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July 2019

LORSCH – DISCOVER AND ENJOY

FOOD & DRINK

Enjoy regional and seasonal cuisine in a wide variety of restaurants on the market square or in front of the Königshalle (King's Hall), in the shade of ancient, half-timbered houses or in atmospheric vaulted cellars. Lorsch even has its own brewery! Delicious local wines and regional dishes ensure that any dining experience is complete.

TIP Discover the 'Gourmetschwarm' – a 'nomadic' food experience served between four of the best restaurants on the town square | KULTour@lorsch.de
Recommendation for foodies: The Süße Werkstatt's herb truffles, inspired by the Lorsch Pharmacopeia | Römerstraße 8 | www.suesse-werkstatt.de

SHOPPING

A stroll around the town centre will give you the chance to buy regional specialities, local handicrafts and original souvenirs. Discover the variety of Lorsch products at your leisure.

OUR TIP Quite a few of the small, friendly shops in the town centre stock upmarket products, many of which are locally produced.

EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

Don't miss out on Theater Sapperlot! This stage is a springboard for future winners of the German cabaret prize – even after they've become big names in German theatre.

OUR TIP Book your tickets in advance! Tel. +49 (0)6251 970 538
www.sapperlottheater.de

ACCOMMODATION

Lorsch has been visited by emperors, kings, popes, pilgrims and beggars for more than 1250 years. They used to stay with the people who lived here: the monks. Today, you can choose between B&Bs, guesthouses or small hotels for your stay. The neighbouring towns also offer hotels to suit every budget – just 10 minutes away.

INFO Tourist-Information NibelungenLand
info@nibelungenland.net | Tel. +49 (0)6251 17526 0 | www.nibelungenland.net

KAROLINGERSTADT (CAROLINGIAN TOWN)

The historical town centre is characterised by half-timbered houses, churches and of course the remains of former Lorsch Abbey. A guided tour will give you a fascinating insight into the town's history dating back to the Carolingian period.

INFO info@nibelungenland.net | Tel. +49 (0)6251 17526 0



YOUR DAY IN LORSCH

EXPLORE THE MONASTERY, PAST AND PRESENT

Once you have arrived in Lorsch, start off by visiting the UNESCO World Heritage Site Lorsch Abbey. It's a good idea to plan in one of the regular guided tours of the monastery. The Museum Centre provides information on the monastery's origins and history. Learn more about the importance of this medieval Imperial Monastery by visiting the famous Königshalle (King's Hall), the monastery mound with church ruins, the Schaudepot Zehntscheune (Exhibition Depot Tithe Barn) and the Herb Garden.

LUNCH IN THE SHADOW OF WORLD HERITAGE

We recommend a relaxed lunch in one of the restaurants in the centre of Lorsch. Many also have an outdoor terrace so that you can enjoy the view of the Königshalle (King's Hall).

VISIT THE FREILICHTLABOR LAURESHAM (LABORATORY FOR EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY)

In the afternoon, take a guided tour in the Freilichtlabor Lauresham. Immerse yourself in the everyday lives of those who lived at the time of Charlemagne, before continuing your journey through history, past the Altenmünster Monastery and the Tobacco Barn.

TIP Use one of the bicycles from the World Heritage Fleet for your discovery tour.

A SOUVENIR FROM LORSCH

A stroll through the town, sampling regional specialities such as herb truffles and Lorsch Welschbrot, is the perfect way to round off your day.



DISCOVER THE SURROUNDING AREA

SAMPLE WINE WITH A CHAMPION WINE-GROWER

Enjoy the wonderful experience of an exclusive wine-tasting. Sample a wide variety of wines amidst the vineyards or enjoy an unforgettable encounter with wine at the heart of the countryside.

INFO Christa Guth | Tel. +49 (0)6251 860 9075 | www.cg-wein.de

HEPPENHEIM

Heppenheim, famous for its wine and festivals, is characterised by medieval half-timbered houses, romantic alleyways and idyllic squares. Starckenburg castle towers high above the town.

INFO Tourist-Information Heppenheim | Tel. +49 (0)6252 131 171
www.heppenheim.de

ROMAN TOWN OF LADENBURG

This ancient Roman settlement has a well-preserved historical old town. Take a journey back in time through two centuries full of history, culture and romance.

INFO Town Information | Dr.-Carl-Benz-Platz 1 | 68526 Ladenburg
Tel. +49 (0)6203 922 603 | www.ladenburg.de

FELSENMEER (SEA OF ROCKS)

Legend tells us that two giants quarrelled here and hurled large granite stones at each other, which now form a 'sea' of rocks surrounded by beech trees in the heart of the UNESCO Geo-Naturpark Bergstraße-Odenwald at Reichenbach. Come and marvel at this magical stone landscape, popular among climbers of all ages.

INFO Seifenwiesenweg 59 | 64686 Lautertal | www.felsenmeer.org

DISCOVERY TOURS BY BICYCLE

Many cycle trails – both short and long-distance – pass through Lorsch. Follow the Hessische Radfernweg R9, the Welterbe-Radtour 2 or the picturesque mountain road for longer excursions.

INFO Tourist-Information NibelungenLand | Tel. +49 (0)6251 17526 0
info@nibelungenland.net

PRICES – ENTRANCE TICKETS & GUIDED TOURS

Access to the grounds of the UNESCO World Heritage Lorsch Abbey is free. The individual sites, tours and activities (see selection below) can only be visited with an entrance ticket.

ADMISSION

Museumszentrum* (no guided tour)

Open all year, Tue.–Sun., 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Prices: €3 | concessions €2 | family ticket** €7

Lauresham annual family pass (2 adults + up to 4 children; transferable)

Valid for 12 months for all themed days and family Sundays | **Price:** €79

Combined ticket: 2 public tours on the same day
Königshalle (King's Hall) & Freilichtlabor Lauresham (Laboratory for Experimental Archaeology) | **Prices:** €10, concessions €6
(valid from mid-March 2019)

Offene Zehntscheune (Open Tithe Barn Exhibition)* (no guided tour)

April–Oct., 3rd Sun. in the month 10 a.m.–5 p.m. | **Price:** €1

GUIDED TOURS (public tours, no reservation required for 2 people or more; registration required for groups of 10 people or more)

Königshalle (King's Hall)

Duration: approx. 30–45 min., every hour 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Mar.–Oct., Tue.–Sun.; Nov.–Feb., Sat. & Sun. only

Prices: (incl. museum admission) €6 | concessions €4 | family ticket** €14

Schaudepot Zehntscheune (Exhibition Depot Tithe Barn)

Apr.–Oct., 1st Sunday in the month at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Duration: approx. 90 min.

Prices: (excl. museum admission) €7 | concessions €5 | family ticket** €16.50

Freilichtlabor Lauresham (Laboratory for Experimental Archaeology)

Duration: approx. 90 min., Tue.–Fri. at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Sat. & Sun. every hour between 11 a.m. & 5 p.m. | Open mid-March to end of Oct.

Prices: €7 | concessions €5 | family ticket** €16.50

Groups (of 20 people or more) €6 p.p. | Regular visitor ticket '7+1' €49

Combined ticket for Königshalle (King's Hall) & Freilichtlabor

Lauresham (Laboratory for Experimental Archeology)

Mid-March to end of October

Duration: 2–2.5 hrs.

Prices: €10 | concessions €6

GUIDED TOURS (bookable, registration required for 2 or more people)

1. Königshalle (King's Hall), the Abbey grounds, the History of the Abbey Exhibition
2. Königshalle (King's Hall), Kirchenfragment (Church Fragment), Schaudepot Zehntscheune (Exhibition Depot Tithe Barn)
3. Schaudepot Zehntscheune (Exhibition Depot Tithe Barn)
4. Freilichtlabor Lauresham (Laboratory for Experimental Archaeology)

Duration: approx. 90 min.

Prices: Groups €70 (up to 10 people), each additional person €7 |

concessions €5 | Groups (of 20 people or more) €6 p.p.

Lorsch Pharmacopeia Herb Garden***

Duration: approx. 90 min.

Price: Groups €55 (up to 10 people); each additional person €5.50

The Peony Garden***

Duration: approx. 60 min., March to mid-June

Price: Groups €55 (up to 10 people); each additional person €5.50

THEMED DAYS AND WEEKENDS

Freilichtlabor Lauresham (Laboratory for Experimental Archaeology)

Same as the admission price for the Freilichtlabor Lauresham

Weekend ticket €11.50 | concessions €7

OTHER GUIDED TOURS AND EVENTS

www.kloster-lorsch.de | www.lorsch.de

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

buchung@kloster-lorsch.de | Tel. +49 (0)6251 869200

* Museum closed: Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day and Shrove Tuesday

** Family ticket: 2 adults + up to 4 children

*** The Herb Garden and Peony Garden:
Tourist-Information NibelungenLand
info@nibelungenland.net | Tel. +49 (0)6251 175260

Prices correct in January 2019. Information subject to change.

THE WORLD HERITAGE BIKE FLEET

An entrance ticket to the Lorsch Abbey World Heritage Site includes the free use of a bike – turning your visit into a fun experience for the whole family! The fleet contains bikes for adults and children, as well as child seats. The World Heritage-designed bicycles can be collected from the tills in the Museumszentrum (Museum Centre in Lorsch town centre) or the Visitor Information Centre (by Lauresham), subject to availability.

SERVICE AND INFORMATION

WHERE TO BUY TICKETS & BOOK GUIDED TOURS (UNESCO World Heritage Lorsch Abbey)

Museumszentrum (Museum Centre)

Nibelungenstraße 35 | 64653 Lorsch
muz@kloster-lorsch.de | info@kloster-lorsch.de | Tel. +49 (0)6251 103820

Visitor Information Centre

Im Klosterfeld 12 – 16 | 64653 Lorsch | info@kloster-lorsch.de

OPENING HOURS

Tue.–Sun., 10 a.m.–5 p.m. | Lauresham (Laboratory for Experimental Archeology) & Schaudepot Zehntscheune (Exhibition Depot Tithe Barn) are closed end of October to mid-March

CONTACT US | INFORMATION



UNESCO World Heritage Site Lorsch Abbey

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Lorsch Culture and Tourism Office

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www.lorsch.de



REGIONAL PARTNERS

Tourismus Service Bergstrasse e.V.
www.diebergstrasse.de



Odenwald Tourismus GmbH
www.odenwald.de

The World Heritage Site is run by the State of Hessen.



JOURNEY INTO THE CAROLINGIAN AGE





MONASTERY GROUNDS (UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE)

Only a few years after the foundation of the Altenmünster Abbey in 764, a new monastery was built on an adjacent ice-age sand dune. This abbey was later assigned to Charlemagne, who turned it into one of his most important Imperial Monasteries. Charlemagne, his family and his court attended the consecration of the monastery church in 774. Three structures from the complex remain: a fragment from the St. Nazarius Basilica, a section of the monastery wall and the famous Königshalle (King's Hall). When World Heritage Site Lorsch Abbey was given a restructuring in 2014, both monasteries were connected to each other in one architectural landscape.

KÖNIGSHALLE (KING'S HALL | UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE)

The world-famous Königshalle (King's Hall) at Lorsch is the architectural highlight of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. This is one of the few remaining buildings offering an almost complete vision of Carolingian architecture, with its ancient and Early Medieval decorations. The building was originally situated in the forecourt of the basilica, but its function is still unknown today. The upper floor reveals elements of well-preserved wall paintings from the Carolingian era and other centuries (only accessible by guided tours).

CHURCH FRAGMENT (UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE)

The church fragment is part of the original 12th century basilica. It used to form one of the three western bays in the central nave of the antechurch in the St. Nazarius Basilica, which was largely destroyed in 1621 during the Thirty Years' War. It is likely that the area around the church fragment also contained some earlier structures.

MONASTERY WALL (UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE)

The monastery wall is one of the few remaining structures of the former monastery complex, the southern section of which is still visible today. Measuring three to four metres in height and around 500 metres in length, the wall is the largest remaining structure from the original monastery.



MUSEUMSZENTRUM (MUSEUMS CENTRE)

The historical section of the Museum Centre examines the impact that the powerful Lorsch Abbey and its diocese had on culture and society. The exhibition includes a re-creation of an Early Medieval scriptorium, which provides information about the monastery manuscript workshop and the library, one of the most important of its time. Both played a major role in Charlemagne's educational reform. The museum centre also houses the Lorsch Tobacco Museum, one of the largest of its kind in Germany.

SCHAUDEPOT ZEHNTSCHEUNE (EXHIBITION DEPOT TITHE BARN)

This building, originally built in the 1590s to store the tithes, has been extensively renovated in recent years. The modern exhibition space presents evidence from about 150 years of archaeological excavations and research at Lorsch Abbey. The displays include ancient objects from the third centuries, Carolingian columns and capitals from the monastery's heyday, as well as impressive evidence of sophisticated methods of construction used in subsequent epochs. The Tithe Barn Exhibition can only be visited as part of a guided tour.

LORSCH PHARMACOPEIA HERB GARDEN

The Lorsch Pharmacopeia, which was classified as UNESCO World Documentary Heritage in 2013, represents the birth of modern medicine in the western world. The large newly-landscaped herb garden is situated behind the Tithe Barn. The garden includes approx. 200 different medicinal plants that are contained within the Lorsch Pharmacopeia.



LORSCH ABBEY UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

RAPID RISE TO IMPERIAL MONASTERY

Originally founded in 764 by the Rupert family of Frankish Counts, the monastery's economic rise commenced with the transfer of the St. Nazarius relic from Rome to Lorsch in 765. Within only a few decades, the monastery's possessions included gifts to Saint Nazarius originating from throughout the empire, from the North Sea Coast to Graubünden. In 772, the Abbey was assigned to Charlemagne, who brought it under his protection and granted immunity. Lorsch thus became an Imperial Monastery and was protected from the greed of its neighbouring bishops and counts. This privilege lasted until 1232, when the monastery fell to the archbishopric Mainz, which expelled the Benedictines. The latter were initially replaced by Cistercians and then, shortly afterwards, by Premonstratensians.

AN EVENTFUL PAST

From the date it was originally founded in the Carolingian period up until the High Middle Ages, Lorsch Abbey was one of the most important cultural centres for the dissemination of the educational programme developed by the royal court. The abbey became famous for its scriptorium and comprehensive library, one of the largest and most important in the Middle Ages. Today, the remaining works, including the famous Codex Aureus of Lorsch, are dispersed across 54 sites in 17 countries around the world. The monastery was also a pioneer in the field of medicine. The late eighth century Lorsch Pharmacopeia is the oldest pharmaceutical manuscript of the Western Middle Ages. Lorsch Abbey is also mentioned in Germany's well-known legend, the Song of the Nibelungs, as the burial site for Siegfried. Although the latter is only a legend, the monastery is the actual resting place of the first East Frankish Kings of the Carolingian dynasty.

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL IMPORTANCE

The Imperial Monastery continued to successfully defend its independence until the first half of the 13th century. In 1065, the monastery was forced to build a castle – Starkenburg in neighbouring Heppenheim – to repel enemy attacks. This was the first time in its history that the monastery opposed the ruling king and forced him to restore the ancient rights for Lorsch. In 1461, Mainz pledged the monastery to the Electoral Palatinate. Almost a century later, it was dissolved by Prince Elector Ottheinrich during the Reformation.



Lorsch silver pfennig, 2nd half of 12th cent.



FREILICHTLABOR LAURESHAM (LABORATORY FOR EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY)

The Freilichtlabor Lauresham shows how people lived during the time of Charlemagne. This life-size model of a Carolingian manor is the first archetypal reconstruction of its kind. The 4-hectare complex comprises a total of 21 commercial and residential buildings and barns, as well as a chapel. The livestock breeds look as similar as possible as the animals around in Early Medieval times, offering visitors an authentic image of everyday life at an Early Medieval manor. The laboratory is run as a working farm and a research site for agriculture, animal husbandry and handicrafts.



THEMED WEEKENDS

Special themed days and weekends are held throughout the year at the Freilichtlabor Lauresham, focusing on the everyday lives of people in the Early Middle Ages. Visitors can gain an insight into the skills and inventions of our forefathers and the circumstances and events that shaped their lives. They can learn more about handicrafts, animal husbandry, hunting and the lives of people and animals at night. Presentations are always based on the latest research findings. The museum's hands-on activities are fun and educational for the entire family.

Lauresham is open every day except Mondays from the middle of March to end of October. Outside of themed weekends, the site can only be visited as part of a tour.



ALTENMÜNSTER MONASTERY (UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE)

The Rupert family, who were closely connected to the ruling Carolingian dynasty, built a private monastery on the River Weschnitz. This original abbey was first mentioned in documents in 764. The location soon had to be abandoned due to lack of space. The newly-designed landscape shows the outline of the former complex and gives an impression of the size of this former monastery.

AWARD-WINNING MUSEUM EDUCATION

Lorsch Abbey was awarded a prize by the German UNESCO Commission for the museum's pedagogical services. The museum hosts a diverse programme of activities for children and adults who want to learn more about life in the Carolingian period both inside and outside a monastery. Activities include writing with goose feathers, medieval metal casting and mystery reading nights.

INFO www.kloster-lorsch.de | info@kloster-lorsch.de | Tel. Tel. +49 (0)6251 869200

