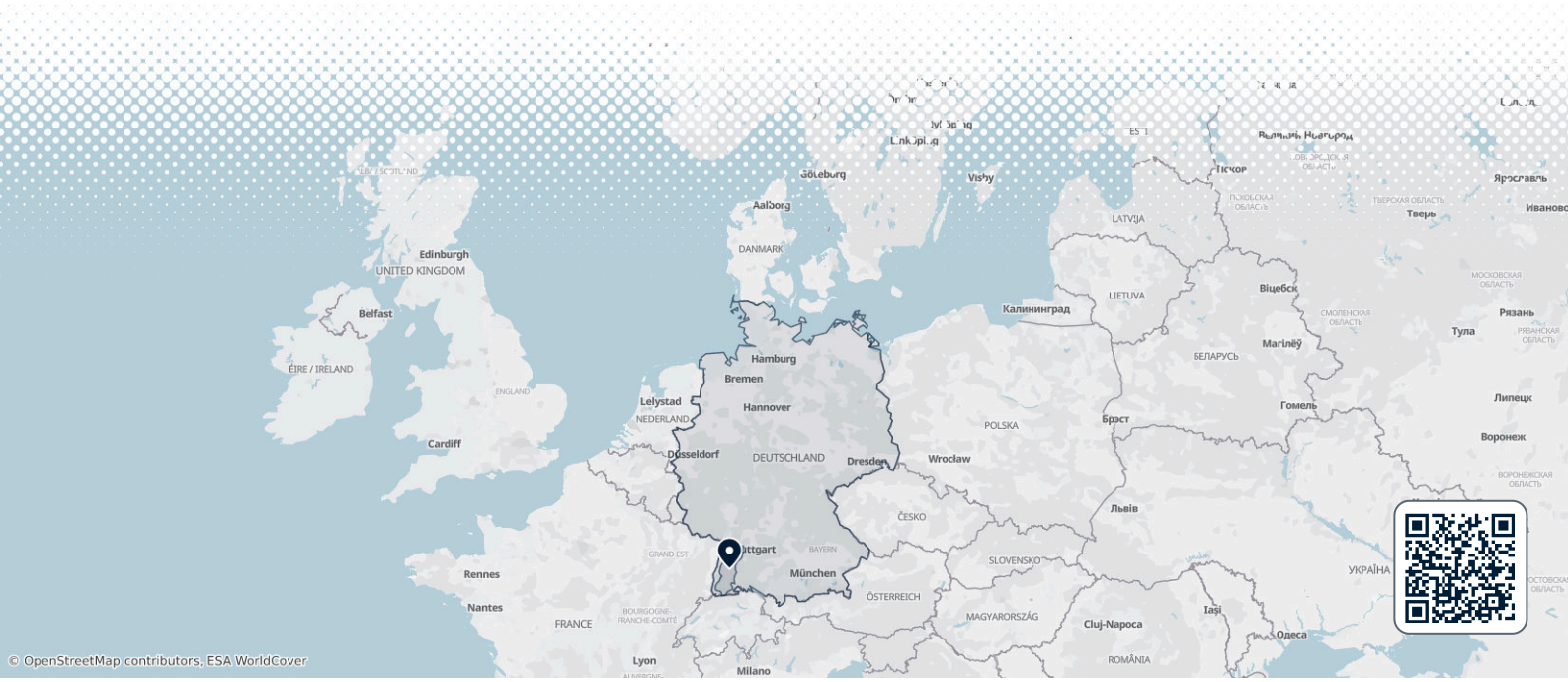


Black Forest

Baden-Württemberg · Germany

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

The Black Forest is a hilly, wooded region in the south-west of Germany. It is about 160 km long and up to 50 km wide. The Rhine valley lies along its western and southern edge.

It suits a trip built around walking, lakes and small villages. Dark spruce forest covers the slopes. Farms and clock-making villages sit in the valleys. The region is the source area of the Danube and the Neckar.

Most visitors stay in a base town for a few nights and make short drives or rides from there. Baden-Baden in the north and Freiburg in the west give a city stay at the edge of the hills.

When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is best for hiking, lakes and open-air museums. Summer days are warm, and showers are common in the hills. Autumn is quieter with clear days for walking.

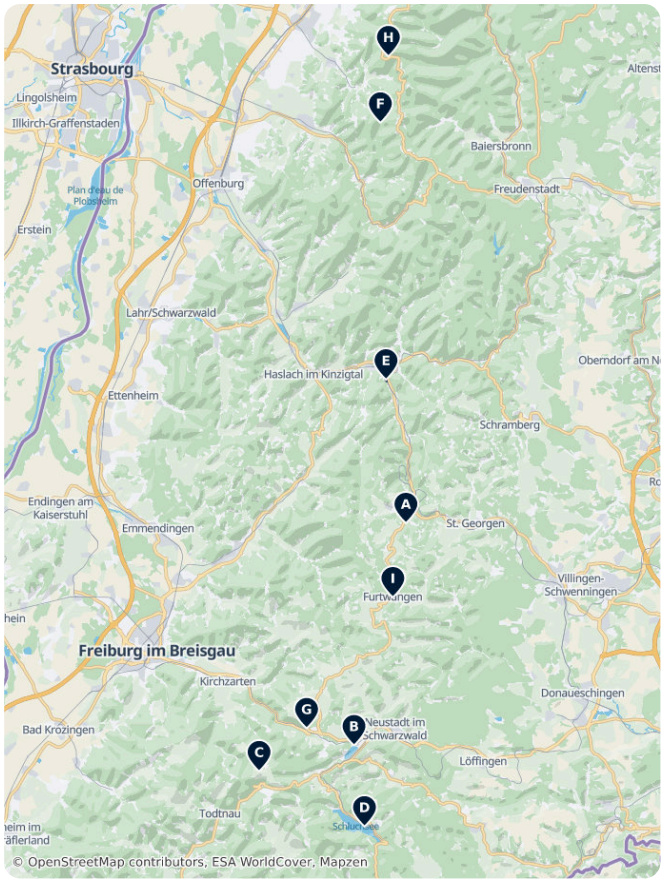
Winter brings snow to the higher ground and cold, short days. Towns hold Christmas markets in December, and the Feldberg area has ski lifts. Check snow conditions before you go.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for skiing	2° / 9° Feels like -3°	-4° / -12°	14 rainy days · Dry air
February	Good Good for skiing	4° / 11° Feels like -1°	-3° / -12°	12 rainy days · Dry air
March	Fair Fair for skiing	8° / 16° Feels like 4°	-1° / -7°	13 rainy days · Dry air
April	Fair Fair for hiking	13° / 21° Feels like 10°	2° / -4°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 24°	7° / 2°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	22° / 29°	11° / 6°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 30°	12° / 8°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 31°	12° / 8°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 26°	8° / 3°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for hiking	14° / 21°	5° / -2°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for skiing	7° / 14° Feels like 3°	0° / -6°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Good Good for skiing	3° / 9° Feels like -2°	-3° / -11°	15 rainy days · Dry air

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Triberger Wasserfälle drops in seven steps through a wooded gorge above Triberg. Paths and stairs run alongside the water.
- B Titisee is a glacial lake with a resort town on its shore. Visitors walk the lakeside path, swim in summer or go windsurfing and diving.
- C Feldberg is the highest peak in the Black Forest, at 1,493 m. It has wide views and marked trails.
- D Schluchsee is a large reservoir in the south, popular for swimming, sailing and walks.
- E Schwarzwälder Freilichtmuseum Vogtsbauernhof is an open-air museum in Gutach. Its farmhouses show how people lived and farmed in the valleys.
- F Allerheiligen-Wasserfälle fall in steps down a narrow valley. A trail leads past the ruins of a former abbey.
- G Ravennaschlucht is a deep gorge in the southern Black Forest. A high railway viaduct, the Ravennabrücke, crosses it.
- H Mummelsee is a small mountain lake on the Black Forest High Road. Walking trails start here.
- I German Clock Museum Furtwangen in Furtwangen shows the history of clock making in the region.



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What to experience

- Ride the Schauinsland cable car above Freiburg for views over the hills.
- Feldberg is good for hiking in summer, or cross-country skiing when snow lies.
- Swim, paddle or sail in summer on Titisee or Schluchsee.
- Soak in the thermal baths of Baden-Baden, for example at Friedrichsbad.
- Look for traditional costume with the red-pompom hat called the Bollenhut around Gutach.
- Browse Christmas markets in the towns in December.

Day trips

Places just outside the region, on the French side of the Rhine or on Lake Constance:

- Strasbourg is a city in Alsace, France, with a large cathedral and a canal-side old town.
- Colmar is a small Alsace town with half-timbered houses and canals.
- Ⓐ Lake Constance is a large lake on the southern edge. It has promenades and boat trips.



Where to explore

Towns inside or at the edge of the Black Forest:

- Baden-Baden is a spa town in the north.
- Freiburg im Breisgau is a university city at the western edge of the hills.
- Triberg is a town famous for its waterfalls and cuckoo clocks.

Getting there

- **By air**: The main gateways are Stuttgart (STR) and Karlsruhe/Baden-Baden (FKB) in Germany, and Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg (BSL) on the French side. Frankfurt (FRA) and Zurich (ZRH) have more long-haul connections. Continue by train or rental car.
- **By train**: Main lines run along the Rhine valley through Karlsruhe, Baden-Baden and Freiburg im Breisgau. Stuttgart is the main hub on the east side. Book on Deutsche Bahn.
- The scenic Black Forest Railway links Offenburg and Konstanz through Hausach and Triberg.

Getting around

- Regional trains and buses link most towns and many trailheads.
- The **KONUS guest card** gives free regional buses and trains to guests of hotels and holiday homes that take part. It does not cover long-distance trains or mountain railways. KONUS guest card

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

Villages and lake towns are walkable, but sights are spread over a large hilly area.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Valley paths suit cycling. Climbs on the high ground are steep.

Driving

- A car is the easiest way to reach villages, lakes and trailheads. Trains work well for the main valleys and cities.
- The Black Forest High Road (B 500) is a scenic road of about 60 km between Baden-Baden and Freudenstadt.

Food & drink

Black Forest cake (Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte) is the local classic. It has chocolate sponge, cream, sour cherries and cherry brandy. Try it in a café in Triberg, Titisee or Baden-Baden.

Other local foods include smoked Black Forest ham, trout from mountain streams, and fruit brandies. Mountain huts and village inns serve hearty meals. Many farms and small inns close one day a week, so check opening days before you go.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Doner Kebab · Döner Kebab
A sandwich of roasted meat, salad, and sauce in flatbread, invented by Turkish immigrants in Berlin and now a national staple.

DINNER

Schnitzel
A thin, breaded and fried cutlet, usually pork, served with potatoes or fries and a lemon wedge.

Sauerbraten
A pot roast marinated for days in vinegar and spices before slow cooking, served with red cabbage and dumplings.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Bratwurst
A grilled or fried pork sausage, often served in a bread roll with mustard, sold at stands nationwide.

Currywurst
Sliced sausage topped with curry-spiced ketchup, a Berlin invention now popular across the country.

Pretzel · Brezel
A large, chewy salted bread pretzel, especially common in Bavaria, often eaten with butter or cheese.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Black Forest Cake · Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte
A layered chocolate sponge cake with cherries, cherry liqueur, and whipped cream.

DRINKS

Beer · Bier
Germany brews hundreds of regional styles, from Bavarian Weissbier to Cologne's Kölsch, each tied to its home city.

Gluhwein · Glühwein
Mulled, spiced red wine served hot, a staple of winter and Christmas markets.

Apfelschorle
Apple juice mixed with sparkling water, the everyday non-alcoholic drink of choice.

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Safety & health

- Stay on marked paths near gorges and waterfalls. Wet rock and stairs can be slippery.
- Ticks live in grass and forest edges in warm months. Cover your legs and check your skin after a walk.

History

Rome called the forest Silva Marciana. Farmers settled the valleys later and cleared land on the slopes. In winter they carved wooden clocks, and the craft grew into a clock-making and precision industry. The German Clock Museum Furtwangen in Furtwangen tells this story.

In the 19th century, railways opened the region. The Black Forest Railway between Offenburg and Konstanz opened in 1873. Spa towns such as Baden-Baden and lake resorts such as Titisee grew with tourism.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Germany at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Black Forest Must-Sees

The Black Forest features a diverse range of natural landmarks and historical sites. This selection includes dramatic natural monuments like the 97-meter Todtnau Waterfall and the secluded Zweribachfälle. Engineering and recreation are represented by the scenic Black Forest Railway and the Hasenhorn Coaster. The region's history is preserved in the Roman pottery kiln, the Narrenmuseum carnival exhibits, and several medieval ruins, including the Roggenbacher Schlösser and Ruine Ramstein, which offer insight into the area's defensive architecture and cultural heritage.





A Todtnau Watterfall

Dropping 97 meters between Todtnauberg and Aftersteg, this natural monument is one of Germany's highest waterfalls.

79674, Germany (47.84413, 7.93903)

hochschwarzwald.de/Media/Attraktionen/Todtnauer-Was...

B Black Forest Railway

The Baden Black Forest Railway is a twin-track, electrified railway line in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, running in a NW-SE direction to...

77723, Germany (48.41222, 8.00099)



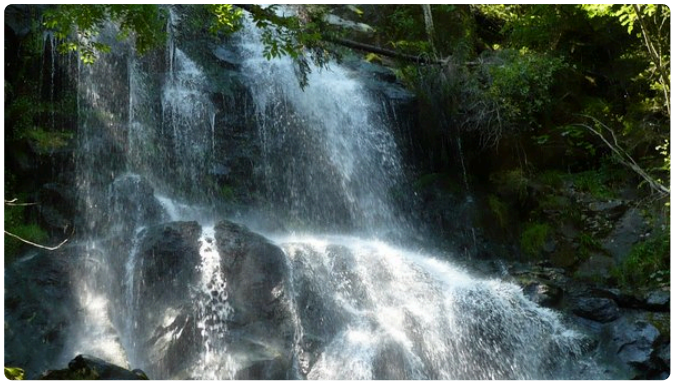
C Hasenhorn Coaster

Come and enjoy this mountain coaster which will provide you an unforgettable ride. A lot of fun for visitors of all ages.

Seilbahngesellschaft Todtnau GmbH, D-79674 Todtnau, Germany (47.82878, 7.94908)

Mo–Su 09:00–16:30

hasenhorn-rodelbahn.de/winterrodelba… , +49 (0) 7671 508



D Zweribachfälle

Located in a nature reserve east of Freiburg, these falls cascade over several rocky steps in the High Black Forest.

Platte, 79271 Simonswald, Germany (48.04305, 8.09319)

E Ehemalige Burg

Ruins of a medieval fortification.

12 Im Lehnle, Pfalzgrafenweiler 72285, Germany (48.52332, 8.56184)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

F Römischer Töpferofen

Archaeological site featuring a preserved Roman-era pottery kiln.

(48.39452, 8.00878)

G Narrenmuseum

Exhibits focused on the Swabian-Alemannic Fastnacht carnival traditions, featuring historical masks and costumes.

Hauptstraße 39, 77723 Gengenbach (48.40369, 8.01332)

We–Sa 14:00–17:00
Su 11:00–17:00

narrenmuseum-niggelturm.de

H Obertorturm

Historic city gate serving as a landmark of medieval town fortifications.

(48.40542, 8.01595)

I Stadtkirche St. Marien

Roman Catholic parish church featuring traditional religious architecture and interior art.

Benedikt-von-Nursia-Straße, 77723 Gengenbach, Germany (48.40443, 8.01737)



J Roggenbacher Schlösser

Hilltop ruins of two medieval fortifications, Roggenbach and Steinegg, situated 675 meters above the Wutach valley.

79848, Germany (47.76825, 8.33750)

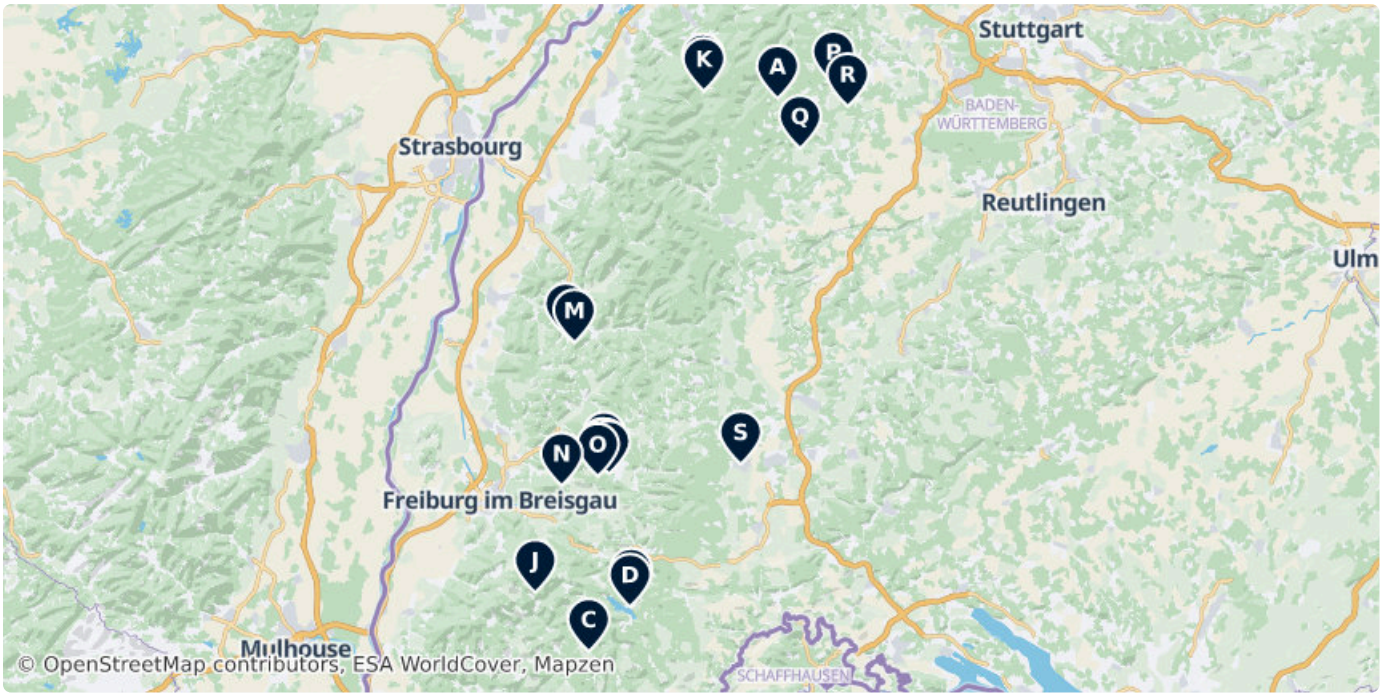
K Ruine Ramstein

Remains of a hilltop castle located on a wooded ridge 688 meters above the upper Schiltach valley.

78144, Germany (48.19006, 8.38466)

View Points and Observation Towers

Explore the diverse topography of the Black Forest through a collection of historic castle ruins, purpose-built observation towers, and natural rock outcrops. This list features specialized vantage points ranging from the 25-meter Riesenbühlturm near Schluchsee to the wheelchair-accessible Dreitälerblick. Highlights include views of the Swiss Alps, the Todtnau Waterfalls, and the historic timber-framed architecture of Altensteig, alongside steel towers like Hubenloch situated within urban rose gardens.



A Fautsburg

Ruins of a hilltop castle located above the Rehmühle in the Aichelberg district of Bad Wildbad.

75323, Germany (48.66621, 8.54587)

B Riesenbühlturm

A 25-meter wooden observation tower providing views over the Schluchsee and, in clear weather, the Swiss Alps.

79859, Germany (47.82891, 8.17921)

C Alpenpanorama Aussichtspunkt

Vantage point offering views extending to the Swiss Alpine chain across the southern landscape.

(47.74454, 8.07282)

D Scheibenfelsen

Rock formation overlooking the Schluchsee and the surrounding forest terrain.

(47.81962, 8.17647)

E Dreitälerblick

Wheelchair-accessible viewpoint offering a perspective over the intersection of three distinct valleys.

(48.04626, 8.11453)

F unterer Spitzer Stein

Natural rock outcrop and vantage point located near the town of Triberg.

(48.05738, 8.11182)

G Rabenfelsen

Granite rock formation providing views over the Gutach valley.

(48.04230, 8.12375)

H Eulenfelsenpavillon

Small sheltered pavilion situated on a rock outcrop near Bad Herrenalb.

(48.68547, 8.35887)

I Heideck

Elevated vantage point located in the central Black Forest region near Triberg.

(Unnamed Road), 79263, Germany (48.04681, 8.10695)

J Wasserfälleblick

Viewpoint offering a direct look at the multi-tiered Todtnau Waterfalls.

(47.84355, 7.93905)

K Blick auf Holzbrücke

Overlook with a view of the historic covered wooden bridge in Forbach.

(48.67872, 8.36145)

L Blick auf Welschensteinach

Vantage point overlooking the village of Welschensteinach and the Kinzig valley landscape.

(48.27239, 8.01560)

M Tschäg

(48.26168, 8.03709)

N Lindlehöhe

Elevated point offering views of the surrounding hills in the southern Black Forest.

(48.02251, 8.00526)

O Hohwartfelsen

Rock formation providing views near the Triberg waterfalls area.

(48.03816, 8.09593)

P Wilhelmshöhe

Vantage point located near Bad Liebenzell in the northern Black Forest.

(48.69002, 8.68548)

Q Aussicht auf historische Altstadt

Overlook providing views of the historic timber-framed buildings in the old town of Altensteig.

(48.58371, 8.60178)

R Hoher Fels

Natural rock outcrop overlooking the Nagold valley.

(48.65301, 8.72138)

Ⓢ Aussichtsturm Hubenloch

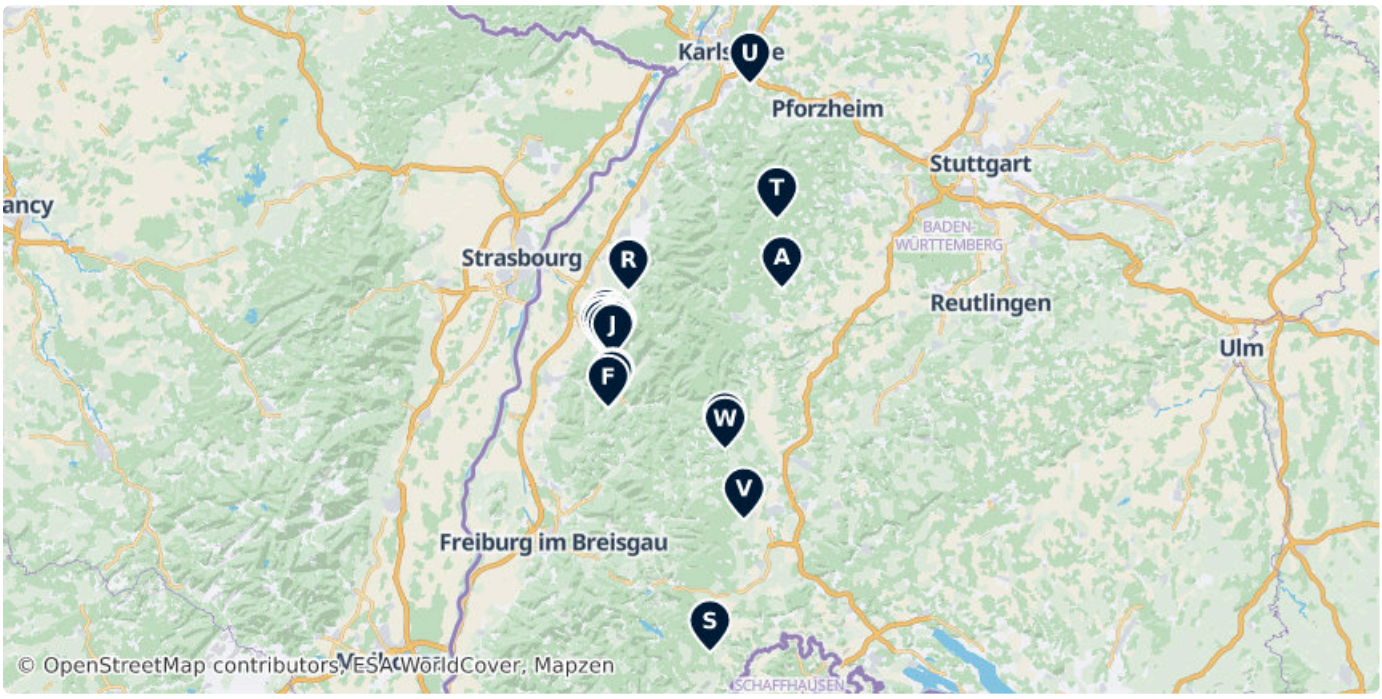
A 25-meter steel observation tower located within the Hubenloch rose garden in Villingen-Schwenningen.

Romäusring, Villingen 78050, Germany (48.05839, 8.45326)

+49 7721 822 340

Regional Heritage Sites

This collection highlights the layered history of the Black Forest region, spanning from the Iron Age to the 18th century. It features significant archaeological sites like the Magdalenenberg tumulus and a 2nd-century Roman pottery kiln, alongside medieval castle ruins such as Fautsburg and Ramstein. The list also documents regional folk piety through numerous 'Bildstock' shrines and stone wayside crosses that mark historic paths and rural boundaries.



Ⓐ Ehemalige Burg

Remnants of a medieval hilltop fortification.

12 Im Lehnle, Pfalzgrafenweiler 72285, Germany (48.52332, 8.56184)

Mo–Su

Open 24/7

Ⓑ Römischer Töpferofen

Excavated site of a Roman pottery kiln dating back to the 2nd century AD.

(48.39452, 8.00878)

C Echtle

Traditional stone religious shrine typical of the regional heritage.

15A Schwaibachtal, Schwaibach 77723, Germany (48.39219, 8.03762)

D Bildstock von 1783

Religious stone shrine dating from the late 18th century.

18 Untertal, 77790, Germany (48.29157, 8.03542)

E Wegkreuz Passionskreuz Christhof

Wayside cross featuring a depiction of the Passion of Christ.

28 Untertal, Untertal 77790, Germany (48.28725, 8.03266)

F Bildstock Schwendenmann

Historic religious stone shrine located in a rural setting.

32A Talstraße, Welschensteinach 77790, Germany (48.27656, 8.02001)

G Bildstock Fischer

Traditional wayside shrine serving as a landmark of local religious history.

1 Schwaibachtal, Schwaibach 77723, Germany (48.39210, 8.03330)

H Bildstock Wild

Stone religious marker located in the Gengenbach area.

(Unnamed Road), 77723, Germany (48.38767, 8.02086)

I Obertorturm

Medieval gate tower that served as part of the historic town fortifications.

(48.40542, 8.01595)

J Bildstock Buss

Traditional religious stone shrine.

51 Kinzigstraße, 77723, Germany (48.38419, 8.03455)

K Ächterkreuz

Historic stone wayside cross and heritage marker.

(Unnamed Road), 77723, Germany (48.41458, 8.01367)

L Bildstock Bender

Religious shrine carved from stone.

3 Kinzigstraße, 77723, Germany (48.39618, 8.02968)

M Wegekreuz

Historic stone cross located along a traditional pathway.

77723, Germany (48.40577, 8.02970)

N Gedenkkreuz für die gefallenen Soldaten der Weltkriege

Memorial cross honoring soldiers who fell during the World Wars.

Wingerbach, 77723, Germany (48.39548, 7.99809)

O Zapf

Regional religious stone shrine.

19 Schwaibachtal, 77723, Germany (48.39335, 8.04177)

P Bildstock Lienhart

Historic stone shrine and heritage site.

1 Schwarzwaldstraße, Berghaupten 77791, Germany (48.40360, 7.99978)

Q Wegekreuz Huber

Stone wayside cross located in the Sasbachwalden area.

1A Hesselbach, 77704, Germany (48.51971, 8.08344)

R Bildstock Hesselbach

Religious shrine located in the Hesselbach district.

4 Hesselbach, Oberkirch 77704, Germany (48.51771, 8.08345)



S Roggenbacher Schlösser

Ruins of two medieval castles, Roggenbach and Weißenburg, situated on a ridge 675 meters above sea level.

79848, Germany (47.76825, 8.33750)

T Fautsburg

Medieval castle ruins featuring a preserved tower that serves as a lookout point over the Rehmühle valley.

75323, Germany (48.66621, 8.54587)

U Grünwettersbacher Sühnekreuz

Medieval sandstone conciliation cross.

76228, Germany (48.94187, 8.46197)

suehnekreuz.de/bw/gruenwettersbach.htm



V Magdalenenberg

Magdalenenberg is the name of an Iron Age tumulus near the city of Villingen-Schwenningen in Baden-Württemberg, Germany.

(Unnamed Road), 78052, Germany (48.04436, 8.44357)

W Ruine Ramstein

Ruins of an 11th-century hilltop castle located on a ridge above the Schiltach valley.

78144, Germany (48.19006, 8.38466)

X Ruine Berneck

Medieval castle ruins featuring remains of the shield wall and residential structures.

(48.20124, 8.38366)

DATA SOURCES

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