

Süden



The Travel Magazine
for SouthWest Germany

Bauhaus

100 years of a design
revolution

Lake Constance

Gardens to dream about

Swabian Caves

Meet the ancestors



**THE SUNNY
SIDE OF
GERMANY.**

**BADEN-
WÜRTTEMBERG**

A man with glasses and a dark shirt is leaning on a long wooden table in a wine cellar. Three bottles of wine are on the table in front of him. The cellar has dark wooden shelves filled with wine bottles, and the walls are illuminated with a warm red light. A single pendant light hangs from the ceiling.

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Wine & Design

Cool, modern, sustainable:

Visit the new breed of
winemaker

Sunny SouthWest Germany:

The Good Life

Welcome to SÜDEN, SouthWest Germany's magazine for those who enjoy the Good Life. Süden means 'south' in German; the federal state of Baden-Württemberg is not only in the south, but is also Germany's sunniest region. Think gardens, vineyards, forests, lakes, taverns and a genuine welcome – all with a modern twist!

Come for the Bauhaus.

In 2019, we celebrate the 100th birthday of the Bauhaus movement that started in Germany and revolutionised architecture and art, design and even town planning across the world. SouthWest Germany was home to major innovations, which changed the way people lived back then – and the way we live today.

Come for modernist architecture.

Many Bauhaus-style developments are still lived in and offer excellent tours. Stuttgart's Weissenhof Estate and Karlsruhe's Dammerstock Estate were designed by architects, such as Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe and Walter Gropius. In Mannheim and Heilbronn, fascinating museums reflect more recent architectural innovation.

Come for the world's oldest art.

In 1939, archaeologists found a special piece of bone in a cave in the hills south-east of Stuttgart. Small and sculpted, it is considered to be the world's oldest known art work. This "Lion Man" was a major draw at London's British Museum in 2017–18. Now, the 40,000-year-old treasure is home – and on display – in Ulm Museum.

SUNNY SOUTHWEST GERMANY



COVER PHOTO:
Built for an international exhibition in 1927, Stuttgart's Bauhaus-inspired Weissenhof Estate still looks contemporary today



14
Many Bauhaus gems are still lived in and several are open to the public

SouthWest Germany's sunny climate ensures that gardens, such as those on Mainau Island, are glorious all year round



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Prehistoric art treasures have been found in limestone caves in the Swabian Alb



NEW PERSPECTIVES

Travel through SouthWest
Germany's art and culture



Light and bright: the modern look

This photo is a taste of what awaits you in Stuttgart's world-class Staatsgalerie. With its fine collection of European art, this striking modern building is light, airy and relaxing. It enhances your experience. As well as a sculpture by Wilhelm Lehmbruck, this gallery features the works of Bauhaus Master Oskar Schlemmer, who labelled Stuttgart "the City of the Avant-Garde" in the 1920s (p. 22). Tip: entrance is free on Wednesdays.



Insider's tip

DIGITAL COLLECTION

To explore the world-class collection in depth, or to plan your visit, check out the museum's comprehensive, English-language, digital gallery.
www.staatsgalerie.de/en



The Black Forest: bird's eye views

Ever since the Bauhaus revolution, which started 100 years ago, SouthWest Germany's architects have been at the cutting edge of design. A spectacular example of contemporary creativity is the Baumwipfelpfad, near Bad Wildbad in the Black Forest. About 20 m above the forest floor and dotted with activity and learning stations, this

Treetop Walk is 4,100 ft / 1,250 m long. The highlight? The 130-ft / 40-m-tall observation tower. From the top platform, views of the Black Forest below are positively glorious.



Insider's tip

ALL WELCOME

The tree top walk is barrier-free and accessible for prams and wheelchairs.

The maximum incline is 6%, with plenty of flat places for enjoying the views. The Auerhahn restaurant has 4 disabled parking places.

www.baumwipfelpfad-schwarzwald.de

Room at the top

Rottweil might be the oldest town in SouthWest Germany, but it is dominated by an astonishing modern landmark: the Rottweil Test Tower. Built in 2017, it is used to test elevators/lifts for skyscrapers. Standing 807 ft/246 m high, it is not only Europe's tallest test tower, but also Germany's highest viewing platform. From here, you can see as far as the Swiss Alps. Visit all day Friday, Saturday or Sunday; buy tickets in advance at testturm.thyssenkrupp-elevator.com



Insider's tip

GOOD TO KNOW

The viewing platform is wheelchair accessible. As well as the outdoor area, there is a covered space. For safety reasons, prams, strollers, pets and rucksacks cannot be taken onto the platform.

ROTTWEIL



Burg Wertheim: the castle that rocks

Rock concerts and jazz, cabaret and classical evenings: what would the owners from centuries ago think? The castle dates back 800 years; although now a ruin, the moat and ancient walls provide a romantic backdrop for a host of entertaining events throughout the year. The restaurant serves traditional local dishes and the sunny terrace has wide-ranging views over the old town, which stands where the River Tauber meets the River Main.



Insider's tip

**EAT, DRINK AND
BE MERRY**

On Sundays, the hearty lunch buffet is a popular tradition. On Thursday evenings from May to September, listen to Diamond Dogs. This great rock, pop and country band performs live; entrance is free.

www.tourismus-wertheim.de







Krønasår, Europa-Park

A new Museum-Hotel

Rulantica, Europa-Park's new Water World, opens in late 2019. Also new is Krønasår, the theme park's sixth on-site hotel. Just outside the gate of what has been rated the "world's best theme park" four years in a row, the new hotel is themed on a natural history museum. Both fun and educational, Krønasår will have Nordic flair, with Nordic-inspired menus in its restaurants, café and bar. www.europapark.de/en/hotels/kronasar-museum-hotel

New in SouthWest Germany

Travel is about having fun. Explore unusual ways to enjoy the Great Outdoors, new hotels with themed accommodation, classic cars and mysterious medieval castles



THE WILD LINE BRIDGE

Suspense in the Black Forest

The Wild Line, a suspension bridge near Bad Wildbad, is Germany's newest outdoor adventure. Hanging 200 ft/60 m above a gorge on the side of the Sommerberg Mountain, this bridge is part of the Kalte Herz (Cold Heart) hiking trail that is themed on fairy tales. Hikers can choose between an easy path and a more challenging route that takes in the 1,250-ft/380-m-long Wild Line Bridge. Those, who are unperturbed by heights, will love the spectacular 360-degree views of the Black Forest, with its unspoiled moors, woods and ravines. wildline.de



NEW AT CENTER PARCS

Alpine views and tropical fish

In acres of green at the foot of the Alps, the new Center Parcs Allgäu offers stylish holiday homes, a wellness club and a subtropical swimming paradise. This includes water slides, snorkelling with tropical fish and Center Parcs' longest white water course.

Go ziplining; enjoy the indoor play world; hike and bike. When it snows, switch to winter sports.

www.centerparcs.com



ARTIST AT WORK

For me, home means freedom of expression

Stefan Strumbel is one of SouthWest Germany's best-known contemporary artists, producing eye-catching paintings, ceramics and sculptures. Based in Offenburg, the 40-year-old found fame by creating ironic works based on local icons, from Black Forest cuckoo clocks to Bollenhut (bobble hats).

You created a huge sculpture for the Rothaus brewery. How did you get that commission?

To celebrate the brewery's 225th anniversary and the 60th anniversary of Tannenzäpfle, their most famous beer, they sponsored my sculpture. I created two giant pine cones; Tannenzäpfle means the Pine Cone Brew. I enjoyed creating something with direct connections to the brewery and the people, who work there.

How important is "Home" for you and your work?

For me, my home and my home town mean community, security and freedom, as well as the responsibility to fight to retain those values. As an artist, I also enjoy reinterpreting concepts, making stereotypes visible and dissolving boundaries.

Your new works seem to be more abstract?

I wanted to do something more substantial after the "pop-cultural anaesthesia" of my early work. Now there is more openness in my current work. www.stefanstrumbel.de



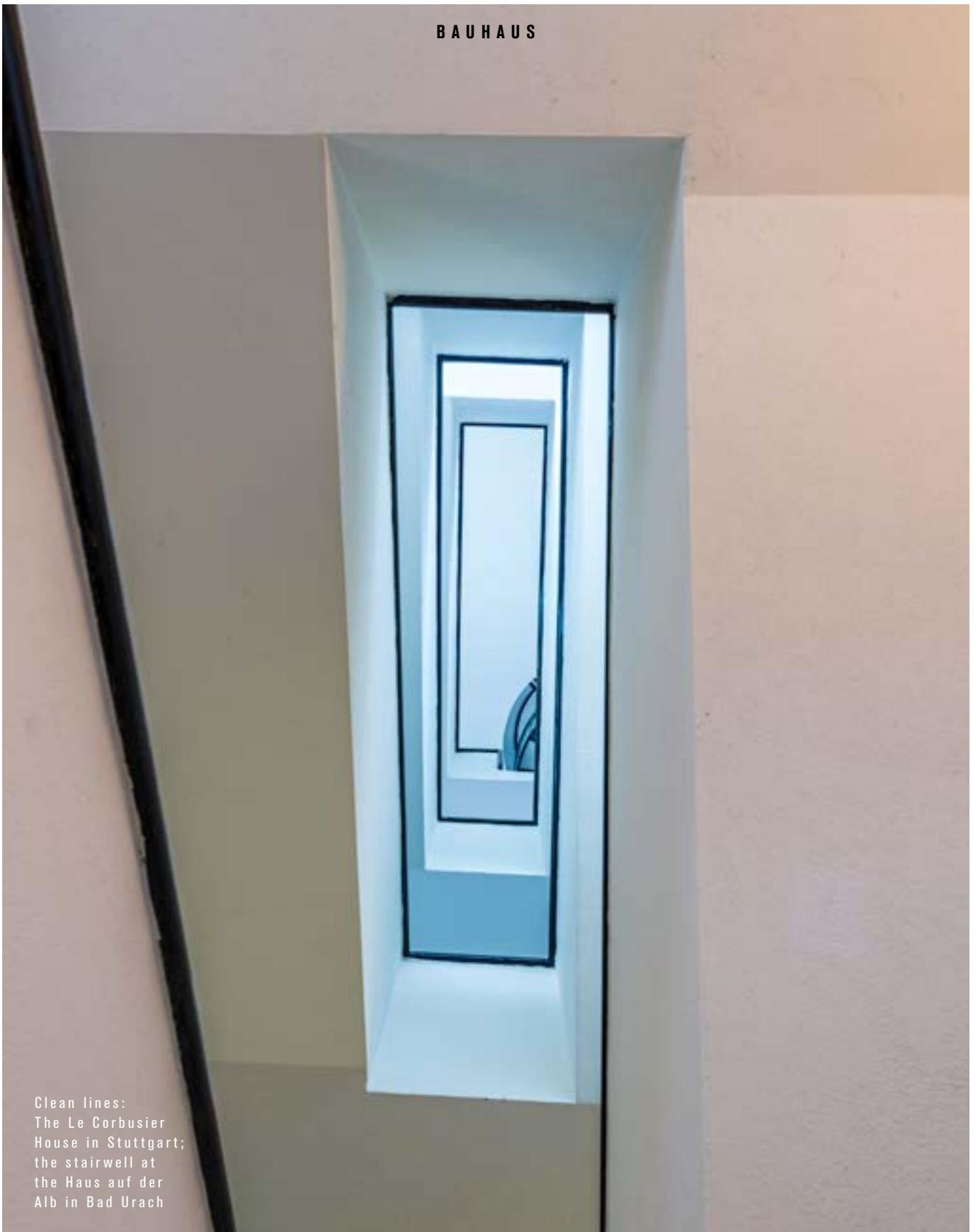
Made of special COR-TEN steel, Stefan Strumbel's Pine Cone sculpture stands 50 ft / 15 m tall



Bauhaus lives!

On the 100th anniversary of the art and design school,
we find out what became of the Big Idea and how it
evolved in Stuttgart's Weissenhof Estate, in Karlsruhe's
Dammerstock and at Ulm's School Of Design

✍️ CHRISTIANE WÜRTEMBERGER 📷 GREGOR LENGLER



Clean lines:
The Le Corbusier
House in Stuttgart;
the stairwell at
the Haus auf der
Alb in Bad Urach



The Hans Scharoun villa on the Weissenhof Estate

As soon as you step over the threshold, you feel at home. With its brightly coloured walls, the narrow staircase is welcoming. The living room has a window that looks out on greenery. And, this room can be transformed quickly into two bedrooms. The beds appear from the cupboards; a sliding wall separates the parents' beds from the children's beds. Yet, although the design is clean and contemporary, the atmosphere is cosy. Welcome to the semi-detached houses designed by the Swiss-French architect, Le Corbusier! Built back in 1927, these are part of the Weissenhof Estate in Stuttgart. A visit is like a pilgrimage for anyone interested in design. One house is now the Weissenhof Museum; the other is still a home. Like a time

machine, it provides a glimpse back to the days when Bauhaus ideas were shockingly new. In 2016, the Le Corbusier houses were designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Throughout 2019, the museum is celebrating the centenary of the founding of the Bauhaus. Anja Krämer, the head of the Weissenhof Museum, says that opinions on the flat-roof dwellings have long been divided. Back in 1927, some 500,000 people came to see the pioneering new-look houses, built for a special exhibition showcasing what was later dubbed the "International Style" of modern architecture. According to Anja Krämer, one Berlin newspaper declared: "We Berliners are envious of Stuttgart." But, when Mies van der Rohe, the development's artistic director, showed local



**Colourful is
my favourite
colour”**

**Walter Gropius,
Bauhaus Founder**

architects the plans, they said the estate looked like an “Italian mountain nest”. Decide for yourself: of the 33 originally built, 22 are still standing and several are still homes.

**Stuttgart provides much
inspiration for Bauhaus**

For the Weissenhof Estate project, Stuttgart hired 17 European architects, including Hans Scharoun and the Bauhaus founder, Walter Gropius. Only two Stuttgarters were among the group. One of them was Adolf Gustav Schneck. In 1929–30, he built the dazzling white Haus auf der Alb, an imposing rehabilitation center in Bad Urach. Today, this is still in use as a popular conference centre. As well as hosting seminars, visitors can stay the night in the Modernist rooms.

After World War One, times were hard in Germany. In Weimar, Walter Gropius, who founded the Bauhaus in 1919, wondered how life could be improved. How would people live in the future? And, how could everyday life be improved for the people of Germany? This sort of philosophising is what made the Bauhaus so much more than an art or even an architecture school. He encouraged his

students to think about the “Big Picture”, about social behaviour and encouraged them to break down the borders between architecture, design and art.

In 1928–29, Gropius was involved with another model development: the Dammerstock in Karlsruhe. According to tour guide, Gabriele Tomaszewski, the plan at the Dammerstock was to create buildings with “lots of light, lots of air and lots of space”. And the residents were going to be ordinary citizens from Karlsruhe. Because of the Great Depression, the project was never completely finished, but you can still walk through this leafy, airy neighbourhood. There is plenty of room between the rows of buildings; the houses are built so that the sun shines into the bedrooms in the



Living room or
bedroom? In the
Le Corbusier
House, it is both!



Dammerstock: the glass stairwell and blue entrance. A Gropius building now houses the Erasmus Slow Food Restaurant (right)



morning and into the living rooms in the afternoon. No wonder they are especially popular with families.

The State Academy of Fine Arts in Stuttgart was also forward-thinking. Two students, who studied under Adolf Hölzel became Masters (professors) at the Bauhaus. One was the Swiss artist Johannes Itten, whose theories on colour have been so influential; the other, Oskar Schlemmer, was a Master of Form. Born in Baden-Württemberg, Schlemmer is renowned for his Triadic Ballet. See the figurines for this important dance work in the main gallery of Stuttgart's Staatsgalerie. With music composed by Paul Hindemith, this experimental ballet premiered in Stuttgart in 1922 and very much represented the spirit of the Bauhaus. In the three parts, three dancers (one male, two female) perform 12 choreographed dances, wearing 18 different costumes that bore no resemblance to the tutus and tights of classical ballet.

The Bauhaus school, which started in Weimar, moved on to Dessau. But, what happened when the National Socialist movement closed it down in 1933? Did the modernist ideas wither away? Certainly not! Many artists emigrated. Some headed for Chicago and Tel Aviv, where their legacy is still visible today.

Bauhaus ideas live on in Ulm after the war

But the Bauhaus heritage also survived in SouthWest Germany. In Ulm, the Ulm School of Design (HfG) picked up the baton in 1953. It continued the Bauhaus multidisciplinary



The Haus auf der Alb is in woods on the edge of Bad Urach

philosophy, which integrated technology, craft and art. Walter Gropius was a visiting lecturer. Students experimented in the areas of graphic design, product design, architecture and film. The school closed in 1968, but the HfG building that was designed by Max Bill, a Swiss architect, is still there today. It houses offices, the school's archive, a canteen, apartments for students and lecturers – and a museum, which tells the story of the Ulm School of Design. As well as the permanent exhibition, 2019 brings three special exhibitions: "Not my thing! Gender in design"; "Bauhaus Ulm"; "Bauhaus Studio 100". ■

“Time and again we saw that important matters of the present were not being dealt with.”

Inge Aicher-Scholl, co-founder of HfG Ulm



Famous: tableware by Hans Roericht

More information

More on the Bauhaus in SouthWest Germany:
www.tourism-bw.com/bauhaus

ON THE BAUHAUS 100 TRAIL

As well as modern housing developments, SouthWest Germany is also home to Bauhaus restaurants and, for this centenary year, lively exhibitions and projects. Here are some examples

Bauhaus sites

STUTTGART Weissenhof



Stuttgart's Weissenhof Estate is a famous example of a Bauhaus housing development. From the Weissenhof Museum, take a guided walking tour; explore the Le Corbusier houses, with their original decorations and furnishings. www.stuttgart.de/weissenhof



Built as a rehabilitation centre by Stuttgart architect Adolf Gustav Schneck in 1929–30, the Haus auf der Alb in Bad Urach is now used as a conference centre. It also offers overnight accommodation, as well as tours for guests and groups. www.hausaufderalb.de

KARLSRUHE Dammerstock

Designed by Bauhaus founder Walter Gropius, the 1929 Dammerstock Estate offered affordable housing. Walk through the restored gatehouse entrance; take a walking tour; eat at the Bauhaus-designed Erasmus restaurant. www.karlsruhe-tourismus.de/en



ULM The Ulm School of Design

Max Bill's striking design is one of Germany's most exciting Post-War buildings. Open from 1953 to 1968, the Ulm School of Design is rated second only to the Bauhaus for innovative thinking. In a former School of Design building, the HfG Archive Ulm has a permanent exhibition: "Ulm School of Design – From Zero Hour to 1968". www.museumulm.de/en/collections/ulm-school-of-design/



More
information
Bauhaus 100:

www.tourism-bw.com/Bauhaus



Café Bistro Möwe

Location, location, location: on Lake Constance, this former ferry terminal designed by Hermann Blomeier in 1951 is now the Café Bistro Möwe. The glass and steel structure looks contemporary; the deck is perfect for sunbathing. www.möwe-meersburg.eu

Exhibitions

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Bauhaus today

Five well-known artists, including Andrea Zittel (photo), have assembled "IDEAL STANDARD: Speculations on Bauhaus today". The works examine the relevance of the Bauhaus in 2019. The show is at the Zeppelin Museum in Friedrichshafen until April 28, 2019. www.zeppelin-museum.de/en

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Studio 100

"100 days, 100 artists": that's the name of the Studio 100 project. In venues across Germany, including the Ulm School of Design, graduates and students from design schools

that follow the Bauhaus philosophy are displaying their works. www.bauhausstudio100.de

Bauhaus materials

7 In the town where the Pausa textile company once printed fabrics with Bauhaus designs, Mössingen Museum's "100 Years of Pausa, 100 Years of Bauhaus" celebrates its collection of 86,000 fabric samples (3 May to 24 Nov 2019; free). www.moessingen.de

Future of the city

8 International artists are working with Stuttgart's Staatsgalerie on "Weissenhof City". This multimedia show looks at the museum and city, with a focus on links to the Bauhaus. (7 June to 20 Oct 2019). www.staatsgalerie.de/en

Restaurants



FRIEDRICHSHAFEN Zeppelin Museum Restaurant

What was built as a railway station in the 1930s is now the Zeppelin Museum, with a restaurant serving traditional local dishes. Overlooking Lake Constance, the terrace has grand views of the harbour and sailing boats. www.zeppelin-museum.de/en

KARLSRUHE Erasmus

In a building designed by Walter Gropius, the Erasmus Restaurant on the Dammerstock Estate is now a destination for gourmets. Cooking with local and Fair Trade products, the Gallotti family are part of the Slow Food movement. www.erasmus-karlsruhe.de



FREIBURG Hier & Jetzt am Turmcafé

Most diners, who tuck into the burgers, steaks and home-made pasta served at the Hier & Jetzt restaurant are not aware that 50 years ago, this was originally built as a Modernist petrol station. www.hier-und-jetzt-restaurant.de

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Our Avant-Garde

The Roaring Twenties were not limited to Berlin. Stuttgart was equally progressive, embracing greater freedom, edgier art and entertainment. The city reflected all facets of the Modernist movement

✍️ CHRISTIANE WÜRTEMBERGER 📺 GREGOR LENGLER



"Metropolis",
a triptych by Otto
Dix:Kunstmuseum,
Stuttgart

The 1920s were exciting times in Stuttgart. The world premiere of Oskar Schlemmer's Triadic Ballet in 1922 broke barriers in the world of dance. At the same time, sophisticated city was fast developing into the Automobile Capital of the World. By 1924, Stuttgarters owned more cars per capita than Berlin. Mercedes-Benz was advertising cars for the so-called "new woman", who was independent and spirited, with a bob hairstyle and dramatic eye makeup. In 1927, journalists came from as far as New York and Moscow to report on the daring architecture of the new Weissenhof Estate. Cinemas, dance halls and even swimming pools thrived. And, in 1929, Josephine Baker, the legendary, scantily-dressed entertainer, performed at Stuttgart's Friedrichsbau cabaret club – a venue that is still popular today.

“We invented Bauhaus in Stuttgart”

Of course, many major European cities were enjoying this exciting era. What was dubbed the Roaring Twenties in Britain and Les Années



The costumes for Oskar Schlemmer's Triadic Ballet figurines were actually worn by dancers



During the warm summers, the younger crowd heads for Stuttgart's Palast der Republik, a popular spot for a beer

Folles in France was far more than just a post-war Berlin phenomenon. "At that time, Stuttgart had a very modern image," according to Anja Krämer, who runs the Weissenhof Museum. And Stefan Egle from Stuttgart's Staatsgalerie agrees: "Stuttgart was a hotspot for museums and art galleries. People flocked to the Staatsgalerie to see Expressionist paintings."

As early as 1905, an impressive array of young artists studied under Adolf Hölzel at Stuttgart's State Academy of Fine Arts. Members of the so-called "Hölzel circle" included artists like Oskar Schlemmer, Johannes Itten, Willi Baumeister and Ida Kerkovius. "You could say that we invented the Bauhaus," says Nils Büttner, professor of Early Modern and Modern Art History at Stuttgart's State Academy of Fine



One of Germany's earliest high-rise buildings, the 16-storey Tagblatt-Turm was built between 1924 and 1928

Arts. Studying with Hölzel, students attended workshops that developed ideas, which Schlemmer and Itten took with them to the Bauhaus in Weimar. "At that time, Hölzel was teaching at the State Academy and Bernhard Pankok was running the School of Applied Arts, so Stuttgart really was avant-garde," says Büttner.

So where in Stuttgart can you see the legacy of that era today? Start with the Staatsgalerie, where, in addition to Schlemmer's Triadic Ballet figurines, other important works by this artist are on show. There are also paintings by Willi Baumeister and Ida Kerkovius, alongside other major international works from the



The Triadic Ballet is the key work for a whole era

Stefan Egle, Staatsgalerie Stuttgart

Modernist era. On the Schlossplatz, the modern cube-like gallery that is the Kunstmuseum, Stuttgart's modern art museum, has exhibitions of works by artists who helped to create Stuttgart's reputation as a "city of art".

For many, the highlight of the Kunstmuseum is "Metropolis", a triptych of three harrowing night-time city scenes, painted by Otto Dix in 1928. Thanks to the far-sighted museum director, Eugen Keuerleber, the museum has an extensive collection of works by Dix, whose satirical, harsh and realistic images have gained new audiences in recent years.

On the Witwen Express to Waldfriedhof

But it is not just works of art that have survived from that innovative period. Back in 1924, Stuttgart's Tagblatt-Turm was Germany's first reinforced concrete tower and one of the country's first skyscrapers. Then there was the Standseilbahn, a wooden funicular railway that opened in 1929. It ran – and still runs – from the Südheimer Platz in the western suburb of Heslach up to the city

cemetery on a hill. Important graves there include those of Oskar Schlemmer and Adolf Hölzel.

A century or so ago, Heslach was a destination for urban folk. With shorter working hours, many people had more free time, more mobility and more time for leisure. Rustic cottages, known as Waldheime, were built by and for trade union members, so they could enjoy the countryside in fine weather. Many Waldheime cottages have survived as beer gardens. Pop out to Heslach or Sillenbuch on a summer's evening and do as the locals do: order a beer with a plate of Maultaschen (like ravioli) or lentils with Spaetzle (noodles).

Back in city centre, the spirit of the Twenties is recalled in the Jigger & Spoon, a cocktail bar in a former bank vault. To enter, you



The Jigger & Spoon's Eric Bergmann is both owner and mixologist



Everyone loves to ride the two-car Standseilbahn, Stuttgart's 1929 funicular railway





The Schlossplatz is the beating heart of Stuttgart

ring the doorbell and then take an old lift down two floors. “We wanted to follow the tradition of America’s speakeasy bars during the Prohibition,” says Eric Bergmann, one of the Jigger & Spoon’s owners. It took 10 months to convert the vault with its 3-ft/90-cm-thick walls into what looks like a bar from 100 years ago. But, alongside the massive doors and iron grills, there is now Wi-Fi, a list of fine wines and a menu of modern cocktails.

A bar from 100 years ago, with Wi-Fi

Stuttgart has long been on trend with art, culture and the avant-garde. Take the Palace of

the Republic. This grandly-named bar-kiosk is a hip spot, where Stuttgart’s younger generation likes to meet on warm evenings for beer and snacks. But this 1920s structure was built as a public toilet. Yes, really! Like the city itself, it is a bit alternative. A bit trendy. And a lot of fun. ■



More information

about Stuttgart and its art galleries:

www.stuttgart-tourist.de/en;

www.staatsgalerie.de/en;

www.jiggerandspoon.de

Watch a video all about the Triadic Ballet:

www.tourism-bw.com/avantgarde

EXPERIMENTA

Hands-on experiments that make science fun

Experimenta, Heilbronn's popular science centre, has a brand-new home opening in 2019. Its 275 interactive exhibits make this the largest complex of its kind in Germany. Two galleries focus on everyday phenomena, such as the air we breathe and why food goes bad in the fridge. The idea is simple: to explain why the seemingly 'ordinary' is actually 'extraordinary'! See how cars are crash tested; find out what new materials engineers are designing. Visit the Science Dome, a theatre-cum-planetarium, with a 180° rotating auditorium and a vast 360° dome screen for 3D, laser and experimental shows. www.experimenta.science

HEILBRONN
Where BUGA
meets
architecture

BUGA, Germany's national garden show, is in Heilbronn from 17 April to 6 October. The old harbour district will be transformed with dazzling gardens, as well as recreational and adventure areas. For the first time, as part of the Bauhaus centenary celebrations, the show features the built environment. In the Neckarbogen Quarter, explore an experiment in contemporary living, with eco-friendly 'green' buildings, apartment blocks, student housing and a day care centre.
www.buga2019.de

Insider's tip

**TAKE HOME IDEAS
FOR THE FUTURE**

At BUGA, check out the innovative ideas. A solar thermal system and photovoltaic panels power the buildings. Lakes are part of the district's water management system, providing irrigation for trees and flowers.



Architecture in the vineyard

Chat, taste, enjoy: the most fun way to buy wine in SouthWest Germany is direct from the wine makers.

And, as many vineyards have dramatic modern architecture, a wine tasting often turns into a cultural trip. Welcome to the Baden Region

 FABIAN TEUBER  UDO BERNHART



Feel at home at a wine tasting at the Abril Winery. Benjamin Funk is ready to advise you on what to buy

Behind the Weingut Abril, the Abril Winery, the vineyards and surrounding hills rise up like an amphitheatre. This beautiful landscape is the setting for an annual 'pageant', the harvest. The vines are heavy with grapes; the first pickers are already at work on the highest slopes. Up there, on a fine day, the views to the west are spectacular: across the Rhine to Alsace in France and the Vosges Mountains beyond.

The winery is high above the small town of Vogtsburg-Bischoffingen, half an hour's drive from Freiburg. Although the Abril winery will soon celebrate its 280th birthday, it is bang up to date. In 2011, the owners unveiled a new building that signalled a new chapter in this company's long history. The angular design is made of special COR-TEN steel that rusts gently – and appropriately – to a Burgundy-red hue. Inside, large windows provide natural light in the stylish lounge area, where visitors are welcome to taste and buy the top-quality organic wines.



The Abril winery's striking modern architecture is all about casual, modern elegance

Even more important, this super-modern structure also boasts the latest cellar technology. "This is paradise for our head winemaker," says managing director Eva-Maria Köpfer. In the spirit of sustainability, deliveries arrive one floor above the cellar, so grapes, must and mash are moved by gravity alone. Pumps are only needed when filling the fermentation tanks, saving electricity. At the same time, this gentle process ensures higher quality wines.

Baden wines have a fantastic reputation

Here, in the southern Black Forest around Freiburg, there are probably more winemakers than in any other area of Germany. On the sun-drenched slopes of the Rhine Valley, the grapes grow particularly well, especially varieties such as



At the beginning, our new-build strongly divided opinion"

Eva-Maria Köpfer, Abril winery



THE BLACK FOREST

By using COR-TEN steel, the building's weathered, rusty look echoes the red of the surrounding Burgundy grapes



Generation Pinot

To put their wines in the spotlight, 54 young Baden winegrowers created Generation Pinot. This group exchanges know-how on new cultivation and cellaring techniques. And to make their wines from Baden better known, they have adopted the internationally-recognised name for their grape variety: Pinot. (www.generation-pinot.de) Here are two members:



Felix Scherer, for example, likes to experiment with micro-organisms that are effective in keeping grapes healthy – the natural way



Known for her trademark red shoes, Bettina Schumann has a range of wines, whose names are witty puns in French and German!

In 2015, the first vintage produced by the Weinhaus Schumann left the winery in Königschaffhausen, in the Kaiserstuhl wine district. The grapes for the Burgundy-style wines made by Bettina Schumann and her partner, Melanie Panitzke, come from the nearby Leiselheimer Gestühls winegrowers. As for the red shoe on the wine label, "That's because of my weakness for red shoes, and because Schumann means shoemaker," this native Berliner explains. www.schumann-wein.com

On the Scherer Estate in Bad Krozingen, Felix Scherer and his partner from Berlin, Michael Zimmer, produce Burgundy-style wines. By focusing on green ecological techniques, this trendy team keep their products natural, clean and simple. Their witty labels carry a Berlin bear and a Baden griffin. www.weingut-scherer.de



Weissburgunder (Pinot Blanc) and Grauburgunder (Pinot Gris). But, for winemakers to make it to the top rank, they have to do more than produce good wines: they also have to be 'all-rounders', involved in everything from designing labels and bottles to creating new, architect-driven buildings on their estates.

From family-run vineyards to event venues

The road to the Weingut Weber, the Weber family winery, meanders past a walnut grove and continues to the top of a hill, which is dominated by an imposing new building. Dating from 2013, it has huge glass windows and a flat roof. But, two-thirds of it is virtually invisible, because it is built in to the side of the hill. This means that even in high summer or the depths of winter, the temperatures are consistent in the wine cellars. No heating or cooling is ever needed.

A few years ago, Michael Weber took over the helm, the fifth generation to run this



WINE IN SOUTHWEST GERMANY

Only the event area of the Weber's winery in Ettenheim is visible; the production area and cellars are built into the hillside

Picking grapes by hand ensures the fruit is in good condition for making quality wine



Below: winemaker Michael Weber

family business. The daring new structure was his project. "The architecture of the building reflects our philosophy," he says. "Keep things simple, uncomplicated." Weber followed up his studies as a winegrower by going to business school. And that is how he came up with the idea of adding an event venue to the winery.

The restaurant is rustic and furnished with plenty of wood

This elegant new building is regularly used for after-work get-togethers, as well as the Weber's special white wine parties, with guest DJs spinning the latest hits on warm summer evenings. In the wine shop, instead of shelf after shelf of bottles, a mere two dozen bottles of wine are on display. Set in special frames, they almost look like art installations. Contrasting with all this modernity is the restaurant next door. Run by Stefanie, Michael's sister, it is a modern take on tradition, with white table cloths, comfort food, cushions on bench seats, lots of wood and a warm welcome. Of course! ■

“
The building has a lot of glass so you can see where and how the wine is produced”

Michael Weber



More information

On Wine and Design in the Black Forest:
www.tourism-bw.com/vineyards
www.badische-weinstrasse.de

Weingut Abril: www.weingut-abril.de

Weingut Weber: www.weingut-weber.com

DOUBLE THE FUN

Today's winemakers are hiring top architects to create new buildings. So visitors get two-for-one: wine tasting plus stylish design. Here are five examples in the Württemberg and Baden wine regions:



WÜRTTEMBERG:
GIERER WINERY

Peer into the cellar

Pale wood, granite walls and lots of glass characterise the new building at the 300-year-old Gierer winery in Nonnenhorn. Look down through the glass floor and you can see barrels resting in the cellar. These are Germany's southernmost vineyards; although geographically they are in Bavaria, they are actually part of the Württemberg/Lake Constance wine-growing region. They are known for producing fruity elegant wines on mineral-rich glacial moraine soil. The focus is on high-quality white wines such as Müller-Thurgau or Sauvignon Blanc, as well as rosés and reds. www.winzerhof-gierer.de

WÜRTTEMBERG:
LEISS WINERY

Light and bright



In 2010, the Leiss Winery in Gellmersbach, north of Stuttgart, added an extension, built of oak, sandstone and steel. The large windows have grand views over the terrace to the vines. This family-run winery produces easy-drinking wines, sparkling wines and sweet dessert wines. Leissium is a "Besen", a traditional vineyard restaurant, open for just six weeks a year. You can also buy wines on site. www.weingut-leiss.de



WÜRTTEMBERG:
WILHELM KERN WINERY

A glass and wood cube

Built in 2012, the new building at the Wilhelm Kern winery in Kernen im Remstal is "functional with a touch of lightness". One of Germany's most exciting new winery buildings has a larch-wood façade that echoes the contours of the surrounding vineyards. Designed by Fellbach-based architects Alexander Scheel and Hubert Inselbacher, it was designated as an outstanding example of wine culture by the German Wine Institute. www.kern-weine.de

4

BADEN: FRANZ KELLER WINERY

In the heart of the vineyards

In the Kaiserstuhl region near Freiburg, the three levels of the Franz Keller winery in Vogtsburg-Oberbergen are cleverly terraced into the hillside, with “green roofs” that help them merge into the landscape. Since 2013, visitors to the new building can see the wine cellar, taste the wines in the shop and eat at their KellerWirtschaft restaurant. The winery specialises in dry, fresh and fruity Burgundy-style wines. www.franz-keller.de



Weinsüden Wine Shops

SouthWest Germany’s “Weinsüden” seal of approval is a guarantee of quality. Currently, 14 wine shops and 61 hotels boast this label, having met the strict criteria. For shops, this means offering a selection of high-quality wines and a deep knowledge of regional wines; they must also host events and tastings. Weinsüden hotels must be in the heart of the wine regions and also offer wine tours, tastings and visits to local winemakers. www.weinsueden.de



More information

What wines grow where? What is there to do in the wine regions? Find out more at:

www.tourism-bw.com/Wine-Dine;
www.weinheimat-wuerttemberg.de
and
www.badischerwein.de/en



5

BADEN: HOLGER KOCH WINERY

Committed to tradition

The new building at the Holger Koch winery in Vogtsburg-Bickensohl reflects the traditional architecture of the Kaiserstuhl region. Plain and simple, it has a white façade, tiled roof and a big stone staircase outside. The speciality is white Burgundy-style wines. No spraying or artificial fertilisers are used. Seedlings are taken from old vineyards in this eco-friendly set-up. www.weingut-holger-koch.de



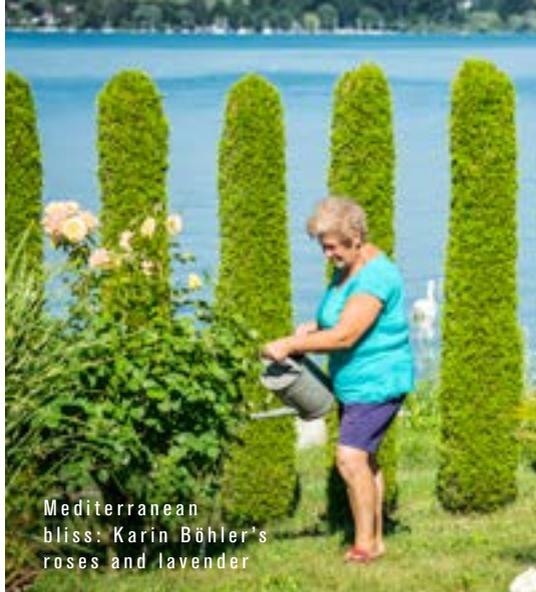
The pleasures of Gardening

On Lake Constance, the mild Mediterranean-like climate is perfect for landscaped gardens, spectacular flowers and colourful shrubs all year round.

Welcome to the land of Green Fingers!

✍️ FABIAN TEUBER 📷 DIETMAR DENGER

Known as the Flower Island, Mainau, near Konstanz, has spectacular floral displays left: Redwood on the Mainau island



Mediterranean bliss: Karin Böhler's roses and lavender



“
**It's my
paradise on
water”**

Karin Böhler talking about her garden



All is quiet on the island of Mainau. Just before eight in the morning, only a handful of visitors are wandering through the extensive gardens. The gates open at sunrise, but it is not until late morning, when the coaches and excursion boats arrive, that Mainau becomes busy. And the gates stay open until sunset.

So, how and why did the Island of Mainau become an exotic paradise? It all began back in 1856. Duke Friedrich I of Baden had bought the island three years earlier with a plan to use it as a summer residence. But what a summer residence! From his trips abroad, he brought back rare species; he planted lemon, orange and palm trees; he created an Italian rose garden and built an orangery. The heart of the island is the arboretum that today has more than 250 different species of tree. The 150-year-old Sequoias stand about 150 ft/45 m tall. Even on hot days, it is cool in the shade of this green canopy. By contrast, in the butterfly house, countless butterflies flutter around visitors in the near-tropical heat and humidity.

The water retains the heat

Towards the end of March, the new garden season is ushered in with the popular orchid show; summer brings roses and dahlias. Autumn, with its flaming colours, is yet another magnet for visitors. But Mainau not only changes with the seasons, it also has a different theme each year. In 2019, for example, the focus will be the signs of the sun, moon and stars.

On Lake Constance, special climatic conditions prevail. The lake retains the warmth of summer's heat, so in autumn, the water cools down quite slowly. It also gives off heat, so temperatures stay mild for a long time, allowing the more sensitive plants to thrive. Altogether, Lake Constance has 79 individual gardens and parks in its "Garden Network". As well as gardens open to the public, there are many delightful private gardens.

On Reichenau, another charming island on Lake Constance, Karin Böhler opens up her own "Garden of Eden" for visitors from time to time. A sign on her door reads "Bin im Garten", "I'm in the garden". Shears or watering can in hand, Karin is usually tending to her dahlias,



Schloss Salem sits in the heart of a Baroque park

box trees or 150 rose bushes. But she stops to enjoy the views from her rather overgrown pavilion. She tells of how, in 1999, floods washed her garden away. That gave her the incentive to realise her dream of creating a Mediterranean garden. Now, it is a wonderful, peaceful spot, where bees hum in the summer lavender. On the branches of a gnarled tree, swaying in the breeze, she puts up signs with thought-provoking quotes.

North of Meersburg is Schloss Salem, a palace and monastery. Visitors stroll through the Baroque courtyard garden with its maze and geometric layout. They admire shrubs carefully trimmed in the shape of temples, pyramids or cubes; they get lost in the maze. The geometric



Mainau Island: the Italian cascade with flowers

design of the garden invites contemplation; the mazes are like shortcuts, as Birgit Rückert, the castle administrator, explains.

Baroque beauty instead of potatoes and cabbages

The long history of the complex dates back to 1134, when the Cistercian order founded a monastery here. By the 18th century, it was important and wealthy; so, the flower beds once looked after by monks were transformed into magnificent Baroque parterres. Rebuilt after a fire in 1697, the main abbey is also Baroque. Residents have come and gone over the years. After the monks were expelled in 1804, the buildings were turned over to the local rulers. There was another change in 1920, when the Salem boarding school opened. The Schloss Salem Lower and Middle School is still there – as is the Baroque formal garden. ■



Gardens around Lake Constance

All parks and gardens:
en.bodenseegaerten.eu/Gardens;
www.tourism-bw.com/gardens

PLAY, LEARN & DISCOVER

Museums and exhibitions are not just for adults. In SouthWest Germany, there are extra-special destinations for children. As well as playing and having fun, they also learn about history, the world – and themselves. Here are five special experiences:



1

V8 HOTEL + MOTORWORLD

Get up close and personal with classic cars



Spot Ferraris, Porsches and Bentleys stored in what is a deluxe garage

In Böblingen, just outside Stuttgart, a former airport is now one of the world's best destinations for car lovers. What was the terminal building is MOTORWORLD Stuttgart, where car enthusiasts can see some of the world's most legendary car marques. One part of this enormous space is a showcase for car dealers.

You can get up close and peer inside a vintage Mercedes-Benz, Porsche or BMW. In another area, you can watch technicians at work, repairing and restoring Bentleys, Lamborghinis and more. Then there is the array of gleaming cars in what looks like a museum exhibition. You could spot a Ferrari F40, a Porsche 911 or a Bentley Continental GT. All are privately owned; they are merely stored here in what is really a deluxe glass garage.

Best of all, you can stay at MOTORWORLD Stuttgart. What was the airport control tower is now the car-themed V8 Hotel. There are cars in the lobby, in the restaurant and even in the bedrooms. For petrol heads, this is a must! Each of the 26 themed bedrooms is like an art installation, perhaps a car wash or a filling station. The foot of your bed might be the fascia of a BMW E36, an Alfa Romeo or a Cadillac! In the bathrooms, bars of soap are shaped like a VW Beetle. New are the 25 family rooms and the special V8 Family Fun packages. These include visits to SENSAPOLIS, a popular indoor fun park, a few minutes' walk away. MOTORWORLD is open until 8pm, so you can have dinner or a beer here. Choose from the Targa Florio and Da Signora Italian restaurants, the Tower 66 American Steakhouse and the Wichtel craft brewery. www.v8hotel.de/en/



2

RUST

Europa-Park

With over 100 attractions, 23 hours of live shows every day and five 4-star themed hotels on site, Europa-Park has been voted the "world's best theme park" four years in a row. This unique short break destination provides leisure facilities for the whole family. Set in 235 acres/95 ha, the action never slows in the 15 European-themed areas, with rides, buildings and food. Children love the attractions just for them: musicals, daily parades, water playgrounds and an area called "Ireland – Children's World". In Europa-Park, no-one is too young or too old to have fun.

www.europapark.de/en

GIENGEN AN DER BRENZ

Steiff Museum



3

The Steiff Museum in Giengen an der Brenz is all about the company that created the teddy bear. This is a magical world, full of fun experiences for young and old! Discover where the "teddy bear" name came from and how stuffed animals are made. Follow the animated journey that traces this family business from the birth of the teddy bear in 1902. Join the search for 3,000 lost teddy bears! You go through a sea of clouds, a living underwater world and the Antarctic, before ending up in the big stuffed-animal petting zoo.

www.steiff.com

SIGMARINGEN

Hohenzollern Castle



4

For centuries, the Hohenzollern dynasty has owned this castle high above the Danube. The spires and walls are pure story book. Inside, the 480 rooms are filled with original furniture; there are miles of corridors. The armoury holds Europe's largest private collection of arms and armour. After touring, have coffee and cake in the café, freshly-baked by the royal confectioner. www.hohenzollernschloss.de

LAKE CONSTANCE

Mainau Island



5

On Lake Constance, Mainau offers much more than beautiful gardens. Youngsters can go climbing, rafting and romping around the playgrounds. They can ride ponies or join trained guides on treasure hunts. And, of course, the whole family loves exploring the island's diverse world of trees, plants and animals. Entrance is free for children up to, and including, the age of 12. www.mainau.de/en



More information

More museums for children in
SouthWest Germany
www.familien-ferien.de



With archaeological treasures, stalactites and stalagmites, the Swabian Alb's limestone caves are a UNESCO World Heritage Site

The cultural Big Bang

Although Africa is considered the cradle of mankind, few know that the world's oldest artworks were discovered in the Swabian Alb. They were found in six caves, which are now a UNESCO World Heritage Site



With rapt attention, the primary school students listen as Gabriele Dalferth plays a flute carved from bone. Dalferth is a guide in the Vogelherd Archäopark, an attraction dedicated to life in the Ice Age. As she explains, that same haunting sound would have been heard 40,000 years ago. How does she know? Because a few years ago, a fragment of an Ice Age flute, made of bone, was found in a nearby cave. That artefact is thought to be the world's oldest musical instrument. And there is more. The tiny figure of a mammoth was also found. Intricately carved from ivory, this is considered to be the world's oldest-preserved figurative work of art.

Vogelherd Archäopark is near Niederstotzingen, northeast of Ulm. But its caves are not the only ones in the Swabian Alb. Other limestone caves have also revealed treasures. More

“
**Art can only
occur when
people are
doing well.**”

**Hermann Mader,
Ice Age Art
Society**

than 50 works of art from the last Ice Age have been found. Made by Cro-Magnon man, who was, anatomically, the forerunner of modern man, they represent the earliest evidence of human artistic creativity. And it all started in the Swabian Alb.

Idleness as a driving force of art

During the last Ice Age, our ancestors were on the move. From Africa, they headed north; others travelled from the southeast, following the Danube to get here. They picked their way between the glaciers that ran north to south. Sea level was around 300 ft/100 m lower than today; temperatures would have been 10 degrees lower. The landscape would have been tundra-like, flat and bleak: there were no tall



The Cave Lion in the Tübingen University Museum



Nicholas J. Conard of the University of Tübingen specialises in Prehistoric Archaeology in the Swabian Alb



SWABIAN ALB

Up close and personal, the Vogelherd Archäopark shows how man lived in the last Ice Age

trees; massive mammoths, cave lions and cave bears foraged for food; wild horses, giant deer and snow hares munched on grasses. Despite this inhospitable environment with its dangerous predators, mankind’s survival was possible thanks to the abundant food. And after a successful hunt, when supplies for winter were stored away, what else was there to do in a warm cave but to express creativity? This was mankind’s “cultural Big Bang”, according to Hermann Mader, Chairman of the Förderverein Eiszeitkunst, the local society devoted to preserving the region’s Ice Age treasures.

There are still secrets yet to be revealed

The caves in the Swabian Alb near Ulm have been explored by archaeologists for some 150 years. In 1939, fragments of a half-lion, half-man figure were discovered in the Hohlenstein-Stadel cave. When reconstructed, it was dubbed Lion Man – and was acknowledged as one of the most spectacular and significant finds. Since the beginning of the 1990s, the Tübingen University archaeologist Nicholas J Conard has specialised in the prehistory of the Swabian Alb. At excavations carried out under his direction, more finds have been revealed: the Venus of Hohle Fels and a beautifully carved

UNESCO World Heritage Site in the Swabian Alb

In 2017, six caves in the Lone and Ach valleys received UNESCO World Heritage status: Vogelherdhöhle, Hohlenstein-Stadel, Bocksteinhöhle, Geissenklösterle, Sirgensteinhöhle and Hohle Fels. The Mammoth and Cave Lion figures are in the Archäopark Vogelherd; Ice Age artefacts are in Stuttgart’s Landesmuseum Württemberg, Blaubeuren’s Urgeschichtliches Museum, Ulm Museum and Tübingen University Museum.

cave lion, both made of ivory. “Even measured by today’s standards, the oldest art was not crude, but high quality and extremely beautiful,” says Conard. He compares the cultural leap forward 40,000 years ago with 20th-century fields of innovation, such as the computer or space technology. And once the new artistic techniques were invented, they developed rapidly. The fact that the caves in the Swabian Alb are now a UNESCO World Heritage Site reflects their importance. Research is continuing; there are still many secrets to be revealed. ■

More information

The caves and Swabian Alb artefacts: www.tourism-bw.com/iceageart



Living in the past Tübingen

Despite its medieval cobbled lanes and half-timbered houses, the old town has a youthful buzz about it: students make up one-third of the residents

Tübingen: bringing the past to life

Medieval Tübingen's 540-year-old university is often referred to as Germany's Oxbridge. Students even go punting on the river in summer. The university's Museum of Ancient Cultures features Ice Age Art with the world's oldest figurative art and the world's oldest musical instrument. You can also learn more about the Lake Constance Pile Dwellings, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. Then stroll down Lange Gasse, where jewellers and ceramicists work in the studios at the back of their shops.



Insider's tip

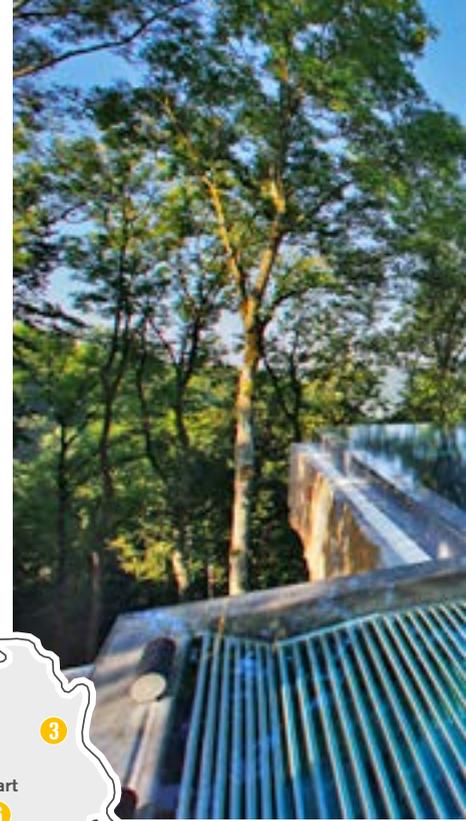
SWEET DREAMS FOR CHRISTMAS

During **chocolART** in early December, Tübingen becomes Europe's capital of chocolate. The festival celebrates all things chocolate, from making and tasting to cooking and advice from the experts

[www.chocolart.de/
english-info](http://www.chocolart.de/english-info)

TAKE A STYLISH DIP

For wellbeing, a beautiful setting makes the overall experience more enjoyable and more beneficial. Here are six wellness locations that offer an unforgettable aesthetic component



1 FRIEDRICHSBAD, BADEN-BADEN The best of both worlds

In Baden-Baden, the 141-year-old Friedrichsbad Roman-Irish Bath is world-famous. The changes of temperature in the 17 stages are restorative for both body and soul. The sequence is: showers, warm-air bath, hot-air bath, shower, soap and brush massage, shower, two thermal steam baths, thermal full bath, thermal whirlpool bath, thermal exercise bath, shower, cold water bath, drying off, cream massage, relaxation, reading. The baths are all done in the nude. www.carasana.de/en/friedrichsbad



2 BORA HOTEL & SPA RESORT RADOLFZELL

Oak, stone and linen

The wellness area has several saunas and a spring-fed Japanese onsen bath in its 85,000 sq ft/8,000 sq m. Guests also have access to Lake Constance and idyllic gardens. The 4-star superior design hotel is built with soothing natural materials such as oak, stone and linen. The spa is partly accessible to non-hotel guests. www.bora-hotsparesort.de



3

MAWELL RESORT, LANGENBURG
In tune with nature

In the Hohenlohe region, sitting high above the River Jagst, this unique hotel boasts a spa area of 48,000 sq ft / 4,500 sq m. Outdoors, the infinity pool has truly breathtaking views; indoors, the tower, with its sauna and pool, is equally stunning. Moreover, the Mawell Resort offers guests a wide range of treatments for beauty, wellness, de-stressing and fitness. And only natural products are used. For exercise, you can do a couple of laps of the outdoor fitness course. www.mawell-resort.de

PALAIS THERMAL, BAD WILDBAD

A touch of the exotic

Dating from 1847, the Palais Thermal is a blend of restored historic buildings and modern facilities. The Moorish-looking architecture is calming and stylish. There are 12 thermal pools, a range of saunas and a rooftop pool. www.bad-wildbad.eu/black-forest-spas/palais-thermal



4



More information

on SouthWest Germany's spas and wellness programmes: www.tourism-bw.com/Wellbeing

WELLNESS

HOTEL ROOMERS, BADEN-BADEN

The rooftop pool

At The Roomers, with its industrial chic design, the luxurious spa is a highlight, offering a hammam, steam room and sauna, as well as a wide range of relaxing massages and treatments, using only natural products. This contemporary hotel, designed by Piero Lissoni, has more pleasures: the bar and the rooftop pool, with views of Baden-Baden and the Black Forest. Tip: non-hotel guests can also use the spa. www.roomers-badenbaden.com/en/



5



6

MERKEL'SCHES SCHWIMMBAD, ESSLINGEN

Art Nouveau pool

In the pool, backstroke swimmers are in the best position to appreciate the elaborate stucco ceiling. But this Art Nouveau spa has many beautiful architectural features, such as mermaids in the windows. The spa has its own spring, providing thermal mineral water (93° F / 34° C) that softens the skin, invigorates circulation and relaxes muscles. Named for local philanthropist, Oscar Merkel, the spa was built in 1907. www.stuttgart-tourist.de/en/a-merkelsches-bad-swimming-pool



Friends and enemies

Heidelberg Castle is one of the most romantic ruins in Europe. Its rollercoaster history reflects the turbulent links between Germany and France over the centuries. Three times a year, the castle illuminations recall that stormy relationship

✍️ CHRISTIANE WÜRTEMBERGER 📷 GREGOR LENGLER

Heidelberg's castle guards the town, the Neckar and the 18th-century bridge

saw Heidelberg on an absolutely clear morning, when the air was cool and refreshing. The location and surroundings of the town, one has to say, are ideal." So wrote Johann Wolfgang von Goethe about the old university town on the River Neckar. That was 220 years ago and by then, the once-handsome palace, built by the Palatine Electors, was already a ruin. On the orders of Louis XIV, it was destroyed in two attacks: 1689 and 1693. The French ruler demolished many towns along the German-French border in order to secure his power.

Ruins with many admirers

For centuries, the Germans and the French were hostile to one other. But, since 1945, things have improved dramatically. Not only has there been peace, but the countries also have moved closer, both unofficially and, with the 1963 Franco-German friendship treaty, officially as well. Europe, too, has changed. Today, you can hear many languages spoken in Heidelberg; the ancient student city is truly international.

On an afternoon in July, the steps linking the Old Town and the ruined castle are busy. But everyone follows the 'keep to the right' custom, with one single file going up and another down. Most people are going up to enjoy the great views over the river from the castle and to find a good spot to watch the illuminations.



The castle was built out of red sandstone



The 2019 theme for SouthWest Germany's Castles and Gardens is "France: Pretty good friends". And Heidelberg has an important connection. On the one hand, the French set fire to the castle and then blew it up; on the other, it was a Frenchman, who pointed out to Heidelbergers what a wonderful town they lived in. This was the artist Charles de Graimberg, who came to Heidelberg in the early 19th century. His idea was to draw the ruins, but the young man fell in love with the castle and devoted the rest of his life to preserving it. His passion opened the eyes of the Heidelbergers to the romanticism of the ruins. They began to value their heritage. Others who also appreciated it included authors and poets, such as Goethe, Heinrich

The fireworks are a reminder of French attacks on the castle



German-French relations, when troops under Field Marshal Ezéciel de Mélaç destroyed the town and its castle. But that was long ago; nowadays everyone just enjoys the show. More fireworks over the Neckar evoke happier memories: the magnificent wedding in 1613 of Frederick V of the Palatinate and Elisabeth Stuart, an English princess. "Here in SouthWest Germany, that marriage is an important part of our history," says Michael Hörmann, the head of the Castles and Gardens organisation. As for the relationship with France: "The French were responsible for many of the ruins. But there is also French influence in the design of our palaces, too." Back in 1720, for example, when the Palatine Electors lost interest in Heidelberg, they built themselves a new palace in Mannheim. The role model? Versailles, of course, the showpiece of Louis XIV. When built, Mannheim boasted the second largest Baroque palace in Europe. But what was truly important to the Electors was that Mannheim had exactly one more window than Versailles! ■

Heine and Mark Twain, whose writings made Heidelberg Castle the most famous ruin in Germany.

The castle burns

Heidelberg is particularly pretty when the late afternoon sun shines on the soft red sandstone. As the sun sets, thousands of visitors are in position along the banks of the Neckar, ready with their phones and cameras on tripods. Some bring picnics. More spectators are up on the Philosopher's Walk. And on the river itself, cruise shops, inflatable boats and yachts are at anchor. Heidelberg is ready to celebrate.

At precisely 10.15 pm, all the lights around the castle are turned out. Suddenly, fireworks go off, illuminating the castle façade with an eerie orange-red light. Three times a year, this display is a reminder of the low points in



**To see
Heidelberg
again must
be just
wonderful"**

Heinrich Heine



View from the castle's Dicker Turm tower



More information

About the Castle and Heidelberg:
www.schloss-heidelberg.de/en;
www.heidelberg-marketing.de/en

See the video on the castle illuminations:
www.tourism-bw.com/castleilluminations

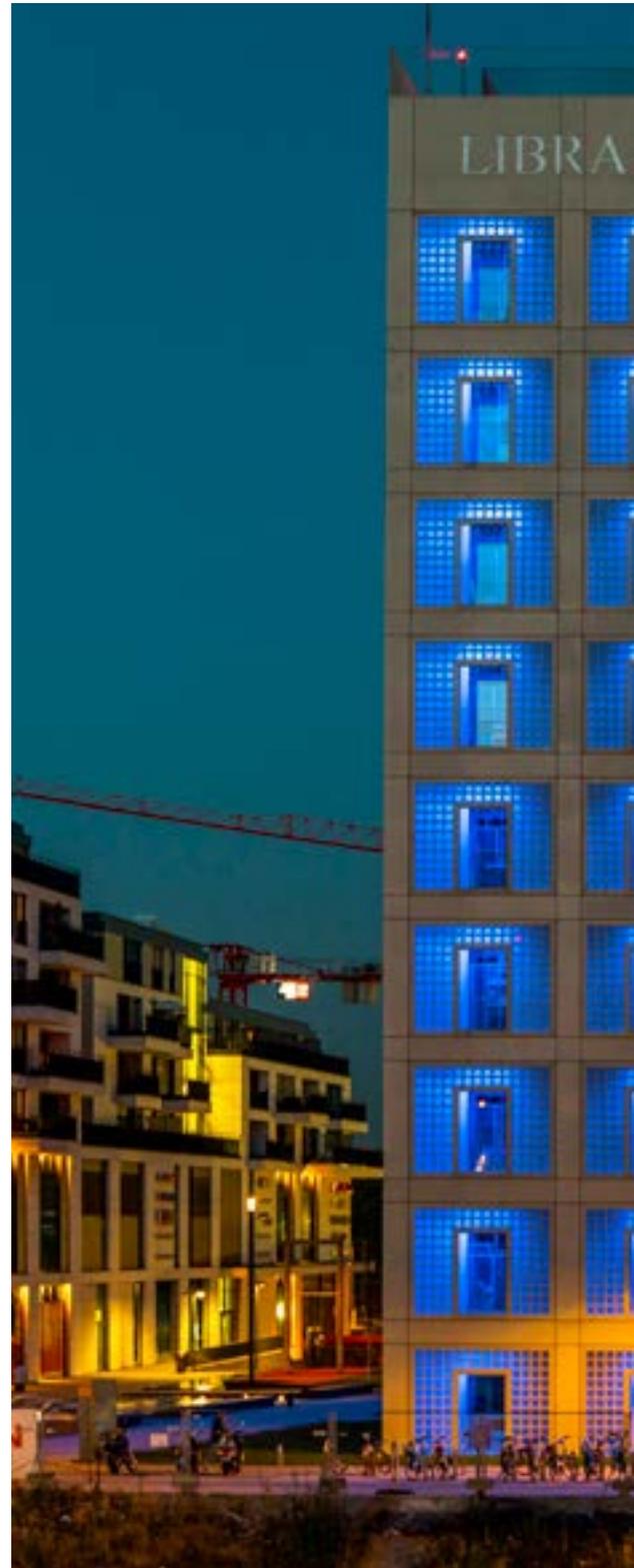
Architecture: Art for art's sake

Architecture is not just for today, but also for the future. New buildings may bring praise – or disapproval. Here are nine examples of important designs that have triggered heated discussions

✍ BIRGIT KNOP 📷 JOCHEN TACK

1 Stuttgart CITY LIBRARY

From the outside, the Stadtbibliothek Stuttgart, the City Library, looks like a simple block. Inside, however, sits a perfect cube, a light-filled space with white walkways and staircases offsetting the shelves of books. On opening in 2011, the dramatic design split opinions: some even dubbed it the Book Prison. But today, locals are proud of the landmark that has been rated among the 20 most beautiful libraries in the world by magazines, such as "Architectural Digest" and "Travel and Leisure" – Germany's only library on the list! As well as book lovers, architecture fans come to see Cologne-based architect Eun Young Yi's building on Mailänder Platz. And as night falls, the white exterior is transformed; the windows start to glow a deep blue. It looks like a gigantic art installation! www.stuttgart-tourist.de/en/a-stuttgarts-public-library



CONTEMPORARY BUILDINGS



Stuttgart's City Library is as eye-catching by night as by day



Freiburg's **University Library**

The ancient city of Freiburg now has a 21st century eye-catcher of a building. Behind the striking, black, metal-and-glass façade is one of Europe's largest academic libraries. A "polished diamond" is how Basel-based architect Heinrich Degelo describes his futuristic design. Opened in 2015, it uses energy-efficient technology for heating, cooling, lighting and more. Yet there were problems. Freiburg is Germany's sunniest city and some motorists were dazzled by the sun reflecting off the exterior. The answer? Draw the curtains. As for the interior, the lounge area has designer arm-chairs, while the 1,200 work stations even have security locks for laptops. Former students think that the current generation are being spoiled. Perhaps, they are just envious?

www.ub.uni-freiburg.de/en/

Heidelberg's **Bahnstadt**

In a former freight depot, architect Wolfgang Frey is creating a village in a city; a lively mix of science, business and housing. A work in progress dating from 2012, it even has its own fire station and cinema. Set around squares, the one to 12-room apartments have roof gardens and communal areas. In this so-called "passive housing" (energy-efficient development) 10,000 people will live, work, study and play. Homes are for singles, students and young families, as well as seniors and people in need of care. One of Germany's largest urban developments, it is setting new environmental standards. Heat and light come from 100 percent renewable energy, cutting costs and benefitting the local habitat. Hopefully, it will be a blueprint for projects further afield.

www.heidelberg-bahnstadt.de





An art installation with a political dimension

4

Karlsruhe's Platz der Grundrechte

On the Platz der Grundrechte, Karlsruhe's Constitutional Rights Square, the artist Jochen Gerz has installed 48 signs. Each has its own statement; all reflect the overall theme of "rights and justice". But where did they come from? What do they mean? And how do they relate to democracy? Gerz interviewed legal experts and philosophers as well as ordinary people, some of whom have been in conflict with the law and others who have had no problems with the law. For balance, he chose 24 quotes from each group. The thoughts are wide-ranging and thought-provoking: "People cannot expect everything from the law. We do not have a totalitarian state or the absolute rule of law"; "Justice exists only on paper"; "The law protects others from me and me from myself." www.karlsruhe.de/int.en



Mannheim's
Kunsthalle art
museum marries
old and new

5

Mannheim's New Art Gallery

Friedrichsplatz is Mannheim's most beautiful square, with rose gardens, the 1889 Water Tower and the Kunsthalle, the city art museum. Now, this 1907 art nouveau design has a dramatic 2017 art nouveau design has a dramatic 2017 extension, which faces the square from behind a delicate steel fabric "curtain". Some critics hated this juxtaposition between old and new. Inside, the soaring atrium welcomes visitors. Events here, along with the exhibitions in seven nearby spaces, are free. www.kuma.art

Pforzheim's Technisches Rathaus

6



Not all of SouthWest Germany's noteworthy architecture is 21st-century. Back in 1957, architect Hans Schürle designed Pforzheim's Technisches Rathaus, the town hall. Today, this landmark is a listed building. But it was not always so highly valued. Over the decades, some thought it should be redeveloped as a shopping centre; others that the cost of renovation was too high; still others suggested demolition. But it was saved when citizens protested, accusing the council of "selling off the family silver". In World War Two, 80 percent of the city was destroyed. The Technisches Rathaus exemplifies the 1950s, a reminder of the era when the city was rebuilt. www.pforzheim.de/en

Baden-Baden's Frieder Burda Museum

New Yorker Richard Meier is a world-renowned architect. His buildings include the Getty Museum in Los Angeles and MACBA, Barcelona's Museum of Contemporary Art. For the Lichtentaler Allee Park in Baden-Baden, he designed the white, angular Frieder Burda Museum, which opened in 2004.



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Specialising in 20th and 21st-century art, the museum feels like a light, airy villa that looks natural in the green landscape and harmonises with the neighbouring – and traditional – Staatliche Kunsthalle art gallery. The two are linked by a glass bridge. Controversial when it was installed, it is now a destination for visitors, who are fans of both art and architecture.
www.museum-frieder-burda.de



8 Ulm's Stadthaus

For more than a century, city officials and citizens argued about what to build on the main square. After all, Ulm's minster is here. Not only does it date back 600 years, it also boasts the world's tallest church spire. Eventually, a decision was taken and 1993 saw the opening of the white, geometric Stadthaus. This is another Richard Meier design, but one that could well be his most controversial – at least with the local population. This multi-purpose building includes a meeting place, an art exhibition centre, tourist office and café. But, 25 years after opening, the Stadthaus is regarded as an international landmark. The long debate about what to build has a happy ending.

www.stadthaus-ulm.de

Further information

Contemporary architecture and city breaks in SouthWest Germany:
www.tourism-bw.com/monuments





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