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**An illustrated guide-book to Heidelberg its castle and
environs**

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Heidelberg, 1948

Excursions into the plains of the Rhine

[urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-255219](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-255219)

senheim, (above Dossenheim is the fortress of Schauenburg), Schriesheim (above Schriesheim is the fortress of Strahlenburg), Gross-sachsen, Hohensachsen, Lutzelsachsen and finally Weinheim, Weinheim is watched over by two fortresses, the Wachenburg and the Windeck, the climb up to the former is worth the trouble.

From Weinheim roads penetrate into the interior of the Hessian Odenwald to Furth, Lindenfels, Morlenbach, Waldmichelbach and Wahlen. After Weinheim on the Bergstrasse comes Heppenheim, a very old town (ruins of the Starkenburg, Town Hall etc.). Not far from here is Lorsch with the remains of a Benedictine monastery and a Gate House dating from the Carolingean Period, and then Bensheim, Auerbach Castle and Melibokus, the highest mountain of the Odenwald.

EXCURSIONS INTO THE PLAINS OF THE RHINE

From Dossenheim or Schriesheim, one can reach Ladenburg, which lies in the plain. The ancient town has many an object of interest to show. (Church of St. Gallus, the remains of a Roman basilica, etc.).

Schwetzingen is easily reached by car in half an hour. It was originally a hunting-lodge of the Electors and remains of the mediaeval building are still to be seen in the main building. The Palace buildings, were erected in the 17th and 18th centuries. The Palace Garden, one of the most beautiful in Germany, contains a number of interesting buildings and statues. The garden is specially attractive early in May when the lilac is in bloom.

Via Schwetzingen one can reach Speyer on the left bank of the Rhine, famous for its Cathedral, (the foundation stone was laid in 1030) built in Romanesque style, where 8 German Emperors and Kings are buried; and also for

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the Historical Museum of the Palatinate which is one of the best in Germany. (Prehistoric and Roman Collections, Early Middle Ages, Porcelains, Tapestries, Costumes, Arms.)

Bruchsal about half an hour by motor along a stretch of charming country, has the finest Rococo Palace in Germany, still almost completely furnished, built as the seat of the Prince-Bishop of Speyer in 1719-1794 and consisting of about 50 separate buildings. It has a magnificent main staircase, Prince's Hall and Marble Hall, and a valuable collection of Gobelin tapestries.

From Bruchsal continue on to Bretten, the birthplace of Melanchthon, and Maulbronn, the best preserved Cistercian monastery in Germany.

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Mannheim, the town at the confluence of the Rhine and the Neckar, with formerly 277,000 inhabitants, was not only the biggest town in Baden and the industrial center of south-west Germany but was the natural center lying as it does between the Neckar Valley with Heidelberg, the Odenwald and the Bergstrasse on the one hand, and the Palatinate with its vineyards on the other.

The Name of Mannheim is first mentioned in 760 as a fishing village in a document of the monastery of Lorch. In 1607 Mannheim was given its charter as a town by the Elector-Karl Friedrich IV. Mannheim previous to this war, was destroyed three times, once by Tilly in the Thirty Years' War, by the French, and by the Austrians.

In 1720 the Elector transferred his residence from Heidelberg to Mannheim.

From Mannheim-Ludwigshafen we go Bad Durkheim in the Palatinate, a spa whose waters contain arsenic. It is the biggest vineyard area in Germany and noted for its good wines. Nearby are the monastery ruins of Limburg (founded 1030) and Castle Hartenburg. From Bad Durkheim, or Mannheim one can go to Neustadt on the Weinstrasse, lying in the heart of the best wine district.

Many ancient monuments have been preserved: Stiftskirche (1256), Stadthous, formerly the Jesuits' Lecture Hall, Casimianum (from 1578—1592 University).

From Mannheim one can reach Worms, an old Bishop's Seat. There is the Cathedral, the finest Romanesque cathedral on the Rhine, with splendid statues of the 9th century. (Of the same period there are the churches St. Martin, St. Andreas with Romanesque cloisters, and St. Paulus: of the Gothic period, Liebfrauenkirche, and Maria Himmelskron: of the baroque period, Dreifaltigkeitskirche.) Of modern buildings the Luther Memorial must not be missed.

SUGGESTIONS FOR MOTOR TRIPS IN THE IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF HEIDELBERG

The Western Odenwald

From Heidelberg over the Bridge along the right bank of the Neckar to Neckarsteinach, up the Steinach Valley, *Illustration No. 24* through Heiligkreuzsteinach to Waldmichelbach. From here, either via Stallenkandel or Kraidachtal, to Morlenbach, through the Weschnitz Valley via Birkenau to Weinheim, along the Bergstrasse and back to Heidelberg.

The road from Neckarsteinach rises steadily from Neckarsteinach to Waldmichelbach to 1,300 ft. and falls through the two valleys to Weinheim to the level of the Neckar. This trip can be divided into two separate ones as follows:

1. Heidelberg, Neckarsteinach, branching off at Alneudorf to the left via Wilhelmsfeld, Schriesheimer Hof to Schriesheim, and back along the Bergstrasse (27 Miles: a very popular trip).

2. The same start and then from Schoenau via Heiligkreuzsteinach, Unterabsteinach, Troesel, Flockenbach,