

# A small Peace Road Tour „2020“

The tradition of an annual ‘Peace Road’ event, held along the former German East-West border, now a ‘green belt’ was established a few years ago. This year we chose the Brocken in the Harz Mountains as our destination. At 1141 meters above sea level and a wonderful view, it is the highest mountain in Northern Germany and attracts many tourists.



The Broken inspired and was mentioned by Goethe and Heinrich Heine, and during the Cold War and time of East Germany, it played an important role as the location of transmitter installations.



We were a small group of four; Siegfried and Samuel Pries, my son Sebastian and I. On the first day of our hike, we walked up the Heinrich Heine path along the Ilse, a small mountain stream that makes its way over countless large and small rocks into the valley. A swim in this fresh mountain water was one of the many beautiful nature experiences we had on this hike.



We ascended a good 900 meters in all to reach the top of the mountain the following day. There, on a small plateau, there is a big granite rock where we could unroll our Peace Road banner and take some pictures. It is also possible to reach the top without this effort by taking the train. An old steam engine pulls this train, making the trip a very special experience.



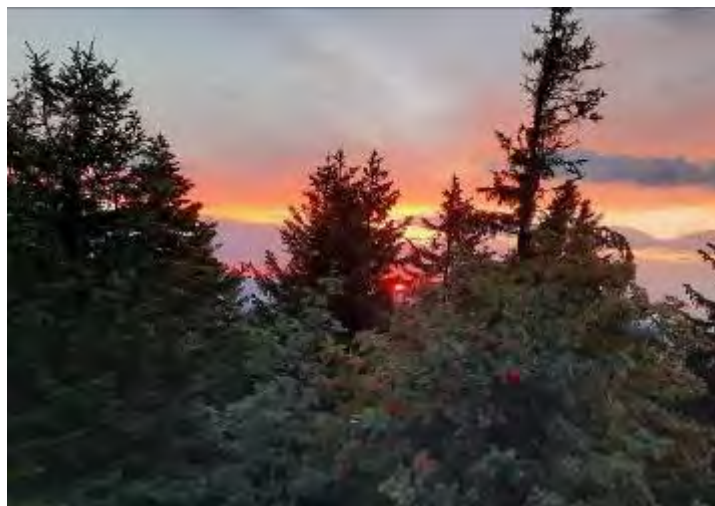
On the way down we walked along a road made of concrete slabs and used in the past by the East German military guards.



Down in the valley is the Eckertal Dam. Through its reservoir and dam wall the border used to run; an East German border stone marks the spot on the middle of the wall. So despite the division, Germans on both sides of the wall were supplied with the same drinking water!



After a three-day hike, which had also taken us over smaller peaks in the vicinity of the Brocken, my pedometer showed 63436 steps and 48 km. We were richly rewarded for our efforts by wonderful views and natural spectacles. Further tours are being planned.



*by Ulrich Ganz*



Ulrich Ganz