

ASTONISHINGLY BEAUTIFUL!

Our palaces are full of surprises.

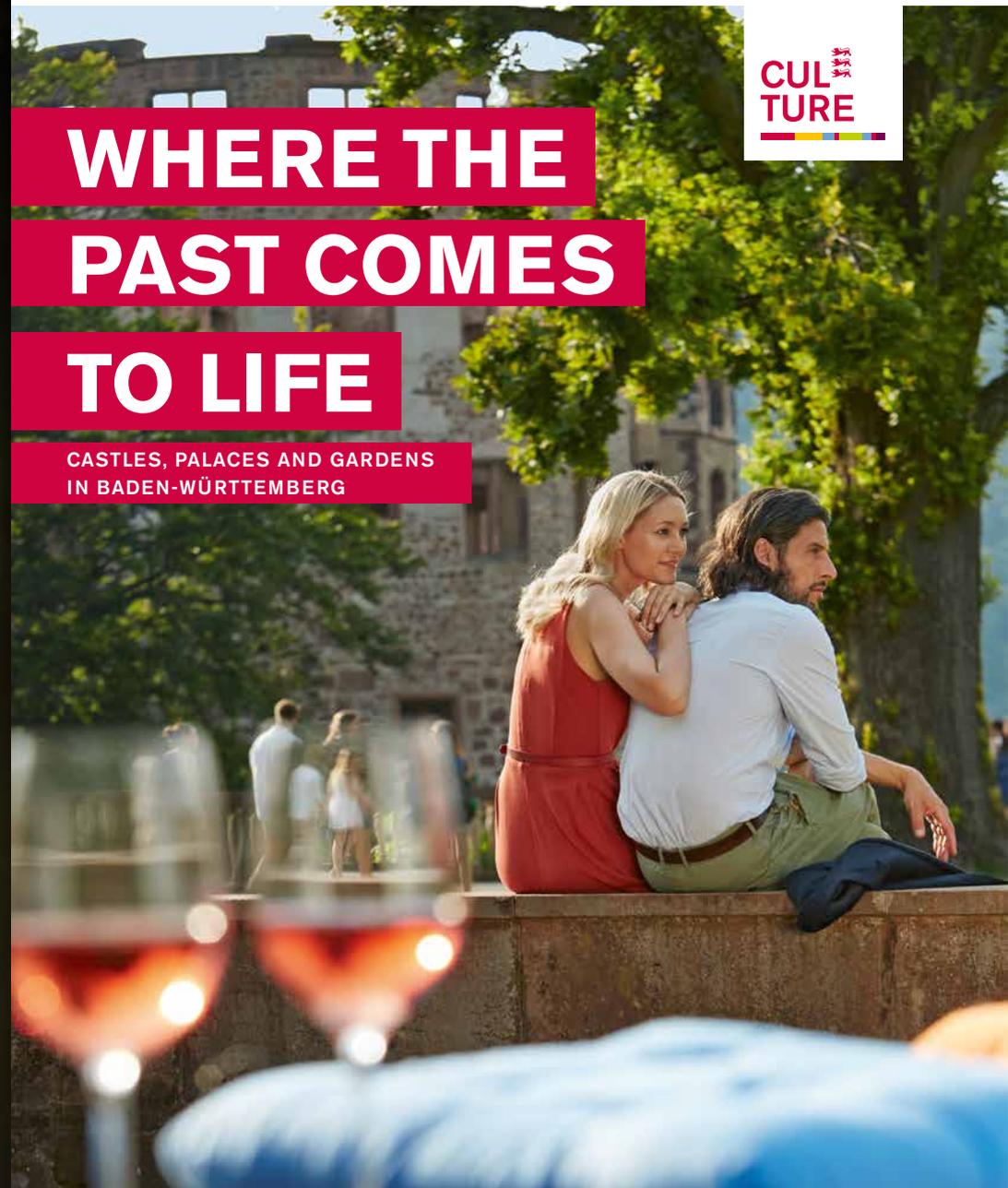
www.schloesser-und-gaerten.de

Discover the region's living history. 59 of the most beautiful palaces, monasteries, gardens and castles in Baden-Württemberg await your visit. Splendid sights, diverse experiences and fascinating stories from times gone by – it's time to make a very special journey of discovery.

www.schloesser-und-gaerten.de/en



Baden-Württemberg



WHERE THE PAST COMES TO LIFE

CASTLES, PALACES AND GARDENS
IN BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG





Welcome to SouthWest Germany!

In the past, SouthWest Germany, the German federal state of Baden-Württemberg, was a mixture of kingdoms and dukedoms, counties and monastic communities. And the affluence of the past is still visible in the large number of lovingly-preserved castles and fortresses, grand palaces and imposing monasteries, as well as the historic gardens that draw gardening enthusiasts from around the world. Thanks to imaginative programs devised by the Staatliche Schlösser und Gärten, the state heritage agency, today's international visitors can travel back in time. In monastery cloisters and churches, both the religious and the everyday come to life from the Middle Ages to the 18th century. In castles and fortresses, you can learn about battles in centuries past. In the grand palaces, you can hear about the splendid life of princes, dukes and kings. Behind-the-scenes tours show how ordinary people lived, while the impressive gardens reflect the influences of Italian, French and English designers over the centuries.

We look forward to seeing you!

A red handwritten signature, likely of Andreas Braun, written in a cursive style.

Andreas Braun
Tourismus Marketing GmbH
Baden-Württemberg

WELCOME TO SOUTHWEST GERMANY'S CASTLES, PALACES & GARDENS

- 6 Eating and drinking in yesteryear
- 10 Natural beauty
- 14 Expect the unexpected
- 21 Publishing details



3
The visits Mozart made to Schwetzingen Castle.



65
The different characters brought to life on costumed tours.



3.77
million visitors from 50 countries in 2015.



14
The number of children that Magdalena of Nassau-Katzenelnbogen of Weikersheim bore.



59
The castles, palaces and gardens waiting to welcome you.



300
The years that the prince-electors ruled in Heidelberg.



MAGICAL CASTLES, PALACES AND GARDENS

In SouthWest Germany's castles, palaces and gardens, history, culture and nature combine in a magical way. There are oases of tranquility, secret corners, ancient wine cellars and romantic ruins: perfect for explorers looking for unique experiences.



EATING AND DRINKING IN YESTERYEAR

SouthWest Germany's historic monasteries, grand palaces and craggy castles come to life when visitors travel back in time by eating dishes from the past and tasting wines grown here for centuries.



SouthWest Germany's monasteries were among the most powerful in Europe, and the monks were very clever. As well as providing spiritual centers, they also developed new methods of farming to produce much needed food. One of the best examples is Maulbronn Monastery (above), a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Europe's best-preserved medieval monastery complexes. Here, 30 miles northwest of Stuttgart, you can still see the elaborate network of ponds and channels built for fish farming.

And these Cistercian monks were also particularly creative when it came to eating well during Lent. As consuming fish is allowed during Lent, beavers, because of their scaly tails, were declared to be aquatic animals – and eaten! And

they also created the most famous Swabian dish: Maultaschen. Like large, square ravioli, these are pockets of pasta, filled with ground meat and vegetables. Because the meat (not allowed during Lent) was hidden in the pasta pocket, God supposedly would not see it. Well, that's the legend...

But visitors to Maulbronn hear more than food stories. The Cistercians also enjoyed their wine. They introduced grape varieties and wine growing techniques. The surrounding hills were vineyards, and even though the monks were expelled after the Reformation, wine-growers from the region still plant their vines on the historic, sunny terraces. Taste these during the annual summer wine festival in June hosted in the atmospheric monastery courtyard.

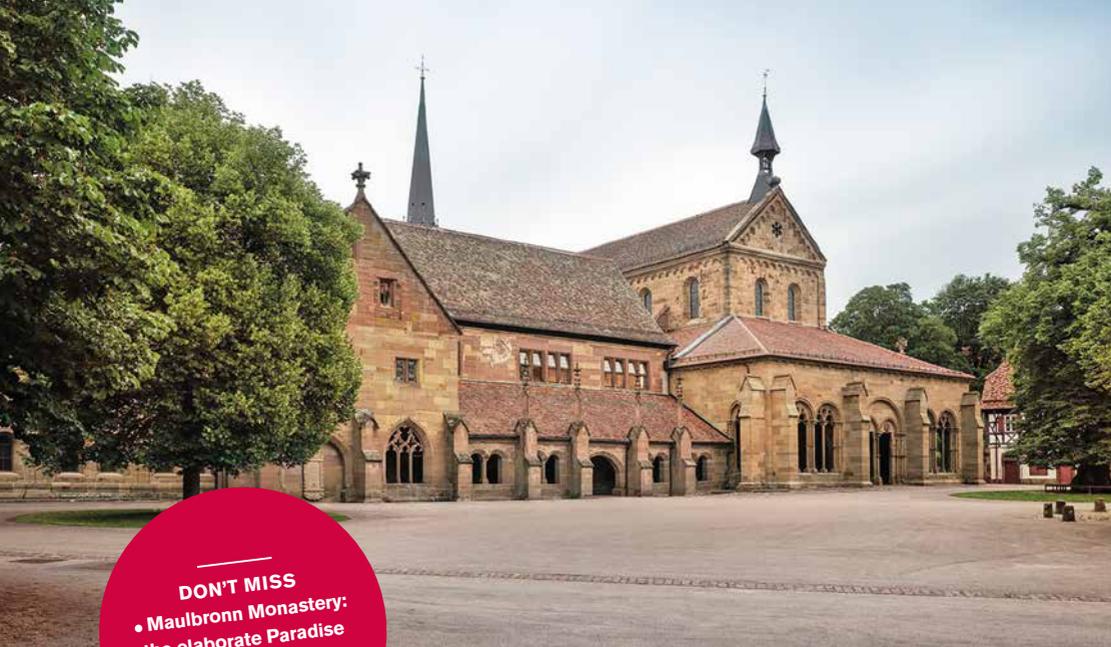
Wine also plays an important role when you visit the stunningly beautiful Monastery and Palace Salem (below), a former Cistercian institution, 100 miles south of Stuttgart. As well as great views over Lake Constance, there are flourishing vineyards. Learn about their importance on a tour. See the vast wine cellar;

Maulbronn Monastery

Maultaschen were invented in Maulbronn Monastery. And today, visitors can learn all about this Swabian-style ravioli. First, they prepare the dish – and then they eat it. As a souvenir, they are given a special Maultaschen diploma to take home.

➤ www.kloster-maulbronn.de/en





DON'T MISS
 • Maulbronn Monastery:
 the elaborate Paradise
 entrance to the church

Perkeo, Heidelberg Castle's court jester, was famous: he even has a statue next to the giant wine barrel. In charge of the castle's wine cellar, he was never averse to a drink. When asked if he would like another glass, he replied: "Perché no", "Why not?" in Italian. Hence his nickname: Perkeo.

be amazed by the size of the 300-year-old wine press, made of massive oak beams; learn that monks were allocated 1.5 liters (3 pints) of wine a day! Back in the 18th century, Burgundy-style vines were imported from France, and the same variety flourishes to this day. Here, the Pinot Noir grape is called Spätburgunder. A deep ruby red, it goes beautifully with meat or cheese.



Just outside Stuttgart is one of Europe's finest Baroque buildings: the splendid Ludwigsburg Palace. In the past, the dukes kept their barrels of wine in huge cellars beneath the palace. Today, ordinary folk can enjoy a glass of good wine from the nearby Schloss Monrepos vineyards at a wine tasting here, or during a Baroque feast (where you can dress up), or even a Kaffeeklatsch, an informal gathering for coffee and a chat. For many visitors, most

astonishing is Ludwigsburg's wine barrel that once held 90,000 liters (24,000 gallons).

But for size, nothing matches the Grosses Fass (the big tun, or barrel) in Heidelberg Castle. That once held 220,000 liters: nearly 60,000 gallons. Today this visitor attraction is empty, unlike the busy Schlossweinstube, the cellar restaurant in Heidelberg Castle. Only the best wine is poured here to accompany the innovative dishes created by award-winning star chef Martin Scharff.

DON'T MISS
 • Salem: the grandeur
 of the 15thC monastery
 church with its 27 altars
 • Heidelberg: the world's
 biggest wine barrel



Booking period:

Individually bookable on request

Including:

- Entry and tour with 4 wine tastings

Ask about ...

- English-speaking tours for groups (min 20)
- optional hearty snack (Badisches Winzervesper): € 9.50 *

"Salem and Wine" guided tour

Participants learn all about Schloss Salem's impressive wine cellar, as well as the architectural treasures in this historic monastery and castle. The tour is followed by a special tasting of four specially-selected local Baden wines.

Price per person: € 24.20 *
 + € 9.50 * "Badisches Winzervesper"

Information and Booking:

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 Kloster und Schloss Salem
 88682 Salem

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@ schloss@salem.de

🌐 www.salem.de/en

NATURAL BEAUTY

SouthWest Germany's historic palace gardens are an elegant balance between Mother Nature and easy-on-the-eye design. Stroll through dreamy combinations of fountains, follies and fruit trees.



In the 18th century, gardeners in SouthWest Germany created some of Europe's most beautiful gardens. In what was really a new art form, these horticulturalists let their imaginations rip, breaking up geometric designs by planting and shaping trees and bushes to look like buildings or animals.

Influenced by what they had seen in England, the German aristocracy moved from French formality to a wilder, more natural British look. They ordered their garden designers to introduce water features, such as streams and waterfalls, orchards and meadows.

One of the best places to appreciate this delightful juxtaposition of French and English garden culture is in the 180 acres of Schwetzingen Palace, 75 miles northwest of Stuttgart (above). With an elegant allée that leads the eye to the horizon, like a well-constructed

DON'T MISS
• Rastatt Favorite Palace:
the breathtakingly
beautiful Florentine
Room

painting, the formal French garden is outlined by neatly trimmed box hedges. In high summer, the air is perfumed with carefully planted sage and ornamental tobacco. Elegant buildings include a classical Temple of Apollo, Bath House, and, in the Turkish gardens, a lavish mosque.

In Rastatt, 60 miles west of Stuttgart, Schloss Favorite is a stunning Baroque summer residence built in 1727 (below). See the formal garden's Baroque avenue, as well as the park, with its meadows and ponds, fruit trees and water features.



Palace Garden in Schwetzingen

The palace gardens in Schwetzingen are truly special. As well as reflecting the French, English and Italian landscaping styles, they include statues and buildings, such as the ornamental mosque. For garden lovers, this is a highlight, but everyone enjoys strolling through these beautiful grounds.

➔ www.schloss-schwetzingen.de/en

orangery (below). Not surprisingly, Weikersheim is nicknamed the “Versailles of Hohenlohe”. But the garden’s must-see is the parade of 16 comical dwarves that line a balustrade. Invented long before the garden gnome, these were once thought to be caricatures of Weikersheim’s royal household. In fact, they are just fun figures.

The romantic ruins of Heidelberg Castle are one of Europe’s most recognizable icons (75 miles northwest of Stuttgart). And the garden

has equally romantic connections. Known as the Hortus Palatinus, the former Baroque garden, once regarded as the ‘Eighth Wonder of the World’, was a wedding gift from Frederick V to his English wife, Princess Elizabeth Stuart. Certainly Germany’s finest Renaissance garden, this is home to important wildlife as well as plants.

But for untamed natural beauty, head for Hohentwiel, Germany’s largest ruined fort. Set high on a rocky outcrop, near Singen

(100 miles south of Stuttgart), the surrounding volcanic crags are now a nature reserve, offering a unique habitat to many rare species of flora and fauna. And the old fort itself offers fabulous views over the gentle rolling hills of the Thurgau region, across Lake Constance and to the majestic snow-tipped peaks of the Alps.

By contrast, Weikersheim Palace in the Tauber valley, 75 miles northeast of Stuttgart, embodies the Renaissance ideal of a country estate. Think fragrant flowers, citrus trees and palm trees, all growing in front of the magnificent

DON'T MISS

- Hohentwiel: the romantic old fort with its grand views of the Alps
- Weikersheim Palace: the witty statues in the garden



Monuments in the garden; the garden as a monument

Guided tours of Schwetzingen’s palace garden provide insight in to the different styles of garden design over the centuries. Hear the story of the temples and mosque; learn about the contribution of Nicolas de Pigage, the French architect and garden designer.

Details:

- For groups, special dates are bookable
- English-speaking guides for groups (min 20)
- Wear comfortable shoes; unsuitable for those with a fear of heights
- Tours start from the ticket office

Information and Booking:

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Price per person: adults € 12.–* seniors € 6.–*

* Prices quoted are for information only. The Tourismus Marketing GmbH Baden-Württemberg does not guarantee prices or act as an agent for the travel providers. Terms and conditions apply.

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

SouthWest Germany's old monasteries, castles and palaces are like time machines, which transport visitors back through centuries to find surprises hidden behind the ancient walls.

With 452 rooms in 18 buildings, Ludwigsburg Palace, close to Stuttgart, is quite magnificent. The Baroque, Rococo and Neoclassical state rooms, where the aristocracy spent their time, are grand. Servants appeared on command, and then disappeared. But where did they go? Where did they eat, sleep and work? In the palace, many of their rooms have been preserved. Today's visitors are fascinated by these behind-the-scenes chambers and the inner courtyards that provided light and air.

On special guided tours, the 'downstairs' side of life is exposed. In these often forgotten rooms, you can see basement vaults, secret store rooms and old heating systems. Even the nobility did not know they were there!

Heidelberg Castle is also a treasure trove for explorers. Everyone knows the majestic red sandstone ruins high above the Neckar River, the perfect backdrop for romantics and countless wedding photographs. But the ancient ruins are even more romantic after the sun has set. That is when ghosts seem to pop out from crumbling walls and have fun in the hidden corners of the castle. To find out more, go on the monthly "Night Owls Tour" to explore the fortifications, the turret and more.

At this time of night, visitors have the castle to themselves. As well as the stories, you can hear the eerie sounds of the night: fluttering bats contrast with handsome princes, romantic painters and love-lorn princesses.

At Weikersheim Palace, 75 miles northeast of Stuttgart, Count Wolfgang of Hohenlohe created an astonishing Rittersaal (knights' hall) in 1600 (right). SouthWest Germany's finest

DON'T MISS
 • Ludwigsburg:
 Europe's oldest royal
 theatre
 • Weikersheim:
 Garden statues

Renaissance building is still a visual feast, from its paneled ceiling, decorated with lively hunting scenes, to fantastic figures and wild



animals. Everyone loves the stucco elephant, whose ears seem to stick out of the wall.

But the whole of Weikersheim Palace is really a work of art in its own right, from the garden to the palace, perfectly embedded into the landscape. Explore the paths that snake through the park; climb up to the roof to enjoy the views; walk up staircases and come face-to-face with impressive coats of arms.

One of SouthWest Germany's best kept secrets is Grosscomburg Monastery, a former Imperial abbey, on the edge of the glorious medieval



Hanging in St Nicholas Church's Baroque nave, the Romanesque chandelier, 5 m / 16 ft in diameter is one of only three left in the world (above). This giant gold-plated copper wheel is richly decorated: look for the 12 intricate gate towers around the circumference symbolising the "New Jerusalem".

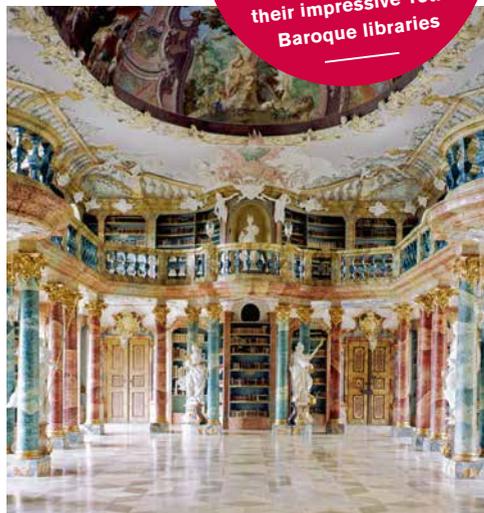
town of Schwäbisch Hall (40 miles northeast of Stuttgart). Today, it is a teacher's training college, but still the home of one of the world's largest wrought-iron chandeliers, as well as a glorious golden altarpiece. Monasteries were more than mysterious places. They were great seats of learning, with impressive libraries. Wiblingen Monastery, near Ulm (60 miles south-east of Stuttgart) has a breath-taking Rococo library, a confectionary of pink and blue, with statues, ceiling frescoes and, in the old days, 15,000 books (right). Founded in 1183, Schussenried Monastery boasts one of the most

beautiful libraries in southern Germany (75 miles southeast of Stuttgart). Don't miss the ceiling fresco, with a priest using giant wings to fly, centuries before the Zeppelin airship was invented nearby!

Today, those libraries built hundreds of years ago, still tell a story. With their curved walls, elaborate ceiling frescoes and ornate cloisters, these are jewels of the Baroque. Detail was everything, even though some of the covers that lined the endless shelves actually contained no pages! So, why not spend a little

DON'T MISS

- Grosscomburg: the walk around the fortifications
- Wiblingen and Schussenried monasteries: their impressive 18thC Baroque libraries



time, drinking in the beauty of these buildings that were known as "treasure chests of wisdom and science".

Ludwigsburg Palace

Originally, there was no Ludwigsburg. The town grew around the hunting lodge that became the grand Ludwigsburg Palace. Eventually, for a short time, it even became the capital of the kingdom of Württemberg. As well as the Palace, Ludwigsburg is known for the Favorite and lakeside Monrepos palaces.

➔ www.ludwigsburg.de



Ask about...

- For groups, special dates and English-speaking guides can be arranged

The everyday life of a noble woman at court

A noble woman's highest honor was to be at court. Find out more from Emilia von Seckendorff, Queen Charlotte's maid of honor. See royal rooms; go behind the scenes of everyday court life; hear surprising secrets.

Information and Booking:

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Price per person: adults €9.-* seniors €4.50*





Publishing details

Publisher

Tourismus Marketing GmbH Baden-Württemberg
Esslinger Str. 8, 70182 Stuttgart

Concept and Coordination

TMBW, JUNG:Kommunikation GmbH

Design

JUNG:Kommunikation GmbH

Photo credits

Cover: TMBW/Christoph Düpper; inside cover: SSG/LMZ: Niels Schubert, Favorite Palace Rastatt; pp 4 – 5: SSG/LMZ: Niels Schubert; p. 6: TMBW/Christoph Düpper; p. 7: SSG/LMZ: Günther Bayerl; SSG/LMZ: Achim Mende; p. 8: SSG/LMZ: Günther Bayerl, Maulbronn Monastery; SSG/LMZ: photographer not known; p. 9: Vineyard Markgraf von Baden; p. 10: TMBW/Christoph Düpper; p. 11: Thomas Wagner; SSG/LMZ: Rachele; p. 12: SSG/LMZ: Niels Schubert; p. 13: Achim Mende; p. 14: Niels Schubert; p. 15: SSG/LMZ: Günther Bayerl; p. 16: SSG/LMZ: Weischer; Steinhorst; p. 17: SSG/LMZ: Serkan Arslan; pp 18 – 19: TMBW/Achim Mende; p. 20: SSG/LMZ: photographer not known, Mosque Palace Garden Schwetzingen

Print

C. Maurer Druck und Verlag
GmbH & Co. KG
Geislingen an der Steige

December 2016

At the time of going to press, every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication.



Baden-Württemberg

MINISTERIUM DER JUSTIZ UND FÜR EUROPA

