



"New food for thought for the teaching of the rich Roman heritage!"

Interview with Member of the Board Lord Mayor Jürgen Schröppel

In 1995, the German Limes Road Association was founded with the aim of creating a tourist route for motorists along the Upper Germanic-Raetian Limes. Today, more than 25 years later, the association's members include more than 90 towns, markets and municipalities as well as numerous districts and tourist communities. The members are strung together like a string of pearls along the World Heritage Site Limes.

Along the UNESCO World Heritage Sites Upper Germanic-Raetian Limes (World Heritage since 2005), Lower Germanic Limes (World Heritage since 2021) and Danube Limes (World Heritage since 2021), the German Limes Road and the German Limes Cycle Path run across Germany from the Lower Rhine in North Rhine-Westphalia through Rhineland-Palatinate, Hesse, Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria to Passau on the Danube.

The association is managed by an eight-member board chaired by the Lord Mayor of the City of Aalen. In this interview, we introduce you to our board member, Lord Mayor Jürgen Schröppel. He reports on the valuable cooperation in the association and the many personal contacts that have arisen from the work for the association.

Dear Lord Mayor Schröppel. Thank you very much for taking the time for our interview. Would you start by briefly introducing yourself?

My name is Jürgen Schröppel. I have been Lord Mayor of Weißenburg i. Bay. since 1 May 2008. Since 2009, I have been the second chairman of the "German Limes Road" association and thus the longest-serving member of the board.





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What is the connection between the Weißenburg i. Bay. and the Limes?

Weissenburg is home to the Bavarian Limes Information Centre. With the fort, the thermal baths and the Roman treasure, the town of Weißenburg has three testimonies to the Roman past of outstanding importance.



Photo: Dietmar Denger

What excites you personally about taking on this honorary position on the board of the German Limes Road Association? What links have you developed with the Limes as a result?

Through my many years of involvement in the Board of Directors, I have made a variety of personal contacts along the course of the Limes and have thus become acquainted with the most diverse forms of presentation of our Roman past. In this way, one always gets new food for thought for one's own communication of the rich Roman heritage.



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How would you assess the awareness and perception in Weißenburg i. Bay. for the Limes?

Awareness and perception of the Limes have increased significantly due to its recognition as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2005.

What synergies have developed with other towns or districts as a result of Weißenburg i. Bay. becoming a member of the German Limes Road?

Best-practice examples provide valuable impulses for your own work on site.



The German Limes Road Association is constantly developing and growing. Recently, new towns and districts have joined the association due to the establishment of the new World Heritage Sites "Lower German Limes" and "Danube Limes".

What drives the German Limes Road?

The uniqueness of the subject.

What is the recipe for success of the German Limes Road?

Its lean organisational structure and a highly motivated managing director.



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The topic of sustainability is one of the central tasks of our time. Sustainability is also playing an increasingly important role in tourism. In addition to the German Limes Road, the association has also been maintaining the German Limes Cycle Path for several years. In addition, the association also supports the German Limes Hiking Trail. Hiking on and around the Limes is also becoming increasingly popular.

How do you think it is possible to fill a cultural route of this dimension (over 1000 km of route in 5 provinces) with life, create public awareness and work sustainably at the same time?

This will only be possible through the recruitment of new members, more budget and an expansion of voluntary and professional work.

Mayor Schröppel, thank you very much for the interview.

