

# **Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

**Digitale Sammlung der Badischen Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

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

**Schmieder, Ludwig**

**Heidelberg, 1948**

Longer Excursions around Heidelberg

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

## LONGER EXCURSIONS AROUND HEIDELBERG

Along the north bank of the Neckar up the mountain side to the Muenchel (1150 ft above sea level) and then down towards Schoenau to Neckarsteinach and then home, or from Neckarsteinach up the valley of the Steinach via Schoenau, Alneudorf to Heiligkreuzsteinach.

Another lovely route is along the left bank of the Neckar through Neckargemund which has many charming spots: town-hall, Protestant Church, Upper Town Gate and half-timbered houses. (From here shady paths lead to Tilly's Stone, Reichenstein Ruins). Continue on to Dilsberg, which in earlier centuries was a strongly fortified place which resisted Tilly's repeated attempts to take it.

The ruins of the fortress are still extant. Mark Twain visited it in his days and was specially pleased with the the subterranean passage leading out from the depths of the well which the garrison could use in an emergency. This passage has been cleared, thanks to a gift of a New York gentlemann, Mr. v. Briesen.

Also from Neckarsteinach one can continue on to Hirschhorn, one of the most interesting towns in the Neckar Valley, fortress of the Middle Ages, a fine view, an ex-Carmelite monastery).

About an hour away by car is Eberbach. Near it are four fortresses: the fortress of Eberbach, immediately above the town, Zwingenberg, on the left side of the river, Stolzeneck, and the Minneburg, opposite the village of Neckargerach.

Mosbach is well worth a visit with its timbered and painted houses, one of the oldest and prettiest towns of South-west Germany. Or to Bad Wimpfen, trough the prettiest part of the Neckar Valley, passing Castle Horn-

st. berg, Hassmersheim, Castle Horneck and Gundelsheim, in the distance Guttenberg and Ehrenberg and on to Heilbronn. Bad Wimpfen, lying high above the Neckar, affords a magnificent view into the valley and has much of interest to show in the shape of ancient buildings. (Remains of the Emperor's Palace, Gothic Church, Foundation Church, Church of St. Cornelius, and numerous houses.) Near Bad Wimpfen was the former saline health resort Bad Rappenau with saline swimming-baths which achieved good results in cases of rheumatism, gout, scrofula, rachitis and catarrh.

st. Heilbronn on the Neckar, easily attainable from Heidelberg along the lovely Neckar Valley or via Meckesheim, Sinsheim and Bad Friedrichshall, surrounded by vineyards and wooded heights, is the most important wine town in Wurttemberg.

As a former Free Town of the Empire Heilbronn offers many sights of interest; among them being the Town Hall (16th Century) with the astronomical clock of Isaak Habrecht, St. Kilian's Church with Hans Schweiner's unique steeple (1529) and the Heilbronn High Altar (a masterpiece of late Gothic woodcarving 1498), Kaetchen's house and Goetz's tower.

Trough Goethe's "Goetz of Berlichingen" and Kleist's "Kaetchen of Heilbronn" the town has become famous throughout the world. Heilbronn is the birthplace of the famous scientist Robert Mayer. Of him, the discoverer of the law of the conservation of energy, the English scientist Tyndall wrote in 1866: "Your name will live and be to forgotten dust." The traditional Wine Festival, which took place every year on the Cecilian Meadow at the beginning of September, always attracted a crowd of visitors.

During the time when the fruit-trees are blossoming one should take the local railway running between Heidelberg and Weinheim, and ride along Berg Strasse through Dos-

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