

WÜRZBURG ↕ km 0 ↕ km 410 ↑

Watched over by its landmark, the Marienberg fortress, the university and congress city on the River Main is surrounded by vineyards. In addition to the former Prince Bishop's Residence (UNESCO World Heritage Monument), the splendid Baroque marketplace by Baltasar Neumann, sights worth seeing in the old town include the Cathedral, the New Minster, St. Mary's Chapel, the Market Place and the old bridge over the River Main. Numerous museums (Main-Franconia Museum, Cathedral Museum, Museum in the 'Kulturpeicher'), theatre and attractive festival highlights (Mozart Festival, Africa Festival). Also well worth your while are visits to local vineyards and excursions into the Franconian wine country.

TAUBERBISCHOFSHHEIM ↕ km 31 ↕ km 379 ↑

Tauberbischofsheim, the main town of the Main-Tauber District, is one of the oldest towns in the beautiful Tauber Valley. Grouped around the town's landmark, the Türmersturm tower, is the castle of the Kürnaldi dynasty. In addition to many fine buildings, the neo-Gothic Town Hall with its gilded espial is the most striking building on the market square. Nice pedestrian zone. Olympic fencing centre. VS School Furniture Museum. Cycle and hike through unspoilt countryside.

LAUDA-KÖNIGSHOFEN ↕ km 41 ↕ km 369 ↑

A wine town with magnificent churches from the heyday of Franconian Baroque architecture, historical bridges, imposing half-timbered houses and shrines from six centuries. Local museum (focusing on viticulture), guided tours of the nature, culture and viticulture trails, Leisure facilities including heated open-air swimming pool, indoor swimming pool with sauna and solarium. On the beautiful Tauber Valley bicycle route, Lauda-Königshofen is the starting and finishing point of the Main-Tauber-Franconian bicycle route. Delightful hiking paths through idyllic countryside.

WEIKERSHEIM ↕ km 63 ↕ km 347 ↑

Embedded in vineyards, Weikersheim is distinguished by a splendid Renaissance palace surrounded by magnificent gardens à la Versailles. The fully furnished interior furnishings, which date back to the 16th to 18th century. Also unique in terms of building unity is the market place with its imposing official buildings, the 'Kornbau' (granary), which houses the Tauberland Village Museum, the Gothic parish church and the Rococo fountain. Weikersheim has an excellent network of hiking and cycling trails.

CREGLINGEN ↕ km 79 ↕ km 331 ↑

This medieval town is the ideal place to relax. Parts of the fortifications, the former castle and the half-timbered houses recall Creglingen's eventful past. Musts for visitors are the altar by Tilman Riemenschneider in the Chapel of our Lord, the Thimble Museum and the Jewish Museum. At the 'Münstersee' leisure and relaxation area, there are fountains, a barefoot trail, knipp facilities and a swimming lake. Nature-oriented holiday arrangements: cycling and hiking in the tributary valleys, farm holidays, vacation apartments.

SCHILLINGSFÜRST ↕ km 115 ↕ km 295 ↑

The officially recognised health resort of Schillingsfürst is located in the heart of the forested countryside of the Frankenhöhe nature park, on the main European watershed between the Rhine and Danube. The town's landmark is the Baroque castle of the Princes of Hohenlohe-Schillingsfürst that, standing on an outcrop, can be seen from miles away.

DINKELSBÜHL ↕ km 143 ↕ km 267 ↑

An almost unspoilt townscape dating back over 400 years, mighty churches, proud patrician house Dinkelsbühl, imposing semi-timbered houses make Dinkelsbühl 'one of the closely packed and best preserved medieval towns in Germany', say art historians. Today, the Gothic Minster of St. George, one of South Germany's most impressive hall churches, still dominates an old-town ensemble of particular beauty. The ups and downs of the town's 800-year history are brought to life in the 'House of History, Dinkelsbühl - of War and Peace'. And there's no better way to round off the day than with a romantic tour of the town with the 'Night Watchman'.

NÖRDLINGEN ↕ km 172 ↕ km 238 ↑

Located in the centre of a huge meteorite crater, Nördlingen can still boast an almost complete medieval townscape. It is the only town in Germany with walls and battlements that can be walked all the way round. The historical old town is dominated by its landmark, the late Gothic hall church of St. George, with its 90 m high bell tower 'Daniel', which can be climbed 365 days a year.

DONAUWÖRTH ↕ km 212 ↕ km 198 ↑

Located at the confluence of the Wörnitz and Danube rivers, the former Free Imperial Town of Donauwörth was originally a fishing settlement on 'Ried' island in the Wörnitz, The 'Reichsstrasse' with its imposing patrician houses forms a magnificent axis in the historical old town between the Town Hall and the 'Fuggerhaus' and is one of the most attractive streets in South Germany.

AUGSBURG ↕ km 275 ↕ km 135 ↑

Founded by the Roman Emperor Augustus more than 2,000 years ago, Augsburg is one of Germany's oldest cities. The Free Imperial City reached its economic highpoint in the 15th and 16th centuries thanks to the trading and banking activities of the Fugger and Welser families. Today, the historical city centre with its grand Maximilianstrasse and the Renaissance and Baroque façades of the palaces and patrician houses presents a mirror image of this splendid epoch.

LANDSBERG AM LECH ↕ km 321 ↕ km 89 ↑

Founded by Henry the Lion, Landsberg am Lech can look back over a history of more than 850 years. The heart of the old town on the banks of the River Lech is the spacious market place with its proud patrician houses, Town Hall by Dominikus Zimmermann with an attractive stucco façade and the dominant 'Schmalz' tower.

SCHONGAU ↕ km 361 ↕ km 49 ↑

With its walls, gateways and towers, the medieval townscape is living evidence of Schongau's rich history. Granted its own rights at the turn of the 13th century, the town was an administrative centre, one of the seats of the Wittelsbach dynasty and a Bavarian fortress on the River Lech. The artistic Baroque decorations of the Parish Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary invite you to visit the church.

ROTTENBUCH ↕ km 374 ↕ km 36 ↑

An officially recognised health resort, Rottenbuch is located above the wild and romantic gorge cut by the River Ammer. Particularly imposing is the monastery yard with the venerable buildings of the Augustinian monastery, which is over 900 years old, and the famous former convent church 'Mariae Geburt'. Cycle and hike in the idyllic foothills of the Alps, e.g., along the 'Pfaffenwinkel Milk Way', Bavaria's only route dedicated to dairy farming.

STEINGADEN ↕ km 387 ↕ km 23 ↑

The approved health resort in the South of the Pfaffenwinkel district, at the intersection of the Romantic Road and the German Alpine Road, is renowned for the world-famous Rococo church 'Wieskirche' (UNESCO World Heritage). No less imposing is the historical minster 'Weihenmünster' with its Romanesque Cloister. The most important buildings are located in the heart of a hiking paradise in the enchanting subalpine countryside.

SCHWANGAU ↕ km 406 ↕ km 4 ↑

The village of the 'King's Castles' is surrounded by four lakes and the Ammergebirge nature protection area. The attractions include 120 km of hiking and walking paths, King Ludwig's world-famous castles, Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau, and the Roman villa (Roman excavations), Royal Crystal Thermal Baths – thermal baths and sauna landscape with massage and beauty facilities. Cable car to the 1,720 m-high Tegelberg mountain.

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BAD MERGENTHEIM ↕ km 51 ↕ km 359 ↑

The former town of residence of the Grand and German Masters of the Order of Teutonic Knights has enjoyed an international reputation as a spa for many years. Bad Mergentheim is famous for its Castle of the Teutonic Order with chapel and museum, the Stuppacher Madonna, Solymar Bathing and Wellness Park and the game park. On the market place, fine half-timbered houses and Baroque palaces are grouped around the magnificent Renaissance Town Hall and the Minster of St. John.

RÖTTINGEN ↕ km 71 ↕ km 339 ↑

Embedded in the rolling hills and vineyards of the Tauber Valley, Röttingen is directly on the Romantic Road. The town is surrounded by historic fortifications with towers and bastions and distinguished by a medieval town centre, attractive half-timbered houses and a Baroque town hall. Particularly interesting is the two-kilometre 'Sun Dial' path with 25 unique timepieces. The courtyard of Brattenstein Castle has provided the picturesque setting for the annual 'RÖTTINGEN FESTIVAL' outdoor theatre since 1984.

ROTHENBURG O.D.T. ↕ km 98 ↕ km 312 ↑

The incomparable silhouette of the former Free Imperial City rises high above the Tauber Valley at the crossroads of the Romantic Road and the Castle Road. The turbulent history of the town is reflected in the performances of the historical festival play 'The Master Draught' and 'The Shepherds' Dance'. The jam-packed calendar of events is rounded off by the amusing Hans Sachs farces, the Imperial City Festival, the famous Christmas market and, of course, the 'Toppler' Theatre – the open-air theatre in the northern courtyard of the Imperial City Museum.

FEUCHTWANGEN ↕ km 131 ↕ km 279 ↑

With its Cloister Festival, this former Free Imperial Town can boast one of the biggest and most traditional festivals in Bavaria. The Franconian museum is one of the most interesting museums of ethnic art in Southern Germany and as well worth seeing as the unique Choral Museum. The Bavarian Casino is distinguished by international flair while the historical townscape and the attractive countryside provide the ideal setting for relaxing or exploring.

WALLERSTEIN ↕ km 165 ↕ km 245 ↑

The market town of Wallerstein is located in the heart of the Ries district and is characterised by its long history as the seat of the Princes of Oettingen-Wallerstein. The famous plague or trinity column and the parish church of St. Alban dominate the picturesque and historic town centre. In the middle of the town is the 'Wallerstein Felsen', a 65-metre high rock offering an outstanding panoramic view of the Ries district.

HARBURG ↕ km 195 ↕ km 215 ↑

The small town of Harburg lies in the Wörnitz Valley between the Swabian Highlands and the Franconian Jura. Huddled together in the old town between the River Wörnitz and the castle are medieval half-timbered houses and Baroque gabled houses. Towering above the town is the mighty Harburg, one of Germany's best-preserved castles, which is nowadays owned by the non-profit-making Fürst zu Oettingen-Wallerstein Cultural Foundation.

RAIN ↕ km 234 ↕ km 176 ↑

This town by the Lech was founded more than 750 years ago as the north-western stronghold of Ancient Bavaria. Remains of the early fortress, town walls and the 'Leibnaustranze' gate can still be seen. The main street comprises an attractive and unique ensemble of heritage-protected patrician buildings dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries. The rococo Town Hall is a beguiling and majestic building that can be seen from afar. The Tilly Memorial honours the former commander in the Thirty Years War, Johann Serenus Tilly, who was severely wounded at the Battle of Rain in 1632 and subsequently died of his wounds.

FRIEDBERG ↕ km 281 ↕ km 129 ↑

Founded by Duke Ludwig in 1264, Friedberg, the 'Ancient Ducal Town' in the Lechrain region of Bavaria, is distinguished by a medieval townscape. In addition to the remains of the town fortifications, the 'Marktplatz' in the heart of the town, with its fountain, pillar and Renaissance Town Hall, is a particular attraction.

HOHENFURCH ↕ km 358 ↕ km 52 ↑

In the Schönbach Valley, surrounded by meadows and woods, Hohenfurch (pop. 1,600) is the gateway to the Pfaffenwinkel region. Here, guests can enjoy the freshness of summer and the view over the foothills of the Alps in a rural setting. A widespread network of bicycle and hiking paths, not to mention a host of other leisure activities, such as riding, tennis, cross-country skiing, etc., make Hohenfurch an ideal holiday base.

PEITING ↕ km 364 ↕ km 46 ↑

Located between the rivers Ammer and Lech, Markt Peiting is one of the region's oldest settlements and has retained its rural charm. Particularly worth seeing are the parish church of St. Michael and the museum in the monastery. No matter whether you are interested in the beautiful countryside, historical treasures, the large range of sporting activities or the society of pleasant people, Peiting looks forward to your visit. A tip for when the weather is fine: an excursion up the Hohenpeissenberg mountain.

WILDSTEIG ↕ km 380 ↕ km 30 ↑

Comprising numerous districts and villages, this officially approved resort is situated in the heart of nature and landscape conservation areas and embedded in the undulating foothills of the Alps, surrounded by highland moors and lakes and the Ammergau and Allgäu mountains: the ideal place to cycle and hike for guests wanting peace and relaxation. Official Nordic Walking Centre of the DSV (German Ski Association).

HALBLECH ↕ km 396 ↕ km 14 ↑

Located in the Ammer Mountains Nature Conservation Area, Halblech is embedded in a broad valley with spectacular views of the Alps over four picturesque lakes. The town is only a short distance from Neuschwanstein Castle, the Church in the Meadow and Füssen. Here, you can enjoy 200 km of hiking and cycling trails: at an altitude of 800 to 2100 m, a ride in the cable car up Buchenberg mountain, ski lifts, 30 km of cross-country skiing trails, a 2.5 km natural toboggan run and much more.

FÜSSEN ↕ km 410 ↕ km 0 ↑

Bavaria's romantic soul: on the edge of the Alps and in one of Germany's most attractive holiday regions with Neuschwanstein Castle close by, Füssen is the highest city in Bavaria (800 to 1,200 m). The late medieval town centre with the High Castle and St. Mang's monastery houses numerous works of art and monuments to a history stretching back almost 2,000 years. Ideal for sightseeing, taking a stroll or shopping in a romantic setting.

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D9 Long-distance Cycle Trail Romantic Road

Long-distance walking tours, cycling tours represent the most 'natural' way of getting to know both the grandiose, charming landscapes and the delightful little corners that hide on all sides along Germany's oldest holiday route. Take a trip in the saddle and enjoy the reward of delightful landscapes, historic highlights of medieval buildings and culinary delicacies. Cyclists can count on experiencing the best of what Franconia, Baden, Württemberg, Swabia and Upper Bavaria have to offer.



Visitors from near and far will all find one delight after another lined up like pearls on a string: historic old town centres, medieval city walls with their defensive towers and gateways, Baroque churches of pilgrimage, Romanesque monastery walls and the dreams of the Bavarian 'Fairytale King' transformed into stone. Equally attractive, however, are the wild, romantic river valleys and fishing lakes, the bucolic traditions of a landscape tended by many generations. Woods offering shade, an age-old meteorite crater and the awesome panorama of the Ammergau Alps are all there to delight visitors as they cycle gently past, with sufficient time and leisure to take in all the new and fascinating things there are to see.

This unique and varied cycling tour from Würzburg to Füssen in no way requires the trained calves of the professional cyclist, there are no mountains to cross and no-one needs worry about long, exhausting climbs. Not until you get to the Pfaffenwinkel are there any longer, steeper uphill stretches, but they don't pose any real problems, even to less well-trained cyclists. At all events, cyclists on the tour will need to adapt to a variety of different surfaces. The Romantic Road Cycling Trail is not intended so much for professionals on racing bikes, but for leisure cyclists who want to experience and to get to know the countryside, the towns and their inhabitants.

There are gently graded levels of difficulty. The whole trail covers 460 kilometres. The cycling trail runs parallel to the Romantic Road on little-used side roads, local link roads and tracks through consolidated farmland and forests. There are short sections that are ideally suited for short-stay and weekend visitors. And, as well as the traditional cycle trails, the countryside

between Würzburg and Füssen offers some fabulous opportunities for mountain-biking.

The D9 long-distance cycle trail is clearly sign-posted throughout.

From April to October, there is a coach service that runs along the Romantic Road, and accepts bicycles on advanced reservation.

So you can use it to cover individual stages of the route or to return to the starting point of the tour.