

**Reichsstädter Brunnen
Reichsstädter Fountain**
The fountain was built in 1977 by the Aalen sculptor Professor Fritz Nuss in memory of the Free Imperial Town Era (1360–1803). The fountain frieze shows scenes from the history of Aalen. Due to construction work the fountain is currently out of function.



**Marktplatz
Market Place**
The market place is a popular meeting place on the weekly market days Wednesday and Saturday morning (since 1809). At the south end, only a few metres from the Reichsstädter Brunnen (fountain) the coat of Arms of Aalen and its twin towns Christchurch, Tatabánya, Saint-Lô and Cervia as well as the sponsorship region Wischauer Sprachinsel (Wischau linguistic enclave) are set into the floor of the marketplace as a mosaic.

**Evangelische Stadtkirche
Protestant Church**
The Pfarrkirche St. Nikolaus (Parish Church), first mentioned in 1340, was, with the rest of the town, destroyed by fire in 1634, and thereafter only provisionally rebuilt. The church tower was extended by two octagonal floors in 1685, but without reinforcing the foundations. The tower collapsed onto the church roof, under the load in 1765, necessitating full reconstruction in 1765/67. Master builder Johann Michael Keller built a church hall cross in baroque style to the plans of the Württemberg federal master builder Johann Adam Groß. It is one of the rare examples of a protestant church tower in baroque style.



The town fire bell from the 16th century, which survived the collapse of the church tower in 1765, is also ringing again. The cemetery surrounding the church was relocated to the St.-Johann-Kirche outside the town in 1530.



Schubart House
The middle-class house from the late 17th century is the former residence of the Schubart family. The later poet, journalist and musician Christian Friedrich Daniel Schubart (1739–1791) lived here during his childhood and adolescence. The town of Aalen has awarded the Schubart-Literaturpreis (literature prize), in memory of its famous son, since 1955 every two years, to people whose literary work stands for the tradition of free and educational thinking of the poet.



Bürgerspital
Built in 1702, the edifice served as a care facility for old, needy and sick people until 1873. A meeting place for the middle and older generation was established here in 1980.



Spitalstraße
If you turn left at the Bürgerspital and cross the Mittelbachstraße, you will reach the Spitalstraße with its lovingly restored timber-framed houses from the 17th century.



Aißlinger House
The building with the red-white exterior facade on the corner of Storchenstraße and Stadelgasse is, according to popular lore, the oldest house in the town. In its original form it depicted a typical farm house with living quarters, barn and livestock areas. Partially destroyed by fire the house was rebuilt and painted in its old style in 1949.



Radgasse
The oldest timber-framed facade in the town gives an idea of the old imperial Aalen. The buildings built between 1659 and 1662 are typical examples of old farm houses in Aalen. Building 15 also housed the Gasthaus "Rad" (guesthouse). Today, several guesthouses invite you to take a break here.



Marktplatz 2
A middle-class, 17th century building with an impressive rococo stair-case.



Historic Town Hall with Spy's Clock Tower
Built in the 14th century the building served as the town hall until 1907. The town hall was rebuilt after the fire in 1634. The befriended imperial town Nuremberg donated an ornate clock, from which only the head of the "Spion von Aalen" (Spy of Aalen) remains after another fire in 1884. The building today houses the Urweltmuseum (Jurassic Museum). On the ground floor the Tourist-Information Aalen will inform you about sights worth seeing in the town and on the Schwäbische Ostalb (Eastern Swabian Alb).

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Marktbrunnen Market Fountain
The fountain was an essential part of the water supply for the population of the imperial town Aalen. The watering place was originally very primitive, the fountain basin was made of wood and thus not very water tight. It was therefore decided on an octagonal basin made of cast iron. Today, a new baroque style creation is found in place of the first cast iron basin. The statue of Emperor Joseph I is a copy of the original which can be found in the foyer of the town hall.
Striking are the fountain plates which show the Württemberg coat of arms from 1718, the Aalen coat of arms and coat of arms of the incorporated suburbs.



Altes Rathaus Former Town Hall
The former Hotel "Krone-Post" (first mentioned in a document in 1575) served as the Thurn and Taxis post station until 1851 and as town hall from 1907 to 1975. It became historically important due to the accommodation of prominent guests. The "Napoleonfenster" (window) today still reminds of the French emperor's stay in 1805. The oldest coat of arms from 1664 can be seen on the outside wall.
The building is today home to a venue of the municipal theatre, a cabaret café as well as the gallery of the Kunstverein (art society).



THE SPY OF AALEN

At a time when Aalen was still a free imperial town, the emperor was very angry with the town because they had dared to oppose him. He had already advanced to Schwäbisch Gmünd with an army to emphasize compliance of his orders by force of arms.

The citizens of Aalen were very shocked, as, on the one hand they had no doubt about the emperor's seriousness, and, on the other hand, the town wall was not really in good condition. It was decided to send a fellow Aalen citizen on a scouting mission of the enemy camp. Only the cleverest came into question. Well-known as he was, he was quickly found. Unnoticed by the imperial guard, the spy courageously crept into the enemy's camp where he immediately recognized the Emperor amongst his knights. He took off his hat and innocently said: "Good day, gentlemen!". The Emperor asked him who he was and where he came from. "I am the spy of Aalen!", he replied. The Emperor and his entourage were very baffled by the openness. He had a good sense of humour and led the brave Aalener, who had fulfilled his orders in such an original way, through the camp. He was festively fed and showered with presents. The Emperor informed the citizens of Aalen by letter, that he would like to live in peace with such courageous and clever people and wanted to forgive the town leaders. Everyone in Aalen was very happy and the courageous citizen was hence called the "Spy of Aalen" and was highly respected.

A monument was set on the old town hall tower out of gratitude. Since then he has tirelessly, year in, year out, been keeping watch over the town of Aalen, whilst smoking his pipe.



Brezglase-Fountain
Another fountain by the artist Professor Fritz Nuss is situated near the Reichsstädter Markt shopping centre. It commemorates an Aalen character who sold pretzels out of a washing basket at the turn of the previous century, and whose comical nature contributed to the amusement of the citizens of Aalen.



Stadtmauerpassage Town Wall
The remains of the town's medieval fortification. The town clearly set the boundaries between itself and the surrounding countryside. The circular wall was about 6 m high, 1.50 m to 1.60 m thick and had a circumferential parapet walk. It was 990 m long and surrounded an area of 5.3 hectares. There were two moats in front of the circular wall which were separated by a massive circular rampart. The small areas between the town wall and the inner moat were partially used as gardens by the citizens in the 18th century.

HISTORY OF AALEN

In 2nd century AD advance of Romans and erection of the Limes

150 AD erection of the largest Roman cavalry fort north of the Alps below the Schillerhöhe, the fort belongs to the Rhaetian Province

260 AD the Alemanni settle in the Aalen area

1136 Aalen (Alon) first appears as a village

1240 foundation of the town by emperor Friedrich II.

1360 appointment to free Imperial town by emperor Karl IV.

1634 large town fire

1635 begin of ore mining in Wasseraalfingen

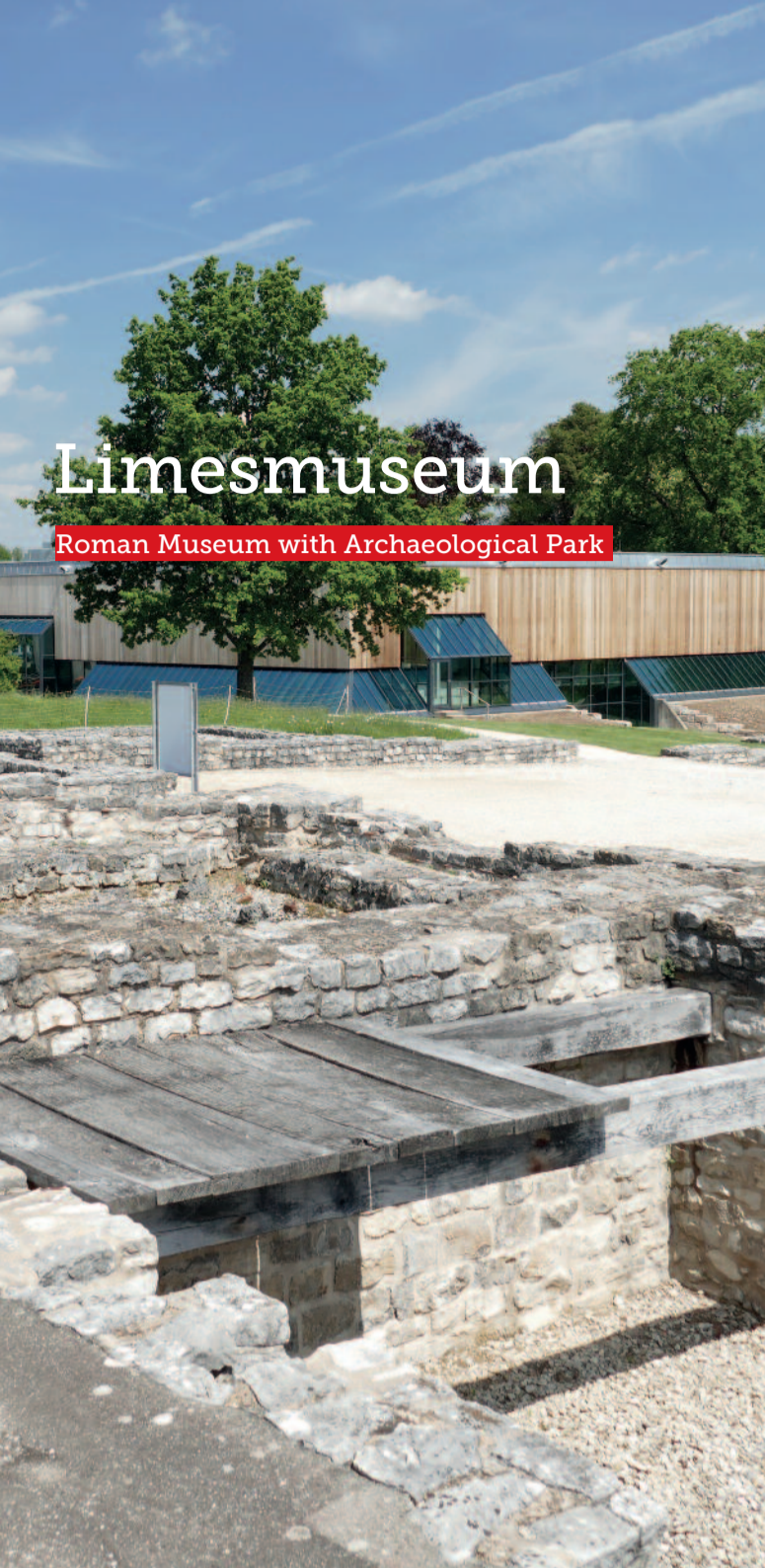
1740 – 1753 Christian Friedrich Daniel Schubart spends his youth in Aalen, which he considers his home all his life

1803 the town fell to the Württemberg crown and became district authority office

1861 the economic boom starts with the erection of the railway line Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt to Aalen and Wasseraalfingen

1970 – 1975 incorporation of municipalities of Waldhausen, Ebnat, Dewangen, Fachsenfeld, Unterkochen, as well as the town of Wasseraalfingen and Hofen into the town of Aalen





Limesmuseum

Roman Museum with Archaeological Park

LIMESMUSEUM AALEN

It was breathtaking when the largest Roman cavalry fort north of the Alps, from which large sections of the Limes of 1,800 years ago were guarded were discovered near Aalen. No less breathtaking was the recognition of the Limes as an UNESCO World Heritage site since 2005.

The Archaeological Park with the famous Limesmuseum today offers an impressive insight into the era when Aalen was a frontier zone to the Roman Empire.

Aalen belongs to the highlights of the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Frontiers of the Roman Empire" because the Upper Germanic-Rhaetian Limes, the frontier between the Rhine and Danube lead through Aalen 1,800 years ago. The largest cavalry fort north of the Alps was built behind the observation installations of the border line. The ruins of the fort which are well worth seeing are located in the archaeological parc of the Limes Museum on the outskirts of the town centre.

LIMU16/18
St.-Johann-Straße 3
73430 Aalen
Tel. +49 7361 528287-0

Tuesday to Sunday
03/06 to 11/04 10 am to 4 pm
11/06 to 12/20 10 am to 5 pm

times can be changed,
please check
www.limesmuseum.de



Schloss Fachsenfeld

Fachsenfeld Castle

SCHLOSS FACHSENFELD

Culture at its finest, also in the architectural gem "Schloss Fachsenfeld" in the middle of an original landscape park – a symbiosis of nature, history, culture and art, including a significant collection of pictures from south-west German Impressionism.

Stiftung Schloss Fachsenfeld
Am Schloss 1
73434 Aalen-Fachsenfeld
Tel. +49 7366 92303-0

April to beginning of November. The castle and park can only be visited during guided tours.

Regular guided park tour:
Saturday 3:30 pm
Sunday 2:00 pm

Regular guided castle tour:
Saturday 1:30 pm
Sunday 11:30 am

times can be changed,
please check
www.schloss-fachsenfeld.de



Urweltmuseum Aalen

Jurassic Museum

URWELTMUSEUM AALEN

Discover the fascinating world of primeval times, when impressive giant ammonites, dangerous fish saurian or Belemnites that once made the Jurassic sea in Swabia a dangerous place to be. A thousand impressive fossils from around Aalen give an interesting insight into more than 150 million years of geological history in the largest urban fossil museum in south Germany. Films, stones you can touch and an interesting shop round off the museum's program.

Urweltmuseum Aalen
Reichsstädter Straße 1
73430 Aalen
Tel. +49 7361 52-2365

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,
Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm
Wednesday 10 am to 1:30 pm
Sunday, Public Holidays:
12 noon to 5 pm
Closed: 12/24, 12/25, 12/31, 1/1

times can be changed,
please check
www.urweltmuseum-aalen.de

WELCOME TO AALEN

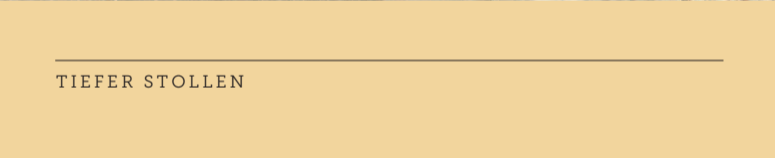
TOURIST INFORMATION AALEN

- Tourist information material about Aalen, the adventure region Eastern Swabian Alb and the German Limes Road
- Guided tours, sight-seeing, night-watch-man tours and guided Eastern Swabian Alb sight-seeing tours
- Advance bookings of regional and national events
- Subscriptions for cabaret events and the Theatreing Aalen (theatre circle)
- Cycle and hiking maps, street-maps, city shopping vouchers, gifts and souvenirs
- Tickets for the Limes Thermal Baths and the visitors mine "Tiefer Stollen"

What's happening in Aalen?

Aalen Happening App

Tourist-Information Aalen
Reichsstädter Straße 1
73430 Aalen
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9 am to 5 pm
Wednesday
9 am to 2 pm
Saturday
9 am to 12:30 pm
Tel. +49 7361 52-2358
Fax +49 7361 52-1907
www.aalen-tourismus.de
tourist-info@aaln.de



TIEFER STOLLEN

Already the ride into the visitors mine "Tiefer Stollen" with the mine railway is an exciting experience for adults and children alike. Together, the Jurassic Museum and the Besucherbergwerk (visitors mine) make the 'UNESCO Geopark Schwäbische Alb' (geological park) in Aalen a little more tangible.

There's lots to marvel at during the tour of the extensive tunnels and shafts, and the fascinating multi-vision show below ground describes the process of ore mining and iron processing in past times.

The "Tiefer Stollen" in Brauenberg near Aalen-Röthardt is far more than an interesting visitors mine. There the absolutely pure, dust and pollen-free air in the mine activates healing powers against asthma and other respiratory problems as well as certain allergies. After only a few visits you are able to breathe easily and deeply. Scientific studies have proven the positive therapeutic effect of the climate underground and the suburb Aalen-Röthardt has the title "Kurort mit Heilstollen-Kurbetrieb" (Health resort with medicinal gallery for convalescent care) in Baden-Württemberg.

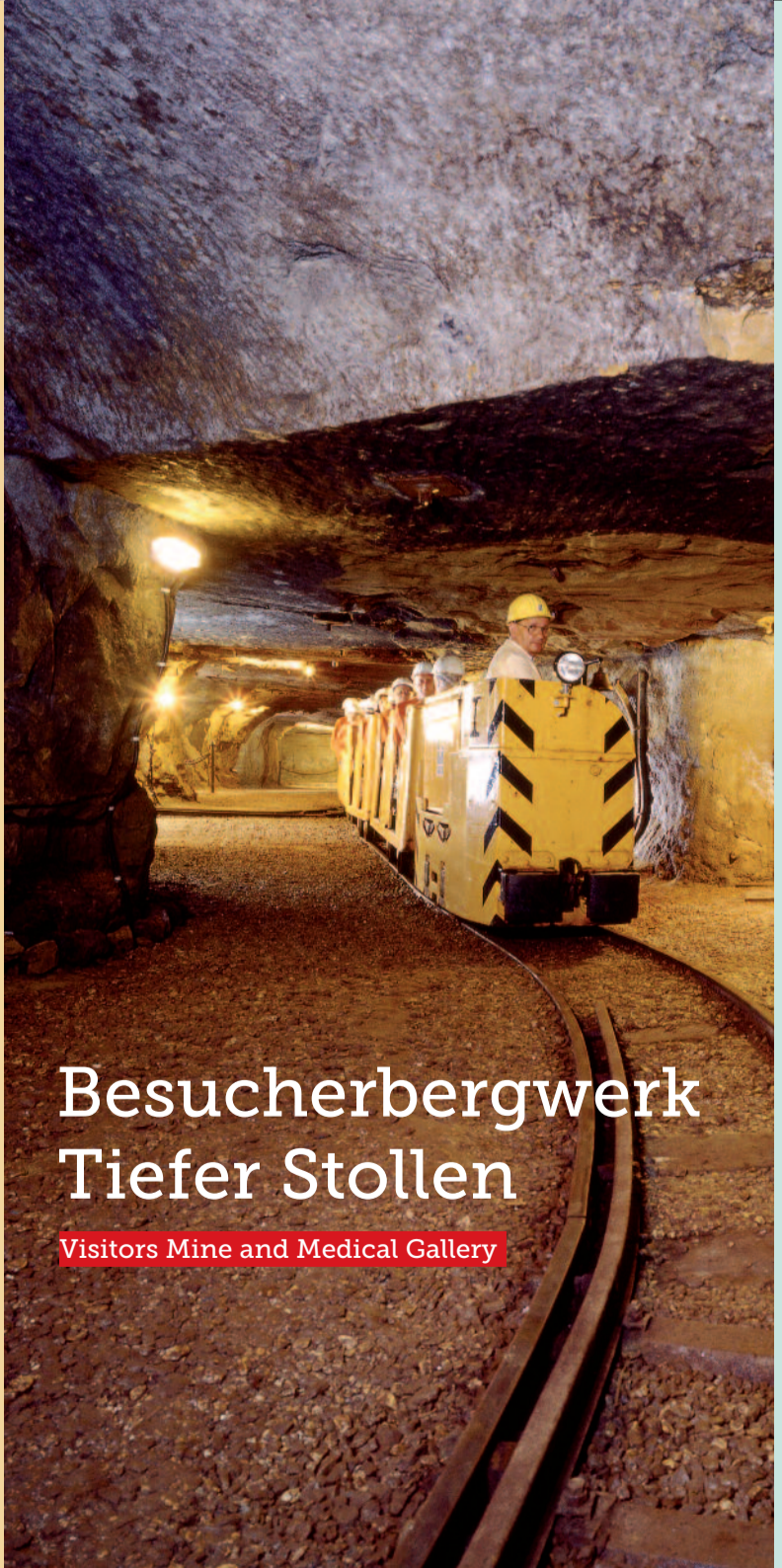
Besucherbergwerk
"Tiefer Stollen"
Erzhäule 1
73433 Aalen-Wasseralfingen
Tel. +49 7361 970280

Entry: End of March to beginning of November
Tuesday to Sunday
9 am to 12 noon,
1 pm to 4 pm
Open on Public Holidays

Therapy: End of March end of October
Tuesday to Saturday
8:30 am and 4:30 pm
Sunday 8:30 am

www.tiefer-stollen.de

www.heilstollen-aalen.de



Besucherbergwerk Tiefen Stollen

Visitors Mine and Medical Gallery



LIMES-THERMEN AALEN

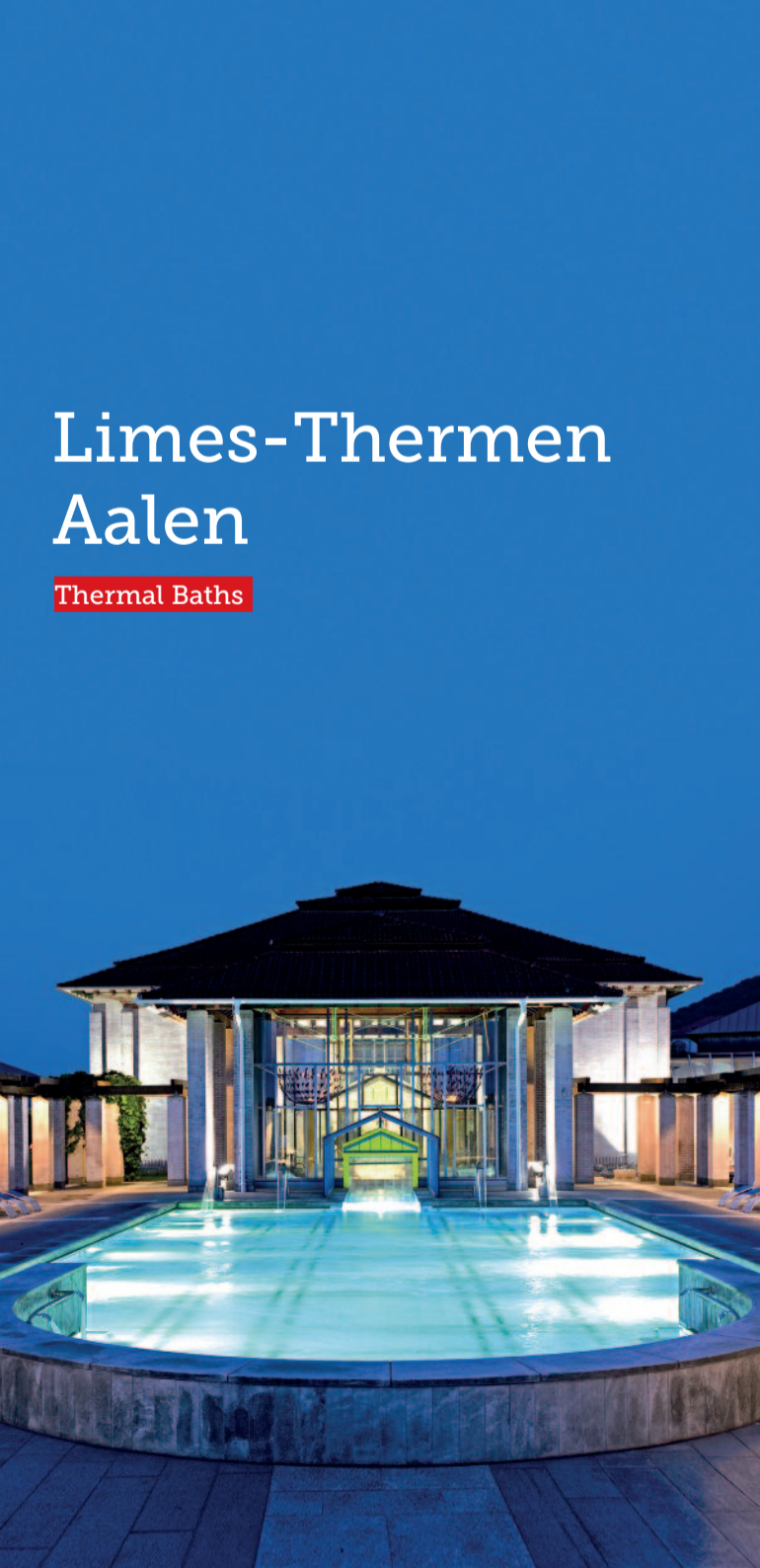
Bubbling thermal water from the depths of the swabian mountains, swimming baths and pools in Roman style bathing temples or in the open-air pool, exclusive sauna bliss – the Limes Thermal Baths invite you to dive into the world of well-being.

As a state-approved spa the Limes Thermal Baths offer a wide range of physical therapy, for the alleviation and healing of vein problems, joint problems, arterial circulatory disturbance or chronic diseases of the muscle-skeletal system.

Limes-Thermen Aalen
Osterbacher Platz 3
73431 Aalen
Tel. +49 7361 9493-0

Monday to Thursday
8:30 am to 9 pm
Friday 8:30 am to 10 pm
Saturday, Sunday, Public Holidays
9 am to 9 pm

www.limes-thermen.de



Limes-Thermen Aalen

Thermal Baths



TWIN TOWNS

Saint-Lô (France)
Saint-Lô (20,000 inhabitants) is the capital of the Departments Manche in Normandy, France. It lies between the Atlantic Coast and the Channel. When visiting Saint-Lô you should definitely visit the national stud, Nôtre Dame Cathedral and the weekly market.

Christchurch (England)
The south English coastal town Christchurch (47,000 inhabitants) is situated near Bournemouth in the county of Dorset. It borders on The New Forest, a unique national park with wild ponies. The older part of the town is dominated by the impressive Priory Church, the longest parish church in England dating back to the 11th century.

Tatabánya (Hungary)
Tatabánya (70,500 inhabitants) is in west Hungary 55 kilometers from Budapest in the administrative district of Komárom-Estergom. Mining was the dominating industry until the 19th century. Tatabánya emblem and landmark is the Turul bird on the stone mountain, the largest animal monument in Europe.

Antakaya/Hatay (Turkey)
Antakya (220,000 inhabitants) is the capital of the Hatay Province in Turkey, near the Syrian border and only 30 kilometres from the Mediterranean Sea. The ancient town Antiochia was an important trading centre and centre point of Christianity. You can marvel at the Roman mosaics in the archaeological museum and then stroll through the oriental bazaar.

Cervia (Italy)
Cervia lies between Ravenna and Rimini on the Italian Adriatic coast and has 29,000 inhabitants. Salt production from salt works has been an important part of the town's history. The garden city Milano Marittima is very famous for its flower show and its beautiful sandy beach.

ENGLISH VERSION

Aalen

Downtown Tour included

The Aalen Experience

Our Highlights