

The Donauberglandweg Danube Highland Trail

.....
From the Hillsides of the Swabian Alb
to the Danube Valley

In 4 Stages



The Donaubergrauldweg



The mountainous back country of the Danube (Donaubergland) is one of the most appealing, scenic regions in Baden-Württemberg. Close to its source the Danube with its tributary valleys has been shaping this region for millions of years. Hikers can experience the highest mountains of the Swabian Alb, the deepest valleys, ruins, fortresses and castles, the romantic Danube in all its fascinating variety in this region.

The Donaubergrauldweg is approximately 60 kilometers

long and reveals the beauties of the region in 4 diversified day trips. This first awarded "quality trail," of the Swabian Alb goes from the "roof" of the Swabian Alb to its "Grand Canyon" the gorge of the upper Danube.

The highest mountain of the Swabian Alb, the "Lemberg", elevation of 1015m is the starting point of the hiking trail along the steeply sloping gorges and canyons in the south-western Alb down to the towns Mühlheim and Fridingen all the way to Beuron, the

famous monastery and center of the "Naturpark Obere Donau" ("Nature Park Upper Danube").

Along the way you can count on a sight or a point of interest every 2 to 3 kilometers. Be it a spectacular view all the way to the Alps and the Swiss mountains, lovely churches and chapels, stretches of heather and grassland with junipers or steeply sloping cliffs and rocks, castles, ruins or medieval towns, the Donaubergrauldweg has it all. Almost half of the

distance is done on natural foot paths and romantic trails.

Among more than 100 "quality trails", this is one of the most beautiful ones in Germany. On every one of the four day trips you can experience spectacular new scenery and sights.

We are looking forward to your visit!





FACTS OF THE DONAUEGGENWEG

Sign: 

Distance: 59 km* | 72 km

Stages: 4

Ascent: 1700 m* | 2200 m

Descent: 2000 m* | 2400 m

Highest elevation: 1015 m

Lowest elevation: 607 m

Time: 18 h* | 20:45 h

* Direct route



Stage 1

From Gosheim to Spaichingen

Along the escarpments of the Swabian Alb
From the mountain "Lemberg"
to the "Dreifaltigkeitsberg" ("Trinity mountain")

Distance: 20 km (Center of Gosheim to the train station in Spaichingen) / 15,5 km*

Time: approx. 5:30 h / 4:30 h*

Highest elevation: 1015 m



Lowest elevation: 654 m / 776 m*

Ascent: approx. 500 m

Descent: approx. 750 m / 450 m*

* Direct route

TO GET TO THE START

Go from the  bus stop "Rathaus", in the direction to the church in the "Lembergstraße" (K 5909) for approximately 500 m north. Parallel to the street continue straight ahead, at the roundabout to the  trailhead parking site at the foot of the "Lemberg".



ROUTE

This day trip begins right away with a steep hike up the highest mountain of the Swabian Alb – the Lemberg, elevation 1015 m. You follow the green and blue signs from the parking lot all the way up to the top. If you are not prone to vertigo you climb up the tower of 33 m for a wonderful view all the way to the "Mont Blanc" on a clear day, the furthest one can see in Germany at any point. Over the mountain saddle and the former "Wunderfichte" ("wonder spruce") you reach the small chapel called "Bürglekapelle". For the further descent to the town Wehingen you follow the "Kreuzweg" ("Way of the Cross").

In the center of Wehingen you cross the street at the city hall and continue towards the church, where the next hike up begins via the “Knieschnäpperle” (a steep path up where you strain your knees) and later on a slightly rising logging trail. At the end of said trail a narrow path continues up to a plateau next to the radar tower. When you cross the road you reach the viewpoint “Kehlen/Weißes Kreuz” (White cross) with an elevation of 1001 m, which makes it one of the 10 mountains over one thousand meters in the Danube highland. Already three of them you conquer on this day trip. You stay now on this tableland and walk along the escarpment all the way to the mountain “Klippeneck”.

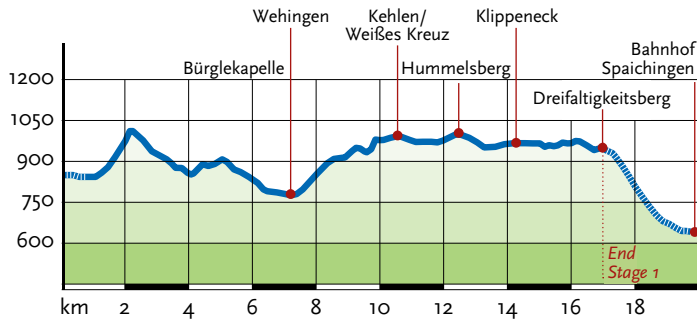
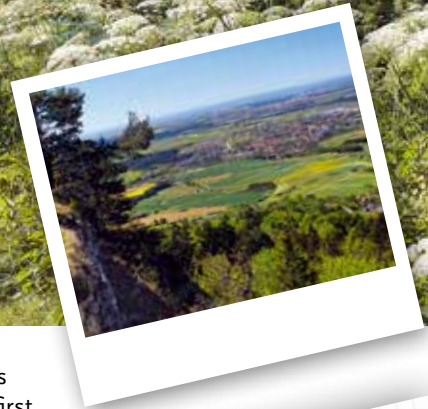




Sheep grass on Germany's highest glider airfield. On your way to the "Dreifaltigkeitsberg", lovely views into the valley, the

"Black Forrest" and the "Lemberg" open up. At the next sign post called "Schrofe" you turn right to reach the

"Dreifaltigkeitsberg". This is the final destination of the first stage. To the left you can continue on the second stage to Mühlheim.



GETTING TO YOUR CAR, TRAIN STATION OR ACCOMMODATIONS

From the "Dreifaltigkeitsberg" you can walk down to Spaichingen or call a cab. The way down begins behind the church. On the "Kreuzweg" via the "Dreifaltigkeitsbergstraße" it is about 2 km to the center of town.

Highlights

- Lemberg plus viewing tower
- Kehlen/Weißes Kreuz (view point)
- Klippeneck (lookout and glider airfield)
- Dreifaltigkeitsberg (Trinity mountain, church, exhibition)
- Kreuzweg (Way of the Cross)



Stage 2

From Spaichingen to Mühlheim/Donau

From the “holy” mountain to the “old” mountain through the Schäferfirtal (Shepherd’s valley) and the Lippachtal (Lippach valley) to the Danube.



Distance: 22,9 km (train station in Spaichingen to Mühlheim, upper town) | 17,9 km*

Time: approx. 6 h | 5 h*

Lowest elevation: 631 m | 640 m*

Highest elevation: 979 m

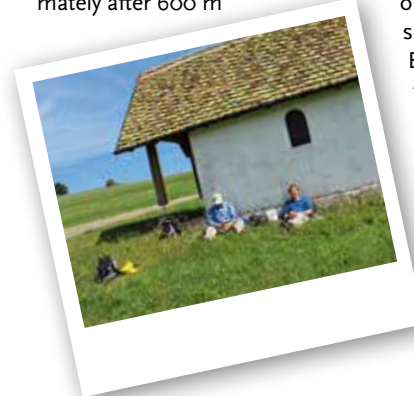
Ascent: approx. 600 m | 250 m*

Descent: approx. 570 m

* Direct route

TO GET TO THE START

Walk up from the center of town in Spaichingen via the “Dreifaltigkeitsbergstraße” in direction of the “Dreifaltigkeitsberg”. Follow the signs on the path up to the Trinity church. At the big parking lot for hikers follow the signs to “Klippeneck”, approximately after 600 m



is the second stage starting point of the Donauberglandweg to Mühlheim.

ROUTE

At first you pass quiet, clear forests and the European water divide Danube/Neckar. After approximately 1,5 km you reach the open Alb plateau, a particularly scenic area, before you get to Böttingen. Particularly around the “Alter Berg” (“Old Mountain”) which you see after passing the highest community in Württemberg, impresses with heathland, juniper groves, sheep pastures, and spectacular views all the way to the “Säntis” and the “Mont Blanc” on



Stage 2

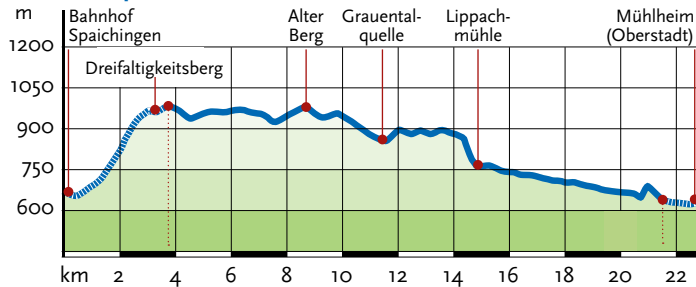
KOMPASS



clear days. From the chapel on top you leisurely walk down the heathland dotted with junipers and cross the road to Mahlstetten at one point. Through the “Schäfertal” you descend to the cool spring “Graentalquelle” where you find a barbecuing area and a humid biotope. From there

the path goes up again past the Allenspacher farm and along the edge of the valley to the viewpoint “Glatter Felsen” and finally steep down to the “Lippachmühle”. Following the course of the Lippach (creek) through the natural landscape of the valley, known for its spring snowflakes

Elevation profile



in bloom, you go down to Mühlheim. This day trip ends in the periphery of Mühlheim at the road to Kolbingen. En route to your accommodations in the historical upper town you let the majestically situated castle on a mountainous tongue of land guide you.

GETTING TO YOUR CAR, TRAIN STATION OR ACCOMMODATIONS

At the end of this day trip at the outskirts of Mühlheim, (sign post “Mühlenöschle”) you leave the Donauberglandweg. To the right is the train station and the path to the upper town, where you can eat and spend the night.



Highlights

- Dreifaltigkeitsberg (Trinity Mountain)
- Alter Berg (Protection area + viewpoint)
- Schäferbrunnen (“Shepherd’s well”)
- Allenspacher Hof (farm with an old linden tree)
- Lippachtal (valley)
- Mühlheim (historical upper town)



Stage 3

From Mühlheim to Fridingen

Picturesque framework houses, caves and rocks,
and the Danube somewhere in the picture at most times.



Distance: 14,5 km (Mühlheim, upper town to the center of Fridingen) | 12,6 km*

Time: approx. 4:30 h | 4 h*

Lowest elevation: 622 m | 776 m*

Highest elevation: 830 m

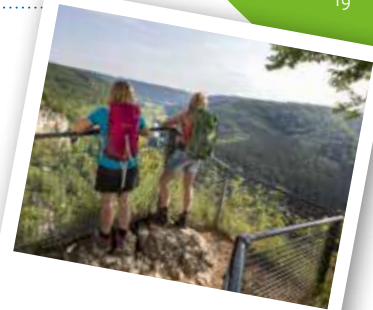
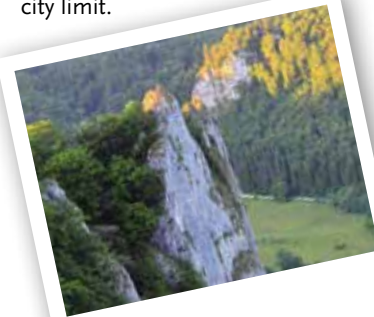
Ascent: approx. 450 m

Descent: approx. 500 m |
approx. 400 m*

* Direct Route

TO GET TO THE START

The starting point is at the city limit of Mühlheim, at the sign post “Mühlenöschle,” on the road to Kolbingen. Coming from the train station, cross the tracks to the left about 150 m north-east of the train station, and walk on the side walk toward Kolbingen to the city limit.



At the supermarket turn left toward the cemetery or, coming from the upper city, you go down to the Danube, at the roundabout crossing the “Bahnhofstraße” and the “Kolbingen Straße”.

ROUTE

Following the signs you walk around a small pond in the old town of Mühlheim and the “Galluskirche” (church) with its cemetery. At the end of the parking lot there is a small path up the hill to the “Mühlheimer Felsenhöhle” (rock cave) (which can only be visited by appointment).



Kolbingen

NSG Hintelestal

Mühlheimer Felsenhöhle

Kolbinger Höhle

Gelber Fels

Galluskirche Altstadt

Mühlheim an der Donau

historische Altstadt

Fridingen an der Donau

Mattheiser Kapelle

Knopfmacherfelsen

NSG Stiegelesfelsen

Laibfelsen

Bergsteig

Bära

Wylbach

Donau

Donau



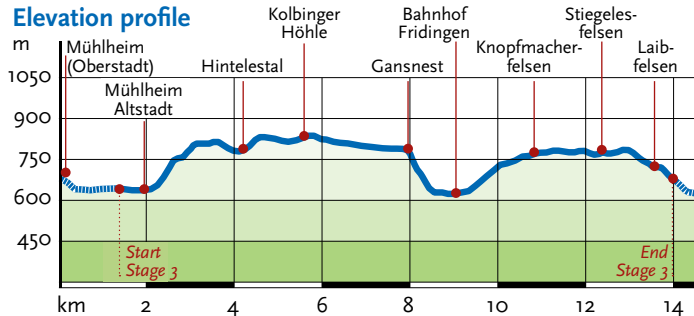


stalactite cave on the south-western Swabian Alb (open from April to October on weekends and holidays). Continuing through the forest, you reach the viewing tower “Gansnest”.

You descend to Fridingen on a winding path with a phone-in crossing gate at its end. When you ring the bell, the gatekeeper will open it for you. From the train station you go straight to the crossing on the main road. Cross the road, up a few steps, through a residential area climb all the way up to the forest. From there the path leads via the “Kreuzhalde” directly to the “Knopfmacherfelsen”

Up at the top it is worthwhile to visit the viewpoint “Gelber Fels”. Further down you reach the “Hintelestal” (a valley known for its spring snowflakes in bloom in March and April). An adventure trail goes to the “Kolbinger Höhle” (cave), the biggest

Elevation profile



GETTING TO YOUR CAR, TRAIN STATION OR ACCOMMODATIONS

From the final destination “Am Antoni” walk down to the ski slope’s parking lot approximately 300 m. Via “Kirchberg” and “Ob der Stadt” you descend to the historic center of town for a bite to eat and/or spend the night or you go along the “Bahnhofstraße” to the train station.

(viewpoint). A sign on the parking lot directs you into the forest to the well-known lookout. Back at the parking lot behind the hotel you go back into the forest. Soon you reach another open tableland. Skirting it halfway you arrive at the most spectacular lookout of this particular day trip, the “Stiegelesfelsen”. Through meadows you pass a small chapel and end up in the forest again. At its end you reach the “Laibfelsen”. After checking out the view you go down a few meters through dense forest getting to the ski slope “Antoni”. At this sign post “Am Antoni” the third day trip ends.

Highlights

- Galluskirche (church)
- Mühlheimer Höhle (dripstone cave)
- Kolbinger Höhle (dripstone cave)
- Gansnesturm (viewing tower)
- Knopfmacherfelsen (viewpoint)
- Stiegelesfelsen (nature reserve)
- Matheiser Kapelle (chapel) of Fridingen



Stage 4

From Fridingen to Beuron

Up and down, via a rocky landscape,
with many lookouts to the final destination

Distance: 14,5 km (center of Fridingen to the train station in Beuron) | 13,3 km*

Time: approx. 4:45 h | 4:30 h*

Lowest elevation: 607 m

Highest elevation: 781 m

Ascent: approx. 550 m | 490 m*

Descent: approx. 580 m

* Direct route

TO GET TO THE START

You reach the starting point of the 4th day trip, Skihang (ski slope) "Antoni", by walking from the train station via the "Bahnhofstraße" to the center of town. From there you go to the parking lot of the "Skihang Antoni" / Naturbühne (open air stage) "Steintäle" passing



"Ob der Stadt" and "Kirchberg." At the lower end of the parking lot there is a path skirting the slope approximately 250 m upward. From the sign post "Am Antoni" you follow the signs of the Donauberglandweg toward Beuron.

ROUTE

In the beginning you walk down through meadows on a grassy path. Before it turns right there is already the first lookout with a cross and a bench to invite you to rest and gaze. The view into the valley shows the path along the Danube all the way to the "Ruine Kallenberg" (ruin).



Further down on the meadow path you soon reach the Danube. Since the Danube cycling trail runs here along the Danube, hikers can walk parallel to the cycling trail along the pasture's fence. Also, after the "Ziegelhütte" there is another possibility along the pasture's fence to stay out of each other's way. However, in the following forest, there is a short part of the trail both, cyclists and hikers, have to share. In an ascending curve the hikers leave the cycling trail and climb up the narrow, rocky "Wolfental" frequently visited by chamois. Reaching the top you can make a small but worthwhile detour to the "Ruine Kallenberg" following said sign to the left. Back at the sign post there are only a few meters to go to the "Kallenberger Hof". From this point on you go up and down for several



Stage 4



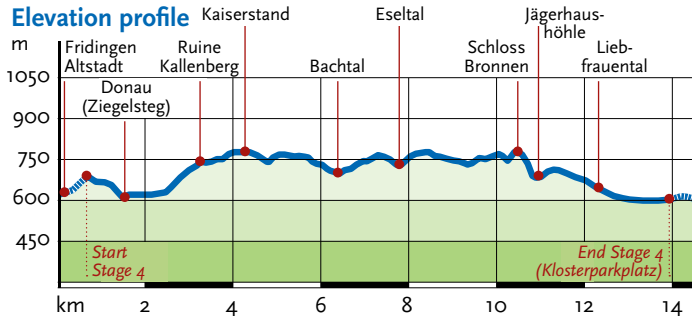
kilometers, through woody areas with wonderful lookouts, each one offering new and spectacular perspectives. At the castle “Schloss Bronnen” a steep path goes down. You pass the “Bronner” caves and descend further all the way to the

“Jägerhaushöhle” (another cave), at which point a short detour to the “Jägerhaus” is recommended. Down at the Danube recreation and refreshment awaits you, a welcome break, not only for your tired feet. Should you like to continue, go upward

at the “Jägerhaushöhle”. Soon you will reach open plains and grassland leading you down on a grassy path to the “Liebfraental”.

On the “Way of the Cross” toward Beuron, before it ascends again, you turn left toward the Danube. Always with the monastery in view you walk along the Danube to the final destination.

Elevation profile



GETTING TO YOUR CAR, TRAIN STATION OR ACCOMMODATIONS

The Donauberglandweg ends at the parking lot of the monastery in Beuron. Walking along the monastery’s wall into the small town you find accommodations or the train station.

Highlights

- Danube sinkhole near Fridingen
- Ruine Kallenberg (ruin)
- Numerous viewpoints
- Schloss Bronnen (castle)
- Bronner Höhlen (caves)
- Jägerhaushöhle (cave)
- Liebfraental (valley)
- Kloster Beuron (monastery)
- Historische Holzbrücke (Historical wooden bridge)



Journey to the Donauberglandweg plus accommodations

GETTING THERE BY CAR

If you come by car we recommend Spaichingen or Aldingen as your starting point. From Spaichingen you can take the train to Aldingen and the bus, line 220 (Aldingen – Denkingen – Gosheim – Wehingen – Deilingen) to the beginning of the trail and its first day trip to

Gosheim (bus stop “Rathaus”). For further information, please go to www.bwegt.de or www.bahn.de.

The return trip goes from Beuron via train back to Spaichingen or Aldingen with a change of trains in Tuttlingen. You may also possibly leave your car in Spaichingen at your hotel or at the final destination in Beuron. There is free and paid parking available. You get to the beginning of the trail in Gosheim via train and bus (2 transfers). You may also leave your car in Gosheim. However, the journey back after the 4th day trip takes 2 hours and after 6 p.m.



it is not possible anymore. There are parking lots for hikers all the way along the various day trips. You find the locations in this booklet on the maps.

GETTING THERE BY TRAIN AND BUS

Coming from

north or south:

Tuttlingen is the station for IC trains from Stuttgart or Zürich.

Coming from east or west:

Tuttlingen, Fridingen and Beuron are stops on the connection from Ulm to Freiburg. Spaichingen is the stop for the regional trains. Please find schedules under www.bahn.de. From Aldingen to Gosheim runs line 220. Please check schedules under www.bahn.de, www.bwegt.de.

ACCOMMODATIONS, RESTAURANTS AND SERVICES

There are various categories along the way or in adjacent towns or villages.



For more information, please go to www.donaubergland.de.

There you also find special tips for hosts specialized for hikers, the “Qualitätsgastgeber Wanderbares Deutschland”. We are happy to send you a current list of said hosts. Special hiking offers you also find on our homepage. Almost all hosts are happy to transport your luggage to the next day trip location, just ask them. Finally we have an offer to “hike without luggage”, please ask us.

Tips and other Information

SECURITY

The Donauberglandweg is predominantly an unpaved, natural, grassy path, leading through meadows, forests, valuable natural preserves and protected wildlife habitats in the “Naturpark Obere Donau”. To protect nature is very important to us and our co-operation partners. While hiking in nature, forests and fields, especially in wet conditions, you need to be aware of certain risks. Sure-footedness



and sturdy footwear as well as appropriate clothing are indispensable. Not everywhere there is the possibility to shop, get a bite to eat or find any other services. We recommend you take a backpack with drinks and a snack along. The Donauberglandweg is not cleared of snow during the winter. Thus we do not recommend you using it in snowy or icy conditions.

SIGNS AND SIGNPOSTS

The Donauberglandweg is marked in both directions according to the criteria of the “German Hiking Association” and the “European Ramblers’ Association”. Nevertheless, we recommend you go from north to south, i.e. from Gosheim to Beuron. The path is checked regularly. We put clear signs in all the strategic places to make sure that one cannot get lost. Should you still have reason to complain, please let us know.

INSTEAD OF 4 DAY TRIPS, TAKE LITTLE BITS AND PIECES

For all who prefer smaller day trips or half-day tours or simply do not like to walk as long, you may also enjoy the Donauberglandweg in smaller sections. Along the trail there are more designated paths with attractive sights called “DonauWellen” (“Danube waves”). Tours between 9 and 15 km offer lovely walks with numerous rest stops or small places to get a bite to eat. Please check www.donau-wellen.de



inns or in restaurants and huts along the hiking trails.

Enjoy the Donaubergland also with a regional beer or a special beer menu. Brew your own beer or take part in a beer tasting. www.donaubierland.de

FROM HIKING TO CULINARY DELIGHTS

Hiking makes you hungry and thirsty. Therefore: Enjoy the regional or international cuisine in one of our restaurants in the Donaubergland – whether in a starred restaurant, in excellent restaurants, in one of the village



More information

This booklet contains all the important information for undivided hiking enjoyment on the Donaubergrlandweg. For further information, please go to www.donaubergrland.de

There you'll find current information concerning blocked trails and detours due to work done on the trails or in the forest plus special activities as well as eating places, cafes and restaurants along the way.

At the end of the Donaubergrlandweg in Beuron, the "Donau-Zollernalb-Weg" begins. Another 10 daytrips go from the Danube valley via Sigmaringen, the "Lauchert" valley and the "Zollernalb" back to the "Lemberg", so that you can combine both trails for a 14 day round tour crossing the South-western Alb. For more information, go to www.wandern-suedwestalb.de



HIKING MAPS INCLUDING THE DONAUBERGLANDWEG AND THE "DONAU-ZOLLERNALB-WEG"

KOMPASS hiking map 781, "Naturpark Obere Donau"
(Albstadt – Tuttlingen – Sigmaringen)
Scale: 1:50 000,
Weight: ca. 110 g

Impressum

THE SEALS "LEADING QUALITY TRAIL – BEST OF EUROPE" AND "QUALITÄTS-WEG WANDERBARES DEUTSCHLAND"

Certified quality

The seals of quality are only issued if their strict criteria are met. The seals signal to the hiker that this particular trail is really one with class and quality, be it in terms of the trail's format, its diverse scenery, the numerous lookouts and sights or the rest stops and restaurants along the way.

Trail sponsorship

To assure the quality of this trail, the "**Kreissparkasse Tuttlingen**" took over a long-term sponsorship supporting us as a partner in terms of sustainable quality management and the attempt to continuously upgrade and market of the Donaubergrlandweg.

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In spite of repeated checks and the conscientious composition of the trail description and signposting, the publisher assumes no liability for the correctness and completeness of all data in this booklet.

Hiking on the Donaubergrlandweg takes place at your own risk.



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Swabian
Alb!



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