

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 Pfahlbronn to Lorch Monastery

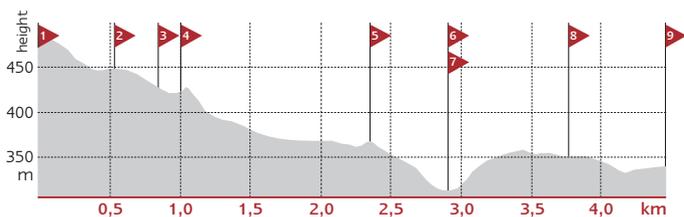


Start
Car park at the edge of the wood in the south of Alfdorf-Pfahlbronn extension of the Riedstraße

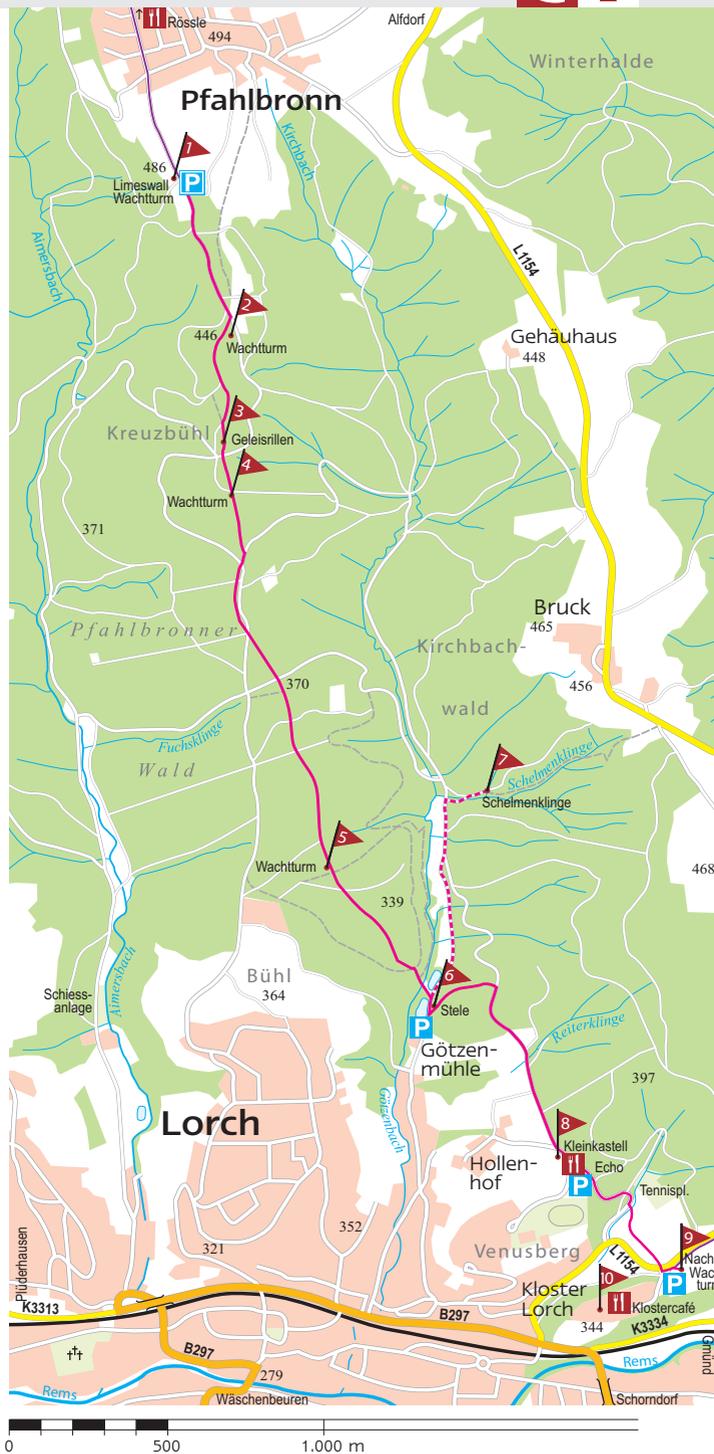
Finish
Car park at Lorch Monastery



Remains of a watchtower



This short, four kilometre (2.5 miles) walk runs from Alfdorf-Pfahlbronn (Rems-Murr-Kreis) along the Limes Trail, where in places you can see the well preserved rampart and ditch of the Limes, through a beautiful mixed woodland to the monastery at Lorch (Ostalbkreis). The monastery, built in the 12th century, was the main religious centre for the area's leading nobles, the Staufer family. During the walk you can see the foundations of four watchtowers, ancient wheel tracks in the stone, the remains of a small fort and a reconstruction of a wooden watchtower. You can walk the same way back, or if you have another car, park it at the monastery and drive back.



From Pfahlbronn to Lorch Monastery

From the very beginning of the route you can discover something interesting. The well preserved and somewhat overgrown Limes, which cuts into the actual car park. Also you will find the remains of a watchtower in the grassed area to the side of the track to Pfahlbronn.

Heading south, on your way to the start of the woodland, the Limes runs next to you on your left side. On reaching the woodland the path heads into the trees. The unsurfaced track changes into a narrow footpath, which then goes uphill and passes the foundations of a tower. Then you can see ancient wheel tracks in the sandstone, which could have been part of a Roman road.

Afterwards the path leads uphill and you reach the prominent knoll, once the site of a watchtower, the foundations of which can still be seen. After a descent, the path joins with the "Trimm-Dich-Pfad" (exercise and running path) for a short period. The rampart and ditch are clearly visible along this section for most of the time. Now, after a short, but steep uphill section, you will reach the top of a hill, which is crowned by the remains of a watchtower.

Once an exposed hilltop, you now find yourself in a wooded area, and we need to imagine how it looked in the Roman period without the trees and with clear views across the landscape. From now on the path heads downhill into the valley of the Götzenbach for quite a while. There are some slight traces of the rampart and ditch to see as you walk.

In the Götzenbach Valley the route leaves the Limes and leads you between two ponds and across the line of the Limes. A signpost with the letters LIMES shows you exactly where you cross the Limes. The Limes Trail leaves the valley and goes on to the monastery at Lorch. The Mörike-Wanderweg, commemorating the famous poet Eduard Mörike's (1867-1869) period of residence in Lorch, also runs along this part of the path. If you have time to spare, you can walk uphill to the Schelmenklinge, a mysterious gorge where you can find water shoots and fountains from May until October.



Reconstruction of a wooden watchtower with palisade

After the ascent from the Götzenbach Valley you reach the edge of the wood, where the path leads you nearly to Lorch Monastery. From here you have a good view to the Swabian Alb (Schwäbische Alb) south of the Rems Valley. In a small group of trees on the right side you can see the faint remains of a Roman building. The square shape of the building is a significant indication that it could have been a small fort. Following the path you approach a restaurant and sports ground; the path heads downhill and you leave the forest. Now you are near the monastery.

First of all you can see the wooden reconstruction of a Roman watchtower, with the backdrop of the Rechberg on the horizon, together with Hohenstaufen and Stuifen, part of the three Kaiserberge. The monastery is hidden by tall trees. A visit to the monastery, with its impressive church and beautiful gardens, is recommended. There is also a falconry with regular demonstrations of the birds.

Restaurants

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Lorcher Straße 25
73553 Alfdorf-Pfahlbronn
+49 7172 936397
www.roessle-pfahlbronn.de

Gasthaus ECHO
Im Echo 20
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