



Presenting

Maulbronn

the Monastic Heritage Town



Organisation
der Vereinten Nationen
für Bildung, Wissenschaft
und Kultur

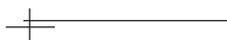


Klosteranlage Maulbronn
Welterbe seit 1993



All that Maulbronn has to offer is based in and around its **UNESCO** Cultural Heritage Site – the Maulbronn Monastery. The museums, the cultural venues and activities, the lakes and streams and the present day markets and fairs wouldn't be what they are in quantity and range without their monastic town legacy.

You are warmly invited to discover for yourself the range of possibilities that Maulbronn has to offer!



Maulbronn: a modern provincial town where history, legend and tradition meet

"Modern, yet steeped in history" – "Bustling, yet unruffled" – "A colourful explosion of seasonal offers": this is how Maulbronn can be described. With a good 6,000 residents plus 300,000 tourists annually, the Monastic Heritage Town is small in size – but enormously enjoyable.

Idyllically ensconced in a monastic cultural landscape, Maulbronn is best reached by car, bus and train, thanks to its ideal, central location between Stuttgart and Karlsruhe, Pforzheim and Heilbronn.

"We came to Maulbronn and found ourselves plunged into something that feels very special. A world steeped in history and tradition."

Water, wine and woods

Nestled in the Stromberg-Heuchelberg nature preserve, the countryside surrounding the Monastic City district is characterized by oak and deciduous woods, vineyards, orchards, streams and lakes. Landscaped to a great extent by Cistercian monks centuries ago, this cultural haven is simultaneously a place for surprising discoveries and peaceful retreats, for tourists and locals alike! Numerous seasonal festivals and markets shape the image of the town and simply underline the Maulbronner lust for life.



A modern provincial town where history, legend and tradition meet

Maulbronn

On a sunny day, connoisseurs and active participants alike are all sure to find something to suit their tastes. Here are some tips for a sunny day:

- A number of marked hiking trails in different lengths and difficulty levels lead you through Maulbronn's varied landscape where sunny meadows fluidly melt into shady forests, across some magnificent viewpoints, lakes and relaxing barbecue areas.
- On hot days, the Tiefer See lake waters are cool and refreshing. If you don't want to swim, you can enjoy the view from the sun terrace – and finish the day off nicely with a boat ride.





Mullenbrunnen: one of the gems of the Salzach Valley:

In 1138 Cistercian Monks founded a Monastery in Eckenweiher, approximately 10 kilometres away from Maulbronn. Nine years later however, the Monks packed up their belongings in order to find a more suitable place. Legend says that the monks sent a mule out in advance of themselves to search out a suitable place. The mule found a spring in the Salzach valley, the "Mullenbrunnen". The monks realised that the spot would be the ideal foundation for a future settlement, and decided to make it their new home.

The heart

The Maulbronn Monastery,
a UNESCO Cultural Heritage Site



*"Wonderful guided tour.
Imposing architecture!"*

Stone upon stone: the creation of a monument

The monks founded the Maulbronn Monastery in 1147 and then began building the Monastery church in **Romanesque style**, which they completed 31 years later. Over the following centuries, under the influence of the monks, Maulbronn grew into an economic, spiritual and political centre. Practicing their motto "**Ora et labora**" – "**Pray and work**", the monks went on to successfully shape the progress of the town and of the whole region up until the 16th Century.

*"I enjoyed the Monastery very much.
I was especially impressed with the
fountain."*

From Monastery to theological school:

In the course of the Reformation, Duke Christoph of Württemberg resolved to convert a number of Monasteries into schools, in order to elevate the level of education throughout Württemberg. To date, the Maulbronn Monastery still houses a **Protestant Seminary**.

A decision that bore fruit: the Monastery is named a UNESCO-World Heritage site

Maulbronn Monastery is the best-preserved medieval monastery complex north of the Alps, presenting a remarkably intact "monastic complex". In recognition of this, UNESCO added the Monastery and its surroundings to its list of world cultural heritage sites in the year 1993.

The Monastery today:

a historical experience for the whole family

The guided tours are designed to grant adults and children a new experience of the Monastery at every visit. Architectural tours focus on the artful Cistercian construction methods, others illustrate the monastic way of life, providing glimpses of the monk's medicine practices and scriptorium works. The "Spiritual Life" program by the Protestant Seminary ensures an all-round spiritual experience.

"**The Middle Ages Hands-on**" is the name given to the family participation program. Why is it said that the construction of the Monastery church has never been completed? How did the monks manage the robbery raids that befell them and what sleep and work rules did they have to follow? Baking bread, basket weaving, book binding – these are all activities that children can try out during the family tours... and then... who knows? Taking a night tour through the Monastery may even have you encountering a bat! Further information is available from the Monastery administration: please call +49 (0)7043 926610 or access the website at www.kloster-maulbronn.de

Of interest

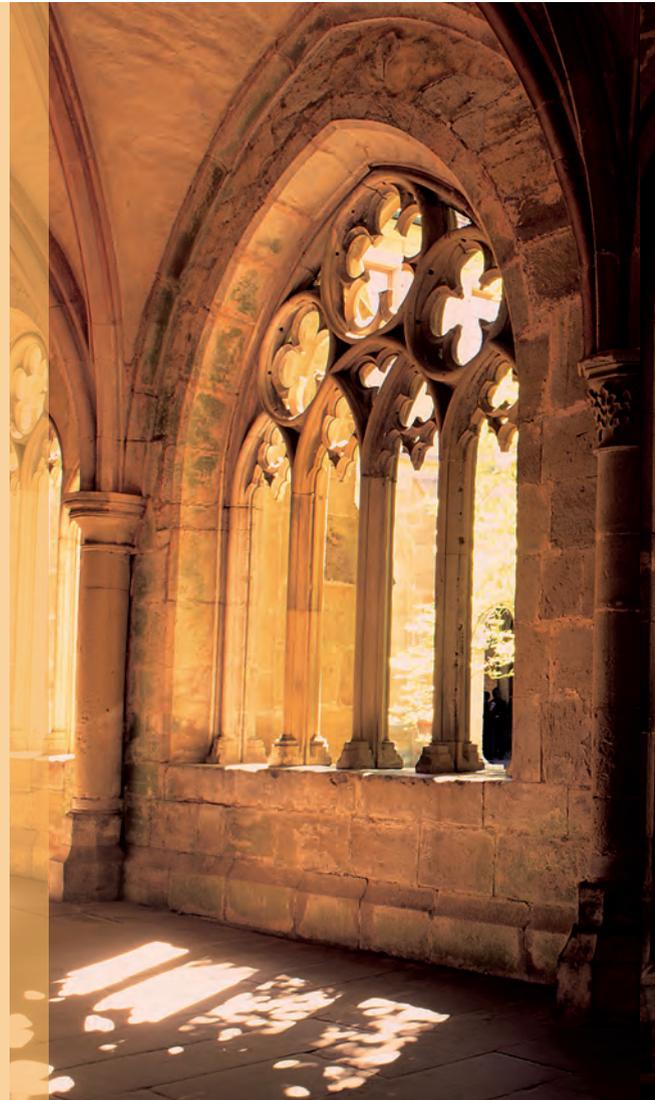
Become Monastery Town experts



"An exciting outing for all our family, especially for our five-year old daughter, because of all the secret doors."

Useful information on the Maulbronn Monastery

- The church atrium (the Paradise), the south wing of the cloister as well as the "Herrenrefektorium" – the Lord's refectory or the master refectory, a monumental king-sized hall in which the monks had their meals – all constitute architectural works of European standing.
- The stone choir screen in the church nave testifies to the strict distinction that was kept between the lay brothers that performed manual tasks and the Latin-speaking senior monks.
- The crucifix in the Monastery church dates back to year 1473 and is carved out of a single stone block – hard to believe, as the imitation wood grain carved into the stone looks deceptively real.
- Early-morning wake-up calls and highly competitive performance standards dominated the atmosphere in the Monastery school, as testified by a good number of letters and essays. Prominent students that have attended the Monastery school over time are Johannes Kepler (1571–1630), Friedrich Hölderlin (1770–1843) and Hermann Hesse (1877–1962).
- Still today, the cloister is surrounded by a fortification wall approximately 1 kilometre long. The farmyard design with its towers and other buildings such as the mill, the storehouses for storing the tithes levied from the population and the granaries, makes life in medieval times come alive.

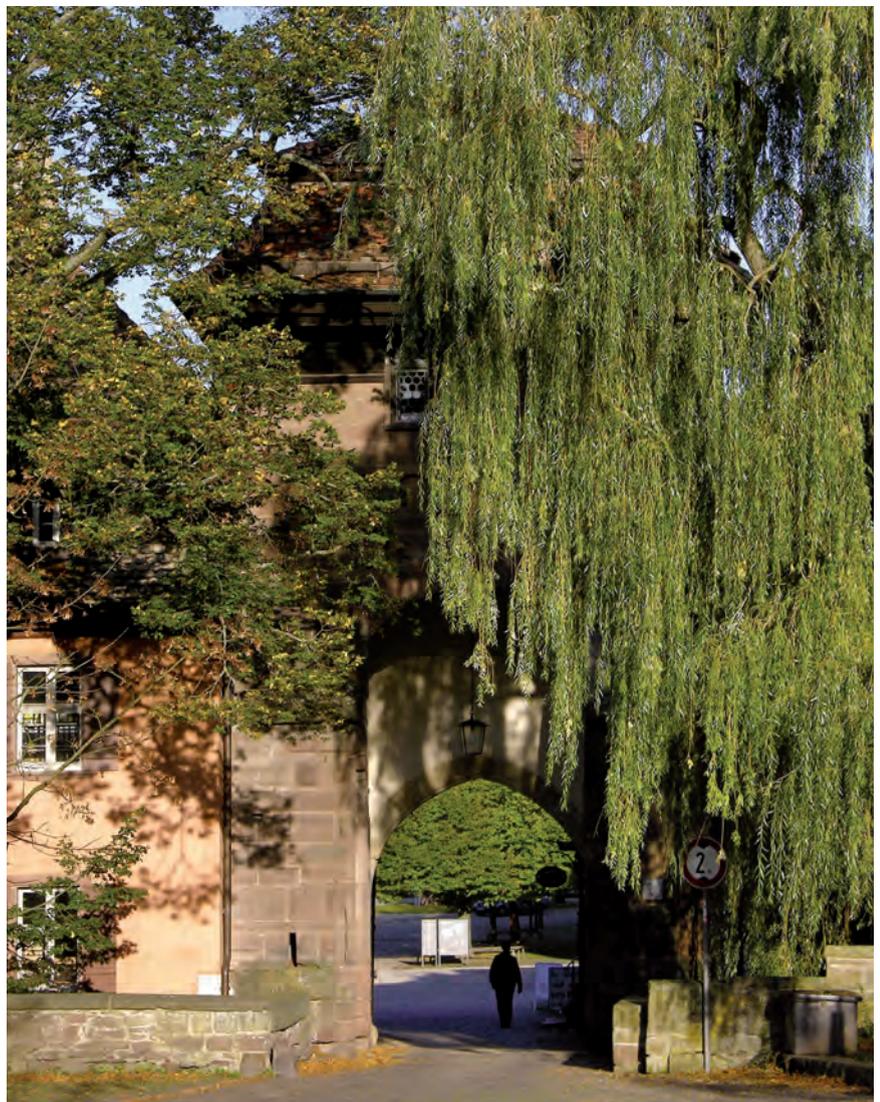


Schafhof Maulbronn – The Old Sheep Farm

- The sheep farm house is the **oldest settlement building** in Maulbronn and just a few steps away from the Monastery. It was here that the monks originally cut the first sandstones they used to build the Monastery with.
- In earlier times, the land around the Old Sheep Farm was primarily used for agriculture.
- Nowadays, other old "Fachwerkhäuser" i. e. the German half-timbered buildings, replicate the sheep farming constructions of old and still today house the "**Museum auf dem Schafhof**" and the "**Jutta und Manfred Heinrich Art Collection**".

Did you know?

- The monks instituted an elaborate water management system and an extensive network of drains, irrigation canals and reservoirs, further to numerous ponds for fish farming. The sale of the fish rapidly contributed to the wealth and prosperity of the Order.
- A good number of these lakes are nowadays of historical interest and are listed as natural reserves, home to numerous species of animals and birds.





The Monastery Museum

"In the former Primissarius chapel room right next to the Monastery entrance, visitors are given information on Cistercian economic management structure and on monastic life in the Middle Ages. A good introductory overview of daily life in the Monastic Heritage Town of Maulbronn."

Peter Braun, Manager, Maulbronn Monastery Administration.



The "Jutta und Manfred Heinrich Art Collection"

"A painting opens up new perspectives, allows for discernment and insight and makes you want to dream. Don't you think so? If one comes with time and patience, one can come to an understanding of the message. And the wood, stone and plaster interiors of the multi-storey barn located at the Old Sheep Farm really are a remarkable setting."

Manfred Heinrich, founder of the "Jutta und Manfred Heinrich Art Collection".

In 2013, the Maulbronner couple gathered their significant art collection into a foundation which they donated to the Maulbronn Municipality. The collection showcases approximately forty contemporary artists such as Rainer Fetting, Johannes Grützke, Wolfgang Petrick, Walter Stöhrer and many others.

The "Annäherung" (Convergence) – Sculpture trail

"Contemporary sculptures are displayed along the walk to the Monastery, for visitors to admire. The sculptures capture the visitors' attention. And, after exiting the Monastery courtyard, what has been seen and experienced lingers on – that's the idea behind the sculpture trail."

Andreas Felchle, Mayor of Maulbronn.

The sculpture trail is a project fostered by the Enz district council, the sculptures are financed by sponsors. Renowned contemporary artists are represented with a total of eight sculptures on display.

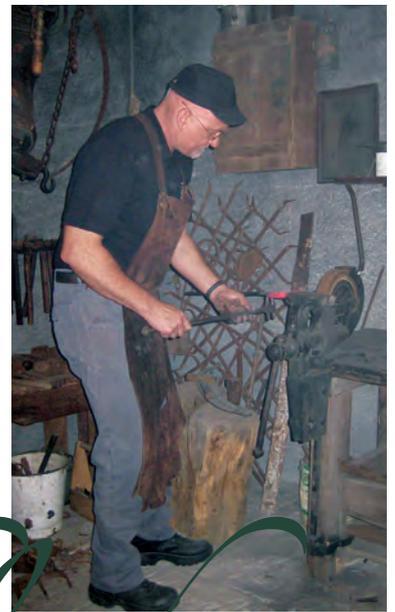




The Old Sheep Farm Museum

"When people walk through our museum, I overhear again and again: Oh, but my great-grandfather also had an anvil like that. Or: How great, it all looks like our old living room in here. Then they sit down, have a coffee in the museum café and chat. About times past. And when the young people come and visit, they get a glimpse of how life has progressed in our town."

Kurt Haas, Chairman, The Maulbronn History and Heritage Association.
The association both supports and operates the museum.



Further Highlights

around the Monastery

Visiting – Educating – Writing. The Maulbronn Monastery and its close relation to literature.

"Whilst designing the Museum of Literature we ensured the inclusion of a broad spectrum of literary personalities and their relationship to the Monastery, in order to best highlight the importance of Maulbronn in the German literary world and its intellectual heritage. We succeeded in doing so using modern techniques."

Martin Ehlers, Archivist, Maulbronn Municipality and Co-Curator of the Museum of Literature inaugurated in 2014.



The Steinhauerstube – the Schmie Village Quarrymen's Museum

"A great deal of work has always gone on in this area. Mostly, our ancestors did stonecutting here. In the 19th century, virtually all the manpower in Schmie was employed in this industry. Many of the district's representative buildings were required to be in natural stone, and yes, this just had to be, no matter how difficult it was for the stonecutters! In the museum, pictures and exhibits give you an understanding of the type of life it was. But there are also models and exhibits on other subjects such as tobacco and the Eppinger lines. One is given a really vivid impression of what went on in a quarry workers' village 200 years ago."

Ulrich Klotz, Chairman, Schmie Civic Association.

The Association both supports and operates the Village Museum, housed in the former town hall of Schmie.

Experiences

with a difference

Want a break from everyday life? Then step right this way!

Easter egg markets, wine fairs, lively handicraft markets, herb and harvest markets and the annual Christmas market provide highlights for visitors all the year round. Every two years, the **Monastery Festival** – which is actually the Maulbronn Town Festival – ensures visitors get their fill of the beautiful, medieval flair of the monastery.



The Monastery Concerts – Music Festivals to delight the Senses

If Sol Gabetta magically enraptures with her cello, or pianist Bernd Glemser carries the audience away on a musical flight during which you can almost physically smell the spiritual atmosphere permeating the Monastery walls – then you certainly are a guest attending one of the Maulbronn Monastery Concerts, which have been offering performances at a very high international level for over forty years. Originating from a "Bachwoche", a Bach-Week Festival held in 1968, the renowned Monastery Music Festival is today one of the most significant in the whole of Baden-Württemberg. The main concert venue is the Monastery church, although chamber music concerts are also held in the lay refectory hall, the lay monks' former dining hall. The cloister garden with its sweeping magnolia tree is in addition the perfect setting for beautiful serenades held on warm summer evenings. More information is available at www.klosterkonzerte.de

Curtain up!

As always, Muli the mule mascot and Friar Meier can barely wait: the summer vacations are about to start! Just ahead of time they go strolling through the Monastery courtyard inviting young and old to attend the Maulbronn Family Theatre Week: to watch, participate and listen.

Surprise your friends with some exciting holiday tales: the seasonal markets and fairs held in the Monastery courtyard are a popular tourist destination the whole year round, offering plenty of unusual items and artwork in addition to the traditional crafts and wares.



Selected theatre companies from all over Germany magically bring fairy tales, musicals and children's classics to life. With flits and scurries all over the stage; with whispers, shouts, singing, dancing and fantasising, the lively mood can't but spill over to the audience – with the shows invariably ending in thunderous applause. www.maulbronn.de

*"I saw an ostrich egg.
In Germany.
Guess where I was?"*

Young visitor to the Maulbronn Easter egg market.



Recreational activities
in Maulbronn

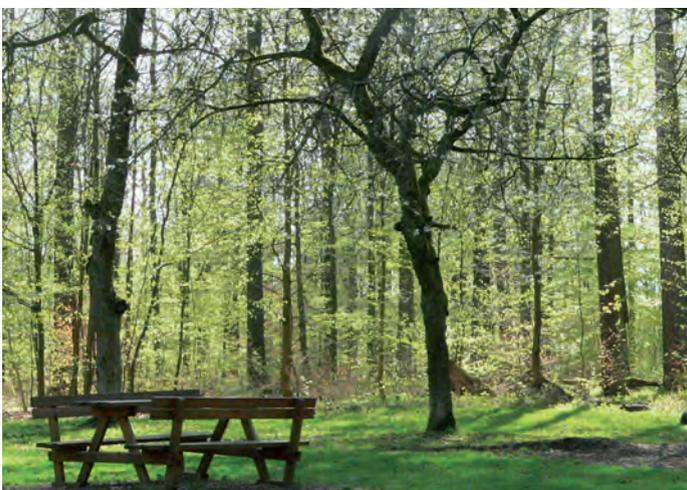
Out and About



Frische Brise – the "Tiefer See" lake – a natural swimming pool

The "Tiefer See" pool is only a short walk away from the Monastery. An easy stroll along the narrow "Mahlrinne" path leads you to the former fish farming reservoir, which nowadays is a natural pool where you can swim, go boating or simply enjoy the view over the lake after a meal or a cool drink.

Further information is provided on the Tiefer See flyer which can be requested c/o the Maulbronn Council offices either by phone +49 (0)7043-1030 or by mail at info@maulbronn.de, or it can be downloaded from the official Maulbronn Municipality website at www.maulbronn.de



Nordic walking and jogging

In the Schefenackerwald woods located between Maulbronn and Schmie, one of the Maulbronn's satellite villages, sports fans have a choice of three different running trails. The refreshing, natural shade makes these trails very popular, especially on hot days.

Discover Maulbronn on foot – with walking tours through the town, along the wine trail and on the hiking trails

Well designed trails take you through the historic monastic complex countryside with its wonderful sightseeing potential, towards look-out points and picnic areas.

The 1.4 km long **educational wine trail** is in the immediate vicinity of the Monastery, where field and meadow paths lead you through the history of the Monastery's vineyards and lush orchard terraces. Alternatively, you can pass through the town centre and head out to the **Aalkistensee** lake. This 4.5 kilometre hike combines Maulbronn's enchanting town atmosphere with the seclusion of the Aalkistensee nature reserve and bird sanctuary. The **Elfinger Hof**, the Monastery's former outpost, is also on the trail.



Request a copy today of the "Circular Trails around the Monastery" flyer by contacting the Maulbronn Municipality offices either by phone +49 (0)7043 1030 or by mail at info@maulbronn.de, or download a copy from the official Maulbronn Municipality website at www.maulbronn.de.

What could be better than ending a perfect day out with a homemade snack? Enjoy a picnic on the large **children's play area and barbecue areas in the Hilsenbeuertal or the Schefenackerwald.**



Cycling through the Monastery complex and its surroundings

A total of 29 bicycle trails, including circular trails leading through hollows and river valleys, are designed to connect up and highlight the region's diverse attractions: Waldensian and half-timbered constructions, rivers and lakes, vineyards and orchards, sports and technology. A map of these well-marked bicycle routes is available c/o the Maulbronn Municipality offices.

It is also possible to book several-day biking packages, for flat-rate bike tours through the region. This information is available from the Kraichgau-Stromberg Tourist Association website at www.kraichgau-stromberg.com





Are you open for new impressions?

Then visit us in the winter!

- Frequently held during the winter months, the special **"Candlelight and Mulled Wine"** tour effectively displays the Monastery in a very special, spiritual atmosphere.
- With their warm and welcoming museum facilities, the Maulbronn museums ensure winter tours par excellence.
- With its frozen lakes and roughly-hewn roadways the monastic landscape grants rest and tranquillity for those who wish to recharge and recuperate.
- On the second weekend of Advent, the Maulbronn Christmas Market draws thousands of visitors to its numerous stalls full of delights for all.



"We're back here time and again, to recharge."

"A beautiful, peaceful, spiritual place, to be preserved by all means."

Did you know?

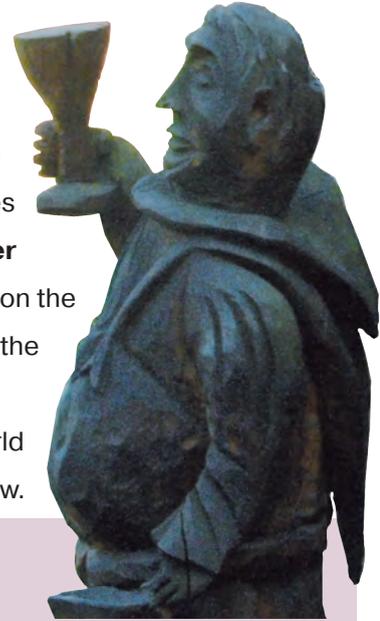
During the Palatinate War of Succession, Margrave Louis William from the house of Baden Baden ordered the erection of a lightly fortified line of defence to ward off the French raids – the **"Eppinger Lines"**. Nowadays, a walking trail has been built alongside these lines and is a popular attraction amongst the more active visitors to the Heritage Town.



Cheers... and bon appétit!

A good drop of wine...

Naturally there is something for all the wine lovers who stop off in Maulbronn. Some of the highest quality vines have been cultivated for centuries both on the **Eilfinger Berg**, specifically mentioned by the monks, as well as on the **Scheuelberg** terraces. The Klosterberg terraces, i. e. the "Maulbronner Klosterweinberg" vineyard belonging directly to the Monastery and therefore part of the World Heritage Site has also been planted for some years now.



Anyone wanting to experience some cosy Swabian hospitality should visit one of the "Besenwirtschaften" (literal translation: broom-pubs) in the region. A Besenwirtschaft is a private drinking and eating establishment opened by wine growers. They traditionally display a broom in front of the house to signify they are open for business. The aroma of fresh, homemade local dishes such as schnitzel or kraut with a farmer's sample platter wafts through the packed farmyard inns – making the wine taste twice as good! For more information and to download a free daily broom-pub app, consult the www.kraichgau-stromberg.com website.

Culinary sophistication: the Maultasche.



The traditional German pasta dish originating in the Region of Swabia (Baden-Württemberg), steeped in a number of anecdotal stories regarding its origins. Could they be a copy of the Italian ravioli? Or perhaps stem from the Russian Pirogge? The people in Maulbronn have no doubts at all on the issue: the Maultasche definitely originated in the local Monastery! *"A tasty piece of meat given to the monks as payment, threw them into a dilemma. It was lent, eating meat was forbidden and there were no freezers available. What should they do? They chopped the meat up, mixed it with vegetables, herbs and breadcrumbs and then hid the filling by wrapping it into pieces of square-cut pasta dough, which they carefully pressed shut all around, so that the Lord God wouldn't notice the meat concealed on the inside – this made it so that to this day, the Maultasche are eaten and enjoyed throughout the area under the nickname "Herrgottsbscheißerle", literally meaning "God's little tricksters".* Maulbronn has a good number of bars, restaurants and accommodation options. Request the full list c/o the Maulbronn Council offices: phone +49 (0)7043 1030, mail to info@maulbronn.de, or check the accommodation and dining section at www.maulbronn.de.

Maulbronner Klosterbräu

Brewed according to the recipe of the former Maulbronn Monastery brewery, the Maulbronner Klosterbräu beer combines the ancient art of brewing, with the finest ingredients from the sunny Kraichgau region. An earthy, spicy, festival beer with a bittersweet, hoppy aroma. Available at the Monastery's Information Centre.



Discover the surrounding area

Still have some time to spare?

Maulbronn lies within 50 kilometres of Stuttgart, Karlsruhe, Heidelberg and Heilbronn. Several-day stays in the Monastery Town can definitely be enhanced by the many attractions in the nearby Kraichgau-Stromberg tourist region, the Tripsdrill Adventure Park and last but not least Pforzheim, the city known as the "gateway to the Black Forest".



The Zaberfeld Natural Park Centre (14 km)

Educational outings for explorers and active outdoor lovers at the Ehmetkslinge lake facilities.

www.naturpark-stromberg-heuchelberg.de

The Tripsdrill Adventure Park (31 km)

Rollercoasters, giant slides, rafting, a wildlife park and much more!

www.tripsdrill.de



Pforzheim (18 km)

Pforzheim is located in a valley in the northern rim of the Black Forest and borders both the hilly Kraichgau region and the Stromberg region. Considered the centre of the German jewellery and watch making industry, it is also known as the "Goldstadt", the country's fine jewellery-manufacturing capital. It is home to a remarkable Jewellery Museum and the "SCHMUCKWELTEN" (a unique shopping and activity centre of over 4,000 square meters and the only one of its kind in Europe) with its Mineral Museum. On the outskirts of the city it is possible to visit a large wildlife park with a tree climbing adventure park.

www.pforzheim.de

The Northern Black Forest Monastery Route

The Alpirsbach, Hirsau and Maulbronn monasteries lie tucked in the valleys of the Northern Black Forest, away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. The "Northern Black Forest Monastery Route" is a cultural and natural adventure. Walking along idyllic hiking trails steeped in culture and history, biking along rivers and up and down the slopes of the Black Forest, visiting by car or by public transport: discover the Northern Black Forest Monastery Route in your own, very personal way.

www.klosteroute-nordschwarzwald.de



Bretten, with the Melanchthonhaus (10 km)

Visit Bretten's historic city centre with the Melanchthon House, built in 1897 (on the site of the Reformer's original birthplace, demolished by fire in 1689). Nowadays it houses a Museum and research facility on the life of Melanchton.

www.bretten.de und www.melanchthon.com



Bruchsal (28 km)

An outing to Bruchsal wouldn't be complete without a visit to the baroque Château with its famous baroque staircase by Balthasar Neumann and to the German "Musikautomaten" (Jukebox) Museum. Equally, a leisurely stroll through town should not fail to include a stop at the baroque St. Peter's Church and at the Belvedere, originally a Court's Manor designed for fun and games, with an annexed shooting house for shooting competitions.

www.bruchsal.de

Faustmuseum Knittlingen (6 km)

A Museum with an extensive archive on the historical Johann Faust, further to literary interpretations by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

www.knittlingen.de



The Ötisheim Barefoot Trail (7 km)

A 1.4 km circular trail through a deciduous forest, along a bark mulch-covered barefoot path connecting up approximately 20 interactive stations. Sand and gravel, wood in its various forms and many other natural materials enable the visitor to experience a variety of sensations barefoot.

www.barfusspark.info

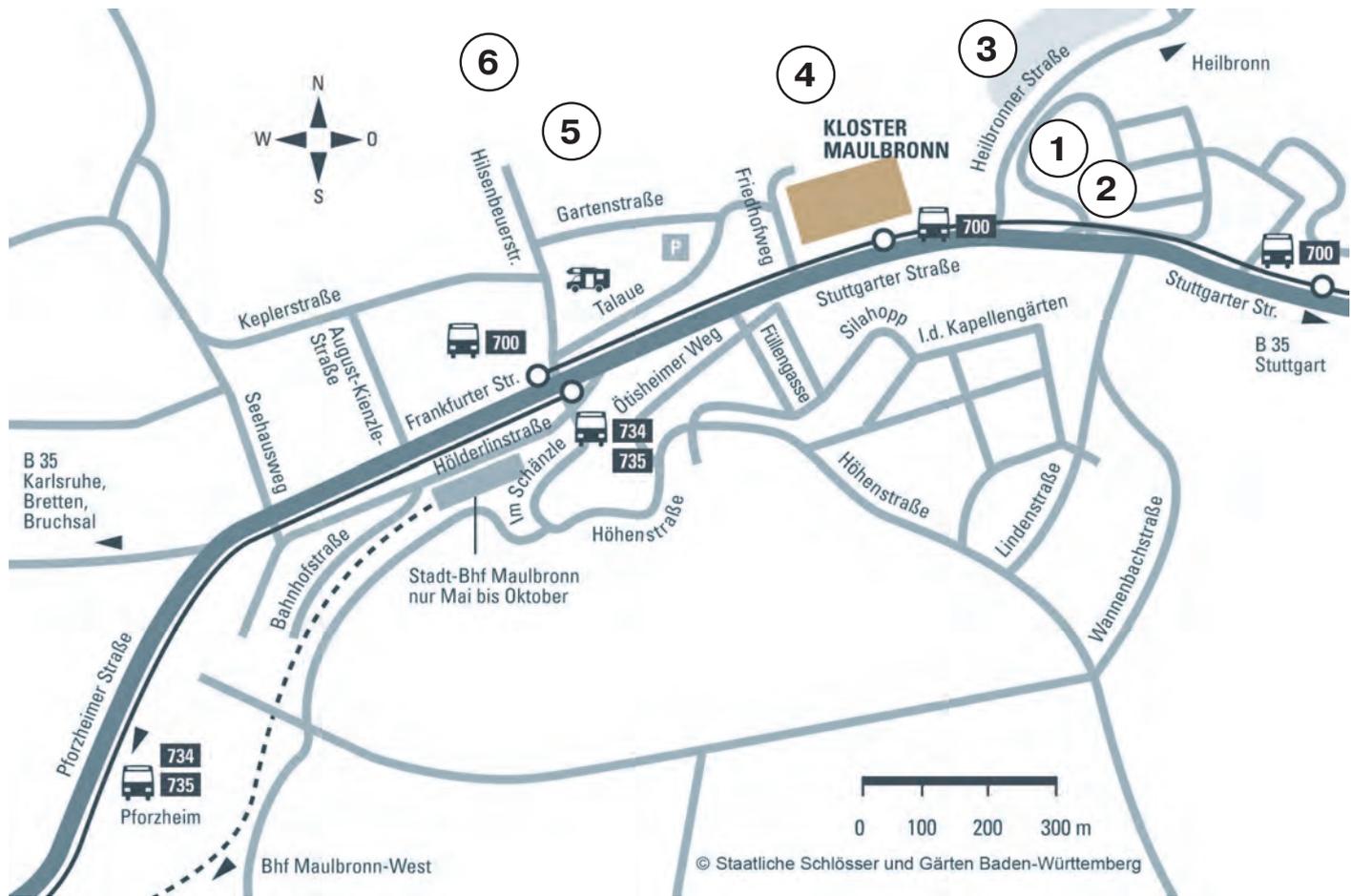
Sinsheim Automobile and Technological Museum (45 km)

Experience the wonder of discovering technology in a unique art form – exciting, thrilling and always entertaining. Classic old-timers, sports cars, aeroplanes, Europe's biggest Formula 1 exhibition, motorcycles, commercial vehicles, locomotives – at every turn you'll have something new to discover. It is also possible to step inside an original Air France CONCORDE and a Russian Tupolev TU-144!

www.sinsheim.technik-museum.de



Please visit our homepage – you'll find further suggestions for your stay!



- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Museum auf dem Schafhof | 2 The Art Collection Heinrich | 3 Tiefer See |
| 4 Klosterberg | 5 Viewing Point | 6 Studentenbrünnele und Kapuzinerteich |

Directions for visiting by car:

From the **A5 Motorway** (Karlsruhe – Basel): exit at Bruchsal – take the B35 in direction Bretten/Stuttgart – exit at Maulbronn

From the **A8 Motorway** (Karlsruhe – Stuttgart): exit at Pforzheim Nord – follow directions for Bretten – in Neulingen-Bauschlott turn right in direction Ölbronn, then follow the signpost directions as you go along

From **Stuttgart**: take the B10 in the direction of Vaihingen/Enz – take the B35 in the direction of Bruchsal – exit at Maulbronn

In Maulbronn plenty of free parking places are provided along the roadsides, in addition to a central parking lot in the vicinity of the Maulbronn Monastery. Set your GPS to "Friedhofweg, 75433 Maulbronn".

We wish to inform visitors that on weekends, the Monastery courtyard can only be accessed by car with a special permit!

Arrival by public transport:

The town of Maulbronn is a member of the VPE and can be reached by taking bus number 700 from Bretten or Mühlacker or bus number 734 from Pforzheim. Services run approximately half-hourly or hourly depending on the route taken.

There is also the "Maulbronn-West" railway station, located in a small forest settlement outside of town and connected to the town centre either by bus line 734, or by call and collect taxi service.

On Sundays and public holidays from May to October, as well as during a number of out-of-season festival weekends, the Monastery Town express train travels back and forth between the Maulbronn-West station and the town centre.



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www.naturpark-stromberg-heuchelberg.de

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*"Enraptured in the green-hued vale of youth
I lean against the moss-lined colonnade
Hearing an echo stretch the vaulted roof
As, tinkingly, in basin of green the fountain plays."*

Hermann Hesse (1877–1962, seminary student in the Maulbronn Monastery from 1891–1892)



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