



## Romantic Road<sup>®</sup>

from the River Main  
to the Alps



- Attractions ■
- Offers and deals ■
- Insider tips ■

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## The Romantic Road – a walkers' paradise

People looking for a little adventure in the great outdoors or for an opportunity to slow down and enjoy nature as a way of recharging their batteries will soon find that their thoughts turn to walking. There is nothing better than long-distance walking for feeling the wind in your hair, for enjoying nature and for being able to see the local cultural sights under your own steam, at a pace that suits you and along a route you have mapped out yourself. Combine all this with the Romantic Road, Germany's most popular, top-quality holiday route that runs from the river Main to the Alps, and you will be embarking on trails of discovery that are full of variety, inspire you to appreciate the things that are really important in life, enable you to breathe again and set your own course.

### Nature and eating and drinking

Whether for those on longer walking tours, or for those who prefer shorter excursions, there are plenty of charming villages, fascinating tracts of countryside and historic towns between Würzburg and Füssen, just waiting for visitors to explore them. Alongside the numerous shorter stretches and circular walks, there has, since 2006, also been a Romantic Road Long Distance Hiking Trail, one of the most beautiful stretches of its kind in the whole of Germany. With its 500 kilometres rising 2028 metres and descending 1632 metres overall, it is formally classified as 'Easy'. Moreover, it has also earned the epithet of 'Gastro Trail', for, in addition to the abundantly available places to stop and picnic in nature, the route never takes you far from one or other of the nearby historical marketplaces with romantic watering holes for refreshments and plenty of accommodation perfect for long-distance walkers.

### Variety and romantic atmosphere

Wending its way through forests and meadows, country lanes and signposted paths in historic town centres, the route provides many wonderful opportunities to experience, in depth, the romantic atmosphere between Würzburg and Füssen. Former imperial cities, towns that were home to the nobility, residences of the aristocracy and towns of the ancient Chivalric Orders all contribute to the cultural and historical variety. Half-timbered town halls and Gothic parish churches, quiet fountain squares and baroque pilgrimage churches, castles of the nobility, palaces and, at its southernmost end, the ultimate symbol of romanticism - the fairy-tale castle of Neuschwanstein – make this long-distance hiking trail unique. Not forgetting the beauties of nature: the valley of the river Main, resplendent from the very start around Würzburg with its world-famous vineyards, and the lovely Tauber river valley, with its gentle landscapes and romantic riverside settings. Further on, it reaches the Franconian Uplands and passes through the Ries region, where one can walk along Germany's only large, round meteorite crater. You can then follow the European Watershed, which passes between the Franconian and Swabian mountain ranges, to the wildly romantic valley of the Lech. Then on through the meadows and slopes of the Pfaffenwinkel, you reach the foothills of the Alps with views of the limestone mountains to the south, thus to complete the last stretch of the route at the foot of these mountain giants: along the banks of the Bannwaldsee, the lake that forms the fairy-tale backdrop to Neuschwanstein Castle, and then the Alpsee, finally reaching journey's end in Füssen.



**Hikeline – Romantic Road  
Long Distance Hiking Guide (in German)**  
Hiking Guide and 1:50,000 maps  
from von Würzburg to Füssen



# Unadulterated romanticism



## 460 km on Germany's 'Route 66'

### Traditions and trends

There is no shortage of holiday trails, but the Romantic Road, Germany's oldest and most popular, top-quality holiday route, enjoys an international reputation without parallel, and is seen as a model throughout the world. It has become the highly prized trademark of a wide variety of opportunities for recreational and leisure experiences, which gain additional appeal from the romantic thread that runs through them all. Whether romanticism is still fashionable today is something that everyone must decide for themselves. But there is no doubt that there are few historical and cultural trends that have been so influential right up until the present day, and we continue to preserve words like 'romantic', 'romance' and 'romanticism' in our everyday language today. The wish for unspoilt nature, the longing for harmony, for a balance between town and country, for havens where traditions live on and for places where one can recover from the hectic of everyday life – these things are in greater demand than ever. The Romantic Road is unique in offering them all as facets of its core trademark, which continues to attract visitors again and again.

### Diversity of appeal

A rich diversity of experiences – of a quality that rarely exists in such quantity – awaits visitors along the 460 kilometres from Würzburg to Füssen. Words such as art, culture, festival plays, activity and gastro trail all bear witness to the exciting inter-relationships between tradition and modern trends. By car, by bike, by bus or on foot, on an excursion, as a weekend visitor, short-stay holiday-maker or as someone in search of information on a specific topic – whatever your reasons for being here, the 29 towns and villages between the river Main and the Alps, the castles of 'The Fairy-tale King' in Schwangau and the baroque splendour of the Prince Bishops' Palace in Würzburg bring 3000 years of German and European history to life. Celts, Romans and Carolingians, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, Baroque and Rococo, Biedermeier and Gründerzeit periods have all left their mark. Nobles, knights and princes inhabited mighty castles and magnificent palaces such as those in Weikersheim and Wallerstein. Burghers and townsfolk, traders and craftsmen put their stamp on half-timbered medieval towns like Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Feuchtwangen, Dinkelsbühl and Donauwörth.

### Art and appetisers

Matthias Grünewald, Tilman Riemenschneider and Veit Stoß, the Asam brothers und Tiepolo created their world-ranking works of art in the region. The 'Church in the Meadow (Wieskirche) in the Pfaffenwinkel region, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, represents the masterly high point of Rococo art. It lies in a landscape brimming with natural and cultural treasures complemented by picturesque towns and villages such as Schongau, Peiting, Rottenbuch, Wildsteig and Steingaden. Historical festival plays, enactments of camp life for the 'Landsknecht' mercenaries of yesteryear and fishermen's jousting tournaments, operas and plays, open-air ballet and musical performances in romantic castles and palaces are a perennial draw for tourists. Traditional processions including the St. Ulrich and St. Leonhard Rides, festivals of traditional costume and mountainside celebrations of Mass, pottery and art fairs, antiques and collectables markets as well as some unusual museums and collections: the variety is unending.

### Nature and activities

The vineyards on the banks of the Main, the delightful landscapes surrounding the rivers Tauber, Würnitz, Danube and Lech, the European Watershed in the Franconian uplands, the meteorite crater of the Ries near Nördlingen and the terminal moraines of the Alpine foothills never fail to enchant visitors looking for a really special experience in and of nature. The Romantic Road's D9 Long Distance Cycling Trail and the Long Distance Hiking Trail offer active holidaymakers plenty of scope for their hobby. Opportunities for joggers, cyclists and skaters, equine sports, canoeing in the 'Eiskanal' (world-cup white-water canoe course) and golf tournaments all add to the range of fitness and fun activities. And let's not forget the gastronomic delights, of which there is no shortage on the Romantic Road. Regional specialities of Franconia, Baden, Hohenlohe-Württemberg, Bavarian Swabia and the Allgäu, from rustic snacks to gourmet menus, from the 'Bocksbeutel' (traditional flask-shaped bottles) of the regional wine to the local speciality beers are a delight for the palate. Add to this a diverse spectrum of overnight accommodation, ranging from cosy farmhouses, family B&Bs, country inns, traditional family-run hotels to modern chains and trendy, avant-garde event and life-style hotels.



**January:**

International Film Weekend

**March/April:**

Spring fun fair  
Flamenco Festival  
'Residenz' race

**May:**

Cultural Festival in the Juliuspital Vineyard Estate  
iWorld Marathon Würzburg  
Würzburg Wine Village

**June:**

Mozart Festival  
Africa Festival  
Bürgerspital 'Hofschoppenfest' (Wine Festival)  
Umsonst & Draussen (Free & Outdoor) Festival

**July:**

Kiliani fun fair  
Hofgarten Wine Festival  
Stein Wine Festival  
Hafensommer cultural festival

**August:**

Ringpark Festival  
Wine parade

**September/October:**

Street Art Festival  
Jazz Festival

**November/December:**

Bach Festival  
Christmas Market

For up-to-the-minute details, see [www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



Dominated by its landmark, the 'Marienberg' Fortress, this university and congress city on the river Main is surrounded by vineyards. The Old Town lies in the shadow of the towers of St. Kilian's Cathedral, the Neumünster church and the Chapel of St Mary, adjacent to the former prince bishops' palace (UNESCO World Heritage site), the splendid Baroque masterpiece planned by Balthasar Neumann.



**Attractions (selection)**

**Marienberg Fortress** (early 13th century)

1253 - 1719 residence of the prince bishops; large-scale reinforcement and extension of the Fortress in the 17/18th centuries; extensive fortifications with the Church of the Virgin Mary ('Marienkirche', the oldest round church in Germany east of the Rhine built in AD 706), gateway ('Scherenbergtor' - 1345/1482), Renaissance 'Brunnentempel' (well temple - approx. 1600) and 'Fürstenbau' (prince-bishop's residence) with Late Gothic 'Bibra' staircase (1511)

**Fürstbischöfliche Residenz: prince bishops' palace** (1720-44)

Major work of South German Baroque built according to plans by Balthasar Neumann; staircase with self-supporting arched ceiling and splendid ceiling fresco by Tiepolo; late Baroque and Rococo staterooms, e.g., White Room, Imperial Room, Mirror Room; elaborately decorated church ('Hofkirche') and Baroque court garden; UNESCO World Heritage site since 1981. Starting point of the Romantic Road

**St. Kilian's Cathedral** (approx. 1040)

The fourth biggest Romanesque church in Germany with a cruciform layout; extended, rebuilt and added-to up to the 18th century; destroyed in 1945; reconstruction completed in 1967; bishops' tombs from the 12th to 19th centuries; cloister (1420-53) built on Roman foundations and 'Schönbornsche Grabkapelle' (1718-36) by Balthasar Neumann

**Neumünster** (New Minster - 11th century)  
Romanesque basilica with dome (1710-16) and

Baroque façade. Remains of cloister from the Staufer period with tomb of minstrel Walther von der Vogelweide in the 'Lusam' garden

**Juliuspital** (Hospital - endowed in 1576)

Castle-like Baroque building with an original Rococo pharmacy, the 'Alte Anatomie' (1705-14), and a renowned vineyard. Today, a modern hospital with old-people's home

**Käppele**

Chapel of Grace (1653) on the 'Nikolausberg' with attached domed central building and double tower façade by Balthasar Neumann (1747-50); magnificent ceiling frescos and stuccowork; steps with stations of the cross lead up to the pilgrimage church

**Marienkappelle and Falkenhaus** at the Market Place

Late Gothic hall church (1377-1481) erected by the citizens of Würzburg; remarkable tombstones and tomb of Balthasar Neumann. Adjoins the 'Falkenhaus' with an attractive Rococo façade (1751). Today tourist information and ticket service



**Theatres, concerts**

**Mainfranken Theater**

Four-function building with opera, theatre, dance and philharmonic orchestra

**Private theatres**

'Chambinzky', 'Theaterwerkstatt', 'Theater am Neunerplatz', 'Theater Ensemble', 'Theater Augenblick', 'Theater Spielberg', 'Tanzspeicher', as well as the renowned cabaret venue 'Bockshorn' im Kulturspeicher'





## Museums, exhibitions

**Museum für Franken** in the former arsenal of the 'Marienberg' Fortress; collections of artistic works and cultural objects by Franconian artists and artists living in Franconia, as well as artistic craftsmen, including masterworks by Würzburg sculptor Tilman Riemenschneider

**Martin-von-Wagner-Museum** in the south wing of the 'Residenz' with art gallery (14th to 19th century), collections of prints and antiques

**Museum im Kulturspeicher** art museum with 19th to 21st century works of art, rotation of temporary exhibitions; Peter C. Ruppert collection: 'Concrete Art in Europe after 1945'

'Galerie Spitäle', 'Museum am Dom', 'Siebold' Museum, 'Shalom Europa' Museum

## Offers and deals for independent travellers

**Guided tours** in English: walking tours of the old town centre available from May to early October. Tours by city train available year-round

Details and online reservations at: [wuerzburg.de/onlineticket](http://wuerzburg.de/onlineticket)  
Plus guided tours at the Residence palace and at Fortress Marienberg

**River trips on the Main:** April to October, scheduled services Würzburg-Veitshöchheim-Würzburg, daily at 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; holiday packages and private trips for groups of 30 or more

## Offers and deals for groups

**Guided tours** in the following languages: German, English, French, Italian, Dutch, Swedish, Russian, Polish, Romanian, Czech, Japanese, Chinese, Korean  
Duration: 1-3 hours

Stroll through the old town centre of Würzburg, various themed tours, nature and culture walks

**Details and reservation at:** [www.wuerzburg.de/groups](http://www.wuerzburg.de/groups)

**Stein-Wine Trail** – walking trail with information on the famous 'Würzburger Stein' vineyard

## Wine tastings in premium vineyard estates

Staatlicher Hofkeller, Bürgerspital-Weingut, Juliusspital-Weingut, Weingut am Stein Ludwig Knoll

## Package deals

### Würzburg Wine Pass

Take a self-guided wine tasting tour, try 5 different Franconian wines and get to know some of the finest wine bars and wine restaurants in Würzburg  
[www.wuerzburg.de/winepass](http://www.wuerzburg.de/winepass)

### Würzburg Welcome Card

Reductions at over 30 tourist sites, museums, theatres and restaurants. Obtainable from: Tourist Information & Ticket Service at the marketplace

## Congresses, conventions, conferences

Würzburg Congress Centre (CCW) as well as the function rooms at the "Barockhäuser" centre, the 'Museum im Kulturspeicher' with capacities from 50 to 2500 people and numerous other conference venues. The CTW congress agency offers a complete service from planning the event to booking hotel rooms for individual delegates

## Additional activities

Wine tastings, organised excursions (groups only): 'The Romantic Road to Rothenburg o.d.T.'; 'Teambuilding in the Franconian Wine Country' – e.g. vineyard rally

## Eating and drinking

Typical Würzburg specialities include: 'Blaue Zipfel' (cooked pickled sausages), 'Schäufele' (roast shoulder of pork) with potato dumplings, 'Franconian Wedding Feast' (brisket of beef with horseradish sauce and noodles). Enjoy them with a wine from the Silvaner, Riesling or Weißburgunder (Pinot Blanc) grapes of the famous Würzburger Stein-Berg (protected designation of origin), Würzburger Schlossberg, Würzburger Abtsleite or Würzburger Innere Leiste vineyards, all within view of the fortress on the 'Old Bridge' over the Main.



## Nature

Several cycling trails converge in Würzburg. The River Main Cycling Trail is one of the most popular cycle routes in Germany, with delightful stretches from Kitzingen to Würzburg (36 km) and on to Gemünden (43 km).

The **Main-Tauber Cycling Trail** goes through Guttenberg to Tauberbischofsheim (38 km) and the **Romantic Road Cycling Trail** takes you to Wertheim (51 km) and Bad Mergentheim. All these cycle paths are signposted according to the recommendations of the ADFC (German Cycling Association).



## HISTORY

→ **About 1000 BC** Celtic fortification on the Marienberg → **About AD 650** Franconian ducal seat → **704** Würzburg mentioned in a document for the first time → **706** Consecration of the church on the Marienberg → **742** Bishopric of Würzburg founded → **788** Work starts on the first cathedral → **1156** Frederick Barbarossa marries Beatrix of Burgundy → **1168** Frederick Barbarossa confirms the Duchy of Franconia → **1525** Würzburg takes the peasants' side during the Peasants' War → **1582** Julius-Maximilian University founded → **1631** Würzburg conquered by Gustav II Adolf of Sweden → **1720** Foundation stone of the 'Residenz' laid → **1802** Secularisation of the Hochstift, the central administration of the bishopric → **1814** Würzburg incorporated into Bavaria → **1867** The city fortifications are dismantled and the Ringpark takes their place → **1895** Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen discovers X-rays → **1945, March** 90 percent of the city is destroyed by bombing → **1970** Reconstruction of the Old Town virtually complete → **1985** Congress Centre opened → **1990** Bavarian State Garden Show → **1991** Würzburg is linked to the ICE High-speed Train Network (Würzburg-Hanover) → **2002** Art Museum - 'Museum im Kulturspeicher' - opens → **2004** 1300th city anniversary

## Information

Congress · Tourismus · Würzburg  
Am Congress Centrum  
97070 Würzburg  
Phone +49 (0) 931 372335  
Fax +49 (0) 931 373652  
[tourismus@wuerzburg.de](mailto:tourismus@wuerzburg.de)  
[www.wuerzburg.de](http://www.wuerzburg.de)

**January:**

Christmas exhibition  
'Christmas-tree decorations  
in glass – past and present'

**April:**

'Nightgroove' – festival for  
bars and cafés  
Easter market with Sunday  
shopping in the old town

**May:**

Wertheim town experience –  
culture & shopping  
Pottery market

**July /August:**

Old-town festival

**October:**

Traditional 'Feast of St.  
Michael' Fair – public holi-  
day with shops open

**November:**

Farmers' market in the old  
town with Sunday shopping

**December:**

Advent calendar  
Christmas market  
Traditional Christmas  
exhibition 'Christmas-tree  
decorations in glass – past  
and present'

For up-to-the-minute details, see  
[www.romantic.road.de](http://www.romantic.road.de)



Where the rivers Main and Tauber meet, surrounded by lovely countryside, lies the romantic, medieval town of Wertheim. Its iconic landmark, the second largest stone castle ruin in Southern Germany, stands high above the old town. Elaborately decorated half-timbered houses, small squares and narrow alleyways, as well as many other sights, characterise the townscape. Other attractions include the first-rate art collections and visiting exhibitions in the 'Grafschafts- und Glasmuseum' and the 'Schlösschen im Hofgarten' museum.

Wertheim, is an eldorado for shoppers: either as part of a gentle stroll in the old town or in the 'Wertheim Village' luxury shopping outlet. And the centre of the 'Route of Delights' can also be found in the town; try, taste and savour some of the locally produced foods or buy them direct from the producers.

**Attractions****Wertheim Castle**

Once the seat of the Counts of Wertheim, this castle complex, which originally belonged to the Hohenstaufen dynasty and dates from the 12th century, is amongst the largest and most beautiful stone castle ruins in the south of Germany. During the Thirty Years War, the castle came under heavy fire and was severely damaged. Many concerts and other events take place here; Castle Restaurant with sun terrace.

**Historic marketplace**

In the historic marketplace, with its beautifully preserved half-timbered houses, some of which date back to the 16th century, is one of the oldest and, indeed, narrowest houses in Franconia.

**Protestant Collegiate Church (Stiftskirche)**

The Romanesque church, predecessor of today's three-nave Gothic basilica, was built and extended in 1383/84. A late Gothic canopy in front of the main portal, as well as a choir bay, belonging to the chapel in the tower, are pointers to its existence. The tombs of the Counts of Wertheim (15th – 18th century) can be found in the large chancel.

**St Kilian's Chapel**

The late Gothic St Kilian's Chapel is considered to

be one of the finest Gothic double chapels in Germany. Construction began in 1472. A coat-of-arms frieze depicts the 'Wertheim monkey' as a symbol of vanity.

**Kittstein Gate**

The view from the Kittstein Gate towards the Collegiate Church and the castle is one of the best-known views of the town. All the high-water marks since 1595 are engraved on the north side.

**Spitzer Turm (36.5 metres high)**

The 'Spitzer Turm' ('pointed tower'), also known as the 'Schiefer Turm' ('crooked tower') was built in the 13th century as a watchtower and keep. It also served as a prison for 'drunkards' and 'scolding wenches'.

**Jewish Cemetery**

The Jewish Cemetery, approved in 1406, is one of the oldest cemeteries in Germany.

**'Grafschafts Museum'**

Alongside the permanent exhibitions and departments devoted to folk culture, works by the famous North German painter Otto Modersohn (1865-1943) and his painter friends can be seen.



### 'Schlösschen im Hofgarten' – Museum of fine art

Not far from the historical old town, in a magnificent park, stands the rococo 'Schlösschen im Hofgarten' Museum, built in 1777. Today, it houses some very fine art collections and donated works, such as paintings and watercolours by painters from the Berlin Secession.

### Glass Museum

The only museum of glass work in Baden-Württemberg is home to exhibits ranging from luxury glass of antiquity to today's glass industry. Well worth seeing are, among other things, the glass pearl cabinet, glass for science and industry, glass blowing demonstrations and a Christmas exhibition during Advent.

### Bronnbach Monastery

The Bronnbach Monastery, founded in 1151, is a former Cistercian monastery in the Tauber Valley. The monastery buildings are of considerable cultural significance, with church, cloisters, wine cellar and Abbey Gardens. Today they serve as an events and conference centre.

### Wertheim Village

Outlet shopping in 120 shops covering an area of more than 11,000 square metres



### Offers and deals for independent travellers

**Guided tours open to the public** from April to October – Duration: 1 hour

**Old town:** from Monday to Saturday at 5 p.m., Sundays and public holidays at 10.30 a.m., meet at Spitzer Turm

**Castle:** Sundays at 2.30 p.m., meet at Stiftskirche

**Night-watchman's tour** – Fridays at 9 p.m., meet at Spitzer Turm

### River trips on the Main

Regular service: Miltenberg – Wertheim

Tour of the locks

Special tours for groups



### Offers and deals for groups

Guided tours of the town and castle, as well as a special tour through the 'Spitzer Turm'

### Night-watchman's tour

### Culinary tours

'Route of Delights Tour'; 'Delicious Bites' Tour; 'Town Tour with Chaser'; 'Wine Tasting on the Move'; 'Wine and Chocolate'



### Packaged tours

'1000 years in a day', 'Wertheim castle at first hand', 'Shopping-pleasures in Wertheim', 'Between county and monastery', 'The best from the barrel', 'The magic of Christmas in Wertheim'



### Eating and drinking

Wine, game and green spelt typify Main-Tauber-Franconian cuisine. For centuries, wine has been grown in Wertheim and its region. The Grafschafts- und Glasmuseum offers wine tasting sessions, as do the following vineyards and wineries: Alte Grafschaft, Winzerkeller im Taubertal, Winzerhof Martin Baumann, Weingut Oesterlein and Weinkeller Friedrich. Don't forget to try Wertheim's 'Buddescheißer', a cocktail of the local grappa brandy and peach liqueur.



### Nature

Cycling along the rivers Main and Tauber, walking through forests and vineyards, combine with regional specialities from the producers along the 'Route of Delights'.

### Cycling trails

5-star cycle path: Charming Tauber Valley - The Classic, Main-Tauber-Franconian Figure of Eight, Cycle Path on the Banks of the Main



### Excursions

Gamburg Castle and Grounds (18 km), Freudenberg and Freudenberg Castle (20 km), Stadtprozelten and Henneburg (15 km), Hasloch with the only hammer forge in the Spessart mountains and the Hammer Museum (8 km), 'Silvestria' climbing park, 'Art of Chocolate' chocolate factory and the upside-down house at 'Toppels-Verdrehte Welt', Wertheim-Bettingen (15 km)



Tauberbischofsheim 31 km



### Insider Tip



Wertheim Village  
+49 (0) 9342 9199100  
[www.wertheimvillage.com](http://www.wertheimvillage.com)

### HISTORY

→ **7th century** First settlement on the site of what is today Kreuzwertheim → **779** First authentic mention of Wertheim → **1009** Market rights granted by King Heinrich II → **1103** First documentary mention of the 'county' of Wertheim → **12th century** Building of castle begins → **1306** Wertheim receives its town charter and thus also the right to mint coins → **in the 16th century** Wine growing is the principal activity → **1556** Death of the last Count of Wertheim, Count Michael III, whereupon the county passes to Count Ludwig of Stolberg → **from 1598** Takeover of government by Count Ludwig of Löwenstein-Wertheim → **1634** Destruction of castle in 30 Years' War, since when it has just been left as a ruin → **1806** Napoleon draws up new frontiers, which divide the region. Wertheim is incorporated into the Grand Duchy of Baden; Napoleon imposes tolls on the Main bridge between Wertheim and Kreuzwertheim → **1913** Start of first incorporation into today's industrial region of Wertheim-Bestenheid → **after 1945** Establishment of glass industry by displaced persons in Wertheim-Bestenheid → **1972/1976** With the incorporation of 15 surrounding communities, Wertheim becomes the regional administrative centre ('Große Kreisstadt' or major district town)

**Information**  
**TOURISMUS REGION**  
**WERTHEIM GmbH**  
**Gerbergasse 16**  
**97877 Wertheim**  
**Phone +49 (0) 9342 935090**  
**Fax +49 (0) 9342 9350920**  
**info@tourismus-wertheim.de**  
**www.tourismus-wertheim.de**

**First weekend in July:**  
Old Town Festival (Fri.-Sun.)

**September to May:**  
Castle Concerts

**Mid-October:**  
'Martini' fair with Sunday shopping

**December:**  
Christmas markets on 2nd and 3rd weekends in advent

**'Badische Landesbühne':**  
Seven evening theatre performances throughout the year

**Tauberbischofsheim Art Society:**  
Readings and cabaret shows at irregular intervals

For up-to-the-minute details, see [www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



Tauberbischofsheim - the capital of the Main-Tauber District - is one of the oldest towns along the Tauber Valley. The iconic symbol for this town, with its abundance of half-timbered buildings, is the Türmersturm tower, at the centre of the Kurmainz Castle complex. The neo-Gothic town hall with its carillon, alongside the numerous neighbouring picturesque houses, is one of the most arresting buildings in the market square at the historic heart of the pedestrianised old town centre.



**Attractions** (selection)

**Market Place** with magnificent half-timbered and Baroque buildings: **Alte Post**, (Old Post House - 1602), **Stern-Apotheke** (Star Pharmacy - 1670), **Franck-Haus**, **Rincker Haus** (1678), **Rehe-Hof** (1702), **Mackert-Haus** (1744) and **Neo-Gothic town hall** (1865)

**Kurmainz Castle**, built about 1280, modified in the 15th/16th century with 'Türmersturm' tower, nowadays home of the **Tauber-Franconian Rural Museum** with its model town: 'Bischofsheim in the mid-18th century'.  
Open: Palm Sunday to 1 November

**The parish church of St. Martin** (1910), the **two-storey Gothic chapel of St. Sebastian** (1474), and **St. Peter's chapel** (1180), the town's oldest example of religious architecture, the **monastery church of St. Lioba** (1656), subsequently redesigned in the Baroque style, as well as the remains of the town's medieval fortifications

**VS School Museum** The museum at the Vereinigte Spezialmöbelfabriken, furniture factory with its themed display: 'The Classroom'

**Bertold's Bauernhofmuseum Distelhausen** (Museum of Farming Life)



**Offers and deals for groups**

**Guided tours through the historical old town**  
Duration approx. 1.5 hours, up to 25 people

including tour of the church or a climb to the top of the Türmersturm tower  
Duration: 2 hours per tour

**Guided tour with the Tower Guardian though the historical old town** including a climb to the top of the Türmersturm tower  
Duration: 2 hours, up to 25 people, flat fee

**Guided tour for children by the Tower Guardian** with a climb to the top of the Türmersturm tower  
Duration: approx. 1 hour, up to 20 children, flat fee

**Guided tour through the historical old town and visit to the fencing centre**  
Duration: approx. 2.5 hours, up to 25 people, flat fee

**Kurmainz Castle**  
Guided tours on request: cost contribution

**VS School Museum**  
Visits: weekdays by appointment  
Duration: 1 hour, flat fee

**'Bischemer Kurzweil mit Marktweib und Bürgersfrau'**  
An entertaining historical tour through the eyes of a female market trader and the wife of a town dignitary with amusing stories, ribald anecdotes, nibbles, traditional bread-and-dripping and wine.  
Duration: 1.5 hours, up to 40 people, flat fee

**Cycling and walking guides, as well as a mountain-biking companion**  
Available from: Tourist Information  
Starting point is Tauberbischofsheim



**Tour guides** for the Tauber Valley, Würzburg, Walldürn and Miltenberg with particular attention to Tauberbischofsheim (in German); half or whole day.

Booking: Tourist Information, guide's fee plus set arrangement fee and cost of entrance tickets



#### **Educational wine trail in the 'Edelberg' municipal vineyard**

The clearly laid-out wine trail offers the opportunity to get to know the specific traits of the grape varieties that are grown there, with the help of a specialist guide

Duration: 1.5 hours, max. 30 people, short wine tasting session can be arranged.

#### **Distelhausen brewing experience tour**

Visit to a brewery, multi-vision show, visit to the taproom to enjoy a hearty evening snack, delicious beers and non-alcoholic beverages. Daily, by agreement: +49 (0) 9341 805-488



#### **Nature**

Four nature reserves are to be found in the urban area and its immediate environs, with over 20 more in the neighbouring areas. A particular highlight – and not only for nature lovers – is the renatured river Tauber.

Close by, on the heights, the 'Hamberg Woodland Discovery Trail', with its accompanying fitness trail, offers some new insights into the ecosystem. In the centre of town, numerous green oases bear witness to a small town that is particularly committed to the natural world. A local NABU group (Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union), the 'Schutzgemeinschaft Deutscher Wald' (forests) and the 'Tauberländer Bio-Streuobstwiesen-Verein' (organic fruit-growing) are all committed to the protection of species diversity.

#### **HISTORY**

→ **About AD 735** Convent founded by Bishop Bonifacius → **Between 1237 and 1245** Town charter granted

→ **1688** Latin School, forerunner of the Matthias Grünewald Grammar School, founded by Franciscan monks

→ **1865-1867** Construction of the neo-Gothic town hall at the Market Place → **1910-1914** Construction of the Catholic Town Church of St. Martin → **1954** Emil Beck founds fencing sports club → **since 1973** Capital of the Main-Tauber District

→ **2005** 1250th anniversary of Tauberbischofsheim → **10 Sept. 2013** Election of Dr. Thomas Bach as IOC President → **2014** The 'Brachenleite' declared a nature reserve



#### **Famous names**

##### **IOC President Dr. Thomas Bach**

The town's most famous son is a representative of the sporting world. As President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Dr. Thomas Bach is the most senior representative of international sport. His greatest sporting achievement came as a member of the German Foil Fencing Team which won team gold in the 1976 Olympics. Even today, he can still be seen out and about in his home town – a real 'Bischofmer Bub'.



#### **Tales, myths and legends**

##### **'Don't be a frog – stick with the toads'**

The fountain in the castle complex is called the 'Krötenbrunnen' or 'Toads' Fountain' and, together with the bronze frieze and 'Procession of the Toads', it is a homage to the town's inhabitants, who are also affectionately known as 'Toads'.



Lauda-Königshofen 10 km



#### **Information**

**Tourist-Information**

**Marktplatz 8**

**97941 Tauberbischofsheim**

**Phone +49 (0) 9341 80333**

**[tourismus@tauberbischofsheim.de](mailto:tourismus@tauberbischofsheim.de)**

**[www.tauberbischofsheim.de](http://www.tauberbischofsheim.de)**

**FESTIVALS / EVENTS**

**1st weekend in May:**  
Wine Festival in Beckstein

**3rd weekend in June:**  
Wine Festival in Old Lauda

**1st weekend in August:**  
Steam Locomotive Festival  
in Lauda

**3rd to 4th weekend in  
September:**  
Königshofen Fair - the  
biggest fun fair in  
Franconia

**Last Sunday in October:**  
Beckstein in flames

**Concerts:**  
Jazz in the Assembly Hall:  
Jazz concerts in the  
Assembly Hall of the  
Martin Schleyer Grammar  
School in Lauda

For up-to-the-minute details, see  
[www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



Wine town with magnificent churches dating back to the heyday of Franconian Baroque. Historical bridges, imposing half-timbered houses, a museum of local history and wayside shrines from six centuries.



**Attractions  
Lauda**

- Historic old town** with half-timbered houses:
- Old hospital, 'Pike' inn and 'Badstube'**
- Historical town hall** with 'Mariensäule' column
- Catholic parish church of St. Jacob** (1698)
- Upper gate** (1496) and **Powder tower** - remains of the medieval town fortifications.
- Church of the Virgin Mary** (1613) with High Baroque Way of the Cross
- Gothic bridge over the river Tauber** (1512) with shrines
- Steam engine monument**

**Königshofen**

- Late classicist Catholic parish church of St. Mauritius** (1836) with Baroque decor and Romanesque tower (about 1200).
- Half-timbered houses**, such as 'Goten' (1544) and the 'High House'.
- Old watchtower** on Turmberg hill

**Gerlachsheim (wine village)**

- Former Premonstratensian monastery** with the Baroque Church of the 'Holy Cross' (1723-30), three-aisle colonnaded basilica, choir and dome room in light stuccowork, magnificent altar vessels and decorations, and pulpit
- Grünbach bridge** with Baroque statues of saints

**Beckstein (wine village)**

- Historic wine press, wine trail, nature and culture trail, Beckstein Vintners' Cooperative**

**Messelhausen**

- Augustinian monastery** in the former Zobel Castle (1740-43) not far from the **Marstadter See** lake

**Oberbalbach**

- Catholic parish church of St. George** (1738) with Baroque decor. The High Altar includes a figure of St. George made in the workshop of Tilman Riemen-schneider

**Oberlaua**

- Catholic parish church of St. Martin** (1790) with late Baroque decor
- 'Halbritter' little castle** in the town centre
- South Germany's **biggest overshot waterwheel** (12 metres diameter)

**Sachsenflur**

- Elaborately renovated **little castle** (1583)
- Protestant church** (1785) with paintings from the previous church
- Fountains** and **attractive half-timbered houses**

**Unterbalbach**

- Catholic parish church of St. Markus** built in 'brandy distiller' style in 1824, late Baroque décor
- The **Jewish cemetery** (dedicated 1590) is one of the most impressive of its kind in Germany

**Deubach**

- Typical farming hamlet in the heart of nature

**Marbach**

- Little village, known for its vineyards. Catholic parish church of St. Josef (1782)





## Offers and deals for groups

**Guided tours** of the historic old town centre of Lauda

Duration: 1 or 2 hours, up to 50 people

**Guided tour of the wine trail** (1.5 km long) in Beckstein

The wine trail is marked by various information boards along the way.

**Ornithological and natural-history tours** of the nature reserves around Lauda-Königshofen

**Guided tour of Lauda Museum of Local History and the Baroque Cloister Church of the 'Holy Cross'** in Gerlachsheim

**Wine tasting and tour of the cellars**

Walking tour of the vineyards, with registered wine tour guides and an opportunity to taste wine from all 6 vineyards located within the municipal area.



## Excursions

**Visit to the surrounding wine villages**

Gerlachsheim (2 km), Marbach (2.5 km) and Beckstein (6 km)

**Day trips:** Langenburg Castle and Car Museum (50 km), Jagsthausen (open-air theatre festival, 50 km), Baroque town of Amorbach (abbey church 1742-44, 50 km), Wildenburg Castle Ruin in the Odenwald Forest (55 km), Bartenstein Castle (30 km)



## Nature

**Walking trails:** 30 walking trails within the municipal area

**Cycle paths** along the picturesque Tauber Valley and the 'Main-Tauber-Franconian Figure of Eight'; cycling tours of the side valleys to Gerlachsheim (Baroque 'Holy Cross' Church, 3 km), Grünsfeldhausen (Chapel of St. Achatius, 8 km), Wölchingen (Frankendom, 12 km)

## Heckfeld

Nearby recreational areas with lakes and cultural walking trail



## Museums, exhibitions

**Museum of Local History** in the former Vintner's House with collections depicting wine-growing, peasant life, handicrafts, railway history and the 'Fasnacht' (carnival) tradition

'das auge' (the eye) **gallery** in Lauda's historical town hall: monthly exhibitions organised by the Lauda-Königshofen Art Society



Bad Mergentheim 10 km



## HISTORY

→ **AD 741/1135** 1st documentary mention ('Kunegeshoven' and 'Ludun') → **1344/1415** Town / market charter for Lauda-Königshofen → **14th/15th century** Work begins on the town fortifications (upper gate, powder tower) → **16th century** Construction of the town hall and other half-timbered houses → **1723-1730** Construction of the Premonstratensian monastery with the 'Holy Cross' Roman Catholic Church in Gerlachsheim → **1894** Beckstein winegrowers' co-operative founded → **1975** Town of Lauda-Königshofen reorganised and formed from 12 towns and municipalities

## Insider tips

-  **Hotel**  
Becksteiner Rebenhof \*\*\*S  
+49 (0) 9343 980 9000  
[www.rebenhof.net](http://www.rebenhof.net)
-  **Becksteiner Winzer eG**  
+49 (0) 9343 500-0  
[www.becksteiner-winzer.de](http://www.becksteiner-winzer.de)

**Information**  
**Tourist-Information**  
Marktplatz 1  
97922 Lauda-Königshofen  
Phone +49 (0) 9343 501 5332  
Fax +49 (0) 9343 501 95332  
[tourist.info@lauda-koenigshofen.de](mailto:tourist.info@lauda-koenigshofen.de)  
[www.lauda-koenigshofen.de](http://www.lauda-koenigshofen.de)

**1st Saturday in March:**

Horse market

**One week after Whitsun:**

Wine Festival in Markelsheim

**June:**

Songs in the Castle

**Last weekend in June:**

Town Festival

**3rd Saturday in July:**

Spa Festival

**Last weekend in July:**

Fun Fair

**December:**

Christmas Market

**Concerts:**

Museum concerts in the Residential Palace

For up-to-the-minute details, see [www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



# Bad Mergentheim

The former town of residence of the Teutonic Order and nowadays a modern spa resort, Bad Mergentheim, is distinguished by a variety of attractions: blooming meadows along the river Tauber, sunny vineyards and one of Germany's most beautiful spa parks. When the shepherd, Franz Gehrig, discovered the spring, that later became known as the Wilhelmsquelle, down by the river Tauber, he effectively laid the foundation stone for Baden-Württemberg's largest spa and baths. Today, Bad Mergentheim is the Romantic Road's main centre for health, spa and wellness facilities.



## Attractions

### Mergentheim Residential Palace

with castle church and the extensive grounds of the **castle park** set out in the English style

**Historic old town** with half-timbered houses and Baroque palace, as well as a Renaissance town hall, 'Milchling' fountain and one of Germany's most beautiful **spa gardens**

**St. John's Minster** with an important sepulchre

**Church of the Virgin Mary**, three-aisle basilica (14th century) with wall paintings

**Gothic St. Wolfgang's bridge** with statue of St. Nepomuk, and St. Wolfgang's Church



## Museums, exhibitions

**Teutonic Order Museum** in the castle with royal accommodation in Baroque, Rococo and classicist styles; one of Europe's largest exhibitions about the Teutonic Order as well as the history of the town and special temporary exhibitions

The **treasure of St. John's Minster** consists of liturgical vessels and utensils covering a span of 500 years

Stuppach Parish Church with the '**Stuppach Madonna**' by Matthias Grünewald

## Ottmar Mergenthaler memorial

Ottmar Mergenthaler from Bad Mergentheim invented the 'Linotype' typesetting machine in 1886

## Cultural Forum

Changing art exhibitions as well as cabaret and variety performances



## Eating and drinking

Bad Mergentheim is where three major wine-growing regions come together, Baden, Württemberg and Franconia. Markelsheim, a district of Bad Mergentheim, is located in the Württemberg wine-growing region. It is here that the Tauberschwarz grape is grown, a rare varietal that is grown only in the Tauber Valley.

Typical of the local cuisine are dishes made from 'green spelt' - spelt grains that are harvested before they are fully ripe. From green-spelt soup and green-spelt cookies to green-spelt cakes - many of the local restaurants serve dishes with this healthy 'power grain'.



 **Offers and deals for independent travellers**  
**Guided tours of the town;** daily – at 2 p.m. starting from the Altes Rathaus (old town hall)

**Themed guided tours**

May to October, every Friday at 7.15 p.m

**Guided wine tours**

May to October, every Thursday at 3.30 p.m

**Fountain magic in the Spa Gardens (Kurpark)** with musical accompaniment

May to October

**Solymar Thermal Baths** with a range of saunas, mineral and brine baths

**Cellar tour in Markelsheim**

May to October, every Friday

**Hiking through the seasons**

Every Saturday, starting at the 'Haus des Kurgastes'

**Historical procession**

Every 1st Friday in the month from May to October

**Guided tours of the Residential Palace**

Daily – Wednesday to Sunday

 **Offers and deals for groups:**

**Guided tours** of the historic town centre or combined tours of town centre and spa gardens; also available with costumed guides. Languages: German, English, French, Spanish

**Wine tastings** and/or guided tours through the vineyard in Markelsheim

**Guided tours** of the Mergentheim Residential Palace



**HISTORY**

→ **1058** First written mention of Mergentheim as 'Grafschaft Merginheim im Taubergau' ('County of Merginheim in the Tauber Region') → **1340** Elevation to official town status under Emperor Ludwig the Bavarian → **1525-1806** Mergentheim is headquarters of the Order of Teutonic Knights. Construction of the palace. → **1809** On Napoleon's orders, Mergentheim (formerly an autonomous region governed by the Order) is brought under the crown of Württemberg → **1826** Shepherd Franz Gehrig discovers the spring that will later become the 'Wilhelmsquelle' on the banks of the river Tauber. → **1926** On the hundredth anniversary of the discovery of the spring, Mergentheim is formally recognised as a spa and is granted permission to call itself 'Bad Mergentheim'.


 **Nature**  
**Wild-life park** with one of Europe's largest wolf packs



**Bicycle tours** into the neighbouring Kocher-Jagst Valley to Langenburg Castle (35 km)

**Canoe trips** on the Tauber

**Hiking** on one of the ten circular hiking routes around Bad Mergentheim (6 to 20 km)

 **Excursions**  
Heidelberg (130 km), Nuremberg (140 km), Stuttgart (120 km)

 **Congresses, conferences**  
'Wandelhalle' in the 'Kurpark', 400 to 700 people  
'Kursaal' of the 'Kurhaus', up to 500 people  
'Dorfgemeinschaftshaus', Neunkirchen, up to 300 people  
Mergentheim Residential Palace, up to 180 people

 **Tales, myths and legends**


In the Mühlwehrstrasse there is a large, impressive looking house, popularly called the 'Knights' House' [Ritterhaus] or even the 'Haunted House' [Geisterhaus], where the so-called 'Klöpferle' have been wreaking havoc since times immemorial. If there are signs of a good year for wine, in the upper rooms of the house and especially in the vaulted cellars, you can hear the sound of the 'Klöpferle' banging on the barrels with their silver hammers. The noise they make is not only supposed to presage a good wine year.

Occasionally they can get up to mischief and then they start knocking over the vegetables in the bowls and the plates in the cellar.

**Insider tips**

 Best Western Premier Parkhotel \*\*\*\*S  
+49 (0) 7931 539-0  
www.parkhotel-mergentheim.de

 Flair Hotel  
Weinstube Lochner \*\*\*S  
+49 (0) 7931 9390  
www.weinstube-lochner.de

 Kurverwaltung  
Bad Mergentheim GmbH  
+49 (0) 7931 965-0  
www.bad-mergentheim.de

 Wildpark (wild-life park)  
Bad Mergentheim  
+49 (0) 7931 563050  
www.wildtierpark.de

Weikersheim 12 km



**Information**

**Tourist Information**  
Marktplatz 1  
97980 Bad Mergentheim  
Phone +49 (0) 7931 574815  
tourismus@  
bad-mergentheim.de  
www.bad-mergentheim.de

**May to September:**  
Sculpture exhibition

**1st Saturday in July:**  
Grand music festival at Weikersheim Palace with baroque firework displays as part of the Hohenlohe Summer of Culture

**1st weekend in July:**  
Craft market – The place to find inspiration

**End of July / beginning of August:**  
Young Opera  
Open-air opera performances in the palace grounds (every 2 years)

**1st weekend in September:**  
Weikersheim 'Kärwe' fair with historical parade

**2nd weekend in September:**  
Wine Festival in Weikersheim-Laudenbach

**3rd weekend in Advent:**  
Christmas Market

**Cultural programme and concerts**  
in the TauberPhilharmonie

For up-to-the-minute details, see [www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



The iconic emblem of Weikersheim, with its state recognised resort town, is the magnificent renaissance palace with the palace gardens, which are laid out in the style of Versailles. The baroque interior decoration has been almost entirely preserved, with a particularly impressive 'Rittersaal' ('Knights' Hall'). The historic marketplace is surrounded by the town's parish church, the Kornbau museum of rural life, the baroque town hall and the palace entrance. The world's largest youth music organisation, the 'Jeunesses Musicales Deutschland' has its headquarters here. The TauberPhilharmonie concert hall is the cultural centre of the Tauber Valley and serves as an events venue for concerts, music, art and cultural displays.

 **Attractions**  
**Historic Market Place** with Rococo fountain, Gothic parish church, stately buildings and 'Kornbau'

**Renaissance palace** with magnificent 'Rittersaal' (Knights' Hall), 'Mirror cabinet' and Baroque court garden with orangery

**Old town centre** with the remains of the town wall (14th century), the 'Blaue Kappe' prison tower, 'Gänsturm' tower and the historic fountain


**Mountainside Church**  
Pilgrimage church overlooking the Laudenbach district

 **Museums, exhibitions**  
**Weikersheim Palace**  
Courtly life in the 17th and 18th century  
Exhibitions: 'Alchemy in Weikersheim' and 'Dance of Fountains and Gods'

**Tauberland Village Museum**  
Largest collection of rural cultural artefacts in the Tauberfranken region

**Municipal museum in and around the 'Gänsturm' tower**  
History of the town, with a view


**Art exhibitions**  
Sculpture exhibition. Photographic exhibition

 **Offers and deals for independent travellers**  
**Guided tour of the town**  
on Thursdays at 2 p.m., from July to September

**Guided tours of the palace**  
Tuesday to Sunday: every hour

**Costume and guided tours for children, plus workshops**

**Wine tastings** in the Ehrmann, Höfäcker or Schumm vineyards

 **Offers and deals for groups**  
Guided tour of the historic old town  
Duration: 1 hour, up to 30 people

**Cultural packages** on request

**Palace and costume tours**

**Accompanied short walking tours**

**Wine and palace**  
Guided tour of the palace with wine tasting and 'vintners' snack'





## Eating and drinking

Tauberswarz, the old variety of red wine which was long thought to be extinct, is being cultivated in Weikersheim and its surrounding district.

High-proof liqueurs are distilled from the fruits of the trees in the palace gardens.

The honey produced by beekeepers around Weikersheim is a regional speciality.



## Nature

The characteristic stone walls are a notable feature of the landscape and are surviving witnesses that wine has been cultivated here from time immemorial.

Cycle paths along the Tauber and into the side valleys provide a range of opportunities for a tour.

Fifteen hiking trails of varying lengths (4 to 15 km) and difficulty levels run through the vineyards and forests around Weikersheim.



### Insider tip



Weikersheim Palace  
+49 (0) 7934 99295-0  
[www.schloss-weikersheim.de](http://www.schloss-weikersheim.de)

Röttingen 8 km



## HISTORY

→ **AD 837** Earliest known mention in a deed of gift of Fulda Monastery ('Wichartesheim') → **Since 1156** Seat of the Hohenlohe family → **1314** Town charter; construction of the town walls → **1419** Construction of the Gothic Parish Church → **1595-1603** Construction of the Renaissance tract on the old moated castle → **1708-1724** Baroque extensions and creation of the court garden with orangery → **1967** Palace sold to the Land of Baden-Württemberg

## Information

**Tourist Information**  
Marktplatz 2  
97990 Weikersheim  
Phone +49 (0) 7934 102-55  
[tourismus@weikersheim.de](mailto:tourismus@weikersheim.de)  
[www.weikersheim.de](http://www.weikersheim.de)  
[www.tauberphilharmonie.de](http://www.tauberphilharmonie.de)

**Whitsun:**  
Wine Festival

**May to August:**  
Franconian Festival Plays  
in Röttingen – Open-air  
theatre for children and  
adults as well as concerts  
in the courtyard of  
Brattenstein Castle

**Last weekend in August:**  
District Fun Fair

**September/October:**  
Autumn Cultural Event

**During Advent:**  
Winter Magic – skating  
rink  
Craft Market

For up-to-the-minute details, see  
[www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



In the 'town of sundials', as the proverb goes, time is only marked when the sun shines. In the Tauber Valley the town of Röttingen invites you to enjoy an unusual sun-dial trail of about two kilometres, featuring 25 unique timepieces. Framed by a historical town wall with seven well-preserved fortified towers, you will find half-timbered houses and the baroque town hall. Every year since 1984 the courtyard of Brattenstein Castle provides the backdrop to the well-known open-air theatre – the Franconian Festival Plays in Röttingen.



### Attractions

#### Medieval town fortifications

with seven well-preserved defensive towers

**Historical market place** with Baroque town hall and half-timbered houses

**Romanesque / early Gothic parish church of St. Kilian** with tombstones (13th century) and Hospital Church (17th century)

**Brattenstein Castle** (13th century)  
Backdrop to the Franconian Festival Plays in Röttingen with its 'Public Balcony' viewing platform

The **Julius-Echter ceiling**, restored using the original colours of the 16th century and located in the wine museum of Brattenstein Castle, is one of the very special features of Lower Franconia



### Nature

'Kneipp-Vital-Weg' (fitness trail), **Paracelsus-recreational Kräutergärtchen** (herb garden), the **nearby recreational area** just by the 'Mühlbachgrund'

**Cycle route** along the old railway line ('Gaubahnradweg') to the river Main (approx. 25 km), **wine trail** through the museum's vineyard (approx. 4 km), two **walking trails** ('Röttinger Hängepartie') through the surrounding landscapes (5 to 10 km), **European culture trails** in the neighbouring parishes (each approx. 5 km away)



### Eating and drinking

'**Tauberschwarz**' – this ancient grape varietal from the Tauber Valley has been given a new lease of life in Röttingen. It forms part of the '**Weinberg**' **tasting sessions** and is served in the 'Winzerhof Fries' wine bar and restaurant, as well as in the small wine bars run directly by the 'Weinbau Bach' and 'Weingut Udo Engelhardt' vineyards.



### Offers and deals for independent travellers

**Curling** (Bavarian style) and **ice skating** in winter

**eibe fit Active Parcours – fitness trail**  
**Play barn** – indoor play area



### Offers and deals for groups

**Sundial trail** and **guided tour of town**



**Information**  
Tourist-Information  
Marktplatz 1  
97285 Röttingen  
Phone +49 (0) 9338 972855  
Fax +49 (0) 9338 972849  
[touristinfo@roettingen.de](mailto:touristinfo@roettingen.de)  
[www.tourismus-roettingen.de](http://www.tourismus-roettingen.de)

### HISTORY

- **AD 1103** First mentioned as 'Rutingen' → **12th/13th century** Construction of St. Kilian's Parish Church and Brattenstein Castle → **Since 1275** Town charter ('civitas')
- **After 1336** Construction of the town fortifications
- **1613** Construction of the 'Julius-Echter-Stift' hospital
- **1750** Construction of the town hall
- **1953** First European town in Germany





# Creglingen

**2nd Wednesday in February:**  
Traditional horse market with procession

**Easter Monday market:**  
'Krämer' market (shopkeepers and stall-holders market)

**June:**  
Festival of Rose Blossom and Lights

For up-to-the-minute details, see [www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



This Alemannic settlement in the upper Tauber Valley still has a historical old town with a fine ensemble of buildings. Remains of town fortifications, the former castle and numerous half-timbered houses bear witness to the town's history. The 'Marienaltar' (Altar of the Virgin Mary) by Tilman Riemenschneider in the Herrgottskirche (Church of our Lord) is eminently worth seeing. And the countryside around Creglingen boasts gentle meadows, dreamy little villages, with much woodland and water.

## Attractions

**Gothic church of Our Lord** with altar to the Virgin Mary (1505-10) by Tilman Riemenschneider, late Gothic high altar (14th century), two Gothic side altars  
[www.herrgottskirche.de](http://www.herrgottskirche.de)

**Old town** with a fine ensemble of half-timbered houses, e.g., 'Kirchenstaffel', 'Schlosserbuck', 'Romschlössle'

**Remains of the town fortifications** with three towers ('Falturm', 'Schlosserturm', 'Lindleinturm'). The **Lindleinturm** tower, once the home of a woman employed as a lowly day labourer, has been furnished as it would have been originally and gives an excellent insight into the simple lives lived in this narrow tower in the last century.

### Fraental Cistercian Convent

Convent church (13th century) with early Gothic lower church and museum 'from the convent to the village'.  
[www.kloster-fraental.de](http://www.kloster-fraental.de)

**'Münsterseen' leisure and relaxation park**  
[www.muensterseen.de](http://www.muensterseen.de)

**Former moated castle** (1544) in **Waldmannshofen**, today a fire-brigade museum

**Celtic Oppidum of Finsterlohr-Burgstall**  
Stretching over 123 hectares, this complex and its well-preserved earthworks is one of the largest and most interesting fortifications of Celtic times.  
[www.kelten-creglingen-finsterlohr.de](http://www.kelten-creglingen-finsterlohr.de)



## Museums, exhibitions

**Thimble Museum**  
Opposite the Herrgottskirche church  
[www.fingerhutmuseum.de](http://www.fingerhutmuseum.de)



**Fire-brigade museum in Waldmannshofen**  
[www.feuerwehrmuseum-schloss-waldmannshofen.de](http://www.feuerwehrmuseum-schloss-waldmannshofen.de)

**Fraental convent church**  
[www.kloster-fraental.de](http://www.kloster-fraental.de)

**Flax-processing museum** in Burgstall

**Lindleinturm museum**  
[www.creglingen.de](http://www.creglingen.de)

**Jewish museum**  
[www.stiftung-jmc.de](http://www.stiftung-jmc.de)



## Offers and deals for groups

**Tour of the town**, approx. one hour  
**Guided tours** of the Church of Our Lord, Thimble and Fire Brigade Museums, Fraental Convent, Celtic fortifications and flax-processing museum

**Bread-making courses, 'Snowball' baking courses**

**Guided tour of Geyer-Schloss**  
[www.geyer-schloss.com](http://www.geyer-schloss.com)

**Ladies' woodworking courses**  
[www.atelier-de-bois.de](http://www.atelier-de-bois.de)



## HISTORY

- **About AD 500** Creglingen founded by the Alemannic prince 'Crago' → **1349** Town and market charter; construction of the town fortifications → **1389** Completion of the Church of Our Lord by the lords of Hohenlohe-Brauneck
- **From 1448** Seat of officials of the Margrave of Ansbach
- **16th/18th century** Construction of the castle



**Information**  
Tourist-Information  
Hauptstraße 29  
97993 Creglingen  
Phone +49 (0) 7933 631  
[touristinformation-creglingen@t-online.de](mailto:touristinformation-creglingen@t-online.de)  
[www.creglingen.de](http://www.creglingen.de)

**Easter to October:**  
Historical shepherd's dance at various times

**April:**  
Spring Hiking Week

**Whitsun:**  
Historical festival play  
1631 'The Master Draught'

**August:**  
Wine village  
Tauber-Valley Open Air Festival

**1st weekend in**

**September:**  
Imperial City Festival  
Historical scenes covering seven centuries, including the shepherd's dance and the festival play 'The Master Draught'

**October:**  
Autumn Hiking Week

**November:**  
Fairy-tale magic

**December:**  
'Reiterlesmarkt', traditional Christmas Market

For up-to-the-minute details, see [www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



High above the deep Tauber Valley, at the intersection of the Romantic Road and the Castle Road, rises the unforgettable silhouette of this former Free Imperial City. The enclosed medieval townscape shows just what an architectural treasure Rothenburg is, as a whole.



### Attractions

Completely preserved **medieval town wall** (14th century) with numerous towers and gates. The battlements can be traversed for a length of approx. 2.5 km

Large, **historical market place with magnificent town hall**, consisting of Gothic western part (1250-1400), with 'Kaisersaal' hall and tower (48 m), and Renaissance part (1572-78), arcade extension (1681); 'Ratstrinkstube' (Councillors' Tavern, 1446) with the 'Master Draught' clock (1910); 'Fleisch- und Tanzhaus' (13th/15th centuries) with half-timbered upper storey and 'Jagstheimerhaus' (1488, today the 'Marien' pharmacy); St. George's or Herterich fountain (1608)

**Gothic parish church of St. Jacob** (1311-1472) with mighty towers (55 m) and high interior; high altar (1466) with painted panels by Herlin; Holy Blood altar by Tilman Riemenschneider (1501-04) showing the Last Supper; sacrament niche and valuable windows in the east choir (14th century)

'**Klingentor**' gate with bastion (16th century) and St. Wolfgang's Church (1475-93), which is integrated into the town wall and has no tower

'**Burgtor**' (about 1360, the oldest gate construction) with garden (site of the former Imperial Castle) and Chapel of St. Blaise

### Franciscan church

Early Gothic, originally built as a monastery church, (1285) with artistic gravestones and St. Francis altar by Tilman Riemenschneider

### 'Plönlein'

Picturesque medieval townscape where the road forks down to the 'Kobolzheimer Tor' gate (about 1360, with outer courtyard, 'Kohlturn' tower and the so-called 'Devil's Pulpit'); the scene is dominated by the 'Siebersturm' tower (about 1385)

### 'Spital' (hospital - founded about 1280)

With parish church of the Holy Ghost (14th century); reconstruction of the present three-storey building (1574-78), 'Pesthaus' (plague house) and youth hostel

### 'Spital' bastion

Mighty fortifications (beginning of the 17th century) with two outer courtyards and seven gates. Numerous interesting patrician and half-timbered houses in the Herrngasse and Schmiedgasse, e.g., 'Baumeisterhaus' with Renaissance façade (1596), 'Hegereiterhaus' (1591), Gerlach's Forge, 'Judentanzhaus'

**Toppler Castle** (1388) and **Kobolzell Church** (1472-1501) in the Tauber Valley



### Theatres, concerts

#### Church, organ and choir concerts

in St. Jacob's church



### Museums, exhibitions

**Rothenburg Museum** in the former Dominican convent (13th-16th century) with medieval convent kitchen (about 1300) and collection of Rothenburg art and culture, as well as 12 panels depicting the 'Rothenburg Passion' (1494) and Wasse gallery; exhibition of Jewish artefacts, Baumann collection (weapons)

**Medieval Crime and Justice Museum** in the building of the former estate of the Order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem (1395, rebuilt in 1718): Germany's most important jurisprudence museum with a historical collection of objects relating to medieval law

### German Christmas Museum

History of the most traditional family festival, including Christmas decorations from different periods and a unique display of historical nutcrackers and Christmas trees



**Historical vaults** in the former dungeon of the town hall with an exhibition on the history of Rothenburg in the Thirty Years' War

**Craftsman's house** (1270) with rooms showing how a craftsman's family lived in the past

**Art exhibition** in the 'Fleisch- und Tanzhaus'. Sales exhibition with works by artists of the Rothenburg Art Society

### Excursions

Visit to Detwang (1 km), the oldest part of Rothenburg: former Imperial Village and Parish Church (founded about AD 960); Romanesque Church of St. Peter and St. Paul (built around 1170, the mother church of Rothenburg) with Crucifixion Altar by Tilman Riemenschneider (approx. 1510), silver relic cross and Gothic tabernacle

### Offers and deals for independent travellers

#### Guided tour of the town

April to the end of October and during the Christmas market  
Daily at 2 p.m. (English)  
Duration: 1.5 hours

#### Daily guided tours by the Nightwatchman

April to the end of December at 8 p.m. (English)

### Offers and deals for groups

#### Guided tours of the town

Available in various languages  
Duration: 1.5 hours, up to 25 people

#### Special guided tours

- Town fortifications
- Ghost tour
- Children's tours
- Rothenburg - behind the scenes

**Guided tours in all museums** on request

**Historical reception in the town hall with the cellar master** for groups of up to 150 people

### Nature

**Hiking and cycling trails** (3.5 – 121 km) through the unspoilt nature of the Tauber Valley. **Rothenburg Mill Trail** (11 km), **Jacob's Trail** (100 km), **Wine and Geology Trail** (1.5 km)

### Eating and drinking

Rothenburg is one of Bavaria's official 100 top-choices for food and drink. [www.100genussorte.bayern](http://www.100genussorte.bayern)

Wine tastings amongst the barrels in the Holzfasskeller of Hotel Glocke – with the rather special, ancient 'Tauberschwarz' varietal. A range of delicious Franconian specialities are on offer in participating restaurants of the 'Genießen ob der Tauber' initiative. [www.geniessenobdertauber.de](http://www.geniessenobdertauber.de)

'**Twilight hour**' and '**Picnic with a view**' – picnics for romantic couples  
[www.rothenburg-tourismus.de](http://www.rothenburg-tourismus.de)

### HISTORY

→ **About AD 960** First community in Detwang in the Tauber valley → **1142** Conrad III builds an imperial castle → **1144** First documentary mention of 'Rodenburh' → **1274** Town elevated to Free Imperial Town → **1356** Earthquake finally destroys the remains of the castle → **About 1400** Economic heyday under Mayor Heinrich Toppler → **1525** Rothenburg becomes caught up in the Peasants' War → **1544** The town converts to Protestantism → **1618-1648** The town is conquered several times during the Thirty Years' War → **1631** According to the legend, Mayor Nusch saved the town from destruction by General Tilly by emptying a large jug of wine in one draught (the 'Meistertrunk') → **1802** Rothenburg annexed to Bavaria → **Since 1850** Romantic painters and poets 'discover' the town → **1900** First listing of buildings (preservation orders) to encourage tourism → **1945** 40 percent of the town de-destroyed → **Until 1970** Reconstruction of the damaged parts of the town

### Home-made 'Rothenburg Snowballs':

Recipe for about 10-12 snowballs

#### Note:

A 'snowball mould' is recommended!

#### Ingredients:

450 g flour  
150 g cream  
125 g softened butter  
50 g sugar  
3 cl damson or plum brandy  
2 eggs  
2 egg yolks  
1 pinch of salt  
Frying fat or oil  
200 g icing sugar for decoration

#### Preparation:

Put the flour, cream, butter, eggs, egg yolks, sugar, a pinch of salt and the plum brandy in a mixing bowl and mix thoroughly to create a smooth, elastic dough (about 10 minutes with a hand mixer). Dust your hands with flour and knead the dough into a ball, dust with flour and leave to rest in a bowl in the fridge overnight.

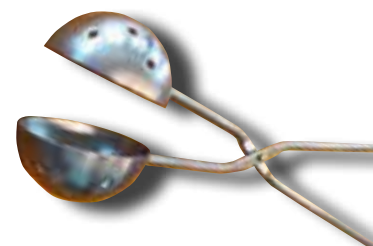
Take the dough out of the fridge, knead again thoroughly and divide into 10-12 portions of around 70g each. Heat the frying fat or oil in a deep saucepan. Shape the dough pieces into little balls and roll each one out to form an oval about 2 mm thick.

Using a pastry wheel or pizza cutter, cut the dough lengthways into strips approximately 1.5 cm wide, but don't cut all the way - leave a 1 cm edge at the top and bottom of the strips. Take the handle of a wooden spoon and weave it between the strips, raising every alternate strip. Then lift it all up, support the lower strips with the other hand and slide the whole thing into the mould. Close the mould and place it in the hot fat. It is a good idea to warm the mould in the fat in advance. Fry for about 5 minutes in the hot fat until golden brown, remove and place on an oven rack to drain. Repeat the process until all the pieces of dough have been fried.

When the snowballs are cold, dust liberally with powdered sugar.

#### Tip:

Try using cinnamon flavoured sugar instead of powdered sugar.



Schillingsfürst 17 km

#### Insider tip

 Käthe Wohlfahrt  
Christmas Village  
+49 (0) 9861 4090  
[www.wohlfahrt.de](http://www.wohlfahrt.de)

#### Information

**Rothenburg Tourismus Service**  
Marktplatz 2  
91541 Rothenburg o. d. T.  
Phone +49 (0) 9861 404800  
Fax +49 (0) 9861 404529  
[info@rothenburg.de](mailto:info@rothenburg.de)  
[www.rothenburg-tourismus.de](http://www.rothenburg-tourismus.de)

## FESTIVALS/EVENTS

**April/May:**  
Royal Medieval Market

**June/July:**  
'Schillingsfürst Summer Music Festival'  
Liszt Master Concerts  
Peasant Army Camp

**September:**  
Parish fair, fish market

**October:**  
Drag hunt

**Advent:**  
Christmas Market in the Royal Palace

For up-to-the-minute details, see [www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



Officially recognised as a health resort, Schillingsfürst lies in the heart of the forested Franconhöhe nature park, at the highest point (550 m above sea level) on the European watershed between the Rhine and the Danube. The town's major landmark, visible from far around, is the baroque castle of the Princes of Hohenlohe-Schillingsfürst, who are related very closely through family ties with the houses of Hohenlohe-Waldenburg, Hohenlohe-Langenburg and Hohenlohe-Weikersheim.



### Attractions

#### Baroque Castle

of the princes of Hohenlohe-Schillingsfürst

#### Royal mausoleum

in the Cardinals' Garden

#### Historical ox treadmill (1702)

in the well house

#### Water tower (1902)

in Wilhelminian style, the wall paintings inside the tower show the historical development of Schillingsfürst's water supply

#### Ludwig Doefler museum

#### Romanesque church

with Gothic windows in Faulenberg



### Personalities

**Prince Chlodwig zu Hohenlohe-Schillingsfürst** (1819-1901) Minister President of Bavaria (1865-1869), German Ambassador in Paris, Governor of Alsace and Lorraine, Minister President of Prussia and Chancellor of the German Empire (1894-1900)

**Cardinal Prince Gustav-Adolf zu Hohenlohe-Schillingsfürst** (1823-96)

**Ludwig Doefler,**  
Painter (1905-92)

### HISTORY

→ **AD 1000** 1st mention in a deed of gift from Otto III to the Würzburg bishopric → **Since 1313** Hohenlohe possession → **1316/1525/1632** Destruction of the castles → **1723-50** Construction of the Baroque Castle → **1894-1900** Prince Chlodwig von Hohenlohe Chancellor of the German Empire and Minister President of Prussia → **1959** Granted town status



### Museums, exhibitions

**Hohenlohe Castle Museum** with magnificent rooms 'Roter Salon', 'Gobelinsalon'; living styles of the 18th/19th century)

#### Falconry museum

#### Liszt museum

#### Museum of the French Foreign Legion

#### 'Altes Wasserhaus' pumping-station museum

**The royal falconry at Schillingsfürst castle** offers its visitors an opportunity to view all species of European birds of prey in open-space aviaries, in tie-stalls, and in a unique breeding sanctuary. Eagles, falcons, kites and vultures can be admired in free flight or from nearby.

From **April to October: flight demonstrations**, plus expert commentary by the falconer, every day at 11 a.m. and at 3 p.m.



### Nature

#### 'Butterfly week for cyclists'

Four tours – two states – 250 km



#### Wörnitz Cycle Route

#### Franconian Water Cycle Route



**Information**  
Info-Center  
Rothenburger Str. 2  
91583 Schillingsfürst  
Phone +49 (0) 9868 222  
Fax +49 (0) 9868 253  
[info@schillingsfuerst.de](mailto:info@schillingsfuerst.de)  
[www.schillingsfuerst.de](http://www.schillingsfuerst.de)



# The Road is the destination - a romantic journey through time

## 10 January 1950

Founding of the working group for 'The Romantic Road between the river Main and the Alps'. The origins of Germany's oldest holiday route date back to the year 1900, when 'Germany's Number One Tourist Route' linked the towns and villages between Würzburg and Füssen. The American soldiers stationed in Germany and their families enjoyed travelling this route, peppered with a rich history and examples of beautiful landscape. After the turmoil of the Second World War, the German airline Lufthansa and the Germany Tourist Board used the Romantic Road as their calling card to promote a new and friendly Germany, particularly in North America and Canada: 'Good Old Germany'.

## 4 – 8 May 1950

First press trip along the Romantic Road is organised. On board are journalists and authors of travel books, who could form their own picture of its tourist potential.

## 19 June 1950

Southern Germany's most extensive long-distance bus route comes into service. The 377-kilometre-long route is operated daily in both directions with connections to Oberammergau, Ettal and Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Departure at 6.30 a.m. in Würzburg, arrival at 8.15 p.m. in Füssen. And the other way round: at 6 a.m. from Füssen, with arrival in Würzburg at 7.35 p.m. Tickets cost 6 pfennigs per kilometre. When the service begins, the Romantic Road coaches are first accompanied by English-speaking interpreters and later by tourist guides. In their smart uniforms they had no need to fear comparison with Lufthansa cabin crew.

## 23 May 1951

Deutsche Bundesbahn (German Railways) starts a fast train service on the Rothenburg – Feuchtwangen – Nördlingen – Augsburg – Munich route and back. At every station, it is possible to change onto a Romantic Road bus, so that all the places of interest can be visited. The design of the timetables is the responsibility of the Augsburg Railway Authority (Reichsstädteexpress).

## 15 September 1952

The red railway coaches are given a festive welcome by the founder of the Romantic Road, Dr. Ludwig Wegele. Each of the coaches has covered 100,000 kilometres. The first driver was Johann Marquart (1913–2008) from Augsburg.

## 12 May 1955

Deutsche Touring Gesellschaft incorporates the Romantic Road into Route 312, the 'Vogelflug' ('As the Crow Flies') Line from Copenhagen via Würzburg and Augsburg to Innsbruck. Thus the Romantic Road becomes integrated into the European railway companies' Europabus route network. In 1962, the rail company's red buses are replaced by the turquoise and beige Deutsche Touring buses. At the same time, Frankfurt am Main and Munich are included in the timetable. Erwin Rüb, later operations manager of Deutsche Touring, was the first Europa Bus driver along the Romantic Road.

## 1 April 1968

Charly Brown (1929 – 2018) takes his first trip. Almost nobody knows his real name, Karl Heinz Zobel. The coach driver with his whistle, gloves and top hat quickly becomes a cult figure – a trademark. He got his nickname from two enthusiastic Americans, who became his regular passengers on the route. After 25 years of service, he had covered 2.5 million kilometres on 'his' route, the equivalent of 60 times round the earth.

## April 1982

The Japanese Romantic Road, modelled on its German counterpart, is officially launched. In 2007 the partnership was sealed with the Rota Romatica in Brazil, in July 2009 the Romantic Road of Korea was given a festive opening, and in 2016 the Romantic Road in Taiwan. In Vietnam, too, the pattern of the German original was adopted in the foundation of the World Heritage Road.

## 1 April 1992

Köksal Balikci is appointed as the first Turkish driver on the Romantic Road. Originally working on the Europa Bus Istanbul – Frankfurt route, he fell in love with the Romantic Road and until 2014 was the 'man at the front' and the face of the Romantic Road for international travellers.

## 1 April 1994

Cycle touring is becoming ever more popular in Germany. This trend gets the recognition it deserves. All coaches are equipped with bike trailers, adding to the facilities offered along the cycling track.

## 1 July 2008

In preparation for its flotation on the stock exchange, Deutsche Bahn sells the profitable Deutsche Touring to a foreign consortium of bus companies. The Europabus now becomes the Romantic Road Coach, which has been connecting the towns and villages along the Romantic Road for more than 70 years now and is operated by the Touring Tours & Travel GmbH in Frankfurt.

## 28 April 2010

To offer visitors from all over the world more service, on the Romantic Road's sixtieth birthday the coaches are equipped with audio guides in 8 languages.

## 1 May 2018

On the routes from Frankfurt am Main and Munich to Rothenburg ob der Tauber the passengers are accompanied by tour guides.

## 21 June 2020

To sum up on the seventieth anniversary of Germany's first high-quality holiday road: since 1950 the Romantic Road coaches have covered over 16 million kilometres, the equivalent to 404 circumnavigations of the globe. In all, more than 1.6 million passengers have been carried.



**End of May/beginning of June:**  
Old Town Festival at the market place

**Beginning of June to mid-August:**  
Cloister Festival, traditional (since 1949) open-air theatre in the former cloister courtyard. The name guarantees imaginative, high-quality and committed productions

**September:**  
Mooswiesen Fair – the highlight of the year with thousands of visitors. The procession on the Sunday presents the history of Feuchtwangen with a variety of motifs

**October to April:**  
Wehlmäusler Forstkultur Kulturtreff  
Theatre and variety shows at various locations

Feuchtwangen Medieval Market with army camp, jugglers, merchants

**Beginning of November:**  
Fish and game days with regional specialities from the region's lakes and preserves

**December:**  
Christmas Market at the romantic 'Kirchplatz'

For up-to-the-minute details, see [www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



The festival town on the river Sulzach can look back over a history of 1,200 years. Witnesses of this long tradition include the market place, which is also known as 'Franconia's Festival Hall', the unique ensemble of churches and the Romanesque cloister that, every summer, is transformed into the setting for the Cloister Festival. Modern Feuchtwangen is represented by the Bavarian Casino with its futuristic architecture.



**Attractions**

**Market place** ('Franconia's Festival Hall') with Baroque fountain (1726), attractive patrician houses and historical half-timbered houses

**Collegiate church** (13th / 14th century)  
Replaced the Romanesque monastery church with Gothic choir, Altar to the Virgin Mary (1483) with altar wing paintings by Michael Wolgemut and carved choir seats (about 1500)

**Romanesque cloister** (12th century)  
The setting of the 'Cloister Festival' in the summer

**St. John's church** (about 1257) with Baroque altar (about 1680) and late Gothic tabernacle

**Medieval townscape** with remains of the old-town wall

**'Schranner'** (grain store) with a collection of old fire-fighting equipment.

**Feuchtwangen casino**  
Impressive with modern flair, exclusive architecture and a wide range of profitable games of chance, such as roulette, Black Jack, etc



**Museums, exhibitions, galleries**  
**Franconian museum**

Museum of folk art with tales of everyday life in Franconia: traditional costumes, decorated love letters, pewter and faience collection, historical room furnishings, religious art and Baroque fire engine.

Changing special exhibitions.

**Craftsmen's rooms** in the west wing of the cloister with six complete workshops (confectioner, dyer, potter, pewterer, shoemaker and weaver)

**'Sommers Alte Druckerei' printing museum**  
A journey back in time to the origins of printing  
Visits by appointment only

**Singer museum**  
Centre for documentation and research on German choirs with permanent exhibition. Unparalleled in Germany

**Feuchtwangen summer of art**  
Exhibition within the framework of the 'Cloister Plays'

**Kleine Galerie**  
Exhibition of south German amateur artists



**Offers and deals for independent travellers**

**Guided tours of the town (in German)**  
From Easter to mid-September, Sundays and public holidays at 3 p.m.

**Craftsmen's rooms, guided tour in German**  
From Easter to mid-September, Sundays and public holidays at 2 p.m.

**Feuchtwangen casino**  
Experienced croupiers explain the rules of the classic games of chance, roulette and Black Jack. Please call to book from 3 p.m. on phone number +49 9852 9006-0. As far as possible, visitors will be given an introduction without prior registration.





## Offers and deals for groups

### Guided tours of the historical old town

Duration 1 hour

### Franconian museum

A variety of themed tours of one of Southern Germany's most extensive museums of ethnic art. Duration: 1 - 1.5 hours



### Singer museum

Guided tours of the permanent exhibition

Duration: 45 min.

### Craftsmen's rooms

Guided tours in groups of up to a maximum of 20 people

Duration: 45 min.

**Guided tours with historical figures:** the renowned Feuchtwangen scientist, Johann Georg von Soldner, Froumund, the monk who lived in Feuchtwangen Monastery in 1000 AD, and Georg Vogtherr, the cleric who played a decisive role in bringing the Reformation to Feuchtwangen.

### Casino

Introduction to roulette

### Culinary guided tours

#### Visit to the fields of emmer wheat

Informative trip, all about this useful crop, followed by tasting (mid-June to end of July)

### Feuchtwangen's sweet sides

Along with a guided tour in the confectioners' historical guild room, you can enjoy a tasting session, featuring chocolates in tasteful varieties. Only available seasonally



## Tales, myths and legends

The best known story from the Feuchtwangen countryside is the legend of Feuchtwangen's founding. This tells how 'the emperor Charles the Great with his followers went hunting in this area. He got lost in the forest and was tortured with thirst. There he saw a dove rising up into the air and, hurrying to this spot, he came to a spring. Gathering new strength, he soon found his hunting companions again and, in thankfulness to God, he built a church and monastery near the spring, thus becoming the founder of the town of Feuchtwangen.' Today you can still read the story on the column at the Taubenbrünnlein (dove spring).

### Guided tour

'It goes as follows....' – Legends and myths from the Feuchtwangen countryside

### HISTORY

→ **8th century AD** Benedictine monastery ('Fiucht-inwanc') and the court of a Frankish king → **1197** Conversion of the monastery into a 'Chorherrenstift' → **About 1200** Free Imperial Town → **1376** Loss of Free Imperial status → **About 1400** Construction of the town wall with three gates and 14 towers → **1563** Dissolution of the 'Chorherrenstift' during the Reformation → **17th/18th century** Official town of the margraviate of Brandenburg-Ansbach → **1806** Feuchtwangen is incorporated into Bavaria → **19th century** Demolition of most of the town fortifications → **1949** Cloister Festival held for the first time → **April 2000** Feuchtwangen Casino opened



## Package arrangements

Festival arrangement with overnight accommodation / breakfast, admission ticket for the 'Cloister Plays' and a visit to the Franconian Museum



## Excursions

Dennenlohe Castle Park (26 hectares, approx. 30 km), Limeseum and Römerpark Ruffenhofen (approx. 25 km), Nuremberg (80 km), Ulm (110 km), Franconian Lake District (approx. 50 km)



## Congresses, conferences

### Bavarian Building Academy (Bayerische Bauakademie)

Rooms equipped with the latest technical facilities, up to 400 people



## Eating and drinking

Feuchtwangen and its districts are characterised by a broad spectrum of traditional Franconian inns.

**Fish and game days:** The focus is on regional specialities, such as carp. The culinary highpoint is the InteRRegional Tour, a six-course gourmet session.

**Emmer gourmet summer:** During the Cloister Plays Feuchtwangen restaurateurs prepare the most delicious specialities of their cuisine, featuring every aspect of emmer.

### Further culinary specialities

Chocolate bars and chocolates (hand-made), saffron cultivation



## Nature

The landscape is one of forests, meadows, ponds and streams. Eight circular hiking trails (10 – 18 km), long-distance and pilgrim trails, such as the Via Romea and the Main-Danube Trail, cross the Feuchtwangen countryside. North of Feuchtwangen lies the Frankenhöhe Nature Park, featuring a variety of landscapes.

Numerous cycle paths lead through the countryside to the left and right of the Sulzach and Wörnitz Valleys, such as the Sulzach Cycle Path or the Feuchtwangen Carp Cycle Path.



Dinkelsbühl 12 km



### Insider tips



Gaststätte-Pension  
Zum Grünen Wald  
+49 (0) 9852 97970  
www.braeutigam-  
pension.de



Bayerische Spielbank  
Feuchtwangen  
(Bavarian casino  
Feuchtwangen)  
+49 (0) 9852 9006-0  
www.spielbanken-  
bayern.de

### Information

**Tourist Information**  
Marktplatz 1  
91555 Feuchtwangen  
Phone +49 (0) 9852 90455  
Fax +49 (0) 9852 904250  
touristinformation@  
feuchtwangen.de  
www.tourismus-feuchtwangen.de

**May to August:**

Summer Festival Plays by the Dinkelsbühl Landes-theater Company on the open-air stage by the old town wall.

**Mid-July:**

'Kinderzech' Festival Week: Historical local and children's festival, with enactments of camp life in the Thirty Years' War, processions and folk festival on the 'Schießwasen'.

**Mid-September:**

The 'Tag des offenen Denkmals' (Monuments' Open Day) is a day on which many historical buildings that are either rarely or never open to the public allow visitors. At the same time, no cars are allowed in the old town centre.

**End of October:**

'Fish Harvest Week' with events revolving around local fish

**November and December:**

Romantic Christmas Market in the Spitalhof

For up-to-the-minute details, see [www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



The former Imperial Town of Dinkelsbühl with its unmistakable townscape lies in the valley of the river Wörnitz. The town wall, almost completely preserved, with its towers and gates surrounds one of the best preserved medieval towns in Germany. Where the old commercial streets meet in the town centre, even today the late-Gothic Minster of St. George towers above the historic mix of houses and narrow side streets in the picturesque old town.

**Attractions****Minster of St. George**

One of the biggest late-Gothic hall churches of South Germany, built 1448 to 1499 to plans by Nikolaus Eseler. High altar (crucifixion scene, about 1490), probably from a Bamberg workshop.

**Weinmarkt**

Magnificent gabled houses (about 1600) adorn the western side of the Weinmarkt.

The corner house with its decorative steeple was the former bar and meeting room for the town council. It also housed the Weights and Measures Office and accommodation for high-ranking, official guests of the town, including Emperor Charles V (1546) and King Gustav II of Sweden (1632).

The 'Zur Glocke' Guesthouse, a former patrician dwelling with stepped gable (before 1600)

Traditional late-renaissance German house with richly decorated half-timbering. Beneath its hipped roof, Bacchus, god of wine and high spirits, sits in regal splendour.

The 'Schranne' (about 1600) with its gable adorned by an obelisk: this elongated architectural showpiece has been a grain store, trading floor and dance hall.

**Heiliggeistspital (Hospice of the Holy Spirit)**

The inner courtyard of the old hospital (with origins dating back to 1280) houses a mill wheel and a dyer's mangle. The barn and the orphan's home, the Chapel of the Holy Spirit and the former hospital building bear witness to its former significance.

**St. Paul's church**

Built more with architectural historicism in mind, than as the Chapel of a Carmelite Abbey (1840/43). The Abbey buildings subsequently became home to today's College of Music.

**The 'Faulturm' tower and the park keeper's cottage**

The 'Faulturm' (aka 'Schuldturm') together with the 'Zwinger' and the cottages built into it, once made up the defence complex to the northwest of the town. This – and the stretch of water known as the 'Rothenburger Weiher' – provide one of Dinkelsbühl's best known panoramas.

**Bäuerlinsturm**

This tower on the banks of the Wörnitz, with its characteristic half-timbered upper floors and the steeply hipped gable roof (16th century) is the town's iconic emblem. It takes its name from a former Tower Watchman, a tanner called Hans Bäuerlin.

**Museums****Dinkelsbühl House of History**

The museum is dedicated to the 'Fascination of Dinkelsbühl' – and hence, also, the question of why Dinkelsbühl is what it is. 800 years of the town's history are displayed here in the old town hall (mentioned in 1361 as the 'stainhaus' – one of the few stone buildings at the time).

**Documentation of the witch hunts**

The documentation, in the vaulted cellars of the old town hall, provides information on what happened in this former imperial city and clears up some of the prejudices. Museum and vaulted cellars are open 365 days a year.

**Museum of the Third Dimension**

Featuring optical illusions, holographs, light and laser, anaglyphs etc. in the Stadtmühle

**'Kinderzeche' Arsenal**

Housed in a former grain store, the collection of equipment, costumes and weapons relating to the historical 'Kinderzeche' folk and children's festival is now open to visitors and includes a wealth of background information.





## Offers and deals for independent travellers

### Guided tour of the town – all-year-round, daily at 11 a.m.

additional tours from April to October at 2.30 p.m.

Duration: 1 hour

### Nightwatchman's patrol

May to October daily

November to April, Fridays and Saturdays, at 9 p.m.

Duration: approx. 1 hour

### Horse-drawn carriage trips through the historical old town

April to October

Duration: 55 min.

### Witches, sorcerers and exorcists – all-year-round themed tour, the first Saturday in the month at 3 p.m.

Duration: 1.5 hours

### 'Fascination of Dinkelsbühl' – a journey to an eventful past

Guided tour throughout the 'House of History'

every Saturday at 2 p.m.

Duration: 1 hour

### Blessed be they who believe!

Stories of faith and church in Dinkelsbühl

### Subject only to the Emperor

The Imperial City of Dinkelsbühl

### Surrounded by walls and towers

Dinkelsbühl's defences

### Picturesque Dinkelsbühl

On the trail of its painters and their motifs

Duration: 1.5 hours

Appointments can be made at: [www.tourismus-dinkelsbuehl.de](http://www.tourismus-dinkelsbuehl.de)

The daily guided tours are in German only.



## Offers and deals for groups

### Guided tour of town

in German, English, French and Italian

Duration: 1 or 1.5 hours

### Guided town tour with a welcome from the costumed Sutler Woman and a Solo Trumpeter from the Dinkelsbühl Boys' Band

Duration: 1 or 1.5 hours

### Evening tour with triple-star welcome

by the costumed Sutler Woman, the Solo Trumpeter and the Nightwatchman

Duration: 80 min.

### Combined tour of the old town centre and the House of History

Duration: 2 hours

### Various themed guided tours

Duration: 1.5 hours

### Covered wagon trip around the historic old town centre and the surrounding area. Duration: 55 to 90 min.

### Guided tour of the House of History

Duration: 1.5 hours

## HISTORY

→ **8th century AD** Fortifications and court of a Frankish king erected to protect two important imperial roads at a ford across the river Wörnitz → **1188** First mention as 'burgus Tinkelspuhel' in a deed of gift by Emperor Barbarossa → **1274** Dinkelsbühl becomes a Free Imperial City → **1448-1499** Construction of the late Gothic Minster of St. George → **1632** Siege and conquest of the town by Swedish troops during the 30 Years' War → **1806** Permanent incorporation into Bavaria → **1889** Artists from Berlin and Munich discover the medieval town as a source of inspiration → **1945** Dinkelsbühl survives the two world wars without damage and is nowadays considered to have 'one of the best preserved late medieval townscapes in Germany'

### 'Hurlen' – curling Franconian-style; with snacks and drinks

Duration: 4 hours

### Seminars for foodies

**Beer tasting** in the brewery's own bar and restaurant

'Zum Wilden Mann'

**Schnaps seminar** in the Beitzer distillery

**Cheese seminar** in the 'Schmalzmühle'



## Eating and drinking

### Cinnamon rolls – the Franconian way

These 'snail-like buns' made with yeast dough were originally baked only for the 'Kinderzeche' festival, but are now available all year round.

### Carp

Dinkelsbühl carp decked the tables of both the poorer members of the community and the wealthy patricians. Aquaculture policy has created the local landscape of lake and rivers. Today, pike and tench are reared in the waters, along with carp, perch and sheatfish.

### Lamb

The grazing land around Dinkelsbühl, with its sparse grasslands and juniper heathland is known for its tender and delicious mutton and lamb.

### Beer

Beer was already considered part of the staple diet back in the Middle Ages and artisan beer is still brewed by hand in the local breweries today.



## Nature

The 'Wörnitz Cycle Path' (107 km), the 'Carp Cycle Path' (65 km) and the 'Cycle Path along the Limes' (44 km) as well as the 'Via Romea', the pilgrimage route from north Germany to Rome, all take you through Dinkelsbühl. And there is also a footpath and cycle path along the ancient 'Fraischgrenze', following the boundary of the erstwhile Imperial City (24 km).



## Tales, myths and legends

### The 'Kinderzeche'

This legend is the basis for the historical folk and children's festival. Every year, on the third Monday in July, the town celebrates having been spared during the Thirty Years War, thanks to its children. The Swedish troops laid siege to Dinkelsbühl and planned to seize it. The town couldn't make up its mind whether to surrender or to stand firm. This indecision annoyed the Swedes. They approached the gates of the town, intent on sacking it. The situation seemed hopeless, but then Lore, a courageous little girl, had an idea. She got all the children of the town together and they went to beg for mercy. And indeed, when the leader of the Swedish troops, colonel von Sperreuth, saw the children, he took pity on them and spared the town. To this day, the people of Dinkelsbühl celebrate the children's role in the town's deliverance. As an expression of the town's gratitude, all the schoolchildren in Dinkelsbühl receive a present.



### Insider tip



Hotel Garni  
Weißes Ross \*\*\*  
+49 (0) 9851 579890  
[www.hotel-weisses-ross.de](http://www.hotel-weisses-ross.de)

Wallerstein 22 km



## Information

**Touristik Service Dinkelsbühl**  
Altrathausplatz 14  
91550 Dinkelsbühl  
Phone +49 (0) 9851 902440  
Open daily  
[touristik.service@dinkelsbuehl.de](mailto:touristik.service@dinkelsbuehl.de)  
[www.tourismus-dinkelsbuehl.de](http://www.tourismus-dinkelsbuehl.de)

**September:**  
Autumn market

For up-to-the-minute details, see  
[www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)

# Wallerstein



Hallmarked by its long history as the family seat of the princes of Oettingen-Wallerstein, the market town of Wallerstein lies in the heart of the Ries district. The town centre is dominated by the famous Plague or Holy Trinity monument and the Parish Church of St. Alban.



## Attractions

**Plague or Holy Trinity monument** (1722-25) based on the plague monument in Vienna by Joh. G. Bschorer, and Parish Church of St. Alban (1612-13) with double nave hall

'**Maria-Hilf**' chapel (1625) on the Kapellenberg

## 'Wallersteiner Felsen'

Approx. 65 m high rock offering a wonderful all-round view over the **Nördlinger Ries** district. It is the starting point for geological excursions in the Crater Geological Park

**William Berczy** (1744-1813)  
Monument in the 'Mittelstrasse'

## Royal Wallerstein

Palace (1805), Chapel of St. Anna (1489), Royal Riding School (1741-51) and palace garden, Moritz Castle (1803-04) and orangery



## Offers and deals

**Guided tours** of the historical market and royal town of Wallerstein  
Duration: 1 – 1.5 hours



## Excursions

**Oettingen** with its ducal residence and gardens, half-timbered and baroque houses (approx. 15 km).  
**Baldern castle** with its walled garden, baroque state rooms (18th century) and ceremonial hall (approx. 13 km).

## Neresheim

Monastery Church of the Holy Cross (1750-64) by Balthasar Neumann (approx. 23 km)

## Mönchsdeggingen

Monastery Church of St. Martin (approx. 19 km)



## Insider tips



Fürst Wallerstein  
Offices  
+49 (0) 9081 80526-0  
[www.fuerst-wallerstein.de](http://www.fuerst-wallerstein.de)



Fürst Wallerstein  
Brauhaus GmbH  
+49 (0) 9081 782-201  
[www.fuerst-wallerstein.de](http://www.fuerst-wallerstein.de)



Nördlingen 7 km

## Information

Markt Wallerstein  
Weinstraße 19  
86757 Wallerstein  
Phone +49 (0) 9081 2760-0  
Fax +49 (0) 9081 2760-20  
[info@markt-wallerstein.de](mailto:info@markt-wallerstein.de)  
[www.markt-wallerstein.de](http://www.markt-wallerstein.de)

## HISTORY

→ **AD 1188** Wallerstein Castle → **1238/1274** 1st documentary mention of the town (then called 'Steinheim') and the Parish Church of St. Alban → **1261** Counts of Oettingen take possession of the castle and town → **1612-13** Reconstruction of the Parish Church of St. Alban → **1648** Castle destroyed → **16th to 19th century** Systematic development of the market into a rural residence → **1722-25** Holy Trinity monument erected





### My bicycle, my e-bike, my tandem: my Romantic Road

The latest surveys demonstrate again and again: cycling is a current trend; the number of people using bicycles for outings and cycle trips is constantly rising. In the foreseeable future two thirds of Germans will be firmly including a bicycle in their plans for their holiday. Some 31 million Germans use a bicycle at least once a year for outings and on holiday. The Romantic Road has responded to this trend and provides a 500 kilometre cycle route, excellently suited for discovery by bicycle in stages and as a whole.

### Nature and culture

Whether you start in Würzburg in the shadow of the Residence, or in Füssen at the feet of the world-famous royal palaces: if you want to cover the whole holiday road by bicycle, you will be riding the most beautiful stretches which our country has to offer. One of its great advantages is its wide variety of routes. Through shady forests and on quiet roads and smaller paths between the river Main and the Alps you can pedal away carefree. The landscapes opening out before you each have their own charm: traditional vineyards and romantic river valleys, at the Tauber, Wörnitz or Lech, alternate with the legendary Ries or the imposing backdrop of the Alps. Famous places on this route of cultural and culinary experience, such as the Wieskirche (Church of Wies), a UNESCO world heritage site, are some of the high points, as are hidden pearls in seemingly medieval free cities and half-timbered towns. Picturesque villages with cosy inns and overnight accommodation facilities, which have adapted themselves to bicycling holidaymakers, can be found just as easily.

### Routes to enjoy

To put together an individual route, and to gain an overview with detailed descriptions and all important information for cyclists, you can use the latest 'Romantic Road Cycling Tour Book – from Würzburg to Füssen.' Long-distance cycle route D9 can be travelled from Peiting in two alternatives: the eastern route goes via Rottenbuch, the western route via Steingaden. E-bikers will find charging stations at almost all locations. And on the Romantic Road website you will also find an interactive map for individual route planning, all needful GPS data, and suggestions regarding the various stages of your journey.

If you spend a night at one of the 29 locations on the Romantic Road, you can also enjoy local regional tours with attractive cycling themes: from gourmet tours on the Franconian Figure of Eight Cycle Trail in the Tauber Valley, to the great North Swabian tour in the Danube-Ries, to the 'Kneipp' cycle tour around Füssen. On these selected routes cosy inns will regale cyclists with Franconian wine, local speciality beers and delicacies from Baden, Bavarian, Franconian and Swabian cuisine, giving them strength for the next stage.



### Official cycle guides to the Romantic Road

in German or English

With detailed 1:75,000 maps and route descriptions from north to south and from south to north. To order, go to: [shop.romantischestrasse.de](http://shop.romantischestrasse.de)

To order, go to: [shop.romantischestrasse.de](http://shop.romantischestrasse.de)



**May:**  
'Stabenfest': school children's spring festival with colourful procession, a tradition dating back to 1406

**June to August:**  
Summer festival at the 'Alte Bastei' open-air theatre

**June:**  
'Nördlinger Mess' – North Swabia's biggest public festival with colourful procession

**July:**  
'Scharlachrennen' – one of Europe's oldest horse riding tournaments (since 1438)

**September:**  
Historical 'town-wall festival' – Every three years Nördlingen goes back to the Middle Ages: processions, historical camp life, medieval music and dancing, and much more

**1st Advent weekend to 23rd December:**  
Romantic Christmas Market set against a historical backdrop in the old town.

For up-to-the-minute details, see [www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



Nördlingen is surrounded by Germany's only completely preserved town wall on which you can walk right round. If you climb up the clock tower of St. George's church, fondly called in local speech the 'Daniel', you will have a wonderful all-round view of the crater, formed some 15 million years ago by the impact of a meteorite. Still unique today is the tower keeper on the 'Daniel', whose call reverberates across the roofs of Nördlingen all year round in the evening hours, 'So G`sell so'.



#### Attractions

Well preserved **town walls / battlements** with five gates, twelve towers and one bastion which can be traversed over a length of 2.7 kilometres

**Late Gothic hall church of St. George** with 'Daniel', a 90 m high bell tower with viewing platform: Baroque-style High Altar (1683) with late Gothic carved figures (about 1462) and panel paintings by Herlin (now in the town museum); late Gothic font (1492), pulpit (1499), abat-voix (1681) and tabernacle (1511-25); valuable late Renaissance organ; numerous tombstones and memorial shields

**Historical market place** with imposing half-timbered and patrician houses: town hall (13th century) with bay and tower extensions (about 1500) and Renaissance outside staircase (1618); 'Brot-und Tanzhaus' and 'Hohes Haus' (both 1442); 'Leihhaus' (pawnbroker's shop)

#### Impressive commercial buildings

'Hallgebäude' (1541-43), 'Alte Schranne' (1601/02), 'Klösterle' (about 1420) with attractive portal (1586); former monastery of unshod monks, a grain store after the Reformation, now the civic hall for events

**Hospital** with church and inside courtyard (early 13th century): large complex of buildings with town museum

#### Gothic church of St. Salvator (1442)

Former Carmelite Monastery Church (highly modified in 1829) with interesting west portal and High Altar (1518; Veit Stoss workshop)

**Semi-circular bastion 'Alte Bastei'** (1554), today an open-air theatre



#### Museums, exhibitions, galleries

##### Ries Crater Museum

Shows how the Ries landscape was formed

##### Town museum

A glimpse into the history of Nördlingen

##### Historical town wall museum

Presentation of the history of the town wall in the tower of the Löpsinger town gateway

##### Bavarian railway museum

One of the great open-air museums in Germany devoted to the history of technology, featuring more than a hundred original engines and coaches



#### Offers and deals for independent travellers

##### Historical Town Tour

Easter to 1 November, daily at 2 p.m.



##### Romantic evening tour

From mid-May to mid-September, daily at 8.30 p.m.

##### Guided tour of the town on Advent

At 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays in Advent

All tours begin at the Tourist Information and last about an hour. Groups of 10 or more are requested to book in advance.



## Offers and deals for groups (max. 25)

### Guided and thematic tours:

The Persecution of Witches, Towns in the Middle Ages, Tour of the Town Walls, The Tanners' Quarter, Advent Tours, 'Flick & Flack – Juggler Pack'; (guided tours can also be arranged in English, French, Spanish, Italian and Russian)

**Tours** of the Ries Crater Museum, the Town Wall Museum, the Town Museum and the Museum 'augenblick'

**Church tours** of St. George's and St. Salvator's

**Visit** to a schnapps distillery

**Mill visit** with bread tasting

## Excursions

**Round trip** to the stone-age Ofnet caves in Holheim, then on to the ruins of a monastery church in Christgarten and to Mönchsdeggingen, the Benedictine Abbey with its baroque church and horizontal-pipe organ, dating from 1693 (approx. 26 km)

**Wending**, town of fuchsias (19 km)

**Oettingen**, ducal seat (15 km)

## Nature

The Ries Crater Geological Park, whose history began 15 million years ago, is one of the most interesting regions in Germany. The geological formations (suevite and multi-coloured breccia) to which it gave rise have made the crater a mecca for geologists and geological tourists.

**Walks** on the 'Schäferweg' or 'Schwedenweg', straight across the meteorite crater or round the geotope adventure trail in the Ries Geopark (19 to 25 km).

## Eating and drinking

When it comes to eating and drinking, the Ries region features traditional dishes and fresh, regional products. A typical gourmet dish is 'Rieser Küchle', dough cooked in deep fat, coated with powdered sugar.

## Tales, myths and legends

It is said that in 1440 a woman wanted to fetch a can of beer for her husband. At the Löpsinger Gate she saw how a runaway pig was rubbing its back against a wing of the gate. This led the woman to discover that the gate was not firmly closed. Her shocked cry, 'So, G`sell, so!' was meant for the faithless watchmen, who confessed they had been bribed by the Count of Oettingen, so that he could lead a party of armed men into the town and take it over.

Even today individually designed pigs remind us of the legend of 1440.



Harburg

23 km



### Insider tip



Bayerisches Eisenbahnmuseum  
(Bavarian Railway Museum)  
+49 (0) 9081 24309  
[www.bayerisches-eisenbahnmuseum.de](http://www.bayerisches-eisenbahnmuseum.de)

### HISTORY

→ **1st - 3rd century AD** Roman castle and civilian settlement on the site of today's town → **898** 'Nordilinga' mentioned as the court of a Carolingian king → **1215** Emperor Frederick II purchases the town from Regensburg; Nördlingen becomes a Free Imperial Town → **1219** First mention of the 10-day Whitsun Fair, which was the most important supra-regional trade fair in Southern Germany during the Middle Ages → **14th/16th/17th century** Construction, extension and reinforcement of the town fortifications → **1427-1505** Construction of St. George's Cathedral with its 90 m bell tower known as 'Daniel' → **1522/1555** Involvement in the Reformation → **1634** Battle of Nördlingen, at the Albuch; town conquered; population decimated → **1802/1803** Loss of independence and integration into Bavaria; economic decline → **1972-2000** Incorporation of 10 neighbouring villages; current population - approx. 20,000

**Information**  
**Tourist-Information**  
**Marktplatz 2**  
**86720 Nördlingen im Ries**  
**Phone +49 (0) 9081 84116**  
**Fax +49 (0) 9081 84113**  
**tourist-information**  
**@noerdlingen.de**  
**[www.noerdlingen.de](http://www.noerdlingen.de)**

**May:**  
'Art in the park'

**June:**  
'Bockfest' Festival

**July/August:**  
Bridge Festival  
(every 2 years)

For up-to-the-minute details, see  
[www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



# Harburg



The little town of Harburg lies in the valley of the river Wörnitz between the hills of the Swabian and Franconian Jura. In the old town centre, irregular little half-timbered mediaeval-style houses snuggle alongside baroque gabled dwellings in between the river Wörnitz and the Burgberg. Above the town, the mighty Harburg sits in regal splendour. It is one of the best-preserved castles in Southern Germany and today belongs to the not-for-profit Fürst zu Oettingen-Wallerstein cultural foundation.



### Attractions

#### Harburg castle (12th - 19th century)

Large castle complex; walls with battlements and six towers, bailey and gates; main castle with keep (12th - 13th centuries), 'Kastenhaus' (1594) with stables and armoury, 'Saalbau' with banqueting hall, 'Fürstenbau' and St. Michael's Chapel (stuccowork in 1719)



**Half-timbered town hall** (15th century) and vicarage; former synagogue (1754) and Protestant parish church of St. Barbara (1612) with round helm roof

**Stone bridge** (18th century) with nine arches and bridge mill with spiral gable and outside staircase

**Bock** (570 m): highest hill in this part of the Swabian Jura with a good view over the Ries crater



### Excursions

#### Kaisheim (10 km)

Former Cistercian monastery (1716-21) with splendid Baroque 'Kaisersaal' hall, Gothic church (1352-87)

#### Leitheim castle (21 km)

Summer residence of the Kaisheim abbots, today owned by the Messerschmitt Foundation with museum (porcelain, stoneware, etc.); chamber music concerts in the Rococo banqueting hall in the summer (1685-90)

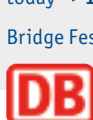


### Nature

Walks through the heathlands on the 'Bock' (570m) and to the Waldschänke Eisbrunn restaurant and beer garden, with its regional specialities from local suppliers and beers from the Fürst Wallerstein brewery (9 km).



**Information**  
Amt für Tourismus Harburg  
Schloßstraße 1  
86655 Harburg  
Phone +49 (0) 9080 9699-24  
Fax +49 (0) 9080 9699-39  
[tourismus@stadt-harburg-schwaben.de](mailto:tourismus@stadt-harburg-schwaben.de)  
[www.stadt-harburg-schwaben.de](http://www.stadt-harburg-schwaben.de)



### HISTORY

→ **1150 AD** First documentary mention of 'Harburg', owned by the Hohenstaufen dynasty → **1299** Castle and market mortgaged to the Counts of Oettingen-Oettingen → **1539** Introduction of the Reformation → **1612** Construction of the Evangelical Parish Church of St. Barbara → **1731** Harburg passes to the counts of Oettingen-Wallerstein → **1800** Castle besieged by French troops: 'Bockfest' as festival of thanksgiving (destruction of the castle) was prevented; still held today → **1849** Town charter and railway connection → **1971-78** Incorporation of 10 neighbouring villages → **1985** First Bridge Festival on the stone bridge



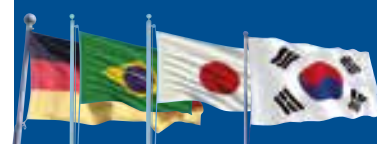
The roots of Germany's oldest holiday route go back to the year 1900. At that time, the 'German Travel Route Number One' linked the river Main with the Alps. In the US occupation zone, following the confusions of the Second World War, the idea of presenting a new image of 'Good Old Germany' was born. On 10 January 1950, the Romantic Road was formally created and through the German National Tourist Board and the German airline Lufthansa became the tourist symbol for the newly established Federal Republic of Germany, especially in North America and Canada. The route soon found many imitators inside and outside Germany and though this prototype for all other tourist trails has often been copied, it has never been surpassed.

'Germany's Route 66' has become an export hit: beginning in 1982, the Japanese Romantic Road was founded on the German model; in 1997 there followed its counterpart in southern Brazil, in 2009 in South Korea, and in 2018 in Taiwan. In Vietnam, too, in the foundation of its 'World Heritage Road', the guiding principle of the successful German model has been taken over completely.

All holiday roads lead through truly idyllic, romantic towns, charming regions and untouched landscapes full of a pleasant atmosphere and a strong breath of history, which is reflected in the individual locations. Regional specialities complement the facilities on offer, making the Romantic Roads into routes for enjoying food and drink. There exists a regular exchange of ideas between the 'Romantic Roads of this world', and great weight is laid on the maintenance of 'friendly relations for the guests' welfare.' 'Meet the locals' is one of the keys to success, and the hospitality which you find everywhere is extended not just to visitors in Germany but on the other continents, too.



More detailed information can be obtained at: [www.romanticroad.de/international](http://www.romanticroad.de/international)



**May:**  
Traditional May market

**June/July:**  
'Mangoldfelsen'  
open-air theatre

Donauwörth 'Fischerstechen', traditional fishing and boating competition on the Wörnitz (every 2 years)

**July:**  
'Schwäbischwerder Kindertag' weekend: traditional children's festival with historical procession  
Festival play in the Heilig-Kreuz-Garten (every 2 years)

Imperial street festival (every 2 years)

**October:**  
Donauwörth Culture Days

**November / December:**  
DONwud – Many cultures, one festival

Romantic Christmas market on the Ried island in the old town and many other events

For up-to-the-minute details, see [www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



# Donauwörth

The former Free Imperial Town of Donauwörth lies in the centre of the Romantic Road at the confluence of the Wörnitz with the Danube and developed from a fishing settlement on the 'Ried' island in the Wörnitz. Forming a magnificent axis between the town hall and the Fuggerhaus in the historic old town is the Reichsstrasse, one of Southern Germany's most attractive streets lined with imposing patrician houses.



## Attractions Reichsstrasse

Heart of the town with town hall (1236, modified in 1853), 'Stadtzoll' (1418), 'Tanzhaus' (about 1400, rebuilt 1973-75), 'Fuggerhaus' (1537, present-day county council office)

## Minster 'Zu Unserer Lieben Frau'

Gothic brick hall church with three naves (1444-67); late Gothic frescos; tabernacle (1503), 'Regelsches Epitaph' (1515), bell-tower with 'Pummerin' (1512), the biggest tower bell in Swabia weighing approx. 6.5 tonnes

**Bürgerspital** (hospital) with church (17th century)  
Classicist 'Deutschordenshaus' (Teutonic Order House, 1774-78) with late Baroque banqueting room ('Enderlesaal')

**Former Benedictine monastery (1034) with Holy Cross Monastery and Pilgrimage Church** (1717-20, supervised by Joseph Schmuzer): classic



example of the late Baroque 'Wessobrunn' school; crypt chapel (end of the 17th century) with double altar and relic of the Cross from the Byzantine Imperial Treasure (11th century); numerous historical treasures inside the church

## Remains of the medieval town fortifications

on the Wörnitz with 'Rieder', 'Färber' and 'Ochsen' gates and 'Invalidenkaserne' (barracks)

## Fountains

'St. Mary's fountain' (1854), 'Reichsstadtbrunnen' (1977), 'Zauberbergebrunnen' (1991) and Partnership Fountain (1998)

## 'Mangoldfelsen'

The site of Mangoldstein Castle until 1301

'**Kalvarienberg**' (church, 1720) and Schellenberg barrows from the Early Iron Age; Celtic settlement

## Donauspitz

Confluence of the Wörnitz and the Danube, with a small park

**Ried old town island** – with fisherman's fountain

## Old harbour on the Danube

Once Swabia's largest port, now a river-bank promenade



## Museums, exhibitions, galleries

**Local Museum** (former fisherman's house, 15th century): presentation on commercial fishing and metalworking, clothing habits and furnishing in the 19th century

## Town history museum with Lovrin room

in 'Rieder Tor' tower: documents, sculptures, weapons and coins from the former Free Imperial Town





## Tales, myths and legends

Donauwörth is the home of legendary tales such as that of 'Wichtel vom Wichtelberg', the 'Maikäfer' and the 'Donauwörther Mondspritzer'

### The Donauwörther Mond-Spritzer

(the 'moon-sprinklers' of Donauwörth) ...or how sweets remind us of the town's history.

In former days, every child in the town knew the story of the 'Donauwörther Mond-Spritzer'. There was a time when nicknames were the 'in' thing.

The football team of Donauwörth local dignitaries took this name more than 30 years ago and have since then played regularly in matches for charitable causes. Every town has a nickname like this – always one that has to do with some humorous or even embarrassing episode from its history. The people of Donauwörth are called the 'Mond-Spritzer' (moon-sprinklers).

Anyone who doesn't know the story will find out about it at the end of each historical tour of the town. And, indeed, participants will be given a round, deep red 'Mond-Spritzer' sweet, which they always eat with a wry smile on their faces as they remember the bizarre episode from the town's history.

### The story

The inhabitants of Donauwörth were once rudely awakened from their well-earned slumbers in the middle of the night by the strident tones of the fire bell. 'Fire on the Schellenberg' shouted the lookout on the tower of the town's parish church. The firemen rushed to the fire-station in full gear and, in no time at all, the fire engines were rolling over the uneven cobbles up to the Schellenberg. The horses strained in the shafts seemingly understanding the need for the greatest urgency. In the east, the night was filled with a burning glow. But what astonishment there was amongst the helpers – who by this time were soaking with sweat from their efforts – when they got there and realized that everything was completely quiet. Only then did the good folk realize their unfortunate mistake. The fire was on the other side, in the neighbouring village of Zirgesheim! So they turned round and set off in the other direction. Alas, they were not needed to quench the fires there either, but the answer to the puzzle had become clear: the full moon had risen above the peaks of the night-filled Jura and had bathed the entire Schellenberg in a deep red glow, so that it appeared to be in flames. Deflated, the fire-brigade returned to the town and, instead, quenched their inner fires with a cool drink.

Since this event of earlier times, the people of Donauwörth are affectionately, and with a twinkle of the eye, known as 'Mond-Spritzer' – the moon-sprinklers!



### Käthe Kruse Doll Museum

Over 150 dolls and mannequins by the famous doll maker, Käthe Kruse, with interesting special exhibitions

### Werner Egk encounter centre

in the former capuchin monastery  
Documents on the life and work of the composer and honorary citizen of Donauwörth, Werner Egk

### Town art gallery in the Teutonic Order House

Art gallery with paintings divided into 'Religious Art', 'Portraits', 'Townscapes'



### Offers and deals for groups

**Guided tours of the historical old town** (up to 25 people):

#### Exclusive offer for groups

Guided tour of the town and of the Käthe Kruse Doll Museum, includes copy of Donauwörth Journal & Käthe Kruse postcard; price per group € 98

**Guided tour of the museum**, the 'Minster of Our Lady' and the monastery and pilgrimage 'Church of the Holy Cross'



### Excursions

**Ries district** (12 km), **Kessel valley** (10 km), **Lech** (9 km), **Monheim Alb** (6 km) **Altmühl valley** (17 km), **Ulm** (120 km), **Nuremberg** (100 km), **Regensburg** (130 km), **Legoland Germany Günzburg** (56 km)



### Nature

Five characteristically different landscapes stretch out around Donauwörth: the meteor crater of the Ries, the gentle hills of Schwäbische Alb, the steep slopes of the Franconian Jura, the river landscapes of the Danube and Wörnitz and the Lech plain, which forms part of the Western Forest of the Augsburg Natural Park.

**Cycling** around Donauwörth (37 to 75 km)

**Hiking** along over 100 km of signposted paths (4 to 16 km)

**Golf** at the 'Gut Lederstatt' course (18-hole)

**Boating and canoeing** on the rivers Danube, Wörnitz, Zusam, Kessel and Schmutter

### HISTORY

→ **10th century AD** Fishing settlement on an island in the Wörnitz ('Werd', 'Wörth', 'Ried') → **About 977** Construction of the first bridge over the Danube; growing strategic significance on the trade route that ran from Norway, via Augsburg and Nuremberg, to Italy → **1030** Market, minting and customs privileges; rapid economic growth → **1081-1218** Construction of the fortifications; initially belonged to the Hohenstaufens then to the Wittelsbach family → **1193** Town charter; biggest port on the Danube in Swabia and important transshipment point for salt → **1301-1607** Free Imperial Town of 'Schwäbischwörth' → **1465** Great Freedom Charter; commercial centre, Reichsstrasse built → **1607** Imperial ban; end of the glorious period as a Free Imperial Town → **1714** 'Peace of Rastatt': Donauwörth annexed to Bavaria → **April 1945** Target of heavy bombing raids; 75 percent of the town destroyed. Today, the town has been rebuilt and expanded; old town preserved → **1998** Major district town ('Grosse Kreisstadt')

### Information

**Städt. Tourist-Information**  
Rathausgasse 1  
86609 Donauwörth  
Phone +49 (0) 906 789151  
Fax +49 (0) 906 789159  
tourist-info@donauwerth.de  
www.donauwerth.de

Four markets every year, with a tradition that goes back to the 14th century

**Last Sunday in April:**  
May Market

**2nd weekend in July:**  
Town festival whose fame stretches well beyond the confines of the town

**Last Sunday in July:**  
St. James' Market

**2nd Sunday in September:**  
Autumn Market

**2nd Sunday in November:**  
St. Martin's Market

**3rd weekend of Advent:**  
Christmas market at the castle

For up-to-the-minute details, see [www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



The flower town of Rain lies in the Danube–Lech region and charms all visitors by its numerous parks and gardens. The 'Rain green belt' encircles the whole Old Town and provides a tour well worth seeing through the grounds of the town's flowering parks



### Attractions Historic old town

The heart of the town is the Hauptstrasse with a unique assemblage of old town houses from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries

#### Rococo town hall

Majestic construction, now made famous by the television series 'Der Kaiser von Scheming'

#### Nature on the ramparts

The Leutnantschanze and the Ziegelschanze are a reminder of Rain's fortifications that were so important right up until the 18th century. The Schwabtor has been reconstructed on the basis of historical evidence

#### Electors' Residence

Ducal seat from the 15th century

#### Protestant Lutheran church and 'Bible Garden'

**Municipal parish church of St. John the Baptist,**  
Late Gothic

#### All Saint's chapel

with its basement ossuary



### Personalities Johannes Bayer (1572–1625)

Man of the law and amateur astronomer, he studied philosophy and jurisprudence and worked initially as a lawyer. In his spare time, he developed an intense interest in astronomy, mathematics and archaeology. In 1603 he published the 'Uranometria' star atlas.



### The musician brothers Franz, Ignaz and Vinzenz Lachner

Born in Rain, the brothers Franz (1803–1890), Ignaz (1807–1895) and Vinzenz (1811–1893) Lachner were directors of music and composers of the Romantic era. All three began their great careers in Vienna. Franz was an organist and choirmaster in Munich from 1836 to 1865 (from 1852 onwards Royal Director of Music in Bavaria). Ignaz, 'the wanderer', worked at various courts in Europe. Vinzenz, in contrast, was Kapellmeister to the Royal Court in Mannheim for 37 years.

**Georg Tannstetter** (1482–1535), known as 'Collimitus', was a scholar and humanist, a teacher of mathematics, astronomy, astrology and pharmacology in Ingolstadt and Vienna. He founded the learned society known as 'Collimitiana'. The personal physician of Emperor Maximilian I, he was raised to the nobility in 1516.



### Museums, exhibitions and galleries Museum of local history

The permanent exhibition includes the history of local costumes, household activities, care of fabrics, guilds and crafts of the hat makers and chimney sweeps, history of the town, including the salt trade and the Battle of Rain in 1632; work of the monks and religious art, with attractive special exhibitions too.

#### Museum of the Lachner Brothers

In the 19th century, the brothers Franz, Ignaz and Vinzenz Lachner were amongst the most respected musicians of the age. Documents, manuscripts and printed music make clear their place in musical history. The museum has been created in the house in which they were born on the Kirchplatz.

#### Jean-Daprai museum

Forum for surrealist and modern painting. Daprai (1929–2019) was born in Rovereto and lived for several years in Rain and in Paris.





## Nature

'Oberndorfer Tillyweg' hiking and cycling trail in the river Lech meadows (20 km): The route begins in the historical old town but can be accessed at other points. The river crossings at the power stations are not suitable for cyclists

### Rain green belt walk

Circular tour of the town's parks (2 km): Dehner flower park, municipal park, palace garden and Georg-Weber-Park



## Excursions

**Neuburg a.d. Donau** (Renaissance town, 22 km), **Donaumoos** Southern Germany's biggest lowland moor with the 'Haus im Moos' and the adjoining Hallertau district with 17,800 hectares of hop-growing land (30 km), **Altmühltal Nature Park**, with **Eichstätt** (ecclesiastical town, 46 km) **Ingolstadt** (49 km), **Munich** (120 km), **Nuremberg** (117 km)



## Offers and deals for independent travellers

**Guided tours of the town** with the Rain Pilots



## Offers and deals for groups

**Guided tours of the town**

### Torchlight tour: with fire and flame

Duration: 1.5 hours

max. 25 people per group

### Children's rally

Duration: 2 hours

max. 15 children per group



Augsburg 41 km



## HISTORY

→ **Around 1250** Establishment as a town → **1257** First recorded mention in written documents → **1359** Market, minting and customs privileges help the town to gain economic prosperity → **1398** Town wall built, raised higher in 1417 → **1455** Introduction of a 'cobble tax' (for using the cobbled streets) and salt duty → **1480** Completion of the municipal parish church, church tower erected in 1558 → **1632** Battle of Rain; Marshall Tilly is wounded and dies shortly afterwards in Ingolstadt → **1762** Building of the new town hall is completed → **1921 and from 1947 onwards** many new companies established → **1972** Re-organisation to form the Donau-Ries administrative district – first municipal incorporations and school building work → **2001** Creation of the new 'Dehner Blumen-Park' (Dehner Flower Park) → **2009** Regional garden exhibition 'Nature in Rain 2009'

## Information

**Büro für Stadtentwicklung**

**und Tourismus**

**Hauptstraße 60**

**86641 Rain**

**Phone +49 (0) 9090 703-333**

**Fax +49 (0) 9090 703-319**

**tourismus@rain.de**

**www.rain.de**

**February:**

Brecht Festival

**Easter:**

'Osterplärrer' and Spring Fair

**May:**

German Mozart Festival

**June/July:**

'Historical Citizens' Festival' with costumes, music, dancing, market life and handicrafts as in 1620

Late Night of the Arts

Augsburg Summer Nights

Performances on an open-air stage with 2,400 seats in front of the historic scenery by the 'Rotes Tor'

**July/August:**

Augsburg Jazz Summer, summer-evening concerts in the Botanical Garden and pub concerts with international jazz stars

**8 August:**

Augsburg Peace Festival - holiday in the Augsburg region in remembrance of the Peace of Westphalia in 1648, with fringe programme

**September:**

'Herbstplärrer' and Autumn Fair

**December:**

Christmas market in front of the historical town hall

For up-to-the-minute details, see [www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



Founded more than 2,000 years ago under the Roman Emperor Augustus, Augsburg is one of the oldest German cities. The economic heyday of this former Free Imperial Town was during the 15th and 16th centuries when it flourished thanks to foreign trade and the banking businesses of the Fuggers and Welsers. Reminders of these glorious days can be seen in the historical city centre with the splendid Maximilianstrasse and the Renaissance and Baroque façades of the palaces and patrician houses. Since 2019, the Augsburg water management system, with its 22 sites – water purification works, the fountain monument, the water infrastructure, power stations, waterways and canals – has been included on UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites.

**Attractions (selection)****Town hall (1615-20)**

One of the most attractive secular Renaissance buildings north of the Alps, built by Elias Holl; magnificent 'Golden Hall' with splendid portals, wall paintings and coffered ceiling

**St. Mary's cathedral**

First documentary mention in AD 823; crypt (10th century) and glass paintings of figures, thought to be the oldest in Germany (about 1140); ceiling and wall frescos from the Romanesque and Gothic periods, panel paintings by Hans Holbein the Elder

**St. Ulrich and St. Afra**

Originally an Abbey church (1474); late Gothic basilica (15th/16th centuries) with onion tower (93 m); altars (16th/17th centuries)

**St. Anna (1321, extended in the 15th century)**

Former Carmelite monastery church with Gothic wall decorations and valuable paintings (Lucas Cranach the Elder); sepulchre chapel of the Fuggers (1509); considered to be the earliest German Renaissance building; goldsmiths' chapel with frescos (1420/96), redesigned Museum Lutherstiege

**Fugger city palace (1512-15)**

Home and business premises of Jakob Fugger with charming Renaissance-style inside courtyards (Damenhof)

**Fuggerei (1516-19)**

The world's oldest surviving social housing

**Maximilianstrasse**

with Augustus (1589-94), Herkules (1596-1602) and Merkur (1599) fountains

**Water towers by the 'Rotes Tor' (the Red Gate)**

The 'Upper Works', as they were called, situated at the 'Rotes Tor', provided drinking water for Augsburg right up until 1879. This complex is the only one of its kind in Europe that remains complete. The ensemble consists of three water towers as well as the lower and upper pump rooms. Can be visited as part of a guided tour: [www.augsburg-tourismus.de](http://www.augsburg-tourismus.de)

**Museums, exhibitions, galleries****Augsburg textile and industry museum, tim**

The 'tim' is a museum, designed to give visitors a sense of living history. A rich mix of men and machines, patterns and fashions

**Maximilian museum** with collection on the cultural and municipal history of Augsburg; local works of art in gold and silver

**Schaezler-Palais** with German Baroque Gallery and National Gallery: paintings from the German Baroque and Rococo periods (16th - 18th centuries); old German and, in particular, old Swabian paintings

**Bert Brecht memorial museum**

A survey of the life and works of Bertolt Brecht; documentation covering the Augsburg years

**Leopold Mozart house**

Impressive presentation on Leopold Mozart, Wolfgang Amadé and his first love, his cousin ('Bäsle') from Augsburg

**St. Afra diocesan museum**

Seventeen centuries of history: including excavations from Roman times, textiles from the 9th to 13th centuries, the famous bronze portal of Augsburg Cathedral, Gothic and baroque treasures, as well as paintings and other works of art



### Roman camp

Roman Augsburg showcased in the historic former armoury

**Jewish Museum of Augsburg and Swabia**, with one of Europe's most important synagogues

**Natural history museum and planetarium**

**H2 centre for contemporary art** in the glass palace

**Museum of the Augsburg puppet theatre**

### Fugger and Welser museum

In the museum, you get a real sense of the influence exerted on European and worldwide business and trade by the Patrician families of Augsburg in the early 16th century. In the interactive displays, a whole new form of story-telling brings history to life and gives a feel of what it was like to be alive at the time.

[www.fugger-und-welser-museum.de](http://www.fugger-und-welser-museum.de)



### Offers and deals for independent travellers

**Guided walking tour** of the sights, including the indoor visits, daily from April to October, at 11 a.m. and at 2 p.m. November to March: Friday at 2 p.m., Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m. and at 2 p.m.

### Attractions tour by bus (German/English)

From Easter to October, at 3 p.m. on Friday, at 11 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, during Advent at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sunday and holiday (not on 24 December)



### Offers and deals for groups

#### Themed tours

Guided tours: UNESCO World Heritage Site, On the trail of the Fuggers, Roman Town, Augsburg - city of fairy tale, Martin Luther, Bert Brecht, Rudolf Diesel, the Augsburg craftsmen's trail, the Home Town of the Mozart Family, Elias Holl, Augsburg's Water Towers, the Body in the Lech Canal, Death of a Silversmith, Scurrilous Deeds of Yesteryear, Beggars, Jugglers and Outlaws, Augsburg Through all the Senses

### Guided tours conducted by actors in costume

Jakob Fugger, up close and personal, The Romans, with Emperor Augustus, Bartholomäus V. Welser, Bäsle – Mozart's first love, Jakob Fugger at home – narrated by his wife Sibylla Arzt. Guided tours can be arranged in all languages as can barrier-free tours. All guided tour offers can be booked online. [www.augsburg-tourismus.de](http://www.augsburg-tourismus.de)

### Organised excursions and art-history trips

Füssen and the Foothills of the Alps (109 km), Bavarian Baroque and the Oberschönenfeld Abbey (16 km). On the trail of Empress Elisabeth and the House of Wittelsbach along 'Sisi's Road' (35 km)



### Excursions

**Holzen**, one of the most important and oldest monasteries in Swabia - high over the Lech Valley - with monastery inn (33 km)

**Thierhaupten**, baroque monastery, founded as a Bavarian monastery by Duke Tassilo, Monastery Mill Museum with three mills and a rag-paper stamping mill (28 km)

**Königsbrunn**, with information pavilion 'The Battle of Lechfeld', impressive audio-visual presentation of the Siege of Augsburg (14 km)

### Neusäss

Titania fun baths with funnel shoot, open all year round (8 km)

### Schwabmünchen

Geyerburg Castle, 15th century (former Fugger castle) and 'Hexentürmchen' tower (17th century), 'Frauenkapelle' chapel (1489) with Baroque altar by Jörg Pfeiffer, Chapel 'Zur schmerzhaften Mutter Gottes' (1742), Schwabmünchen Museum and Gallery, Haldenburg Schwabegg (30 km)

### Unterwittelsbach

Sisi Mansion with rotating guest exhibitions (37 km)




### Congresses, conferences

'Kongress am Park' congress and convention centre, trade-fair and exhibition centre, conference facilities in the region with capacities from 250 to over 2,000 people



#### Insider tip

 Böhme event Marketing  
+49 (0) 821 961015  
[www.boehme-event.de](http://www.boehme-event.de)

Friedberg 6 km



### HISTORY

→ 15 BC Drusus and Tiberius, step sons of Emperor Augustus set up a military camp on the site of the present-day city → AD 304 Martyr's death of St. Afra → 955 Battle of Lechfeld → 1156 First Augsburg city charter → 1246 Augsburg granted Free Imperial Town status → 1276 Second Augsburg city charter → 1519 Construction of the Fuggerei → 1530 Confessio Augustana (Augsburg Confession) → 1555 Religious Peace of Augsburg → 1650 Augsburg Festival of Peace → 1770-72 Johann Heinrich Schüle founds the first continental calico manufactory → 1806 Incorporation of the Imperial City of Augsburg in the Kingdom of Bavaria → Around 1816 Augsburg is Bavaria's leading banking centre: Augsburg Bourse → 1840 Completion of the Munich-Augsburg railway line; the first train runs → 1929 Open-air theatre opened → 1970 Augsburg University founded → 1985 2000th anniversary of the city, Golden Hall in the town hall restored → 2019 Augsburg, with its water management system, granted UNESCO World Heritage status

### Information

**Regio Augsburg  
Tourismus GmbH**  
Schießgrabenstraße 14  
86150 Augsburg  
Phone +49 (0) 821 5020733  
Fax +49 (0) 821 5020745  
[stadtfuehrungen@  
regio-augsburg.de](mailto:stadtfuehrungen@regio-augsburg.de)  
[www.augsburg-tourismus.de](http://www.augsburg-tourismus.de)

**All year round:**

Events in the Wittelsbach Castle  
[www.wittelsbacher-schloss-friedberg.de](http://www.wittelsbacher-schloss-friedberg.de)

**February:**

Carnival parade through the old town

**June:**

Midsummer pottery market in the 'Stadtgarten' park

**July:**

Historical festival in the old town 'Friedberger Zeit', held every 3 years since 1989. Activities authentically reflect the styles and resplendence of life in the 17th and 18th centuries beneath baroque façades in the romantic old town

**Beginning of September:**

Friedberg Music Summer

**December:**

Advent Market with Night of Stars

For up-to-the-minute details, see [www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



# Friedberg

Friedberg, the Old Bavarian ducal town, lies in the middle of the region formerly owned by the Wittelsbach family, which is laden with history. Particular attractions for the visitor are the Wittelsbach Events Centre and Museum in the Wittelsbach Castle, the renaissance town hall, the historic old town centre with its crooked little lanes, as well as the mediaeval town defences with their towers and panoramic views of the expansive plains flanking the river Lech.



**Attractions**

**Renaissance town hall** (1674) with St. Mary's fountain

**Wittelsbach castle**

**Rococo pilgrimage church 'Herrgottsruh'** (The Peace of God) with choir (C.D. Asam) and dome frescos (Matthäus Günther), as well as artistic stuccowork by F.X. Feichtmayr; 'Bruderschaftsaltar' (Fraternity Altar) and 'Gnadenaltar' (Altar of Grace)

**Remains of the old town fortifications** with towers (water tower, wooden battlements)

**Parish church of St. Jacob**, Maria Alber, Plague Church of St. Stephan and Church of St. Afra in the Field (about 1700) with stuccowork by Joseph Schmuzer



**Museums, exhibitions**

**Museum** in the Wittelsbach Castle  
**Art exhibitions** in the 'Archivgalerie', the 'Kunst-Werk' and in the Gallery next to the Castle



**Offers and deals for groups**

**Guided tours of the town and church, audio tour**

**Guided tours** of the historical brewery cellars with beer tasting



**Offers and deals for independent travellers**

Guided tours of the town's romantic atmosphere and tours for Advent



**Excursions**

**Munich** (57 km), **Dasing** (Karl May Festival, 10 km), **Untertwittelsbach** (Sisi Mansion, 20 km), **Günzburg** (Legoland, 62 km)



**Nature**

**Nature's pleasures, the Paar gap**

The little river Paar leaves the Lechfeld region near Friedberg/Ottmaring and flows on through the hills of Wittelsbach. Because of this gap, caused by receding erosion, the Paar flows not into the Lech but into the Danube. There is a circular walk sign-posted: 'Zum Paardurchbruch' (to the Paar gap, 7 km)

Signposted **cycling tours** through the Wittelsbach countryside (360 km), **'Sisi Tour'** to the roots of the Wittelsbach family (4 km), **circular walks** and **pilgrimage routes** through the Wittelsbach countryside (22 km), **'Paar Valley Tour'** in the Bavarian cycling network (72 km), **'St. James' Pilgrim Way'** (54 km), **'Ox Way'** (25 km), **'Jesuit Way'** (22 km)

**'Friedberger See' lake**

with water-ski station (1.5 km)



**Eating and drinking**

**Speciality chefs in the Wittelsbach region**

An association of restaurateurs, in whose establishments top priority is given to the quality of the food and the use of regional ingredients.

Regional specialities with ox from the Wittelsbach region and rotating, thematic, seasonal weekly menus – straight from farm to table!



Landsberg am Lech 40 km

**Information**

**Touristinformation der Stadt Friedberg**  
 Marienplatz 5  
 86316 Friedberg  
 Phone +49 (0) 821 6002-450  
 Fax +49 (0) 821 6002-190  
[touristinfo@friedberg.de](mailto:touristinfo@friedberg.de)  
[www.friedberg.de/tourismus](http://www.friedberg.de/tourismus)

**HISTORY**

→ **AD 1264** Town founded by the Bavarian Duke Ludwig II as a bastion against the bishops of Augsburg and to protect the salt route → **13th/14th century** Town destroyed on several occasions → **Early 15th century** New town fortifications → **1552-59** Construction of the castle → **1674** Construction of the town hall in the style of Elias Holl → **1731-53** Construction of the 'Herrgottsruh' Pilgrimage Church → **End of the 19th century** Construction of St. Jacob's Parish Church





# Festivals and festival plays



## From Master Draught to Summer Serenade

If you are off on a trip, you usually have a multitude of motives, which become ever more diverse, but also more important. Hybrid types of travelling are reflected clearly in the demand for holidays. If you have planned a hiking trip, you may well be a potential visitor to a music festival. And anyone who sets out on his bicycle will be looking forward equally to visiting a theatrical performance in the evening. The towns on the Romantic Road offer a many-faceted range of festivals, ensuring that the arts can be enjoyed in an attractive way the whole year through.

## Mozart festival and cloister festival plays

It is not just in summer that the Romantic Road hosts festival productions. Everywhere there is a large number of cultural events, from Würzburg with its traditional Mozart Festival, to Füssen and the distinguished stringed-instrument festival with its backdrop of a wonderful Alpine panorama. This kaleidoscope of events is extremely varied: the range runs from established events such as the Cloister Festival Plays in Feuchtwangen, the Kinderzeche in Dinkelsbühl, Rothenburg's historical festivals, featuring the shepherds' dance, Hans Sachs and free-city festivals, and the Master Draught, the Schwäbischwerder Children's Day in Donauwörth, the German Mozart Festival in Augsburg, or the castle concerts in the Singers' Hall of Neuschwanstein Castle, the crowd puller. And somewhat smaller, but highly distinguished music festivals in magical Weikersheim Palace, the Summer Serenades in Donauwörth, the Ries Festival with numerous events in Nördlingen, and unforgettable experiences at the Festive Summer in Wies (Church of Wies) add richly to the cultural ambience of the Romantic Road.

## Theatrical performances and Christmas markets

Theatre-goers, too, will find high-quality cultural events at outstanding play venues, such as the plays in the Vaulted Cellar in the festival town of Röttlingen, or the cabaret days in Augsburg. Just as varied as the festival scene is the festival and market culture along the Romantic Road. Old-town, wine and gourmet festivals in Wertheim, Tauberbischofsheim and Lauda-Königshofen, Bock Beer Festival in Bad Mergentheim, Rose Petal Festival in Creglingen and Rose Market in Nördlingen, castle festivals in Harburg, town festival in Rain, summer-solstice pottery market in Friedberg Castle Courtyard, farmers markets in Peiting, cattle market and mountain masses in Halblech, Leonhardiritt procession in Rottenbuch, Trachtenwallfahrt (pilgrimage in traditional costumes) in Steingaden and, last but not least, the atmospheric Christmas markets with a romantic backdrop: cultural variety has its home on the Romantic Road.

[www.romantischestrassen.de/en/events](http://www.romantischestrassen.de/en/events)



**End of January/  
beginning of February:**  
Snowdance Independent  
Film Festival

**June to September:**  
International  
Organ Summer

**July:**  
South German Pottery  
Market

'Ruethenfest' (every 4  
years): Upper Bavaria's  
biggest historical  
children's festival (over  
1,000 children) with histo-  
rical costumes, dances,  
processions and original  
army camps of the lans-  
quenet and Swedish troops  
at the Bayertor gate

**September:**  
Long night of art

**October to May:**  
Chamber music in  
the library

Town hall concerts

**December:**  
Christmas market

For up-to-the-minute details, see  
[www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



# Landsberg am Lech

The town of Landsberg am Lech, founded by Henry the Lion, can look back on over 850 years of history. The heart of the old town between the river Lech and the steep river bank is the large main square (Hauptplatz) with the imposing Schmalzturm tower, stately patrician houses and the historical town hall with its richly decorated stucco façade by Dominikus Zimmermann as well as the Lech promenade.



## Attractions

**Town fortifications** with towers and gates, including the 'Bayertor' gate (1425), the biggest late Gothic gate in Southern Germany with viewing platform, 36 m above ground level

'**Hauptplatz**' with stately patrician houses around St. Mary's fountain (1783) and historical town hall (1700), the town's most attractive secular building with a richly decorated stucco façade (1718-20) by Dominikus Zimmermann; banqueting hall with frescos, colossal painting by Herkomer in the council chamber

**Parish Church of St. Mary of the Ascension** (1458-88): colonnaded basilica with high middle nave, long choir and onion tower; the inside was redecorated in Baroque style about 1700; the choir windows (15th / 16th centuries) with glass paintings; Rosary Altar by Zimmermann with a Gothic Madonna by Multscher (1437)

**Holy cross church** (1752-54) with Jesuit monastery; on a high point over the town; rich Baroque and Rococo decorations with stucco ornaments and frescos, paintings and fine carving work on the confessionals; former Jesuit school around an arcaded courtyard

**St. John's church** (1750-52): built by Zimmermann with artistic Rococo ornamentation and stucco altar

'**Mutterturm**' tower (1884-88) built by Anglo-German painter Sir Hubert von Herkomer in honour of his mother and used as a studio

**Lech weir** (14th/15th centuries)



## Museums, exhibitions

### Herkomer museum and 'Mutterturm' tower

Portraits, landscapes, drawings and etchings of artist Sir Hubert von Herkomer; the Herkomer Challenge which he initiated, is the oldest touring car rally in the world and takes place every two years

### Historical shoe museum

### Rotating exhibitions

The 'Rathausgalerie' in the foyer of the historical town hall building  
The 'Zedergalerie'



## Theatre and concerts

**Landsberg municipal theatre, Filmforum and s'Maximilaneum** cabaret  
**Concerts in Landsberg town hall**



## Offers and deals for independent travellers

### Guided town tours

**Themed tours** to take you back to the lives and times of Dukes and Prince Electors, of the salt trade, of craftsmen, dyers and tanners, of Jesuit monks and Ursuline nuns. The town's eventful history is graphically brought to life with true stories and amusing anecdotes from the Middle Ages to modern times.



### Walking tours of the old town centre

Regular guided tours of the town from May to October  
Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday at 2.30 p.m.  
Meet at: historical town hall, Hauptplatz 152 (in the main square)  
Advance registration: +49 (0) 8191 128246



### Offers and deals for groups

#### Individual guided tours

Duration: 1.5 or 2 hours  
Guided tours also in English, French, Italian and Spanish  
Tours with guides in historical costume also available  
[www.landsberg.de/tourismus/stadtfuehrungen/](http://www.landsberg.de/tourismus/stadtfuehrungen/)



### Excursions

#### Ammersee boat trip

**Walks/cycle rides** through Landsberg's Lech Park, known as the 'Pössinger Au': Approx. 75-hectare park with numerous biotopes and unspoiled stretches of woodland (8 km)

#### Dießen on the Ammersee lake

Eldorado for lovers of ceramics and pewter.  
Marienmünster church and Carl-Orff Museum (24 km)

#### Utting

Villa Gasteiger (23 km)

#### St. Ottilien

Archabbey with abbey church and Missionary Museum (19 km)

#### Oberdießen

Malura Museum, life's work of painter Oswald Malura (1906-2003);  
rotating guest exhibitions (12 km)



### Insider tip



Tourismusverband  
Ammersee-Lech  
+49 (0) 8191 9700377  
[www.ammersee-lech.de](http://www.ammersee-lech.de)

Hohenfurch 37 km



### HISTORY

→ **About AD 1160** Henry the Lion constructs the 'Landespurch' on Schlossberg hill to guard the salt route → **1268** Landsberg passes into the possession of the Wittelsbach dukes; 1st town fortifications → **About 1280** Town charter → **1320** Ludwig the Bavarian awards Landsberg the 'Salzpfennig' ('Salt Penny'); economic prosperity through the salt and textile trades → **1425** The last part of the town fortifications with 'Bayertor' gate → **1458-88** Construction of the Parish Church of St. Mary of the Ascension → **1576-78** Jesuit noviciate founded → **1618-48** The town is taken by storm and plundered several times (30 Years' War) → **1720** Completion of the town hall → **From 1740** Construction of the Ursuline convent and church; Dominican since 1845 → **1749-54** Dominikus Zimmermann mayor → **19th century** Town of civil servants, schools and craftsmen; garrison town → **20th century** Post-war years; Expansion of the municipal area; founding of several barracks → **Today** 29,500 inhabitants

### Information

**Tourist-Information**  
**Landsberg am Lech**  
Hauptplatz 152  
86899 Landsberg am Lech  
Phone +49 (0) 8191 128246  
Fax +49 (0) 8191 128160  
[touristinfo@landsberg.de](mailto:touristinfo@landsberg.de)  
[www.landsberg.de](http://www.landsberg.de)

**Summer festival in the Wies:**

Concerts in the Church of Wies and other churches in the Pfaffenwinkel district

**Music in the Pfaffenwinkel:**

Concerts in various churches, e.g. in the Church of Wies, in Rottenbuch and Polling  
 Evening concerts in the Church of Wies  
 Iffeldorf Master Concerts  
 Concerts in the Polling Library

For up-to-the-minute details, see [www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



# Pfaffenwinkel

Pfaffenwinkel, the land of 'peasants, artists and monks' in the foothills of the Upper Bavarian Alps, encompasses the countryside bounded by the rivers Lech, Ammer and Loisach and from the south of Ammer and Starnberg lakes to the Ammergau mountains. In this landscape, churches and monasteries are more densely packed than in any other part of Germany. They attracted art and artists and were the inspiration for a host of Bavarian Baroque and Rococo monuments and artistic treasures. The founding period of the Upper Bavarian Pfaffenwinkel covers the years from AD 739 (founding of Benediktbeuern Abbey) to 1719 (founding of the Carmelite monastery in Schongau). The Romantic Road passes through the villages of Hohenfurch, Schongau, Peiting, Rottenbuch, Wildsteig and Steingaden in the west of the Pfaffenwinkel.



**Excursions**  
**Hoher Peißenberg**

955-metre-high mountain vantage point with 360° panorama, pilgrimage church with its Chapel of Grace, German Meteorological Office weather station, restaurants and cafés  
[www.hohenpeissenberg.de](http://www.hohenpeissenberg.de)

**The Raisting radome** satellite communications station  
 The antenna is housed in a 40-metre-high dome that must be accessed through an airlock. This antenna transmitted pictures of the moon landing. The air dome can be visited only as part of a guided tour  
[www.radom-raisting-gmbh.de](http://www.radom-raisting-gmbh.de)

**STOA169** in Polling  
 A hall of modern art in the heart of a natural landscape, supported by over 100 pillars, each one individually designed by world-famous artists. Open 24 hours a day, every day  
[www.stoa169.com](http://www.stoa169.com)

**Auerberg**  
 1055-metre-high mountain vantage point with panoramic views from the viewing platform of the St. Georg's church; restaurant and café; historical insights into the Roman occupation some 2,000 years ago

**Wessobrunn abbey**  
 Regular guided tours; Princes' Quarters; Benedictus Hall, Apothecaries' Museum; former laboratory and scriptorium; abbey shop  
[www.klosterwessobrunn.de](http://www.klosterwessobrunn.de)

**Polling**  
 The Library, a jewel of baroque architecture and venue for classical concerts  
[www.bibliotheksaal.de](http://www.bibliotheksaal.de)

**Gut Dietlhofen**

Building owned by the Peter Maffay Foundation; rich selection of regional products, village shop, pick-your-own vegetables, bisons and much more  
[www.gut-dietlhofen.de](http://www.gut-dietlhofen.de)



**Eating and drinking**

Demonstration of 'Weißwurst' ('white sausage') production, followed by tasting session, Fridays at 10 a.m. and on request in the Weißwurst-Stadl centre in Prem



**Museums**  
**Buchheim museum**

'Museum of the Imagination', next to the Starnberg Lake; rotating exhibitions by well-known expressionists. Restaurant with a view of the Starnberg lake  
[www.buchheimmuseum.de](http://www.buchheimmuseum.de)

**Penzberg municipal museum**

Campendonk Collection, the world's largest selection of the works of Heinrich Campendonk, guest exhibitions  
[www.museum-penzberg.de](http://www.museum-penzberg.de)

**Peißenberg mining museum**  
 with visits to the mining tunnels  
[www.peissenberg.de](http://www.peissenberg.de)





## Nature Cycling

**Romantic tour** (Schongau, Rottenbuch, Wildsteig, Wies, Peiting, Schongau, 47 km)

**Roman tour** (Hohenfurch, Schongau, Burggen, Lechbruck, Prem, Hohenfurch, 58 km)

**'Sachsenrieder Bähnle' tour** (Schongau, Kaufbeuren, 35 km)

## Hiking

**'Brettleweg'** from Steingaden to the pilgrimage Church of Wies (9.6 km, 203 m ascent, 2.5 hours)

**'Pfaffenwinkel Milk Way'** and visit to the 'Schöneegger Käsealm' cheese dairy (4.2 km, 87 m ascent, 1.5 hours)

**Romans and Welfs on the Lech** (13.9 km, 359 m ascent, 4 hours)

## Angling in natural lakes

Deutensee lake near Peiting, Lechsee lake, Schongau

**Bathing** in numerous lakes, many of them peat lakes

**Boating** on Lechsee lake in Schongau

## Pfaffenwinkel from the air

Balloon flights, tandem parachuting, attractions flights



## Offers and deals for independent travellers

**Day spa** with peat baths and treatments in Bad Bayersoien

**Peat treatments**



## Offers and deals for groups

**Horse-drawn carriage trips** from Steingaden to the pilgrimage Church of Wies

## Guided pilgrimages

Be guided and accompanied for one or more days along the pilgrimage routes of the Pfaffenwinkel district to the most important squares, churches, monasteries and mystical sites with approved pilgrimage guides

[www.pfaffenwinkler-pilgerbegleiterinnen.de](http://www.pfaffenwinkler-pilgerbegleiterinnen.de)



## Information

Tourismusverband  
Pfaffenwinkel  
Bauerngasse 5  
86956 Schongau  
Phone +49 (0) 8861 211-3200  
Fax +49 (0) 8861 211-4000  
[info@pfaffen-winkel.de](mailto:info@pfaffen-winkel.de)  
[www.pfaffen-winkel.de](http://www.pfaffen-winkel.de)



Hohenfurch is the gateway to the Pfaffenwinkel district, located in the Schönach Valley and surrounded by fields and woods providing a spectacular view to the Alpine panorama. The Schönach creek meanders through the village connecting Oberdorf and Unterdorf, two districts which were separated years ago. The most enchanting buildings in the village are the parish church and the St. Ursula Chapel, located south of Hohenfurch on a green hill.



### Attractions

#### Parish church of St. Mary of the Ascension

Tower and choir from the 14th/15th centuries; rebuilt in Rococo style, 1750-54; pulpit with stucco work and Gothic Madonna (1420)

#### Late Gothic chapel of St. Ursula

The chapel is located on a green hill south of Hohenfurch (east of the Romantic Road) and was built in 1520/1521; the chapel is dedicated to St. Ursula, the patron saint of raftsmen. Here, raftsmen from Hohenfurch and the surrounding villages gave their thanks to her for a safe return after taking logs down the rivers Lech and Danube to the Black Sea.

The late Gothic wing altar is the focal point of the chapel due to its outstanding quality. Unfortunately, most of the precious figures have been stolen. However, a predella showing the martyr's death suffered by St. Ursula and her companions on the Rhine River was preserved. According to a legend, St. Ursula was the daughter in law of an English king and, during her return from a pilgrimage to Rome, was killed by Hunnish arrows on the Rhine River in 452.

Also, the original figures of St. John the Evangelist and Magdalena with the pot of ointment and two relief works (the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan and St. John on Patmos) are still existing. All originals, including two figures from the altar, which have been re-discovered after 40 years, can be found in the Schongau town museum.

All the figures in the chapel itself are reproductions.



### HISTORY

- 15 BC Original settlement from the Roman times
- 1189 First mention as a town

**Information**  
**Tourismus-Information**  
**Hauptplatz 7**  
**86978 Hohenfurch**  
**Phone +49 (0) 8861 9081798**  
**Fax +49 (0) 8861 9081799**  
**fremdenverkehr@**  
**hohenfurch.de**  
**www.hohenfurch.de**



# Schongau

The medieval townscape with its fortified walls, gateways and towers is living evidence of the town's rich history. Granted certain rights at the end of the 12th century, the town was the administrative centre, a secondary residence of the Wittelsbach dynasty and a Bavarian fortification on the river Lech, the border between Bavaria and Swabia.

## Attractions

Largely intact town walls (oldest parts date back to the 13th and 15th - 17th centuries), in places with traversable battlements and five gates and towers ('Frauentor', 'Polizeidienerturn', etc.), Kasselturm tower

### Gothic 'Ballenhaus' (1419/1515)

Former town hall (up to 1902) with steep, stepped gable; council chamber with carved beamed ceiling

### Parish church of St. Mary of the Ascension (1750-53)

Choir stuccowork by the architect of the Church in the Meadow, Dominikus Zimmermann; richly decorated High Altar by F.X. Schmädl (1758-60)

### Basilica of St. Michael (about 1220) in Altenstadt

One of the most important Romanesque buildings in the Old Bavaria region

**Town museum** with valuable coin collection

'Märchenwald' (fairy-tale forest) with game park

## Eating and drinking

**Historic wine bar** in the Frauentor – evening restaurant within the ancient town walls offering 'Flammkuchen' specialities

**Boot house** on Lechsee lake in Schongau – terrace on the banks of the river Lech with regional and Mediterranean specialities. Open from May to September

## Nature

### Hiking

**Stories from the town and the river Lech** – circular hiking trail with wonderful views of Schongau and the river Lech (14 km, approx. 3.75 hours)

**The Romans and the Welf dynasty by the Lech** – circular hiking trail via Schlossberg hill and Villa Rustica, the site of a Roman villa, with points of interest for the whole family (14 km, approx. 3.75 hours)

## HISTORY

→ **About AD 1060** First mention of the present day Altenstadt ('Scongoe')

→ **End of the 11th century** The town begins to shift to a nearby hill, the Lechumlaufberg → **1331** Town and coin charter under Ludwig the Bavarian; economic upswing as a storage and transshipment place on the 'Via Claudia Augusta'

→ **1419** Construction of the town hall, the 'Ballenhaus' → **1445** Construction of the Holy Ghost Hospital Church of St. Erasmus, today the Town Museum

→ **1490** Secondary residence of the Wittelsbach family, Duke Christoph the Strong

→ **1753** Reconstruction of the Parish Church of St. Mary of the Ascension

## Cycling

'**Sachsenrieder Bähle**' from Schongau to Kaufbeuren – cycle tour with railway elements and information boards about the former railway line (35 km, takes approx. 2.5 hours one way)

**Romantic tour** – circular tour via Rottenbuch, pilgrimage church of Wies and Steingaden (48 km, approx. 4 hours)

## Offers and deals for independent travellers

### Guided tours

Guided tour of the historical old town, from May to October at 4 p.m. on Fridays

Audio guide with Oliver Pötzsch: 'In the footsteps of the executioner's daughter'

## Offers and deals for groups

### Guided tours

**Special tours** 'The executioner's daughter', 'Beer-garden stories', 'Executioners, healers, witches'

### Guided tours during Advent

### Tour guides

Day trips to the Pfaffenwinkel district visiting the UNESCO World Heritage Site - the pilgrimage Church of Wies as well as the Romanesque basilica in Altenstadt and the Steingaden Minster

Guided **walks** and **cycling tours** in the Pfaffenwinkel district

**Pilgrimage walks** along the 'Holy Pfaffenwinkel Landscape Route'

Rafting on the river Lech – on the historic mercantile raft, accompanied by a town and country guide with interesting stories about the rafters

Peiting 3 km



## Information

**Tourist Information Schongau**

Münzstraße 1-3

86956 Schongau

Phone +49 (0) 8861 214-181

Fax +49 (0) 8861 214-881

touristinfo@schongau.de

www.schongau.de



**Every 1st Friday of the month:**  
Farmers' market on the main square

**Corpus Christi:**  
Gastro tour

**At the start of the summer holidays:**  
Citizens' Festival

**1st weekend in August:**  
Fishing festival on the Deutensee

**1st weekend in Advent:**  
Christmas Market

Varied holiday programme for children during the months of August/ September

For up-to-the-minute details, see [www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



The 'hospitable market town between the rivers Ammer and Lech' is one of the oldest settlements in the Lech and Ammer region. The castle of the Dukes of Welf in the Lechrain stood on the site of the present-day Schlossberg hill. Although almost 12,000 people now live there, the community has retained its rural charm. Numerous hiking and cycle routes run through unspoilt countryside.



**Attractions**

**Roman 'Villa Rustica'** (A.D. 100) – exposed remains of the bath house under glass covering, and Roman kitchen and educational herb garden. Viewing thanks to self-explanatory information boards is possible at any time. Guided tours every Saturday between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., from May to October

**Parish church of St. Michael** with Gothic choir, sculptures by Schmädl; tower and crypt date back to the 11th/12th centuries

**Pilgrimage church of 'Maria unter der Egg'** (1660) with Rococo stuccowork and pilgrimage board

**Parish church of St. Anna in Birkland**  
Baroque village church, Wessobrunn stuccowork (18th century); altars by Dominikus Zimmermann



**Nature**

**Gumpen lakeside path** in the town centre

**König-Ludwig hiking trail**  
Through the Ammer Gorge (6 km, one way)

**The Romans and the Welf dynasty by the Lech** (14 km)  
Special hiking trail

**Schnalz panorama trail** (10 km)  
River Ammer nature trail and 'Kalkofensteg' bridge



Rottenbuch 10 km



**Museums**

**Museum im Klösterle** with sections on mining, skiing, bee-keeping, hunting and fishing between the Lech and the Ammer rivers, history and religious objects



**Offers and deals for independent travellers (June to September)**

**Tourist information guest programme**  
Hiking, cycling, horse-drawn carriage trips (June - September)

**Winter**

Cross-country skiing: trails up to 20 km long from the 'Nordic-Zentrum' at Schnaidberg-Alm



**Offers and deals for groups**  
**Guided tours of Villa Rustica**

**Guided tours of the 'Museum im Klösterle'**  
Duration: 1 - 2 hours



**Information**  
Tourist-Information  
Hauptplatz 4  
86971 Peiting  
Phone +49 (0) 8861 599-61  
Fax +49 (0) 8861 599-50  
[touristinfo@peiting.de](mailto:touristinfo@peiting.de)  
[www.peiting.de](http://www.peiting.de)



**HISTORY**

→ **AD 1055** First documentary mention; Duke Welf I of Bavaria builds a castle on the Schlossberg → **1155** Emperor Frederick Barbarossa stays in Peiting → **1167** Welf VI dies in Italy  
→ **Until 1343** Firstly in the possession of the Hohenstaufens, then the Wittelsbacher; independent → **1618-48** Swedish troops destroy the town and the remains of the Welf castle



**July:**  
Schönberg Village Festival  
(every 2 years)

**Beginning of September:**  
Germany's biggest  
heavy-horse foal market

**Beginning of November:**  
Traditional  
'Leonhardiritt' procession

**December:**  
Alternating: Advent mar-  
ket or Christmas concert  
by the brass band and  
Advent singing

For up-to-the-minute details, see  
[www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)

This officially recognised health resort lies atop the steep sides of the gorge-like Ammer Valley. In the centre of the town is the venerable, 900 year-old Augustinian monastery with the famous 'Mariae Geburt' Monastery Church.

 **Attractions**

**Former Augustinian monastery** (1073) founded by Duke Welf I. Striking buildings, such as the 'Fohlenhof', the gate building and brewery wing (now the medical teaching institute of the Regens-Wagner Foundation), the 'Schloss' (former monastery pharmacy and now the educational building and home for the elderly of the Sisters of Don Bosco) and, above all, the '**Mariae Geburt**' **monastery church** (11th/12th/15th centuries) survived the destruction of secularisation: a magnificent Gothic church with a separate bell-tower was erected on the foundations of a Romanesque three nave cross basilica in the 15th century; Rococo decorations by the Wessobrunn artists J. Schmuzer and son, Matthäus Günther and F.X. Schmädl with valuable stuccowork, colourful frescos, artistic altars and wooden sculptures (1737-46)

**Frauenbrünnerl pilgrimage chapel** (1708)  
Small octagonal building with Madonna (14th century)

**Echelsbach Bridge** (1929) crossing the 76 m deep Ammer Gorge, formerly the longest Melan arch bridge. Rebuilt from 2018 to 2021 preserving the original, protected arch construction

 **Nature**  
**Hiking trails** (4 to 13 km)

 **Offers and deals for groups**  
**Guided tour of the former monastery church**  
Duration: approx. 30 - 45 min.

**Guided tour of the Rottenbuch monastery trail**  
Duration: approx. 3 hours

**Guided tour along the 'Pfaffenwinkel Milk Way'**  
Duration: approx. 3.5 hours



**HISTORY**

→ **1073** At the behest of Bishop Altmann of Passau, Duke Welf I of Bavaria changes a hermitage in Rottenbuch into an Augustinian monastery → **1090 and 1092** Through pontifical privileges, Rottenbuch becomes a pontifical monastery and then the centre of canon reform in Bavaria and pontifical base in the investiture dispute → **1803** The flourishing foundation is abolished following the conversion of the monastery church to Baroque style and the reconstruction of the monastery. The communities of Rottenbuch, Böbing, Wildsteig and Schönberg emerge from the former 'Hof mark' (district) of Rottenbuch → **1956** Rottenbuch receives its coat of arms, a red beech with roots and seven red leaves on a silver background. The red beech is first recorded in the coat of arms of Rottenbuch Augustinian monastery in 1433 → **1978** Schönberg becomes part of Rottenbuch

**Information**  
**Tourist-Info Rottenbuch**  
Klosterhof 42  
82401 Rottenbuch  
Phone +49 (0) 8867 9110-18  
Fax +49 (0) 8867 9110-38  
[tourist-info@rottenbuch.de](mailto:tourist-info@rottenbuch.de)  
[www.rottenbuch.de](http://www.rottenbuch.de)

**Whit Sunday:**  
Whitsun singing

**3rd Sunday in October:**  
Traditional 'Leonhardritt'  
procession with horse  
riding and blessing of the  
horses

**Saturday before the first  
Advent Sunday:**  
Annual brass-band concert

Sundowners and concerts

Folkloric evenings and  
peasants' theatre, air-  
rifle shooting for guests,  
creative handicrafts with  
instruction

For up-to-the-minute details, see  
[www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



The parish, with its 1300 souls and 19 districts and hamlets, lies in the midst of nature and among protected areas of natural beauty; it is centrally placed between the castles of Neuschwanstein and Linderhof, nestling in the foothills of the Alps with its landscape of high moors and lakes and framed by the Ammer and Allgäu mountains. Known as 'Wilde Steige' in the Middle Ages, the officially recognised health resort of Wildsteig is as unspoilt today as it was then and, covering an area of 4,773 hectares, is characterised by a variety of meadows, willows, spruce forests, mixed woodland, wetland meadows and upland moors.



**Nature**  
**Niederbleick** (1,589 m) and **Eckberg** (962 m)  
with a view over the foothills of the Alps

**Mühleck** (926 m)  
Vantage point with a panoramic view of the Alps  
from Wendelstein in the Chiemgau to Grünten in the  
Allgäu

**Wildsteig Nordic Walking CENTRE**  
30 km trails; cross-country trails assured of snow  
during the winter

**Cycling and hiking trails**  
(4 to 12 km)



**Attractions**  
**Parish church of St. Jakob** (St. James) with its  
onion tower, it sits majestically on the 'Kirchberg'  
and can be seen from far and wide. It was remodel-  
led in its present form in 1785, with its baroque  
decoration in fine Wessobrunn stuccowork and  
brightly coloured ceiling frescos by the Bavarian-  
school façade painter ('Lüftlmaler') from Oberam-  
mergau, Franz Zwink. Important Virgin of Mercy

Beneath the parish church on the eastern side of  
the Kirchberg stands the most important group  
of grottos in Southern Germany, a replica of the  
**Lourdes Grotto**, with cave-like walkways. This was  
built in 1908 with calcareous tufa brought from the  
Ammer Gorge.

**Jakobusbrunnen** (St. James'  
Fountain) in the town centre



**Information**  
Tourist-Info Wildsteig  
Kirchbergstraße 20a  
82409 Wildsteig  
Phone +49 (0) 8867 912400  
Fax +49 (0) 8867 9124018  
[gemeinde@wildsteig.de](mailto:gemeinde@wildsteig.de)  
[www.wildsteig.de](http://www.wildsteig.de)

**HISTORY**

- 1110 1st documentary mention of Wildsteig
- 1408 1st mention of the Parish Church of St. Jacob
- 1073-1803 Wildsteig part of the 'Hofmark' of Rottenbuch monastery
- 1818 Wildsteig becomes an independent community





The recognised holiday resort at the intersection of the Romantic Road and the German Alpine Road is well known for its world-famous Rococo pilgrimage Church of Wies (UNESCO World Heritage Site). At the heart of the former monastery village is the Minster with its Romanesque cloister, the marketplace with its fountain, the monastery garden, museum and fountain.



### Attractions

#### Pilgrimage Church of Wies (1746-57)

A gem of Bavarian Rococo architecture and a late work of the artistic Zimmermann brothers: wonderful interaction of architecture, colours and light; UNESCO World Heritage Site

#### Former Premonstratensian monastery

Founded by Duke Welf VI in 1147; monastery life ended with the secularisation in 1803

#### Monastery church of St. John the Baptist (1176) known as the Welf Minster

One of the most important Romanesque churches in Upper Bavaria; three-nave colonnaded basilica with two towers; redecorated in Baroque style (1660-70, about 1740); Wessobrunn stuccowork and ceiling paintings; pulpit and 'Crucifixion Group' in Rococo style; well-preserved west wing of the former Romanesque cloister (13th century, Gothic arches)

#### 'Mariae Heimsuchung' pilgrimage church in Ilgen (1670-76)

Designed by J. Schmuzer with early Wessobrunn stucco decoration (1670); 'Gnadenbild' (picture of a saint, reputed to be able to work miracles - about 1430)

#### Interactive themed routes

- Steingaden cultural guide
- Wieskirche cultural guide
- Steingaden monastery adventure: 'The hunt for the Welf's sword'
- Nature audio play experience 'Brettweg' for families: 'The poacher on 'Brettweg' (boardwalk)

#### HISTORY

- **1147** Premonstratensian monastery founded by Duke Welf VI.
- **1176** Completion of the Monastery Church of St. John the Baptist, the 'Welf Minster' → **1670-76** Construction of the 'Mariae Heimsuchung' Pilgrimage Church in Ilgen → **1746-57** Construction of the Pilgrimage Church 'Zum gezeisselten Heiland auf der Wies'



### Museums

#### Monastery museum

**Pilgrimage museum** at the Church of Wies



### Offers and deals for independent travellers

**Tourist Information programme:** Hiking, cycling, horse-drawn carriage rides, cross-country skiing, horse-drawn sledge rides and small ski lift



### Offers and deals for groups

**Guided tours** of the Welf Minster, the pilgrimage Church of Wies, the monastery museum and the Wies pilgrimage museum



**Information**  
**Tourist Information**  
**Steingaden**  
 Krankenhausstraße 1  
 86989 Steingaden  
 Phone +49 (0) 8862 200  
 Fax +49 (0) 8862 6470  
 info@steingaden.de  
 www.steingaden.de

**On weekends:**  
Village and summer festivals of the individual associations

**Mid-August:**  
Lime Kiln Festival at the historical lime kiln

**3rd Monday in September:**  
Buching Autumn Festival with Livestock Market

For up-to-the-minute details, see [www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



Halblech has 32 districts and a population of 3,700. These Allgäu villages lie directly on the mountains, surrounded by four bathing lakes with a panoramic view. The location lies 800 metres above sea level. And the highest mountain peak is the Hochplatte (2,082 m). A chairlift takes you to the Buchenberg. The hiker's bus to the Kenzenhütte links Halblech with the Ammergau Alps. It is Bavaria's biggest nature reserve and the home to many rare Alpine flowers, plants and animals.

King Ludwig II loved this mountain world, and he had a royal cottage at the Kenzenhütte, in which he spent a week each year. Here typical Bavarian traditions can be found, such as open-air concerts by bands, alpine-horn blowing, and village festivals.



 **Attractions**  
**Pfarrkirche St. Michael** in Bayerniederhofen

**Parish church of St. Andreas**  
in Trauchgau

**St. Peter's chapel**  
in Berghof

**Village museum in the**  
'Hözlnerhaus' in Trauchgau

**Wankerfleck chapel**  
in the Ammer Mountains nature reserve

**Kenzen waterfalls**

 **Nature**  
**Ammer Mountains nature reserve**

**Buchenberg** (1,142 m)  
Two-seater chair lift, ski lifts, paragliding

**Kenzen**  
Hiking area with views of the striking mountain peaks of the Geiselstein and the Hochplatte (2,100 m)

**Lakes**  
Forggensee, Bannwaldsee, Illasbergsee and Hegratsriedsee

**Swimming, surfing, angling**

**Bird-watching hide**

**Alpine hiking, mountain climbing and cycling**  
200 km signposted hiking trails  
76 km signposted cycling trails

**Trauchgau Alpine open-air swimming pool**

 **Offers and deals**  
**Guided mountain hikes**  
in the Ammer Mountains nature reserve

**Guided tours: nature, landscape**

**Guided mountain-bike tours**

**Family vacation programme**  
in the summer holidays

**Paragliding**

**Sledge and horse-drawn carriage trips**

**Winter sports**  
Alpine skiing and 25 km cross-country trails, snow-shoe hiking, cleared hiking paths, ice skating, curling, winter toboggan run

**Allgäu evenings**  
Local-culture evenings with typical dances, music and theatre

**Alphorn music**  
and evening of wind music

**Guided tours**  
of the 'Hözlnerhaus' village museum





## Excursions

### Buchenberg (1,142 m)

Chair lift (all year), hiking trails, alpine hut

### Kenzen waterfall and alpine hut (1,300 m)

Can be reached via hiking trails and scheduled daily minibuses from mid/end May to mid/end October

### Zugspitze (64 km)

Germany's highest mountain (2,962 m)

### Glentleiten open-air museum (50 km)

### Oberstdorf (85 km)

Breitachklamm and ski jump

### Munich (110 km), Lake Constance (112 km), Innsbruck (115 km)

### Upper Bavaria-Tyrol day trip (109 km)

Halblech, Wieskirche (Church in the Meadow, famous rococo church), Oberammergau where the Passion Plays are held (Passion Play Theatre, baroque church, houses with fine wall paintings), Ettal Monastery (Benedictine abbey, basilica, brewery, liqueur distillery, cheese dairy), Linderhof Palace (built 1870-86 by King Ludwig II) with castle park, via Plansee and Reutte in Tyrol, back to Halblech

### Short Alpine tour (160 km)

Halblech, Garmisch-Partenkirchen (fine local views in Garmisch and Partenkirchen, mountain railways, ski-jump), Mittenwald in the Karwendel mountain range where violins are made, Walchensee, Kochelsee, Murnau am Staffelsee, back to Halblech

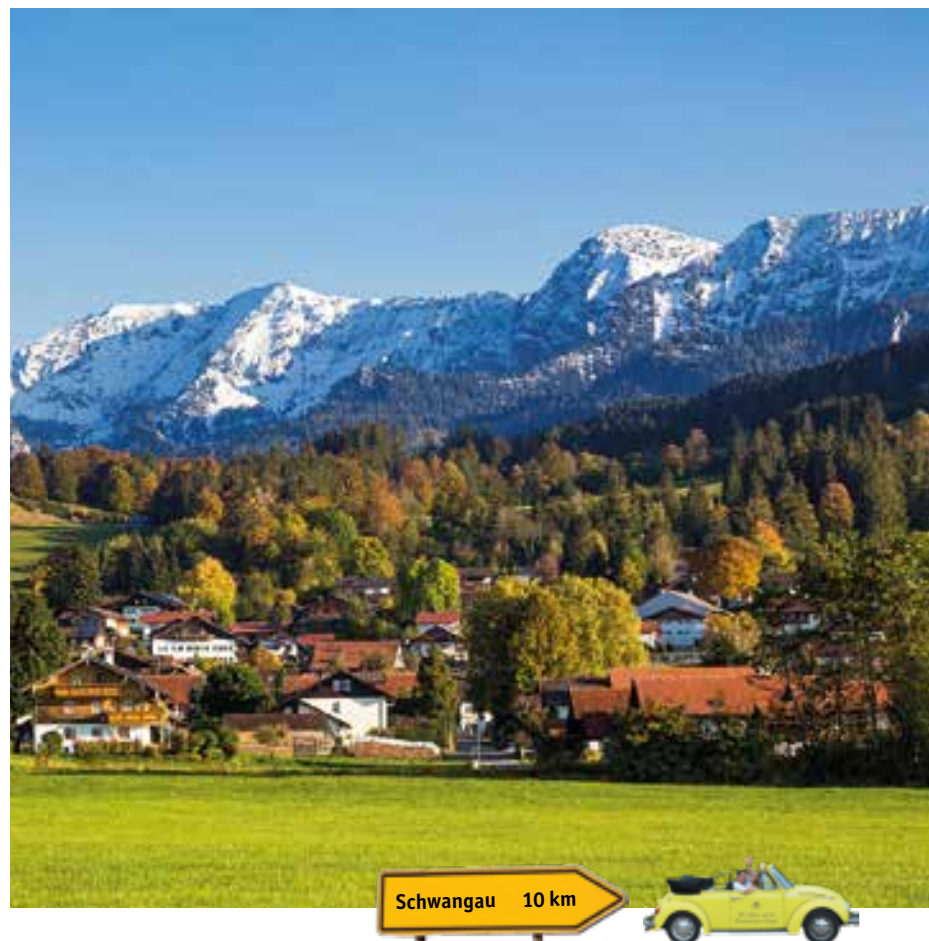


## Tales, myths and legends

### King Ludwig loved the Kenzen region

He had taken over a hunting lodge from his father, quite close to where today's mountain hut stands and converted it for when he stayed there.

Also known as the fairy-tale king, Ludwig had a pavilion built close to the Kenzen waterfall and the court theatre illuminated the falls with flares. He dined on many occasions in this enchanted setting.



Schwangau 10 km

## HISTORY

→ **15 BC** The Romans conquer the country → **8th century AD** The Welfs occupy the Lechrain district from Säuling to beyond Schongau → **1172** First documentary mention of the men of 'Druchgo' under the leadership of Duke Welf VI → **1191** Land passes to the Hohenstaufens → **About 1275** 'Buchengau' mentioned for the first time in the records of Duke Ludwig the Severe relating to the ducal lands in the Lechrain region → **1535** Sovereignty sold to the Augsburg patrician, Johann vom Paumgarten → **1567** Sovereignty passes to Duke Albrecht of Bavaria → **1799** Maximilian IV Joseph, Prince elector of Bavaria, donated large forest areas to the inhabitants of the Niederhofen and Trauchgau parishes → **1803** The three communities of Buching, Trauchgau and Schwangau formed under the district Schongau → **1880** Becomes part of the Swabian District of Füssen, later Füssen Rural District → **1972** Dissolution of Füssen Rural District and formation of a new Rural District, 'Ostallgäu' (East Allgäu) → **1976** Voluntary merger of the communities of Buching and Trauchgau to form the new community of Halblech

## Information

Gästeinformation Halblech  
Bergstraße 2a

87642 Halblech im Allgäu

Phone +49 (0) 8368 285

Fax +49 (0) 8368 7221

info@halblech.de

www.halblech.de

**Spring to September:**  
Folkloric evenings, music

**June:**  
Art and handcraft market

**July/August weekends:**  
Summer festival of clubs  
and societies

**2nd Sunday in October:**  
'Colomansfest', a re-  
nowned traditional  
festival, with horse riding  
around the pilgrimage  
church of St. Coloman

For up-to-the-minute details, see  
[www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



The 'village of royal castles' lies at the southern end of the Romantic Road and is surrounded by four lakes, against the backdrop of the Ammer Mountains nature reserve. The genuine features of this health resort, with its therapeutic climate, excellent for allergy sufferers, features old farms, traditional inns, modern hotels and two camping sites. At the foot of the mountain stand the two world-famous royal castles of Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau, two spectacular castle buildings of the nineteenth century.



### Attractions Neuschwanstein Castle

In place of the two castle ruins of Front and Rear Hohenschwangau, King Ludwig II built Neuschwanstein Castle between 1869 and 1886 in the style of an old German knights' castle, at a 'point which is one of the most beautiful you can find' (wrote Ludwig II to Richard Wagner). Since then Neuschwanstein Castle has been one of the most famous buildings in the world. King Ludwig II died before the building work was completed, on 13 June 1886. Shortly after his mysterious death, Neuschwanstein Castle was already open daily to visitors, and since that time has drawn visitors from all over the world.

### Hohenschwangau Castle

From 1832-36 Crown Prince Maximilian had the medieval Schwanstein Castle rebuilt in Neogothic style to make Hohenschwangau Castle. King Maximilian II and his family used the castle as summer and hunting residence. His son, Ludwig II, spent a large part of his childhood and youth here. The interior decoration from the nineteenth century is preserved to this day. Every room features murals, produced in accordance with designs by Moritz von Schwind and Ludwig Lindenschmidt the Elder.

### Entry and viewing

**The two castles can only be viewed on a guided tour.**

**Tickets bookable online:**  
[www.hohenschwangau.de](http://www.hohenschwangau.de)  
and at the Hohenschwangau Ticket Centre,  
Alpseestrasse 12

### Pilgrimage church of St. Coloman

Baroque church, built in honour of Saint Coloman in 1673. The Irish pilgrim is said to have stopped at this spot on his pilgrimage to Jerusalem at the turn of the first millennium. The church was built by the young Johann Schmuzer from Wessobrunn. The pilgrimage church stands on its own in the middle of a field at the foot of the mountains and, because of its proximity to Neuschwanstein Castle, is also one of the best-known sights in Bavaria and is much sought after for photo-opportunities and as a wedding venue.

### Tegelberg cable car

The gateway to Bavaria's biggest nature reserve, the Ammer Mountains, with hiking trails ranging from easy to difficult, following in the king's footsteps and winter hiking paths. The cabin cable car takes you up to a height of 1,730 m; a large panoramic terrace with spectacular views; group tariffs on request; barrier free.  
[www.tegelbergbahn.de](http://www.tegelbergbahn.de)

### Royal Crystal Spa, Schwangau

In the vicinity of the royal castles, the 'Königliche Kristall-Therme' spa complex (Royal Crystal Thermal Baths) offers ultra-modern bathing pleasure of the highest standard the whole year round. 15 tonnes of precious and semi-precious stones adorn the spa and sauna facilities, in line with the teachings and medical recommendations of Hildegard von Bingen. Neuschwanstein Castle can be seen from every part of the indoor and outdoor pools.  
[www.kristalltherme-schwangau.de](http://www.kristalltherme-schwangau.de)

### Roman villa

Roman excavations at the foot of the Tegelberg mountain





## Museum

### Museum of the Bavarian Kings

At the foot of the royal castles, the museum provides insights into the history of the Wittelsbach dynasty from its beginnings to the present day. The exhibition focuses on King Maximilian II, who had Hohenschwangau Castle built as a summer residence, and his son, Ludwig II, the creator of Neuschwanstein Castle. Individual visits or guided tours possible; audio guides in different languages.  
[www.museumderbayerischenkoenige.de](http://www.museumderbayerischenkoenige.de)



## Eating and drinking

### Schwangau Schlossbrauhaus

Bavarian beer brewed in accordance with the 1516 Purity Law from the castle's own brewery. Also to be found in the brewery house is the Schroll distillery, which uses high-quality raw materials in the production of spirits and chocolate.  
[www.schlossbrauhaus.de](http://www.schlossbrauhaus.de)  
[www.brennerei-schroll.de](http://www.brennerei-schroll.de)

### Allgäu specialities

Hot and cold regional dishes at the Bleckenau, Tegelberghaus, Rohrkopfhütte, Drehhütte, Jägerhütte and Reith Alpe mountain huts



## Nature

### Lakes

Alpsee, Schwansee, Bannwaldsee and Forggensee (fifth largest lake in Bavaria)

**Ammergau Alps nature reserve and Tegelberg mountain (1,730 m)** with cabin cable car, summer toboggan run



## Offers for individual travellers

**Village and hiking tours**, May to October

### Guided tours

Museum of the Bavarian Kings, St. Coloman Pilgrimage Church, Roman villa, Schlossbrauhaus

**Folkloric evenings** in the Schlossbrauhaus with music and performances by the traditional costume society, programme for children

**Forggensee ships**: June to October

**Winter sports** for alpine and cross-country skiing (32 km cross-country trails) 1.7 km Neuschwanstein trail beneath Neuschwanstein Castle

**Mountain sport centre** with phased fixed-rope routes, walking and hiking trails (120 km), cycling trails (90 km), Tegelberg nature and culture trail, El Dorado for hang gliding and paragliding



## Excursions

**Kempten** (47 km), **Garmisch-Partenkirchen** (63 km), **Linderhof Palace** (45 km), **Zugspitze** (to Ehrwald 50 km, to Grainau 70 km), **Innsbruck** (115 km) and **Munich** (130 km)

### Small Alpine tour (120 km)

Schwangau, Church of Wies, Oberammergau, Ettal Abbey, Linderhof Palace, Plansee Reutte, Schwangau (also suitable for groups)

## HISTORY

→ **2nd century BC** Traces of a Roman settlement (bathhouse) → **6th century AD** Alemannic village → **From 12th century** seat of the Lords of Schwangau (Welf officials) → **1538** 'Schwanstein' Castle is demolished and rebuilt → **1809** Destruction of 'Schwanstein Castle' → **1832-36** Hohenschwangau built on the foundations of the medieval castle as a summer residence for Crown Prince Maximilian → **1869-86** Construction of Neuschwanstein Castle under King Ludwig II → **1926** Health resort → **1985** First climatic health resort in the Ostallgäu district → **2016** Allergy friendly municipality



Füssen

4 km



## Insider tips



Ticket Center  
Hohenschwangau  
+49 (0) 8362 930830  
[www.hohenschwangau.de](http://www.hohenschwangau.de)



Königliche Kristall-Therme  
(Royal Crystal Thermal Baths)  
+49 (0) 8362 926940  
[www.kristallthermeschwangau.de](http://www.kristallthermeschwangau.de)

## Information

**Tourist Information Schwangau**  
Gipsmühlweg 5  
87645 Schwangau  
Phone +49 (0) 8362 8198-0  
Fax +49 (0) 8362 8198-25  
[info@schwangau.de](mailto:info@schwangau.de)  
[www.schwangau.de](http://www.schwangau.de)

**All year round**

Events and musicals in the Neuschwanstein festival theatre

**May until September:**

Concerts in the Kaisersaal – Chamber music, jazz & modern, with international ensembles

**June:**

Start of the Forggensee boat-trip season

**July:**

Marathon round the Romantic Royal Castles

**August:**

Festival in the historic town centre

'Schindau' festival in the old town

Festivals on the banks of the Hopfensee and Weisensee lakes

**September:**

Festival of stringed instruments - with many strings to its bow. Musical direction: Verdi Quartett

**December:**

Advent market in the baroque monastery courtyard of St. Mang

Füssen New-Year Party – open-air celebration

For up-to-the-minute details, see [www.romanticroad.de](http://www.romanticroad.de)



Bavaria's highest-lying town is situated right on the edge of the Alps and just four kilometres from Neuschwanstein Castle. Here the Romantic Road meets the German Alpine Road and the Via Claudia Augusta. The historic old town centre is home to impressive monuments and artistic treasures from the 2000 years of Füssen's history. High above the river Lech, the baroque monastery complex of St. Mang and the Hohes Schloss create an impressive ensemble.

**Attractions****Hohes Schloss (1291 – 1503)**

The extensive late-Gothic fortified castle was, for centuries, the summer residence of the Prince Bishops of Augsburg, who were also the Lords of Füssen. The magnificently coloured trompe-l'oeil paintings on the courtyard walls and the gallery in the north wing with pictures belonging to the Bavarian State Collections are well worth visiting and include works of art from the late Gothic and baroque periods as well as paintings of the 19th century Munich School. The clock tower (above the gallery) offers the most beautiful views over the old town.

**Former Benedictine monastery of St. Mang (1701-17)**

The baroque buildings were constructed on medieval foundations. In the Magnuskrypta (Crypt of St. Magnus), which lies beneath the monastery church, the oldest remaining fresco in Bavaria (around 980 – Reichenau School) can be seen. The monastery buildings house Füssen's Heritage Museum with information about the history of the monastery: the richly decorated baroque halls in the monastery, one of Europe's finest collections of historical lutes and violins, a section on King Ludwig II, as well as the oldest extant Bavarian 'Dance of Death', can all be admired here.

**Opening hours:**

April until October, Tuesday to Sunday, at 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

November until March, Friday to Sunday, at 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Historic old town centre**

Late Gothic streets and squares (Schrankenplatz, Brotmarkt), Kornhaus, remains of the medieval town walls with defensive towers and battlements near the St. Sebastian Cemetery, the Hospital Church of the Holy Ghost (rococo frescos), St. Nicholas 'Krippkirche' (high altar by Dominikus Zimmermann), baroque churches.

**Nature**

Around the central town of Füssen, its dependent parishes lie deep in the countryside: Bad Faulenbach in the nature reserve of the Faulenbach valley; Hopfen am See, with its views of Alpine peaks, also known as the 'Riviera of the Allgäu'; Weißensee with its many hamlets. All these villages are recognised spas.

Füssen offers an extensive network of hiking trails and cycling circuits at three levels and six natural lakes for bathing and water sports – there are opportunities all year round for active enjoyment of nature.

In wintertime: winter walks to where the wild game feed, snow-shoe tours, curling on the frozen lakes, ski-slopes and cross-country skiing in the region.

**Trilogy of walks through the Allgäu**

The long-distance walking network covers some 870 kilometres of the region's paths and byways. Füssen is the centre of an area packed with new experiences, effectively the castle grounds surrounding Neuschwanstein.

**The Lech falls**

just a few minutes' walk from the old town centre, the Lech finds its way out from the mountains. The view of the narrow gorge from the Maxsteg is a particularly impressive one.

**The Ziegelwies Forest Experience Centre**

A highlight for families with children is the 480-metre-long tree-top path. Discovery trails through the hills on the 'Bergwaldpfad' and the 'Auwaldpfad'. [www.walderlebniszentrum.eu](http://www.walderlebniszentrum.eu)

**The Fairy Tale King becomes walkers guide**

Discover the favourite walks of Ludwig II and his family around Neuschwanstein and Füssen.





## Offers and deals for independent travellers

### Guided tours of the town

Saturday at 10 a.m.

You will find further times and dates for guided tours of the town and museum, guided walks, cycling tours and the programme for children 'Hits for Kids' at [www.fuessen.de](http://www.fuessen.de)

### Guided tour for lovers of the 'Seegrund' detective novels

The unconventional Allgäu Commissioner Klufftinger created by detective novelists Volker Klüpfl and Michael Kobr has now become something of a cult figure. Walking tours, starting in Füssen, to the scene of the Klufftinger 'Seegrund' story will be on offer on a regular basis from May until September.

### KönigsCard

The all-inclusive 'KönigsCard' includes more than 250 services free of charge, as mountain railways, swimming baths, walking and cycling tours, museums and much, much more. Anyone booking their holiday accommodation at one of the members of the KönigsCard scheme for the whole of their stay will receive the KönigsCard free of charge from their hosts.



## Offers and deals for groups

### Guided tours of the town

Duration: from 1.5 hours

### Guided tours of the town for children

German, English, Italian, French, Russian, Arabic, Finnish

Duration: from 1.5 hours

### Theme-based guided tours of the town

German, English, Italian, French

**Guided tours** through the Füssen Town Museum or the branch gallery of the Bavarian State Picture Collection in the Hohes Schloss Castle

German, English, Italian, French

Booking via the Füssen Town Culture Department

### Guided tours of churches

German

### Tour guides for bus tours

German, English, Italian, French, Arabic, Finnish

Duration: from 2 hours, also possible for the whole day

### Guided walks all year

• Füssen's most beautiful places

• King Ludwig walk

German, English, Italian, French, Arabic, Finnish

### Guided cycling tours (May until October)

### Guided snow-shoe outings, German, English, French

### Forggensee boat trips

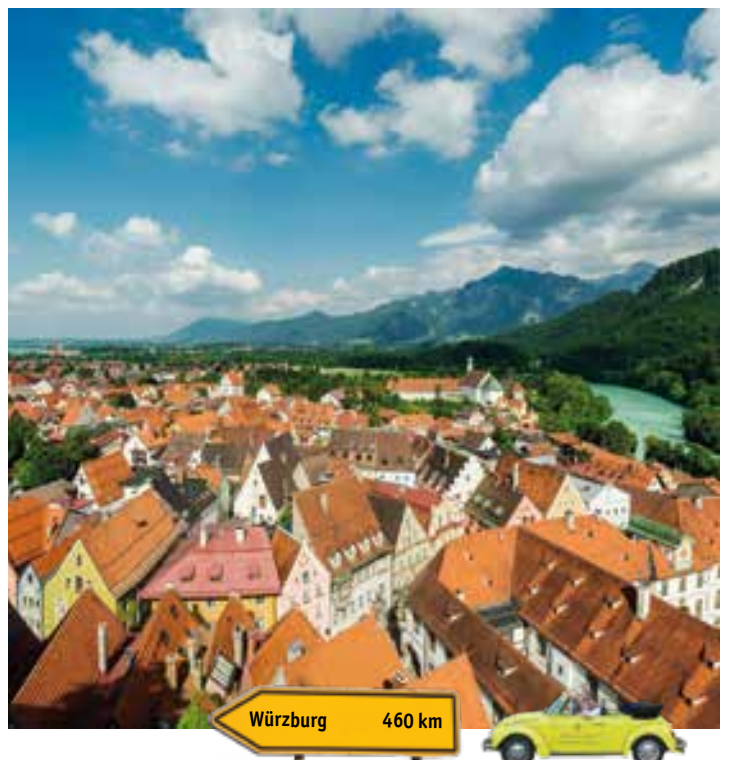
Boat trip on the Forggensee with view of mountains and Neuschwanstein Castle.

Start of June until 15 October daily 3 long and 5 short tours from Füssen boat port.

[www.forggensee-schiffahrt.de](http://www.forggensee-schiffahrt.de)

## HISTORY

→ **4th century AD** Roman castle ('Foetibus') on the Schlossberg to protect the 'Via Claudia Augusta' → **8th century** Cell of St. Magnus → **About 850** Founding of St. Mang Benedictine Monastery → **About 1295** Town charter → **1313** Town mortgaged to the Archbishops of Augsburg who remain lords of the town until 1802 → **About 1335** Town fortifications erected; economic boom and prosperity as place of transhipment for transit goods → **15th/16th century** Birthplace and European centre of the lute and violin making trade → **17th/18th century** Repeated severe destruction through war → **1701-17** Construction of the Baroque Church and Monastery of St. Mang → **1745** Peace of Füssen ends the Bavarian-Austrian War of Succession → **1802/03** Secularisation (St. Mang dissolved) and incorporation of the town into Bavaria → **Today** Centre of tourism for the Ostallgäu district (15,500 inhabitants)



**Information**  
Füssen Tourismus und Marketing  
Kaiser-Maximilian-Platz 1  
87629 Füssen  
Phone +49 (0) 8362 93850  
Fax +49 (0) 8362 938560  
[tourismus@fuessen.de](mailto:tourismus@fuessen.de)  
[www.fuessen.de](http://www.fuessen.de)



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**Touristik-Arbeitsgemeinschaft GbR**  
 Segringer Straße 19  
 91550 Dinkelsbühl  
 Tel.: +49 (0) 9851 551387  
 Fax: +49 (0) 9851 551388  
 info@romantischestrassen.de  
 www.romantischestrassen.de  
 www.romantischestrassen-reiseblog.de  
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www.romantischestrassen.de



www.romantischestrassen-reiseblog.de

## ROMANTIC ROAD TRAVEL LITERATURE



**Romantic Road Tour Guide (German)**  
 with over 150 tips for things to do and see  
 along the Romantic Road  
 For explorers and connoisseurs  
 Price: € 3.00  
 Romantische Straße GbR



**Picture Guide to the Romantic Road**  
 with over 160 colour photographs, fold-out  
 road map, tips and events at all towns  
 in the following languages  
  
 Price: € 7.50  
 Sauer Verlag & Design, Sinsheim



**ROMANTISCHE STRASSE 99  
 SPECIAL SIDES (German)**  
 discovered by Werner Rosenzweig  
 Price: € 12.99  
 Mitteldeutscher Verlag, Halle (Saale)



**Romantic Road Cycling Tours (German)**  
 with route descriptions from north to south and  
 from south to north, including comprehensive  
 1:75,000 maps  
 Price: € 14.90  
 Esterbauer Verlag, Rodingersdorf



**The Romantic Road  
 from Würzburg to Füssen (English)**  
 a Cycle Guide from North to South  
 and South to North  
 Price: € 14.90  
 Bergstrasse Bike Books, Viernheim



**Romantic Road  
 Hikeline Long Distance Hiking Guide  
 (German)**  
 Hiking guide and 1:50,000 maps  
 from Würzburg to Füssen  
 Price: € 12.90  
 Esterbauer Verlag, Rodingersdorf



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