



Long-distance walking trail Romantic Road

To go walking is to discover slow time. Getting around on one's own two legs allows people to relax. Walking takes away from the hectic comings and goings of everyday life and into a dimension of reflection. It heightens perception of little things by the wayside, be it the beauty of a hedgerow, the pure clear air of a beech wood, the song of a lark high above the fields or the rippling waves on a lake. On the Romantic Road's long-distance walking trail, hikers see and appreciate the spectacularly unspoilt character and beauty of nature in detail. From the vineyards by the river Main and along the Tauber Valley, the European Watershed in the Frankenhöhe Nature Park, the fertile farmland of the Central Franconian Basin, the mysterious Ries, the lowland forests on the banks of the Danube and on to the foothills of the Alps, there is a variety of rivers, meadows, grasslands, spruce and mixed forests, wet meadows and raised bogs, enchanted valleys and picture-book villages, which already inspired the painters of the Romantic period in the 19th century.



Starting in Würzburg and ending in Füssen, the Romantic Road's long-distance walking trail covers a distance of about 500 km. It is signposted throughout and crosses atmospheric, varied cultural landscapes and picturesque towns, markets and villages with their very own historic and listed village centres. The trail follows the Romantic Road, passing for almost its entire length along woodland and country paths and quiet little roadways that give access to the countryside. In the towns, it takes in the historic town centres and gives walkers an opportunity to sample the individual local colour and everyday life of the inhabitants.



Going on a walking tour without stopping for something to eat and drink would be an unforgivable mistake on this gastro-trail that is the Romantic Road. A rest in a village inn often becomes a culinary highlight. A good meal with hearty regional food and a glass of Franconian wine or beer from a small regional brewery – such a stop will be remembered for a long time. Traditional dishes from Franconia, Baden, Württemberg, Swabia and Upper Bavaria all find their way onto the tables of the local inns along the way.



Those who finish the almost 500 km of Germany's most varied long-distance walking trail – with all the diversity of its cuisine and the variety of its landscapes – and return their hiking pass completed in full will receive a certificate and the Romantic Road gold badge. For those covering shorter stages, there is a bronze award for 10 places visited and a silver award for those who visit 20 stops along the Romantic Road. The hiking pass and the stage stamps are available at all tourist information offices along the route.



Details of the entire route and GPS data: www.romantischestrassen.de/interactive-map

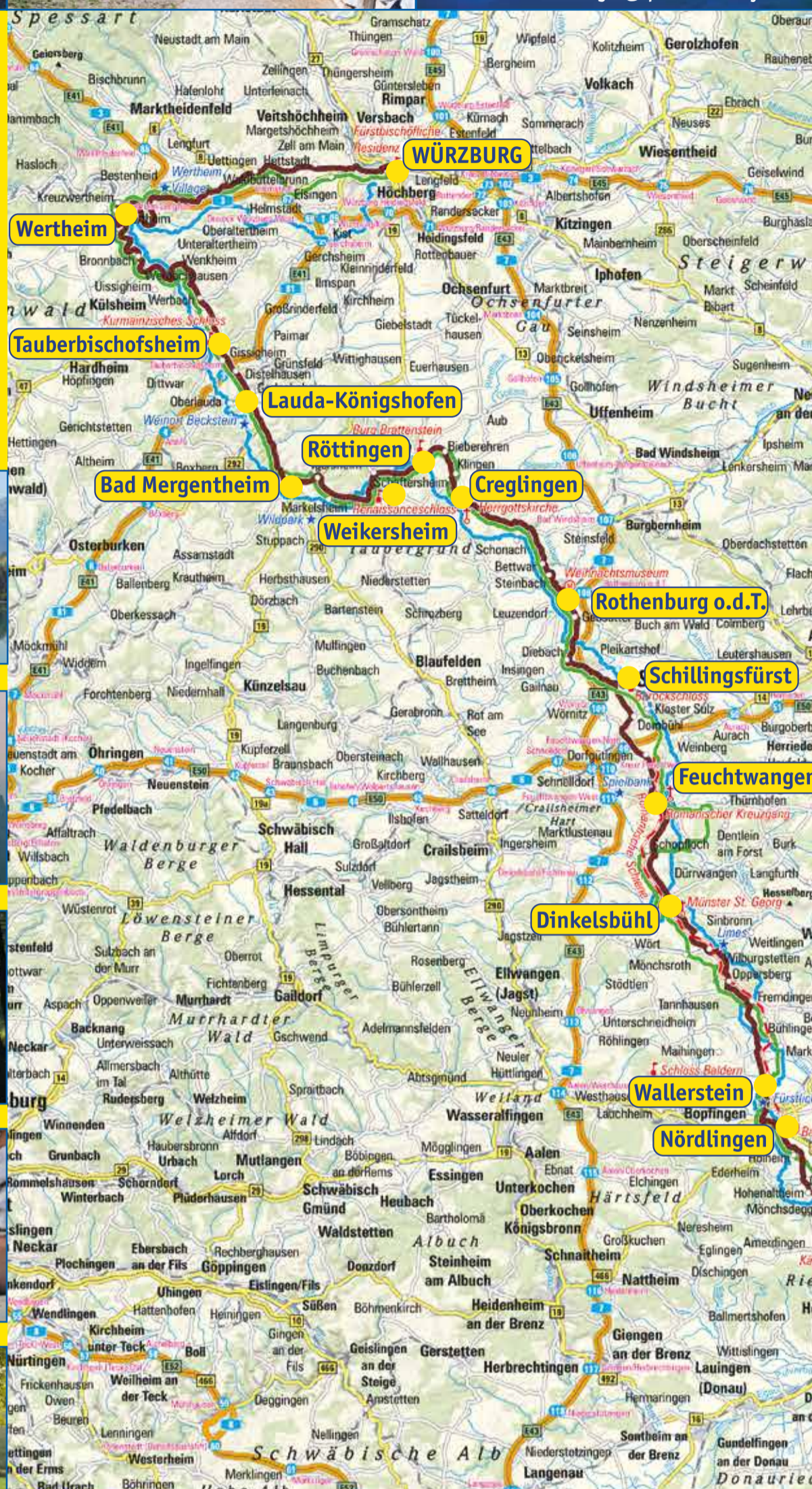


Travel literature on "Walking tours of the Romantic Road"

Hikeline Fernwanderweg Romantische Straße Hiking guide and maps on a scale of 1:50,000

Price: € 12.90
Esterbauer Verlag, Rodingersdorf

Available in bookshops and at: shop.romantischestrassen.de



The Romantic Road is Germany's best known and most popular quality holiday route

Nature, culture, art, culinary traditions and hospitality have been the trademarks of the Romantic Road since 1950. Running from the river Main to the Alps, it is Germany's best known and most popular quality holiday route. The name Romantic Road expresses what many guests from home and abroad feel on seeing medieval towns or the fairytale castle at Neuschwanstein: fascination and the sense of being transported back in time. From Würzburg to Füssen, the Romantic Road opens up a wealth of European history, art and culture to travellers. On the way from north to south, the landscape changes from river valleys, fertile agricultural land, forests and meadows to dramatic mountain scenery; from Würzburg and wine, the Tauber Valley and Rothenburg, via the Ries, Lechfeld and Pfaffenwinkel districts to the castles of King Ludwig. However, a journey along the Romantic Road offers much more than beautiful countryside and culinary delights. The Romantic Road thrives on the harmony of culture and hospitality, on the unending series of new vistas in polymorphic landscapes, on towns with impressive stately buildings that have preserved their original appearance over the centuries. Balthasar Neumann designed the Residence in Würzburg. Tilman Riemenschneider is present throughout the Tauber Valley. Carl Spitzweg was fascinated by Rothenburg and Dinkelsbühl, the Ries district offers insights into the history of the earth. Augsburg bears witness to the Romans and, with the 'Fuggerei', is distinguished by the world's first social housing, which dates back to the 16th century. The 'Wieskirche', one of the most famous Rococo works of art, is to be found in the Pfaffenwinkel district. Hohen Schwangau and, above all, Neuschwanstein, the world-famous castle of the Bavarian fairytale king Ludwig II, are dreams in stone of bygone times and mark the end of the Romantic Road at the foot of the Bavarian Alps.

Whether travelling by car, camper van or motorcycle, simply follow the brown signs that link the individual towns along the Romantic Road. Cyclists can follow the green signs of the Romantic Road long-distance cycle trail over the 500 km from Würzburg to Füssen. The blue signs mark the long-distance walking trail, a genuine pleasure route of almost 500 km that passes through beautiful countryside and romantic towns and villages. On Germany's acclaimed gastro and culture trail nature, varied landscapes, art and regional specialities can be explored. On the way from the river Main to the Alps, a host of extraordinary, inspiring and amazing sights as well as real insider tips can be discovered.



Full details are available at www.romantischestrassen.de

Whether travelling individually by car, in a classic or vintage model, camper van or caravan, motorbike or bicycle, on foot or with a group, all useful and helpful information for planning a trip along Germany's gastro and culture trail can be found in the detailed brochures, which make travel preparations child's play. These are available to be downloaded, along with interactive maps of the road network, all cycleways and footpaths.

Update overview of available accommodation: www.booking.com/romantischestrassen.de



Seasonal bus connections from Frankfurt and Munich along the Romantic Road and back. Tickets can be booked online at www.romanticroadcoach.com. Most towns along the Romantic Road can be conveniently reached using regional trains, with connections to the German Railways' express ICE network in Würzburg, Donaauwörth and Augsburg. And the range of available transport is completed by a close-knit network of bus services.



Germany's best known and most popular holiday route

- by bicycle 500 km
- on foot 500 km
- by car 460 km



Romantic Road Germany



Romantic Road

Romantische Straße

Das Original seit 1950

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WÜRZBURG

1 km 0 **km 460** **1**

The university and congress city on the river Main lies in the middle of Franconia's wine country, overlooked by the Marienberg Fortress. In addition to the Prince Bishop's Residence, the splendid Baroque masterpiece by architect Johann Lukas Hagen (UNESCO World Heritage Monument), sights worth seeing in the old town include the Cathedral, the New Minster, St. Mary's Chapel, the Market Place and the old bridge over the river Main. Numerous museums (Museum für Franken, Museum am Dom, Museum im Kulturspeicher, Martin von Wagner Museum), theatre and attractive festival highlights (Hofzart Festival, Africa Festival, Würzburg Harbour Summer). Cellar tours and wine tastings in the renowned wineries and visits to wine taverns, wine bars and restaurants are well worthwhile.

WERTHEIM

1 km 50 **km 410** **1**

The medieval old town of Wertheim lies at the confluence of the Main and Tauber rivers. The town's landmark is the mighty castle ruin. Half-timbered houses, small squares, alleys and many sights still characterise the town today. Valuable art collections and exhibitions are on display in the three museums. Shopping pleasure in the city centre is in the luxury shopping world of Wertheim Village. The centre of the gastro and culture trail is in Wertheim which means discovering and enjoying to heart's content. Starting point for cycling and hiking enthusiasts.

LAUDA-KÖNIGSHOFEN

1 km 91 **km 369** **1**

With its twelve districts, the wine town of Lauda-Königshofen in the Tauber Valley offers just the right thing for every holidaymaker: charming recreational landscapes, historical sights, family-run wineries and certified wine hotels, numerous cultural events and well-developed network of cycling and walking paths. At the same time, the former railway town is still an important railway hub today.

WEIKERSHEIM

1 km 113 **km 347** **1**

Nesting in the vineyards of the Tauber valley, Weikersheim delights with its magnificent Renaissance palace and one of the most beautiful palace gardens in Germany. There is a unique collection about the historic market place with its grand houses, the Rococo fountain and the Gothic municipal church. A town rich in art and culture, Weikersheim also offers a host of first-class events and concerts in the TauberPhilharmonie concert hall. A well-developed network of walking and cycle paths offers the opportunity for an active holiday.

CREGLINGEN

1 km 129 **km 331** **1**

The medieval town is a place of recreation. Remains of the fortifications, the former castle and the half-timbered houses recall an eventful past. Musth for visitors: altar by Riemenschneider in the Herrgottskirche church, Jewish freed Lindeln tower, Museum, Frauenst. Monastery, Thimble Museum, Firefighters' Museum and Celtic Oppidium with wax processing shed. Leisure activities in nature such as cycling and walking offer relaxation. A water playground for children by the lake, with barefoot trail and Kneipp basin, provides refreshment. Guests with a taste for Romanticism can spend the night in one of the town's towers, a shepherd's cart or a castle.

SCHILLINGSFÜRST

1 km 165 **km 295** **1**

The officially recognised health resort of Schillingsfürst is located in the heart of the forested countryside of the Frankenhöhe nature park, on the main European watershed between the Main and Danube. Standing on a promontory of the Franconian Heights and visible from afar is the town's iconic emblem – the Baroque palace of the Princes of Hohenlohe-Schillingsfürst and the attached Royal Falconry. The 'Butterfly' cycle trail, together with other premium cycle and walking trails offer varied opportunities for visiting the surrounding unspoilt countryside.

DINKELSBÜHL

1 km 193 **km 267** **1**

A picture-postcard town: almost unchanged for over 400 years, stately church buildings and rich half-timbered architecture, quiet alleys and lively squares characterise the old town. Towers and gates surround one of the 'best-preserved medieval towns in Germany', which a weekly magazine selected as the most beautiful in Germany and dubbed a best kept secret and a "destination for time travellers". The Gothic minster of St. George still dominates an old town ensemble of particular charm. The ups and downs of 800 years of the town's history are brought to life in Dinkelsbühl's Historical Museum of War and Peace. And the evening tour with the nightwatchman promises pure romance.

NÖRDLINGEN

1 km 222 **km 238** **1**

Nördlingen is encircled by Germany's only completely preserved town wall that can be walked all the way around. A stroll along the approximately 2,7 kilometre-long fortifications offers a wonderful view over the romantic, winding streets of Nördlingen. The late-Gothic hall church of St. George, with its 'Daniel' bell tower, can be seen from afar. From the top, there is a splendid panoramic view of the medieval town and the Ries region. This unique landscape was formed around 15 million years ago by the impact of a meteorite.

DONAUWÖRTH

1 km 262 **km 198** **1**

The Romantic Road meets the Danube in the former Free Imperial City of Donauwörth. The magnificent axis of the historic old town between the town hall and the Fuggerhaus is the Reichsstraße with its imposing patrician houses, one of the most beautiful streets in southern Germany. Numerous sights from over 1,000 years of city history: Pilgrimage Church of the Holy Cross, Liebfrauenmünster, Old Danube Harbour, Ried Old Town Island, Käthe Kruse Doll Museum, etc.

AUGSBURG

1 km 325 **km 135** **1**

Founded under the Roman Emperor Augustus more than 2,000 years ago, Augsburg is one of Germany's oldest cities. The Free Imperial City reached its economic highpoint in the 15th and 16th centuries thanks to the writings of the banians and the Fugger and Welser families. Today, the historical city centre with its grand Maximilianstrasse and the Renaissance and Baroque façades of the palaces and patrician houses presents a mirror image of this splendid epoch. The water-management system is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

LANDSBERG AM LECH

1 km 371 **km 89** **1**

Landsberg am Lech looks back on a history of more than 850 years. A stroll through the extraordinarily well-preserved old town with its alleys, towers and gates, churches and colourful town houses offers on a journey through the Middle Ages and Rococo. In addition, the town impresses with its location on the Lech - one of the largest mountain rivers in the Alpine region.

SCHONGAU

1 km 411 **km 49** **1**

With its walls, gateways and towers, the medieval townscape is living evidence of Schongau's rich history. At the turn of the 13th century, the town was fortified with its own rights and was the administrative centre. Wittelsbach secondary residence and Bavarian border fortress on the Swabian Lech. Artistic decorations of the Baroque parish church of Mariae Himmelfahrt (Assumption of the Virgin Mary).

ROTTENBUCH

1 km 424 **km 36** **1**

The state-recognised health resort of Rottenbuch with its almost thousand-year-old history is located above the wild and romantic gorge cut by the river Ammer. The former collegiate church of the Nativity of Mary with original paintings and the monastery courtyard are impressive. Cycling and walking in the idyllic foothills of the Alps along the "König-Ludwig-Weg", the "Münchner Jakobsweg" or the "Pfaffenwinkel Milky Way" - Bavaria's only route dedicated to dairy farming.

STEINGADEN

1 km 437 **km 23** **1**

The approved health resort in the South of the Pfaffenwinkel district, at the intersection of the Romantic Road and the German Alpine Road, is renowned for the world-famous Rococo church "Wieskirche" (UNESCO World Heritage). No less impressive is the historical minster "Weihenmünster" with its Romanesque cloister. The most important buildings are located in the heart of a hiking and biking paradise in the enchanting subalpine countryside.

SCHWANGAU

1 km 456 **km 4** **1**

Home of the kings. Surrounded by four lakes and the Ammergebirge nature protection area. The attractions include 120 km of hiking and walking paths, 90 km of cycleways. King Ludwig's world-famous castles, Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau, Museum of the Bavarian Kings, and Roman villa (Roman excavation), Royal Crystal Thermal Baths – thermal baths and sauna landscape with massage and beauty facilities. Cable car to the 1,720 m high Tegeberg mountain.

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Accommodation

Worth experiencing



Experience culture – enjoy nature – breathe in the romantic atmosphere

Germany's best-known and most popular quality holiday route



TAUBERBISCHOFSCHEIM

1 km 81 **km 379** **1**

A major holiday destination, Tauberbischofsheim is one of the oldest towns in the Tauber valley. The old town centre boasts half-timbered buildings, the Kurmainz Palace of the former Prince Electors with its Museum of Local History and the Türmersturm Tower, the neo-Gothic Town Hall in the market square, churches, chapels and a pedestrian precinct. The Fencing Centre, the municipal Edelberg vineyard, several educational trails, nature reserves and biotopes, together with a well-developed cycling and walking network and a varied programme of events complete the range of attractions.

BAD MERGENTHEIM

1 km 101 **km 359** **1**

The former town of residence of the Grand and German Masters of the Order of Teutonic Knights has enjoyed an international reputation as a spa for many years. Bad Mergentheim is famous for the residential palace, with chapel and museum, the Stuppach Madonna, the Solymar Thermal baths and wellness centre and the wildlife park. On the market place, fine half-timbered houses and Baroque palaces are grouped around the magnificent Renaissance Town Hall and the Minster of St. John with its Treasury.

RÖTTINGEN

1 km 121 **km 339** **1**

Nestled in rolling hills and Franconian vineyards lies the town of Röttingen. It is surrounded by historic fortifications with seven well-preserved towers and distinctive town centre, attractive half-timbered houses and a Baroque town hall. Particularly interesting is the two-kilometre 'Sun Dial' path with 25 unique timepieces. The courtyard of Brattenstein Castle has provided the picturesque setting for the renowned annual 'Röttingen Franconian Festival' outdoor theatre since 1984.

ROTHENBURG O.D.T.

1 km 148 **km 312** **1**

The incomparable silhouette of the former Free Imperial City rises high above the Tauber Valley at the crossroads of the Romantic Road and the Castle Road. The turbulent history of the town is reflected in the performances of the historical play 'The Master Draught' and in the 'Shepherds' Dance'. The varied calendar of events is rounded off by the amusing farces performed by the Hans Sachs Society, the 'Imperial City' Festival, the famous Christmas market and, of course, the Toppler Theatre – the open-air theatre in the northern courtyard of the RothenburgMuseum.

FEUCHTWANGEN

1 km 181 **km 279** **1**

More than 1,200 years of history have left their mark on this former imperial town. With the Cloister Festival, Feuchtwangen has one of the large, traditional festival stages in Germany. The Franconian Museum is one of the most beautiful folk art museums in southern Germany and as well worth seeing as the unique Singer's Museum. The casino is distinguished by its modern flair while the historical townscape and the extensive surrounding countryside provide the ideal setting for relaxing or exploring.

WALLERSTEIN

1 km 215 **km 245** **1**

The market town of Wallerstein is located in the heart of the Ries district and is characterised by its long history as the seat of the Princes of Oettingen-Wallerstein. The centre of the village is dominated by the widely known Plague or Trinity Column and the parish church of St. Alban and captivates with its picturesque, historic buildings. In the middle of the town is the former 'Wallersteiner Felsen', a 65-metre high rock offering an outstanding panoramic view of the Ries district.

HARBURG

1 km 245 **km 215** **1**

Harburg is located in the Ries geopark, in the middle of Bavarian Swabia, at the foot of an impressive medieval castle complex. With its historic old town on the idyllic banks of the river Würnitz and the fascinating Ries landscape on its doorstep, the town offers countless leisure, cultural and gastronomic opportunities.

RAIN

1 km 284 **km 176** **1**

The flower town of Rain, idyllically located in the Danube-Lech region, is captivating with its parks and gardens. The 'Rain Green Belt' surrounds the entire old town and provides a rewarding tour through the flowering parks. The historic old town of Rain is characterised by its listed ensemble of 17th and 18th century town houses and varied gastronomy. The Tilly Monument and the majestic Rococo town hall, which together form the centrepiece of the Hauptstrasse, are particularly worth seeing.

FRIEDBERG

1 km 331 **km 129** **1**

In a prominent location on the Lechrain, the town presents itself from its medieval side. Particularly worth seeing are the Renaissance town hall in the centrally located Marienplatz square with eponymous fountain and the remains of the old town wall and towers. The painstakingly restored Wittelsbach Castle provides a new cultural and events centre, which also houses a completely modernised museum. The Herrgottsruh pilgrimage church is one of the most beautiful examples of Bavarian Rococo architecture.

HOHENFURCH

1 km 408 **km 52** **1**

In the Schönnach Valley, surrounded by meadows and woods, Hohenfurch (1,600 inhabitants) is the gateway to the Pfaffenwinkel region. Cozy summer retreat with a view of the Alpine chain in a rural setting. A widespread network of cycle and walking paths as well as further leisure activities, such as riding, tennis, cross-country skiing, etc., make Hohenfurch an ideal holiday base.

PEITING

1 km 414 **km 46** **1**

The market town of Peiting, situated between the rivers Ammer and Lech, is one of the oldest settlements in the Lech and Ammer region. Worth seeing is the parish church of St. Michael, the museum in the Klosterleue with the specialist departments of mining, ski museum, beekeeping, hunting and fishing between the Lech and Ammer rivers, history and sacred objects as well as the excavation of a Roman 'Villa Rustica' with kitchen and medicinal herb teaching garden. A tip for when the weather is fine: trip to the Hohengeissenberg mountain.

WILDSTEIG

1 km 430 **km 30** **1**

Wildsteig, with its numerous districts and hamlets, is a state-recognized health resort and lies in the midst of nature reserves and protected countryside, snuggled between the foothills of the Alps with their raised bogs and lakes, and framed by the Ammergau and Allgäu mountains. Worth seeing is the Baroque parish church of St. Jakob and the newly renovated Lourdes Grotto – the largest grotto complex in southern Germany. An ideal cycling and walking area for anyone seeking rest and relaxation. Nordic walking centre - 30 km of trails lead through fantastic scenery.

HALBLECH

1 km 446 **km 14** **1**

Halblech lies in the nature reserve of the Ammer Mountains, Bavaria's largest conservation area and home to many rare plants and animals. Set in a broad valley with a panoramic view of the Alps, the town is surrounded by four bathing lakes. Neuschwanstein Castle, the Church in the Wies and Füssen are all nearby. There are 200 kilometres of walking and cycling paths in the surrounding area, at altitudes between 800 and 2,100 metres: chair lifts to the Buchenberg at 1,142 metres, with 25 km of cross-country ski runs, a 2,5 km natural toboggan run, bird-watching hides and the Kenzen waterfall.

FÜSSEN

1 km 460 **km 0** **1**

Bavaria's romantic soul: on the edge of the Alps and in one of Bavaria's most attractive holiday regions with Neuschwanstein Castle close by, Füssen is the highest city in Bavaria (800 to 1,200 m). The Late medieval town centre with the High Castle and St. Mang's monastery houses numerous works of art and monuments to its history stretching back almost 2,000 years. Ideal for sightseeing, taking a stroll or relaxing in a romantic setting.



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Long-distance cycle trail Romantic Road

Grandiose, charming landscapes and the delightful little corners hide on all sides along Germany's oldest quality holiday route. With unspoilt landscapes, historic highlights of medieval buildings and culinary delicacies, cyclists can count on experiencing the best of what Franconia, Baden, Württemberg, Swabia and Upper Bavaria have to offer.



Visitors from near and far will all find one delight after another lined up like pearls on a string: historic old town centres, medieval city walls with their defensive towers and gateways, Baroque churches of pilgrimage, Romanesque monastery walls and the dreams of the Bavarian 'Fairy-Tale King' transformed into stone. Equally attractive, however, are the wild, romantic river valleys and fishing lakes, the bucolic traditions of a landscape tended by many generations. Woods offering shade, an age-old meteorite crater and the awesome panorama of the Ammergau Alps are all there to delight visitors as they cycle gently past, with sufficient time and leisure to take in all the new and fascinating things there are to see.

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