

2024

SÜDEN

The Travel Magazine for Southwest Germany

**Enjoyment
along the river**
The Württemberg
Valley Bike Path

On to the raft
Handicrafts of the
Black Forest

Truly sustainable:
Environmentally-
friendly vacations
on Lake Constance

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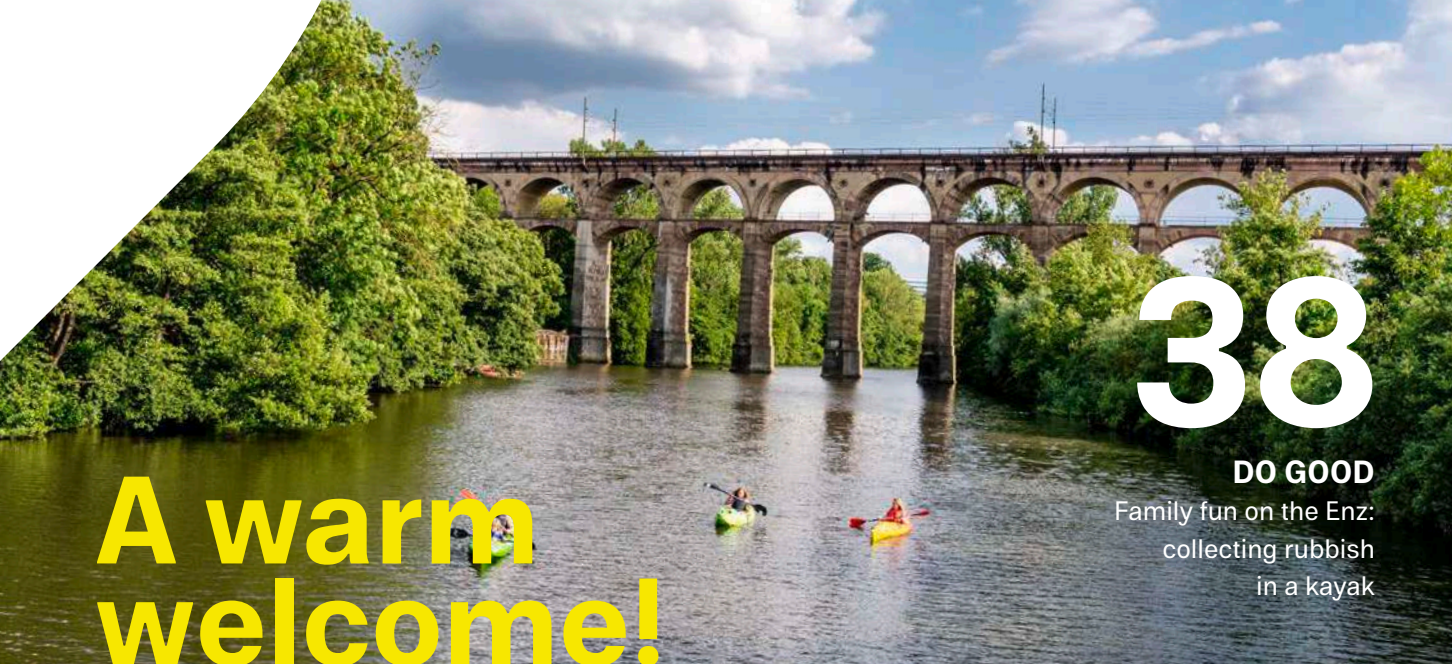
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in a kayak

Water is life. It does us good because it relaxes us, heals us, brings us fun and lightness and sometimes challenges us to adventures. When we look at a lake or river, we feel happiness. That's why, in this magazine, we dive deep into valuable, wonderful, refreshing trips centered around water. We set off on a pleasure tour on the Danube and visit sustainable makers on Lake Constance and refine our palate with mineral water tasting. We celebrate with rafting in the Black Forest, paddling, cycling and even following in the footsteps of Mark Twain on the River Neckar. Welcome to the water kingdom of Southwest Germany – dive in and have fun reading!

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When nature sleeps

How may we ask, can you go iceskating on Lake Constance?

It actually can happen during most winters. The entire Lake Constance was last completely frozen over in the 1960s – the locals call it „Seegfrörne“ – ice forms more quickly on the flatter Lower Lake. You can see only the small silhouettes skating over the so-called Gnadensee (Grace Lake) between the monastery island of Reichenau and the town of Hegne. An unforgettable experience, especially when the sky is blue – although you should of course always be careful when stepping on the ice.



A special tip

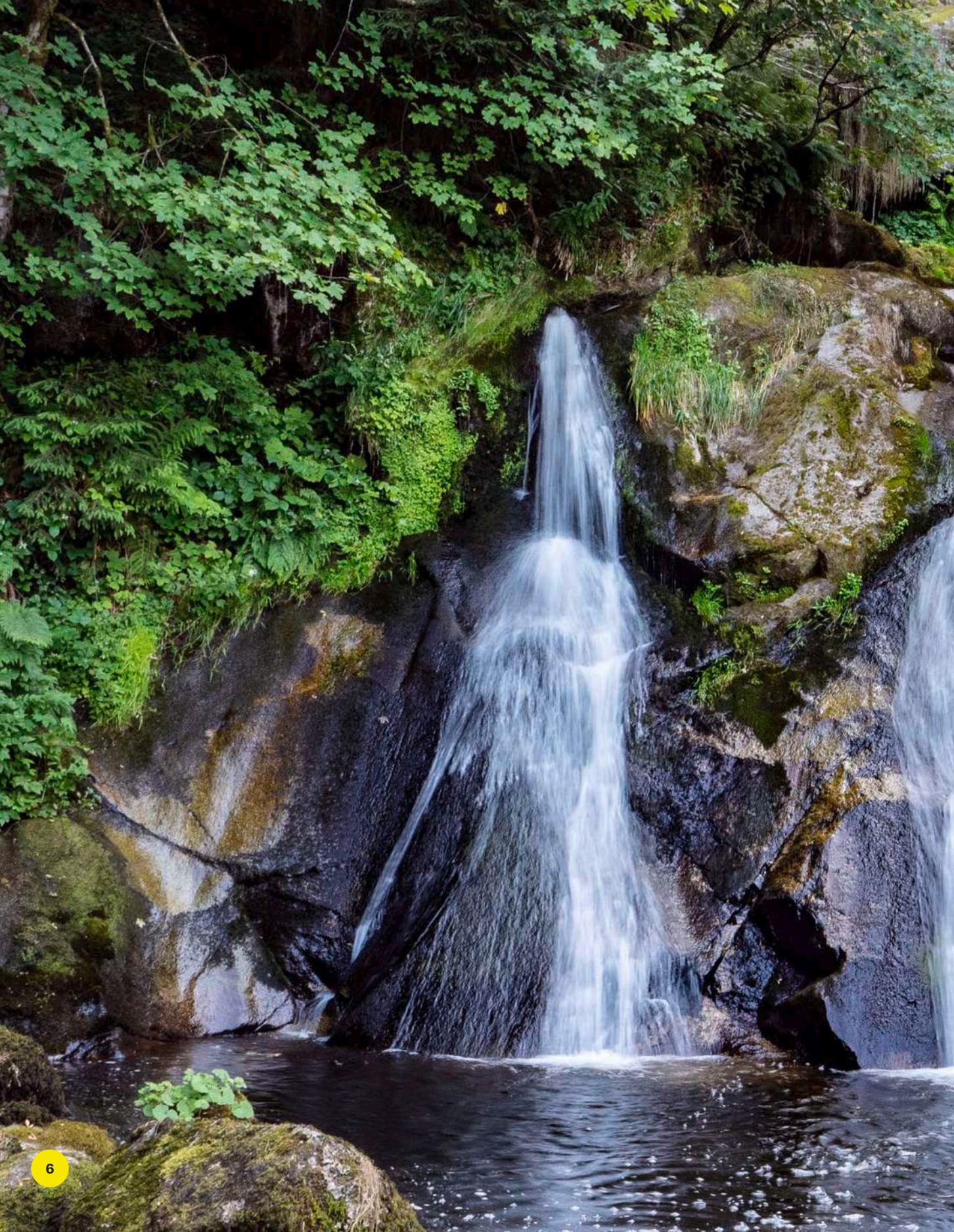
WINTER HIKING BY THE LAKE

As long as the ice isn't there yet, you can take a sunny winter walk with a view of the lake. The Wine Seller's path between the towns of Meersburg and Hagnau is one example. The High Path is another possibility which is ten kilometers long with informative signs explaining the viticulture of the region that is directly on the riverbank. echt-bodensee.de

An aerial photograph of a frozen lake with a yellow geometric frame. The frame is composed of several yellow lines that form a large, irregular shape, resembling a stylized house or a speech bubble. The background is a textured, blue and white surface, likely ice and snow. The text is centered within the frame.

FROM FREEZING TO HOT

Water is beautiful in all its
aggregate states. It brings us
fun, joy, healing and, from time
to time, adventure





Where the waters fall

On hot summer days, this is a truly refreshing spectacle: a hike along the sources of the streams or even to a waterfall – in the Black Forest there are many opportunities for these hikes. One example are the Triberg waterfalls. With a height of 163 meters, the Triberg waterfalls (pictured) are among the highest in Germany. Hikers and nature fans can experience and feel the power of the waterfalls on three different paths. Tip: The waterfalls are illuminated until 10 p.m. in the evening which creates a very special lighting atmosphere. For even more cool and impressive experiences, you can also visit the Todtnauer and Fahler waterfalls or the Zweribach waterfall.



A special tip

TREE TOP WALK

Feel freedom: If you dare, simply walk on the 450 meter long “BLACKFORESTLINE,” a suspension bridge, over the Todtnau waterfall. The suspension rope bridge floats about 120 meters above the ground and just above the treetops. blackforestline.de

How fog affects us

Autumn picture without a river? The blue ribbon that meanders sweetly through the Danube's breathtaking valley in the Swabian Alb is gone. In its place, fog billows – but you can already guess that once the sun really gets going, the mystical atmosphere disappears. So, you enjoy this moment in silence and amazement high on the Eich cliffs above Beuron. And then a little later, you can hike the 15 kilometer long “Danube Wave Eich Cliff Panorama trail” through the hilly Alb on a sunny Indian summer day.



A special tip

SILENT CONTEMPLATION

You can experience the Beuron Monastery as a guest during spiritual workshops with an overnight stay.

For those looking for more worldly amusements:

Depending on the water level, canoe tours are possible from the near-by village of Hausen im Tal. erzabtei-beuron.de; donautal-touristik.de





WATER DOES GOOD

Immerse yourself, cool down, enjoy, drink: water keeps us alive. And it is a rare commodity that we should handle carefully. These places, projects and excursion destinations in Southwest Germany can inspire us



„KLIMA ARENA“ in Sinsheim

Are we ready for the future?

“Preserve what sustains us” is the motto of the “KLIMA ARENA” in Sinsheim in northern Baden-Württemberg. The museum invites you to explore sustainability and resources, climate change and its consequences, but also presents possible solutions in a playful way. Visitors learn which animals and plants are native to the moor and other ecosystems and what we can do to preserve them. The vital element of water plays a central role in this. [klima-arena.de](https://www.klima-arena.de)

**Facts and figures
of the waters of
Baden-Württemberg**

**50,000
kilometers**

of streams and rivers
flow through Southwest
Germany.

4,500

lakes are located in
Baden-Württemberg.

**50
billion**

cubic meters of water is
currently in Lake Constance.

It supplies about
**four million
people**

with drinking water.

125 liters

of drinking water is used
by one person (on average)
in Southwest Germany
every day. Only about
5 liters of this is used for
drinking and cooking.



A Black Forest town shows how it's done: water supply in the hands of citizens



Unterkirnach and its own sources

Self-sustaining

Chickens cluck in the yard, glasses clink in the inn, children laugh in the playground: there are still villages in the Black Forest where everything seems to be as it used to be. Unterkirnach is such a place. What makes it very special? Unterkirnach supplies itself completely with drinking water. Twenty-one springs from the Marbental, Leimgrube and Schlegelwald areas provide the vital element that gave the place its nickname "spring water village." unterkirnach.de

Gallery

„BikiniART Museum“ How the bikini conquered the world

What does a woman wear when swimming? At least not a bikini before the invention made huge waves in 1946. The "BikiniART Museum" in Bad Rappenau shows why many initially found the bikini scandalous and which swim wear was popular from around 1870 to today. It also includes current swimwear, such as sustainably produced bikinis made from old fishing nets or PET bottles. bikiniartmuseum.com





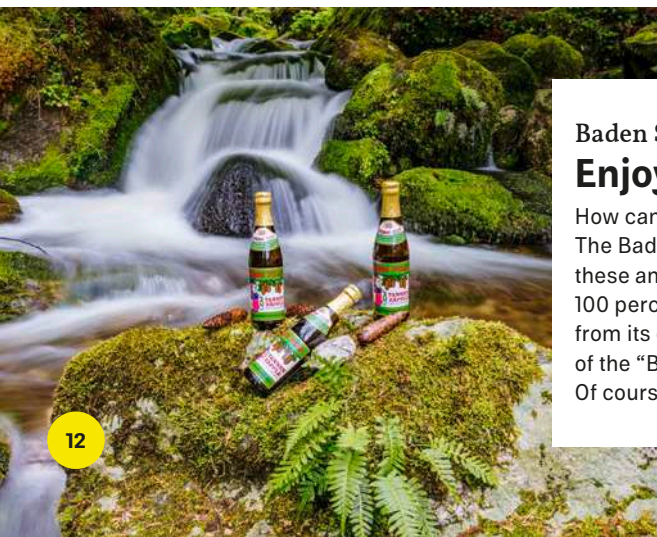
ORNAMENTA
**CREATING
FOR THE
FUTURE**

What if we thought about our homeland in a completely new way as part of a cultural project? That's exactly what ORNAMENTA 2024 wants to do in the northern Black Forest. From July to September this year, the region's communities will be expanded to include five thematic neighborhoods. These new, imaginary places – dirty corner, Zum Eros, Inhalatorium, Bad Databrunn and Solartal – address current topics. Bad Databrunn is dedicated to our use of water (pictured). With exhibitions, performances, galas and much more, ORNAMENTA tries to collect ideas and create positive outlooks. Regional companies, clubs and international creative people will also be taking part in this exciting initiative.
ornamenta2024.eu

The Rhine in Southwest Germany

Finally, completely clean again ...

With its 1,232.7 kilometers, the Rhine is one of the most important waterways in Europe and is now an example of successful environmental protection. The straightening of the river and unfiltered sewage made this important waterway uninhabitable for many animal and plant species in the 1980s. Today, drinking water is being taken from the Rhine again in some places, and numerous birds can be heard chirping in the nature reserves along the river. When panning for gold in the arms of the Old Rhine in Weil am Rhein, you can actually experience the Rhine in its original form. The Rhine flows a total of 437 kilometers along the Baden-Württemberg border, as a border with Switzerland, Alsace and the Rhineland-Palatinate.



Baden State Brewery Rothaus

Enjoy beer made with green energy

How can you brew beer in a CO₂-neutral way thanks to a wood chip system? The Badische Staatsbrauerei Rothaus (Baden State Brewery) answers these and many other questions during the brewery tour. The brewery uses 100 percent green electricity from the region and sources its brewing water from its own sources. Rothaus is also one of the first companies to be part of the "BaWü Climate Alliance Corporate Partnership". And try the beer? Of course, you can enjoy the beer when you visit. rothaus.de

On the move with water guides

On a journey of discovery

Rhine and Danube, Argen and Elz, Neckar and Rems – the rivers in Baden-Württemberg, or Southwest Germany, are as diverse as the regions through which they flow. And yet they are all unique. Over 140 trained water guides show what makes them special and who lives along their banks. You can go on an expedition with them, learn about stories and legends or get creative along the water's edge. At water rallies and tours, the experts combine imparting knowledge with fun.
gewässerführer.de



Rulantica in Rust

Power of the sun

Do you want to race or experience a free fall into the water? 14 themed areas and many attractions related to the mysticism and beauty of Scandinavia make the Rulantica water world an action-packed excursion destination. The best thing: Rulantica also focuses on sustainability. For example, overnight, the water in the Vildstrøm torrent is kept warm by means of a huge thermos-like structure. The electricity is supplied by Rust's own photovoltaic system, which produces more than 1.1 million kilowatt hours of electricity.
europapark.de/rulantica

A man in a white shirt and dark trousers stands on a large log raft floating down a river. The raft is made of several large logs. In the background, there is a traditional white house with a brown tiled roof and a chimney. A German flag is visible on a pole near the house. The river is surrounded by lush green trees and foliage. The scene is bright and sunny.

LONG LIVE TRADITION!

For many, many years, wood was transported
on the rivers before the rail road arrived.
How wonderful that the handicraft of the rafters
is alive again and treasured today.

✍ ANNA MONTERROSO CARNEIRO 📷 ANDREAS WEISE

After the final touches
on land, the logs are
pushed into the water
and attached to the
side of the raft

Heat, twist, soak: It's that easy to turn a stick into a rope for tying a raft



The history of the pretty town of Schiltach is closely linked to rafting



No rafting festival without a raft. The guests are transported on the shuttle raft across the Kinzig to the festival meadow



The tradition of women in the traditional costume of the Schiltach district of Lehengericht is also preserved

At the rafting festival in Schiltach, the stick spins with a crash and a crack under the raftsman's gloved hands. What was just a solid branch of a hazelnut bush a few seconds ago, is first made supple under the astonished eyes of the small group of spectators and then twisted and knotted into a pretty, somewhat baggy wreath. "Done," said Andreas, who rubbed his sweaty forehead with his white shirt sleeve and proudly held up the hazelnut wreath with his other hand. "If you put the wood in the water for two to three days, it becomes as supple as a rope." Smiling, he pressed the small wooden work of art into the hand of a young woman who was watching the spectacle with interest. The men had already made enough wreaths for their own use at the rafting festival in Schiltach so they could give the rest away.

An ancient craft

The village of Schiltach and rafting are closely intertwined. The long drawn out town in the Black Forest, which is located at the narrowest point of the Kinzig Valley, was for a long time a kind of transshipment point for the timber industry. There, on the large Leh meadow, where the Schiltach flows into the Kinzig, there used to be many jobs for raftsmen. As day laborers, they prepared the tree trunks, drilled holes, and tied the trunks together with the branches lengthwise. More of the trunks twined with the branches were tied together to form the rafts. In this way, the rafts became not only



FOLLOWING THE TRACES OF RAFTING

You can find rafting in several places. For example, on the 32 kilometer-long rafting path that leads from Loßburg to Wolfach. And in the rafting museum in Schiltach, which is open from April to November.

the means of transportation but also were the actual goods themselves. They were floated down the river by the raftsmen over sometimes breakneck sections of the river to Kehl, 70 kilometers away, where the Kinzig flows into the Rhine.

A living history you can touch

The atmosphere at the rafting festival is exuberant. Many guests have taken a seat on the long sofas, sway to the music or chat amongst themselves. Others walk around the grounds and visit the raftsmen at their stations, where they demonstrate traditional woodworking. A long raft made of the wood is already lying in the Kinzig and moving gently in the water. Although it already looks pretty sailable, the raft is being expanded today at the festival.

A club member stands on a structure opposite the drilling station and, leaning on the rafting hook, waits to be deployed. On the bank, five raftsmen take turns working on the tree trunks with an ax and a twist drill, a tool that looks like an oversized corkscrew. They drill holes in the trunks and then braid the thin branches with the thick logs – the thin end and the thick ends together. They then push the trunk into the river, where it is pulled to the structure with the rafting hook and secured by braiding it with the thin wood.

Back in the day, the work of the raftsmen was varied and did not just consist of building rafts and sailing. Nevertheless, for most

of them, the whole year revolved around activities with the valuable building material of wood. In winter, many raftsmen were out in the mountains, felling the trees that they had ordered, removing branches and bark, and transporting it via so-called giants, a kind of toboggan run, into the river valleys, such as the Kinzig. In spring, when the water in the rivers was high, smaller logs and wood were floated towards the Rhine. This was the easiest form of transport. However, the journey still had to be accompanied in order to loosen jammed pieces of wood. In good years, up to 30,000 cubic meters of wood were floated to the Rhine. This comprised a mass of wood 30 kilometers long, one meter high and one meter wide. The large logs were brought to the lower Kinzig Valley on large wooden rafts from April to November. The wood was tied together into huge Rhine rafts and transported further. The raftsmen then walked back to Schiltach. The following winter the cycle began again.



Wood as a basis for life

For a long time, wood was humanity's most valuable commodity. Ships, buildings, wood stoves: the valuable material was needed for everything. The forests around the cities were quickly cut down while new, and increasingly distant, sources had to be developed. The densely forested and sparsely populated Black Forest was one of them, and the high demand for wood brought work and prosperity to the region.

The history of the raftsmen can be found in many places in the Black Forest today. In Altensteig, for example, regular rafting tours are offered in the rafting park in Wolfach and in the local history and rafting museum in Bad Wildbad.

Fire and flying sparks

The air above the black coals shimmers with heat. Blacksmith Sebastian pulls the iron out of the cleverly improvised forge fire that he has lit on a charcoal grill between the drillers and the Kinzig. He quickly pivots around his axis, places the iron, which is glowing red with heat, on the anvil and hits it with the hammer. He is in the process of forging a raft hook. "It's a curved hook that's placed on a strong stick," the blacksmith explains to the small crowd of people standing curiously around the small forging station, drawn by the fire and sparks. The raft hook was an important tool for rafters.



Felling wood was also part of the raftsmen's work – and is demonstrated at the festival



Thomas Kipp co-founded the rafting club

„Our goal is to research rafting and preserve it for posterity.“

THOMAS KIPP, RAFT MASTER

The Black Forest

This meant they could grip and turn the wood easily. Sebastian is the only performer at the festival who is not a member of a rafting club. Everyone else belongs to either the Schiltach or Wolfach associations, which organize the festival together.

The end and rebirth of rafting

The expansion of the railway sounded the death knell for the work of the Kinzigtaft rafters. The craft that had been passed down from father to son for centuries was forgotten, and with it the deep-rooted knowledge of the rivers and the trees. In the spring of 1998, over 100 years after the last raft sailed down the Kinzig, the Schiltach rafting association was founded to revive the old tradition – with great success,

as the guests at the rafting festival can confirm. Modern raftsmen no longer go into the forest to fell trees in the winter months. But they build and sail the wooden rafts just like they used to. With their intensive research, work, and love of tradition, they have revived the intangible cultural heritage.



Would you like to experience tradition live?

Scan the QR code and walk around the festival with us. More information about rafters and Kinzigtaft can be found at:

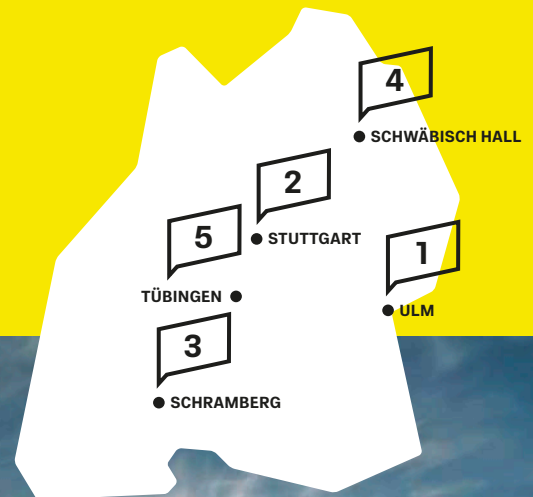
schiltacher-floesser.de;

schwarzwald-kinzigtaft.info;

schwarzwald-tourismus.info

WET, COLORFUL, RICH IN TRADITION

Water provides the material for myths and legends – and is, therefore, a reason to celebrate. In fact, it's best to do it every year, such as these five customs in Southwest Germany.



1 Ulm Oath Week Everyone on the river



On the second to last Monday in July, the city of Ulm goes into a state of “special festivities” for a week. The background is an oath from the 14th century, with which the mayor solemnly vows every Oath Monday to stand up for rich and poor alike. This is followed by the so-called Nabada, in which citizens and dignitaries float down the Danube in inflatable boats, rafts and the flat boats known as Ulm boxes. The festival week also includes a light serenade. At that time, thousands of floating candles are lit and sent to shine in the water. ulm.de



2

German Mill Day

By the rushing stream

On the day after Pentecost, Whit Monday, water wheels turn nationwide for German Mill Day. Old mills also open their doors in Southwest Germany. The Stuttgart region, for example, offers many options for an excursion: from the Siebenmühlental (Seven Mill Valley) on the edge of the Schönbuch Nature Park to the Mühlenwanderweg (Mill Hiking Path) in the Swabian Forest to the popular Glemsmühlenweg (Glems Mill Path). In Upper Swabia, the Mühlenstrasse (Mill Street) is worth a visit.

erlebnisregion-stuttgart.de;

muehlenstrasse-oberschwaben.de



3

Schramberger Da-Bach-na ride

Ride in a nutshell

“Canal full”, “Batsch wet” and “Fart dry” – these are the battle cries that you should also know even as a spectator in Schramberg on Rose Monday. During the Bach-na ride, the teams have to master an approximately 500-meter-long stretch of water with rapids in wooden tubs. The participants have three weeks in advance to make the tub assigned to them by lottery suitable for the adventurous river trip – and to decorate it nicely. bach-na-fahrt.de



4

Schwäbisch Hall cake and fountain festival

A salute to homeland

The history of the Schwäbisch Hall salters goes back a long way: already the Celts extracted salt from the source through boiling. In the Middle Ages, the “white gold” brought wealth to Schwäbisch Hall. The salt boiler festival dates back to this time, the origin of which probably lay in the cleaning of the salt spring. They celebrated finishing this work with a festival which today is still enjoyed. The Cake and Fountain Festival is one of the most beautiful local festivals in Southwest Germany, which traditionally ends with a gun salute. schwaebischhall.de

Rites around water



5

Punting race in Tübingen

Only one boat can win

In the punting race on Corpus Christi, participants travel around Tübingen's Neckar Island in traditional wooden boats. This is a tight competition, and this costumed race is also not for the squeamish. At the end, beer awaits the winning team while half a liter of cod liver oil awaits the losers. The Neckar fishermen used to travel in flatboats, and later student associations took over the barges. tuebingen-info.de



WOULD YOU LIKE A SAMPLE?

Every mineral water is unique. Our editor found out how big the differences are and what role minerals play at the water tasting with Reiner Häberle

✍ ANNA MONTERROSO CARNEIRO 📷 ANDREAS WEISE



Wine tastings are so
passé; today, it's all
about water tasting ...

It's quiet at our table. Reiner Häberle looks around with a smile. Susanne closed her eyes while she drank. And Axel stares into his glass as if he could read the answer that Häberle had put to them: Which mineral water is that? "Peterstaler," suggests Axel. When the water sommelier's eyes fall on me, I quickly say „Black Forest Sparkling Water,“ although since we had moved on to the carbonated varieties, I could hardly taste any difference. Susanne shrugs her shoulders and, instead of answering, eats a spoonful of her lentil salad. Then she continues with the test sips. "Peterstaler is right," says Reiner Häberle and reaches for the next bottle. Then we turned to the classic versions.

The Black Forest

WELL-TEMPERED

Water also develops its full flavor potential at certain temperatures. The ideal drinking temperature for still water is 10 to 12 degrees Celsius, and for carbonated water it is 7 to 10 degrees.

We took part in a mineral water tasting in Bad Peterstal-Griesbach. The health resort, which is located in the upper Rengtal in the Black Forest, is the water resort par excellence.

The finest mineral water with very different mineral compositions bubbles out of three fountains. Griesbacher mineral water, for example, has a total mineral content of 2,265 milligrams per liter. This is an extremely high amount and gives the water a lot of taste. On the other extreme, the Black Forest, a mineral water that is very soft and has the lowest amount of sodium chloride in Germany, is pumped up in Bad Rippoldsau. The reasons for the major differences in the waters are the layers of rock through which the rainwater flows on its journey to the underground water supply. Along the way, the water is purified and absorbs different minerals in the different layers. These minerals are not allowed to be added extra when bottling.

Water tastes like water, right?

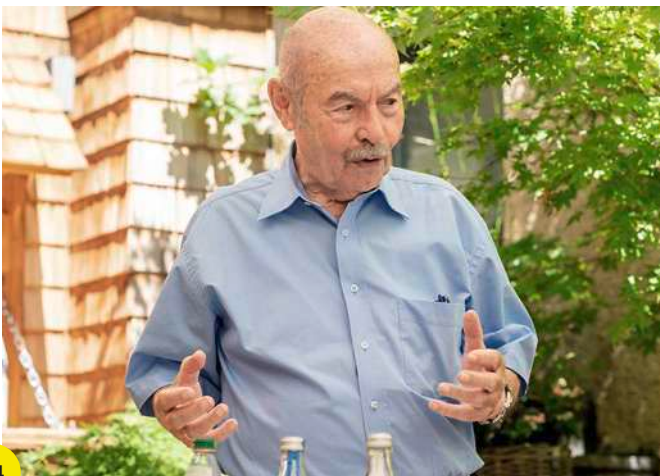
Before my water tasting, I was convinced that water had no taste of its own. As I rarely drink two different waters side by side, I wasn't aware of the different flavor nuances. To untrained palates like mine, water simply tastes like water. But if you drink it, such as during a tasting, and make a direct comparison at the right temperature, you can taste big differences. Our test mineral waters were lined up be-

**Fully in his element:
Reiner Häberle's
life revolves around
water**

Strong in taste and mineralization: Griesbacher mineral water



hind the water sommelier: Peterstaler classic and medium, Black Forest still as well as Black Forest sparkling and Griesbacher each in still, medium and classic versions. Because, as we learned, not only mineralization but also carbon dioxide has an influence on the taste. Before the tasting started, Häberle explained the tasting process. We work our way up from still to medium to classic, tasting the waters in parallel and neutralizing our tongues in between with delicate little dishes from the kitchen of Hotel Kimmig. For example, small





A table full of glasses: In order to taste the sometimes subtle nuances of the waters, they are tasted in parallel

Water from Bad Peterstal-Griesbach

Peterstaler

Victor Hugo and Johannes Brahms were already fans of



this mineral water. The company entered the German market in 1926 and was voted the most popular water in the USA in 1980. The history of Peterstal water can be discovered in the company's own museum. peterstaler.de

Griesbacher

Griesbacher mineral water is pumped from a depth of 400 meters. It is particularly highly mineralized and has a distinct taste that stands out from the other waters in the area. The family business is run by the fourth generation. griesbacher.de

Black Forest sparkling water

The source of this natural spring is said to have given Bad Griesbach its reputation as a spa. Since 1960, their water has been sold as Black Forest Sparkling Water. schwarzwald-sprudel.de

bowls of Swabian potato salad are served with the medium water so that we can always encounter the minerals with open taste buds.

As we made our way through the various water courses and tasted the small plates, we experienced a nice mix of tasting and delicious food. With the still water varieties, I could still clearly taste the differences. One water tasted cool to me, the next very soft and the third almost earthy and slightly salty. With the medium and classic varieties, I found it more difficult to interpret the precise flavor nuances. Reiner explains that this is because the carbon dioxide neutralizes the taste of the water somewhat. "In the past," he revealed, "there was often only mineral water with a lot of carbonation, as this masked any bad tastes." That's why water with a lot of carbonation is now also called "Classic".

Food influences the taste

And what we eat with the water also has an impact on our experience. "Everything influences each other," said the water sommelier enthusiastically and poured us more. Even though for me, the water addict, food was more of a priority at a certain point, I still gained an important insight: from that point on, I vowed to compare several waters with each other more often and decide which mineral water really tastes better than the others.



Would you like a taste?

Scan the QR code and get more insight on the water in the Black Forest. :

bad-peterstal-griesbach.de and schwarzwald-tourismus.info



Tuttlingen

The popular Café Golem is located in the Danube-park, just a few minutes' walk from the city center

A RIVER THAT CONNECTS

The people here in the Swabian Alb have a special relationship with the Danube. They grow up with it, find peace, keep cool, become inspired and have fun on its banks. We present three towns on the Danube

✍ ANNA MONTERROSO CARNEIRO 📷 ANDREAS WEISE



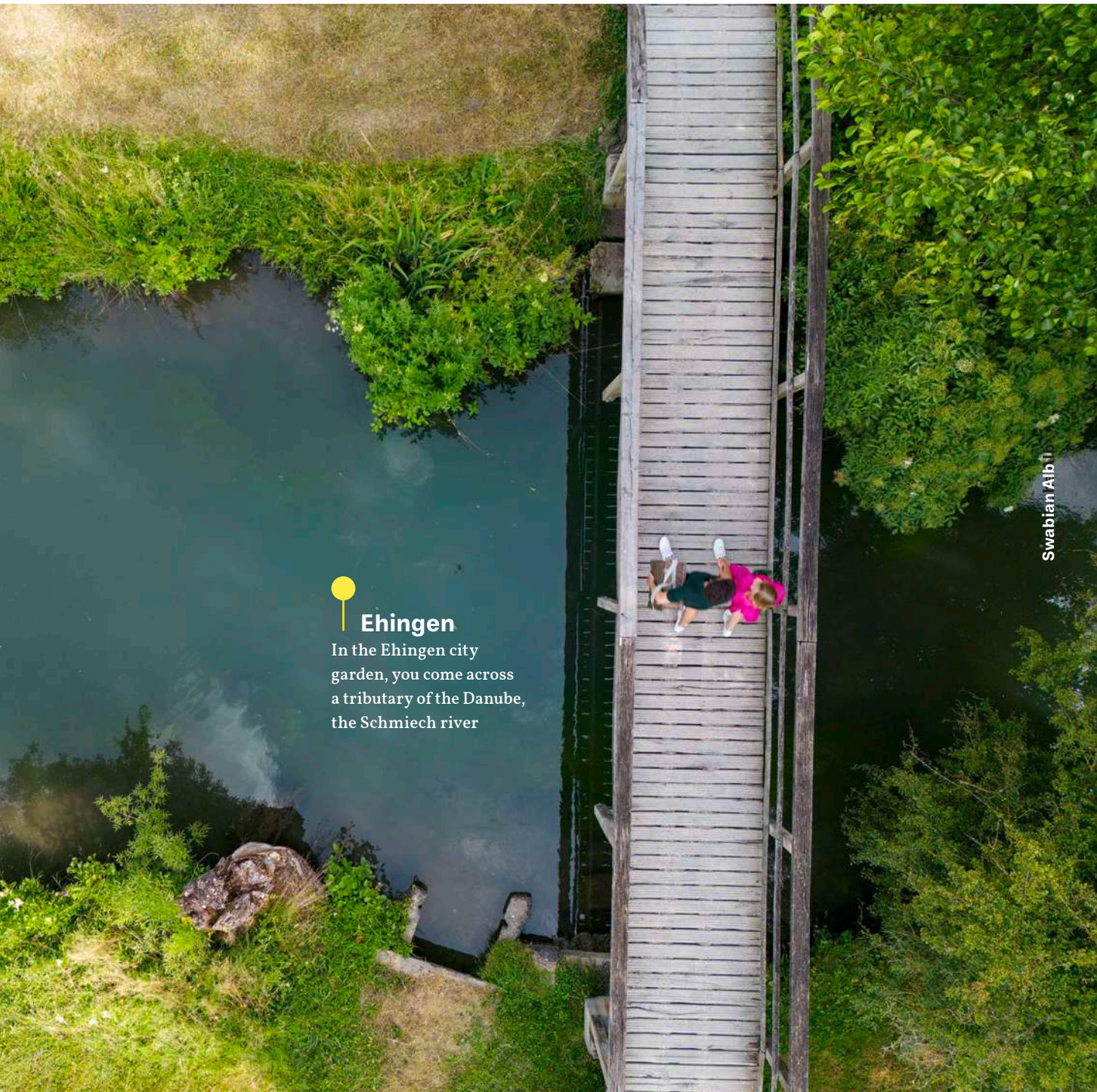
Picnic in a beautiful setting: the municipal gallery and the Konviktskirche are located in the city garden

When the doors open to Golem's café, it's almost time for lunch. It is not uncommon for a small crowd of people to have already formed on the narrow sidewalk in front of the Tuttlinger Café. The Golem is a real crowd-pleaser, and rightly so! The menu includes pizza, pasta and risotto. Homemade iced teas are offered, and you get a free view of the Danube. Here it flows slowly and carefully past the café, dives under a bridge and disappears just a few meters further behind a curve. The guests quickly spread out across the large area.

Some make themselves comfortable on the loungers in the sandy area. A group of young people sit on low lounge chairs very close to

the bar – where the music is loudest. And a couple sits on a large wooden seating platform and studies the menu. Everyone finds his or her personal favorite spot. It's only a few minutes' walk from the café to the small town's market square.

It's worth taking a stroll. The historic city of Tuttlingen is inviting. The eye-catching pyramid fountain gurgles at the market square. There are many cafes busy with visitors in the summer months, and the bells of the town church toll in the distance. In a corner opposite the fountain, an older man holds a pair of tweezers up to the light – as he has been doing so for 36 years. The two-meter-tall sculpture, "The Instrument Maker," is a monument to the medical technology industry, which has a long tradition in the high-tech region of Tuttlingen.



Ehingen

In the Ehingen city garden, you come across a tributary of the Danube, the Schmiech river

Ehingen is 127 kilometers downstream. The Danube does not flow through the city here, but rather leads in a large arc around its foothills. However, the city center is not without water. The Schmiech, a small river that runs a few kilometers, flows through the town. It rises north of Ehingen and crosses the city center before flowing into the Danube. The Schmiech is tiny compared to the Danube, but it also magically attracts people in the warm months. Especially in the city garden, where you can get very close to the stream.

There, next to the shallow Groggensee, the Schmiech flows through a loop in the river. Here you can do Kneipp treatments, refresh yourself or enjoy a picnic – even as a traveler: Some hostesses in the medieval city offer richly filled picnic baskets that you can enjoy in your favorite place, such as the city garden



Sunset, evening sun and view of the Danube

directly on the Schmiech. And if you want to see the Danube, you can do so on the 14 kilometer long beer hiking trail. It also leads past the city's five breweries, some of which have been brewing for hundreds of years.

If you want to see Ulm in all its glory, the best place to go is on the banks of the Danube. There, at the level of the Edwin Scharff House, is the Uferbar. A forest green, painted kiosk



FROM THE BLACK FOREST TO THE BLACK SEA

The second longest river in Europe starts very small. The Danube arises from the two rivers Brigach and Breg, which flow together in Donaueschingen. From there, she sets off on a 2,857 kilometer journey to the Romanian port city of Sulina on the Black Sea. On its way it passes and flows through ten countries, more than any other river in the world – and flows past big beautiful cities, such as Vienna and Budapest.



Ulm

From the riverside bar on the banks of the Danube, you have a great view of the almost 1,200 year old city

Swabian Alb

selling delicious summer drinks, wine, beer and coffee specialties. With the refreshment in your glass, you can take a seat at a free table or in a deck chair and enjoy the view. Truly the view is unusually delightful.

On hot days, numerous inflatable boats and kayakers float and ride on the Danube. There are joggers and cyclists on the long waterfront promenade opposite. The Ulm Minster with the world's tallest church tower towers over the houses. And you can see the top of the extraordinary glass pyramid that houses the city library. We're about to go on an evening

stroll through the medieval city; there's bound to be a free spot in the restaurants and bars of the fishing district.



Would you like a view of the Danube?

Simply scan the QR code.

You can find out more about the region here:

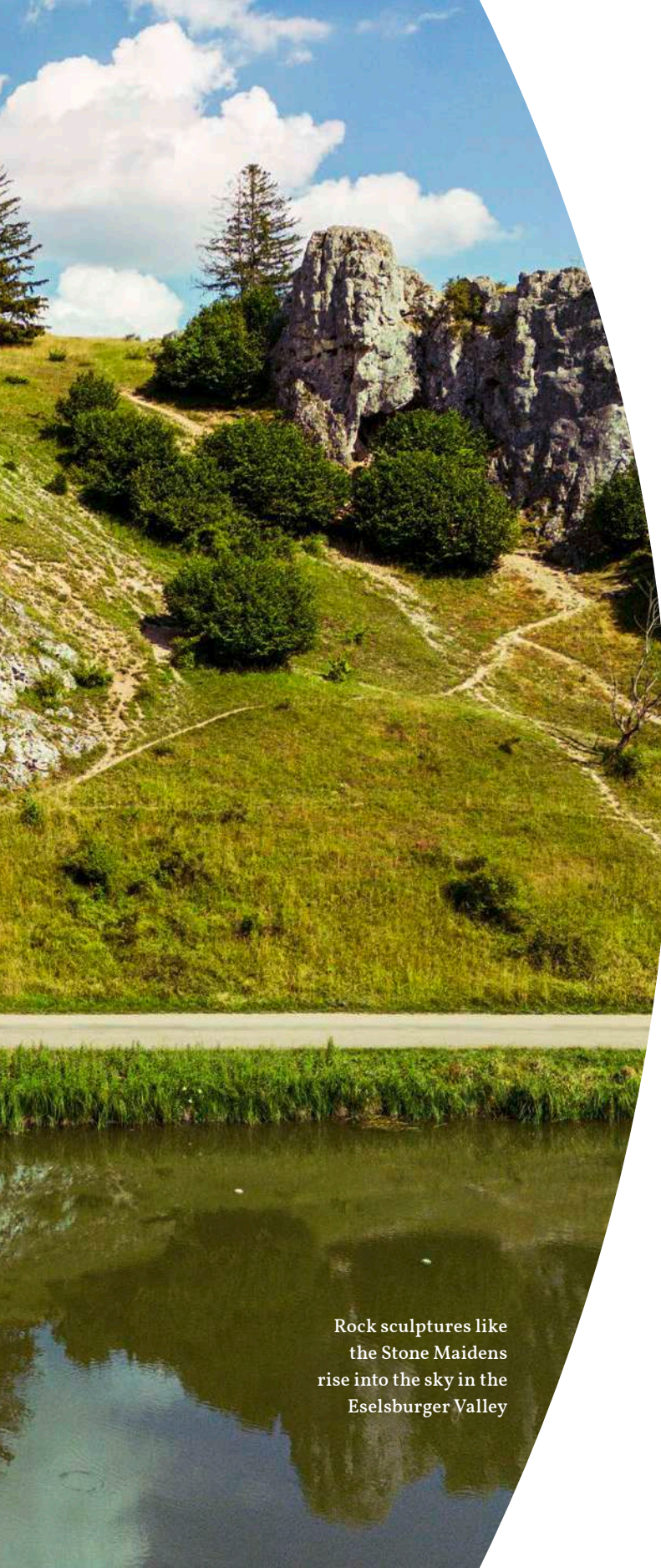
schwaebischealb.de



MYTHICAL ALB

Welcome to the Württemberg Valley Bicycle Path –
one of the newest state cycle paths in Southwest Germany.
We accompanied two friends, Julia and Simone, for a time

✍ ANNA MONTERROSO CARNEIRO 📷 ANDREAS WEISE



Rock sculptures like the Stone Maidens rise into the sky in the Eselsburger Valley



Active break in the countryside: balance exercise at the Kocher spring

As the wind blows through her hair, Simone closes her eyes. After wearing a helmet for hours, it's nice to feel the cool air on your forehead and hairline. Julia, who is sitting opposite Simone at the table in the beer garden of the inn, is also contentedly silent. Although there are only eight kilometers left to their destination, the two have decided to take a break in the hamlet of Eselsburg.

The peacefully flowing Brenz glitters through the low-hanging branches and the tall bank grass. The river is wonderfully enchanted here in the Eselsburger Valley. It meanders in gentle curves through juniper heaths, gurgles past orchards and doesn't allow itself to be deterred from its path by the impressive rock formations.

When the two friends are served their food – lentils with Spaetzle and homemade Maultaschen – at their places, they are thinking about what they have liked best on the tour so far. Simone's favorite was the community of Königsbronn with the baroque town hall and the green-blue Brenztopf (Brenz water hole). Julia found the morning swim in the Bucher reservoir the best and hopes for more swimming opportunities.



The 52 kilometer long Brenz rises in Königsbronn right next to the town hall

If you want to swim, you have to dismount.
Riding is not allowed along the Bucher reservoir



There are plenty of opportunities to enjoy food and drink on the six stages of the 273 kilometer long state cycle route: In the numerous cities, such as the starting point Crailsheim or the destination Schwäbisch Gmünd; along the rivers Kocher, Jagst, Brenz, Rems and Danube, which you ride in the various sections of the cycle tour; and, in the twelve valleys that you cross. The state cycle path is brand new. It was just merged in 2023 from sections of the Hohenlohe-Ostalb cycle path and the Alb-Neckar cycle path. The newly created tour was awarded four out of five stars by the ADFC, the General German Bicycle Club.

Mean-spirited legendary figures and geological phenomena

As the two friends push their bikes onto the asphalt road, the light has changed. The green and beige tones of the summer-colored landscape seem to have become warmer and softer. After two windings of the road, they

have left the hamlet behind them and are completely immersed in nature again. A little while later they drive towards the Stone Maidens – one of the highlights of the second stage.

The two tapered rock cones rise close together into the sky directly on the bike path. Simone, who is interested in legends and stories, knows the horrifying tale that the valley residents have come up with about the rocks. “These are supposed to be two maids of the then mistress of the Eselsburg,” she says. “She hated men and is said to have forbidden her maids from having contact with them. Unfortunately, the two fell in love with two boys who they regularly met while fetching water in the valley.” Simone swallows: „As punishment for their disobedience, the lady of the castle is said to have turned them both into stone.“

Of course, we now know that the two rocks are not enchanted maidens from times long past. Over millions of years of painstaking work, the Brenz dug its way into the Alb and formed the five-kilometer-long valley. In doing so, it washed away parts of the fissured lime-



Created by the Brenz:
The Eselsburger Valley was
formed by the small river

stones of the Swabian Alb and exposed others. Along the green edges of the valley, Julia and Simone repeatedly discover rocks that seem to have proven themselves against the floods of the Brenz.

The two friends cheer as they ride into their destination of Giengen an der Brenz in the evening. Done! They are tired from today's journey. Nevertheless, they are already looking forward to the next day. Before leaving for Ulm, they want to visit the Steiff Museum. Luckily, the journey time is only about three hours. So tomorrow the two of them can thoroughly enjoy everything that the Württemberg Valley Cycle Path has to offer.



Want to see more?

The QR takes you to our website
with more ideas for a cycle vacation.
wuerttembergertaelerradweg.de

You probably know already ...

... that the world-famous teddy bear comes from Giengen an der Brenz? Apollonia Margarete Steiff, a native of Giengen and the inventor of cuddly toys, founded her stuffed animal factory here in 1880. The first Steiff animal wasn't a bear, but an elephant, which she actually sold as a pincushion. The felt

elephant quickly became a popular children's toy, and Steiff soon offered other animals. Production is still in Giengen today. And in 2005, a museum was opened here in which the Steiff animals are exhibited in various adventure worlds. What's particularly nice: There's even a teddy bear clinic where the little ones can be repaired. steiff.de



LEARNING EVERY TRICK IN THE BOOK

Submerged lakes, spherical rivers and 250 fountains in one city: Southwest Germany offers some unusual water facts and stories ... along with their corresponding sights:

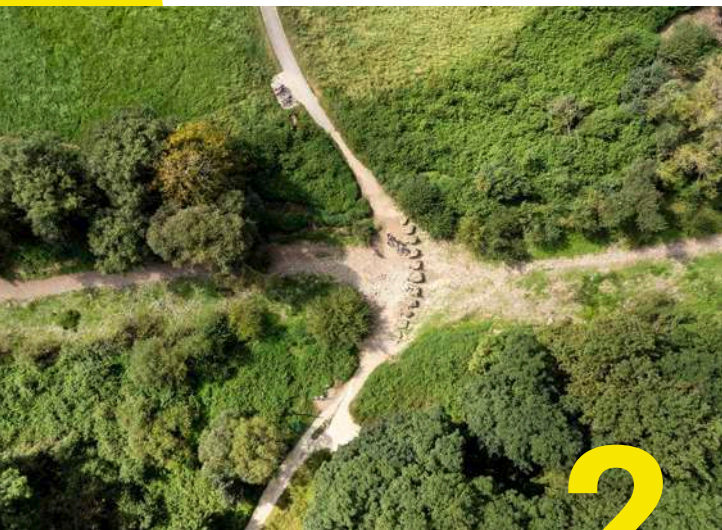


Fountain metropolis Stuttgart

Let it splash

Over 250 fountains and water features: The state capital is not called the “fountain metropolis” for nothing. Many of them even bubble up with mineral and medicinal water, as Stuttgart has the second largest mineral water reserves in Europe. The Galatea Fountain from the 19th century is a popular photo opportunity. You can get an overview of all the water features on a guided fountain tour.

stiftung-stuttgarter-bruenne.de



Danube seepage

A river submerges

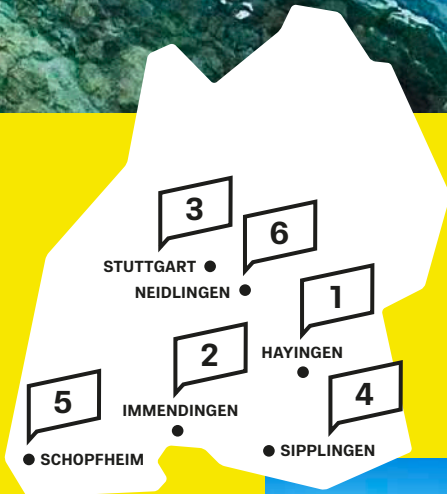
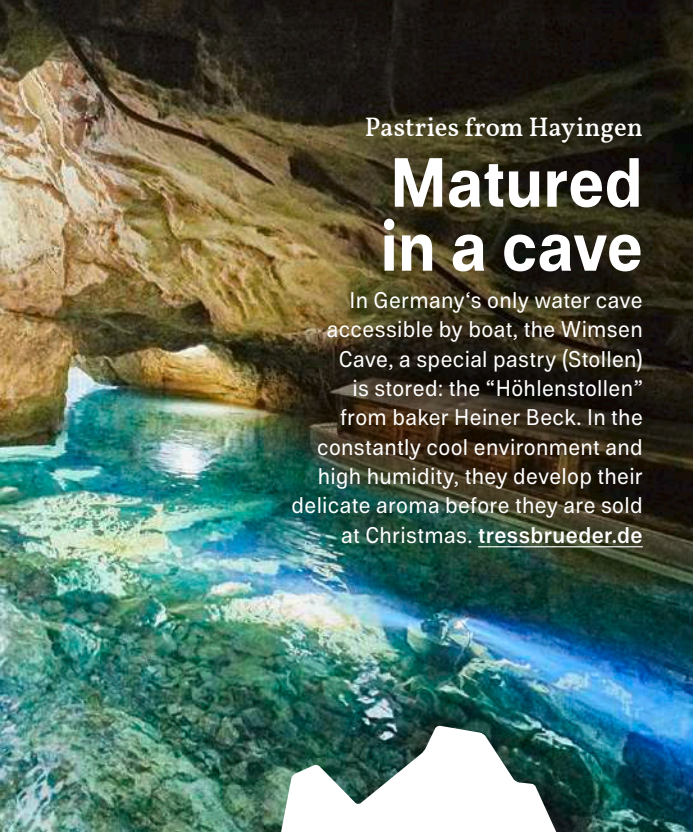
The Danube is one of the most powerful rivers in Europe and is always full of surprises. The “Danube seepage” near Immendingen is a unique natural phenomenon. From around May to September, the Danube sinks into the porous karst rock and only emerges again twelve kilometers further in the Aachtopf. Depending on the weather, you can then hike through the riverbed dry-footed and find prehistoric fossils there. donaubergland.de



Pastries from Hayingen

Matured in a cave

In Germany's only water cave accessible by boat, the Wimsen Cave, a special pastry (Stollen) is stored: the "Höhlenstollen" from baker Heiner Beck. In the constantly cool environment and high humidity, they develop their delicate aroma before they are sold at Christmas. tressbrueder.de



Eichener Lake

Sometimes there, sometimes gone

The Eichener Lake near Schopfheim always appears completely unexpected when the groundwater builds up in the underground cave system of the sinkhole and pushes upwards. As a result, the lake can reach a depth of up to three meters and submerge around 2.5 hectares of land. And it is home to a rare, living fossil. The pre-historic fairy crab lays its offspring in eggs, which can survive up to three dry periods in the earth until Eichener Lake appears again. eichen.schopfheim.de



Lake Constance water supply

Drinking water while traveling

4



Lake Constance is Europe's largest drinking water reservoir and supplies around four million people in Baden-Württemberg. The water is treated in the Lake Constance water supply in Sipplingen. It is then distributed across thousands of kilometers of pipelines across the country using hydropower and pumping systems. The water takes two days to reach Stuttgart and a whole week to reach the Odenwald. bodensee-wasserversorgung.de

Curious Water Stories

Ball mill Neidlingen

Coming full circle

The marble pieces dance back and forth in the rushing water. The edges continue to grind away until perfect balls are created. Each one is unique: the internal structure of the Jurassic rock is only revealed through the round cut. In addition to the mill itself, the ball factory can also be visited a few meters upstream. kugelmuehle-neidlingen.de



6

SEARCH AND FIND GAME ON THE WATER

With the “EcoKayaks” from “Die Zugvögel” rental company you and the family can travel through the countryside around Stuttgart paddling to collect trash. ✍️ CHRISTIANE WÜRTEMBERGER 📷 GREGOR LENGLER



The three eco-kayaks are at home in different cities and, if they are available, can be rented for free





Life jackets are mandatory for little paddlers



The wildly romantic Enz comes from the northern Black Forest and is a left tributary of the Neckar



Eco-kayak "Lubi" with collection bucket in tow

“Even during my studies, I went out on the water in a canoe as often as I could.”

ANNA BRÖLL, “DIE ZUGVÖGEL”

A ball is not so easy to catch with pincers. It dances in an unruly manner between the branches hanging on the river Enz on the bank, but little Greta doesn't give up. A happy chase begins. The green eco-kayak “Lubi,” which looks like a baby crocodile, swims into the thicket with Greta, the girl laughs as she paddles. The primary school student is steering a boat alone for the first time today, and she is visibly proud of how well it is working. Finally, she gets hold of the red ball, pinches it and heaves it into the boat. The other family members applaud – this makes collecting trash fun! Three stops with the eco-kayak

Greta is out and about with her little brother Henri and her parents around the viaduct in Bietigheim-Bissingen. The four discover nature and look for rubbish on the water. They don't find much - a few PET (plastic polyeurethane) bottles, a paddling pool, small packaging and the ball - but that's a good thing. The Enz



Anna Bröll has been running the rental business for seven years

in Bietigheim-Bissingen is quite clean, and the offer from the water sports equipment rental company “Die Zugvögel” makes it a little less wasteful. At three of the seven stations along the Enz, Neckar, and Rems, you can rent an eco-kayak for free and set off with long tongs and a collection bin. The rental company does not accept reservations, so it's best to call

spontaneously and ask whether the eco-kayak in Bietigheim-Bissingen, Weinstadt-Endersbach or Ludwigsburg is currently available. If you go as a family, you can simply rent normal canoes.

“We often have clean-ups on the Neckar in the spring, and they are well received,” reports head of “Die Zugvögel” Anna Bröll. “But we also want to enable families and paddlers to go on tours alone to collect rubbish.” Bröll took over the traditional medium-sized company a few years ago – after many years as a canoe guide there. She earned part of her living expenses during her master’s degree in tourism management. Today Bröll likes to experiment with special offers.

Green jungle on the Enz

And so you shouldn’t be surprised if a water bike passes by on the rivers in the region or if the barrier-free giant SUP appears under the striking railway viaduct in Bietigheim. In addition to up to four wheelchairs, it also has space for “standing passengers”. The tourism

On the water together: Wheelchairs can be strapped onto the giant SUP



I got you! Henri “fished” for tissues

expert says: “We are pleased to be the first tour provider in Baden-Württemberg to use the SUP developed by the German Wheelchair Sports Association. The great thing is that with the SUP, people with and without limitations can do sport together.” Experiencing something together is also a motto of “Die Zugvögel”, which, in addition to rentals, also offers courses and guided tours.

There are even
more tips on barrier-
free travel here:



“It’s always surprising,” says Anna Bröll, “what you can find in and along the Enz – especially in spring, after the higher water levels during the winter.” She lists bicycles, tires, a car battery. Not everything was thrown into the river on purpose, some things the Enz



STAY IN THE DEEP WATER

Anyone traveling by canoe should avoid gravel and sand banks as well as shallow areas. Avoid paddling near the shore too. Birds often breed there and it is the nursery of many fish.

simply gets from the bank. Or the wind blows plastic packaging and bottles into the water.

Fortunately, our family finds so little that a real competition arises. Father and son find what they are looking for and pull a dilapidated children's paddling pool from the bushes on the bank into the eco-friendly kayak. And of course Henri wonders out loud how it could have gotten there...

Verdant green banks of the Enz right outside Bietigheim-Bissingen



After about two hours, the strength in the children's arms begins to fade. We go back with the current proudly in formation – everyone next to each other – again under the viaduct. Crocodile Lubi has the red ball in the trash can trailer. Helmswoman Greta docks at the small stone staircase as if she had never done anything else on her free afternoons. Henri counts the plastic bottles in the collection bin. And the parents had a good time with the two of them.



Learn more?

Simply scan the QR code. Everything about "Die Zugvögel" can be found here: diezugvoegel.de; and about the region at stuttgart-tourist.de

WILD WATER KINGDOM

Get out of the house and into the cool water!
In Baden-Württemberg it is never far to the next water experience. Whether SUP yoga or riverbed hiking, you will find special kinds of refreshing experiences



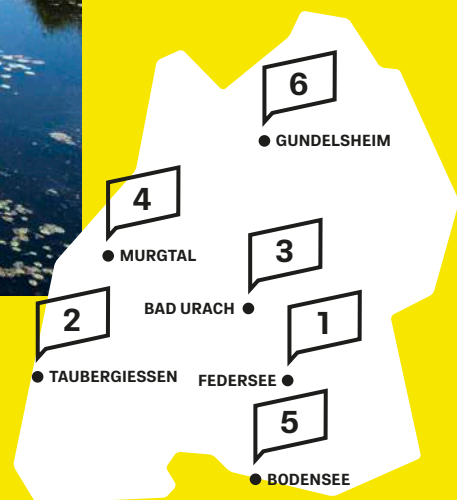
Feder Lake

Very close to nature

You can reach the observation points at Feder Lake via wooden footbridges that lead through meter-high reeds. The 33 square kilometer nature reserve is the largest moor landscape in Baden-Württemberg and a habitat for more than 270 bird species. There is a lot of information about this special birdwatching tour that is offered year-round. nabu-federsee.de

Taubergiessen It could hardly be quieter

A punting trip in the Taubergiessen nature reserve on the Upper Rhine always follows the same route, yet it is special in a new way every season. Sometimes nature is in full bloom, sometimes the fog billows over the meadow landscape. What remains is the incomparable peace that surrounds you as the wooden boat glides through the waters of the Blinde Elz. The silence is only broken by a few people. Calls of the animals that populate the nature reserve near Rust. The boatmen know them by name – and are happy to introduce them to their guests. rust.de





Bad Urach

Off to the underworld

The Swabian Alb is considered to be one of the most cave-rich areas in Europe. Around 2,500 natural and show caves are spread across the Karst mountains. One of the longest in the region is the Falkenstein Cave near Bad Urach. It flows five kilometers into the rock – including the river – perfect for an underground tour. Equipped with a wetsuit and helmet including a headlamp, the adventure can begin; the beginners' tour is even suitable for children.

cojote-outdoor.de

Lake Constance

In Balance



Even before the first rays of sun touch the surface of the water, you can take a stand-up paddle board from the island of Reichenau out to Lake Constance. Then it's time to take a deep breath and stay balanced. Because in SUP yoga, the ground always moves with you. The body is strengthened all the more while the mind finds peace until the steady wave movements of the lake and the warming sun carry you into the new day. superbodensee.de

Murgtal

Right in the middle!



In the Todtnau mountains or in the Murgtal in the northern Black Forest, where the rivers are still on their original paths, you don't just walk next to the river. When gorging or hiking along the riverbed, you go through the water. The first adrenaline kick comes when rappelling from a height of 15 meters. To prevent the tour from becoming a slippery slope, sturdy shoes are a must. You can plunge straight into the water with soft rafting.

ummegumpe.de; murgtal-arena.de

Gundelsheim

Feeling like a trapper on the Neckar

Like a trapper with a canoe on the Neckar through the "Odenwald Everglades," You can glide and distill your own moonshine gin at the end of the water journey. The workshop at the Englert distillery creates a Wild West feeling. At the time of Prohibition in the USA, "Moonshine" referred to illegally distilled liquor with a high alcohol content. The after-pains were therefore usually inevitable. Fortunately, there is expert guidance at the distilling workshop, and the individual choice of botanicals creates special creations that you can take with you and enjoy without regrets. brennerei-englert.de





The island of Reichenau with its three famous churches is picturesquely located in Lake Constance

OUR REICHENAU

The sunny island in Lake Constance is a dream destination for travelers. And the lake is a matter of the heart for the people who live here either on or near the water

✍ ANNA MONTERROSO CARNEIRO 📷 FRANK BAUER

Stefanie Wehrle rides her bike through the greenhouse with a big smile on her face. Every day she does a lot of walking – sometimes she has to drive to her fields, sometimes to a distant greenhouse, sometimes just around the corner. To the right and left of her, tomato plants climb towards the sunlight. As soon as Wehrle jumps off the bike and approaches the rows of vegetables, her hands automatically reach into the plants, feel the fruit and remove dead leaves.

This woman from Reichenau is a vegetable gardener and has always felt this way. The business has belonged to her family for three generations and everyone pitches in. “Sure, as a teenager, I didn’t really like getting up at six in the morning to help. “My parents’ work however still influenced me, and I’m very happy to have taken over the farm,” she said. “I deliver my products to the cooperative.

But there are also small stands on the island where you can buy her vegetables.” When a

hum sounds, the irrigation system at the base of the plants does its part for a few seconds. It is part of a huge irrigation system that has run through the island since the 1950s and supplies greenhouses and fields with water from the lake. “Without Lake Constance, we as vegetable gardeners wouldn’t be doing so well here,” says Wehrle. “And neither do I as a person,” she adds. The lake always fascinates me with something new all the time: “Where other people go on vacation, we go every day.”

World heritage and nature conservation

The island in western Lake Constance has up to one million day-visitors a year – and many of them cycle past Wehrle’s greenhouses. The green, vegetable-rich island leads to the three medieval churches, which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites, or to the Hochwart work gallery, or to the beach where you can cool off. If you don’t take the boat to Reichenau, you can



Stefanie Wehrle
grows vegetables
in the middle of
the UNESCO World
Heritage Site

“I like sitting by the water in the evenings. The sight of the lake is so calming.”

VEGETABLE GARDENER STEFANIE WEHRLE

come via the causeway, which has a road on it. Around it and on the mainland lies the Wollmatinger Ried nature reserve. As an ornithologist at the NABU Lake Constance Center, Lisa Maier is responsible for recording the bird world. When she is not guiding guests through the 760 hectare protected area, she can often be found on the viewing platform of the Schopflen ruins.

There she stands focused on her spotting scope – a magnifying glass with just one tube – and counts waterfowl in the Ermatinger Basin. Up to 10,000 birds stay in the protected shallow water zones in summer: dark coots, white mute swans, mallards, and red-crested pochard. The young woman appears very grounded and content in the middle of nature.

1,300 YEARS OF REICHENAU

The island is celebrating its 1,300th anniversary in 2024: the founding of the Reichenau Monastery by Bishop Pirmin in 724. Open-air plays staged as a journey through time, the “An Island Makes Music” festival and a special monastery market are planned. The large state exhibition “World Heritage of the Middle Ages – 1300 Years of the Monastery Island of Reichenau” will feature valuable exhibits telling the medieval history of the island from April to October – in the Baden-Württemberg State Archaeological Museum in Konstanz and on the Reichenau. reichenau1300.de

Lake Constance

At home, you could say. A feeling that Lake Constance gives to many. She came here for the job - and can't imagine leaving here again.

A special place

Tour guide Uwe Anker also has deep roots in the island. "I enjoy traveling," he says, "it's important to get to know people from other cultures. But as soon as I see Lake Constance for the first time when I return, I'm home." The devout Catholic prefers to show guests the three churches on the island and their valuable treasures. He likes to talk about the importance of faith for Reichenau and its people.

"I'm interested in history, I love the island and I like to talk," he says, "all three important requirements for my job." There's a lot to tell, because the first Benedictine monastery on German soil was built here 1,300 years ago.

Since then, the island has been a special, spiritual place, says Uwe Anker. That's why he's now looking forward to the big anniversary (see box on page 49). "This will definitely be a special, eventful year. Because here at Reichenau, we really like to party. And I think it's nice when we can show guests from all over the world that faith lives with us."



Experience the island?

Simply scan the QR code.

More about western Lake Constance and the island of Reichenau at reichenau-tourismus.de and bodenseewest.eu

"We are baptized with water – it is a symbol of life."

TOUR GUIDE UWE ANKER

Tour guide Uwe Anker shows his the faith through everyday life on the island

Time travel through water

Water has always played an important role in the monuments of the State Palaces and Gardens. Here are four examples:

1 The Heuneburg: trading center on the river

From the 6th to 5th centuries B.C. powerful princes ruled in Heuneburg near Hundersingen. Thanks to the Danube, they developed a lively trading center. The Celtic elites used the river to import goods that came primarily from the Mediterranean, such as Greek ceramics. They also acquired technical knowledge through the exchange. Today many relics are exhibited in the Celtic Museum on the Heuneburg. heuneburg-pyrene.de

2 Badenweiler: Roman spa culture

Who was it? The Romans. They occupied large parts of what is now Baden-Württemberg and expanded thermal springs into luxurious bathing temples. Their plumbing was a work of engineering. You can still admire them in the ancient and healing spa of Badenweiler in the Black Forest. The ruins are among the most impressive Roman monuments in the Southwest Germany. badruine-badenweiler.de

3 Maulbronn Monastery: Cleverly-engineered water

In the Middle Ages, the Cistercian monks declared the presence of water to be a prerequisite for founding a mo-

nastery. Above all, their own waters were important so that the monks could supply themselves with fish. They also developed the first systems that separated fresh water from wastewater. One of the best-preserved Cistercian monasteries north of the Alps is in Maulbronn. There you can also see the complex water management system of the Cistercians. kloster-maulbronn.de

4 Schwetzingen: Magnificent fountains

In the Baroque period, princes used water in their gardens to demonstrate wealth and power. The castle gardens in Bruchsal, Heidelberg, Weikersheim, and especially in Schwetzingen, bear witness to this. A sophisticated water system was built in the palace gardens was based on the model from Versailles. This fed fountains and basins, such as the artistic fountain arbor of the water-spouting birds. schloss-schwetzingen.de

More about ancient architecture in castles, monasteries and gardens at
schloesser-und-gaerten.de



FOR LOVE OF THE LAKE

As we move towards a different, more environmentally-friendly tourism, we highlight our sustainable tourism companies and sustainable excursion destinations on Lake Constance

 CHRISTIANE WÜRTENBERGER  GREGOR LENGLER/FRANK BAUER

The wheat will soon be ripe on the World Field in Überlingen. Education officer and agricultural specialist Anette Wilkening checks that everything is going well and snacks on a few currants every now and then. On the way home, she will later go swimming in Lake Constance. Meanwhile, at the slow food restaurant „Die Speiserei im Maier“ in Friedrichshafen-Fischbach, chef Philipp Heid is preparing a starter with roach fillets. He has marinated them and serves his interpretation of ceviche with four types of Lake Constance tomatoes. Nearby, at the Brugger organic farm, Christine Brugger checks lemon verbena and juniper – two ingredients in her gin from the Organic Distillery. The sensory scientist uses fresh organic herbs and her expert knowledge to produce particularly fine distillates with intense aromas. She is already the fourth generation that is active in the distillery.

The World Field is a colorful field that highlights and explains international agriculture and the growers who give their products an extra

dose of their time. This World Field concept fits well with the region. There, under the leadership of Deutsche Bodensee Tourismus GmbH (DBT), an association of companies and projects has been formed that are particularly committed to preserving the unique cultural region. The goal of this cooperation „Lake Constance – ECHT nachhaltig“ (really sustainable) is to network and „preserve the lake as a living space for locals and as an intact holiday region for guests in the long term“. The partners now include over 60 accommodation providers, restaurants and cafés, manufacturing and excursion destinations. We visited three of them.

My field, your field


Anette Wilkening kneels in the bed and picks out a herb here and there. It looks peaceful here, a green organic idyll not far from Lake Constance. But the Überlinger World Acre is actually about much more: it's about international connections in agriculture, about

The MS Insel Mainau has a shade roof made of solar cells. The ship sails very quietly



SOLAR POWER

The Bodensee-boat business's first electric ship has been sailing since 2022 between the town of Uhldingen, the island of Mainau and the town of Meersburg. The background to this development: The city of Konstanz declared a climate emergency in 2019 so the Lake Constance shipping fleet was required to be decarbonized by 2035. More info? Available at: bsb.de



The world field looks like a colorful patchwork quilt, but it reflects global agriculture



“I love swimming in the lake – I often go for a swim after work.”

ANETTE WILKENING

resources, about water, power and justice. The idea, which originally came from Berlin, was implemented a few years ago at the State Garden Show in Überlingen and is only complicated at first glance: mathematically, every person on earth is entitled to 2,000 square meters of fertile arable land.

So they measured a piece of land in Überlingen that was exactly that size. But there is no cultivation there, which the agricultural expert, Anette Wilkening, thinks is great and the right thing to do. Rather, the field reflects what is grown in the world

and in what proportions it is grown. An educational project that is now supported by “BiNELa gUG (Education, Sustainability, Nutrition, Agriculture)” because it raises many important questions: What is justice? What solidarity? Is it okay that protein-rich soy is the fourth most widely grown variety, but 90 percent of the yield is fed to animals? Or simply: What would I grow in 2,000 square meters? Could I make a living from this? “It’s easy enough,” says Anette Wilkening with a laugh, “if you do it right.”

Fine organic essences

She goes on to say that she is always fascinated by how big a field like this is when you stand in the middle of it. Wilkening worked as a teacher and later studied organic farming out of interest. The World Field is her heart’s project. Her mission, the mission of the Weltacker, is actually quite simple: “I want our guests to leave the field with confidence and joy. We need a lot more of that. We want them to feel empowered: With everything I do, I carry

“Life without a lake is unimaginable for me. I often go sailing and love the freedom on the water.”

CHRISTINE BRUGGER



a can-do attitude into the world in every moment of my life. That doesn't mean that you will always do everything right. But it means that everyone can make a difference.” She said it and was already off again harvesting the peas before the rain comes.

Christine Brugger from Hof Brugger is the kind of person who likes to make a difference. The scent of apples, pears and spicy herbs was part of her life from an early age. At 30, she thought she would like to work as a perfumer, but then she decided to become a sensory scientist and a few years later decided to produce gin and fine essences at the family-run Demeterhof (a cooperative for biodynamic agriculture).

She calls her factory “Organic Distillery.” “No other alcohol specialty is as versatile as

gin,” said the sensory expert. Only the juniper and water are consistent ingredients – the rest has become a wonderful field of experimentation for Brugger: silver wormwood, lemon verbena and rose monards from their own cultivations are also used in their fine brandies, for example, yarrow from the flower strips in the surrounding fields. “My distillates are unfiltered, so that the valuable aromas are preserved,” continues Christine Brugger. The fact that she only uses organic ingredients is evident and is the tradition of her family's business.

Already in 1973, her parents had switched to organic farming, and the farm has been Demeter-certified since 1983. Organic cultivation here, like the partnership with “ECHT nachhaltig,” is done out of deep conviction. By the way, their two gin specialties are called



The ingredients are all wild-grown – or organic



Christine Brugger in her element – distilling

Ginn and Ginnie and don't just rely on different flavors. The first – woody and resinous – also pleases the palate. Ginnie, on the other hand, is floral and spicy and is primarily aimed at people with noses. As a scientist, the expert knows that men often perceive aromas more intensively through their palates and women through their noses. She takes both into account with her gin distillates.

A few kilometers further on, Philipp Heid prepares his ceviche made from roach fish from the lake at the Hotel Maier. He serves four different types of tomatoes from the region and fresh herbs from the garden. His credo: "We live here entirely according to the season, nature and availability." That's why you won't always find fish on the menu, because Lake Constance is so nutrient-poor that catches are getting smaller and smaller. And that's why the menu says „regional vegetables“ rather than „with broccoli“. Heid continues: "I cook what the local producers provide. If one person doesn't have something, I ask someone else. If he can't deliver either, I'll cook something



**Summer starter:
pickled roach with
tomatoes from Lake
Constance**

else." Heid was influenced by his grandmother's large garden, in which so much edible food grew that little Philipp also learned how to preserve food from her. Regionality remains his passion to this day: In the summer, the restaurant, "Diespeiserei im Maier," supplies itself almost exclusively with ingredients that come from a radius of 30 kilometers.

Hendrik Fennel, who runs the business together with his wife, thinks that's right. He came to Lake Constance from the Rhineland ten years ago. Even back then they were betting that there would be an increased focus on both slow food and sustainability – and by this the couple not only means serving sustainably produced food, but also treating their own environment with respect. "Regardless of whether it is about employees or loans," says Fennel, "we have always tried to act in a socially responsible manner." It is clear that he is also involved in the "Lake Constance – ECHT nachhaltig" cooperation.



**"Water is a rare commodity:
tomatoes consist almost
entirely of water, fish live in
water – and I need it for
cooking." PHILIPP HEID**



**More information about the
E-boat and the cooperation,
"ECHT nachhaltig"?**

Simply scan the QR code or go to
echt-bodensee.de and
echt-nachhaltig.de



Above: Signpost:
Still Stream;
Below: monas-
tery forest with
monastery pond



Left: You can
enjoy peace and
nature at the
Krummbach

The stream shows the way

They were once the lifelines of the monasteries. Today, quiet walking paths run along the banks of the old streams and water systems

More than 50 baroque stations line the route of the Upper Swabian Baroque Road, one of the oldest cultural and holiday routes in Germany. At the monasteries and abbeys you will not only discover magnificent architecture, but also technically sophisticated streams and water systems from yesteryear - as well as plenty of quiet places to breathe deeply and relax.

The canal systems built by the Benedictines on the Krummbach near the Ochsenhausen monastery are particularly impressive. They supplied the monastery with fresh water as early as the Renaissance. Because of its minimal gradient, the canal was an early masterpiece of hydraulic engineering. Today it is almost meditative to walk along its banks: ancient giant trees line the path. Trout dart away in the crystal clear water, and a woodpecker hammers in the depths of the Fürstenwald.

The monks of Weingarten Monastery even went one step further: They created an approximately eleven kilometer long canal system with which they connected the naturally occurring streams and lakes, but also created new ponds - as early as the 12th century. The canals are almost completely preserved. Today, you can follow cozy walking paths, such as the hiking trail from Weingarten to Rösslerweiher, one of the oldest reservoirs in Europe. Fish farming is still carried out there today - also a relic of the Benedictine monks of Weingarten.

More info

Information about the water systems and the monasteries can be found at:
oberschwaben-tourismus.de



Reed islands in
the Ried Lake in
Bad Wurzach



GIVE ME MOOR

**Bad Wurzach has the largest intact raised moor in
Central Europe - you can experience it while hiking,
swimming or treading on the moor**

 CHRISTIANE WÜRTEMBERGER  GREGOR LENGLER

Take off your shoes and just do it. I balance barefoot on the forest floor and then start down the stairs to the wading pool. Should I really? Do I dare? I don't see the reason why not as this isn't a Kneipp pool with ice-cold, rather just clear water. Here in Wurzacher Ried in Upper Swabia, there is a rustic wading pool in the middle of the landscape. I take a deep breath, then I stand with my right foot up to my ankle in the mud – sorry, I mean the moor.

And it's not just much cooler on this mid-summer day, it is also much softer, more pleasant, more soothing than I expected. I walk

around a bit like a stork pulling my feet out of the mud with each step. Then we head to the stream on the other side of the path to rinse off. That was my test of courage today, and, I may add, a very pleasant end to our hike through the Wurzacher Ried.

The moor near Bad Wurzach was created around 12,000 years ago, after the last Ice Age. To put it very simply, the following happened there: In the Wurzach Basin, the terminal moraine of a glacier ensured that the meltwater from the surrounding hills could no longer drain away so a shallow lake formed, which over time, became a moor. Because of the lack of oxygen in the water, dead plants could not decompose completely and were deposited as peat on the bottom – their carbon is still stored down there.

Today, the Wurzacher Ried is one of the most important moorland landscapes in southern Germany, awarded the European Diploma for Protected Areas. You can discover it on foot on beautiful boardwalks, in the interactive exhibition "MOOR EXTREM" in the nature conservation center in Bad Wurzach – or you can experience the beneficial effects of the moor during treatments in the spas of Upper Swabia. It's best to combine both – hence the reason for mud walking – or even a full bath.

“The moor is most beautiful in spring. Then everything comes to life.”

SIEGFRIED ROTH, HEAD OF THE NATURE CONSERVATION CENTER



Show your feet here: mud bath in Bad Wurzach

Healing substances

It bubbles, gurgles and gushes as one of the tubs in the “feelMOOR health resort” in Bad Wurzach fills up. The mixture of natural moor and thermal water is heated up to 40 degrees centigrade. As such a warm medicinal bath can be a bit disruptive to your circulation, you need a doctor's certificate in advance that you are fit for moorland.

The warm peat substances then put the body into a kind of artificial fever that have an antibacterial effect and are said to provide relief for back pain, herniated discs and muscle and joint diseases. In any case, such a bath is



Dead trees in the Wurzacher Ried. Eventually, it gets too humid for the trees to survive



Red and mysterious:
The sundew plant survives
in the moor by attracting
and digesting insects



A treat for the feet: mud wading pool on the banks of the Ried Lake. It is free and accessible



Atmospheric at any time of day: sunset at Ried Lake

Siegfried Roth, head of the nature conservation center, on an excursion



as sweaty as it is relaxing. And the atmosphere in “feelMOOR” is also just right. After 20 minutes in silence, you feel like you’re melting away, your body is programmed for deep relaxation – so it’s best to spend the rest of the day calm and relaxed.

Untouched nature

Across the human-high reeds: the moor hike with Siegfried Roth, the leader of the local nature conservation center, starts the next afternoon. He raves about this intact, raised moor, which is fed primarily by rainwater, that it is a unique habitat for rare birds. He also is excited about the Haidgau spring lakes, which we are currently looking at from a small wooden platform in the water, that they are fairly shallow and incredibly clear because of their calca-

reous, mineral-rich water. And it is Roth’s favorite place. What is particularly special about the Wurzachener Ried, the expert continues, is that there are so many different types of moor: a spring moor, a rain-dependent raised moor and fen areas shaped by rivers. And that the natural atmosphere out here is so special – fresh green in spring, colorful in autumn, and almost mystical when the mists come in early winter.

Moors used to be scary for people, and not just because of the dark atmosphere. They were also simply hostile, dangerous areas. Today, it’s not just experts such as Siegfried Roth who appreciate these unique landscapes. “I find it fascinating that there are areas in the core of this raised moor where humans have never intervened and where no one can even go now.” Rare birds such as black storks and

Interactive exhibition “EXTREME MOOR” in the nature conservation center





**“We even have
a pair of cranes
that nest
with us.”**

SIEGFRIED ROTH

Climate saving moor

Peatlands are the most effective carbon containers of all terrestrial habitats. They store the carbon of plants, whose remains are preserved there in the form of peat. However, things are not going well for moors around the world – including Germany. Around 95 percent of Germany’s moors have been drained. Drying or destroyed moorlands are therefore responsible for around seven percent of the greenhouse gases emitted in Germany. This is reason enough to appreciate them and restore the moors to nature wherever they were drained. And, to avoid putting peat in the garden soil. Currently, there is consideration for an Allgäu-Upper Swabia-Allgäu biosphere area which would help to protect the region’s biological diversity even more.

corncrakes then migrate over this zone, which makes up around a third of the reed and spotted moorhens. Water-storing mosses have settled there. And the common sundew plant compensates for the nitrogen deficiency in the moor by attracting insects with its sticky leaves and not releasing them anymore. “Only a few, very specialized plant species can survive on these acidic soils,” continues Roth and shows us one of the carnivorous plants.

Naturally, specialists also settle in where you can go with guided tours. And if you can ignore the omnipresent buzzing of insects and don’t let it drive you crazy, you can also enjoy the peace and quiet out here. You can marvel at dead tree stumps reflected in the water in the most picturesque way. And listen to the cotton grass swaying quietly in the wind.

Evening on the Ried Lake

The moor won’t let us go, it’s fascinating, even in summer, even without any fog. In the evening we set off alone again to the Ried Lake. The sun is already low, it turns the clouds pink and they send their delicately colored reflections onto the surface of the quiet lake. Some horseshoe azure damselflies – blue dragonflies – buzz just above the surface towards the carpet of water lilies; it is their territory. Two great crested grebes paddle past. Birds are chirping. The reeds rustle. Just stand still on the dock and be silent. Just do nothing. Here we are just spectators. And that feels really good.



More info?

Simply scan the QR code or go to wurzacher-ried.de and oberschwaben-tourismus.de

HOT SPRINGS

Southwest Germany is rich in thermal springs that can strengthen health. Each spa has its own specialties and strengths that we introduce here



1

Baden-Baden Friedrichsbad

Under the wide domed roof: The architecturally unique Friedrichsbad was opened in 1877. For almost 150 years, guests have been experiencing Roman and Irish bathing rituals at 17 stations - from hot air baths to soap brush massages to bubble baths. carasana.de



Bad Dürreheim Solemar

The air here is guaranteed to be clean: in the Dead Sea salt cave, guests relax with light and sound effects. You can also experience the beneficial healing brine in the 13 indoor and outdoor pools. Afterwards, you can relax in the Black Forest sauna with its seven themed saunas.

badduerreheim.de

2



Bad Krozingen Vita Classica

3

This sauna area is not far from Freiburg and invites you to try its unusual treatments: honey or Himalayan sauna? Resting in the waterbed or taking a stroll through the Japanese Garden? It's best to book a day ticket. You should also pay a visit to the thermal baths: the fine bubbles of carbon dioxide are unique.

bad-krozingen.info



4

Bad Wildbad

Palais Thermal

A bubbling outdoor pool with a view of the city is something nice. But in the Palais Thermal, guests will find the real sensation inside: a bathing palace like something out of the Arabian Nights – with Moorish elements and echoes of Art Nouveau. The princely baths of this bathing establishment are a pleasant 32 to 38 degrees Celsius. And, of course, there is also a large sauna area. The tree-top path in Bad Wildbad is also worthwhile. palais-thermal.de



5

Bad Buchau

Adelindis Therme

Pssst? No way: In the new "Schwi(ä)tzkasten" communication sauna, verbal exchange is expressly desired. To relax, you can then go into the panoramic pool with a view of nature. The thermal water bubbles up from a depth of 800 meters in Bad Buchau at 47 degrees Celsius and is said to be beneficial for joint problems. The bird preserve at Feder Lake, where you can take part in excursions, is very close by. adelindistherme.de

Alb thermal bath, Bad Urach:

Two hot springs from a depth of 770 meters. albthermen.com

Alb thermal bath, Waldbronn:

5-star thermal baths with spa and salt cave. albtherme-waldbronn.de

Aqualon thermal bath, Bad Säckingen:

Far Eastern wellness offers. aqualon.de

Balineia thermal bath, Bad Bellingen:

Very valuable mineral thermal waters. balinea.de

Lake Constance Thermal bath, Überlingen:

Time out with a lake view. bodensee-therme.de

Caracalla thermal bath, Baden-Baden:

Bathe as the Romans. carasana.de

Cassiopeia thermal bath, Badenweiler:

Spa with a panorama view. staatsbad-badenweiler.de

The LEUZE thermal bath, Stuttgart:

Thermal spring joy in the city. stuttgarterbaeder.de

feelMOOR thermal bath, Bad Wurzach:

Moorbathing and more (Page 58). feelmoor.de

Thermal bath Rotherma, Gaggenau-Bad Rotenfels:

Unique rock sauna. rotherma.de

Thermal bath Hoheneck, Ludwigsburg:

Sulphate-containing brine from the Buntsandstein. swlb.de

KEIDEL Mineral-Thermal bath, Freiburg:

relaxation in the midst of beautiful nature. keideltherme.de

Limes-thermal bath, Aalen:

Modern spa with Roman flair. limes-thermen.de

Thermal bath Berg, Stuttgart:

Charming spa in the style of the 1950s. stuttgarterbaeder.de

Mineral springs, Bad Boll:

thermal spa with rehabilitation facilities. rehaklinik-bad-boll.de

Mineral springs, Bad Teinach:

Inspired by nature. hotel-therme-teinach.de

Panorama springs, Beuren:

With a cave landscape thermal grotto. panorama-therme.de

Paracelsus springs, Bad Liebenzell:

Large bathing and sauna area. paracelsus-therme.de

Parkhotel Jordanbad, Biberach:

thermal spa with large park. jordanbad.com

RappSoDie, Bad Rappenau:

brine and sauna paradise. rappsodie.info

Radon Revital Bad Menzenschwand, St. Blasien:

Sophisticated wellness offer. revitalbad-menzenschwand.de

Siebtäler Springs, Bad Herrenalb:

With sounds and light plays. siebentaelertherme.de

Salt thermal bath Bad Wimpfen:

Pool with many fitness courses solebad-badwimpfen.de

SoleBad thermal bath Cannstatt, Stuttgart:

Five healing springs. stuttgarterbaeder.de

Solymar Springs, Bad Mergentheim:

With family pool. solymar-therme.de

Sonnenhof Springs, Bad Saulgau:

Bathing pleasures on the Upper Swabian Baroque Road. bad-saulgau.de

Thermal springs and spa Bad Überkingen, Bad Überkingen:

Thermal water has been bubbling here since the Middle Ages. thermalbad-ueberkingen.de

Thermal Wellness & Health Park, Bad Schönborn:

Thermal brine water covering over 1,400 square meters. thermarium.de

Vinzenz springs, Bad Ditzgenbach:

Thermal water, with natural carbon dioxide. vinzenztherme.de

Vital Therme, Bad Wildbad:

Small oasis in town. bad-wildbad.de

Waldsee-Therme, Bad Waldsee:


With a large fitness program and underwater music. waldsee-therme.de



MARK TWAIN ON THE NECKAR

We traveled with city guide Klaus
Mombrei and discovered Heidelberg and
the region following in the footsteps of
the American writer

✍ CHRISTIANE WÜRTEMBERGER 📷 GREGOR LENGLER



May we introduce you?
Guide Klaus Mombrei aka
Mark Twain on the Neckar

The Neckar is not the Mississippi. But you can still experience exciting adventures around Heidelberg – if your name is Mark Twain and you’re a writer looking for stories. If necessary, you can invent some. In his book, “A Tramp Abroad,” for example, the American author says that he sailed on the Neckar on a raft: “We glided silently between the green, fragrant banks, with a feeling of joy and satisfaction that kept growing.” Then, however, the raft hit a bridge post in Heidelberg and capsized. Fortunately, according to Twain, the crew was able to reach the shore safely. Whether the text is true? Probably not, but Twain didn’t write reports, just travel literature.

A long European tour

But let’s start at the beginning: On April 25, 1878, Mark Twain arrived with his family in the port of Hamburg and traveled on to southern Germany. He needed a change of scenery and material for a new book because he had money worries. Mark Twain visited Lucerne, Venice and Milan. The family stayed in Europe for about a year and a half.

The author liked the continent and even learned some German. Mark Twain was almost entirely impressed by Heidelberg and the Neckar region, and he went on many excursions. He wrote: “One never gets tired of hiking around in the dense forests that cover all these high Neckar mountains right up to their peaks.” And so he notes enthusiastically, if slightly ironically: “Germany in summer is the perfection of beauty, but no one, who did not travel down the Neckar on a raft, truly understands

and savors the ultimate possibilities of this gentle and peaceful beauty.”

And because the American devoted several passages of his travel book to Heidelberg, he has found a contemporary alter ego in Heidelberg: Guide Klaus Mombrei guides through the city dressed as Mark Twain – in a white suit, with a walking stick and a hat. “At some point I was asked if I would do this Mark Twain tour,” said Mombrei. And then he filled the role he had taken on by chance with so much life that it was hard for him to let the alter ego go. Nowadays he only does tours like this every now and then on request, like with us. We explored the old town and drove a bit on the Neckar.

Mark Twain also wrote surprising things about the River Neckar and the castles, including Heilbronn and Bad Wimpfen. At one point he wrote: “In many places, the Neckar is so narrow that you can throw a dog across it if you have one (...).” The writer, whose real name was Samuel Langhorne Clemens, lived above the city of Heidelberg in Albert’s Castle Hotel, which no longer exists today.

He enjoyed the view of the water and the city, which he noted, lies in a ravine that has the shape of a shepherd’s crook. And he wrote further about Heidelberg in the evening: “I have



Mark Twain enjoyed and successfully wrote travel stories



never enjoyed a view that had such a quiet and exhilarating magic.” It goes without saying that guests from the USA follow in his footsteps and verses.

“Howdy, howdy, dear friends in Germany,” is how the fake Mark Twain greets us at the huge wine barrel in Heidelberg Castle and explains with a mischievous undertone that the barrel once didn’t contain any wine, but rather cream. You enjoy listening to the guide – and at some point everything mixes together: the original Mark Twain, his Heidelberg alter ego, the Neckar region then and now, fiction and reality. This is attractive and fun and would probably have appealed to Mark Twain too, because he also loved irony and playing with truths.

We continue on to the student prison in the old town. It is famous because the students

With a romantic factor:
view from Heidelberg
Castle to the old town

THE NECKAR ...

... comes from the Black Forest and flows into the Rhine in Mannheim after 362 kilometers. River trips are not only worthwhile in the region around Heidelberg (weisseflottehd.de), but e.g. B. also in Stuttgart (neckar-kaeptn.de).



Twain went on many
excursions, including
to Neckargemünd

who were imprisoned for disturbing the peace painted the walls here. Mark Twain writes: "I don't think I have ever found myself in a room that was more richly painted al fresco." Finally, at the Neckar jetty, we board a ship from the White Fleet and set off on the "Four Castles Tour". It leads to Neckarsteinach and back, through an idyllic part of the Neckar valley.

Over coffee and cake, we look out for the sights that Twain once got to know, such as Neckargemünd and the Dilsberg, and leaf through "A Tramp Abroad": Our "Mark Twain" walked along the river back, but only briefly. With a friend he set off on foot from Heilbronn to Heidelberg, but then decided to take the train. Our tour group then goes back on the raft trip. It was a dramatic end to our trip.

And even if Mark Twain's story is made up, the Neckar and the rafts could have inspired

Mark Twain to continue the Tom Sawyer story, says Klaus Mombrei with a wink. "Huckleberry" means "blueberry" in American English. Blueberry, Heidelberg, rafting, something clicks, right? Is this story true? Maybe even a fib. This Mississippi and the Neckar are worlds apart but "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" became Mark Twain's best-known book.



More info?

Simply scan the QR code and go on tour with Mark Twain. You can find out more about Heidelberg at heidelberg-marketing.de and about the region at tg-odenwald.de

LIVELY AND URBAN

From underwater clubs to surfing in the middle of the city: the cities of Southwest Germany celebrate summer with sport, fun and sunny breaks



Karlsruhe

Party in the park

Clueso, Peter Fox, Sunrise Avenue... The list of performers who have already been on stage at “Das Fest” in Karlsruhe is long. The family festival has its home near the city of Karlsruhe on the Alb river in the Günther Klotz complex and combines culture in the countryside with short distances between the concerts. And when the La Ola Waves from the river rush up the so-called Mount Klotz opposite the main stage, the river sparkles with the lights and cell phone lamps, you can get goosebumps. Also part of the program is the morning after when the classic breakfast on Sunday is accompanied by the Karlsruhe duck race, in which thousands of rubber ducks swim around the Alb in a sort of race. karlsruhe-erleben.de; dasfest.de



Freiburg

Chilling with your feet in the water

Freiburg im Breisgau is known for its mild climate, good wines, green projects and of course the pretty old town with its cathedral. Locals and guests alike can cool off with the famous medieval Bächle: children float their Bächle boats in the clear water of the cobbled channels, while adults give their feet a break as they drink a glass of wine or an after-work beer. You can enjoy this during the Freiburg Wine Festival in July or at the bookable “Freiburger Bächlepicnic.” visit.freiburg.de





3

Mannheim

Refreshment along the rivers

Mannheim is greener than almost any other city in Germany: around two thirds of the metropolis is made up of natural areas. Two rivers, the Rhine and Neckar, meander through the city. There are many relaxing oases on its banks. One of them is the Neckar beach, where you can relax in deckchairs and hammocks with a view of the water on sunny days and mild evenings. The cool drinks from the beach bar provide refreshment. [neckarstrand-mannheim.de](https://www.neckarstrand-mannheim.de); [visit-mannheim.de](https://www.visit-mannheim.de)

Heilbronn

A comprehensive pleasurable experience

Especially in summer, when leisure activities take place around the Neckar, Heilbronn offers water options for everyone. Active people take to the water in a canoe, SUP or pedal boat. If you prefer something more relaxed, explore the diversity of the “Neckar-meile,” Southwest Germany’s largest restaurant mile. The rides in the “BBQ-Donut” combine water fun and enjoyment. The round boats offer various culinary arrangements from the grill set to a wine tasting. The Neckar shines in a special light at the Heilbronn Festival of Lights in June: there is culture, music and culinary delights along with atmospheric illuminations. [heilbronn.de/tourismus](https://www.heilbronn.de/tourismus); [neckarboot.de](https://www.neckarboot.de)



4



Baden-Baden

Live music in the thermal baths

Baden-Baden is part of the Great Spa Towns of Europe UNESCO World Heritage Site and is world famous for its thermal springs. Beneficial things have been bubbling up for over 2,000 years as the thermal water emerges. In the historic Friedrichsbad, you can immerse yourself in the past: the bath was opened in 1877 based on the model of the Roman thermal baths. The modern counterpart is the Caracalla thermal baths with its large bathing and sauna area. Every first Friday of the month there are special themed evenings with appropriate sauna infusions, live music by the water pool and spectacular dance shows.

baden-baden.com; carasana.de



Heidelberg

Dolce Vita on the Neckar River

Summer, sun, sunshine – you can always live well in Heidelberg. But when the official “Summer on the River” is declared on the Neckar in August, the dolce vita dominates the action for a weekend. Live music on two stages, children’s programs, and delicious street food: there’s a lot to experience between Alter Brücke (old bridge) and Neckarlauer (Neckar beach). A holiday feeling arises on the city beach, the feel-good place on the Neckarlauer with a chillout area and beach bar. heidelberg-marketing.de



Pforzheim

Surfing in the city

Surfing in the city? No problem in Pforzheim! After seven years and many hours of volunteer work, the “Blackforestwave”

has been bringing a real hang-loose feeling to the Black Forest since 2021.

Not only professionals can have fun on the waves in Metzelgraben, a canal on the Nagold. Beginners and curious people can also celebrate success on the beginner-friendly wave. A good opportunity for this are the open surfing events in April and September.

stadt-land-enz.de; blackforestwave.de





Who wants more?

Further exciting tips on special experiences in the cities can be found here:

tourism-bw.com/destinations/cities-in-southwest-germany



Ulm

Cultural festival on the banks of the Danube

At the International Danube Festival, there is a lot of activity on both sides of the river for ten days. International artists and guests come together along the Danube and celebrate the exchange and connecting cultural programs and ideas. The program is correspondingly colorful and ranges from music and dance performances to authentic crafts. It goes without saying that the culinary offerings also have a global resonance. tourismus.ulm.de; donaufest.de

Stuttgart

Clubbing underwater

In the middle of Stuttgart's industrial area, lies the former freight tanker Wilhelm Knipscheer and around it the cultural shipyard Fridas Pier. The heart of the area beats on the lower deck of the freighter: well-known international DJs, collectives, and sound artists offer the best clubbing below the surface of the water on the weekends. On the upper deck and the pier, lounge furniture, bars, food stalls and several floors create a unique open-air feeling. stuttgart-tourist.de; fridaspier.de



**RELAXING BY
THE WATER**
at Ried Lake in
Bad Wurzach

Service & Contact

Fancy a vacation in Southwest Germany? There are lots of ideas and information here. Follow us on our social media channels – and order the right brochure for your trip free of charge



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Fantastic photos? Tips for your next trip? They are available on social media:

#visitsüden



BROCHURES

Experience Southwest Germany in all its facets. There are brochures and cards on our website dedicated to specific holiday topics. These can be ordered free of charge at **Tourism-bw.com**

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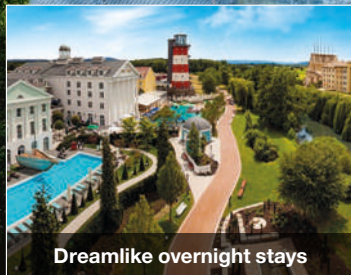


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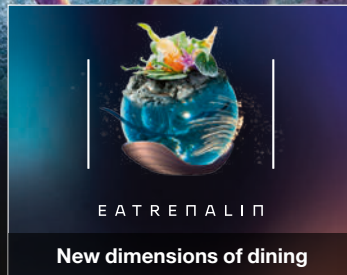
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