



THREE CITIES
IN
HARMONY



How to bring three things together which have always belonged together? This is not a question but simply an outcome: the first, and now prize-winning, Thuringian City Collaboration, better known as "Städtedreieck am Saalbogen" (The City Trinity on the Thuringia Saale Bend). Saalfeld, Rudolstadt and Bad Blankenburg are municipal proof of Pythagoras' well-known saying - those who join together, maximise their potential.

Together these three cities showcase the flair of a Royal Residence, the ancient lore of herbal medicine and the tradition of Mediaeval mining. Their long and unique histories are seasoned with the charm of today and merge inspiring cultural scenery into a unique variety of experiences, all within a short distance. As everyone in this triangular relationship profits from the strengths of the others - including those who live here and their most welcome

guests - and because each city plays an individual tune within an united future, it is clear what the motto of this collaboration should be: "Dreiklang" - a Harmony of Three.

The countryside is as diverse as the life here.

In Saalfeld, the River Saale flows free from the narrow valleys of the Thuringian slate mountains. This beautiful river, flanked by the region's forests, welcomes the clear waters of its tributary Schwarza, which tumbles over stony rapids and on through Bad Blankenburg, sometimes washing along a speck of gold in its wake. In Rudolstadt, the Saale widens its banks to encompass gently rolling hills, with a charm that is close to Italian.

In the middle of Thuringia, in the middle of Germany, in the middle of Europe: over the

centuries this region has been visited and prized by rulers of the world and spirit, from Barbarossa to Luther, Napoleon, Humboldt, Schiller and Goethe. Some founded cities, others waged heroic battles or composed poetry, but all wrote history as they did so. And this remains today. However, thanks to three national highways, high-speed train stations and a small airport, the "Dreiklang" triangle is, in the twenty-first century, much easier to reach.

This trinity of cities has developed a diversity of voices. There is plenty for adventure holidaymakers to discover, as well as lovers of culture. Here, travellers from the city need only to step outside their cars to find themselves surrounded by nature. It is a harmony of possibilities that awaits only discovery.

THREE CITIES, ONE TONE



| 1 Renaissance Town Hall, Feengrotten City, Saalfeld | 2 View from the Friedrich Fröbel Monument, Bad Blankenburg | 3 Friedrich Schiller and the Lengefeld sisters

| Front cover from top left to bottom right: Rudolstadt: Schillerhaus | TFF Rudolstadt: Bad Blankenburg: Castle Creifenstein | Spa Gardens Saalfeld: Feenwäntchen at the Feengrotten | Hoher Schwarm