



CARRY ON THE FLAME

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The Wartburg

The Wartburg is a castle in Thuringia with important historical value. It is been a national monument since the 19th century. Since 1999, it belongs to the UNESCO heritage sites. Every year there are about 350-450.000 visitors.



By order of **Ludwig der Springer** the castle was built around 1067. It is considered a striking example of *Romanesque architecture*. Typical for this kind of architecture are round arches and fortress-like walls with small windows.

Under **Hermann I.** the castle was allowed to become an attraction for artists and the main centre of German poetry. This was due to the **Sängerkrieg** (singers war). The **Sängerkrieg** is a historical poet competition, allegedly won in the 13th century, between **Dietrich von Apolda** and **Johannes Rothe**.

In **1521/1522** the reformer **Martin Luther** hid himself in this castle. He changed his identity in „**Junker Jörg**“ to protect himself from enemies. There he translated the new testament of the bible in only four weeks into the German language. Also **Johann Wolfgang von Goethe** stayed there for many times. The first time was in 1777.



On the occasion of the 300th anniversary of Martin Luther's theses and in commemoration of the Battle of Leipzig, the first Wartburgfest took place on 18.12.1817 at the invitation of students from Jena university. The students demanded a unified German nation with its own constitution. In 1848, the year of the German revolution, the second Wartburgfest took place.

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