

# Hirsau Monastery.



## An Encounter with the Hirsau Monastery Culture

The basilica, which was consecrated in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, was one of the largest Romanesque churches in Germany. The original monastery buildings and the cloister were replaced by buildings in Gothic style. Even today, the former monastery complex of St. Peter and Paul and the lovingly restored Aurelius Church are known far beyond the region of Calw.



[www.calw.de/Kloster-Hirsau](http://www.calw.de/Kloster-Hirsau)

## Monastery Museum

The museum building, which was added to the north side of Aurelius Church in the Romanesque period is an important testimony of monastery history. Interesting facts about how monks lived in a Benedictine monastery and about the history of the resort Hirsau: numerous texts, images and archaeological finds provide insight into the Hirsau monastic culture, which dates back more than 1,100 years.



[www.calw.de/Klostermuseum](http://www.calw.de/Klostermuseum)



## Hirsau Herb Garden

A herb garden with native medicinal herbs has been created along the lines of a medieval herb garden in the place where the cloister of the Aurelius Church used to be. In 37 herb beds you can admire around 50 different types of plants.



## Tours of the Monastery

Get to know Hirsau Monastery! This is where history comes alive. In the guided tour, the impressive 11<sup>th</sup> century stone witnesses of the history of the Monastery of St. Peter and Paul are explained in detail by an expert.

The public tour includes free entrance to the Monastery Museum.

### From May to October:

- **Tours of the Monastery**  
Sat. 02:30 p.m.,  
Sun. & public holidays 11:00 a.m.  
Meeting point: main entrance of the monastery



[www.calw.de/Klosterfuehrungen](http://www.calw.de/Klosterfuehrungen)

# Hiking round Calw.



## Enjoy the Moment – the “AugenBlick” Tours

Starting in Calw-Holzbronn this spectacular circular walk leads first of all to a very special viewpoint, the “Nature Park AugenBlick”, high above the Nagold valley. Following steep and adventurous paths you pass the ruins of castle Waldeck, descend into the valley along a stream and climb up again to the starting point through the fascinating gorge of the “Xanderklinge”. Pure, unadulterated nature as far as the eye can see. The “Nature Park AugenBlick” viewpoint is equipped with a bench and information panel and invites you to take a break – the breath-taking 360-degree view will make your hiking heart skip a beat.

 [www.calw.de/Naturpark-Augenblick](http://www.calw.de/Naturpark-Augenblick)

## GeoTour

“Where stones turn into water” – an adventure of discovery for young and old. This (guided) 4.3-km long geological journey through 500,000 million years of the Earth’s history leads over hill and dale. The free geoTour brochure provides information, exploratory tasks and research questions as well as detailed directions and a map. Off you go!

 [www.calw.de/Geotour](http://www.calw.de/Geotour)

## GeoCaching

Geocaching adventures. On all of the 15 eventful trails you have to solve intriguing mysteries and perform intricate assignments. Discover interesting natural spaces, play and have lots of fun and revel in state-of-the art GPS technology. Always with the goal of being the first to find the cache!

 [www.calw.de/Geocaching](http://www.calw.de/Geocaching)

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### Insider Tip

Travel back in time: explore the remains of Celtic settlements, castle ruins, mills and a former execution site surrounded by nature.

## Hiking on Premium Trails

The 14-km long “Water, Woodland and Meadow Trail” – the first Black Forest Bon Vivant Trail – leads you directly from the historic market place in the centre of Calw to fantastic, pristine natural settings. This is all about being active, breathing the purest Black Forest air and experiencing culture. And this in the middle of a fascinating green forest. Along narrow woodland paths, romantic valleys and through picturesque meadow orchards – joie de vivre all inclusive.

 [www.calw.de/Premiumweg](http://www.calw.de/Premiumweg)



... and  
many other  
top hiking  
tours



# Outdoor Activities.

## Biking

In Calw, there's something for everyone – through its topographic location, Calw offers diverse cycling possibilities. No matter if cozy family bike tours, scenic e-bike trails, challenging mountain bike trails or fast-paced racing bike tours.

 [www.calw.de/Radfahren](http://www.calw.de/Radfahren)

## Nagold Valley Biking Trail

90 km of pure biking fun: the memorable Nagold biking trail follows the winding river Nagold – from its source at Besenfeld in the Black Forest, passing through the picturesque Black Forest towns of Altensteig, Nagold and Wildberg. Clean air and lots to discover: picturesque Seitzental, the historic monastery complex in Hirsau and, of course, the alleyways in Calw lined with half-timbered houses.

 [www.calw.de/Nagoldtalradweg](http://www.calw.de/Nagoldtalradweg)



## Outdoor Pool

Swim, splash, dive or just enjoy the sun. Refreshment guaranteed: from May to September this summer oasis in Calw-Stammheim attracts both families and athletes to relax and be active. There are infinite possibilities. The 50-metre pool with its diving platform, beach football and volleyball courts, the children's pool with its adventure slide and a wonderful sunbathing lawn. Here, everyone gets their money's worth.

 [www.calw.de/Freibad](http://www.calw.de/Freibad)

## Climbing

A real sandstone climbing paradise for beginners and advanced climbers. Countless routes of various grades in Kentheim, Öländerle, Fuchsklinge and in Hirsau demand a lot of the climber: stamina, strength and skill. Always in close physical contact with the rockface.



Activities  
for the whole  
family:  
 [www.calw.de/  
Familie](http://www.calw.de/Familie)



# Shopping, Food & Drink.



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## Insider Tip

The Calw Cookery Book – you can buy practically all of the ingredients in the market. The friendly market traders expressly invite you to sample their wares!

## Accommodation in Calw

For anyone who wishes to stay a little longer – as there is so much to see and do in Calw:

 [www.calw.de/Übernachten](http://www.calw.de/Übernachten)

## Weekly Market

You can taste when it's fresh. The market traders in Calw demonstrate this with their regional products. Fresh fruit and vegetables, delicious cheese and much more besides. And in addition, appetising inspiration, recipes, special events and advice. Surrounded by the charming half-timbered houses round the historic market place, shopping turns into an experience.

 [www.calw.de/wochenmarkt](http://www.calw.de/wochenmarkt)

## Small & Select Shops

Stroll, explore and shop to your heart's delight. In Calw's Lederstraße you find not only large stores but also smart small shops with a long tradition. The market place and the quaint side streets house attractive shops with local, traditional products but also stylish one-off items. And they all have one thing in common: a "warm welcome" for their customers.

 [www.calw.de/Einkaufen](http://www.calw.de/Einkaufen)



## Regional Specialities

A delightful end to an eventful day – fresh, regional ingredients are the secret of Calw's restaurateurs. From genuine Black Forest gateau, flavoursome, freshly smoked ham to delicious Black Forest trout. Sparkling mineral water from pure Black Forest springs invigorates body and soul. In Calw, utmost importance is attached to regional cuisine.

 [www.calw.de/Essen-und-Trinken](http://www.calw.de/Essen-und-Trinken)



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## Insider Tip

The Calw "pretzel rate" permits free parking for 30 minutes in all car parks in Calw, in the car park by the bus station for one whole hour.





# Calw – Ideally Situated.

## Imprint

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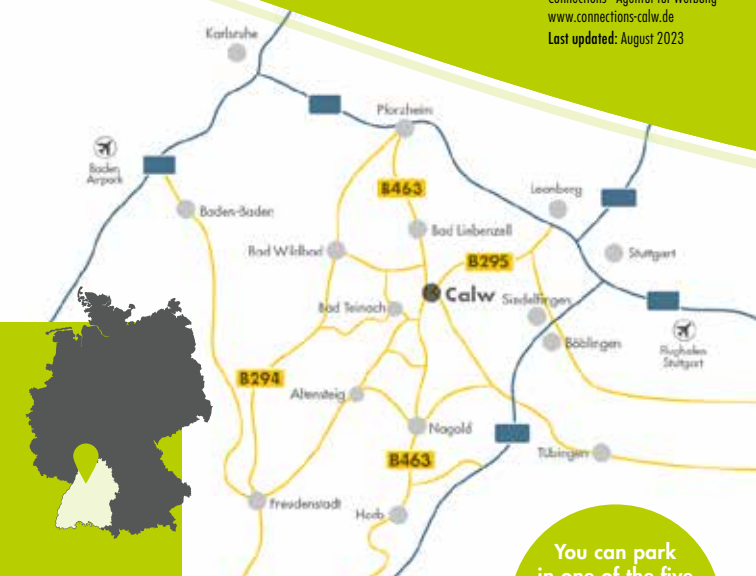
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[www.connections-calw.de](http://www.connections-calw.de)

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You can park  
in one of the five  
multi-storey car parks  
in Calw with over  
1,000 parking  
spaces.

## How to get here

Calw can be reached via the A 5, A 8 and A 81 motorways,  
and then by following the B-roads B 295, B 296 and B 463.

The “Culture Train” which shuttles between Pforzheim and Tübingen connects  
the section between Pforzheim and Calw. The train station is centrally located.

 [www.calw.de/Anreise](http://www.calw.de/Anreise)

## Model Region for E-Mobility

Explore the model region of Calw with a clear  
conscience. Experience the town and its surround-  
ings in an e-car, the means of transportation of  
the future. Extensive charging facilities ensure  
optimum driving fun combined with ultimate  
adventure in the region.



## Calw Tourist Office

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**CALW**  
*Die Hermann-Hesse-Stadt*

[www.calw.de](http://www.calw.de)

 [www.facebook.com/Stadt.Calw](https://www.facebook.com/Stadt.Calw)



English

**CALW**  
*Die Hermann-Hesse-Stadt*

# Calw. Ready to explore?



herz.erfrischend.echt.

## Calw. Worth a visit.

**KLEIN  
STADT  
PERLEN**  
BADEN-  
WÜRTTEMBERG

# Location.

## A charming little town in central location

Situated about 50 km south-west of the Baden-Wuerttemberg state capital Stuttgart and 30 km south of the “Golden City” of Pforzheim, Calw is the gateway to the Central/Northern Black Forest Nature Park.

## From the town centre to the woods on foot

The historic old town and the town districts to the west are surrounded by extensive dark green coniferous forests. A “green belt” encompasses Calw — the municipal forest starts directly behind the picturesque market place.



## Topography

The district-affiliated town of Calw with its 13 town districts and more than 23,000 inhabitants lies right in the heart of Baden-Wuerttemberg. With a surface area of about 60 km<sup>2</sup> it is the largest town in the District of Calw.

## Particularly charming

To the east it adjoins the region known as the “Heckengäu”. This unspoilt rural landscape is characterised by extensive meadow orchards and blackthorn and juniper heathland — it offers infinite opportunities for exploring.

## Calw – Town by the river

Nestled in the valley of the river Nagold and its surrounding hillsides, Calw is located in the middle of the Northern Black Forest adventure region. The river Nagold forms a natural border between the native landscape of the Northern Black Forest in the south west and the “Heckengäu” to the north east.



# Timber-Framed Town.



## History of the town

The origins of the town date back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. However, the first traces of human settlements go back to approx. 8,000 BC. In the Middle Ages, Calw was an important trading town, based particularly on its trade in textiles and leather. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, timber rafting caused Calw's economy to flourish. In the 1970s, Calw was awarded the status of district-affiliated town.

## Architecture

Strolling across the market place and through the winding alleys of the town you appreciate the beauty of the medieval town. You encounter the many facets of timber framing in more than 200 buildings from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century: almost the entire town centre is under cultural heritage management.

 [www.calw.de/Fachwerk](http://www.calw.de/Fachwerk)



## Sightseeing

Calw offers informative and fascinating museums as well as public and private guided tours, themed walks on culture, architecture and nature topics. Insight into the historic traditional crafts of the town, guided tours for children and much more – Calw will impress you with its tremendous variety.

## The German Half-Timbered House Road

Calw is one of 30 towns along the Southern German section of the German Half-timbered House Road. The sign-posted historical walk through the winding alleys of the town past impressive half-timbered buildings conveys an impression of what the medieval town may have looked like. Explanatory audio data can be downloaded with the QR code.

 [www.calw.de/Stadtrundgang](http://www.calw.de/Stadtrundgang)



Deutsche  
**Fachwerk**  
Straße

[www.deutsche-fachwerkstrasse.de/en/homepage.html](http://www.deutsche-fachwerkstrasse.de/en/homepage.html)





# Town Districts.

## Hirsau – Health resort with a famous monastery

In unspoilt nature, in one of the most appealing spots in the Nagold valley you can take a deep breath and relax. The health resort in the midst of the Northern Black Forest invites you to unwind. To revive body and soul just next door to the Hesse town of Calw.

**Tip:** Monastery atmosphere and historical heritage all in one!

**Tip:** Directly opposite the monastery complex of St. Peter and Paul there is a three-and-a-half hectare red-deer enclosure with up to 12 animals and three or four offspring each year. You can learn more about the deer family from the information panels at the feeding station.



## Stammheim

Stammheim is one of the oldest places in the district with its own special highlights. From 1843 until 1957 the Lower Mill served as a flour mill. With a diameter of 11.5 metres, the mill wheel, which was replaced in 1998, is Europe's largest wooden overshot water wheel. One of the most beautiful and well-preserved ruins in the area is the Waldeck castle ruin. Built around 1100, it served as a fortified castle, which was feared throughout the land in the times when rule of force held sway. Today the site is a popular hiking destination in the Northern Black Forest.



## Altburg

What was everyday life like in the 19<sup>th</sup> century? The Farmhouse Museum located in a building that was erected in 1813 provides a comprehensive impression of a 19<sup>th</sup> century rural dwelling with its stable and barn.

**Tip:** The "Bohnenberger history trail" guides you through idyllic Altburg. On 22 information panels you learn interesting facts about the history of Altburg and the work of two ingenious inventors: the Bohnenbergers.

## Holzbronn

Holzbronn, with its village character, is situated on a plateau in the "Heckengäu". Built in 1908, the Protestant church of St. Bernhard with its distinctive church spire is the landmark of Calw's smallest town district.

### Tip: "Xanderklinge" tour

The adventure trail along the "Xanderklinge". Enjoy breath-taking views down the gorge, a waterfall over three metres high and ten-metre high cliffs.



# Hermann Hesse.

Herrmann Hesse, who was born in Calw in 1877, spent his childhood and youth in Calw.

The town left its mark on Hesse, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1946. He once wrote: *"Wherever you spent your childhood, that is home"* Today, many buildings remind you of the settings described in his writings. Strolling through the steep and narrow alleys you can immerse yourself in the times of the most widely read German author of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Foto: Martin Hesse © Martin Hesse Eben

## Hermann Hesse Museum

**Please note: The Hermann Hesse Museum is closed until 2025, due to renovation and reconstruction.**

Alternatively, it is possible to visit the new presentation about Hermann Hesse in the Palais Vischer, which provides an overview about the life stages of the poet and his work as a painter in his adopted home Montagnola. In addition, two rooms deal intensively with the theme of the "Steppenwolf" novel. In the Tannery

Museum (front-building) exists also a Hermann Hesse exhibition, where the main topics are about "Hermann Hesse's Childhood in Calw" and "Calw in Hermann Hesse's work".

 [www.calw.de/Hermann-Hesse-Museum](http://www.calw.de/Hermann-Hesse-Museum)



**The museum is closed until 2025**

## Hermann Hesse Path

"Calw is the most beautiful town of all..." – a sentiment penned by Hesse. This special tour of the town shows you what this quote is all about. Follow in the footsteps of Hermann Hesse and visit the places the writer describes in his narrations.

## Hermann Hesse Garden

Stock up on new ideas in the Hermann Hesse Garden along the Hagbrunnen stream: this oasis of peace is just the right place to disengage and recharge your batteries. In the reading garden behind the library you can relax by the water – just as Hermann Hesse liked to do.

## Gerbersau Summer Readings

Every year, between Hesse's birthday on 2 July and the date of his death on 9 August, special events and lectures are held in his commemoration. Hesse's hometown Calw is the setting for these stories and texts. Literary walks in the footsteps of the writer on Sundays complement the cultural offer.

 [www.calw.de/Hermann-Hesse-Stadt](http://www.calw.de/Hermann-Hesse-Stadt)



## Nikolaus Bridge

Nikolaus bridge is Calw's distinctive landmark and Hermann Hesse's favourite place, where he used to fish. The Gothic chapel was built around 1400 and dedicated to St. Nikolaus, the patron saint who provided protection against high and stormy water. Until 100 years ago, you could watch the rafters from the stone bridge in their strenuous activity: rafts made up of approx. 100 logs and about 150 to 200 metres long had to be manoeuvred through this bottleneck.



## Aurelius Boys' Choir

Since it was founded in 1983, the Aurelius Boys' Choir has developed into one of the most renowned boys' choirs in Germany. Its musical work focuses on sacred and secular choir music. Both the choir and its boy soloists are outstandingly successful at national and international opera houses and travel the world as musical ambassadors for the town of Calw.

 [www.calw.de/Aurelius](http://www.calw.de/Aurelius)

## Music school

Making music in one of the most beautiful half-timbered houses of the town. Musically, the Calw Music School is highly committed to tradition. The dedicated teaching staff provides creative instrument and singing classes from classic to pop music. More than 2,000 students of all ages live for music and transport it far beyond the boundaries of the town.

 [www.calw.de/Musikschule](http://www.calw.de/Musikschule)

## Summer Cinema and "Monastery Summer Festival" in Hirsau

Events that please the eye, the ear and the heart – the timberwork town as a culture mile stands for genuine passion.

**Calwer Summer Cinema:** Enjoy this unique open-air cinema entertainment. Within the incomparable atmosphere of the cloister, the Calwer Summer Cinema attracts with world-famous cinema classics and blockbusters – goosebumps included.

 [www.calwer-sommerkino.de](http://www.calwer-sommerkino.de)



**The monastery in a different light:** In July/August the historic walls of Hirsau Monastery are transformed into an atmospheric open-air setting. Whether rock or pop and from jazz to comedy, there are no bounds to the events offered during the Calw Monastery Summer.

 [www.klostersonmer.de](http://www.klostersonmer.de)



### Insider Tip

Pure emotion: during the "Monastery in Flames" show, an impressive interplay of light and shadow transforms the monastery ruins into a breathtaking backdrop.



# Museums and Guided Tours.



## Insider Tip

A town that has it all: Calw is the perfect blend of shopping, dining, culture and nature.

## Things to do in Calw

Calw offers a wide variety of exciting activities for all ages. Fascinating museums, lively guided tours and hands-on encounters with nature make a visit to Calw a lasting experience.

**Come  
with us and  
explore!**



## Guided walks and tours

### From May to October:

- **Historical town walk**  
Saturdays, 2:30 p.m.  
Meeting point: Town Hall, Market Place
- **Guided tours on Hermann Hesse**  
Sundays, 2:30 p.m.  
Meeting point: Town Hall, Market Place

### Only available in German

Information on many other guided tours and a detailed brochure are available at:

 [www.calw.de/Fuehrungen](http://www.calw.de/Fuehrungen)

## Rich array of museums

- Hermann Hesse Museum
- Tannery Museum
- Monastery and Farmhouse Museum
- Town Museum "Vischer Palace"
- The "Tall One" (former prison)
- Railway Museum "Stellwerk 1"

 [www.calw.de/Museen](http://www.calw.de/Museen)

