

## Hilchenbach Is A Summer And Winter Wonderland

Hilchenbach is older than the medieval structures it has left behind. The original town's church dates to the Dark Ages, built sometime between the years of 950 and 1000.

But Hilchenbach wasn't officially recognized until 1292, when it was originally known as Heylichinbach.

The medieval buildings that remain here are the Ginsburg, a 12th century castle. Only the Keep is preserved today, though, and the rest lay in ruins. The Keppel Convent, built in 1239 was a teacher's college from 1837 until the [First World War](#). It's now a gymnasium

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Hilchenbach was a mining town. For 600 years, the mine continued almost nonstop, from 1313 until its closing in 1931. It is one of the oldest mines in the country. You can learn all about it at the local Mining Museum, which you'll find in the Wilhelm Castle (at the end of the Market). Enjoy the exhibits exploring the history of the town from the Middle Ages through the 20th century. Best of all, admission is free!

Nearby is the Altenberg and the hiking trails through a 13th century mining settlement. There are more hiking trails near the *Breitenbachtalsperre*, a dam supplying fresh water through the [Siegerland](#).

Interestingly enough, Hilchenbach is home to a Kneipp Barefoot Path. Take off your shoes and feel the grass, thick river stones, cool water, and more under your tired aching feet! ;-)

Besides the Barefoot Path, enjoy the outdoor swimming pools and cycling paths. But the outdoor

fun doesn't stop when summer is over. Hilchenbach is home to great winter sports as well, including snowboarding. The snow capped trees and undisturbed snow paths will have you thinking you're probably in the best winter wonderland anywhere.