



<b>1 Darmstadt</b> <p>Science and university city, former residence of the landgraves and grand dukes of Hessen-Darmstadt; place of artistic encounters and city "in which the arts and art nouveau live".</p>  <p><b>Places of interest:</b> Mathildenhoehe with Russian chapel Castle St. Ludwig's Church Ludwig's Monument Old Town hall Porzellanschloesschen (Small porcelain castle) Orangery Hunting Lodge Kranichstein: Waldspirale (Forest spiral) (Hundertwasser)</p> <p>Wissenschaftsstadt Darmstadt (Science City Darmstadt) Marketing GmbH Im Carree 1 D-64283 Darmstadt Tel.: 00 49 - (0) 61 51 - 13 45 10 Fax: 00 49 - (0) 61 51 - 13 45 29 info@ darmstadt.de www.darmstadt-marketing.de</p>	<b>3 Bickenbach</b> <p>This town along the Bergstrasse lies in the Darmstadt-Dieburg district on the northern Bergstrasse - in the middle between Rhine-Main and Rhine-Neckar centres.</p>  <p><b>Places of interest:</b> Hunting Lodge Kaiserstein (Emperor's stone) Museum of Local History Charming old half-timbered houses</p> <p>Gemeindeverwaltung Bickenbach Darmstaedter Strasse 7 D-64404 Bickenbach Tel.: 00 49 - (0) 62 57 - 9 33 00 Fax: 00 49 - (0) 62 57 - 9 33 01 8 info@ bickenbach-bergstrasse.de www.bickenbach-bergstrasse.de</p>	<b>5 Zwingenberg</b> <p>The oldest city on Hesse's Bergstrasse, on the 517 m high hill called Melibokus. In the crooked walkways of the old town, which is over 730 years old and which contains the historic Scheuergasse, the past comes to life again.</p>  <p><b>Places of interest:</b> Historic old town with numerous half-timbered houses Market square Historic Scheuergasse with Museum of Local History</p> <p>Touristikbuero Zwingenberg Untergasse 16 D-64673 Zwingenberg Tel.: 00 49 - (0) 62 51 - 70 03 22 Fax: 00 49 - (0) 62 51 - 70 03 66 touristinfo@ zwingenberg.de www.zwingenberg.de</p>	<b>7 Lorsch</b> <p>A small town in the south of Hesse with about 13,000 inhabitants. The Koenigshalle (Hall of Kings) in the former monastery was built around 800 and has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1991.</p>  <p><b>Places of interest:</b> Koenigshalle (Hall of Kings) Half-timbered town hall (1715) The „Weisse Kreuz“, one of the oldest guest-houses in Germany</p> <p>Tourist-Info Nibelungenland Marktplatz 1 D-64653 Lorsch Tel.: 00 49 - (0) 62 51 - 175 26 -0 Fax: 00 49 - (0) 62 51 - 175 26 -26 Info@ nibelungenland.info www.lorsch.de</p>	<b>9 Laudenbach</b> <p>Located on the northern Bergstrasse in Baden-Wuerttemberg, Laudenbach with its village-like atmosphere is a thriving and charming town to live in.</p>  <p><b>Places of interest:</b> Protestant church above the Market Square Beautiful natural landscape between vineyards</p> <p>Gemeinde Laudenbach Untere Strasse 2 D-69514 Laudenbach Tel.: 00 49 - (0) 62 01 - 7 00 20 Fax: 00 49 - (0) 62 01 - 70 02 21 rathaus@ gemeinde-laudenbach.de www.gemeinde-laudenbach.de</p>	<b>11 Weinheim</b> <p>Weinheim with its two castles draws visitors for shopping in its attractive shopping area and to visit its historical old town. Unique "Green Miles" in the heart of the city include a castle park, exotic woods and Hermannshof; gives guests the opportunity to "take it easy".</p>  <p><b>Places of interest:</b> Historic market square Gerberbach District Schlosspark (Palace Park) Exotenwald (Exotic Forest) Castle ruin Windeck Wachenburg (Castle ruin Wachenburg) Museum Show garden Hermannshof (Hermann's Courtyard)</p> <p>Stadt- und Tourismusmarketing Weinheim e.V. Hauptstrasse 47 D-69469 Weinheim Tel.: 00 49 - (0) 62 01 - 87 44 50 Fax: 00 49 - (0) 62 01 - 87 44 30 info@ weinheim-marketing.de www.weinheim-marketing.de</p>	<b>13 Schriesheim</b> <p>In the middle of vineyards on the sunny Bergstrasse you will find the wine city of Schriesheim. Sports facilities, a mini golf course and an idyllically placed swimming pool all contribute to attractive leisure time opportunities.</p>  <p><b>Places of interest:</b> Historic town centre Old Town hall Oil mill Old nobles' court Crooked walkways Visitors' Mine Kerg Museum 13b Observatory Madonnenberg (Madonna Mountain)</p> <p>Stadtverwaltung Schriesheim Friedrichstrasse 28-30 D-69198 Schriesheim Tel.: 00 49 - (0) 62 03 - 6 02 -114 Fax: 00 49 - (0) 62 03 - 6 02 -191 zentrale@ schriesheim.de www.schriesheim.de</p>	<b>15 Dossenheim</b> <p>This orchard and garden town lies very close to Heidelberg and offers a comprehensive entertainment and leisure programme.</p>  <p><b>Places of interest:</b> Museum of Local History Ruin Schauenburg Kunst und Kultur in der Scheune (Art and Culture in the Barn) Protestant Church Beautiful natural landscape with hiking and bike paths</p> <p>Gemeindeverwaltung Rathausplatz 1 D-69221 Dossenheim Tel.: 00 49 - (0) 62 21 - 86 51 -0 Fax: 00 49 - (0) 62 21 - 86 51 15 gemeinde@ dossenheim.de www.dossenheim.de</p>	<b>i Further information</b> <p>Further information about culinary, historic, cultural and sporting events on the Bergstrasse can be obtained at:</p> <p>Tourismus Service Bergstrasse e.V. Grosser Markt 9 D-64646 Heppenheim Tel.: 00 49 - (0) 62 52 - 13 11 70 Fax: 00 49 - (0) 62 52 - 13 11 73 info@ diebergstrasse.de www.diebergstrasse.de</p> <p>www.geo-naturpark.de</p>  
<b>2 Seeheim-Jugenheim</b> <p>Seeheim-Jugenheim lies in a central and convenient location in the Rhine-Main-Neckar region. Its charm consists of the varied possibilities to explore its nature, history and culture. Historical town halls, castles and villas bear witness to an exciting past.</p>  <p><b>Places of interest:</b> Old town centre Museum of Local History Historic Town hall Bergkirche (Hill church) Heiligenberg Castle Old Townhall Castle ruin Tannenberg</p> <p>Gemeinde Seeheim-Jugenheim Wirtschafts- und Kulturfoerderung Schulstrasse 12 D-64342 Seeheim-Jugenheim Tel.: 00 49 - (0) 62 57 - 99 02 80 Fax: 00 49 - (0) 62 57 - 99 04 88 sabine.mueller@ seeheim-jugenheim.de www.seeheim-jugenheim.de</p>	<b>4 Alsbach-Haehnlein</b> <p>Alsbach is mentioned for the first time in the Lorsch Code in the year 773; Haehnlein is mentioned officially for the first time in 1333. The town's symbol, the Alsbach Castle, was built around 1240.</p>  <p><b>Places of interest:</b> Lovely town centre with rural character Museum of Local History Alsbach Palace Melibokus look-out</p> <p>Gemeindevorstand Alsbach-Haehnlein Darmstaedter Strasse 6 D-64665 Alsbach-Haehnlein Tel.: 00 49 - (0) 62 57 - 50 08 -0 Fax: 00 49 - (0) 62 57 - 50 08 -60 gemeindevorstand@ alsbach-haehnlein.de www.alsbach-haehnlein.de</p>	<b>6 Bensheim</b> <p>First officially mentioned more than 1230 years ago, Bensheim became a market town in 956 and received its city charter in the 13th century.</p>  <p><b>Places of interest:</b> Scenic town centre with historic nobles' courtyards Oldest half-timbered house in South Hesse Museum of Town and Regional History Community park Fuerstenlager Ruine Auerbacher Schloss (Ruin Auerbach Palace)</p> <p>Tourist Information Hauptstrasse 39 D-64625 Bensheim Tel.: 00 49 - (0) 62 51 - 58 26 3-14 Fax: 00 49 - (0) 62 51 - 58 26 3-31 touristinfo@ bensheim.de www.bensheim.de</p>	<b>8 Heppenheim</b> <p>A district capital with its own wine festivities, and 27,000 inhabitants. The historical old town is an especial attraction with its lovely medieval half-timbered houses and many authentic old pubs which invite guests to linger.</p>  <p><b>Places of interest:</b> Historic old town with one of the most beautiful marketplaces in Germany Half-timbered town hall Marienbrunnen (Mary's Fountain) Liebig-Apotheke (Liebig pharmacy) Kurmainzer Amtshof Cathedral St. Peter's Starkenburg UNESCO Geopark Erlache</p> <p>Tourist Information Grosser Markt 9 D-64646 Heppenheim Tel.: 00 49 - (0) 62 01 - 7 07 -0 Fax: 00 49 - (0) 62 01 - 7 07 -45 info@ heimbach.de www.heimbach.de</p>	<b>10 Hemsbach</b> <p>Wine town at the foot of the Odenwald - with excellent transport connections to Weinheim, Heidelberg and Mannheim.</p>  <p><b>Places of interest:</b> Old town centre with half-timbered houses and romantic corners Old Town hall Place of pilgrimage "Kreuzberg" Donjon of the former Wasserburg Tithe barn</p> <p>Stadtverwaltung Schlossgasse 41 D-69502 Hemsbach Tel.: 00 49 - (0) 62 01 - 7 07 -0 Fax: 00 49 - (0) 62 01 - 7 07 -45 info@ hemsbach.de www.hemsbach.de</p>	<b>12 Hirschberg</b> <p>At the foot of the gentle slopes of the Odenwald - with excellent transport connections to Weinheim, Heidelberg and Mannheim.</p>  <p><b>Places of interest:</b> Schloss des Grafen von Wiser (Palace of the Earl of Wiser) Pilgrimage Church "Black Madonna" Protestant churches from the 14th and 17th century Ruin of the "Villa Rustica"</p> <p>Buergermeisteramt Hirschberg Grosssachsener Strasse 14 D-69493 Hirschberg Tel.: 00 49 - (0) 62 01 - 5 98 -27 Fax: 00 49 - (0) 62 01 - 5 98 -50 gemeinde@ hirschberg-bergstrasse.de www.hirschberg-bergstrasse.de</p>	<b>14 Ladenburg</b> <p>Traces of the Roman era, along with medieval charm and through to the modern age - all these times have shaped the city's character. Enjoy the special atmosphere on a market day or during one of the several festivals and cultural events.</p>  <p><b>Places of interest:</b> Beautiful medieval townscape Martinstor (Martin's Gate) Hexenturm (Witches' Tower) Gothic St. Gallus Church Lobdengau Museum Villa of Carl Benz Car museum Dr. Carl Benz</p> <p>Stadtinformation Ladenburg Dr. Carl-Benz-Platz 1 D-68526 Ladenburg Tel.: 00 49 - (0) 62 03 - 92 26 03 Fax: 00 49 - (0) 62 03 - 92 47 09 info@ ladenburg.de www.ladenburg.de</p>	<b>16 Heidelberg</b> <p>Few other cities have been so flatteringly described by poets and writers as the university city on the Neckar. About 3,5 guests per year enjoy the unique ambience of the city whose past seems to be everywhere and whose present is determined by its youth.</p>  <p><b>Places of interest:</b> The world-famous palace Old bridge Hotel "Zum Ritter" Philosophenweg (Philosopher's Path) Historic old town with the longest pedestrian zone in Europe Zoo</p> <p>Tourist-Information am Hauptbahnhof Willy-Brandt-Platz 1 D-69115 Heidelberg Tel.: 00 49 - (0) 62 21 - 194 33 Fax: 00 49 - (0) 62 21 - 14 22 54 Info@ heidelberg-marketing.de www.heidelberg-marketing.de</p>	<b>Imprint</b> <p>Editor: Tourismus Service Bergstrasse e.V. Grosser Markt 9 D-64646 Heppenheim</p> <p>Conception and design: Tourismus Service Bergstrasse</p> <p>Layout: cg kommunikationsdesign, www.grundlinie.de</p> <p>Photos: Tourismus Service Bergstrasse</p> 



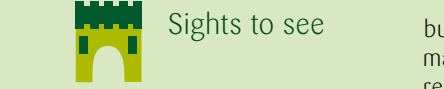


We cordially welcome you to the Bergstrasse, the Riviera of Germany, a special spot.

The spring sun begins to warm the earth here while people in other regions are still shivering. Here, almond and fruit trees bloom while frost still numbs the earth in other places. Summer is longer here, and autumn more pleasant. The Bergstrasse is a treat, a place to let go and relax.

The Bergstrasse is more than a landscape; it is a feeling, a way of life. Castles, palaces and well-preserved city centres link the art nouveau centre Darmstadt and world-famous Heidelberg, making history come to life.

The Mediterranean climate warms the grapes that go into our exquisite wines, and exotic plants thrive as well. Parks, gardens and woods surround the visitor, as in a fairy tale. The Schlosspark (Palace Park) in Weinheim contains the tallest cedar that is rooted in German soil, while the Fürs-



Sights to see

From the Jagdschloss Kranichstein (Kranichstein Hunting Lodge) in Darmstadt to the world-famous palace on the hill above the university city of Heidelberg: along the Bergstrasse, castles, palaces and monasteries are strung together like the pearls on a necklace. They carry with them memories of an age of knights, princes and kings. More than 30 of these imposing memorials emerge from woods and vineyards – stone jewels that are just as much a part of the landscape as green meadows, lush woods and grapevines. The silhouettes could have been taken from a historical film.

The people here are happy to share the region with you, happy to show it off – they are proud to be inhabitants of the Bergstrasse. This is hospitality that comes from the heart. On sunny days, market places, gardens, courtyards and vineyards are as crowded as an Italian piazza – restaurateurs and wine-makers show off their special touch. The happy mood infects the guests, who can truly enjoy their holiday. Whether guests come on an excursion from the nearby metropolitan centres in the Rhine-Main and Rhine-Neckar regions, or as part of an adventure holiday on foot or by bike, or for a longer holiday – once they have been here, they never want to leave.

The Romans settled the Bergstrasse, and fell in love with the “strata montana”, or “mountain street”. The monastery in Lorsch shaped the politics in the region for centuries. The Carolingian Königshalle (King’s Hall) in Lorsch, which has been a UNESCO world cultural site since 1991, is the oldest

building from this era in Germany. Palaces and duke’s residences bear witness to the splendour and wealth of the Middle Ages, while stubborn ruins remind us of bitter battles and feuds. The Mathildenhöhe in Darmstadt is recognized as the centre of art nouveau, the Heidelberg Palace, high above the river, as the symbol of the Romantic era. Proud half-timbered city halls stand guard over cobblestoned market squares, in the middle of which exquisite sandstone fountains bubble. In lovingly restored ancient districts such as the Gerberbach district in Weinheim, cosy little cottages whisper of the Middle Ages. Everywhere, experienced guides offer city tours on interesting topics: the haunting Laternenweg, or Lantern Way, threads its way through Heppenheim. And yet the ancient villages and cities are also full of new life. Modern retail shops offer their goods and services where once peddlers and market wives clamoured. Take a slow stroll through shops and history.



Experience it

The Bergstrasse represents an ideal wedding between culture and nature. Concerts, exhibits, and whole pageants lure visitors to historical locations – a unique cultural flavour. The theatres in Darmstadt and Heidelberg have international reputations; comics, artists and musicians peek out from between the castles and half-timbered houses, displaying their arts. Small arts theatres have sprung up in restaurants and bars along the Bergstrasse; the parks, gardens and monuments of the region, such as the Schlosspark in Weinheim, Heppenheim’s Kurmainzer Amtshof or the Heiligenberg Palace in Seeheim-Jugenheim are transformed into stages for world-famous stars who are fascinated by the region.

In addition, the Bergstrasse offers festivals – wine festivals, historical church anniversaries, locally known as Kerwe, and lively annual markets, beginning with the large

Mathaise Market in Schriesheim. The inhabitants of the Bergstrasse celebrate every season of the year. Of course autumn is their favourite, that season that is flecked with the colour of the vineyard landscape. But even more than this, they like to invite guests to come. The Bergsträsser Weinherbst (Bergstrasse wine autumn) is a collection of all events dealing with fine wines. And when the blossoms are out, the season’s attraction is the Bergsträsser Weinfrühling, or Bergstrasse wine spring, with a vineyard hike and culinary highlights.

People of the Bergstrasse like to eat well, and the culinary offerings here are full of fresh ingredients straight from the woods, like mushrooms and herbs. Hunters bring deer and wild boar to the restaurateurs’ tables; here, only homemade food counts. In farmhouses and wine pubs, in fine hotels and starred restaurants, the chefs are proud of the specialties of their region. The Bergstrasse can be tasted.



Active

These days, the knights of the Bergstrasse sit in comfortable slender saddles and choose between 18 gears. More and more, the Bergstrasse is becoming an oasis for athletic and active holiday-makers, a large open-air fitness centre between the mountains and the vineyards. More than 85 kilometres of bike paths form an extensive network between the cities and sights. The routes vary from leisurely to strenuous – just as you like. The Burgenweg, or castle route, takes in all the castles and palaces between Darmstadt and Heidelberg; in three or four days, hikers can visit the landscape and history of the Bergstrasse in this way. And the best thing is: whether you are in the bike saddle or on your own two feet, the path always leads to or past hospitable villages. Short trail breaks can become chances to celebrate. No one is in a hurry at the Bergstrasse, but everyone knows how to enjoy life. And there are buses and railways to most destinations.

There is a huge variety of exercise and sport activities. In summer, visitors are drawn to attractive lakes and swimming pools, or to ice rinks and sledding hills in winter. Joggers and mountain bikers challenge themselves on the slopes leading up to the near Odenwald, or enjoy the shade of the woods in the UNESCO Geopark there. Golf courses lend themselves well to the natural landscape. In Weinheim, the first geothermic baths in southern Germany, “Miramar”, entices visitors with salt-containing spring water bubbling up from 1000 metres below the earth’s surface.



The wine country of the Bergstrasse

The sun shines here 1600 hours in a year, its rays laughing along with the people, because both of them know that this warm radiance helps great wines to ripen. The wines of the Bergstrasse are high-class – striking like Rieslings from famous locations such as the Fürstenlager in Auerbach, Streichling in Bensheim or Centgericht in Heppenheim; aromatic and full of character, like the pinot gris or pinot blanc from Sonnberg in Laudenbach or Kuhberg in Schriesheim. Elegant pinot noirs grew on the Bergstrasse in an era when wine drinkers still turned up their noses at German red wines – today, connoisseurs are happy to sniff the bouquet of ripe cherries and woods berries. About 840 hectares of vineyards connect the Bergstrasse wine region of Hessen with the Bergstrasse region in the neighbouring state of Baden-Württemberg. Small choice family-run businesses grow grapes according to ancient

traditions, cultivate their vineyards and, in old vault-ceilinged cellars, produce their specialties, like Trockenbeerenauslese and even ice wine. Well-known winemakers’ associations and co-operatives present their entire repertoires of good-tasting wines.

“Wein und Stein”, or “wines and stones”, is the name of the UNESCO Geopark’s experiential and educational path, which winds its way through the vines. Every-where you go, there are educational paths and guided hikes. All vineyards and wine-growing estates are happy to offer samples and tastings; experienced winegrowers give expert advice, as do charming wine queens. The Bergstrasse is the answer to the question of good taste.

Our Wine Festivals

1st to 2nd weekend in March	Mathaise Market in Schriesheim
End of April/Beginning of May	“Bergstraesser Weinfruehling” with numerous events dealing with Bergstrasse wine such as Bergstraesser Weintreff (Bergstrasse wine convention), Kulinarisches & Wein (Cuisine & Wine), Bluetensonntag (blossom Sunday)
Spring	2 x RocknRiesling Night, historic Zehntkeller (tithe cellar) of the wine growers’ cooperative Schriesheim
1st of May	Bergstrasse vineyard walk between Zwingenberg and Heppenheim Whitsun wine festival on the historic market square Zwingenberg
End of June/Beginning July	Bergstrasse wine market in the historic old town of Heppenheim
End of August	Wein- und Sektfest (wine and sekt festival) organized by the Bergstrasse wine growers e.G. Heppenheim
Beginning of September	Bergstrasse wine growers festival in Bensheim
1st weekend in September	Street festival with wine village in Schriesheim
From mid-September	The new wine has arrived! Available from wine growers and guest houses.
3rd Sunday in September	Vineyard walk in Schriesheim
Beginning of October until end of November	Bergstraesser Weinherbst (Bergstrasse wine autumn) with a collection of wine-related events
1st Saturday in October	“Weinheimer Weinmelle”
1st weekend in November	Weekend RocknRiesling Night, historic Zehntkeller (tithe cellar) of the wine growers cooperative Schriesheim

