

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

# Through the Rainau Limespark



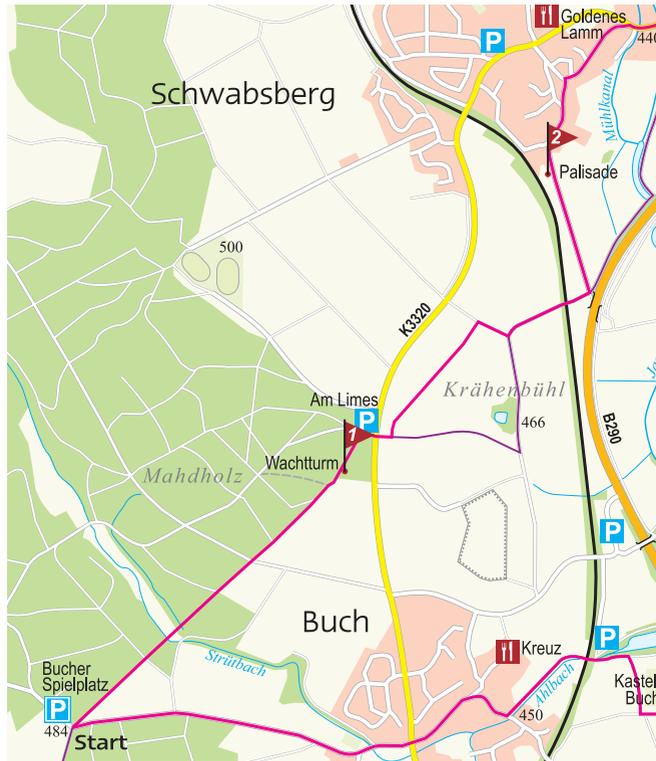
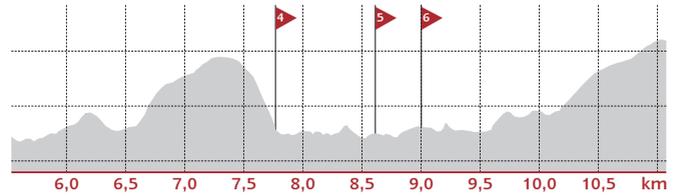
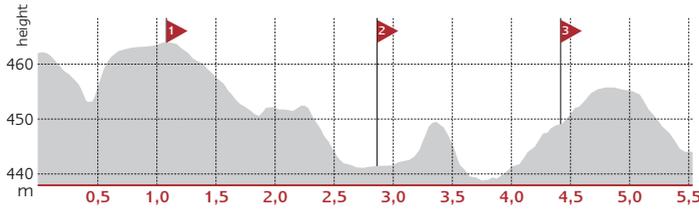
### Start

There are a number of different opportunities for starting points for this route. This version starts at the nearby playground car park. The playground is located where the two roads Hüttlinger Straße and Buchener Straße meet, the boundary between the villages of Hüttlingen and Buch.



### Map of the Rainau area with the route of the walk

Order:  
Gemeinde Rainau  
+49 7961 9002-0  
info@rainau.de



## Through the Rainau Limespark

This 11 kilometre (almost 7 miles) circular walk leads you through the Limespark at Rainau (Ostalbkreis), which includes many remarkable attractions. The best known is the Limes Gate (Limestor) at Dalkingen, with its striking protective glass and steel housing, reconstructions of a wooden watchtower, and a section of the Limes wall and the fort of Rainau, which has been visualised in a number of different ways. The monuments are grouped along the Bucher Stausee reservoir. The lake is a popular local recreation area. The circular walk links up for much of its length with the Limes Trail, and runs for large stretches across the open landscape of the "Albvorland", the land north of the Swabian Alb (Schwäbische Alb). For most of the time the slopes of the Swabian Alb are visible.

The route follows the signposts "Limes-Park Rainau Rundwanderweg". There are two possible shortcuts, if needed, and plenty of opportunities to park.



► Reconstruction of a wooden watchtower

### Opening times for the watchtower

April until October (Sunday and bank holidays 11 to 17)

You can pick up the key from the following places throughout the year:

Landgasthof Goldenes Lamm 73492 Rainau-Schwabsberg Mühlberg 18 (Tue-Sun) +49 7961 51750 info@goldenes-lamm-rainau.de	Rathaus Rainau (town hall) 73492 Rainau-Schwabsberg Schloßberg 12 (Mon-Fri 8:00-12:00, Tue 13:30-18:00, Wed 13:30-17:00) +49 7961 9002-0 info@rainau.de
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During the walk you'll discover that the woodland boundary still marks the line of the Roman border to this day. From the very beginning of the route, the path runs 2 km along the edge of the woods, where the rubble bank covering the remains of the foundations of the wall is clearly visible. This gentle section of the walk crosses a stream and leads you to a site where a watchtower was once located. You first see the wooden reconstruction of a watchtower erected in 2008. However, looking in the spruce woodland nearby you can discover the remains of the original stone wall of the Limes and the foundations of a turret. The three metre high reconstruction of the stone wall gives you an idea of the Roman border control system. The wall was known locally as the Teufelsmauer (Devil's Wall).

The walk crosses the Buch-Schwabsberg road near the car park "Am Limes", and heads along a so-called "Pfahlhecke", a part of the Limes which is overgrown. In the past this kind of hedge was common in this area, but after the large-scale consolidation of farmland they vanished. From here the path goes downhill into the valley of the River Jagst, where you reach a sign which marks the remains of the Limes palisade in this area.

The path takes you through the village, then a farm track leads you to Dalkingen. On this section you come across the glass and steel protective building of the Dalkingen Limes Gate. This was a border crossing between the Roman Empire and the Germans beyond. At this point a commemorative arch of honour was erected to celebrate the victory of the emperor Caracalla over the Germanic tribes in the year AD 213.



3 ▶ Protective housing of Dalkingen Limes Gate

#### Opening hours Dalkingen Limes Gate

Due to changing opening hours, please find current information in the annual program, see [www.limestor-dalkingen.de](http://www.limestor-dalkingen.de) or [www.rainau.de/3240\\_DEU\\_WWW.php](http://www.rainau.de/3240_DEU_WWW.php) as download.

The reconstruction gives an impression of how it might have looked. Since 2010 the monument is protected by the steel and glass housing. Inside you can find an exhibition, which describes the building phases and the meaning of the monument which is unique along the whole Limes. The benches outside offer an inviting place for a break.

From here a "Pfahlhecke" with impressive oaks guides you on your way. The hedge ends where the path goes downhill towards Dalkingen. You cross the village and walk gently up and down over the fields and through a small wood to the Bucher Stausee reservoir, which is fed by the River Jagst, passing the site of a Roman tiler.

Follow the southern bank of the lake and relax at the kiosk with its sunbathing area nearby. It's possible to swim in the summer, or maybe take a boat out on the lake. Integrated into the area are the remains of Roman buildings which

were part of a Roman civilian settlement outside Buch fort, including a bathhouse.

After a short climb you reach the Roman fort. The site covers approximately 2.1 hectares and sits above the valleys of the Jagst und Ahlbach rivers, giving a fantastic view over the landscape. Where the remains are not preserved, hedges mark the Roman wall around the fort and trees indicate the locations of turrets. Gravel has been used to mark out the headquarters building. A model of the fort provides an idea of what the barrack blocks looked like.

Afterwards the path heads downhill to the Ahlbach stream. The stream takes you towards Buch, after which follow the route as it goes slowly uphill back to the start.



5 ▶ Remains of the bathhouse of Buch fort

#### Restaurants

Landgasthof Goldenes Lamm  
Mühlberg 18  
73492 Rainau-Schwabsberg  
+49 7961 51750  
[www.goldenes-lamm-rainau.de](http://www.goldenes-lamm-rainau.de)

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