listen – look – love 09/2014

German Green Walking Retreat 5.9.-9.9.2014
14 have taken a challenge:

3 days out in nature, walking the Rennsteig - reaching Eisenach and conquer the famous Wartburg – where Martin Luther once started a reform.
Magic –

They have set out to cross the threshold of the ordinary world and enter in a different space. Sunrays enlighten their path through the fresh morning green. The forest and its inhabitants are greeting the new ones.
...some have never walked that far – but they have listened to the call of time, opened their mind and came - to experience something new.
...25 km was the goal set for the first day from Ilmenau to Oberhof.
Walking and talking. Walking in silence – becoming aware of the difference.
We get closer to each other—moving together and here, together as friends, we share something more personal from our life.
There is an awakening to the beauty of nature:

- The fragrance of moss
- The singing of birds
- Wind in the twigs of the trees
- The smell of mushrooms
- Different shades of green
- Little animals which live in the forest
- The noise of dripping water
- Thunder in the distance.
Can we remain dry and keep the rain away?

Are we the real master-weather-shamans?
The sun comes back. We have a break. It is less far than we thought ... We can take time and relax.
Time to recover – sit together and share our impressions, experiences, feelings. Enjoying the group.
...the second day: 32 km was the plan. We know now that we can`t make it. A group is only as strong as its weakest member.
We place one car at km 20 from the start.
The goal is now to reach there.
...and we reach just in time before the big rain.

Everyone has by now touched a limit, left the comfort zone behind. Feets are heavy, legs hurting, exhaustion, tiredness. Mood is down. Tension. How many fit in the car? We manage ten if we squeeze. Four courageous ones move on after the rain.
Hardly anyone can imagine to move any further the next day to Eisenach. Still more than 30 km.
We change the plan:
Driving to Eisenach, walking through the Canyon of the Dragon to the Wartburg.
What a surprise: In the morning all are in good spirits and have recovered. We could walk 20 km more. The pain is gone. But our plan is fixed:

...through the canyon of the **Dragon to the Wartburg** high above on the mountain...
Reaching the final destination:

The Wartburg.

Martin Luther lived here ages ago at this huge old castle and worked on a new translation of the bible.
The reward:

Sitting in the big Hall listening to music from Wagner. We conquered obstacles and ourselves. We are the real heroes of this drama!

A white dove welcoming us.
One thing is for sure:

It will not be our last moving Green meeting...

Looking forward to meet you too!

Simone, Sonja Patrizia, Surya and the german family