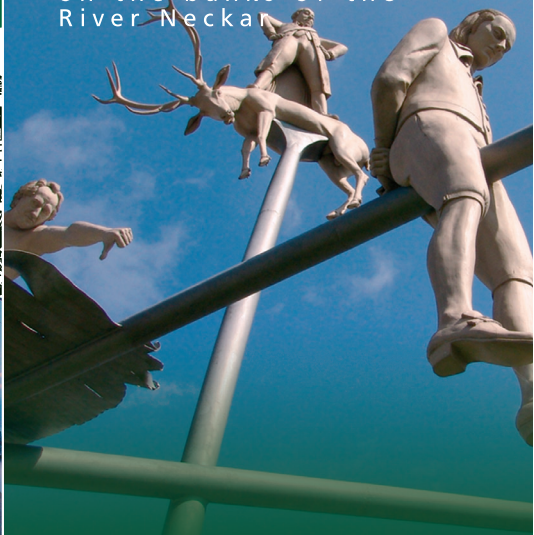
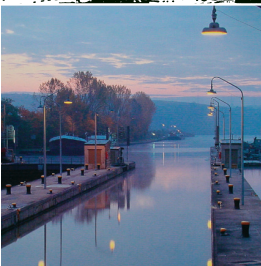
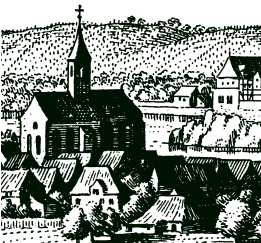




LAUFFEN AM NECKAR

The wine town
on the banks of the
River Neckar



TRACES OF HISTORY

Tour through the historical old town

Insights into the history of Lauffen

Places of interest

"Hölderlin on the Roundabout"



Information on recreational activities,
accommodation and lots more
available at www.lauffen.de/tourismus
or in the Tourist Office (Bürgerbüro):
Tel. 07133 20770

Lauffen am Neckar

Insights into the history of Lauffen am Neckar

First discoveries indicate a settlement at the Lauffen river basin as early as 5,000 BC. The Romans came in approximately 85 AD. In the open-field system "Brunnenäcker", a Roman estate was excavated in 1978 and is now an interesting and educational open-air museum for visitors.

In about 260 AD the Romans abandoned the area. New Almanni settlers came to live on the good quality Gallo-Roman land. About 500 AD our region also came under Franconian rule. The Franconians constructed a manor on the spur (Felssporn) on the left side of the Neckar (in the area around the present-day church). In the middle of the 8th century, as part of the activities of Franconian missionaries, a church dedicated to Saint Martin was built. The village Hlauppa/Hlouffa/Loufun evolved out of this church and the surrounding farms.

In 741/742 the "Mayor of the Palace" (Maior Domus) Karlmann bestowed the church in Hlauppa and all revenue to the newly-founded Würzburg diocese. Earls were enfeoffed with the royal estate (documented in 889 as "fiscus dominicus" in the confirmation certificate from Emperor Louis the Pious from 823): initially Earl Ernst of Nordgau (from the Bamberg area), the father of the local Saint Regiswindis and then later the "Popponen" family.

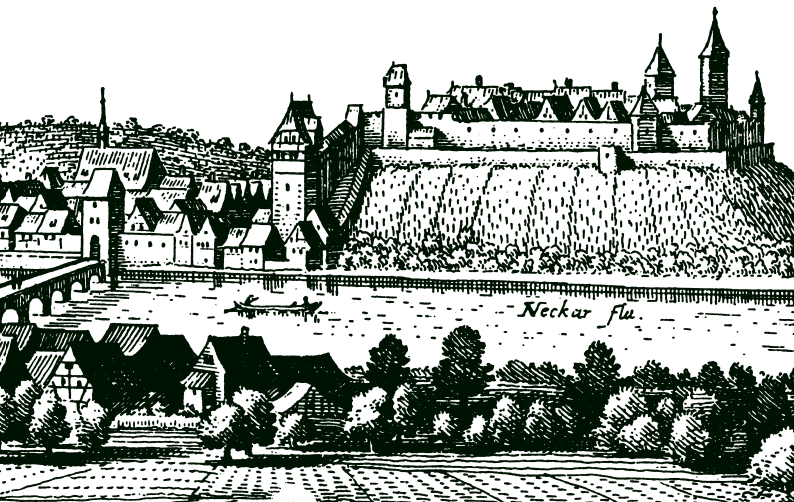
Regiswindis, born in 832, was the daughter of Earl Ernst. Her upbringing was entrusted to a nurse who brutally murdered her at the age of 7. Soon Regiswindis was worshipped as a saint. The bishops of Würzburg supported this cult by building a new church within the castle on the left of the Neckar. The cloister was founded after 1250. Even at the end of the era of religious life, in the course of the Reformation, the cloister remained a commercial entity until the end of the 19th century. The poet Friedrich Hölderlin was born here in 1770 as the son of the then ducal estate manager.

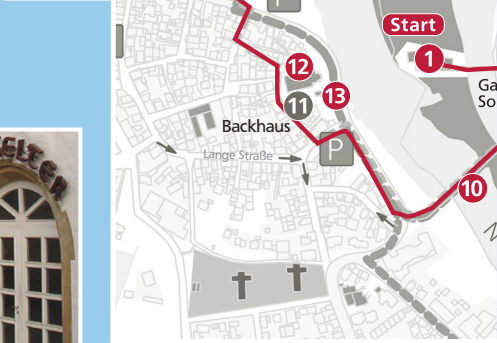
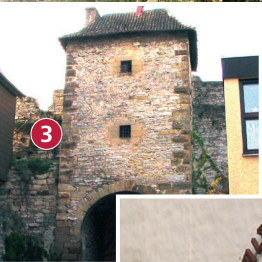
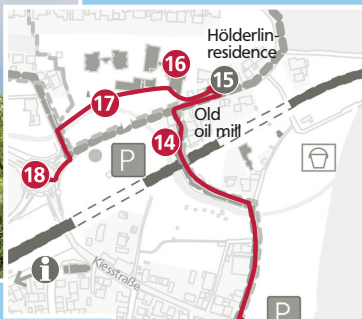


Following the transfer of the royal estate to the noble Popponen family (around 1011), they subsequently called themselves Earls of Lauffen. In about 1150, the Earls had a castle built on the artificially separated spur on the right side of the Neckar. On the hill behind this spur a settlement of craftsmen came into being. It is said that it was declared as a town even before 1220 and had town walls as early as 1274. Following the extinction of the male line of the noble family around 1219, both the town and village of Lauffen were sold to the Margraves of Baden. These then resold Lauffen in 1346 to a family of lower nobility, the Esquires (Hofwarte) of Kirchheim (Teck). From 1361, step by step, the Earls of Württemberg acquired Lauffen from this and other noble families until they owned it completely in 1434. Under the rule of Earl Ulrich V (the much loved) the town and village supposedly obtained their legal form. In 1454 he built a large artificial lake in the old marshy Neckar loop and in 1474 he arranged for the construction of a stone bridge over the river. The ferry service over the river was closed down.

Until the Reformation, also under the temporary Austrian rule after the banishment of Duke Ulrich, many public buildings were constructed and artistically decorated. In the Battle of Lauffen (1534) Duke Ulrich won his land back from the Austrians and handed it over to the Reformation. The large number of clergy at Regiswindis Church and at Nikolaus Chapel (the present-day Martins Church in "Städtle") were abolished and the spiritual-religious life of the community was adapted to the new reform efforts by a church and school regulation.

In the wars of the following centuries, particularly in the Thirty Years War, Lauffen, as a bridge location, was often attacked by looting and pillaging forces. At the beginning of the 19th century the fortification of the Lauffen Village (Dorf) was demolished. Towers and gates disappeared - including the old stockade fence. Only the so-called "moat" and parts of the castle walls bring to mind today the former fortifications around the original castle at the church. In the "Städtle" however the walls and towers remain largely preserved as a complete row of houses were built onto them.



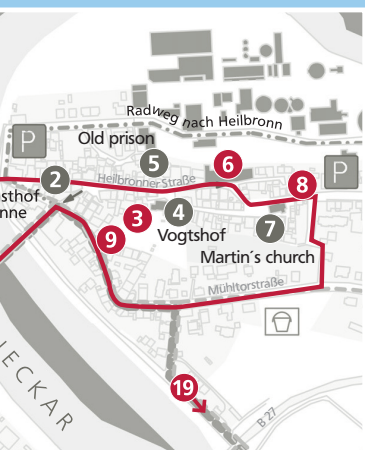


Tour through the historical old town of Lauffen





Tip: More details on many of the sights are available on information boards located locally.



The **Katzenbeißer** vineyards are renowned, particularly for their Schwarzesling (pinot meunier). Situated on the sunny riverside bank of the Neckar, Lauffen is perfect for idyllic walks in the vineyards.

You'd like to learn more about Lauffen? We recommend an intriguing guided tour through the history of our town with a Lauffen tourist guide. Further details available from Tourist Office: Tel: 07131 20770.



Castle and castle museum (Burg und Burgmuseum) **Start 1**

Built as a waterside castle in the 11th century by the Earls of Lauffen – the Popponen – as an expansion of the earlier manor at Kirchberg. Later used as a dwelling for the reeves and bailiffs. The castle has been home to Lauffen's Town Hall since 1818. There is a wonderful panoramic view from the gardens. The residence tower dating from the Salier dynasty today houses an exhibition of early medieval furnishings and objects from daily life. Visitors are taken back to the era of the Earls of Lauffen and can relive the 11th century.

Opening times: Monday – Thursday 8.00 am - 12.00 midday and 1.30pm – 4.00 pm, Fridays 8.00 am – 12.00 midday

Old Heilbronn Gateway (Altes Heilbronner Tor) **3**

Medieval gateway to Heilbronn with a prison cell above the archway. Following the construction of the fortress in the 18th century it was no longer used and was replaced by the "New Heilbronn Gateway" in 1772. Nearby, behind the kindergarten, in place of the former "Upper Castle" (destroyed in the 30 year war), stands a construction from the beginning of the 19th century.

Old Wine Press (Alte Kelter) **6**

Built in 1568 as the first wing of a castle by Duke Christoph, yet not completed following his death. Until the beginning of the 19th century this building was used as a warehouse for materials paid in kind to the Duke. Then, following its acquisition by the township, it was used as the town's wine press. Remarkable wood construction and vast cellar rooms. Currently privately owned.

New Heilbronn Gateway (Neues Heilbronner Tor) **8**

Built in 1772 as part of the new road from Besigheim to Heilbronn, it replaced the Old Heilbronn Gateway. The dwelling place above the gateway was built by a former gate keeper. The houses on either side are set in the almost 15 m thick town walls and entire (private) gardens are situated on these walls.

Bay House (Erkerhaus) **9**

Grand timber framed construction from the year 1651 with a quaint front bay-window. As far back as 1576, two separate buildings were referred to here and the timber framed construction indicates the joining of these two buildings at a later date.

Old Neckar Bridge (Alte Neckarbrücke) **10**

Initially built in 1474 and following its collapse in 1529 reconstructed in 1532. The over 220 meter long bridge was the longest bridge over the Neckar in Württemberg for a long time. Due to the location of the bridge the "town" and "village" of Lauffen were often marched through, plundered and pillaged during the wars from the 16th to the 19th centuries. Only 6 of the original 11 arches of the bridge remain intact today.

Regiswindis Church (Regiswindiskirche) **12**

First recorded as Martin's Church – timber construction - in 741/742. The initial small stone structure was erected by Bishop Humbert of Würzburg for the burial of the remains of the local Saint Regiswindis. New construction as a mid-romanic church between 1050 – 1150. From 1227 – 1300 reconstruction and dedication to Saint Regiswindis. In medieval times it was a pilgrimage church. Since the reformation it has been a Protestant parish church. In 1564 the church was partially destroyed by fire – the sanctuary remained intact. By 1567 the restoration was well advanced. The church sanctuary was still used in the 17th century as a burial place for distinguished people, mainly clergy.

Regiswindis Chapel (Regiswindiskapelle) 13

Former Saint Anna Chapel in the old church cemetery. The crypt originally served as an ossuary – final resting place for human skeletal remains. In 1901 the stacked remains were removed and buried. With the relocation of the Regiswindis sarcophagus – the daughter of the lord of the castle who was violently killed in 839 – from the churchyard into the chapel in March 1882, the chapel became known as Regiswindis Chapel.

Old Oil Mill and Cloister (Alte Ölmühle und Kloster) 14

The last remaining mill on the river Zaber was constructed in 1757. Vis-à-vis the remains of the enclosing walls of the cloister are still visible. The Premonstratensian cloister was closed in 1553 but the property remained as a commercial entity. The grandfather and father of the poet Hölderlin were both managers of the estate in the 18th century.

Museum in the cloister yard and Hölderlin Room 16

(Museum der Stadt Lauffen im Klosterhof und Hölderlinzimmer)

The Museum is located in the former cloister church which was rebuilt from the ruins in 1923. It was used as a sports hall, meeting room, town hall, storage facility and as a church by the catholic community (1954 – 1984). Since then there have been various exhibitions and events held there e.g. on early history. Completed in 2008, the Hölderlin Room now accommodates a newly created exhibition on Friedrich Hölderlin, who was born in Lauffen am Neckar in 1770. This exhibition is seen as being innovative and exemplary in how it portrays literature. In only 25m2 visitors gain an insight into the work, life and impact of the famous poet and philosopher. Active elements in the exhibition encourage the visitor to explore further and the aesthetics of the room are particularly impressive.

Hölderlin Memorial (Hölderlin-Denkmal) 17

There is a small memorial to Friedrich Hölderlin located in the museum garden (born in Lauffen on 20th March 1770, died in Tübingen on 7th June 1843). The centre piece of the memorial is a bronze covered zinc relief model of Hölderlin, which adorned the entrance to the office of the cloister yard manager, until it was demolished in 1918. This building was regarded as being the birth place of Friedrich Hölderlin.

Sculpture “Hölderlin on the Roundabout” by P. Lenk 18

(Kunstwerk „Hölderlin im Kreisverkehr“ von P. Lenk)

A large sculpture, by the sculptor Peter Lenk (born 1947 and known for his ironic and provocative work), stands on the roundabout at the entrance to Lauffen am Neckar since 2003. The poet Friedrich Hölderlin is depicted in the sculpture. Peter Lenk shows Hölderlin in relation to his life and history. Thus Hölderlins relationship to the poet laureates Schiller and Goethe are shown, as is Hölderlins relationship to women, in the form of the classic beauty Diotima. The political context of Hölderlins work is also found in the sculpture, with the figure of the absolute ruler of the time Duke Carl Eugen of Württemberg. The figure of Friedrich Nietzsche on a bicycle portrays the reception history of Hölderlins work.

Roman Estate (Villa rustica) (Der Römische Gutshof (Villa rustica)) 19

The roman demense, located between the river Neckar and the road to Ilsfeld, was unearthed in 1978 and consisted of four buildings on a hectare sized site. The well-preserved foundation walls and remains of heating and bathing facilities offer insights into the lifestyle on an agricultural Roman estate in the mid-Neckar region.

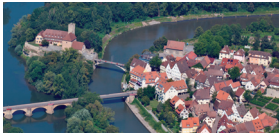
Experience Lauffen

Guided tours (Duration 2 – 2.5 hours each)



“Hölderlin town, wine metropole and pilgrimage destination”

Two things ensure that Lauffen is well-known throughout Germany – the award-winning wine and the poet Friedrich Hölderlin.



“Lauffen Town (Städtle)”

Behind the picturesque facade of the town walls of Lauffen many curious stories about daily life - past and present - are hidden.



“Wine and Stone”

Combined wine experience and guided tour to the most important historical locations of the town and with interesting trivia about Lauffen wine and wine-growing.



“Fairytale Lauffen”

Fairytale guided tour for children from 6 – 10 years (with accompanying adult) – an exciting trip into history which ends with light refreshments.



“Culinary Lauffen”

Enjoy culinary treats refined with a portion of history during the culinary-cultural tour around the wine town located on the banks of the River Neckar.

Detailed information on these and other additional tours is available online at www.lauffen.de/tourismus

Hölderlin Room



The exhibition in the Hölderlin Room allows visitors the opportunity to get a “glimpse” into the famous poet’s head.

Museum Opening Times

Saturday & Sunday 2pm – 5pm and for groups by appointment, Tel: 07133 12222

Hölderlin Sculpture

“Hölderlin on the Roundabout” by Peter Lenk 2003

Detailed information and tour options for the Hölderlin Room and the Lenk Sculpture are available in the free brochure “All About Hölderlin” from the Tourist Office and online at www.lauffen.de/tourismus

