

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Culture and society

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There are people who enjoy committing crimes and, of course, solving them. Harry is one of them. Germans are avid readers of mystery novels, and particularly those with local flavor and regional color have sizable followings. For instance, the crime novels of the Eifel region are examples of this. Western Germany's thinly inhabited Eifel region is a volcanic area with crater lakes, natural forests, and a small population. By the end of the 1980s, Jacques Berndorf's "Eifel Blues" became the first murder mystery novel set in the Eifel region. Since then, the Eifel Mountains have served as a murder scene inspiration for more than 50 novelists. There is also a hiking trail and travel guide for the Eifel "crime" region where you can follow the investigators' and criminals' footsteps. In a "crime hotel" in the region, each room is devoted to a well-known mystery novel author, book or fictional investigator.

At least in literary terms, crime is also thriving in other regions. For instance, island crime novels are set on the East Frisian Islands, which feature miles of sandy beaches and a predominantly gray North Sea as a backdrop. Another example is the Allgäu, which features stunning mountain scenery in its crime novels. The "Criminale," the largest festival for German-language crime thriller literature, has been held in various cities for more than 25 years. Almost 250 authors gather there annually to discuss ideas and, of course, to showcase their works. All with absolutely no bloodshed!