

2025

SÜDEN

The Travel Magazine for Southwest Germany

Night Lights

Summer in the cities
of the Black Forest

Heaven Sent

Starry encounters in
the Swabian Alb

Mysteriously Beautiful

Ludwigsburg Palace
evening escapades

Cultural Charm

Museum nights in
the Rems Valley

SOUTHWEST GERMANY BY NIGHT

Baden-Württemberg
from dusk till dawn

58

WATCHING WOLVES
Overnights in Bad Mergentheim
Wildlife Park



A warm welcome!

Southwest Germany is home to countless experiences beginning at twilight and continuing into the night. Uncover a wide variety of exceptional accommodation from safari tents to idyllic hideaways and luxury hotels – and everything in between! There's plenty to do for both night owls and early risers, from the most beautiful sundowner spots across our region's cities, to mysterious tours of historical sites. Fancy a romantic twilight picnic or searching the night sky for shooting stars? Maybe a breakfast hike at sunrise is more your thing? Read on to discover everything Baden-Württemberg has to offer – we hope you enjoy planning your next visit!



46

SUN SALUTATIONS
Dawn yoga on Lake
Constance

4 GOOD EVENING
Unforgettable nights
worth staying awake for

**10 NIGHT-TIME
ADVENTURES**
Nocturnal activities
throughout the year

24 FIRE & LIGHT
Celestial festivals amid
the shadows

**38 RYTHMN OF
THE NIGHT**
What's on across the
region's cities

**52 COUNTRYSIDE
CONCERTS**
The farm concerts of the
Dreisam Valley

**56 DINNER IN
THE DARK**
Extraordinary gourmet
experiences

14 STAR GAZING
Cosmic family
weekends in the
Swabian Alb

**32 BEWITCHING
HOUR**
Tours of Ludwigsburg
Palace by lantern-light

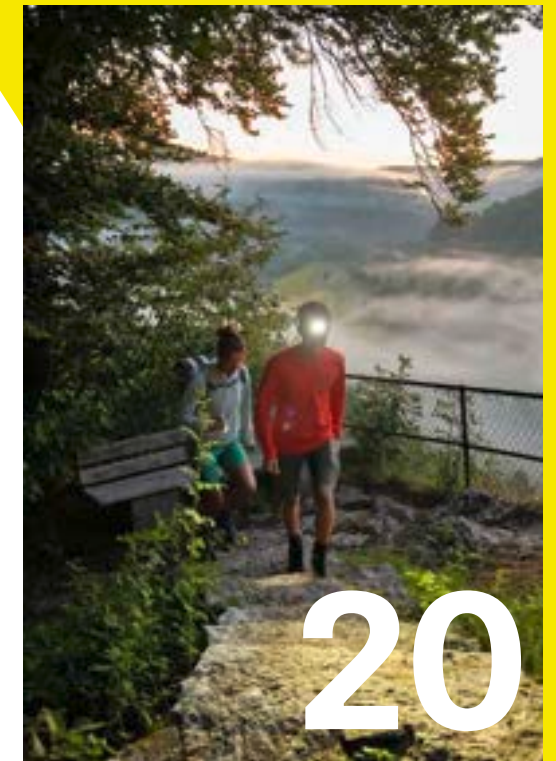
**40 NIGHT IN THE
MUSEUM**
An evening of art,
food, and wine



66 PLANT LIFE
A herb garden on
high – and its
complementary menu

**70 SUMMER IN
THE CITY**
How cities of Southwest
Germany come to life in
the sunshine

**74 SERVICE &
CONTACT**



20

WONDERFUL
Hikes along the
'Leading Quality Trails'
of the Swabian Alb

26

STAYING UP
The vibrant nightlife hotspots
of Karlsruhe, Pforzheim,
Baden-Baden, and Freiburg



MAGICAL NIGHTS

Unforgettable moments worth staying awake for – see how Southwest Germany celebrates culture and life into the night

Dancing in the Moonlight

Outstretched arms, flashes of coloured light, an infectious beat – all ingredients of ‘Das Fest’ in Karlsruhe, a family festival that takes place each year at the end of July where musicians such as Clueso and Peter Fox come together in celebration. But this is not the only party in Southwest Germany: across Baden-Württemberg open-air festivals, concerts, recitals, theatre, and cabaret take advantage of the balmy evenings of summer months to host special outdoor performances.



A special tip

BIG STAGES OF SOUTHWEST GERMANY

The Baden State Theatre in Karlsruhe has an excellent reputation, with guests often coming for major productions from as far afield as France. Both Stuttgart and Mannheim are also home to theatres that enjoy international recognition.

staatstheater.karlsruhe.de
staatstheater-stuttgart.com
nationaltheater-mannheim.de

Illuminated Halos

During the Neolithic Age, hunters and gatherers founded the first settlements such as the famous Pile Dwellings on Lake Constance. These archaeological remains have, since 2011, become a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an exciting new museum building now has many of the original relics on display for visitors. Recently, as part of his 'blue360' project, photographer Achim Mende used drone technology to capture these incredible stilt houses by night, illuminated by a spotlight drone. The results were a spectacular artistic photographic impression.

pfahlbauten.de/en



A special tip

A NIGHT IN THE STONE AGE

At the Federsee Museum in Bad Buchau visitors can spend the night in a Stone Age house and experience a night-time canoe trip on the museum's pond.

federseemuseum.de



Southwest Germany by Night



Bathe in Luxury

There is a long history of Roman baths in Southwest Germany – Baden-Württemberg even has the word ‘bathe’ in its name! And the spa town of Baden-Baden is one of the UNESCO World Heritage ‘Great Spa Towns of Europe’, where for over 2,000 years, the healing powers of thousands of litres of thermal water have been bubbling up from underground springs each day. Next to the historic Friedrichsbad is the modern Caracalla Spa Thermal Bath which hosts a special wellness evening on the first Friday of each month where guests can experience unique sauna infusions, live music, and spectacular dance shows – a true homage to Roman bathing culture.

baden-baden.com/en



A special tip FULL MOON

Each month, the Bodensee Therme Überlingen spa offers a wellness experience to celebrate the full moon including healing infusions and special rituals.
bodensee-therme.de

WHEN NIGHT FALLS IN SOUTHWEST GERMANY...

... it's either time to head into nature, culture, or a warm cosy bed. Here we've gathered information about special events, interesting facts, and unusual accommodation options.



Mayor of the Night Stronger Together

A loud bass and long nights – Mannheim's lively nightlife scene of clubs and bars centres around the popular Jungbusch district. Key to the city's success after dark was the introduction in 2018 of a 'Night Mayor', the first city in Germany to do so. Since 2020, the position has been filled by Robert Gaa, a mechanical engineer who was already very active in the local night culture as a DJ and wanted to stand up for Mannheim's nightlife interests. In his role he not only mediates between club and bar operators, the city, and residents, but also develops concepts and ideas. Word of Gaa's success spread, and more and more cities, such as Stuttgart and Heidelberg, have now created similar positions. visit-mannheim.de



Bad Wildbad Treetop Path

The Black Forest by Moonlight

Taking your eye level to the canopy of the forest, the 1,250 metre treetop path in Bad Wildbad winds its way through nature along a wooden walkway leading to the 40 metre high observation tower, which spirals up into the sky and is also the destination for the 'Full Moon Walk'. This magical walk sets off just as day is transitioning into night and reaches the observation tower in time to experience the panorama as the moon rises and the stars become more visible. En route you will learn about the influence of the celestial body on nature and mankind, about (super)faith and scientific findings. bad-wildbad.de/en
More information about accessible travel: visit-bw.com



Simply magical:
the Northern Lights over
Birnau baroque church

The Northern Lights in Southwest Germany

Heavenly Dances

The colourful phenomena of the Northern Lights appear to hover directly over the horizon, however auroras actually occur at altitudes over 100 kilometres above the earth. They are most often seen in northern Europe, but occasionally can also be visible in the south. Their glowing hues, ranging from green to violet, occur when particles from solar winds stir up atmospheric gases. It is forecast for there to be more solar storms until 2026, meaning there is a good chance of experiencing auroras in our region. And a tip for amateur photographers: long exposures increase your chance of capturing the aurora borealis.

Hideaways in Southwest Germany

Favourite Places To Sleep



Tree house stays
at Tripsdrill

‘Hideaways’ throughout Baden-Württemberg are small idyllic places in rural settings furnished with traditional charm and cosiness – these are very special places to take a holiday. Chalets, tree houses, and design inspired lodgings that blend in perfectly with their rural surroundings, whilst still meeting modern demands away from big city life. tourism-bw.com/things-to-do/nature/hideaways

Mysterious Nights

EVENTS ‘BETWEEN THE YEARS’

Twixmas, the time between Christmas and early New Year, is when according to legend the real and the spirit worlds merge. In the past there were many customs and rituals for the ‘Raunächte’ which also served as a time for inner reflection. Celebrations ‘between the years’ have been revived in recent years, such as those at Waldburg Castle in Upper Swabia consisting of different daily events – for example the myths, sagas, and legends of the evening tour to Hohenstaufen near Göppingen. schlosswaldburg.de/erlebe-dein-goeppingen.de



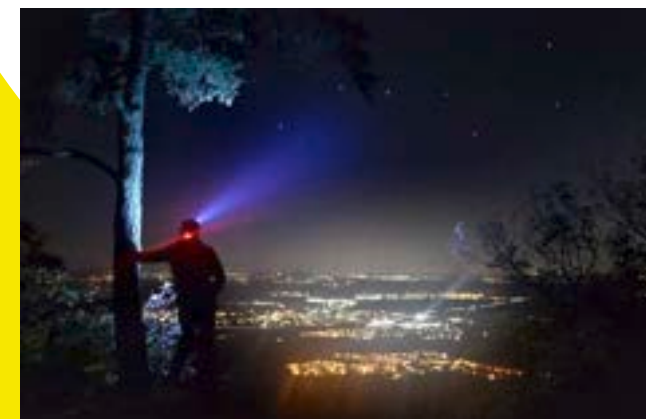
Waldburg Castle through the fog

The 75 Year Old Romantic Road Southwest Germany – Like a Picture Book

The ‘Romantische Straße’ between Würzburg and Füssen, Germany’s oldest holiday route, will be celebrating a major anniversary in 2025 - it will be 75 years old. The occasion will be marked throughout each of the 29 towns along the 460 kilometre route with traditional festivals and events, especially in the towns: Creglingen, Bad Mergentheim, Wertheim, Tauberbischofsheim, Lauda-Königshofen, and Weikersheim. romantischestrasse.de/en



Sunrise in Bad
Mergentheim



Head Torch Tour to Lemberg King of the Night

At 1,015 meters high, the Lemberg peak is considered the ‘King of the Swabian Alb’ and the panoramic mountains’ crown is a 33 metre high observation tower at the top. Join guide Jonas Fuß on a night-time head torch tour to climb the highest mountain in the Swabian Alb: passing the ‘Nikolauskapelle’ chapel and the remains of the Oberhohenberg castle and its suspension bridge over the former moat, walking along the Albrauf until you reach the summit where you can enjoy the tranquillity of the forest, the breathtaking view, and a light refreshment. adventure-blackforest.de



Red Deer Watching at Schluchsee “The forest sounds different at night”

Forester and educator Lena-Marie Stefan introduces visitors to the lives of deer, after nightfall, in the Upper Black Forest. What do they like about the forest at night? And how is it different? Here’s a short interview:

What can you expect to experience whilst deer watching at Schluchsee?

My colleagues and I lead a hike, at dusk, to a deer observation hut not far from Schluchsee. There we watch for Red Deer – and sometimes also see Roe Deer, hares, and foxes. Throughout the entire 2.5 kilometre tour we also tell you a lot about how different wild animals live in the local forest.

How should you behave in nature at night?

The most important rule is to stay on the designated paths, because there, humans are more predictable for the animals. This also applies during the day in winter months because if the animals have to flee unnecessarily they use up too much of their energy reserves. Also at night, it is advised for your own safety to carry a torch or headlamp with you – although shining it wildly around the forest is of course discouraged.

What fascinates you most about the forest at night?

The forest is a world unto itself and it sounds noticeably different at night. The usual noise level is gone and in the quiet you can suddenly hear completely different sounds. In the dark, my senses are heightened and I’m wide awake. hochschwarzwald.de/en

With a reflecting telescope, you can look deep into the night sky and see shooting stars



SIMPLY DIVINE

Family adventures in the Swabian Alb: gaze at the stars and spend the night in a real tipi tent

✍️ CHRISTIANE WÜRTEMBERGER 📷 ISABELA PACINI

The Swabian Alb

Circus wagons and tipi tents – glamping in the Swabian Alb is idyllic



The donkeys at Hofgut Hopfenburg love cuddles



Guided star hikes start after sunset

The Swabian Alb

When it comes to celestial activity, star guide Till Credner’s passion is immediately apparent. “I’m always fascinated by the natural environment out here and the fact that the infinite expanse of space can be seen with the naked eye,” enthuses the amateur astronomer. It is still light, but dusk has already descended. Elias, Ida, and Alma stand with their parents at the stargazing base in Zainingen listening to the exciting stories being told by Credner, a physics teacher and volunteer at the Swabian Alb Star Park. He’s about to take the family on a hike over to the former military training area in Münsingen and explain the summer star showers.

This is just one part of the adventure in nature for the family of five – in celebration of their father’s birthday, they are spending the weekend together in the Swabian Alb. And their accommodation is not a hotel, but a tipi tent on the Hofgut Hopfenburg estate. Where alongside the glamping and camping pitches, the countryside campsite is also home to a variety of animals.

Once the sleeping bags and rucksacks have been stowed away in the spacious tent, the children play and the parents sip coffee at the wooden table in front of the tipi, whilst behind the tent, separated only by a fence, the

“We hike without torches – the Swabian Alb is lit by the stars.”

TILL CREDNER, STAR GUIDE



forest sheep graze in the meadow. And just a short walk away are the two Poitou donkeys. Hopfenburg is, at heart, a farm dedicated to the protection of endangered animal breeds, and in addition to the forest sheep and Poitou donkeys, Hinterwälder cattle also live on the farm.

A Sustainable Region

Like the stargazing base, the campsite is located in the Swabian Alb UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, where people try to coexist peacefully with nature amid the traditional cultural landscape. The Hopfenburg itself also operates sustainably, meaning everything tends to run at quite a leisurely pace, and yet – or

perhaps because of this – time flies by for the family. At some point, the parents check the time and realise the wood in the fire pit between the tipi tents needs lighting – the stick-bread dough won’t cook itself...

The three teenagers are still finishing the last of their toasted stick-bread when it becomes time to head to the stargazing base near Münsingen, about a half an hour drive away, where Till Credner is already waiting. After a brief introduction, the family hikes to the former military training area where, because there are no towns or villages for many kilometres, the sky is particularly dark at night. Reverently the star guide and his guests look up at the night sky searching for the Big Dipper, Cassiopeia, and the ‘Summer Triangle’ of the Swan, the



Eagle, and the Harp. The family have many questions about the secrets of the universe and are interested in the problems light pollution causes. "Insects lose their orientation," Credner explains, "and for humans, too, a clear circadian rhythm is important for our bodies and souls. When there is less artificial light, everyone feels better." And so the headlamps stay off as the family lets the stars light the way to the car park. Once there, everyone takes a look through Credner's telescope. How beautiful the Milky Way is over the Swabian Alb....

Physics teacher Till Credner explains the night sky over the Swabian Alb Star Park

Camping in Southwest Germany



Whether with your own campervan or caravan or in one of the many rental accommodations, many certified campsites between Odenwald and Lake Constance impress with their high quality standards despite their simple facilities. And across Baden-Württemberg there are also inspiring camping opportunities such as 'Open Air Hotels' with their varied landscapes, untouched nature, and unique accommodation from yurts to safari tents. camping-bw.de/en



Star-struck? Scan the QR code for more impressions of our region. Or find additional Swabian Alb information here:

sternenpark-schwaebische-alb.de
hofgut-hopfenburg.de
swabianalb.info

"Once you've seen the cloud structure of our Milky Way, you'll never forget it."

TILL CREDNER, STAR GUIDE

WANDER INTO THE LIGHT

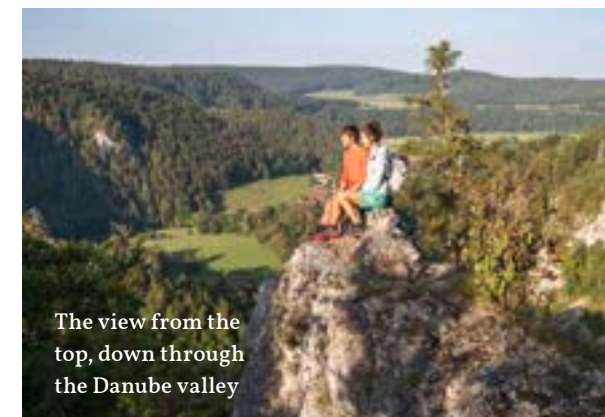
The Swabian Alb has two 'Leading Quality Trails': we take a look at the Donauberglandweg at sunrise and the Albtraufgänger at sunset

✍️ CHRISTIANE WÜRTEMBERGER 📷 ISABELA PACINI

5 AM & 8 PM

● SCHLAT
● BEURON

The view through the fog from the Memorial Temple



The view from the top, down through the Danube valley

Daybreak takes its time. Trudging along in the dark, we can barely see our hands in front of our faces as we take the path to the viewpoint at the Memorial Temple. Finally, just after 5am, we stand high above the Danube, still under a blanket of fog as the light begins to creep in.

A bright red stripe appears on the eastern horizon, getting brighter, wider, and more yellow by the minute, forming a silhouette around the magnificent Beuron Abbey. The valley gains depth as its colours emerge. In silence we appreciate the incredible spectacle before us on this beautiful late summer morning – and our tiredness from the early start immediately fades. As the sky lightens we enjoy our breakfast picnic that we brought with us. What better way to start the day?

Two Excellent Hiking Routes of the Alb

The Memorial Temple viewpoint is not far off the Donauberglandweg trail above the Danube valley. This four-day hike is one of Europe's 'Leading Quality Trails' and, alongside the Albtraufgänger, the only hiking trails with such distinction in Baden-Württemberg. We spent the previous night at Berghaus Knopfmacher and decide to opt for their new

The trail takes you along a picturesque cliff-top path



‘picnic at sunrise’ option. As we woke for our early start, a thermos flask of hot coffee and a breakfast picnic rucksack was ready waiting for us. Then time to hike via the Eichfelsen or the Knopfmacherfelsen to enjoy our morning coffee, muesli, and sandwiches with a view of the great outdoors.

Owls and Lynx Also Call the Donaubergland Home

A hotel near Fridingen is a great place to stay overnight before stage four of the Donauberglandweg – which over a total distance of around 60 kilometres connects the highest mountains and deepest valleys in the region, and also Lemberg with Beuron. And as well as ascending to an altitude of over 2,000 meters there are also impressive landscapes to overcome. Sometimes wild and romantic tributaries, sometimes challenging ridges. Then once you reach the top, from the rocky edge find the path through the canyon, down into the valley. Variety is a key attraction here: nature, animals, and plant life – as well as the many cultural landmarks, such as castles,

you’ll encounter as you hike through small, historic towns such as Fridingen and also Mühlheim. Owls and lynx are also native to the region, as are the alpine plants growing from the cliff edge where we have breakfast.

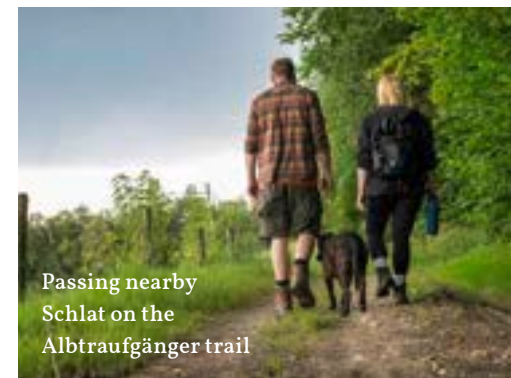
Whilst the Donauberglandweg trail runs along the south-western ridge the only other ‘Leading Quality Trail’ in Baden-Württemberg is the ridge with the Swabian Alb in its name: Albtraufgänger. The 113 kilometre circular route, starting from Wiesensteig, can be hiked in six days. A particular highlight is the area of the Upper Filstal, that spans stages five and six of the trail, where a double ridge can be found on both sides. And because of the high altitude of the trail, it has also become very popular with trail runners. Vast deciduous forests and numerous cultural attractions, such as castle ruins, characterise the landscape of the Albtraufgänger – which sometimes runs along the edge of the riverbank, sometimes high

THE TRAILS

The ‘Leading Quality Trails – Best of Europe’ are hiking routes certified by the European Ramblers’ Association as those of a high standard. They’re characterised by excellent markings, natural trails, and good infrastructure as well as landscape and cultural diversity.

above it. Other times you find yourself walking deep within the forest, bathing in the silence of nature.

An unusual overnight stay awaits us en route between stages two and three: a cosy shepherd’s wagon in a meadow at the forest’s edge – with the most magnificent view. This romantic place to spend the night is operated by the Swabian Alb Adventure Region during the summer months. Hikers use it as a stop-off



Passing nearby Schlat on the Albtraufgänger trail

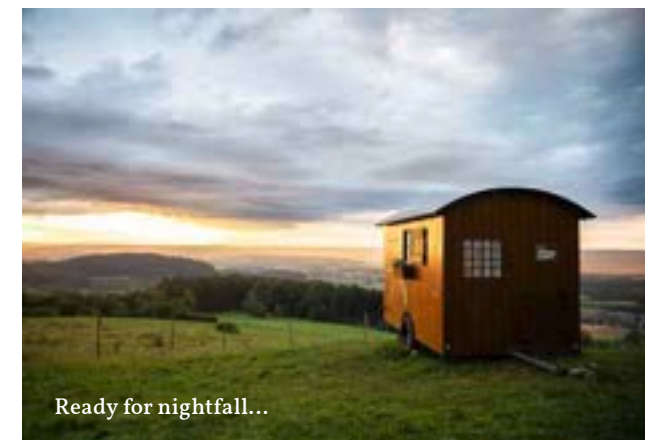


Even with panoramic views, the dog still only had eyes for the snacks

point, while locals often come here to enjoy the special sunset view over the ‘Drei Kaiserberge’ between Göppingen and Lorch. The shepherd’s wagon – which sleeps two and has its own outside toilet – can be found in various locations across the Swabian Alb.

Supper by the Shepherd’s Wagon

As we pass through Schlat, we stock up on everything we’ll need for our cosy evening ahead: supper snacks and a bottle of Jörg Geiger PriSecco – a regional speciality. The evening light show plays-out in reverse order to our earlier sunrise, but is no less beautiful. The yellow sky to the west starts to turn orange, then red. And we watch in peace and tranquillity as the night sky slowly descends.



Ready for nightfall...



Wish you were here? Scan the QR code for more impressions of our region. Or find additional Swabian Alb information here: donaubergland.de mein-albtrauf.de swabianalb.info

FLAMES AND FESTIVITIES IN SOUTHWEST GERMANY

Locals use fire and light to celebrate ancient customs and traditions throughout the winter months - however for visitors they present an opportunity to experience something truly unforgettable.

Altensteig in the Black Forest

Christmas Torches

On Christmas Eve torchers build two 12 metre log towers high above Altensteig. Decorated with a fir tree at the top, the towers are set alight in the evening as the bells chime after mass. One by one, spectators also light hundreds of handheld torches until a sea of lights descends over the valley. altensteig.de



2

Brombach in the Odenwald Fire Wheel Rolling

Every year on Shrove Tuesday, Brombach in the Odenwald plays host to a huge fire spectacle. The 'fire wheel' is an old Germanic custom used to celebrate the driving out of winter. Stuffed with dried straw as fuel, the wheel is driven downhill by a damp beechwood pole before reaching the last stretch of slope where it freewheels to a standstill in a special hollow. Then, for those brave enough, a fire jumping challenge takes place. eberbach.de



3 Upper Swabia and Lake Constance Hello Spring

On 'Spark Sunday', four days after Ash Wednesday, fires blaze on many hills in Upper Swabia and surrounding Lake Constance to herald the end of winter. Often it is old Christmas trees that are piled up and lit, with a 'Spark Witch' or other symbolic straw-filled figure placed at the top. And then spring can come ...

Bernau in the Black Forest

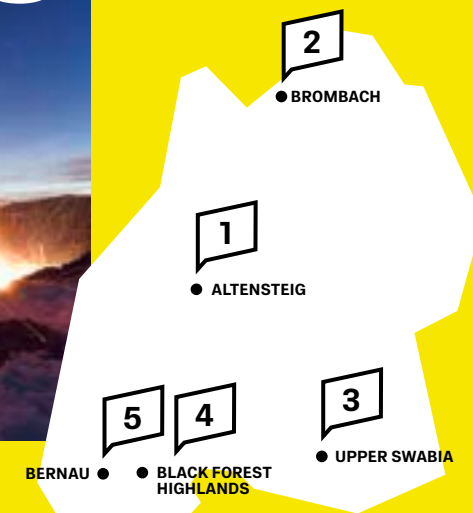
Glass Breaking to the Beat

Loving, congratulatory, or mocking verses are closely linked to the historic tradition in Bernau of breaking glass. Alongside this, glowing wooden disks are sent down into the valley by a beater making sparks fly and drawing glowing patterns of fire in the evening sky. Unlike in other Black Forest communities, this disc throwing in Bernau takes place over the entire Shrove Tuesday week - so there is plenty of time to experience the spectacle. schwarzwald-tourismus.info



4 The Upper Black Forest Parlour Games

Historically, as winter arrived and the days got shorter and colder, friends and neighbours in the Black Forest gathered together in a 'Stubede'. This cosy custom was not only born out of a desire for conviviality - they would often play cards, make music, tell stories, carve, embroider, and snack together - but gathering together in one farmhouse parlour also saved firewood and energy. This is why the old tradition of getting together is also known as 'Z'Licht go' - going into the light together. hochschwarzwald.de/en



THE LIGHTS STAY ON

There's plenty going on at night in the towns of the Black Forest. Four tips for long nights and early mornings

✍️ ANNA MONTERROSO CARNEIRO 📷 NÓI CREW & ISABELA PACINI

KARLSRUHE
PFORZHEIM
● BADEN-BADEN
● FREIBURG

8 PM – 8 AM

A switch in the lantern is turned on using the hooks at the end of the rod

The Black Forest



8 PM: Kurhaus Baden-Baden

Tradition in a Special Light

Each evening at dusk, a tradition plays out in front of the Kurhaus in Baden-Baden. Martina Schneider, or one of her colleagues from the spa's administration team, steps outside the Kurhaus door with a long rod to light the gas lanterns that surround the spa gardens. A total of 42, spread across seven elegant lampposts. "It's quite a strain," reveals Schneider, "but it's a magical moment every time." Many visitors regularly come back again and again to witness this small historical spectacle. kurhaus-badenbaden.de/en, baden-baden.com/en

9.15 PM: Karlsruhe Palace

A Festival of Light and Colour

If a crowd has gathered and you see a car break through the palace's baroque façade at the speed of light – then the light show has probably begun. Running from mid-August to mid-September, audio-visual art is projected onto Karlsruhe Palace each evening. "The palace is the largest canvas for a light show of this kind in Germany," says Martin Wacker, who, together with his team, reviews numerous applications from artists globally that want to be featured in the show. "The event has made the palace the centre of the city once again. People spend wonderful relaxed evenings here." schlosslichtspiele.info/en, karlsruhe-erleben.de/en



Visitors from
around the
world watch
the free show

The Black Forest

Letting go isn't
easy, mentally as
well as physically



10 PM: Pforzheim Forest Climbing Garden

Forest Nights

The dark night sky is only faintly visible through the dense canopy of the forest and the only artificial light comes from the head torches of climbers. But don't worry, everyone is kitted out with professional climbing equipment and experienced high-rope professionals, such as operator Jochen Enke, accompany and supervise all climbs to ensure total safety despite the lack of light. Adventure educator, Enke, enjoys climbing after nightfall. "The climbing garden is right next to the wildlife park, so when the animals wake in the night and the trees rustle, it makes for a really exciting atmosphere," he reveals. And a specific highlight he'd recommend? Whizzing through the dark on the 90 metre zipline. waldklettergarten-pforzheim.de, stadt-land-enz.de



The cathedral market is a
900 year-old tradition

8 AM: Freiburg Cathedral Market

Nibble and Natter

When Andrés opens his market stall in the morning, there is often already a small queue in front of it. The El Purica Coffee Bar is considered somewhat of an institution at the market that surrounds Freiburg Cathedral – loved by visitors and locals alike. Ulrike Peissl gives culinary tours of the city and particularly enjoys morning walks through the cathedral market with her guests, when it is still quiet and the traders have spare time to chat. "We walk with our coffees and sample the market specialties: ham rolls from Hämmerles and fresh cheese from Eva Hohlfeld," she enthuses. And for those with an appetite for something sweet, it has to be a slice of Stefan's cheesecake – before they sell out! freiburgerleben.de/en, visit.freiburg.de/en



Thirsty for more?
Scan the QR code for
more impressions
of our region. Or find
additional information
about the region here:
[schwarzwald-
tourismus.info](http://schwarzwald-tourismus.info)

8 PM

LUDWIGSBURG

ARE THERE GHOSTS HERE?

Lost souls, death, and the devil:
an 'Eerily Beautiful' evening tour
through Ludwigsburg Palace

✍️ CHRISTIANE WÜRTEMBERGER 📷 ISABELA PACINI

Stuttgart Region

The shadows play
tricks as guests
contemplate a
portrait of Duke
Karl Alexander

The chandeliers of the ancestral gallery remain in darkness for the tour



to one of his feasts. Inexplicable sounds of footsteps in the palace’s empty theatre. And the shy ghost in the wine cellar, Paul, that ghost hunters claim to have made contact with.

Four Wings, 452 Rooms

However, the guided tour is not only about scary stories. As you walk the dark corridors, halls, and staircases of the palace you’ll also learn a lot about everyday life through the ages, such as burial rights and beauty rituals... Just like today, the window was opened after a person’s death to free their soul. And, even back then, there were some rather outlandish make-up trends – some guaranteed to turn your stomach. Such as noble ladies dropping deadly nightshade liquid into their eyes to dilate their pupils, a feature considered to be beautiful, similar to the very dark, large-looking eyes of Princess Sophia von Thurn und Taxis in her portrait in the Ahnengalerie. And another example, the blood of young animals was often used to make creams richer as well as being considered beneficial for the skin.

But is palace guide, Frisch, really never afraid walking the empty halls? “Rarely,” she says and laughs. “We’ve managed to have

The parquet floor creaks beneath our footsteps as we walk down the long, narrow hall of the ancestral gallery – which at dusk, is already pretty dark with all the chandeliers switched off. ‘Eerily Beautiful’ is the name of the guided evening tour offered by Ludwigsburg Palace during the winter months, which seems fitting considering the spookiness of the palace’s grandeur at night. Guests hold flickering LED lanterns up to the painted faces of faded princesses and dukes as their portraits appear on the walls. Walking around, you can physically feel the darkness surrounding you and at some point, of course, there’ll be a strange noise. Did someone whisper? Is a lantern suddenly flickering faster? But rest assured, there’s safety in numbers as the group listens to the stories told by palace guide Kerstin Frisch – who is not afraid at all. On the contrary, she delights in telling the strange, old stories of the palace. Duke Karl Alexander, who accidentally invited the devil

“Every guest leaves here safely.”

KERSTIN FRISCH, PALACE GUIDE



A thunderstorm only adds to the atmosphere at Ludwigsburg Palace

Stuttgart Region



The group experiences the tour by the light of LED lanterns



Skulls in the grotto – a little spooky



A short stroll to the wine cellar – in the evening the palace garden is wonderfully calm and quiet

every guest leave here safely.” Which is no mean feat considering the palace’s four stately wings and 452 rooms. It was originally a small hunting lodge that, from the early 18th century, was then extended by the Dukes of Württemberg for over 100 years into the palace you can visit today. The result being an impressive mix of baroque, rococo, and classicist styles.

Today, several themed museums are housed in different unique parts of the palace. The fashion museum enables guests to experience a fashion show through time – with original clothing from the 18th century right up until modern day. The ceramics museum has many pieces of Ludwigsburg porcelain on display. And younger guests can have fun in the ‘Kinderreich’ interactive museum.



“Hello, Paul?” The ghost of the wine cellar is a bit shy – we didn’t get to meet him

These exhibitions are not part of tonight’s tour however. Our stops include the grotto – where parties used to be held, the wine cellar, the ancestral gallery, the palace theatre with its original stage machinery from 1758, and finally the palace church. As we stand in front of its dark altar Frisch casually mentions the many dukes and duchesses that have been buried in the crypt under the nave since 1730, as she starts to draw the tour to a close. Phew, all clear.

What Was It Like Here in the Past

In conclusion, the horror remains well-dosed throughout the tour as Frisch tells the old anecdotes with a twinkle in her eye. And so, you’re not left feeling scared, but rather a feeling of appreciation to be able to experience this spectacular palace in such a small group. Your thoughts definitely begin to wander to what it was like there in the past? How cold

was it in winter? Was it always so quiet? How many servants were there? Were the young dukes and duchesses also afraid of the dark? Suddenly there is a loud crash above our heads. A thunderstorm is passing over the city. Lightning illuminates the palace as dark clouds gather over its courtyard. You could believe Frisch had ordered it especially, but as we look to her in surprise she shakes her head. Nonetheless, it complements our ‘Eerily Beautiful’ evening in Ludwigsburg perfectly.



Curious to learn more? Scan the QR code for more impressions of our region. Or find additional information on the castles, palaces, and gardens of Baden-Württemberg here: schloesser-und-gaerten.de/en schloss-ludwigsburg.de/en

Landmark Nights

Southwest Germany has plenty of unusual ways to experience the region’s most popular landmarks. Here we present six of them:

Stargazing, Hohenneuffen Ruins

Look deep into the night sky above the ruins with the help of modern telescopes.

festungsruiene-hohenneuffen.de/en

Royal Winter Magic, Hohenzollern Castle



Enjoy a royal Christmas atmosphere as you stroll through the castle’s lavish decorations and illuminations. burg-hohenzollern.com

Dürnitz Night Call, Stuttgart’s Old Castle

The Dürnitz Night Call series includes a guided tour, a panel discussion, and a club night – all dedicated to the themes of current Württemberg State Museum exhibitions.

landesmuseum-stuttgart.de

Open Air Series, Salem Monastery & Palace

At this series of summer concerts, experience stars of all genres in front of the unique backdrop of the monastery and palace. salem.de/en

Knight’s Banquet, Waldburg Castle

Deep in the ancient castle vaults, enjoy a four-course candlelit dinner accompanied by dramatic re-enactments, and afterwards a guided tour. schlosswaldburg.de

Night Watch Tour, Heidelberg Castle

This guided tour takes visitors back to the time of the Thirty Years’ War. schloss-heidelberg.de/en

BEDTIME STORIES

Abandoned cemeteries, quiet museums, and dark alleyways – all intriguing places for those who aren't afraid of ghosts. The cities and museums of Southwest Germany have plenty to entertain you.



Calw A Stroll With the Nightwatchman

“Feurio!” – a cry that once echoed through the quiet streets of Calw when the Nightwatchman needed to warn citizens of fire or danger. The profession is now a thing of the past, but the Black Forest tradition lives on. “Listen, you people, and let me tell you...”, is still heard today as the Nightwatchman, complete with spear, lantern, and horn, begins his spooky stories of scoundrels, fires, and strange occurrences calw.de



Tübingen Lights Out, Spotlights On

The sound of flutes disturbs the stillness of the night at Hohentübingen Palace. Are those Ice Age figures dancing? Are there noises coming from the stone coffins? At the Unimuseum, between October and March, adventurers aged 5+ can journey through time under the cover of darkness to see what millennia-old secrets from the Stone Age, Ancient Egypt, and Ancient Greece the night will reveal. unimuseum.uni-tuebingen.de/en



3

Aalen Mini Museum Night

Experience three museums at once at the ‘Alles leuchtet!’ museum night in Aalen. The interactive ‘explorhino’ exhibition at the Science Centre will light up the eyes of young and old alike. The Limes Museum portrays the history of the Romans in a totally new light. And venture into the Deep Gallery in a unique way on a guided tour by the light of a miners’ lamp. aalen.de

Breisach Haunted Summer Nights

Not for the faint-hearted. Anyone visiting Breisach am Rhein will soon recognise the imposing Münsterberg mountain, named after St. Stephan’s Münster – the cathedral that sits atop it. Set off with Monk Gregorius on a late night ghost walk towards the Münsterberg, to discover the many legends surrounding it. Abandoned cemeteries and cursed places, you’ll hear stories of lost souls, miraculous rescues, and of course the old witches’ tower. tourismus.breisach.de



4



Guided Tours

5

Wangen im Allgäu The Dark End of the Alley

“What a nice couple!”, think all those who meet the kind surveyor and the friendly maid. But beware – the two of them are thick as thieves and plotting a kidnap. So watch out as you step into their world of robbers, murderers, and gallows. Danger lurks in the dimly lit corners of Wangen im Allgäu. wangen-tourismus.de

6 PM – MIDNIGHT

REMSTAL

MUSEUM NIGHTS

The Remstal Museum Night presents a perfect combination of art, culinary delights, and wine

🍷 MATHIS GILSBACH 📷 GERT KRAUTBAUER

As the evening sun bathes the vineyards of the Rems Valley in soft light, glasses are raised to toast the first dishes being served at the Remstal Museum Night, and anticipation builds for a night of art, culture, and gastronomy. Across the region over 40 museums, cultural venues, and restaurants open their doors for these special events – perfect to enjoy with family and friends. Pick

which locations you'd like to experience and let yourself be surprised by what the evening has in store.

Ivonne, Ismael, and Dustin, three friends from Stuttgart, are in Waiblingen for an art exhibition at the Stihl Gallery. Outside the curved glass building on Eva Mayr-Stihl Platz, the atmosphere is already in full swing. A band is playing and there is plenty of regional wine as well as Swabian specialties such as 'Maultaschen' and 'Spätzle'.

Art With Style

On a tour of the gallery, curator Anja Gerdemann explains more about the museum's history and the exhibition, which is primarily dedicated to art of the paper medium, such as drawing, printmaking, and comics – with both old masters and contemporary works on display. Then as the last rays of the evening sun set over the square outside, the group toasts a successful start to their museum night



6 PM: Waiblingen STIHL MUSEUM

The architectural complex at the centre of Waiblingen consists of the Stihl Gallery, the Lower Rems Valley Art School, and administrative buildings for the Eva Mayr-Stihl Foundation. The gallery is operated and funded by the town, however, the name honours the generous support of the foundation, which made construction of the buildings possible.



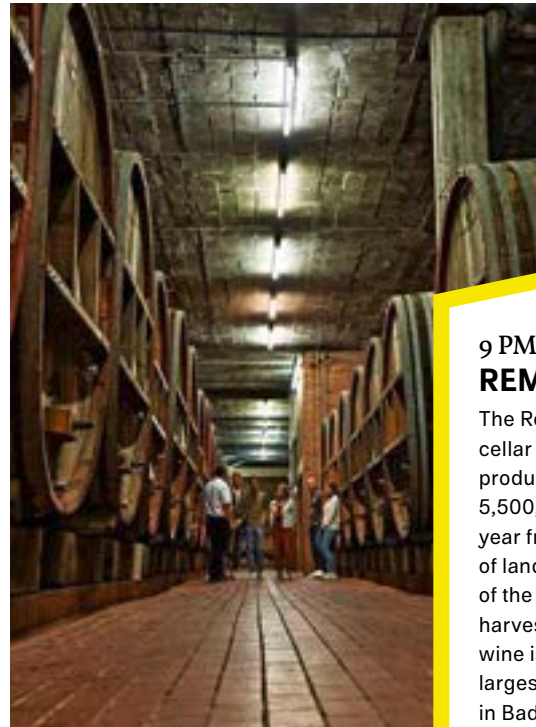
“There are always a lot of people coming to watch, marvel, and collaborate.”

KLAUS BEISSWÄNGER, BLACKSMITH



7:30 PM: Schwaikheim ALTE SCHMIEDE

The Alte Schmiede was still in operation up until 1984, when it then closed and was eventually taken over by the town a few years later, in 1988. Since then, the Schwaikheim local heritage association has looked after the building and its tools, with regular demonstrations to help preserve the old craft of the blacksmiths.



9 PM: Weinstadt REMSTALKELLEREI

The Remstalkellerei wine cellar is a cooperative that produces an impressive 5,500,000 litres of wine each year from the 350 hectares of land across the slopes of the Rems Valley. After harvesting and pressing, the wine is left to mature in the largest wooden barrel cellar in Baden-Württemberg.



“A unique way of combining art and wine can be experienced during the museum night.”

MARTIN KURRE, MANAGING DIRECTOR REMSTALKELLEREI

tour with a glass of Remstal wine. Then it's on to Schwaikheim to visit the Alte Schmiede.

A powerful blow of the hammer down onto the red-hot iron sends sparks flying in all directions and after a few blows, Dustin's forehead is covered in sweat. A blacksmith's trade is pretty strenuous, explains Klaus Beisswänger, as he grins and takes back the hammer. In this old forge, volunteers from the local heritage association keep the craft alive, offering demonstrations as well as repairing tools and household items. But guests can also lend a hand by either testing their skills with the hammer and anvil or operating the large bellows to keep the fire blazing.

The perfect reward for such efforts is a glass of wine – and where better than direct from source in the Remstalkellerei wine cellar

in Weinstadt. As managing director, Martin Kurre, leads the group down a flight of stairs and through a small metal door, suddenly a series of huge oak barrels are revealed. Inside these is where the winery's treasure is stored, some of which will be sampled during today's tour. But there is also another special twist...

Painting With Wine

Unusually, pictures hang from the barrels – creating a wine barrel gallery so to speak. The artwork on display is from a watercolour course run by artist Christine Bender that takes place after the tour, where the wine itself becomes the artistic medium: 'Painting With Wine'. Ivonne grabs a paintbrush, dips it into red wine, and gets started. The subject matter matching the theme of the surroundings: grapes, leaves, and vines.

Ivonne, Ismael, and Dustin drive to the last stop of their museum night, Hotel Lamm

Hebsack in Remshalden. Here, Dietmar Ness, owner of Galerie Pablo in Weinstadt, has curated a modern art display and as the museum night comes to an end a DJ warms up. The friends dance together to the beat of the music as it travels around the vaulted cellar of the hotel and there's even a special appearance from the Rems Valley mascot, Remsi the bee. Everyone agrees what a fun and varied evening it's been. And the next museum night? Already in the calendar for 17th May 2025.



Crave more culture?

Scan the QR code for more impressions of our region.

Or find additional information on the Remstal Museum Nights here: remstal.de/english/remstal

11 PM: Remshalden HOTEL LAMM HEBSACK

Now managed by the family's fifth generation, Hotel Lamm Hebsack combines tradition and modernity – where Swabian kitchen classics are met by flavours and inspiration from international cuisine. In addition, the hotel is part of 'Weinsüden Hotels', a selection of hotels chosen for their special focus on wine.





GOOD MORNING, LAKE CONSTANCE!

Überlingen at sunrise is calm and still as Lake Constance
shimmers in a thousand different pastel shades – ready for

SUP yoga 🌿 CHRISTIANE WÜRTEMBERGER 📷 NÓI CREW

Alone on the water:
yoga at dawn



The seated pivot of the Chin Mudra pose

Dawn is only just breaking as yoga instructor Raphaela Knoll unlocks the shed of stand-up paddleboards at the Ostbad Überlingen surf school. Twilight still covers both the lake, and its early guests. Accompanied by the twittering birds, Raphaela, Elena, and Julia bring the boards to the glass surface of the water and paddle out onto Lake Constance in a seated position before preparing to welcome the day with a round of asanas. This is the name, in yoga, given to the poses you assume while practising.

Once out on the lake, the SUP boards are anchored to an island so that Raphaela, Elena, and Julia can practise without drifting and with a calm voice Raphaela leads them through the different elements, such as the sun salutation, along with a variety of stretches and twists that are particularly beneficial after a night sleeping.

A Dose of Nature Is a Dose of Happiness

Raphaela Knoll runs Yoga Shala Bodensee school in Überlingen, and in addition to the regular courses on land, she also offers weekend sun worship workshops on the water – working together with the small surf school, Ostbad Überlingen, whose cosy bungalow is

Elena and Julia
find the right size
paddles to take

“In the morning,
the atmosphere on the
lake is magical.”

RAPHAELA KNOLL, YOGA TEACHER

The Downward Facing Dog asana is more complex on the unsteady
boards but also therefore deeper strengthens the muscles



Yoga teacher, Raphaella Knoll,
grew up on Lake Constance

the home base for things like changing and getting together after a practice. Of course yoga on water is very different to yoga with solid ground under your feet: the board reacts to even the slightest movement, which is why practitioners perform the poses even slower and more precisely – to avoid taking an unplanned dip into Lake Constance! Also, asanas on an undulating surface better address smaller, deeper muscles. And, let’s not forget the surrounding nature, that only acts to enhance the feelings of happiness and relaxation people experience when practising yoga. There is hardly any wind this particular morning, and as the colour of the water and sky shimmers between pink and blue, there is still no one on the lake except for the three women and a few waterfowl. Even the surf school doesn’t open until much later. Yet this backdrop, of the mountain and the water, is so wholesome for both body and mind. And the only thing to interrupt the silence from time to time, is the quiet laughter of the yogis when someone’s board starts to rock during a backbend, or when a board starts to drift off when they attempt poses away from the anchor of the island.

**The Gift of Time – Before
the Day Even Begins**

Yoga on Lake Constance is not always so undisturbed. Knoll also organises the Lake Constance Yoga Festival each spring and summer, where people from all over the world spend four days together practicing yoga, listening to lectures, and exchanging ideas – and of course there are concerts and dancing. “Once a lake kid, always a lake kid,” jokes the yoga teacher when asked what she likes about Lake Constance.

“I simply love Lake Constance – in particular I like the atmosphere the morning

The dappled sun
through the trees,
as it rises, at the end
of the yoga class

and evening light brings. We always end our classes with a ritual: we sit on the boards, dip one hand in the water, and each tap our third eye, between our eyebrows, with our wet fingers, which, according to yoga teachings, connects the mind, body, and soul.” As the three women paddle back to the shore, they are greeted by the sun before getting changed and enjoying a few sips of tea. Raphaella, Elena, and Julia sit on the wooden steps of the surf school with happy faces embracing the last few quiet moments ahead of the hustle and bustle of everyday life.



Want to find your zen? Scan the
QR code for more impressions
of our region. Or find additional
information on morning yoga,
Yoga Shala Bodensee,
or Lake Constance here:
yoga-shala-bodensee.de
echt-bodensee.de

SUNDOWNERS BY THE LAKE

Winegrowers saved viticulture on Lake Constance one adventurous night 100 years ago - and the smuggled Müller-Thurgau variety is set to celebrate its anniversary in 2025.

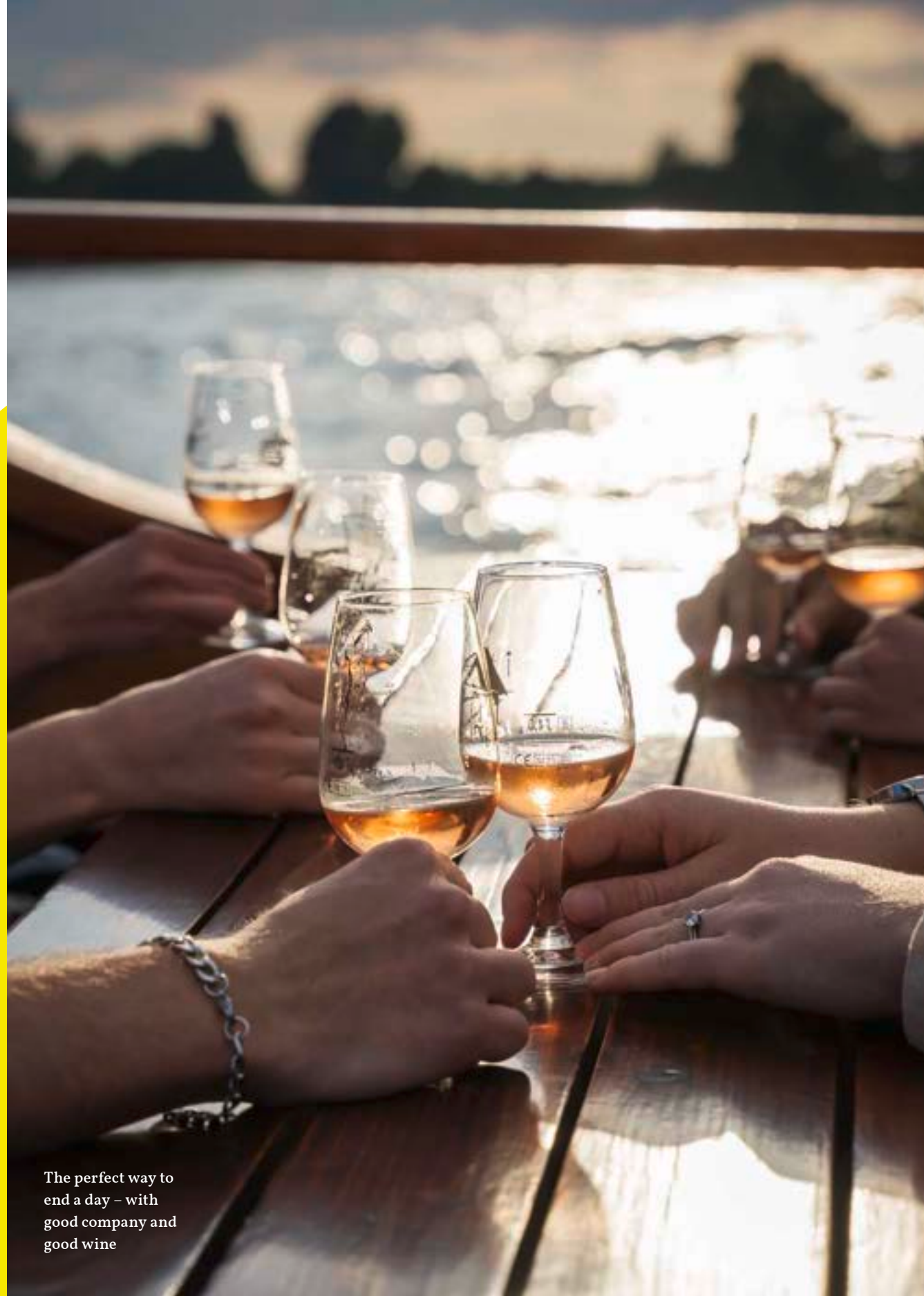
The sun shines, making the wine glow in the glass. The vineyards stretch down towards the shore of Lake Constance as it glistens behind them. Sailing boats glide through the waves. Painters and poets have romanticised the idyll of this tranquil landscape but, thanks to the wine that is grown here, the nights can be full of excitement.

Wine from Lake Constance is widely appreciated today, however the wine produced 100 years ago was considered difficult to drink – in contrast, the winegrowers on the Swiss side of the lake who were experiencing great success with a new variety of vine called Müller-Thurgau. However, importing cuttings of the vine was prohibited by German law – so Johann Baptist Röhrenbach and his son, Albert, winegrowers from Immenstaad, set about a plan...

In April 1925 a cloak-and-dagger operation took place. Albert, accompanied by a fisherman friend, rowed across the border to the Swiss shore of the lake and smuggled back 400 of the Müller-Thurgau variety of vines. This revitalised viticulture, first on Lake Constance and later throughout the country – until mass production became commonplace.



'Fräulein Seegucker' wine bar has taken on a new style



The perfect way to end a day – with good company and good wine



The sky becomes a theatre of lights

Winegrowers with generations of ambition: the Röhrenbach family's father and daughter team



Today, quality is still a top priority in German viticulture, and not least at Lake Constance where winegrowers are reimagining the wine tasting experience. At 'Fräulein Seegucker' for example, you'll find a stylish wine bar operated by the Aufricht winery in Stetten. In the evenings you can take a 'Wine & Sail' cruise aboard the St. Jodok cargo ship from Immenstaad. Or visit the Röhrenbach winery, which is now run by father Matthias and daughter Rebecca. There they impress with new cuvées and a Müller-Thurgau sparkling wine that guarantees to accompany endless hours under the stars.

Find additional information

on local wine as well as Lake Constance holiday ideas here:

echt-bodensee.de/bodenseewein

8.30 PM

STEGEN

NEW ERA FARM FESTIVALS

If loud music can be heard over the meadows of the Dreisam Valley, a concert is probably taking place on one of the farms – like today at the Fußenthomashof farm in Stegen

✂ ANNA MONTERROSO CARNEIRO 📷 UDO BERNHART

Sat between chicken coops and fruit trees – guests are right in the thick of everything at farm concerts



The farm concert series has been going since 2021

“The concerts take place in the middle of nature.”

JULIAN SEMET,
DREISAM VALLEY TOURISM

The rows of seats rise up the hill in a semi-circle, as in an amphitheatre, before the stage – the only difference being that the rows here are of folding chairs and blankets on bales of hay. The colourful lanterns that hang from the cherry and apple trees sway gently in the wind. Several tables form a long counter in front of a hedge, where Julian Semet is serving drinks. The managing director of Dreisam Valley Tourism is just one of the many helpers making the final preparations for the farm concert at the Fußenthomashof farm near Freiburg. In front of the ‘Frachtgut’ food truck, make shift tables are being set up. The host family, the Ketterers, are tending to various details around farm – trying to distract themselves from the excitement. And on stage, Patrick and Dominik, the two singers from the band the ‘Rhinwaldsounds’, sing their hearts out.

The Black Forest

There is a wonderful sense of excitement on the organic farm, which Semet is delighted about, having developed the concept of farm concerts, along with his team, back in 2021. “There are many farms in the Dreisam Valley that offer fantastic products, and the farm concerts are a way to bring them to people’s attention as part of a fun experience. Guests also get to know the farming families and can always take a look behind the scenes.” At the Fußenthomashof farm, for example, guests can not only visit the quaint farm shop, but also see the pigs, horses and, above all, the chickens – all 260 of them, clucking and cackling in their coops.

Each year, four concerts are organised in the Dreisam Valley, always at different locations and always with different artists and musicians – from near and far. Sometimes they are from further afield, such as Vienna, and sometimes they’re more local, like the ‘Rhinwaldsounds’, from the nearby Ortenau region. The boys already have plenty of

Holidays Down on the Farm

Say goodnight to the cows and sheep...

Then in the morning, eggs for breakfast straight from the farmer in the chicken coop. Read a book in the peace and quiet of the orchards or pick dandelions for the farmyard rabbits. A holiday on the farm is as close to nature as it gets – and there are many farms in Baden-Württemberg that welcome holiday guests and give them insights into rural life.

urlaub-bauernhof.de

The ‘Rhinwaldsounds’ band sings (and speaks) in Alemannic



Pretty cool: Ursel, the farm host, sings a couple of songs for her family



“The guests get to know the farm via coming to the concert.”

JULIAN SEMET



The band supplies the good mood and the farm provides the beautiful setting

bookings lined up for 2025, but today’s focus, as guests gradually start arriving, is getting ready to perform.

As it’s summer, many people cycle or stroll to the concerts along the long valley road from the neighbouring villages. There are plenty of families with children, some people have brought picnic blankets, and some couples have even brought their dogs. The first rows are quickly filled and the queue for the food truck gets longer and longer. The pastrami sandwiches are going down well. And when they leave you thirsty, Semet and his team are ready with the drinks: Freiburger Bierle, Bad Dürkheim water, and Ebner apple spritzer – all from the region.

Music Opens (Farmyard) Doors

Once the hillside amphitheatre is filled as far back as the first cherry tree, the event begins. Semet gives a short welcome speech and shortly afterwards the ‘Rhinwaldsounds’ boys storm the stage. The band sings in Alemannic and plays catchy regional hits such as ‘Wurschtsalat’ and ‘Eigene Tomate’. The atmosphere is full of energy and the audience laughs, cheers, and claps for all it’s worth. As the sun sets over the hills the stage is bathed in a soft, warm light – and even the farm host joins the band on stage and sings a couple of songs that she dedicates to her family.



Fancy getting down on the farm? Scan the QR code for more impressions of our region. Or find additional information and farm concert dates here: dreisamtal.de schwarzwald-tourismus.info

CULINARY EVENTS IN THEIR BEST LIGHTS

Throughout beautiful summer mornings and evenings, Southwest Germany plays host to a special culture of enjoyment: whether it's a champagne breakfast at the castle or a star-studded acrobatic dinner show – guests can expect a feast for both the palate and the eyes.

Gamburg Castle L'Aperitif in the Garden

The mild summer air, the scent of lavender, and the golden evening light all cast themselves over the legendary Gamburg Castle, of the Stauffer dynasty, that overlooks the Tauber Valley. Known for its baroque park, relax in one of the many deckchairs or accompany the owner, Hans-Georg von Mallinckrodt, on a guided 'L'Apéritif au Jardin' tour through their garden paradise, accompanied by a drop of something delightful in your hand. burg-gamburg.de



2

Europa-Park Resort

A Star-Studded Dinner-Show

During winter months, the Europa-Park Dinner-Show takes guests on a fantastic journey into a world of absolute enjoyment. As Germany's largest theme park closes and the rollercoasters come to a standstill, the 'Europa-Park Teatro' becomes home to almost 4 hours of breath-taking entertainment - artistic masterpieces, live music, and comedy – combined with culinary perfection – an exquisite four-course menu by chef Peter Hagen-Wiest of the parks 2* Michelin Ammolite restaurant. And 2025 is sure to be special as Europa-Park Resort celebrate their 50th anniversary. europapark.de/en/events/europa-park-dinner-show



3

Stuttgart Culinary Culture in the Dark

The restaurant of the Rosenau brewery, to the west of Stuttgart, offers a cultural program and culinary delights that go hand in hand – with the stage itself located within the dining room, as was often the case historically. In addition to cabaret, comedy, and concerts accompanied by delicious meals, the 'aus:sicht' series of events offers an experience where guests are served a multi-course menu in complete darkness. While the food satisfies a heightened sense of taste, live cultural performances also cater for the sense of hearing. rosenau-stuttgart.de



- 1 GAMBURG CASTLE
- 2 RUST
- 3 STUTTGART
- 4 ALPIRSBACH
- 5 HOHENNEUFFEN



5

Hohenneuffen

Fortress Ruins By Torchlight

Anyone who has made the climb up to Hohenneuffen Fortress Ruins, at an altitude of 743 metres, will be rewarded with sweeping vistas towards the Swabian Alb. And twice a year, 11th May and 24th August 2025, special guided 'Visiting Aurora' tours start at 5am from the bottom of the car park. Once at the top the tour continues, then breakfast and a glass of sparkling wine. Hohenneuffen was one of the seven state fortresses of Württemberg from the 16th century up until 1802. festungsrue-hohenneuffen.de/en

Alpirsbacher Klosterbräu Brewery Weekend Beers

4



Who invented beer? How does the brewing process work? What is the German Purity Law? Such questions and more are answered in the beer seminars organised by the Alpirsbacher Klosterbräu Brewery. And, of course there are beer tastings, a guided tour of the brewery's own museum, and proper snacks to accompany them. The seminars take place several times a year, on Fridays or Saturdays, at 7pm. alpirsbacher.de

Dinner in the Dark



8.30 PM
BAD MERGENTHEIM

WHERE THE WOLVES HOWL

An overnight stay in Bad Mergentheim Wildlife Park lets you get closer to these ordinarily shy animals

✂ MATHIS GILSBACH 📷 GERT KRAUTBAUER

'The Wolf Wagon' is positioned with one side actually in the wolf enclosure

Northern Baden-Württemberg

Howl like the wolves,” suggests park keeper Marco Brauns, “then they’ll become curious and maybe howl back.” Kloa doesn’t need to be told twice: together with her father Sokol and mother Klodjana, the 10 year old howls loudly, again and again, until suddenly, in the distance, the first wolf answers. Then a second, and a third. Finally, the whole pack joins in and a long, group howl fills the air. The family is taking part in the special ‘Wolfsgeheul’ guided tour, which Bad Mergentheim Wildlife Park offers on request, where you can watch the wolves being fed and encourage them to howl together. The animals slowly start emerging from between the trees. One wolf after another ventures into the clearing and suddenly it is full of wolves wrestling and racing each other.

Brauns explains that wolves are actually incredibly shy animals and are usually more afraid of humans rather than it being the other



Park keeper Marco Brauns specialises in wild animals and birds of prey

SHE-WOLVES

A wolfpack is usually led by both a leading wolf and a leading she-wolf – known as the alpha wolves. The female decides what the wolfpack should do, the male is then responsible for implementing her plan.

way round. “When a new park keeper enters the enclosure for the first time, the pack initially retreat to the opposite side.” It is only because there is a moat and wooden fence between the family and the animals, that they dare to come this close during the tour. Perhaps Kloa’s howling also aroused their interest – and the bucket of meat that Brauns just brought into the enclosure. The wolves are already familiar with these cues and quickly come running to get their share.

Eye To Eye With the Animals

The wolfpack living in the large outdoor enclosure at Bad Mergentheim Wildlife Park is the largest of its kind in Europe with around 30 animals. And, there are also over 70 other animals that live in the 35+ hectares wildlife park, each in their own spacious enclosed areas. During your visit, with a bit of luck, you might see brown bears, moose, beavers, white-tailed eagles, and buzzards. What’s particularly



The wolves are fed several times a day



Which wolf eats first is determined by their hierarchy in the pack



‘The Wolf Wagon’ is the perfect place to observe the animals

Northern Baden-Württemberg



Wolves howl to mark their territory



In the evening, swapping adventure stories around the campfire

Wildlife Parks in Baden-Württemberg



The Black Forest Alternative Bear Park

Bears that have been rescued from poor conditions are brought to the 10 hectare outdoor enclosure near Bad Rippoldsau-Schapbach – where they have plenty of space to relax and retreat. The park is also home to several wolves and lynx. [baer.de](https://www.baer.de)

Pforzheim Wildlife Park

Bison are usually associated with the vast plains of North America, but relatives of the large, cloven-hoofed animals can also be found in Europe, too – for example in Pforzheim Wildlife Park, along with elk, otters, and wild boar. [pforzheim.de](https://www.pforzheim.de)

Tripsdrill Wildlife Park

Over 60, predominantly native, animal species live in Tripsdrill Wildlife Park: from wolves and lynx to otters and red kites. During an evening tour with a park keeper, visitors aged 8+ can gain insights into everyday life in the wildlife park. [tripsdrill.de/en](https://www.tripsdrill.de/en)

special is being able to see the animals at eye level without any bars or wire fences in-between.

After howling with the wolves and seeing them being fed, the excitement continues for Kloa and her family as they prepare to spend the night in the enclosure with the wolves. ‘The Wolf Wagon’ is a small, cosy wooden cabin that lies at the edge of the enclosure, with only a large pane of glass to separate the humans and animals – and it comfortably accommodates two adults and two children overnight. Just be prepared for the occasional disturbance from the howling wolfpack, but that’s all part of the adventure.

Sleeping With the Wolfpack

Once inside the cabin, Kloa immediately dives onto the large bed to look out of the window at the wolves. And they look back, curious about their new neighbours. Bedtime draws near, but first there is dinner around the cabin’s campfire. The flames blaze and the logs crackle whilst Kloa chats with her father about superpowers. “Would you rather be invisible or able to fly?”, she asks. Sokol thinks it would be exciting to be able to talk to animals. That way they could ask the wolves what they think about the strange two-legged creatures they’ve been howling with today.



Want to join the wolfpack?

Scan the QR code for more impressions of our region.

Or find additional information on ‘The Wolf Wagon’ and Bad Mergentheim Wildlife Park here: [wildtierpark.de](https://www.wildtierpark.de)
[liebliches-taubertal.de](https://www.liebliches-taubertal.de)

ENJOYING WINE ON THE NECKAR

Heilbronn, a city on the Neckar river, has been cultivating wine for over 1,250 years – so drinking it is somewhat of a tradition here, so to speak – why not try some...

Wine tasting is possible across the Heilbronn region, both in the vineyards and the city centre

Heilbronn from above: enjoy the view from the Wartberg as the sun sets over the wine town on the Neckar river. There's a picturesque observation tower, a restaurant, and, on many weekends, the Martin-Heinrich-Wengerthäusle wine bar – where winegrowers from the region take it in turns to serve their wines. Wine has been grown in the Heilbronn region for more than 1,250 years, with the city centre itself home to 30 wineries. The city occupies a wonderfully diverse location on the River Neckar. Experience the vibrant urban riverfront with its restaurants and bars or retreat to the calmer parks, promenades, and sandy beaches. There's also the innovative 'experimenta' science centre and BUGA 2019 site, as well as the education campus. Possibly most enticing, however, is the terrace overlooking the Neckar of the 'Wein-Villa-Pavilion', where Heilbronn winegrowers serve a variety of wines each afternoon (except Mondays). And, we can't forget to mention Swabian tapas, a delicious start to any summer evening by the river. Special tip: the 'Nights in the City' event will take place on 26th July 2025, a day and night of festivities, culture, and culinary delights.

Find additional information on Heilbronn here: heilbronn.de/tourismus



The hop-on, hop-off City Tour bus route includes stops at the Heilbronn vineyards



The open roof of the observatory during 'SkyNight' enables 360° views of the universe

'SKY NIGHT' IN 'EXPERIMENTA'

On two nights each month, the 'experimenta' science centre opens its observatory for guests to take a look into deep space

"Wow!", a young woman exclaims, her right eye pressed firmly against the eyepiece of a telescope. Through it she can see an impressive spectacle over 25,000 light years away: the M13 globular star cluster that lights up the northern sky thanks to over half a million stars. This is all part of the 'SkyNight' event at 'experimenta' in Heilbronn, Germany's largest science centre, which is also a popular daytime attraction, especially for families and groups. However, twice a month the night sky is the special feature, especially when witnessed through the all-sky dome – the roof of which can be opened completely allowing a 360° view into space, weather dependant, of course. And, in addition to the large refracting telescope in the dome, other telescopes on the roof terrace enable more fascinating observations of the sky. The 'experimenta' team are also always on hand with plenty of exciting facts. Today, in addition to M13, Saturn is the centre of attention for the group of around 50 visitors. "It's ring is in an edge-on position," explains Stephan Fichtner, the observatory team leader. This is where the thin edge of Saturn's rings faces the Earth in such a way that the striking ring system is almost invisible. "This phenomenon only occurs every 15 years," continues



The 'experimenta' team explains what you can see through the various telescopes

Fichtner, "times like this are why I'm always fascinated by the beauty of space again and again." Whether it be Saturn, the moon, or the Andromeda galaxy – no one can escape the magic of the sky.

Find additional information on 'experimenta' science centre here: experimenta.science/en

GREEN SUPERPOWERS

On alternate Monday evenings during the summer months, the Höchsten hotel invites guests to discover the colourful and exciting world of herbs in a tour of their garden – culminating in a gourmet dinner with a herb inspired menu 🍷 CHRISTIANE WÜRTEMBERGER 📷 NOI CREW



“The Höchsten is a place with a special aura and energy.”

HANS PETER KLEEMANN, HOTELIER

Father Gerhard explains about the plants in the herb garden during the guided tour

Liquorice flavours, notes of fennel, and the scent of lemon can all be experienced in the lush herb garden of the Höchsten, where guests are encouraged to pick the odd leaf here and there, rub them between their fingers, sniff them, and even taste them. Around 150 medicinal and culinary herbs are grown, thematically, on the hillside plot, which the Kleemann family created 16 years ago as part of the hotels renovation. Since then, on the evening of every other Monday throughout summer, there is a guided tour of the herb garden followed by a gourmet dinner in the hotel's restaurant – with a menu created from the herbs they grow. It is also possible to stroll through the garden at leisure.

Herbalism As An Art

The guided tours around the herb garden are usually led by herbal expert Father Gerhard, who, as a theologian and nature lover, has long been interested in mindfulness and health practices. As we walk, Father Gerhard highlights the various plants and explains their effects and history in an entertaining way.



The herb garden is located on a sunny hill above the hotel



Dessert at twilight – but with flowers, please

The plant in question may be a simple kitchen herb such as borage, perhaps an unknown more specialist herb such as hyssop, or even an exotic one such as jiaogulan – the Chinese herb of immortality. “What makes a herb valuable?”, someone on the tour asks. Father Gerhard explains that these plants often contain particularly high concentrations of vitamins, minerals, and secondary plant

Herbs Through the Night

Rose petals calm

Fragrant rose petals from your own garden are great in a salad – and, according to Father Gerhard, can have a calming and grounding effect.

Tarragon encourages sleep

Tarragon in the evening aids sleep. It is best ingested by

adding fresh stems, chopped into small pieces, to a salad or to flavour vegetables.

Mint to wake up

This herb can both revitalise and refresh you in the morning – either as a tea or by rubbing a stem of fresh mint on the back of your neck.

Something special....

Hotelier, Regina Kleemann, uses plants from the Höchsten's herb garden to make fine teas and herbal salts which are then used in the hotel's wellness area as well as being available to buy in the hotel.



substances – and that the best way to harvest their benefits is to simply eat them. So pluck a leaf and try it.

Many herbs that grow at higher altitudes are often medicinal plants but most of these can still also be used in the kitchen and their beneficial effects ingested naturally. They tend to be particularly beautiful in appearance as well. The three to four-course herb inspired menu at the Höchsten is characterised by its shades of green, leaf shapes, and colourful edible flowers – making it a feast for both the palate and eyes. How about a cucumber and elderflower salad to start, followed by home-made herb and cream cheese dumplings?

A Special Aura & Energy

It's not only culinary horizons that are expanded at the Höchsten, you can also look down the mountain to Lake Constance, and so the hotel's unique location is also what makes it so special – that, as well as the warm welcome extended by the dedicated Kleemann family who own the hotel. Incidentally, the Höchsten has always been regarded as having a special aura. Is that why herbs from around the world thrive there?



Want to broaden your horizon?

Scan the QR code for more impressions of our region.

Or find additional information on the Höchsten herb garden tour and the surrounding area here:

hoechsten.de

oberschwaben-tourismus.de/en



Marinated goat's cheese with a dill sorbet and Asian herbs



CHILL-OUT UNDER PINK EVENING SKIES

The cities of Southwest Germany bid farewell to the day with style – under the glowing sunset skies of Baden-Württemberg



Karlsruhe

An Absolute Highpoint

The Turmberg is the most north-western peak of the Black Forest and can be reached using the Turmbergbahn, the oldest funicular railway still in operation in Germany, or by climbing 528 steps of the Hexenstäfle, or 'Witches Steps'. The terrace at the top offers spectacular views over Karlsruhe – 'the fan-shaped city', the Rhine Valley, and, on a clear day, even the peaks of the Northern Vosges mountains. Each evening, locals and visitors alike gather on the terrace steps to enjoy the magical sunsets. And when dusk finally falls, there's 'Anders auf dem Turmberg' farm bistro to enjoy an evening meal. karlsruhe-erleben.de/en



1 Ulm Sundowners by the River

If you want to see Ulm in all its glory, then head to the banks of the Danube at sunset. There you will find the Uferbar, a kiosk painted forest green and offering delicious summer drinks such as wine, beer, and speciality coffees. Take your drink to one of their tables or deckchairs and enjoy the unique riverside view of the Ulm skyline: Ulm Minster with the world's tallest church tower, the old town houses, and the glass pyramid of the city library. After dark, stroll through the romantic Fishermen's Quarter with its picturesque lanes and quaint restaurants. tourismus.ulm.de/en



Freiburg

Swing Towards the Sun

The river Dreisam is Freiburg's lifeline. It provides refreshment in the hotter months, it's clear water also feeds the famous 'Bächle' – the small water-filled channels that connect across the city - with a gentle babble that calms the everyday hustle and bustle. There are plenty of beautiful spots for sundowners along the banks of the Dreisam, but one particularly popular spot is the 35 metre long Mariensteg – an Art Nouveau bridge that was completely renovated in 1980 and is home to a special surprise... One day a swing mysteriously appeared hanging from the bridge, enabling you to swing across the Dreisam and a little closer to the evening sun. visit.freiburg.de/en

Stuttgart

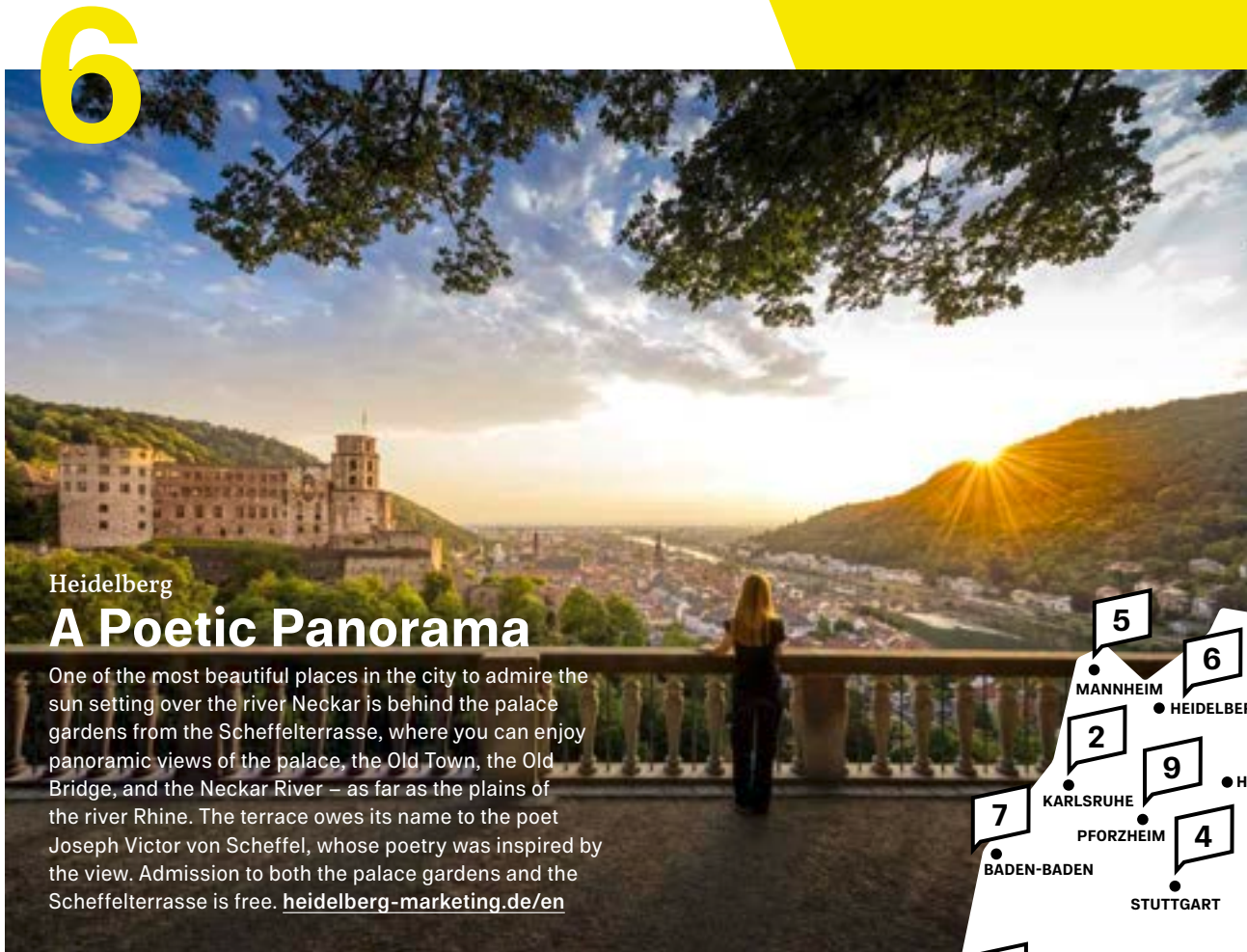
A Peaceful Oasis With a View

Atop a hill to the south-east of Stuttgart, the states' capital, lies a local gem dating back to 1850, when the city's residents asked for somewhere to be built in Weißenburg Park "to serve coffee, lemonade, and other drinks in this beautiful spot". Today, the Tea House is a popular open air café surrounded by terraces offering fantastic views of the city – with a meadow perfect for enjoying sundowner picnics. Afterwards, it's worth making a stop just a short walk away at the Schwarz Weiss Bar that specialises in unusual cocktails and spirits. stuttgart-tourist.de/en



Mannheim The Mood of the River

Previously considered a working-class district, Jungbusch is now a popular creative district and home to the Teufelsbrücke, or 'The Devil's Bridge', which was built in 1875 and is the oldest surviving bridge in Mannheim. This movable swing bridge, that connects the district to Mühlauinsel, has been a listed building since 1972 as well as having become a popular sundowner spot over the years. The perfect place to relax with a drink, overlooking the water, and enjoy the colours of the evening sky before diving into the nightlife of Jungbusch - pubs, bars, clubs, and restaurants, as can be discovered on the guided tour 'Vibrant Jungbusch'. [visit-mannheim.de](https://www.visit-mannheim.de)



Heidelberg A Poetic Panorama

One of the most beautiful places in the city to admire the sun setting over the river Neckar is behind the palace gardens from the Scheffelterrasse, where you can enjoy panoramic views of the palace, the Old Town, the Old Bridge, and the Neckar River - as far as the plains of the river Rhine. The terrace owes its name to the poet Joseph Victor von Scheffel, whose poetry was inspired by the view. Admission to both the palace gardens and the Scheffelterrasse is free. [heidelberg-marketing.de/en](https://www.heidelberg-marketing.de/en)



Heilbronn Culinary Delights in the Vineyard

Imagine sitting amidst the vineyards, enjoying regional food and fine wines, and slowly watching the sky turn pink over Heilbronn as the sun disappears from the horizon... At Martin-Heinrich-Wengerthäusle wine bar, this is a dreamlike reality across weekends between April and October, as 14 wineries take it in turns to serve their wines. The vineyards can be reached by either sightseeing buses or the regular city buses. [heilbronn.de/tourismus](https://www.heilbronn.de/tourismus)



Find additional information
on summer nights across the cities
of Baden-Württemberg here:
[visit-bw.com](https://www.visit-bw.com)



Baden-Baden A Romantic Evening Atmosphere

On pleasant evenings in Baden-Baden, you can go up the local Merkur mountain and experience the city at your feet. You can travel the 'Merkur Bergbahn' cable car to the top of the 668 metre high peak in just a few minutes, or of course you can also climb it on foot or by bike. Then enjoy a sundowner drink on the terrace of the Merkurstüble restaurant. [baden-baden.com/en](https://www.baden-baden.com/en)

Pforzheim A Sky Lounge on the Beach

Parasols, sun loungers, palm trees, sangria - even sand beneath your feet... Sounds like a holiday? At SP6 Beach Bar it feels like one. Despite its unusual location, on the Sparkasse car park in Pforzheim, during the summer months you can relax with an unbeatable view of the sunset. En route you can take a detour by the free-entry permanent interactive exhibition 'Gold.Money.Society.' in the 'TurmQuartier', which presents interesting facts about the history of Pforzheim as a gold town. Open weekdays 8.30am to 4pm, except Thursday which is 8.30am to 5.30pm. [turmquartier.de](https://www.turmquartier.de)



Service & Contact

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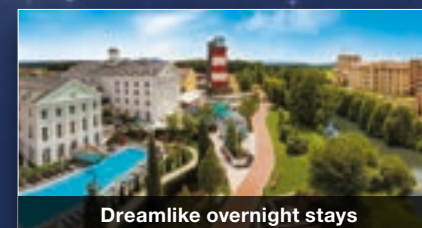
Early morning on
the Danube: hiking in
the Swabian Alb

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*By sales area or size - Market report "Outlet Centres in Europe", p. 28 (December 2024) produced by ecostra GmbH, www.ecostracom/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/outlet-centres-europe_2024-12.pdf