

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.

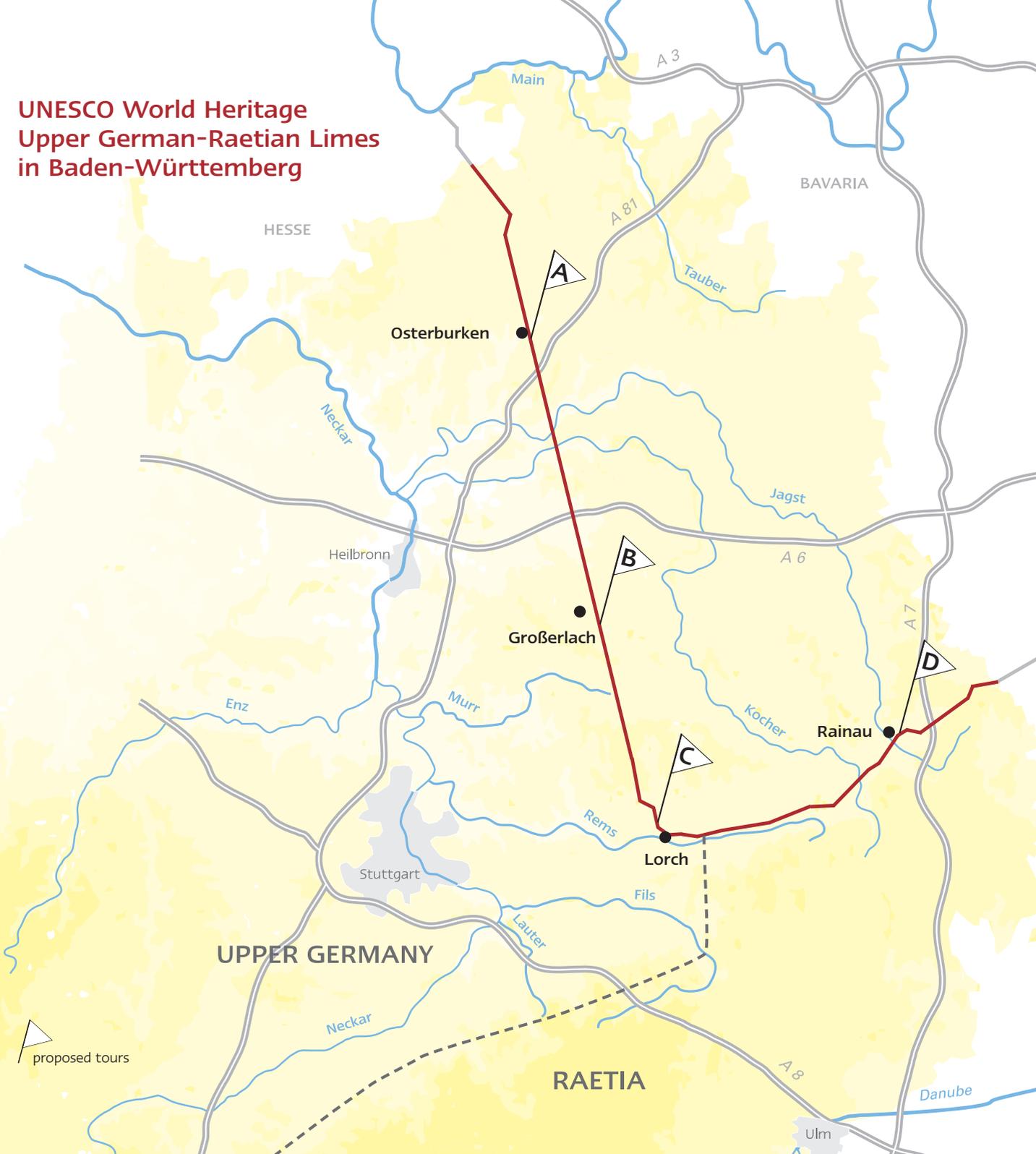
Verein Deutsche Limes-Straße (German Limes Road Association)

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

UNESCO World Heritage Upper German-Raetian Limes in Baden-Württemberg



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

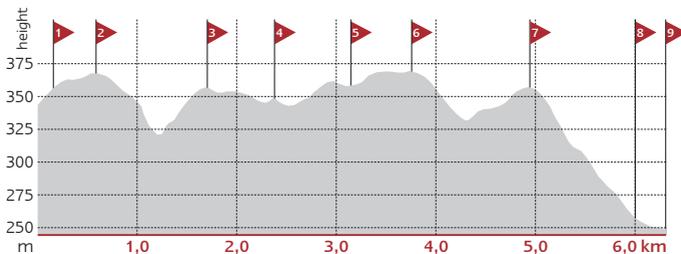


Start
„Limesparkplatz Adelsheim” just off
the Hopfengarten-Hergenstadt road

Finish
Römermuseum
Osterburken

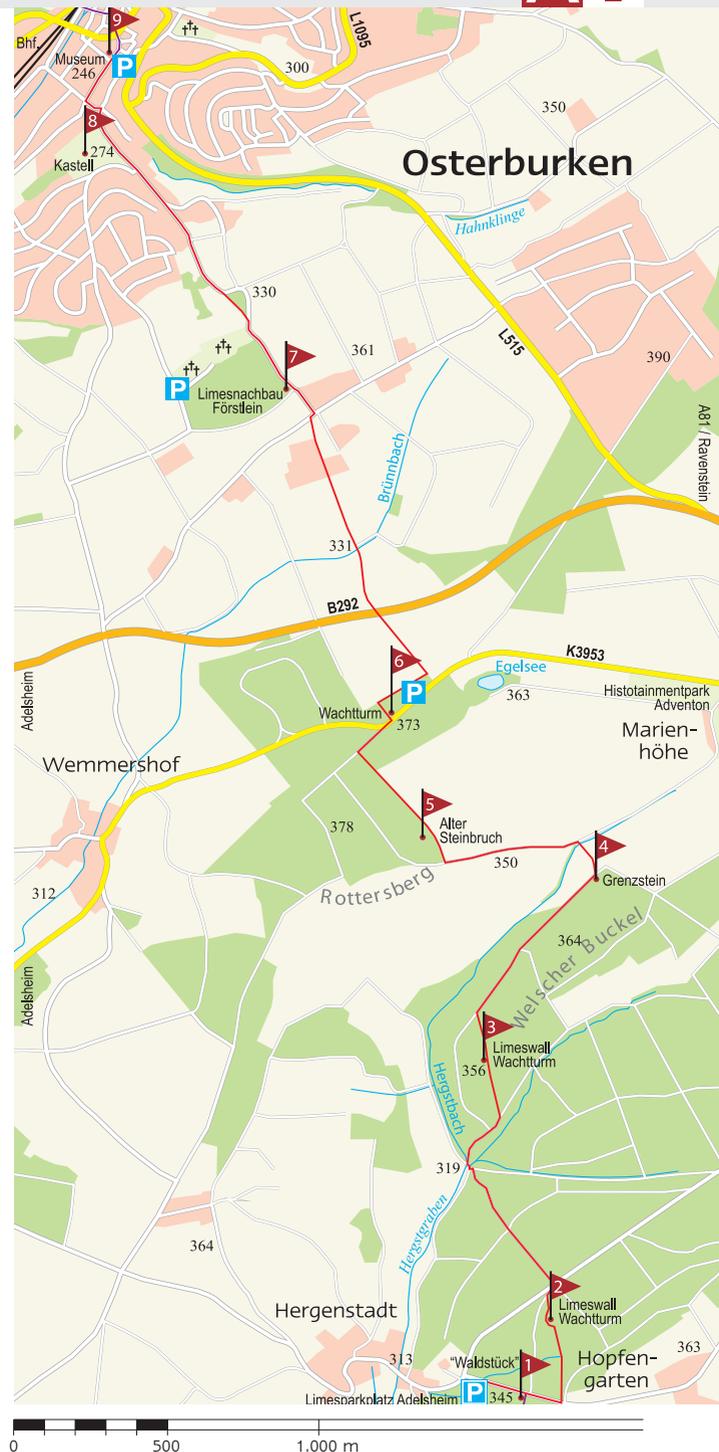


7 Limes reconstruction with watchtower, wall, rampart and ditch



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

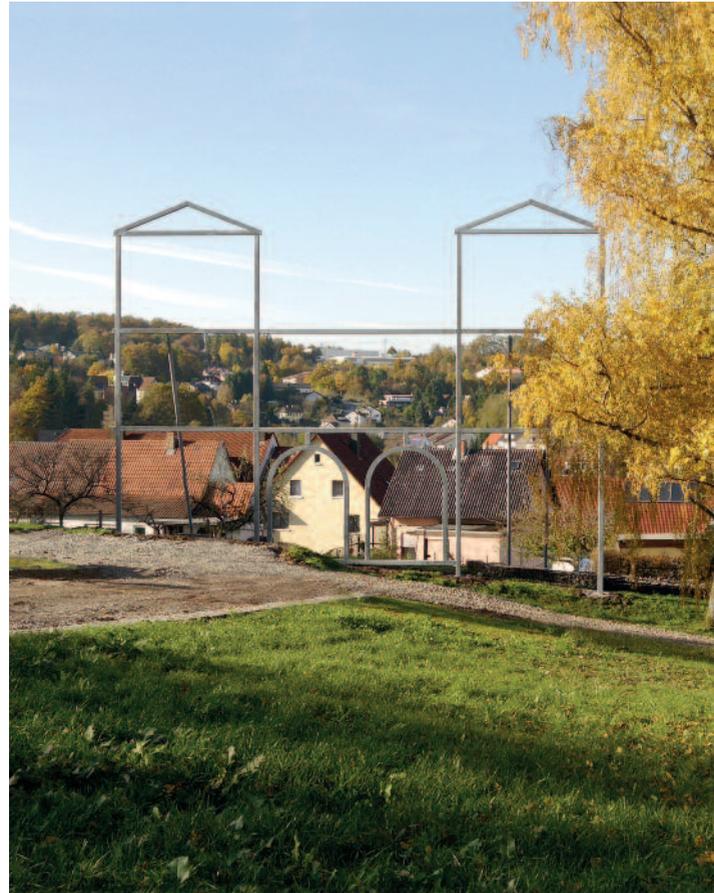
1 From the car park follow the road in the direction of Hopfengarten. On reaching the modern artwork, which portrays a group of abstract trees, part of the 18 Sculpture Cycle route, go straight ahead. The Limes Trail joins the road from the south. Near the edge of the woodland take the path which opens 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

4 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.

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

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Annexe fort Osterburken

Over the "Heidenbuckel" near Grab

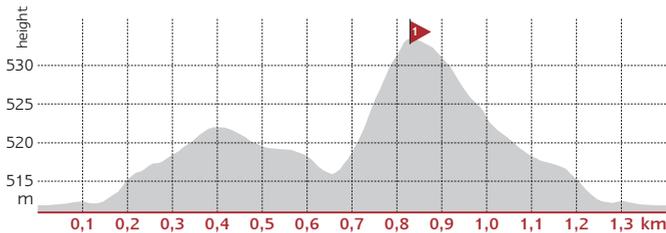


Start and finish

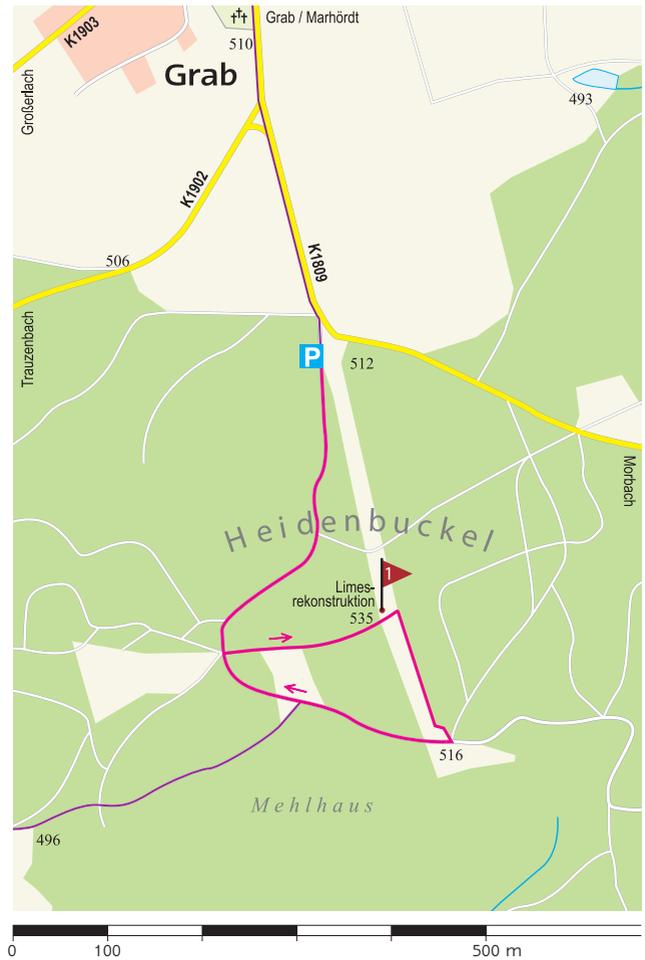
Car park at the road K 1809 between Großlerlach-Grab and Großlerlach-Morbach



▶ Group of hikers on the top of the Heidenbuckel



This moderate, approx. 1.4 km (just under a mile), circular stroll through the woodlands leads you to the unique Limes reconstruction of Großlerlach-Grab (Rems-Murr-Kreis) with a watchtower, rampart and ditch, palisade and a strip cleared of trees. If you want to experience the ancient view of the Limes, you have to visit the Limes reconstruction close to Grab.



Key for the watchtower

The tower is always locked, so you need to collect the key from the following addresses. Please call the restaurant in advance:

Restaurant Landgasthof Rössle
71577 Großlerlach-Grab
Sulzbacher Straße 38
+49 7192 9354061
landgasthof-roessle@t-online.de

Rathaus Großlerlach (town hall)
71577 Großlerlach
Stuttgarter Straße 18
(Mon-Fri 8:00-12:00,
Thu 15:00-19:00)
+49 7903 9154-0
rathaus@grosserlach.de

Over the Heidenbuckel near Grab

From the car park the Limes Trail leads you gradually up the hill through the woodland on top of the "Heidenbuckel". At the highest point you can see the reconstruction of the watchtower as well as the wooden palisade, ditch and rampart.

The reconstructions are set in a strip that has been through the woodland and is intended to demonstrate the border situation in ancient times. This strip was important for the Romans in order to control the border from watchtower to watchtower. The name of the small hill Heidenbuckel comes from the vernacular; local people connected the ruins of the watchtower with ancient pagans. The word "Heiden" in German means different people from a long time ago, "Buckel"

describes a small hill. At the top you'll find picnic tables inviting you to have a break. Once rested follow the Limes Trail downhill back on a small path along the cleared strip through the woods.

On reaching the forest track turn right back to the car park.

Restaurants

Restaurant Landgasthof Rössle
71577 Großberlach-Grab
Sulzbacher Straße 38
+49 7192 9354061
www.landgasthof-roessle-grab.de

Restaurant Landhaus Noller
74420 Oberrot-Marhördt
Marhördt 18
+49 7977 9119970
www.golfclub-marhoerdt.de



▶ Limes reconstruction with watchtower, ditch and rampart and wooden palisade

From Pfahlbronn to Lorch Monastery



Start

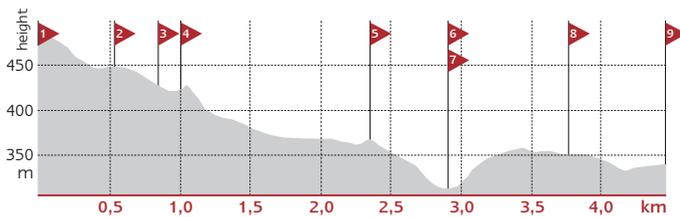
Car park at the edge of the wood in the south of Alfdorf-Pfahlbronn extension of the Riedstraße

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 Mörrike-Wanderweg, commemorating the famous poet Eduard Mörrike'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

Gasthaus Rössle
Lorchner Straße 25
73553 Alfdorf-Pfahlbronn
+49 7172 936397
www.roessle-pfahlbronn.de

Gasthaus ECHO
Im Echo 20
73547 Lorch
+49 7172 3281787
www.echo-loorch.de

Kloster Lorch, Klostercafé
Klosterstraße 2
73547 Lorch
+49 7172 928497
www.kloster-loorch.com



Through the Rainau Limespark



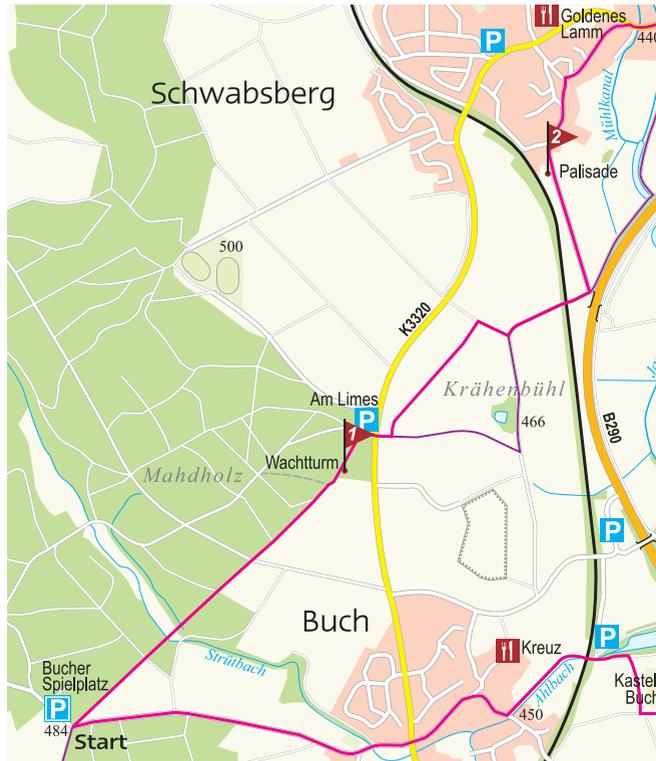
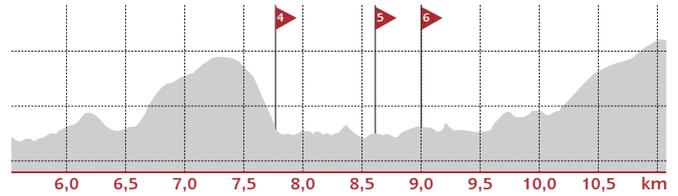
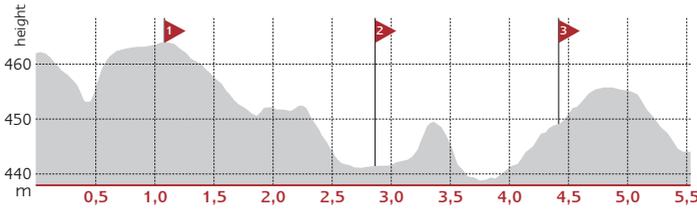
Start

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 or 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

Gasthof Kreuz
Dorfstraße 20
73492 Rainau-Buch
+49 7961 3584
www.kreuz-buch.de



For further information please contact

Limes-Informationszentrum Baden-Württemberg

St.-Johann-Straße 5, 73430 Aalen
Tel +49 7361 52828741, Fax +49 7361 52828749
www.liz-bw.de, info@liz-bw.de

Touristikgemeinschaft Odenwald e.V.

Neckarelzer Straße 7, 74821 Mosbach
Tel +49 6261 84-1390, Fax +49 6261 84-4750
info@tg-odenwald.de, www.tg-odenwald.de

Touristikgemeinschaft Hohenlohe e.V.

Allee 16, 74653 Künzelsau
Tel +49 7940 18206, Fax +49 7940 18363
info@hohenlohe.de, www.hohenlohe.de

Naturpark Schwäbisch-Fränkischer Wald e.V.

Naturparkzentrum, Marktplatz 8, 71540 Murrhardt
Tel +49 7192 213888, Fax +49 7192 213880
info@naturpark-sfw.de, www.naturpark-sfw.de

Tourismusverein Remstal-Route e.V.

Tourist-Info Bahnhof Endersbach, Bahnhofstraße 21, 71384 Weinstadt
Tel +49 7151 2765047, Fax Tel +49 7151 2765048
info@remstal-route.de, www.remstal-route.de

Touristikgemeinschaft Stauferland e.V.

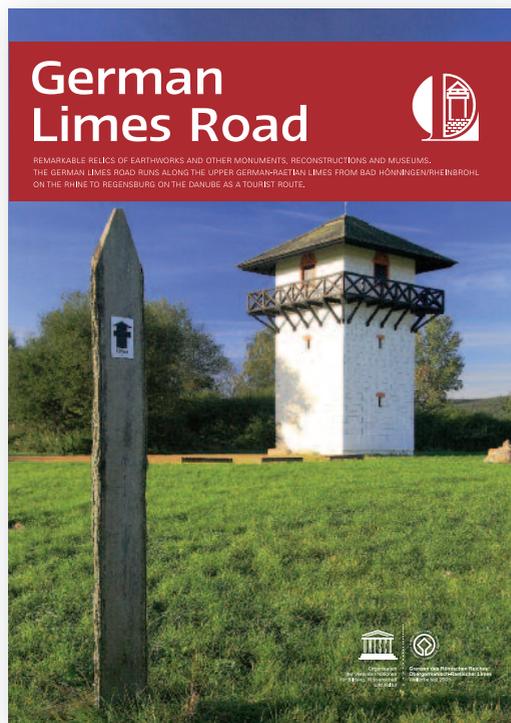
Hauptstraße 1, 73033 Göppingen
Tel +49 7161 650-170, Fax +49 7161 650-299
info@stauferland.de, www.stauferland.de

Touristikgemeinschaft

Erlebnisregion Schwäbische Ostalb e.V.

Marktplatz 30, 73430 Aalen
Tel +49 7361 52-1109, Fax +49 7361 52-1931
info@schwaebische-ostalb.de, www.schwaebische-ostalb.de

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Tour Guide: German Limes Road

With this brochure we would like to invite you on a journey in the footsteps of the Romans along the Upper German-Raetian Limes recognized by the UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. This journey has been made possible for you by the Verein Deutsche Limes-Straße, which has laid out not only the German Limes Road but also the German Cycle way.

We want to raise your interest for this unique archaeological monument at home and abroad and thereby help to protect and preserve this history-charged World Heritage. We wish you eventful journeys and beautiful walking tours with lasting impressions and interesting insights into the Roman past of our country. So start your journey and experience world history at our doorstep. It will definitely be worth it.

Please find the brochures as a download: www.limesstrasse.de
To order the brochure by mail, please send your enquiry to
limesstrasse@aalen.de



Deutsche
Limes-Straße



Limes-Informationszentrum
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