

## Places of interest – the “Alte Rathaus” (the ancient town hall), the “Altstadt” (old part of the town)

In former times, Gernsbach was the residence of official business. Therefore, our ancient town has a very interesting history which can be discovered during a guided sightseeing tour. Historical buildings, like half-timbered houses, fountains and the old town wall are some of those attractions offered to you on a walk through Gernsbach's narrow streets.

## Eberstein Castle

**Eberstein Castle**The „Eberstein“castle high above the romantic „Murg“ Valley is more than 700 years old. Built in 1272 by counts of “Eberstein”. Later in 17th century changed hands to the margrave of Baden. In 2000 it was sold privately and since then has been lovingly renovated.

Today the former knight's castle has changed a lot. Not only the wonderful view on the „Murg“ Valley also the wine growing area on the hills next to the castle and the gourmet restaurant is worth a visit. In „Schloss-Schänke“ in the gothic hall with its impressive terrace, hikers can enjoy home cooking specialities. For a stay in the exclusive „Schlosshotel“ you may choose your own comfortable „Kingdom“.

Enjoy the wonderful atmosphere in castle „Eberstein“ and see how beautiful the Black Forest can be.

**Further Information:** [www.schlosseberstein.com](http://www.schlosseberstein.com)



## The Kaltenbronn

The seas on the KaltenbronnIf you drive from Gernsbach to Reichental up to the Black Forest ridge tops you reach the „Kaltenbronn“, a unique attraction. The „Kaltenbronn“ is the biggest high moorland area in Germany. For 60 years this area has been a natural reserve area, the first in “Baden-Württemberg”. The high moorland is about 10,000 years old. At the end of the ice age the rain falling on layers of sandstone, which is impervious to water, is the reason for this marshy land. To become high moorland, moss and grass couldn't totally rot because of the elevation, so peat could steadily grow. By the time the peat grows so high, the plants lose the contact to the rich mineral ground water, where they find their food. The peat in „Wildseemoor“ is about eight meters deep. Only a few plants could live with nutrient free rain water.

Here a unique environment was beginning.

If you climb up the „Hohlohturm“ you are over the 1,000 meter mark. You have a view over the „Murg“ Valley, the Black Forest and if there is good visibility you can see the Vosges mountains in France.

The Wildsee KaltenbronnThere are a lot of hiking trails in the „Kaltenbronn“ area, which take you in the summer time through flora and fauna of this primeval landscape. The forestry offers guided tours for groups and especially for children. Also the 100-year-old famous „Westweg“ from „Pforzheim“ to „Basel“ leads through the high moorland.



## Valleys of hay huts

A speciality of the “Murg” Valley is the Tyrol hay huts. About 250 years ago because of the narrowness of the “Murg” Valley, great efforts were made to root out the woods in these steep side valleys. The meadows were used as hay meadows because they were too steep for grazing and too moist. Tyrol immigrants brought with them the knowledge to build these wooden hay huts. In these hay huts the people stored their hay. In wintertime they took their hay home by sleigh or with a wooden basket on their back.

## The «Katz'sche Garten»

In 1803 the private garden of the Katz family was designed by an Italian landscape architect. Because of the family's passion of collecting you find in the garden many art monuments from the late gothic till the art nouveau.



From 1996 until 2001 the garden was newly designed by the help of volunteers together with the town administration. Now visitors can relax and recuperate in this charming Mediterranean atmosphere.

## «Arboretum Eberstein Castle» Teaching Trail for trees

**Arboretum Eberstein Castle**About 200 years ago, people named the “Murg” Valley Switzerland of “Baden”. In the middle part of the valley near Gernsbach you will find the transition from the wildly romantic mountain torrent to an orchard and wine-growing area with chestnut trees. This area offers a lot for the nature-loving people and hikers.

“Eberstein” Castle, posing on an impressive granite rock, lends the landscape its character. The castle is the distinctive point in the landscape, around it a lot of good and signed hiking trails. Here you find narrow shady hiking trails, sunny hills where people grow wine, old chestnut woods and unique views from rock pulpits. You have a lot of highlights in our area.

The “Arboretum Eberstein Castle” is a unique collection of interesting and seldom woods. With over 300 different home and exotic tree species the forest around the castle is a really jewel, not only for experts.

In earlier times, the Earls of Baden (Großherzöge von Baden) lived here in summertime; the trees were already old and valuable. From 1964 to 1990 the population was extended and new trees were planted. Thanks to Rudolf Koch, the manager of the Duke of Baden's grounds, the interests of the hikers and visitors were always considered. The trees were planted considering their genus and their family. They were planted along the hiking trails so people could compare them easily.

You can walk this tour, “Arboretum Eberstein Castle”, as a roundtrip within 2 hours.



You can start at “Klingelkapelle”, or Eberstein Castle” or “Obersrot”. You can enjoy charming landscape for example

- the “Grafensprung” on the “Husteinfelsen” with its unique view down the valley or
- the “Engelskanzel” (pulpit for angels) or
- the “Luisenruhe”
- the “Erzgrunbe” (vein of ore)
- the “Schänzele”with its gorgeous panoramic view over the newly planted vineyard.

Trees are king of the plants. because of their size, height, long life and their importance for nature and their exceptional position.

## Gernsbach Legend Trail

on the Legend trail Really legendary. Allow free imagination and follow the little devil (sign) to the legends round the „Gernsberg“. You will be enchanted by beautiful stories.

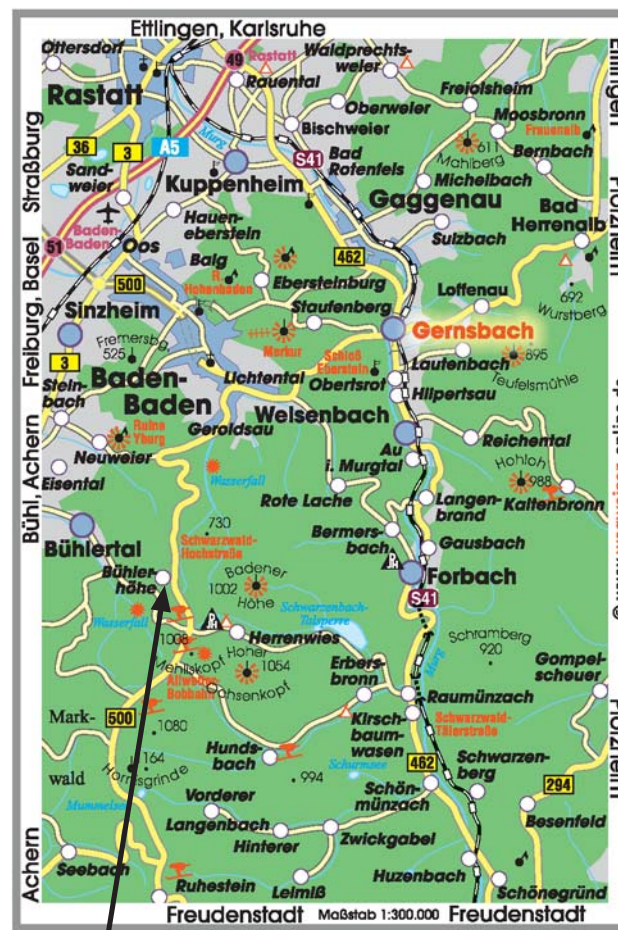
You start at the „Klingelkapelle“ and you walk up the Tree Trail with its exotic plants and lots of views till you get to “Eberstein” Castle. There on the plane tree terrace you enjoy a fantastic view on the Murg Valley. Inside the “Eberstein” Castle is the restaurant “Schloss-Schänke” with its gothic hall. There you can order home cooking specialities. Then you go to „Müllenbild“ next to the restaurant „Nachtigall“ where you strengthen yourself while eating „Eberstein-Teller“. Starting here you walk uphill to „Kohlplättel“ and then you walk downhill back to Gernsbach. Don't miss a visit to the historic part of Gernsbach. The day comes to an end with a glass of wine in the old town hall, where you'll find a wine cellar of the winery Iselin.

On the above described 13 km long hiking-tour you overcome 450 meters altitude. Also untrained hikers can make it. If you want to walk the whole course please allow a whole day. The time you need just for walking is 3,5 – 4 hours.

## Nature reserve Lautenfelsen

Nature reserve Lautenfelsen Above Lautenbach, a part of Gernsbach, are the impressive rocks called „Lautenfelsen“. You can see them, as they appear through the dense woods. Witness the unspoiled nature in this unique landscape with its woods, streams and its special fauna and flora. On your way up to the „Lautenfelsen“ you see the around 300 years-old weather-beaten granite rocks. Above them new red sandstone rocks, which were set down on the floor of the primeval sea. When the Upper Rhine Valley broke off more than 100 meters, the granite rocks reappeared. The legend says, that the devil threw the granite rocks with rage down the „Teufelsmühle“ (a nearby mountain). These granite rocks, covered with moss and fern built up a substrate, that filters the dust from the air.

This is one of the reasons because the area around the „Lautenfelsen“ is a nature reserve. There you can watch also seldom found animal species. After climbing up the natural steps to the Lautenfelsen the hiker will have an impressive view on Lautenbach and the whole Murg Valley. If there is good visibility you can see the Rhine Valley and Vosges Mountains (France, Alsace). Not far from here is Lautenbach, where are enough restaurants and accommodations.



base camp of the English National Football team

### Further Informationen:

#### Touristinfo Gernsbach

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#### hours of business June-August:

Mo-Fr: 9-12h 14-17h; Sa: 10-12h

#### Öffnungszeiten September-May:

Mo-Fr: 9-12h 14-16.30h

# Welcome to Gernsbach



## Health Resort in the Black Forest

**GERNSBACH**

## **Tour through the old part of the town**

Few paces from the platform „Gernsbach Mitte“ and the Tourist Information is a small passage where you can go through. Then you have the views on the historic Gernsbach. Already in 19th century this view was already a motif for artists. If you look up the surrounding mountains you'll see the castle of the counts of „Eberstein“, the former feudal lord of the „Murg“ Valley. Up the banks of the „Murg“ you see the skyline of the old part of the town with its medieval buildings.

### **The «Stadtbrücke»**

The „Stadtbrücke“, a bridge crossing the „Murg“, already mentioned in 1505, was for many generations the only passage over the „Murg“. The „Stadtbrücke“ was the connection of the historic centre to the settlements „Igelbach“ and „Bleich“. In the years 1823/24/25 the bridge was rebuilt from sandstone. In 1999 the bridge was extended with a wood and steel construction. The mills, especially the mill next to the „Stadtbrücke“ called „Brückenmühle“ or „Grafenmühle“ had special importance because it had several grinding functions. Like the mill „Bogenmühle“ in the „Schlossstraße“ the „Brückenmühle“ had the exclusive right to grind the grain of this area.

### **The «Hofstätte »**

The „Hofstätte“ was surrounded by historic half timbered buildings from the period of industrial expansion (1870). The „Hofstätte“ was the centre of the settlements „Marktdorf“, „Kirchdorf“, „Gaß“ and „Waldbach“. There were up to six restaurants. The restaurants „Hirsch“ and „Traube“ are the oldest and still exist. In 1387 the counts of Eberstein had to share their rule with the margraves of Baden. The „Kondominatsbrunnen“ (1511) a fountain was built to remember this event. The entrance to the „Marktdorf“ was protected by the „Untere Tor“ with a draw bridge over the „Waldbach“ and a guard house. After a fire in 1787 the market place, as we know it today, was built. Only few buildings remain of the medieval town: the old town hall, a huge fountain with four water pipes and the vaults underneath the buildings.

### **The «Alte Rathaus» (The old town hall)**

The old town hall is one of the most important buildings of the late Renaissance in Southern Germany. It was built in 1617/1618 by the royal master builder Johann Schoch. The owner of the building was the famous rafter and wood trader Johann Jakob Kast. The interior of the building was generous and elegant. After the „Thirty Years' War“ it became the town hall of Gernsbach until 1936. Nowadays it is used for cultural events and for weddings because of its stylish atmosphere.

### **The «Kornhaus»**

After the big fire in 1798 the „Kornhaus“ was rebuilt according to the plans of an architect from Karlsruhe, the famous Friedrich Weinbrenner (1766 – 1826). He used ashlar from the tower next to the „Färbertor“ a former entrance to the town of Gernsbach. Already in 1471 the „Kornhaus“ was mentioned as a magazine of the grain and fruit market. Through its history it was not only used as the Mayor's office but also for other public services.

### **The «Liebfrauenkirche»**

On the highest point of the old town you'll see the church „Unserer lieben Frau“, which was remodelled in 1833. The origin of this church isn't known. But people assumed that there was a chapel within a fortress. The interior dates from the late gothic period. The old pilgrimage church was extended several times. But always was the solid built tower a part of the church building. Like the „Storchenturm“ the tower belonged to the medieval fortress. At the beginning of the 18th century guns on the tower protected the western part of the town wall. After the Reformation the Catholics received this church finally as their parish church. The interior renovation in 1970/1971 pushed the former sumptuous paintings aside.

## **The «Storchenturm»**

The „Storchenturm“ in front of the upper entrance of the town gate belongs like the Catholic steeple to the town fortress. A little sign of arms from „Baden“ shows us that it was built in 1449, but experts know that the construction of the tower is older. The two outside gates of the guard tower, which are at the same level as the town wall indicates of existing battlements. So the „Storchenturm“ was connected with other towers of the medieval fortress. Since living memory it has always been called “Storchenturm” because until 1914 storks nested on top of the roof. Sometimes people call the tower „Schimmel“ referring to an old name for fields. Today the „Arbeitskreis Stadtgeschichte Gernsbach“ regularly opens the tower to the public and presents a permanent exhibition on the topic “stork”.

## **The «Der Wolkensteinische Hof»**

During the Palatine War of Succession the „Wolkensteinische Hof“ was destroyed by French troops. Only a side entrance and the flat of the servants and the warehouse survived. A descendant of the noble minnesinger from South Tyrol Oswald von Wolkenstein (he died in 1445), Baron Christoph von Wolkenstein married the countess „Maria von Eberstein“ in 1600. Soon afterwards he built this residence in the style of the Renaissance. The cellars received an entrance from the „Turmgasse“. After the fire in 1798 a new building was erected on the land. The Kaltenbronn Forestry Office and the administration offices were housed until 1998 in these buildings. Today the „Wolkensteinische Hof“ is a private property.

## **The «Turmgasse»**

The old cobblestones lead the narrow windswept „Turmgasse“ to the „Storrentorstraße“ passing the cellars of the „Wolkensteinische Hof“ and the old prison. It was given the same name as the town gate. The road through this entrance led to „Lichtental“ and „Baden-Baden“. In former times people used the tower built upon the entrance as a gaol, until both had to pull down. The ashlar were used, in 1821 for the new prison and in 1843 for the reconstruction of the road to „Baden-Baden“.

## **The «ehemalige Spital» (The former hospital)**

The former hospital in Waldbachstraße had a varied history. In 1654 a private family bought the house and the „Lohmühle“ a mill near by. In 1831 during a cholera epidemic, the town made it into a hospital. Few years later the Katz family and a hospital fond together extended the hospital, which until 1912 existed.

## **The «Stadtmauer» (The old town wall)**

The old „Marktdorf“, first mentioned in 1219 was surrounded by a town wall with a ward, four entrances and several towers. In 1993 the town of Gernsbach reconstructed „Waldbachstraße“. Very narrowly standing houses were pulled down, so that people could see the run of the imposing town wall. Still remaining is the 1620 mill without a wheel; it is the last remaining kind in the Baden area. On the town wall there are two impressive warehouses built in 1764 and 1784. The people stored their yields, to give to their feudal lord. From here you turn into „Ebersteingasse“ and this takes you to „Hof“ the ancient „Kirchdorf“.

### ***Further Informationen:***

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