



discover, marvel, experience



***Places to see in Bruchsal,
its districts and Gondelsheim***

ENGLISH

Places to see in Bruchsal

The best way to discover the sights of Bruchsal is on a walking tour around the town. You can find a map of the town labelled with the various sites in the centre pages of this brochure. The tour starts and finishes at the palace Schloss Bruchsal. A guidebook "Bruchsal – A tour of the past and present" is also available and offers a more detailed description of this town walk. It can be purchased at the palace, the tourist information office and in bookstores.

Welcome to our town!

Your team at the Bruchsal tourist information office

Sightseeing town walk

1. Schloss Bruchsal German Museum of Musical Automata Town Museum



Schloss Bruchsal, the former residence of the Prince Bishops of Speyer, welcomes visitors in a setting of incomparable splendour. The central oval staircase designed by the Würzburg architect Balthasar Neumann is considered a jewel of Baroque architecture. The ostentatious halls

reflect the glamour of court celebrations. It was only by good fortune that the comparatively small town of Bruchsal was chosen as the location for such a splendid building. The Bishop of Speyer at that time was Damian Hugo von Schönborn and he decided to transplant his residence from the protestant imperial city of Speyer to this small town in Baden. He played an active part in determining the design of his "Damiansburg" on several occasions. Schönborn's successor, Prince Bishop Franz Christoph von Hutten, was responsible for the opulent Rococo splendour we see today.

Although almost completely destroyed at the end of World War II, the main building was painstakingly reconstructed according to the original design.



As well as its spectacular architecture, the palace is also notable as the home of the **Deutsches Musikautomaten Museum** (German Museum of Musical Automata) – another attraction of Schloss Bruchsal that enjoys national and international recognition. With over 500 exhibits, the collection traces

the development of automated music from the tiny pipes of the cuckoo clock (the first musical automaton) to huge transportable machines with squeeze-boxes, drums and cymbals. Some instruments in the museum have acquired an almost legendary reputation – including the self-playing grand piano owned by German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and of course, the organ built specially for the luxury liner "Titanic". This, however, was not completed in time for the maiden voyage. Visitors of all ages can not only look at the instruments but in some cases, operate them themselves.



The exhibition in the **Städtisches Museum** (Town Museum) on the upper storey of the palace not only chronicles the ancient and early history of the town but also features a mineral collection, coins and medals and archaeological finds from the early Neolithic to the medieval periods. The main focuses

of the exhibition that records the town's history are the story of the penal system in Bruchsal from 1848 until the second half of the 20th Century and a documentary about the destruction of the town on 1 March 1945. The museum is also especially interesting for children, young people and families. Young visitors are accompanied on their tour by "Michi", a stone age boy who appears on the many easy-to-read signs throughout the museum.

Opening times: Schloss Bruchsal and its museums

Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 to 17:00,
Mondays only open on public holidays, closed on 24/25/31 December.

Guided tours of Schloss Bruchsal

March to October: hourly from 10:00 to 16:00, Nov. to Feb. by appointment
Group and special guided tours by appointment (see contact details)

Guided tours of the German Museum of Musical Automata

Tuesday to Sunday at 11:00, 14:00 and 15:30
Group tours by appointment (see contact details)

Guided tours of the Town Museum

Guided tours in "experimental archaeology" for school classes, kindergarten and visitor groups by prior appointment (see contact details)

Entry prices (Schloss Bruchsal and its museums – June 2010)

Adults / Concessions	€ 5,00 / € 2,50
Family ticket	€ 12,50
Groups of 20 persons or more	€ 4,50 per person

Special guided tours of Schloss Bruchsal

Adults / Concessions	€ 9,00 / € 4,50
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Group tours of the German Museum of Musical Automata (groups of 11 persons or more)

Tuesday to Friday	€ 35,00
Saturday, Sunday and public holidays	€ 40,00
In English, French and Russian	€ 50,00

Contact the Baroque Palace

For general enquiries and groups: Tel. +49 (0) 7251 742661, Special tours: +49 (0) 7222 934170
E-Mail: info@schloss-bruchsal.de • www.schloss-bruchsal.de

Contact the German Museum of Musical Automata

Tel.: +49 (0) 7251 742652
E-Mail: dmm@landesmuseum.de • www.dmm-bruchsal.de

Contact the Town Museum

Tel. Mon-Fri: +49 (0) 7251 79253
E-Mail: thomas.adam@bruchsal.de • www.bruchsal-erleben.de

2. The Town Park and Belvedere



Alongside the Ferdinand-Kaller fountain and Schönborn Grammar School, the main attraction of this **park** built in 1901 is unquestionably the **Belvedere**.

Glamorous parties and wild hunting adventures? The Belvedere was built in the Town Park in 1756 as a shooting lodge. If walls could talk, they would have tales to tell that match its exotic exterior. The two Chinese-style baldachin towers were a passing

fashion of the day and probably offer the best views of Schloss Bruchsal, the town and the Rhine plain. Gazing out over this magnificent vista, it does not take a great deal of imagination to understand why the citizenry of Bruchsal soon named this shooting lodge the "Belvedere".

Visitors can tour the rooms as part of guided tours of the town or by prior arrangement. Further information is available at the tourist information office.

3. The Andreasstaffel and Wingerthäusle



The story goes that, in 1867, master baker Andreas Rössler had these steps (the Andreasstaffel) built from Huttenstraße to his vineyard because he did not want to walk around the edge village with the assembled churchgoers. Henceforth, he had a direct route to his "**Wengertheisl**".

These steps (locally known as the "Steffele") are now a short cut to the Town Park and open to the public.

They offer a magnificent view over Bruchsal and the region.

4. + 5. St. Paulusheim and Klosterstraße



For the Pallottine community, the predecessor of the **Paulusheim** was a skittle alley in an empty tavern – the "Graf Kuno". This was converted to a chapel and dedicated to "the honour of St. Paul" by Father Stöckle in 1915.

The college for training missionary priests was built in 1923 on the Klosterberg hill and was a boarding school until the 1980s. Today, the Paulusheim is home to a grammar school. It is also well worth exploring the nearby **Klosterstraße** to admire the beautiful old houses.

6. Baroque Church of St. Peter



The **Grabeskirche** (Church of the Holy Sepulchre) built for the last Prince Bishops of Speyer and designed by Balthasar Neumann, is one of the most imposing Baroque churches in the state of Baden-Württemberg. The building survived the heavy bombing raid of March 1945 undamaged. It is built in the form of a Greek cross and the nave and transept are both 50 metres in length. The interior is 16 metres high, has a barrel-vaulted

ceiling and boasts a 22m dome. The two 3-storey towers house one of the oldest preserved sets of Baroque bells in the Northern Baden region.

Opening times

Open only occasionally outside church service times or on request.

Entry prices (Group tours)

Up to 30 persons

€ 30,00

More than 30 persons

€ 50,00

Contact

Tel.: +49 (0) 170 7509810 • E-Mail: st.peter.bruchsal@gmx.de

7. Sancta Maria and the Kindergarten Museum



The first **German Kindergarten Museum** opened in 1988 and features countless exhibits detailing the history of the kindergarten and pre-school education over an area of 200 m². Among other things, these include work and play materials, furniture and toys, old musical instruments and song books as well as materials used by the pioneering educationalists Friedrich Fröbel and

Maria Montessori. The Kindergarten Museum is located in the **Sancta Maria** building – a private vocational college for social pedagogy.

Opening times

On the last Saturday of the month from 14:00 to 17:00.

At other times only by prior appointment.

Entry prices

A donation is requested.

Contact

Fachschule für Sozialpädagogik Sancta Maria, Hochstr. 6, 76646 Bruchsal

Tel.: +49 (0) 7251 93250

E-Mail: info@fsp-sanctamaria.de • www.fsp-sanctamaria.de/kigamuseum

8. The Big Bridge and Little Venice



This bridge is the most important crossing point of the River Saalbach in the town. Its predecessor was built as early as 1284 and, due to its prominent position, even had its own chapel.

Until it was destroyed in World War II, the houses built directly by the river gave this quarter of the town an appearance reminiscent of the great Northern Italian lagoon city and it is still known as Little Venice today.

9. Bürgerpark, Castle Keep and Bürgerzentrum



The **Bürgerpark** was built at the end of the 1980s in connection with the construction of the **Bürgerzentrum** (civic centre) which is home to the town theatre. Today, the Bürgerzentrum and Bürgerpark host a wide range of cultural and social events. There are two memorials to the victims of National Socialism in the park, the third memorial is a plea for understanding between nations.

The 38 metre tall **castle keep** was built in 1358 as the defensive tower of the old castle. Its outer walls are over three metres thick and it is the town's oldest surviving building. Today the keep affords excellent views over the town and surrounding countryside. It also features a chronology of **Bruchsal's history** on its stairway.

It is possible to ascend the keep as part of guided tours of the town or by arrangement with the neighbouring tourist information office.

10. The Market Square and Stadtkirche



The **Stadtkirche** (town church) "Of Our Beloved Lady" stands on the foundations of a church first documented in 1268. Construction of the choir began in 1447 as evidenced by the inscriptions still visible on its outer walls. As the building was destroyed many times, the interior is now spartan. However, the 15th Century statue of the Madonna is worthy of note.

The neighbouring **market square** is not just the heart of the pedestrian zone but also home to the twice weekly market that takes place on Wednesdays and Saturdays. This is popular with residents of both the town and the surrounding area and is a lively meeting place for young and old.

11. Amalie Fountain, Palace Garden and Rose Garden



The **Amalie Fountain** in front of the local court, formerly the chancellery of the Prince Bishops, is a memorial to the Marchioness Amalie von Baden, who moved to Bruchsal after being widowed. The **Schlossgarten** (Palace Garden), arranged symmetrically along the axis of the main tract, was originally viewed as an outdoor extension of the living spaces inside the palace with the plants serving as a living building material.

The gardens were intended to reflect the power and glory of the owner, which accounts for the extravagant fountains and sculptures.

Today, the palace garden continues to provide an atmospheric setting for open-air concerts, theatre productions and markets. Special tours of the gardens are possible by prior arrangement.

The **Rosengarten** (Rose Garden), designed in the Baroque style, features around 60 varieties of romantic, bed and noble roses. The garden was completely renovated in 2005 as a show garden where visitors can find inspiration for designing their own gardens at home.

12. Museum in Damianstor



Adjoining the outbuildings on the northern periphery of the palace is the Damianstor, a gatehouse featuring two low side wings that secures the palace grounds to the north. It was built by Prince Bishop Damian Hugo von Schönborn in 1724/25 and never had any military significance although it served as the town prison for many years. Today, the local art society stages various exhibitions of contemporary art here.

Opening times

Saturdays from 14:00 to 17:00.

Sundays from 11:00 to 17:00.

Entry prices

Free.

Contact

www.damianstor.de

The sights at a glance

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The Democracy Trail

Since 2007, the "Baden Asparagus Trail" and "Kraichgau-Stromberg Wine Trail" have been joined by another tourist route that wends its way through Bruchsal – the "Democracy Trail". This route connects Frankfurt, Mainz, Lörrach and more than a dozen other towns telling the story of the freedom movement in South-West Germany through museums, memorials and other institutions. The Baden revolutionaries were the first inmates of the "Men's Prison of the Grand Duchy" in Bruchsal completed in 1848. As well as Schloss Bruchsal, the town has 4 further stopping points on the "Democracy Trail" ...

13. Prison



"Café Achteck", as it is known, opened in 1848 and takes its name from the octagonal outline, which is more reminiscent of a fort than a prison. The main building was constructed from 1841-1848 as a men's prison according to a design produced by Heinrich Hübsch, the building director of the grand Duchy of Baden.

Yet the building's exterior was not the only reason that the "New Bruchsal

Men's Prison" was considered a model institution and served as the basis for the "Moabit" prison in Berlin among many others. Solitary confinement was also introduced in Bruchsal. Based on the "Pennsylvanian system" the aim was "to guide the prisoner to regret, improvement and redemption while being alone with himself and his conscience in the peace of the cell".



After opening in 1848, the year of the Baden Revolution, the prison's first inmates were members of the defeated uprising. In May 1849, the prison was stormed and 28 political prisoners freed by members of the Bruchsaler Volksverein ("people's union") and the citizens of Bruchsal.

Today, **Bruchsal Prison** is a penitentiary of the state of Baden-Württemberg and therefore not open to the general public.

14. Grounds of the Civic Centre



The grounds of the current **Bürgerzentrum** (civic centre) were previously the site of the prison and a women's penal institution was also located in nearby Huttenstraße.

18 political prisoners from the Baden Revolution were also freed from these two prisons.

15. Memorial Stones



Bruchsal from 1851, is located close to the church.

Today, these memorials in tranquil, reflective surroundings serve as a reminders for the future. The graveyard covers an area of nine hectares and is also the largest green space in the town. It is used for burials by members of a variety of denominations.

16. "Zum Bären" Inn



The "**Zum Bären**" inn is located directly next to the Damianstor, close to the Baroque palace. In 1848/49 it was called "Hetterich'sches Bierhaus" and was an important gathering place for revolutionaries.

The owner, Heinrich Hetterich, not only participated in the storming of the prison in May 1849 but also joined Willich's Freikorps (Willich's Volunteers) and campaigned with them against the Prussians.

Small is beautiful – The Districts of Bruchsal

From Büchenau, the home of "white gold", to the towers and night-watchmen of Heidelberg, from Helmsheim, nestling among traditional orchards and vineyards, to Obergrumbach with its impressive castle and the Michaelsberg of Untergrumbach – the sights of the districts of Bruchsal are always worth visiting.

Büchenau



The residents of Büchenau have lovingly restored their half-timbered houses in the village street with great attention to detail.

Villages in the area used to have a standard layout of residential houses with forward-facing gables, barns and behind them more barns arranged at right angles.

This can still be seen here in Büchenau. The western edge of the village is particularly charming and closed off

in the traditional manner by barn buildings.

The **Maria-Hilf-Kapelle** (chapel), dedicated in 1864, is a popular destination for cyclists and walkers. Here, the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, St. Wendelin and the Fourteen Holy Helpers offer peace and comfort to humanity. There are even more hidden treasures to discover including the Osterbrunnen (Easter fountain) in the Vogelpark ("bird park"), which is lovingly decorated each year by the villages citizens and the model of the onion dome in the rectory garden. This once graced the village church which was built in 1745 and destroyed in 1945. Büchenau is very proud of its asparagus, which is extremely tender. It grows in a water protection area and therefore receives very little fertiliser.

Heidelberg



Raised to the status of an imperial city as early as the 12th Century, Heidelberg retained its city walls into the 19th Century. The Katzenturm, the Diebsturm (Cat's Tower and Thieves Tower) and the town's medieval layout bear witness to its illustrious history.

The outskirts are separated from the old town by the Baroque town gate and the town wall. Behind them you will find the town hall, which was

built as a hospital in 1744, as well as the protestant Stadtkirche (town church) with its gothic choir dating from 1540. The spacious market square is quite different and surrounded by patriarchal houses. But history in Heidelberg is not just to be found in stone buildings. It regularly comes to life with real **night-watchmen** and **guided tours of the towers** – and there are even more stories about living and working in past times to be found in the local history museum in the town gate.

Helmsheim



Archaeological remains discovered in Helmsheim and dating from various eras record the settlements of Celts, Romans and Alemanni – some of these remains can be seen in the Badisches Landesmuseum in Karlsruhe. Even today, amateur archaeologists can make exciting finds in Helmsheim.

The first written record of the name Helmsheim dates from 769 in a deed of donation for the monastery in

Lorsch and "Helmvesheim", as it was then known, has had an eventful history ever since. The **"Alte Kelter"** built in 1782 is particular worthy of mention. Originally a wine press house, it was later used as the community bakery and is now home to four local societies.

Obergrumbach



The name "Grumbach" was first recorded in 789 but the area around Obergrumbach was inhabited as early as the Stone Age (4000 - 3000 B.C.) as a number of archaeological finds prove. Building work started on the **Marienburg** castle in 1200 and it still rises sublimely above the roofs of Obergrumbach. However, it can only be viewed from outside.

The castle chapel with its frescos illustrating the Passion and salvific

martyr histories is a gem of art history. The moment visitors pass under the gate at the Rathausplatz (town hall square), they stand in the historic "Städt'l" (little town) and are surrounded by the past. This is one of the more important medieval town centres in Baden-Württemberg and, as part of a local initiative, the citizens and an artist have artistically restored and decorated its half-timbered houses.

Untergrumbach



The **Michaelsberg** is 269 metres high and gave its name to a Neolithic culture – the "Michelsberger Culture" – whose traces were observed and recorded here for the first time. St. Michael's Chapel is set high up on the hill and was first mentioned in historical records dating from 1346. It is now a popular church for weddings. However, the Michaelsberg is also a naturalist's paradise that is home to many rare plants and animals.

Down in the valley, the "Firstsäulenständehaus", a half-timbered house dating from 1428 and the oldest of its kind in the Kraichgau region, transports visitors into a bygone age. Every room tells a different story from the area's past, such as the career of Joß Fritz, the leader of the "Bundschuh" peasant's rebellion.

Gondelsheim

A colourful piece of Europe in the heart of the Kraichgau with an Anglo-Scottish castle, Flemish cuisine in the Baroque "Loewenthor" restaurant and an English landscape garden. Diverse European cultures are to be found everywhere here during the signposted tour of the historic town centre.

Gondelsheim has linked twelve witnesses of its history on this fascinating route, including striking examples of early architecture as well as the eventful biographies and life's works of well-known personalities.

Town Hall

The past is present even at the starting point, Gondelsheim Town Hall. This listed building was constructed in 1750 as a stately tithe barn and converted into an administrative building in 1880. Large route maps here and at the railway station offer visitors help in finding their way around.

Schloss Gondelsheim Palace



All paths now lead to **Schloss Gondelsheim** in its picturesque setting of outlying buildings, park, **English Garden** and **Nymphenbrunnen fountain**.

Who could not be fascinated by this architectural masterpiece built between 1857 and 1861 in the Anglo-Scottish style, its art nouveau wings added in 1906, ornaments, reliefs, coats-of-arms, battlements and bay windows? Art nouveau characterises

the interior, too, as evidenced by the wooden wall panels, colourful stained glass windows and furniture. The highlight is undoubtedly the dining room – also known as the Titanic room. Today, the park is a popular venue for events such as the Gondelsheim Palace Festival and the Christmas Market.



English Garden

Little was known for many years about the palace park laid out in the style of an English landscape garden. In 2008, the landscape garden was restored according to the original plans.

However, the park is now open to all sections of the population and not just the aristocracy.



Alter Turm

Just a stone's throw from the castle is the "Alter Turm". This tower, built on a hill, is the remnant of a fortified church dating from the 12th/13th Century. It is Gondelsheim's oldest surviving building. The frescoes inside were painted in 1430 but only rediscovered in the 1960s. They show the martyrdom of the apostles and legend of the Three Living and the Three Dead, which has its roots in the Orient.



Nymphenbrunnen Fountain

The Nymphenbrunnen fountain in Gondelsheim is a replica of the original "Three Dancing Maidens" by Walter Schott from 1903.

There are only four examples of this art nouveau fountain in the world. The design was premiered at the world exhibition in Brussels in 1897 and has graced the castle park since 2003.

Josephine Benz

The mother of the automobile pioneer Karl Benz is buried in the graveyard of Gondelsheim. The town was home to Josephine Benz in her later years until 1870. It is therefore a regular stopping point for the historic Berta-Benz vintage car rally.

Former Synagogue



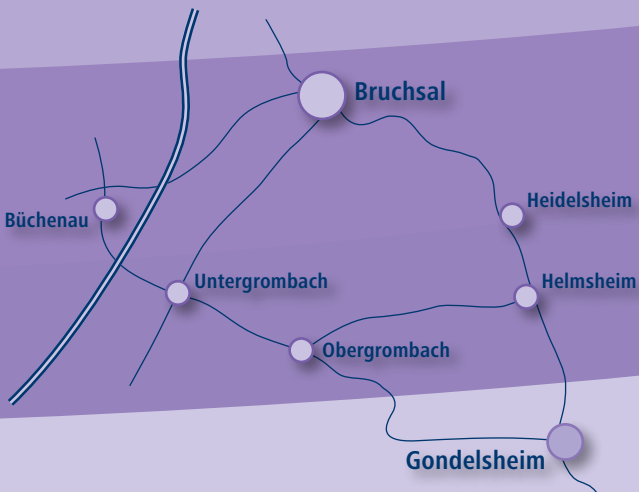
As visitors enter Leitergasse, they are immediately struck by an impressive neo-Romanesque building. Built in 1849, this was formerly the Gondelsheim synagogue and the spiritual centre of the local Jewish community that numbered over one hundred in the middle of the 19th Century. The synagogue has an assembly room, school room and a bath finished with sandstone panels – the mikvah – which is filled from a well.

Information

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Culture, Nature and Pleasure Between the Kraichgau and Rhine Plain

Nowhere in Germany does the sun shine as much as in this region of ancient cultures between the Rhine plain and the Kraichgau, which is often described as "Baden's Tuscany". This must surely be one of the reasons that the people here have a reputation for enjoying life to the full. From carnival celebrations to the castle and palace festivals and asparagus festivals – there is always a reason to celebrate. The local cuisine, wine and hospitality are famous far beyond the region's borders. Visitors with an interest in culture will discover history that comes to life in a beautiful landscape where the big city seems far away. The most popular attraction is the magnificent Baroque palace Schloss Bruchsal, which is also home to the German Museum of Musical Automata. However, historic sites stretch out like a string of pearls through the surrounding districts of Bruchsal and charming nearby town of Gondelsheim. An enjoyable bicycle tour is the ideal way for visitors with a thirst for exercise to view the area's many attractions.

We look forward to your visit!



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