

Baden-Württemberg



German Limes Trail



Organisation
der Vereinten Nationen
für Bildung, Wissenschaft
und Kultur



Grenzen des Römischen Reiches:
Obergermanisch-Raetischer Limes
Welterbe seit 2005





Follow the symbol of the German Limes Trail (Deutscher Limes-Wanderweg): the black watchtower on the white background.

The Limes: a UNESCO World Heritage Site

The Upper German-Raetian Limes forms the frontier of the Roman Empire between the rivers Rhine and Danube, and stretches 550 kilometres (342 miles). The frontier was in use from the beginning of first century AD till the second half of the third century AD, separating the provinces Raetia and Upper Germany from the Barbarians outside the empire. The frontier had watchtowers, palisades, ramparts and ditches, as well as walls and forts forming an artificial border, its course influenced by the geography of rivers and hills. If you want to understand the German Limes the best thing to do is go for a walk and explore it. Along this long borderline, in ancient times the northern limit of Mediterranean life, and since 2005 a UNESCO World Heritage Site, you can enjoy one of the biggest cultural footpaths of Europe in the middle of Baden-Württemberg.

Verein Deutsche Limes-Straße (German Limes Road Association)

The Verein Deutsche Limes-Straße includes 93 town councils, counties and touristic associations. They came together to peruse the common objective of creating a public awareness of the Limes as a World Heritage Site, and emphasizing its cultural and archaeological meaning. The Verein Deutsche Limes-Straße, which instigated and maintain the Limes-Straße (road) and the Limes-Radweg (cycle path), wish to promote and inform through the two trails the unique qualities of this World Heritage Site, building interest both in Germany and abroad in protecting and preserving the site. In cooperation with walking clubs, the Verein Deutsche Limes-Straße is also involved in the Limes-Wanderweg (trail).



Deutsche
Limes-Straße

From the “Limesparkplatz Adelsheim” (car park) to the “Römermuseum Osterburken” (Roman Museum)

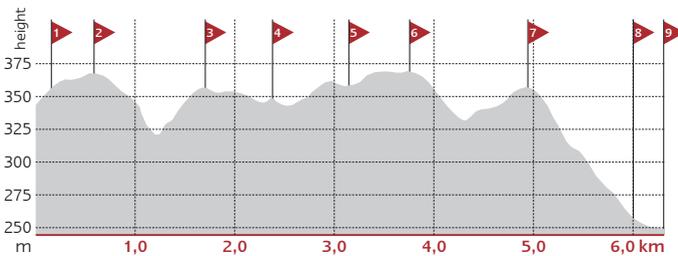


Start
„Limesparkplatz Adelsheim” just off
the Hopfengarten-Hergenstadt road

Finish
Römermuseum
Osterburken

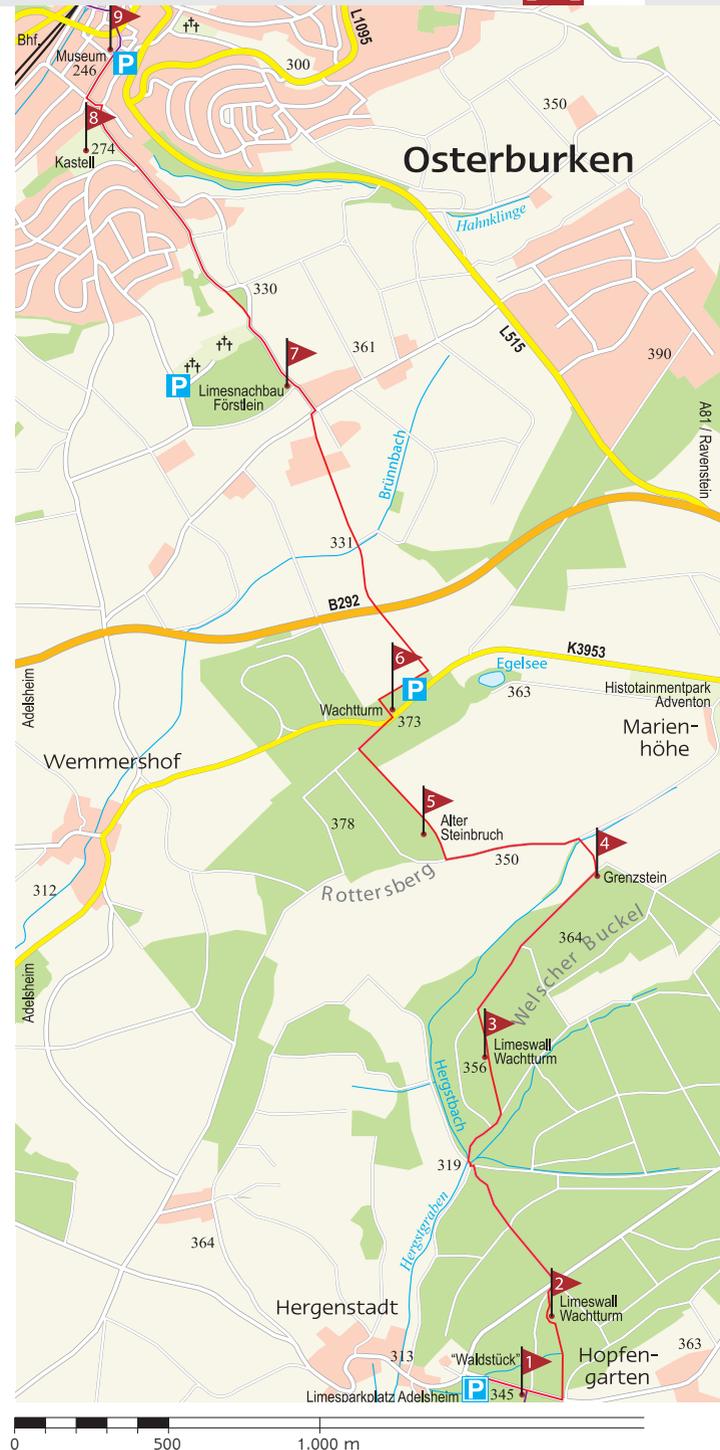


7 Limes reconstruction with watchtower, wall, rampart and ditch



This gentle, approx. 6.5 km (4 miles), walk takes you along the Limes Trail to discover a less well known section of the Limes south of Osterburken (Neckar-Odenwald-Kreis). Starting from the car park the path takes you to these rarely visited remains of the Limes, which are well preserved for 800 metres. You can also find in this quiet area traces of three watchtowers and explore the impressive Limes reconstruction “Förstlein”. On the final part of the walk you can visit the annexe fort and finish your walk at the “Römermuseum” (Roman Museum) in Osterburken.

If you have the use of two cars, you might want to park one car at Osterburken and drive back. If not you can enjoy strolling back the way you came.



From the Limesparkplatz Adelsheim to the Römermuseum Osterburken

1 From the car park follow the road in the direction of Hopfengarten. On reaching the modern artwork, which portrays a group of abstract trees, part of the 18 Sculpture Cycle route, go straight ahead. The Limes Trail joins the road from the south. Near the edge of the woodland take the path which opens to the left. Following the path for only a few metres, you pass the old markers indicating the former boundary of the region of Baden-Württemberg. At this point you can see the Limes as a low mound on your right. After 250 metres you will see the remains of a watchtower.

2 Follow the Limes until you approach a narrow tarmac road and keep to the right. Leave the road to the left just before you reach the tree nursery and head back into the woodland. The footpath heads gently downhill into the valley, where you will reach a tarmac track; follow this for a short period of time. The path bends to the right and uphill into the woodland once more, where it then turns left. Here the path runs parallel to a well preserved and clearly visible section of the Limes. At several points you can make out the Roman ditch between the Limes and the path. At the highest point of the so-called "Welscher Buckel" you can find the remains of the next watchtower.

3 Soon you will reach a wide forest track; turn right and follow the track for 600 metres. You will there find a marker showing where the boundaries of the three towns of Adelsheim, Osterburken and Ravenstein meet; at this point the track leaves the trees and gives you a fantastic view over the landscape. In the east you can see the former estate of Marienhöhe, now the home of the Histotainmentpark Adventon. If you are interested in the Middle Ages you should definitely visit this attraction.

4 From now on you cross the fields in the area of the so-called "Hergstgraben". The route gains height as you follow the path which bends to the right at the edge of the woodland.



8 Gate visualisation Osterburken fort

Access to the watchtower

If you want to visit the watchtower collect a token from the Römermuseum in Osterburken, which costs one Euro.

5 Now you follow the edge of the trees to the north. On your left you can see in the forest an abandoned old quarry, on the site of a suspected Roman watchtower.

Arriving at the top of the hill, you join the path which follows the ridge. It is the so-called "Hohe Straße", an old road which ran from the Jagst river crossing near Möckmühl to

the Tauber valley in the east. Follow the old road until it meets the Marienhöhe-Wemmershof road. A few metres later you will arrive at the foundation of a watchtower.

6

Leave the forest for the last time in the direction of Osterburken, crossing a bridge over the B 292 main road and passing two riding stables. From here you can see the Limes reconstruction Förstlein. This reconstruction of a watchtower, rampart and ditch was erected approx. 150 metres from the original remains, which are hidden beneath the ground and are not visible. On the rear wall you can find information panels explaining the development of the Limes in this section. It's worth mentioning that in the late building phase of the Limes, a 17 kilometres long stone wall was built which stretched from Osterburken to the river Jagst. Close by you will find another one of the artworks on the 18 Sculpture Cycle route. Now head one kilometre downhill to the annexe fort at Osterburken.

8

The remains of the almost 1.8 hectare fort were preserved and made accessible for visitors after the excavation in 1910.

The fort was built in AD 185 as an annex to a cohort fort. The defensive wall is incredibly well preserved and documented, and still stands to head height. It provides just a small glimpse of the impressive Roman fortification along the Limes. A 14 metre high steel frame reconstructs the left side gate of the cohort fort with its two gateways and flanking towers.

From this point it is only a short 300 metre walk to the Römermuseum Osterburken. The museum is managed by the State Archaeological Museum (Archäologisches Landesmuseum) of Baden-Württemberg, and displays numerous archaeological finds from the northern area of the Limes in Baden-Württemberg.

9

Museum

Römermuseum Osterburken
Römerstraße 4
74706 Osterburken
+49 6291 415266
www.roermuseum-osterburken.de

Restaurant

Café Mithras (at the Römermuseum)
Römerstraße 4
74706 Osterburken
+49 6291 6482880
www.cafe-mithras.de



Annexe fort Osterburken