

Opening Hours Bruder-Franz-Haus

10 – 12 am and 1 – 5 pm
Closed on following holidays: Rosenmontag (monday after carnival), Good Friday (friday before Easter), Christmas Eve, 1st and 2nd Christmas Day and New Year’s Eve

**Bruder-Franz-Haus
Rhön GmbH**
Kreuzberg 1
97653 Bischofsheim i. d. Rhön

Tel: 09772/932853
Mail: kreuzberg@rhoen.de
www.bruder-franz-haus.de

Rhön GmbH
Gesellschaft für Tourismus
und Markenmanagement
Rhönstraße 97
97772 Wildflecken-Oberbach
Tel: 0800/971 9771
Mail: info@rhoen.de
www.rhoen.de

Stand 09/2025



LEGENDE

- Long distance hiking trails**
- DER HOCHRHÖNER® premium hiking trail
 - Way of St. James
 - Franconian Marian Trail
- Circular hiking trails**
- Rhön Rundweg 1 Kreuzberg
3,3 km • Ascent altitude: 90 • easy
 - Rhön Rundweg 2 Kreuzberg
3,8 km • Ascent altitude: 95 • easy
 - Rhön Rundweg 3 Kreuzberg
5,9 km • Ascent altitude: 185 • middle
 - Rhön Rundweg 6 Osterburg
8,5 km • Ascent altitude: 361 • middle
 - Way of the Cross • 1361 steps
296 stair steps to the Crusifixion group
 - Extratour Kreuzbergtour premium hiking trail
12,8 km • Ascent altitude: 499 • middle
- Other symbols:**
- Certified tourist information
 - Mountainbike Trail
 - Viewpoint
 - Children`s playground
 - Restaurant
 - Sledding field
 - Accommodation
 - Church
 - Cross country ski trail start
 - Cemetery
 - Ski lift



Be an adventurer

The Kreuzberg



Die Rhön

A Warm Welcome!

Breathe freely, let your gaze wander, and reconnect with yourself—feel invited to visit the Kreuzberg in the “Land of Open Distances,” as the Rhön is often called. Now a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the Rhön developed into a unique cultural landscape through widespread deforestation in the Middle Ages and centuries of agricultural use. Its mountain meadows, hedgerows, and deciduous forests are characteristic of the region. The 928-meter-high Kreuzberg near Bischofsheim has volcanic origins, like much of the low mountain range. Basalt rock formations, such as the “Johannisfeuer,” still bear witness to this geological past. The mountain was formerly known as “Asenberg” or “Aschberg,” suggesting it may once have been a Germanic sacred site. It has been called Kreuzberg (“Cross Mountain”) only since 1582, when Prince-Bishop Julius Echter erected the “Golgotha Crucifixion Group” at its summit.

Today, the “Holy Mountain of the Franconians” attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. People come for many reasons—to experience nature in a place where health and enjoyment, sport and recreation, spiritual reflection and hospitality come together in harmony.



Photo: Wolfgang Fallier



Photo: Martin Morgenweck

The Bruder-Franz-Haus

A house for exhibition, encounters, meditation and information



Photo: K. Kupka-Hahn

At the heart of the house is the impressive exhibition “Francis of Assisi and God’s Creation” featuring the “Canticle of the Sun.” Additional exhibits cover the history of the Franciscan Order, the Kreuzberg, and the

Rhön region. The Bruder-Franz-Haus is also a place for encounters, offering a variety of special exhibitions. Sculptors, wood-carvers, and artists from the Rhön present their craftsmanship in the historic rooms. Meditation and quiet rooms inspired by the “Canticle of the Sun” invite you to pause and reflect.

The tourist information at the entrance provides useful insights about the Rhön, i.e. the Kreuzberg, a wide range of local events as well as personal tips. The team also offers brochures, hiking maps and souvenirs.

By Bus to the Kreuzberg

The Kreuzberg is accessible by public transportation.

From Bischofsheim:
Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays via **Line 812** (April – October)

From Bad Brückenau:
With **Line 8057** Sinnthalbus (May 1st – October 31st)

From Bad Kissingen:
Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays with **Line 8240** Kreuzberg Shuttle (May 1st – October 31st)

The Holy Mountain of the Franconians

The history of the Kreuzberg dates back to the 7th century. It is said that the Irish-Scottish missionary Kilian erected the first cross on the summit. The Kilian Monument, created by Lothar Bühner, commemorates this event. In the late 16th century, Prince-Bishop Julius Echter entrusted the Franciscan Order with the pastoral care of this pilgrimage site. In 1681, construction began on the impressive pilgrimage church and monastery, both of which were inaugurated eleven years later. In 1710, the Chapel Way of the Cross was built, featuring the Crucifixion Group that has since become the mountain’s most iconic landmark.

A Pilgrimage Tradition

The Kreuzberg’s centuries-old tradition as a pilgrimage site earned it the title “Holy Mountain of the Franconians.” Every year, pilgrims travel—many on foot—from near and far to the “Holy Cross” to seek comfort, strength, or renewal of faith.



Photo: Wolfgang Fallier

Monastery Beer and a Hearty Snack

What would the monastery be today without its brewery? Pure spring water, Rhön brewing malt, and a recipe that has remained unchanged to this day give the monastery beer its distinctive character. Paired with a hearty Brotzeit (traditional snack) and other regional specialties, you can end your day at the monastery tavern—complete with a large beer garden—in a relaxed and enjoyable way.



Photo: VNico Fay

“Faith and Enjoyment”

...is the motto inscribed on the mugs of the monastery brewery, founded in 1731—and who wouldn’t want to take that motto to heart? Originally, the monastery beer was reserved for the monks, but today the brewery is kept busy by the monastery tavern and take-away sales. The last Franciscan brewmaster, Brother Elisäus, ran the brewery until 1964. Since 1991, the smooth dark beer has been brewed using state-of-the-art equipment. As early as 1901, the future Cardinal Faulhaber left a fitting comment in the guestbook:

“An endless procession climbed the Kreuzberg—some to the church, others to the beer mug.”

That procession continues to this day.



Summer activities

Around the Kreuzberg, you’ll find a wide variety of outdoor sports and recreational activities during the summer months. Mountainbikers can tackle steep climbs, downhill riders can take on the flow trail below the Neustädter Haus, and hikers can enjoy countless destinations and even more paths to reach them—such as the premium hiking trail DER HOCH-RHÖNER®, which passes directly over the Kreuzberg. Other well-marked routes lead from the Kreuzberg into the High Rhön (Hochrhön), the Black Mountains (Schwarze Berge), the Salzforst forest, and the Hessian part of the Rhön. Award-winning trails like the Kreuzbergtour, the Way of St. James, the Franconian Marian Trail, and a variety of scenic circular routes also take you up to the Kreuzberg.

Up into the Summer Sky!

Looking for fun and action? Head to „Kletter- und Erlebnispark Kreuzberg“ (Climbing and Adventure Park) near the Neustädter Haus! On an area of about 16,000 m² and up to 12 meters high, you can test your courage and agility. With 54 elements, 50 platforms, and 11 Flying Fox zip lines, the course invites you to push—or surpass—your limits.



Paragliders will also appreciate the Kreuzberg, where a 250-meter altitude difference offers a perfect launch point to soar through the Rhön skies.



Photo: Alexander Martin

Winter Magic

Snow-covered winters transform the Kreuzberg into a true winter sports paradise. Skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and sledding promise plenty of snowy fun. The „Skilifte Kreuzberg“ and „Arnsberg Skilifte“ offer alpine skiers and snowboarders six tow lifts with slopes of varying lengths and difficulty levels. Cross-country skiers can explore the beautiful winter landscape on the Kreuzberg circular trail (9.2 km) or the Guckasloipe (8.5 km), which leads into the Black Mountains (Schwarze Berge). Sledders can enjoy 200 to 250 meter long runs on the Klosterwiese below the Kreuzberg Monastery or near the Three Crosses by Gasthof Roth.

Après-Ski, Rhön Style

With good snow conditions, four groomed winter hiking trails (ranging from 2.5 to 10 km) invite you to experience and enjoy the peaceful beauty of nature. Naturally, fresh air and outdoor activity work up quite an appetite. Luckily, cozy and welcoming mountain huts await with hearty food and drink. Try local specialties like the Rhön-style Ploozt (savory or sweet flatbread), rustic Brotzeit platters, schnitzel, and a refreshing Kreuzberg beer—what more could you ask for?

Looking for more details on winter activities?
Visit: www.rhoen.info

For daily updates on snow depth and open lifts visit:
www.touren-rhoen.de/en/

