

A group of 4 members of Surrey County Walkers travelled to the Harz mountains in central Germany in 2007 for a walking holiday. On our journey, we saw a steam locomotive at Goslar.



seen here on market day.

Opposite our hotel was the famous old Town Hall.

We stayed in Wernigerode, a very attractive town with numerous old, half - timbered buildings, which was also the terminus of the Harz narrow gauge railway up to the Brocken mountain. On arrival at Wernigerode station, we had a view of the castle from the station forecourt.



There is an impressive building on one side of the main town square

We stayed in the hotel Weisser Hirsch (White Hart),



with an oriel window.



The semi-circular decoration with different coloured lobes is typical of the Harz region.

We saw some street theatre in the square near the Town Hall.



There are numerous streets of half -

timbered houses in Wernigerode.



There are also various small squares, also with half - timbered buildings.





The castle is above the town. We happened to find a wedding carriage parked outside the castle when we visited.



Good views over the town were obtained from the castle



By walking a little further uphill, a view back over the castle was seen.



We took the steam train as far as Schierke



and walked the last stretch up to the Brocken over a rocky outcrop.



In the pub at the Brocken, we saw a stuffed capercaillie.



We walked downhill from the Brocken through the Zilliertal woods



and past the Zilliertal reservoir back to Wernigerode.



The next day we took a train ride on the line through the Harz in the direction of Nordhausen, alighting at Elend. We then walked towards Braunlage. We passed a track through the woods, which had been

the Iron Curtain during the post-war partition of Germany. We saw a stone commemorating this,



with a plaque celebrating the re-unification of Germany in 1989.



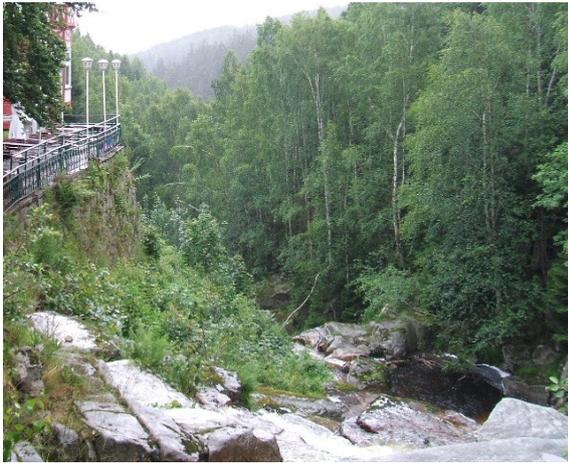
It shows oak leaves representing the 16 western federal states on the left, joined to the 5 new federal states in the east, connected by barbed wire, referring to the Iron Curtain.

We climbed up the Wurmberg, the second highest peak in the Harz (after the Brocken) and later returned by steam train to Wernigerode.

The next day, we walked through the wooded Harz mountains, seeing typical Harz views.



A view from the pub at Steinerne Renne showed the gorge.



The pub had a model of a steam engine in a window.



The next day, we travelled on the German railways train to Quedlinburg where we took the narrow gauge steam train



on to Mägdesprung.

We then walked along the Selke valley, reaching Schloss Falkenstein (castle of the falcon's stone).



The next day, we found some old mine workings, with a mine truck



with some old mine equipment



and a miner in historic uniform.



We spent the last day around Wernigerode and the following day we returned home.