



The Swabian Alb. Inspiring. Since the dawn of time.

40,000 years of cultural history and a place of discovery for the oldest artworks of humanity. The Swabian Alb has verifiably inspired since the dawn of time.

The Swabian Alb is a romantically wild karst landscape, an upland region with juniper heaths grazed by migratory herds of sheep. The striking cliff edge of the Albrauf with a height of up to 400 metres separates the upland plateau of the rough Alb from the fruit orchards of the Alb foreland. In the south, the young Danube begins its long trip to the Black Sea, and over the millennia the river has dug a deep bed into the Jura rock of the Alb to create the scenic Danube canyon Oberes Donautal. It is here that the history of the Earth can be experienced in real time, as the Swabian Alb is fundamentally a unique „Jurassic Park“ that has developed over millions of years along with countless caves and subterranean dream worlds. The Swabian Alb has also maintained its warm, thermal mineral water sources that bubble up from its depths in the form of precious healing springs. Veritable fairy-tale castles crown cliffs and hilltops, documenting the former abundance of castles and palaces.

The Swabian Alb has always been a coveted region – the historic sites of Celts, Romans and Alemanni and the names of major royal and imperial families such as Stauffer and Hohenzollern conclusively verify this and communicate a feeling of historical vividness. Added to this are cities that breathe history and present in tandem. Those visiting and travelling here expose themselves to a fascinating trip through time, the history of both Earth and humanity. The secret however is to be found in the subterranean labyrinth of caves: it is here that the oldest works of art in human history were found. The Löwenmensch [Lion Man] figure wrought around 40,000 years ago is a truly magical symbol. It was carved by an unknown artist from the Ice Age and can be now viewed in the Museum Ulm.

Discover the land of the Lion Man!



A GEOLOGICAL ADVENTURE

The Swabian Alb is the result of an eventful geological past. Over millions of years, volcanic eruptions, meteorite impacts, rain and wind have created a landscape that is unique upon our Earth. The story begins around 200 million years ago with a tropical Jura ocean in which romped genuine dinosaurs and crocodiles. The creatures of that era are now safely housed in the form of fossils in museums. The Alb is well-known for its fossil findings and natural phenomena: on the northerly edge of the Jura mountain range stretches the Albrauf with its striking scarp, and in the south the Danube winds its way through the powerful Danube canyon. A globally unique sight is the Donauversickerung



at Immendingen and Möhringen: a riverbed without water, with the Danube trickling away into the karst rock. The Eselsburg valley offers bizarre cliff formations from primeval times, and in Blaubeuren the water-rich karst spring of the legendary Blautopf with its intensive colouring exudes a particular fascination. The countless karst caverns are a dripstone paradise that riddle the Alb like a Swiss cheese, making it the region with the highest concentration of caves in Germany. UNESCO has designated the Swabian Alb a UNESCO Global Geopark. A global sensation are the findings of the oldest artworks of humanity in the Alb caverns.

EXPERIENCING GEOLOGICAL HISTORY LIVE:

Show caves, fossil hunting areas, the Danube canyon & Donauversickerung, Blautopf, Eselsburg valley, meteor crater Steinheimer Becken, extinct volcano Randecker Maar, Urweltmuseum Hauff Holzmaden



LOCATIONS OF ICE AGE ART

The caves of the Swabian Alb are true treasure chests of humanity – it was here that the oldest artworks and musical instruments in the history of man were discovered. These unique Ice Age treasures are up to 40,000 years old and originate from six caves in the valleys of Ach and Lone; these valleys have now been added to the World Heritage List by UNESCO as a result of the sensational finds. At the beginning of the Lower Palaeolithic Age, Ice Age hunters wandered through the valleys of the Alb and left behind proof of their stay in the caves, including artistically carved sculptures of mammoth ivory. The figures depict animals from the hunt such as mammoth, bison and wild horses. The largest and most spectacular figure is the Löwenmensch that can now be admired in the Museum Ulm, while finds such as the Venus vom Hohle Fels and bone flutes created a furor. It was certainly a sensation when archaeologists from Tübingen University discovered a statue of a woman in the cave Hohle Fels in 2008 dating to almost 40,000 years



ago. The Venus figure is one of the world's oldest figurative depictions and can be viewed in the pre-historic museum Urgeschichtliches Museum Blaubeuren. The tones of flutes of the Ice Age hunters can also be heard in the „treasure chests“ of the museum. Proof enough that our ancestors from the Stone Age were not merely primitive and wild! These are lullabies of human culture that chime out from the caves of the Swabian Alb, and witnesses of a distant past that, as do the carved works of art, tell something of the life of our prehistoric ancestors...

The treasure chests of the museums arouse your fascination for the creativity of the Ice Age artists who created the Löwenmensch and Venus vom Hohle Fels, who carved horses and mammoths and who produced musical instruments from bone. Those curious to know how people lived in the Stone Age era can take an exciting trip through time at the Archäopark Vogelherd.

EXPERIENCING ICE AGE ART:

Urgeschichtliches Museum Blaubeuren, Museum Ulm, Tübingen University museum, Archäopark Vogelherd



LEGENDARY LOCATIONS



The Alb has always been a desirable place – not only for Ice Age hunters but also for the Celts, Romans and Alemanni who settled in the Alb and left their traces behind. Three imposing Celtic locations on the Alb are the Ipf, the Heuneburg and the Heidengraben. The Heuneburg near Herbertingen is one of the most important discovery sites of that era in Europe and its „Pyrene“ is the oldest named location in Germany. Today the same-named open-air museum offers a clear insight into the everyday lives of the Celts. Valuable imported merchandise such as amber and Attic pottery verify extensive trading links. The Ipf at Bopfingen with a height of 668 metres and its imposing, fortified hilltop settlement was a traffic node upon the long-distance trading network between the Danube, Main and Neckar rivers. The Celts built quadrangle entrenchments and fortified towns (called Oppida). The largest Celtic Oppidum in Europe was the Heidengraben (Elsachstadt) near Grabenstetten. Ramparts with trenches and gates can still be seen in the landscape.

The Celtic era came to an abrupt end with the invasion of the Romans. The Limes delineated the outer border of the Roman Empire and watchtowers, palisades and stone walls were built – these can be seen at the Limespark Rainau and in the Limesmuseum Aalen, at the time the largest Roman cavalry fort north of the Alps. Villages and estates were founded in the vicinity of the Limes. Many of these Roman remains have been carefully reconstructed, for example the Villa Rustica estate in the Hechingen-Stein open-air museum.

The Alemanni settled in the Alb after the Romans retreated from the areas to the north of the Danube. They constructed their settlements upon exposed mountain hilltops, such as the Runde Berg near Bad Urach. The Alamannenmuseum in Ellwangen provides visitors with insights into the lives of these peoples. The dominance of the Alemanni gradually decreased from 500 AD onwards and Christianity began to proliferate – the first churches and monasteries were founded that then rose to importance in the Middle Ages as intellectual centres.

EXPERIENCING CELTS, ROMANS AND ALEMANNI

Keltenmuseum Heuneburg, Ipf, Heidengraben, Limesmuseum Aalen, Limespark Rainau-Dalkingen, Villa Rustica Hechingen-Stein, Deutsche Limesstraße, Alamannenmuseum Ellwangen



SPIRITUAL PLACES

Splendid churches and ancient monasteries bear witness to an artistic past on the Alb. A rich monastery existence came about at an early time: the first monastery was founded in Blaubeuren in 1085 AD, and others followed such as Kloster Lorch, the family monastery of the Stauffers, and Kloster Bebenhausen, which still remains a typical example of an old monastery settlement.

Prestigious, striking churches were built in the towns and cities, including Gothic masterpieces: the Heilig-Kreuz-Münster in Schwäbisch Gmünd is the first large-scale hall church in southern Germany constructed according to the plans of the Parler family of master builders. After Cologne Cathedral the Ulmer Münster is the largest Gothic church in Germany and its high tower is the highest church tower in the world. The Abteikirche Neresheim is a jewel of Baroque architecture constructed according to plans by the renowned Baroque master builder Balthasar Neumann. Thanks to the ingenious cupola architecture the spatial

effect of the church is incomparable. Other highlights of Baroque architecture can be found in Zwiefalten, Obermarchtal and in the library hall at Kloster Wiblingen.

The Kloster Beuron in the upper Danube valley is situated in a picturesque landscape and is simultaneously a powerful location. A community of around 50 monks live today in the Beuron archabbey. Directly adjacent, i.e. near Meßkirch, the St. Gallen monastery plan is being reconstructed, incorporating the technical possibilities of the Middle Ages. Campus Galli is the name of the ambitious project with a planned implementation of several decades. The chapels to be discovered throughout the Alb are secret tips and sources of inspiration. „Droben stehet die Kapelle, schauet still ins Tal hinein...“ [Over there thrones the chapel, peacefully watching over the valley...] – Ludwig Uhland appreciated the simple beauty of the Wurminger Kappelle.

CHURCHES, MONASTERIES & CHAPELS:

Former monasteries of Blaubeuren, Lorch, Bebenhausen, Wiblingen with Baroque library hall, Benediktinerabtei Beuron, Ulmer Münster, Heilig-Kreuz-Münster Schwäbisch Gmünd, Abteikirche Neresheim, Münster Zwiefalten



PROUD FORTIFICATIONS & STATELY BUILDINGS

The Swabian Alb is one Germany's richest fort and castle landscapes. Seen from afar, the impressive buildings throne hilltops and peaks, cliff edges and the peripheries of valleys. Around 400 still exist and more than 100 of these are open to visitors. Behind their massive walls, history, narrations, theme and costume tours help relive old times. The importance of the era is underlined because two imperial families – the Stauffer and the Hohenzollern – originate from the Alb.

The ruling dynasty of the Stauffer continues to fascinate. Friedrich I. Barbarossa created an empire stretching from Sicily to the North Sea, and his grandson Friedrich II. became one of the most important emperors of the Middle Ages. The ancestral homeland of the Stauffer are the Drei Kaiserberge near Göppingen; the foundation walls of the ancestral castle of the Hohenstaufen still exist. The legacy of the Stauffer remains alive in the form of

the Stauffer lions in the coat of arms of the State of Baden-Württemberg. Thanks to Wilhelm IV. of Prussia, the Hohenzollern bequeathed a Swabian Neuschwanstein. The Prussian king reconstructed the ruins of the mediaeval home of his ancestors, Burg Hohenzollern near Hechingen, in the romantic style of the 19th century. Further Hohenzollern castles can be found in Sigmaringen and Haigerloch.

Schloss Lichtenstein, the fairy-tale castle of Württemberg, is highly unique and thrones a cliff needle: it was constructed between 1840 and 1842 in the neo-Gothic style of the 19th century and based on a novel by Wilhelm Hauff. Burg Hohenneuffen looks back on a much longer history – the fortification was originally a Celtic settlement and once again wrote history when the founding fathers of the State of Baden-Württemberg gathered in 1948 at the former fortress to lay the foundation stone for a common south-western state.

PALACES & CASTLES:

Burg Hohenzollern, Schloss Sigmaringen, Burg Wildenstein, Zollernschloss Balingen, Schloss Lichtenstein, Burg Hohenneuffen, Burgruine Hohenstaufen, Schloss Hohentübingen, Schloss Hellenstein, Schloss ob Ellwangen



TOWNS & EVENTS

Ulm, Aalen, Ellwangen, Tübingen, Reutlingen, Göppingen and Heidenheim: the towns of the Swabian Alb are the cherry on the cake of its natural and cultural landscape. They include wealthy imperial settlements, Royal Stauffer towns, Roman locations and mediaeval market towns, and all are cosmopolitan and modern while simultaneously being traditional and romantic. These are the ideal places for photographers as well as aficionados of art and culture – exhibitions, theatre, museums, parties and festivals are regularly held. OUTLETCITY

METZINGEN offers pulsating liveliness and its own, special quality – it's also one of the most popular addresses for shopping in Europe.

Celebrations often take place in the towns: whether it's the Schwäbisch-Alemannische Fasnet in Rottenburg and Rottweil, Ulmer Fischerstechen, opera festivals in Heidenheim, Stocherkahnrennen in Tübingen or romantic Christmas markets – there's something to do and see the whole year round.

TOWNS:

Aalen, Albstadt, Bad Urach, Balingen, Ehingen, Ellwangen, Giengen an der Brenz, Geislingen an der Steige, Göppingen, Heidenheim, Kirchheim unter Teck, Metzingen, Nürtingen, Reutlingen, Rottenburg, Rottweil, Schwäbisch Gmünd, Sigmaringen, Tübingen, Tuttlingen, Ulm

Facts and Figures

The Swabian Alb stretches across Baden-Württemberg along a length of around 220 km and has a width of up to 80 km. The area is bordered by the Black Forest in the south-west, by Stuttgart in the northwest, Bavaria in the east and the Danube in the south. It achieves a height of 700 m to slightly above 1,000 m at its northerly edge and up to 500 m at its southern edge and towards the Danube. The highest hill is the Lemberg in the south-west of the Swabian Alb with a height of 1,015 m.

For more information and free brochures, please contact www.schwaebischealb.de.

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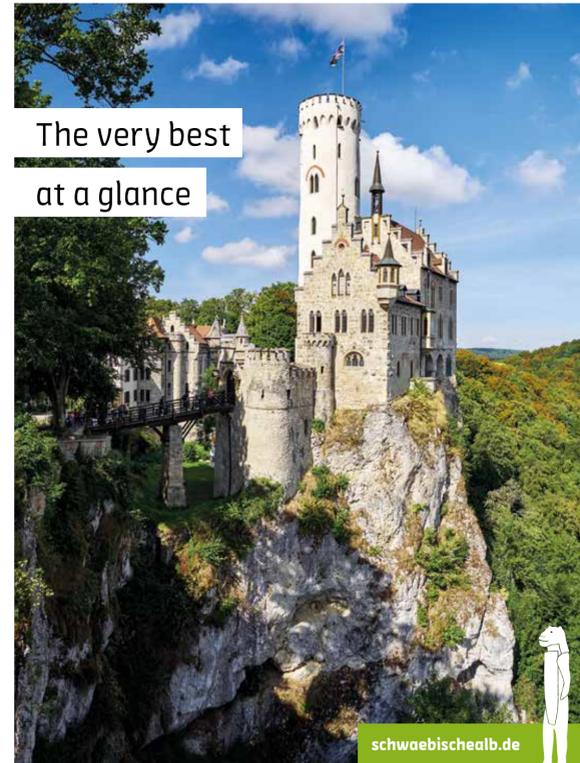
Come and discover the land of the lion man!

My land can be found in the South between Bavaria and the Black Forest. Where the Danube and the Neckar are still primordial. They call me the lion man. I am one of the oldest works of art in the world. Around 40,000 years ago I was created using mammoth ivory, inspired by the rugged landscape of the Swabian Alb's mighty karst mountains. Today I am the ambassador for this land which can sometimes be harsh, yet also gentle. Sometimes majestic, sometimes mysterious. The land in which people were canny before time began. Be canny along your way too. Follow me and let yourself be struck by the incomparable beauty, by mountains and castles of powerful emperors and kings, by the legendary arenas of the Romans and Celts and by proud cities which live the past and the future simultaneously.



Swabian Alb!

Inspiring. Since the dawn of time.



The very best at a glance



HEALTH, WELLNESS & TRADITIONAL FOOD

The spa, thermal and mineral baths and health resorts of the Swabian Alb promise pure enjoyment. Health and wellness have tradition in the region, ranging from the Alb thermal baths at Bad Urach heated by a long-extinct Swabian volcano to the Limes thermal baths at Aalen designed in Roman style. These oases of peace and relaxation were made possible thanks to the Alb's geological history that created its traditional spa springs and thermal water sources. The mild but bracing climate and the natural, earthy landscape of the Alb also offer outstanding possibilities for relaxation and regeneration.

All of this can be ideally combined with the pleasures of healthy, regional eating. The Äbler certainly know how to prepare their Swabian ravioli: Maul-täschle – but buffalo meat, Alb lamb, Spätzle and the recently rediscovered ancient lentils Alblinsen are also highly popular. Beer is trump at Ehingen on the Danube. Here you can trace the progress of the delicious barley juice and also brew your own. The orchards of the Swabian Alb supply award-winning sparkling wines and high-proof spirits – the Alb is a region for connoisseurs, in which regional producers and gastronomic hosts create new taste experiences from traditional sources using Swabian hard work, creativity and knowledge of established production methods. It's inventive and typically Swabian...

ACTIVELY DISCOVERING THE ALB

The Alb is the ideal place for active recovery. A host of palaces, castles and ruins can be found on the Albesteige covering a length of over 350 kilometres. This traditional main trail is one of the „Top Trails of Germany“ and offers gorgeous viewpoints and panoramic vistas along its length.

Cyclists also have a great time on the Alb – challenging climbs and quick descents on mountain bikes, family-friendly routes along the Alb, or on the edge along rivers and currents such as the Neckar and Danube. Speaking of current: using a modern E-bike provides even more comfort.

TREKKING:

High quality trails for one-day hikes, long-distance trails, circular and daily tours

CYCLING:

High quality cycle routes, long-distance cycle routes, mountain biking, E-bike tours, bike parks and MTB events

SPA BATHS, HEALTH RESORTS & WELLNESS:

Spa baths & health resorts: Aalen, Bad Boll, Bad Ditzgenbach, Bad Überkingen, Bad Urach, Beuren. Leisure and relaxation baths: Albstadt, Blaustein, Ellwangen, Heidenheim, Rottweil, Tuttlingen, Ulm.

SPECIALITIES:

Alblinsen, Alblamm, restaurants of the Alb-Wirte and Biopshärenstgastgeber, beer culture town of Ehingen & Berg brewery, Alb-Gold customer centre & herb garden, Swabian Whisky and Whisky-Walk

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Swabian Alb

PANORAMA VIEWS

- Lemberg 1 with 1,015 m is the highest mountain of the Swabian Alb
- Zeller Horn 2 View of Burg Hohenzollern
- Dreifürstenstein 3
- Breitenstein 4
- Hausener Wand 5
- Rosenstein 6
- Ipf 7
- Witthoh 14

THE ALBTRAUFG - THE BLUE WALL

The Alb was already a dream destination for Eduard Mörike. The poet, with a sense of yearning, used the words of „wonderful blue wall“ to describe the powerful, almost 200 kilometre-long cliff edge of the Albtrauf that soars to heights of up to 1,000 metres. It separates the high plateau of the „rough Alb“ from the more mellifluous orchards of the Alb foreland. Wonderful views towards the Alb foreland can be experienced along the complete route of the Albtrauf.

THERMAL BATHS ON THE ALBTRAUFG

True springs of health are the warm thermal and mineral water resources from the depths of the Alb which are most probably the after-effects of volcanic activity from the Tertiary Period.

OUTLET CITY METZINGEN

A unique shopping experience located in the home town of Hugo Boss between half-timbered houses, winegrowing and modern architecture.

URWELTMUSEUM HAUFF

On the tracks of dinosaurs and sea lilies: the Hauff private collection houses some of the world's best fossils.

HOHENSTAUFEN CASTLE RUINS AND THE DREI KAISERBERGE

The Drei-Kaiserberge of Hohenstaufen, Stauffen and Rechberg situated in the Alb foreland resemble the humps of a camel - the Hohenstaufen is the ancestral home of the Stauffer, once one of the most powerful of the royal families.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE OF LIMES

After the Chinese Wall, the UNESCO world heritage site of Limes is the longest ground memorial in the world. Many Roman traces can be found on the Alb: the Limesmuseum Aalen and the Limespark Rainau-Dalldingen.

KLOSTER NERESHEIM

This abbey church, a jewel of Baroque architecture, was constructed according to plans of the famous master builder Balthasar Neumann.

STEIF MUSEUM GIENGEN

The home of the teddy bear. It conquered the rest of the world from this location, and the Steiff Museum tells the story of its success.

ESELSBURG VALLEY

Bizarre cliff formations are typical of the Alb: the Steinerne Jungfrauen (stone virgins) in the Eselsburger Tal were, according to legend, enchanted by an angry castle damsel.

HÖHLENERLEBNIS-WELT GIENGEN

Stone Age adventures at the Erlebniszentrum HöhlenSchau! und HöhlenHaus und Charlottenhöhle

SILVER THISTLE

A plant with symbolic power: the most well-known representative of Alb flora is the silver thistle. It loves sunny spots, heathland and sheep grazing pastures.

ULMER MÜNSTER

A trip to Ulm is highly recommended: the Ulmer Münster church tower with a height of 162 metres is the world's highest.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE 'CAVES AND ICE AGE ART'

Six caves located in the valleys of Ach and Lone were declared world heritage sites by UNESCO - it was here that the oldest artworks of humanity were found, including the Löwenmensch (Lyon Man) carved from mammoth ivory.

BLAUTOPF BLAUBEUREN

The most attractive karst spring in Germany with an enchanting blue colour, and the location for many myths and legends.

JUNIPER HEATHS AND SHEEP GRAZING

The Swabian Alb exudes a particular fascination with its typical juniper heaths traditionally used for sheep grazing. These require intensive care through sheep farming and migratory herding, and shepherds and their sheep contribute to maintaining the cultural landscape.

SWABIAN ALB BIOSPHERE REGION

The biosphere region of the Swabian Alb surrounding the former troop parade ground near Münsingen consists of 80,000 hectares and is a model region in terms of commerce and tourism in harmony with nature and the environment. The heart of the biosphere region officially recognised by UNESCO bears in Münsingen. The biosphere centre is the best basis for discovering the former parade ground with its unique vegetation, and also the deserted village of Gruorn.

GROSSES LAUTERTAL

The charming valley Großes Lautertal is the location of 20 castles and castle ruins.

HAUPT-UND LANDGESTÜT MARBACH

With a history of over 500 years, Haupt- und Landgestüt Marbach is the oldest German state stud, and also a stud museum at Offenhausen.

„GRAND CANYON“-VIEWS

Eichfelsen 12
Knopfmacherfelsen 15

PANORAMIC VIEWS

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„tysenkrupp Testurm“ the highest viewing tower in Germany with a height of 232 m 11

MÖSSINGER BERGRÜTSCH

A national geopark created in 1983 following Baden-Württemberg's largest landslide.

TÜBINGEN

An old, historical town situated on the Neckar river with the pulsating life of a young and cosmopolitan university city. Tübingen is one of the most attractive towns in Germany.

URACH WATERFALL

The natural spectacle of the Urach Waterfall plummets over a tuff cliff to a depth of 37 metres.

BURG HOHENNEUFEN

Mighty and seen from afar - the former fortress is the largest castle ruins in southern Germany.

SCHLOSS LICHTENSTEIN

Württemberg's „fairytale castle“ was constructed after a novel by Wilhelm Hauff and thrives one of the most attractive locations on the Alb.

HÖHLENWELTEN SONNENBÜHL

The fabled subterranean worlds of the Bärenhöhle and Nabelhöhle caves show caves with fantastic subterranean halls and splendid stalactites.

ATOMKELLER-MUSEUM HAIGERLOCH

A true-to-original reconstruction of the first atomic reactor in the former cover research laboratory of the rocky hill town of Haigerloch, a Baroque gem and cradle of atomic research.

BURG HOHENZOLLERN

The „Swabian Neuschwanstein“ - the ancestral home of the Hohenzollern and the Prussian royal family - majestically thrones a hilltop peak of 855 metres.

OBERES DONAUTAL AND KLOSTER BEURON

A baroque cultural treasure in the valley of the young Danube: the Benedictine monastery still remains a lively place of faith. Mediaeval fortresses such as the attractively located Burg Wildenstein stand proudly on the cliffs above the Danube valley.

CAMPUS GALLI

Near Meßkirch the St. Gallen monastery plan is being reconstructed, incorporating the technical possibilities of the Middle Ages. Campus Galli is the name of the ambitious project with a planned implementation of several decades.

SCHLOSS SIGMARINGEN

The home of the princes of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen is located on a mighty Jurassic cliff above the Danube.

Travelling through time on the Swabian Alb

<p>Phytosaur approx. 200 million</p> <p>Swabian volcano and Höweneg volcano crater approx. 18 to 10 million</p>	<p>Steinheimer Becken meteorite crater with central rise approx. 15 million</p>	<p>Heuneburg early-Celtic princely seat approx. 650 to 450</p>	<p>Celtic gate and Oppidum Heidengraben approx. 200</p>	<p>Aalen Roman Fort approx. 150</p>	<p>Alemannic sheet gold cross approx. 600 to 800</p>	<p>Friedrich I. Barbarossa, Stauffer Emperor 1155 to 1190</p>	<p>Kloster Bebenhausen founded in 1184</p>	<p>Münster Zwielfalten, a Rococo jewel constructed 1739 to 1765</p>	<p>Burg Hohenzollern reconstructed 1850 to 1867</p>	<p>Albert Einstein born 1879 in Ulm</p>	<p>Schloss Lichtenstein constructed 1840 to 1842 based on a novel by Wilhelm Hauff</p>
JURASSIC	CRETACEOUS TERTIARY	QUATERNARY	100,000-10,000 PRIMAVAL AND EARLY HISTORY STONE AGE NEANDERTHALS MODERN PEOPLE	BRONZE AGE IRON AGE CELTS	B.C. ANTIQUITY A.D. THE ROMANS	MIDDLE AGES THE ALEMANNI	HISTORICAL ERA: ROMANESQUE STAUFER	HISTORICAL ERA: GOTHIC	HOHENZOLLERN HISTORICAL ERA: BAROQUE	MODERN ERA	
200 million		50,000	500	0	500	1,000		1,500		2,000	