

# Tour through the history of the town Wolfach



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Kinzigtal

# Welcome to Wolfach,

we invite you to get to know our city and its rich historical background.

In 1084 Wolfach was mentioned in a document for the first time. The city – founded by Messrs von Wolfa – soon became a center of log rafting in this area. The former castle "Fürstlich Fürstenberg" and the town hall which are 6 centuries old, have got a very strong influence on the townscape.

The sightseeing walk starts at the market place in front of the town hall and will take about 1,5 hours.

**We wish you an enjoyable  
and unforgettable visit!**

## Tourist Information Wolfach

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**We are at your disposal from:**

Mo. – Fr. 9:00 – 12:30 Uhr  
14:00 – 17:00 Uhr



The walkaround is also accessible for people with disabilities.

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## Station 1

# The Town Hall

After the last big town fire in 1895 the town hall and the school were rebuilt in the neo-renaissance style. The tourist information and the city administration are located inside of the town hall. In 1935 Eduard Trautwein – an artist from Wolfach – painted the front with themes like local costumes and typical local professions. In the 1960's the town hall got restored. The balcony balustrade shows the emblems of Wolfach, Baden and Germany.

The place in front of the town hall has always been the market place. Today, the weekly market takes place on Saturdays and Wednesdays. Until 1908 there was a canal (1,30 m deep) which supplied the people with water. Behind the town hall was the town wall with a schnaps distillery and the so-called "Männergraben" (men's ditch). As it was very difficult to defend the mountain side of the city, they only committed men there to defend the city.



## Station 2

## The Upper Gate

The upper gate surrounded the city together with the town wall and the lower gate. It was situated beside the city bridge and was destroyed by the city fire in 1799. There were also a washhouse and a brewery. Upstream, near the protestant church the "Mühlenteich" was located. It delivered water for the mill and the rafts. Today it is a modern dam.

After the Franco-German war in 1871 the peace lime was planted. In 1912 a monument for the Grand Duke Friedrich I of Baden and the participants of the war in 1870/71 was erected.

The statue of the Romans on the other side of the Kinzig river reminds of the old military road of the Romans that led through the Kinzigtal. For the Romans it was the most important east-west connection through the Black Forest. It led from Argentoratum (Straßburg) to the Baar and to Rottweil.





## Station 3

## The City Bridge

On the side of the suburb the dam and the "Brückenwaagteich" are located. These ponds were partly complex constructed equipments to control the water level for the log rafting. With this equipments the people could produce artificial tidal waves to speed up the logs. To protect the city against high floods and ice flows the citizens built stonewalls at the riverbanks. After the suburban fire in 1762 the "Dammstraße" lay in ashes. Today the log rafters construct their "Bubenflöße" (small wooden logs) there.



## Station 4

## The Spa Garden Hotel

Today's Spa Garden Hotel resulted from the pine needle bath which is related to the spa of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The people discovered very early the medical benefits of the saline and iron-containing springwater and utilized it to cure rheumatism, gout and skin diseases. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the pine needle bath boomed and pine needle products were sold. After finishing the rail connection in 1878 the thermal bath hosted lots of international guests. In 1892 a newspaper from Berlin voted Wolfach "Germany's most beautiful climatic health-resort" and in 1962 the city received the title "Officially Recognized Climatic Health-Resort".

The Catholic Church is named after vicar St. Laurentius and was first mentioned in a document in 1273. The choir the late Gothic tower and the southern wall were built in the 14th century. The old portals show the years 1473 and 1508. The vaulting of the choir was made in 1515 and affected the frescoes massively.

In 4 series of pictures they show conversations between the apostles and the prophet, the cycle of Christ, cycles about the life of the apostles, Petrus and Saint Laurentius. The ornamental painting of the arch had been uncovered in the course of the renovation in 1975. The new nave was completed and inaugurated in 1941.





## Station 6

## The “Schliefegraben”

In former times the mill channel – also called “Schliefegraben” – separated the river Wolf from the “Vorstadtstraße”. Small handicraft businesses settled there because they needed the waterpower. A garnet grinding shop and a tannery lay in between today's Leipold building and the house “Inselweg 1” which were hammer mills. The two big mill wheels supplied the machines with water. Later on, the channel got buried. Today, the water flows through pipes under the street as far as the power station which belongs to the Leipold Company. The people rafted the logs from Bad Rippoldsau, Schapbach and Oberwolfach on the Wolf to the Kinzig, where they were put together to the big log rafts which are called “Landflöße”.



## Station 7

# Log Rafter's Park

The log rafting is a long established industry in Wolfach. The wood was called the "Gold of the Black Forest" and the timber trade was since the beginning of the 11th century a very profitable business. Especially the shipbuilding in Holland and the construction of cathedrals in the flourishing cities Speyer and Straßburg needed a lot of wood. The wall charts at the Log Rafter's Park explain the way of economic management and the unbelievable skills of the log rafters. The haven for the logs at the "Herlinsbach" was very important for the up to 600 m long rafts. From there they started their trips to Straßburg and Holland. The decline of the log rafting came with the turmoil of war in the 17th and 18th centuries and especially with the railway construction in 1865. The iron horses transported the wood faster and cheaper. In 1894 the last real lograft left the haven of Wolfach.

The log rafting always fascinated the citizens and in 1984 while the city festival took place, the first "show lograft" left the haven.



Carnival has a long tradition in Wolfach. The “Narrenbrunnen” is a fountain that shows sculptures of all carnival figures of Wolfach. There are 7 traditional figures, the so-called “Hansele”. Another tradition is the “Geldbeutelwäscher” parade. Some men wash their empty wallets on Ash Wednesday in the city fountain. The wallets are empty because they spent all their money on Carnival. The men are equipped with top hats, scrubbing brushes and they are crying very loud. The “Nasenzug” ist the quaintest of the 12 parades in Wolfach. Only men are allowed to participate. They wear their coats inside out, a pine chip on the hat and a self-made conk in their face. If there is any courageous woman that joins the “Nasenzug” and gets recognized by the men, they will throw her into the cold water of the city fountain. If she does not get recognized, the men have to invite her to dinner.



Die Stadt  
Bolfach: 1655







*The painter Eduard Trautwein (1893-1978) increased and freshened the townscape painted by the pastor and geologist Johann Jakob Mentzinger (1604-1668) with colour. The original drawing of 1650 (pen and ink drawing, 13,4 x 13,8 cm) is part of a map that shows the "Fürstenbergischen Lande" in the Kinzigtal.*

A painting of Eduard Trautwein (1893-1978) shows the involvement of Wolfach's women who stood guard at the “Weibergraben” (women's ditch). It was easier to defend than the “Männergraben”. The old chaplain house (Kirchstraße 5) is one of the oldest houses in Wolfach. The vicars of the catholic rectory used to live there. In the alleys which are parallel to the main street, primarily workmen like shoemakers, cellarmen, carpenters, bakers, butchers and wine dealers settled. Almost every family had a small stable for self supply.







Station

10

## The log haven and the “Holländer”

If we follow the “Flößerwegle” (old footpath) we see several landing stages for logs and an old milestone that tells us that we are 60 km away from the Rhine. At the former log haven a so-called “Holländer” is anchored. It is a stem which was especially sent for log construction from here to the Netherlands.

At the junction of the rivers Wolf and Kinzig the “Talflöße” (lografts which were about 600 m long) were constructed. On the other side of the river we can see the granite columns of the monumental “Ehrenmal”.

The Castle of Wolfach is the biggest one in the south of Baden. In the middle of the 17th century, Count Maximilian Franz von Fürstenberg ordered its renovation and extension. Since the 12th century, there was an apartment above the gate for the city guard. The castle was a royal administrative centre and a residence of several elderly widows. In 1806 it was decided that Wolfach belongs to Baden. The city kept its status as administrative city and the castle was used as district office.

In 1939 the County Wolfach arose. Its administration was also located here. After the dissolution of this county in 1973 only an outpost of the newly-established "Ortenaukreis" was left. The district court, the notary's office, the tax office and the police office are also located here. The gate called "Fürstenberger Tor" with the baroque balustrade shows the Fürstenberg emblem and the initials of the constructor. Right beside it we can admire Dimitri Petrov's relief made of Black Forest red sandstone which shows log rafters.





## Station 12

## The Chapel and the Museum in the Castle of Wolfach

The Chapel called "Unserer lieben Frau" ("Our Lady") was saved by the historian Josef Krausbeck after the 2nd World War. The Chapel has a landmark status and was restored by hand. The choir stall with its panels was built in the 17th century, the statues are about 100 years older.

The central point is the pieta from the 14th century. The museum downstairs shows the history of the log rafting and the life in former days. Inside the "Hungerturm" (an old tower) we can see an original dungeon from the Middle Ages.

# Tips for your stay in Wolfach:

## Wolfach in 1 day:

It is recommendable to go on a city tour in the morning and see the historical points of interest described in this brochure. Wolfach has got a lot of comfortable restaurants where you can sit outside and enjoy the beautiful landscape. Afterwards, you can take a walk over the "Gassensteg" (bridge that leads to the suburb) along the Kinzig to the Dorotheenhütte.

To guests who like hiking, we can recommend the foot-path that passes by the memorial "Ehrenmal" where you can enjoy a wonderful look at the city.

At the Dorotheenhütte you can go on a guided tour or explore your glass blowing skills.

On the way back, the "Grube Clara" (mineral heap) is worth a visit. Treasures from the deep that you can take with you can be excavated there. It is open from April until October.

Another destination is to visit the St. Jakob's Chapell which is only about 1,5 km away from the town hall.

Back at the town centre, you have got the possibility to accompany the night guard on his walkabout (Thursday and Saturday 9:00 p.m. from May until October, meeting point 8:45 p.m. in front of the town hall).

To complete the day successfully, you should enjoy a meal in one of our hospitable restaurants.



# Wolfach in 3 days:

**1** After your arrival we would recommend you a promenade to get to know Wolfach. Through the "Kirchstraße" over the pedestrian bridge on the right side along the river Kinzig, back over the city bridge and on the other side of the dam. Many beautiful places will invite you to stay a while.

Thursday and Saturday at 9:00 p.m. from May until October you have the possibility to accompany the night guard on his walkabout, meeting point 8:45 p.m. in front of the town hall.

**2** The 2nd day would be perfect to take a walk along the Kinzig over the "Gassensteg" (bridge that leads to the suburb) along the Kinzig to the Dorotheenhütte. To guests who like hiking, we can recommend the footpath that leads over the memorial "Ehrenmal" where you have got a wonderful look at the city. At the Dorotheenhütte you can take a guided tour or explore your glass blowing skills.

On the way back on the bike and foot path to Oberwolfach you will pass the "Flößerpark" ("Log Driver's Park"). At the entrance of the town Oberwolfach you can find the MiMa (Museum for minerals and mathematics). Visitors with the "Konus Guest Card" can take the bus gratis (Monday-Friday 4:55p.m., Saturday and Sunday 3:28 p.m., 5:28 p.m.). If you have a car, you can drive to the "Grube Wenzel" which is a mine for visitors. It is also possible to go on a small hike from the MiMa back to the towncentre of Wolfach. We also rent bikes to our guests. A visit to the St. Jakobs Chapel would be a tranquil ending of an interesting day.

**3** After breakfast we would recommend you to explore the historic city. The city walk is described in this brochure, starting point is the town hall. Afterwards you have the possibility to dig out treasures at "Grube Klara" (mineral heap) that you can take with you. It is open from April until October.

For all breaks we recommend the comfortable restaurants in the historic city.



Feuerwehrhaus

Ortenau-Klinikum

Friedhof

Kath. Kirche

Kurgarten

Stuckhäusle

Flöβepark

Herlinsbachschule

Herlinsbächle

Museum Schloss Wolfach

Rathaus

Festhalle, Realschule

Sport-halle

Neup. Kirche

Parkinson-klinik

dorotheenhütte  
Glashütte Wolfach

Glashüttenweg

B 294

Kirnbacher Str.  
zur Mineralienhalde

Sieck

# Wolfach

Stadtberg

Ev. Kirche

Vorstadtstraße

L 96 Schiltacher Straße

Sankt-Jakobs-Weg

Pavillon

Jakobs-  
berg

St. Jakobskapelle,  
Antoniuskapelle

henwald

Reutherbergtunnel

Siechenwald

0 100 500 m





# dorotheenhütte

## Glashütte Wolfach

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### opening hours

(closed 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. and 1<sup>st</sup> Jan.)

Glass works, glass museum, museum shop:

daily from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. - latest admission: 4.30 p.m.

“Gläserland” (glass outlet), Christmas village, shops:

daily from 9 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.

**Visits without guide:** daily from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. – latest admission 4.30 p.m.

**Guided tours (German):** Monday 11 a.m., Thursday 2 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m.

Guided tours for groups by written appointment (also in English, French, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese)

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### Restaurant – Café - „Hüttenklause“ and beer garden

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open 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

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