter, and here are the main roads and railway lines leading from west to east. To the north is the thinly populated idyllic landscape of the Seerücken, giving spectacular views of the Alps and the lake.

«I felt a great silent amazement when contemplating the landscape of Thurgau. The feeling never left me during all the years when I made it my home. So much space and light and clear vision in all directions.»

Walter Kessler, Thurgau writer,
1904–1972



The settlement structure | Thurgau is surrounded by important cities such as Zurich, Winterthur, St. Gallen, Schaffhausen and Constance. There are many regional centres and a network of villages, becoming denser from west to east. The construction of the railways furthered the development of the settlements, especially in the valley of the river Thur to Romanshorn. Over the last decades the building of the motorways A1 and A7 have influenced the growth of the settlements.
| www.raumplanung.tg.ch | www.wifoe.tg.ch



Security | To make everyone feel safe in Thurgau, there is a cantonal police force of about 400. Police patrols are on duty day and night, and there are 25 police stations where the public finds assistance. The criminal police, traffic control and security police operate from the command centre in Frauenfeld. The lake police have their headquarters in Kreuzlingen, with 62 kilometres of lakeside and river shores to patrol. 5000 firemen are on call from 70 fire stations. Under the leadership of the centre for protection of the population, the police, the fire brigade, the rescue service, the home guard and the public utilities work closely together. | www.kapo.tg.ch

Thurgauer Hymn (1st. Verse)

O Thurgau, du Heimat,
wie bist du so schön,
wie bist du so schön.

Dir schmücket der Sommer
die Täler und Höhn!

O Thurgau, du Heimat,
wie bist du so hold,
dir tauchet der Sommer
die Fluren in Gold.

Ia, ia, ia, ...

Dir tauchet der Sommer
die Fluren in Gold.

Composer: Johannes Wepf
(1810–1890)

Lyrics: Johann Ulrich Bornhauser
(1825–1848)

| www.de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thurgauerlied



Thurgau canton has the ambition to be among the very best in the fields of public health, education, road and rail networks as well as civil service. This means paying attention to details and nevertheless making quick administrative decisions. Come and test us.

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Photos from left to right:
Shopping arcade in Frauenfeld | Motorway access Frauenfeld | Express train in the valley of the river Thur | The hospital chemist in Münsterlingen | Shipping Company Untersee-Rhein with the harbour St. Katharinental near Diessenhofen

Infrastructure | Well organized and modern: The infrastructure of Thurgau is up-to-date. Thurgau was the first canton to organize its hospitals as a public holding company, retaining 100% of the shares itself. The cantonal hospitals in Frauenfeld and Münsterlingen, the rehabilitation clinic St. Katharinental in Diessenhofen and the psychiatric clinic in Münsterlingen with its services belong to the company. The public transport system and the roads are above average. The range of schooling stretches from kindergarten to university (see pages 12/13). The cantonal civil service has 3000 employees, providing efficient administration. It has been among the most economical in Switzerland for years.
| www.stgag.ch | www.dek.tg.ch

Traffic | The quality of the road network in this particularly finely structured area is of great importance. 800 kilometres of well constructed and maintained national and cantonal roads run through the canton, connecting regions, towns and villages. A further 2200 kilometres of community roads serve local traffic to residential areas and places of work. There is a public bus service and excellent cycling paths. The road network is continually adjusted to the changing requirements, thus providing reliable transport for both goods and private traffic.
| www.tiefbauamt.tg.ch
| www.raumplanung.tg.ch



Public Transport | In recent years the canton and the communities have increased their supply of rail and bus services, working together with private transport firms. 700 kilometres of rail and bus services with 900 stops offer mobility all over the canton. The backbone of the public transport are the express railway services Romanshorn–Zurich – Berne (Inter City) and Constance–Kreuzlingen–Zurich–Biel (Inter Regio). The regional trains are modern and well equipped with air conditioning and run every half hour throughout most of the day. All railway lines have late night trains and connecting bus services at the weekend. 50 regional bus services are available to the outlying districts. Thanks to the good rail and bus services in Frauenfeld and Kreuzlingen, two thirds of the population in Thurgau are within reach of Zurich every half

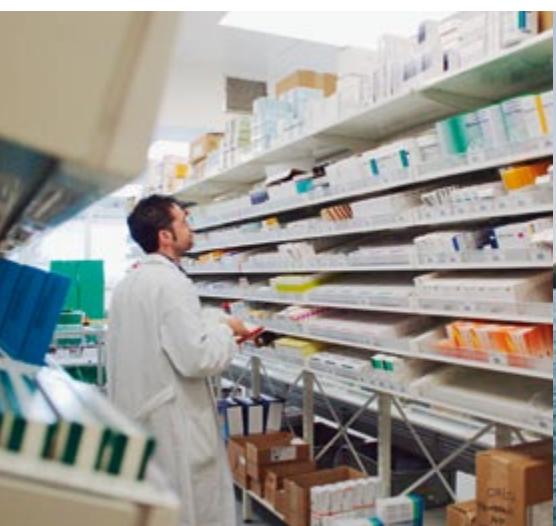
hour. The rail/bus tariff union between the Ostwind and the Z-Pass Zurich make travelling by rail or bus easy. | www.thurgaumobil.tg.ch | www.ovt.tg.ch

Taxes | The fiscal conditions in Thurgau are very competitive with moderate income tax and capital tax rates. The taxation laws are generous towards families. Direct heirs are free of inheritance tax and gift tax. Well trained tax office clerks are on hand to advise tax-payers and to find solutions. Complicated cases can be submitted for an advance estimate. | www.steuerverwaltung.tg.ch

Thurbo-Thurgau
Mobility in Thurgau is closely linked to the names Thurbo and Stadler Rail. Thurbo is a dynamic, market oriented and customer friendly regional rail service, with its head office in Kreuzlingen. The regular rail services and modern trains have set standards in public transport. The Thurbo carriages are manufactured in Thurgau by Stadler Rail, an international firm with headquarters in Bussnang.



Stadler Rail does business worldwide and has accomplished an enormous growth with an annual turnover of over one billion Swiss francs. | www.thurbo.ch | www.stadlerrail.ch



Work is not life but it is an important part of it. A wide variety of jobs are on offer in Thurgau. Employers find qualified workers and low taxes. Living in Thurgau and working in the near cities is easy due to excellent road, rail and bus services.

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Photos from left to right:
Apple processing in the Seeobst AG in Güttingen | Sia Abrasives in Frauenfeld | In the workshops of Stadler Rail in Bussnang | The Strellson Company-building in Kreuzlingen | Production in the Forster Kitchen and Refrigeration Technics in Arbon

A place for business, trade and industry |

Firms find excellent conditions in Thurgau. The central location in Europe, nearby international airports and first-rate road and rail networks guarantee efficient business transactions. The border location gives easy access to the European labour market. The canton is also surrounded by national and international colleges and universities, providing qualified workforce. An efficient civil service helps to keep taxes low. Further plus points are the moderate real estate prices and the availability of property. These ideal conditions support firms in their efforts to achieve a high level of productivity. | www.wifoe.tg.ch

Business structure | The economy in Thurgau is supported by many small and middle-sized businesses. This structure is the basis for the economical flexibility in Thurgau. There are, of course, several well-known large scale, internationally active enterprises. The number of people employed in service companies has increased in recent years, and in the meantime more than half of the workforce is employed in these fields of business. Although agriculture and forestry have an important standing and are among the most modern in Switzerland, it is the manufacturing and processing sector that has the outstanding position. The metal industry and engineering are the strongest fields of industry. Other important industrial fields are the traditional nutrition and beverage industry as well as electronics and precision engineering. Business and research work hand



SIGG
Sigg, Frauenfeld

LISTA
making workplace work
Lista, Erlen

BERNINA
Bernina, Steckborn

MODEL
Model, Weinfelden

A.Vogel
Bioforce, Roggwil

ISA bodywear
ISA, Amriswil

Bischofszell
Bischofszell Nahrungs-
mittel AG, Bischofszell

AFG
AFG Arbonia-Forster-
Holding AG, Arbon

STADLER
Stadler Rail, Bussnang

strellson +
Strellson, Kreuzlingen

RAUSCH
HERBAL COSMETICS
FROM SWITZERLAND
Rausch, Kreuzlingen

Sia
Abrasives
Sia, Frauenfeld

in hand to achieve a high standard of technology in Thurgau. Projects in the field of renewable energy have a priority standing.

| www.ihk-thurgau.ch | www.tgv.ch
| www.wifoe.tg.ch

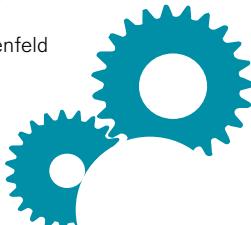
Labour Market | Although Thurgau canton has undergone great structural changes in recent years, the employment rate has always remained above the Swiss average thanks to the diversity of business. Many firms provide a good choice of employment to Swiss and foreign workers. The location on the borders to Germany and Austria give easy access to the European labour market, and Thurgau has a great number of German immigrants. It is easy

to find qualified personnel thanks to good business relations with the surrounding national and international colleges and universities. This leads to a high level of innovation.

| www.wifoe.tg.ch

Corporate Taxation | The corporate tax code of Thurgau is tailored to today's needs. Corporate profits tax is proportional and cumulatively tied to capital tax rates. The economic burden of double taxation is countered with privileged taxation of both deemed and distributed profits. Conciliary rates are applied to holding and management companies as well as to mixed corporate structures. For newly arrived companies or in case of substantial changes to a company's economic activities tax breaks can be arranged under consideration of certain circumstances. Thurgau also

offers favourable tax solutions in case of self employment being finally wound up after the age of 55, or if caused by injury, in which case liquidation proceeds are taxed at privileged rates. Under certain circumstances temporary tax breaks are considered for succession solutions in the form of leasehold transactions or inheritance. | www.steuerverwaltung.tg.ch



Schooling ranging from kindergarten to university is available in Thurgau canton. Research institutions show how acquired knowledge can be put to the test to find the best solutions.

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Photos from left to right:
Students at work | College
in Frauenfeld | University of
Teacher Education (PHTG) in
Kreuzlingen | Kindergarten
pupils in Bürglen | College in
Kreuzlingen

State Schools | Thurgau's state schools provide two years of kindergarten, six years of elementary school and three years of secondary school for all children. As in all the cantons in the east of Switzerland, learning a foreign language begins in the third grade of elementary school with English, followed by French in the fifth grade. The secondary schools are organized on a streaming system. This allows pupils to learn in classes at a pace and level according to their abilities. The streaming is practised for all three secondary school years. Each of the 90 school districts have their own teaching curriculum. For example five high schools offer special tutoring for talented pupils in sport or music, planning a timetable that leaves enough time for intensive training and practice. | www.av.tg.ch | www.dek.tg.ch

High schools and colleges | Thurgau canton has a good range of higher education available in all regions. In Frauenfeld, Kreuzlingen and Romanshorn there are cantonal Schools for Higher Secondary Education leading to matriculation. In addition, Frauenfeld has a college-level commercial school and a school of computer science, and in Kreuzlingen a pedagogic high school prepares students for teacher training university. Pupils living in southern Thurgau can attend college in Wil (St. Gallen canton) in regional cooperation with Thurgau canton for this purpose. In cooperation with Schaffhausen canton there is a grammar school for adults in Frauenfeld, leading to matriculation. | www.amh.tg.ch
| www.dek.tg.ch



Higher Education | Thurgau canton has its own University of Teacher Education (PHTG) in Kreuzlingen. This institution continues the tradition of 175 years of teachers' training for all grades, from kindergarten teacher to higher secondary level teacher. Further to this, there are excellent universities and higher education centres nearby in St. Gallen, Constance and Winterthur (Zurich canton). Thurgau canton cooperates with these institutions. The international cooperation between the German University of Constance and the PHTG is well established. The International Lake Constance University (IBH) combines 27 universities in the region; its headquarters are in Thurgau.
| www.amh.tg.ch | www.phtg.ch



Vocational training | A widely ranged network of placements for 7000 apprentices is available for more than 100 different professions. The practical training takes place in 3100 firms. The complementary theoretical schooling is at one of the seven vocational training centres. The advice centre for career planning helps school-leavers plan their future occupations. They also offer advice to adults wishing to change professions or begin a new set of studies. Four bridging schools prepare about 450 young people for their start in their future studies or apprenticeships. There is also a wide variety of further education and courses at all the education centres. | www.abb.tg.ch

Research | Research has a long tradition in Thurgau, for example in archeology, in history (state archives, historical museum, Napoleon museum, state library, historical society), in natural science (natural science museum, nature research society), in medical research at the hospitals and in psychiatry at the psychiatric clinic. Several years ago, the canton set up three scientific research units in cooperation with the University of Constance. The Biotechnology Institute Thurgau (BITg) and the Thurgau Institute of Economics (TWI) are in Kreuzlingen and the Institute for Materials System Technique Thurgau (WITg) is in Tägerwilen. | www.bitg.ch | www.twi-kreuzlingen.ch | www.witg.ch

Biotechnology

Cancer research is centred at the Biotechnology Institute Thurgau in Kreuzlingen. In particular, the mobility of cancer cells and the development of new immune therapies are on the research programme. The results are published internationally and circulated world-wide. Established in the year 2000 as an institute of the University of Constance, it is an excellent example of the successful cooperation in the fields of education and



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research between Switzerland and Germany in the border towns of Kreuzlingen and Constance.
| www.bitg.ch



It is astonishing that the people in Thurgau are so hard working and busy since so much calls for leisure. Lake Constance invites you to relax or enjoy walking or cycling in natural countryside. A great number of cultural highlights in the canton and nearby are well worth a visit.

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Photos from left to right:
Swimming pool in Arbon at Lake Constance | Seeburg in Kreuzlingen | Concert at the monastery church in Münsterlingen | On tour by bicycle and Thурбо rail | Thurgau strawberries | Openair concert in Frauenfeld

Leisure | Lake Constance, its lower basin the Untersee and the river Rhine are great places for water sports, relaxing or nature walks. There are so many leisure-time activities on offer. Boat trips on lake and river with lovely views of the surrounding countryside. Well signposted walking and cycling paths, each 1000 kilometres long, take you through beautiful scenery. One speciality is the Thurgau round walk in 24 stages, leading through all the regions. Thurgau is also an Eldorado for skaters with 200 kilometres of signposted skating routes. The leisure park Conny-Land in Lipperswil, the Plättli-Zoo in Frauenfeld and lakeside parks are popular day trips for families. | www.thurgau-tourismus.ch

Culture | For lovers of classical music there are plenty of concerts in all regions. There are regular concerts at the monastery church in Münsterlingen with international soloists, youth, chamber and symphony orchestras. Nearly all the towns and villages hold events and concerts, and there are international music festivals in the Carthusian Monastery Ittingen in Warth and in Kreuzlingen. Rock, pop, hip-hop or jazz fans are also catered for by gigs in the local pubs, international jazz days «generations» in Frauenfeld and big openair concerts in Frauenfeld and Arbon, bringing sounds for every taste. The theatres of St. Gallen, Constance and Zurich are within easy distance. There are numerous amateur dramatic groups, staging plays and regular guest performances in the towns. Kreuzlingen has a professional Summer theatre and Sirnach stages operettas. There are six cantonal museums: the Napoleon



Museum near Ermatingen, the historical museum in the Castle of Frauenfeld, the natural science museum and the museum of archaeology in Frauenfeld, the Ittinger Museum and the Thurgau art collection at the Carthusian Monastery in Warth. Furthermore there are 60 regional or private museums and collections, amongst these a school museum in Amriswil, the Seemuseum in Kreuzlingen, the textile museum in Hauptwil, the Locorama (railway) and a car collection in Romanshorn.

| www.museen.tg.ch | www.thurgaukultur.ch | www.kulturamt.tg.ch

Places of historical interest | Small towns such as Arbon, Bischofszell, Diessenhofen, Steckborn and Weinfelden have kept their historical heritage. Open-timbered buildings remain part of the character in the towns and

villages as do manors and castles on higher sites. Many churches and monasteries were built in the baroque style in the 17th and 18th centuries. Good examples of this ornate building style are in Fischingen, Kreuzlingen, Kalchrain, Münsterlingen and St. Katharinental. The Carthusian Monastery Ittingen in Warth with the typical lay-out of the buildings, cloisters and monks' living quarters are really worth a visit. Several important historical relics of the industrial age are on show at the Greuterhof in Islikon, the iron foundry in Frauenfeld, the paper factory in Bischofszell and the buildings of the Sauer factory in Arbon.

| www.denkmalpflege.tg.ch

Gastronomy | There is a high standard of gastronomy in more than 20 Gault-Millau establishments and the Gilde restaurants. Fish restaurants along the lake, traditional inns and guesthouses also offer excellent quality. Most hotels and restaurants cater for their guests with seasonal products from the region. Many farmers sell their products directly, and also offer «stay on a farm» holidays or «sleep on straw» nights. Good wines grow above the shores of the Untersee and the river Rhine and on the southern facing slopes. Congress, conference and workshop facilities are on hand in various castles, monasteries and hotels. Hospitality in four star hotels, inns and guesthouses complete the picture.

| www.thurgau-tourismus.ch

Napoleon Museum

In the small community of Salenstein, Arenenberg is but one of the five castles, but one with a very special history. With a beautiful view over the Lake Constance, Louis Napoleon III, the last Emperor of France, grew up here, living with his mother Hortense de Beauharnais. Hortense was the adopted daughter of Napoleon I and at the same time his sister in law. Napoleon III's wife Eugenie



willed the castle to Thurgau canton, stipulating that it be kept as a museum. Castle Arenenberg, the park and the Napoleon Museum are a harmonious work of art which attracts visitors from all over Europe.

| www.napoleonomuseum.tg.ch



Parliament, government, administration:
Thurgau canton is organized like all the Swiss cantons, but with small differences due to short official channels. The civil service is efficient and its staff is trained to treat the public with the necessary assistance and respect.

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Photos from left to right:
Civil marriage ceremony in Eschlikon | Parliament debate in Frauenfeld | Central administration building in Frauenfeld | Filling in the voting forms | Government building in Frauenfeld



State responsibilities | Among the responsibilities of the canton are the maintaining of public order and security, the running of social welfare, the public healthcare, the organization of obligatory schooling (kindergarten, elementary school, secondary school, high school), the furtherance of cultural work, the environmental protection, building, the public transport system and the supply of water and electricity.
| www.tg.ch

Parliament and government | The canton's parliament has 130 elected members. It is the legislative of the canton and it passes all cantonal laws. By right of referenda citizens can make the final decisions. Parliament also consents to the budget and the closing account and it determines the rate of taxation. The canton has an executive government of five councillors, also elected by the voters for a term of office. The government councillors represent the canton and lead the civil service. They present drafts for rules, regulations and laws to parliament and put them into force. The government councillors also manage the canton's finances. | www.tg.ch
| www.parlament.tg.ch

Communities | The 80 communities are politically independent. They fulfil the tasks they choose and those which the law requires them to. The tasks and council competence are laid down by the voters in the community. They are authorized to confer citizenship to foreigners and they manage their own council finances in accordance with the constitutional requirements. The school councils are responsible for the education in the community.

| www.vtg.ch | www.vtgs.ch

Administration | The cantonal administration implements the laws, rules and regulations. It consists of five departments and the state chancellery and also the regional authorities. Some tasks are passed on to other institutions such as the Kantonalbank, the Thurgau Building Insurance Company or the University of Teacher Education Thurgau. Each department is led by a government councillor. The state chancellor leads the state chancellery and is the link between the government and the parliament. | www.tg.ch

Parliament

A real Thurgau curiosity is the seat of parliament which changes every 6 months. From Weinfelden in winter (top photo) to Frauenfeld in summer (bottom photo). The only other place in the world where this happened was South Africa



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where, until 2003, parliament sat in Pretoria and Capetown in turns. Another curiosity is the seating arrangement: The members of parliament sit at long tables facing each other and not in the usual half-circle.
| www.parlament.tg.ch



A long history and outstanding personalities make Thurgau proud of its past. Many old traditions are still observed but people also work hard and creatively for a life worth living, now and in future.

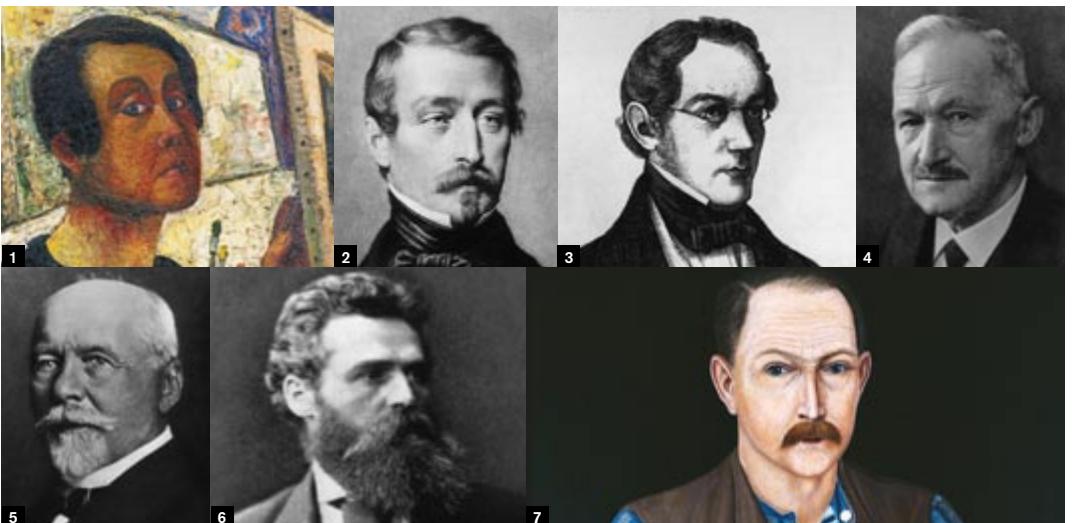
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Personalities

- 1 Helen Dahm (1878–1968), artist
- 2 Napoleon III (1808–1873), Emperor of France and only honorary citizen of Thurgau canton
- 3 Johann Konrad Kern (1808–1888), statesman and founder of the Swiss diplomacy
- 4 Alfred Huggenberger (1867–1960), author
- 5 Hermann Müller-Thurgau (1850–1927), plant physiologist and vine scientist
- 6 Adolf Saurer (1841–1920), industrial engineer and pioneer in lorry construction
- 7 Adolf Dietrich (1877–1957), artist

History

- 744 First written mention of Thurgau as Pagus Durgagensis
- 1798 Freed as subjects of the Swiss Confederation
- 1803 Napoleon's act of mediation: Thurgau becomes a member of the Swiss Confederation and gains cantonal independence
- 1830–1831 The first Thurgau constitution is accepted
- 1849 The Thurgau cantonal constitution is adjusted to the Swiss constitution
- 1920 Parliament is elected by proportional vote for the first time
- 1990 The new cantonal constitution of 1987 becomes valid



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